

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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In the present number of the GAZETTE the account of the dispute in the Coal Trade, which was begun in the July number, is continued, the course of events being traced up to the 10th inst. Besides this account, information of various kinds is given in other parts of the GAZETTE bearing on the employment of miners, including a statement prepared from the books of the Northumberland Miners' Mutual Confident Association, shewing the average wages and number of days' worked per week among the Northumberland miners since 1890.

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AN account is also given of the recent dispute in the Boot and Shoe Trade, which has been settled during July by the National Board of Arbitration for the Trade.

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A SUMMARY is given of the Report on Child Labour, recently prepared by a departmental committee representing the Home Office, the Education Department, and the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, and a *précis* is added of the Order issued on August 7th by the Home Secretary, with regard to the Standard of Proficiency for entry of full-timers into factories.

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THE number of Workmen's Co-operative Societies making periodical returns regarding the retail prices of food has increased from 26 last month to 91, representing some 175,000 members. The value of the Table is thus increased, and it is now possible to group the Societies by districts. It is hoped hereafter to add returns from retail tradesmen.

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In continuation of the Table published last month shewing the provision made for old age by Trade Societies connected with the Building and Furniture Trades, similar particulars are given in the present number with regard to the Engineering Trades. The Printing and allied Trades will be dealt with next month.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JULY.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

DURING the past month the state of employment has on the whole shewn a somewhat downward tendency. The acute financial crisis in America and the continued depression in Australia are causes likely to exercise a disturbing influence on many branches of trade, and the great dispute in the Coal Trade (of which an account is given on another page) is already to some extent affecting other industries.

Thirty-two trade societies, with an aggregate membership of 336,086 have made returns, showing that

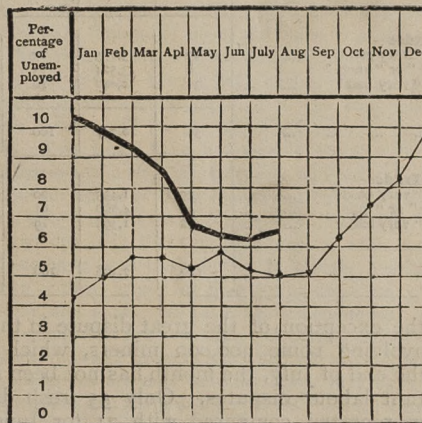
20,919, or 6·2 per cent., of their members were unemployed at the close of July, compared with 5·8 per cent. shewn by the 30 societies making returns for June. If we only take the 26 societies which have made returns for May, June and July (and which alone are included in the chart given below), the percentage of unemployed for July was 6·6, compared with 6·1 for June. The 22 societies making returns for July 1892 showed 5 per cent. of their members out of work.

As in previous numbers, a chart is inserted, which enables the percentages of unemployed shewn in the monthly returns to be compared with those for last year.

PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED IN 1892 AND 1893 COMPARED.

NOTE.—The Chart shows the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1892, and of each month yet completed of 1893. Unions which began to make returns since May 1893 are not included in this chart.

The thick line applies to 1893, the thin line to 1892.



The prospects of the Iron Shipbuilding Trades in some districts in the north and in Scotland are described as somewhat more hopeful. The Engineering and Iron Trades generally, however, continue slack in most parts of the country, and 10 per cent. of the members of unions connected with these trades were unemployed at the end of July. The Building Trades are still busy, but some branches, particularly the carpenters and joiners, shew a falling-off compared with the last few months. The percentage of unemployed members is returned as 2·6. The Furnishing Trades are less busy than usual at this time of the year, the percentage of unemployed members being returned at 4·6. The Printing and kindred Trades have somewhat improved during the month, but the improvement is hardly to be regarded as permanent, and some branches are still slack. The percentage of unemployed members is returned as 3·3. The Clothing Trades, bespoke as well as wholesale, are reported as very quiet, particularly the wholesale branches, work being very scarce in the Ready-made Clothing and Machine Boot Trades. The various branches of the Cotton Trade are well employed, but in the Woollen and Worsted Trades employment is only moderate. The Mining Industry has been much disturbed by the stoppage in the Midland and other coalfields, which has given a temporary impetus to the Coal Trade in those districts in the North

and elsewhere which are still at work. Agricultural labourers have been better employed than last month owing to harvest, but the extra employment thus available is below the average. The supply of seamen at the chief ports is again reported as excessive, but employment for waterside labourers has on the whole been more plentiful than for some time past.

Of the 32 societies making returns, nine describe trade as "good," nine as "moderate," and 14 as "bad."

From the monthly reports published by many societies and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected :-

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	July.		Per-centage of Members for July.	Per-centage of Members for June.
	Branches	Members		
Engineering and Shipbuilding—				
"Fair" to "very good"	65	4,151	3	4
"Moderate" or "quiet"	343	89,161	32	80
"Dull" to "very bad"	573	80,022	65	68
Total	981	123,334	100	100
Building Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good"	518	37,000	40	38
"Moderate" or "quiet"	526	38,350	42	42
"Dull" to "very bad"	250	16,983	18	20
Total	1,294	92,338	100	100
Boot and Shoe Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good"	3	274	1	23
"Moderate" or "quiet"	8	2,312	11	74
"Dull" to "very bad"	15	18,505	88	63
Total	26	21,091	100	100
Printing Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good"	19	3,175	17	0
"Moderate" or "quiet"	8	13,524	73	88
"Dull" to "very bad"	31	2,048	10	72
Total	58	18,747	100	100
Furnishing Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good"	39	1,433	20	49
"Moderate" or "quiet"	49	4,500	61	27
"Dull" to "very bad"	32	1,395	19	30
Total	120	7,328	100	100

With the exception of the great dispute in the Coal Trade, involving some 300,000 miners, which began towards the end of July, the month has not been fruitful in important labour disputes. Only 55 fresh disputes have been reported, compared with 71 for June. Of these disputes 14 occurred in the Textile Trades, 12 in the Building Trades, 11 in Mining, 7 in the Metal Trades, 6 in connection with Shipbuilding, and 5 in Miscellaneous Industries. Particulars obtained concerning 44 of these disputes show the number of persons affected to have been 10,780, of whom 4,684 were involved in 11 of the strikes in the Textile Industries.

During July the increases in rates of wages reported have been comparatively unimportant. As regards reductions, the amounts and the numbers affected are more serious. Under the sliding-scale arrangement, about 5,000 iron and steel workers in the north of England have had their wages reduced by 2½ per cent., and 700 steel workers in Middlesbrough by 1½ per cent., while in Belfast 2,890 men engaged in shipbuilding have had reductions amounting to 5 per cent. for piece-workers and 1s. per week for time-workers; 2,082 others will have their wages reduced to the same extent later in the year.

380 bankruptcies were gazetted in the United Kingdom during the month, compared with 381 in July, 1892.

The number of British emigrants who left the United Kingdom for countries outside Europe during July was 16,376, a falling-off of 3,067 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The volume of pauperism in the selected districts of

the United Kingdom has, on the whole, been practically the same as in June, the number relieved on a given day being 297,078, or 203 per 10,000, compared with 295,839, or 202, on the corresponding day of the previous month. There is a small decrease in pauperism in the selected districts in the Northern Counties, and a rise in South Yorkshire and the Midlands, in parts of East Scotland, and to a slight extent in London. As compared with July 1892, there is a total increase in pauperism in the selected districts of 15,611, or nearly 11 per 10,000 of population.

II.—REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.—Mr. J. Ratcliffe reports that the Durham Coal Trade at the beginning of the month showed little sign of improvement, and the number of miners out of work was increased by about 350. The total number unemployed in the county of Durham at the end of July was nearly 5,000. The dispute in the Federation Districts is, however, causing increased activity here. Several pits have already started work again; others are preparing for early re-opening, notices to terminate engagements are reported as withdrawn, and coal is being sent from Durham to Yorkshire.

The Durham Miners' Union have formally asked for an advance in wages of 15 per cent. and the Northumberland miners for one of 16½ per cent. In the latter county collieries are said to be well employed. Steam coal pits have worked 20·8 days, and house coal collieries 19·8 out of a possible 22 days for the past month. The price of coal has risen 1s. 6d. per ton in the last fortnight, and the number of unemployed pitmen, which reached 500 at the middle of the month, is now being gradually reduced. In Sunderland trade prospects have gradually improved. Several vessels that were laid up have been repaired and sent to sea. Sailors and firemen are reported as moderately employed. Repairing shops and forges are still busy, and some improvement is visible in marine engine building. The number of engineers out of work on the Wear has been reduced to 168, or 14 per cent., as against 181 in June, and of Tyneside engineers to 671, or 14·3 per cent. Employment in the ship-yards on both rivers is steadily increasing. The number of iron shipbuilders unemployed on the Wear is now 426, having decreased from 187 to 16·6 per cent. Five Tyneside shipyards and engine shops combined have full work for the rest of the year, but other yards are not so active. The number of Tyneside boiler-makers and shipbuilders out of work has diminished to 692, or 12·7 per cent., as against 16·1 in June. Shipwrights and ironmoulders show little improvement. Carpenters and joiners on both rivers are fairly well employed. The Building Trades are still brisk, but bricklayers are scarcely so well employed. Activity in the steel plate mills is fully maintained. The chemical and copper works are improving. Lead works are moderate with prices hardening. Work at the roperies is reported bad. The Glass Bottle and Paper-making Industries are fairly busy. One large ordnance establishment is discharging considerable numbers of men.

Oldham, Bolton, and District.—Mr. J. T. Fielding reports that the Engineering, Machine, and Iron Trades generally are still dull, and the number of men receiving out-of-work pay is greater than for some years past, particularly in Bolton and among members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. The Cotton Trade is fully employed, but the supply of yarns is in excess of the demand, and prices are lower than they were at the close of last month. The Bleaching and Finishing Trades are better employed, but short time is still worked to a considerable extent. The Building Trades are fairly busy, although the wages disputes at Oldham tend to disturb them. The strike of carpenters and joiners for an advance of ½d. per hour is still unsettled. Those employers who have hitherto held out against conceding the advance have offered to compromise the matter by an advance of ¼d. per hour.† This offer has, however, been almost unanimously rejected, and some 55 men are still in receipt of dispute pay. The plumbers in the Oldham district are asking for an advance of ¼d. per hour. The whole of the miners in these districts are, or will be as the notices expire, out of employment. In the Oldham District the number affected will reach 1,000. The Bolton District embraces about 14,000 members. The men at two collieries where no notice was given to terminate contracts have left work in pursuance of the resolution of the Conference at Birmingham. Most employers in other industries have provided themselves with stocks which will last them for

* See page 84.

† The workmen accepted the advance of ¼d. per hour from 4th August.

several weeks, and so far only one firm, employing several hundred men, is reported to have closed rather than pay the enhanced price for fuel. The minor trades are fairly well employed and free from disputes.

Burnley, Accrington and District.—Mr. W. H. Wilkinson reports that the improvement shown in the trades of this district in June has been well maintained during the past month. In the Burnley and Nelson Districts all the looms are fully occupied, but several disputes as to wages are pending. A dispute has arisen in the Linen Weaving Industry at Burnley, but a temporary settlement has been arrived at after a stoppage of nine days, the firm agreeing to make an advance of 1½d. per piece on one sort until woven out, and of ¼d. per piece on another sort, pending inquiries as to prices paid by other firms making similar cloths. Although the dispute in the Coal Industry will, to a certain extent, retard matters, most of the owners of large works have laid in a sufficient supply of coal to last several weeks. About 3,000 miners and banksmen have ceased work in the Burnley District; and in the Accrington, Baxenden, and Huncoat Collieries, 500 men have left work, but this number does not include banksmen, as this class of men are still working at these pits. The plasterers' dispute at Blackburn for an advance of wages is now in its 19th week, and the employers in the other branches of the Building Trades have established a lock-out pending its settlement. The painters have since come to an amicable arrangement with their employers, by which all shops will be opened to society men, without conditions—any dispute that may arise to be settled by their own working rules on arbitration being put in force. The Building Trades in the Nelson and Crawshawbooth Districts are reported as being very brisk, as are also the painters and decorators in the whole of the surrounding districts.

Manchester and District.—Mr. G. D. Kelley reports that practically no change has taken place in the skilled trades. So far as the large engineering societies are concerned, the number unemployed is said to be the same, but there is a slight increase among the allied or dependent trades. Several men belonging to one of the railway companies have been unemployed, owing, it is said, to the miners' dispute. The boiler-makers, the brassfounders and finishers report trade as moderate locally, but with no change in the number of unemployed, whilst amongst the sheet-metal makers there is a decrease. The Coachmaking Trade presents but little variation, and may be described as moderate, the private trade being to a great extent over for the season. The Building Trades still maintain a good position, but a slight falling off is apparent. The Carpenters and Joiners' Trade is reported to be moderate, but the number unemployed has become rather less. The Printing Trade has shown considerable improvement locally, due largely to the preparation of the Municipal Voters' Lists. Many men are necessarily engaged, as the time for getting the lists out is limited. The Lithographic Trade shows a little improvement, whilst the Bookbinding Trade is pronounced bad, and the number unemployed shows an increase. The Cotton Trade shows no change, being described as moderate. The Dyeing and Finishing Trade keeps a fair number of hands employed in this district, but still a large number are out of employment. Labourers in the Iron, Woollen, Calico-printing, Building, and other Trades can all be classed as moderately employed, with a slight diminution in the number out of work.

In Congleton full time is being worked in the cotton factories, while the hand-loom and the power-loom silk weavers are fairly well employed. The Coal Trade dispute has already increased the price of house coals by 2s. per ton.

Liverpool and District.—Mr. J. Sexton reports a marked increase in the employment of dock labour during the first fortnight in July, but at the end of the month the position was little better than in June. Taking the two months together, however, the number of unemployed has diminished. Seamen and firemen are only fairly well employed, as also ship-bottom scrapers, painters, &c. In the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades the latter part of the month shows a falling off in employment, some firms only working half-time. The Boiler-making Trade is quiet, and there have been some reductions in wages. Several of the more important firms, such as chemical, copper, and glass manufacturers, have issued notices that they will probably have to close, owing to the difficulty of securing stocks of fuel, and that one day's notice to employés must be sufficient. One department of a large firm has already stopped, 1,500 men being affected. The Operative Union of Bakers and Confectioners have given notice to employers in Liverpool and the district embracing part of Cheshire with Widnes, St. Helen's, &c., for an advance of wages and reduction of hours. In Widnes these terms have been conceded. The Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers have asked the employers to hold an amicable conference with them as to the regulation number of

apprentices. Every branch in the Building Trade is still busy. The St. Helen's carpenters and joiners have given six months' notice to employers for Liverpool rates.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.—Mr. A. Main reports that there has been little or no change in the general state of trade during July. The improvement in the Shipbuilding and Steel Trades is still maintained, and it is reported that a large steel works at Eston will shortly have one or two more departments going. The joiners' strike in the Middlesbrough shipyards has been settled, and now that all wages questions have been arranged, there is a better prospect of regular work during the autumn and winter. The Finished Iron Trade shows a further decline, the men, under the sliding scale in force, having to accept a reduction in their wages of 2½ per cent., and 3d. per ton for puddling. Work at the Cleveland blast furnaces and ironstone mines continues steady and regular, but considerable friction still exists amongst the miners respecting the hand-ratchet machines in use at certain mines. A ballot of the men has been taken, and they have decided by 4 to 1 that the men—about 550 in number—employed at the four mines where the machines are in use shall give in their notices and cease work, unless some satisfactory arrangement is come to. There is no improvement in the Engineering Trades, the percentage of unemployed being the same as last month, but the improvement in the Shipbuilding and Steel Trades will no doubt, in time, beneficially affect them also. The Building Trades are not quite so brisk as in the earlier part of the year.

Leeds and District.—Mr. O. Connellan reports that some slight improvement has been shown in the Boot Trade during the month in Leeds and Bramley, but a considerable number of workers still find only partial employment. The Glass Bottle Trade continues brisk, except the flint glass branch, which is quiet, as is usual at this time of the year. Brushmaking is dull; the number of unemployed, however, is less than in the corresponding month of last year. Tanners and leather workers generally are slack, a majority of the workmen being on short time. Masons and bricklayers have been well employed, but painters have been unusually dull. The textile factories have been fairly busy, and some firms have worked overtime. The Willeys and Fettle's Society report a decrease in the amount of out-of-work benefit paid during the last fortnight. No general improvement can be reported in the Iron Trade, and the Engineers' Society still has an abnormal number signing the vacant book. Two firms have temporarily stopped their iron-founding departments owing to slackness, and several establishments will take advantage of Bank Holiday to close entirely for the week. The Ready-made Clothing Trade is exceptionally bad, and at many workshops only three or four days a week have been worked. Dyers have been busy during the month, overtime being worked by two or three firms: the blue dyeing department has been especially brisk, and stuffs and patterns well employed. Cabinet-makers and coachmakers are very dull. A correspondent at Heckmondwike states that mill sawyers and wood turners are moderately busy; boot operatives are only working about four days a week, while textile workers are fairly well employed. No information has yet been received of any trade being directly affected by the coal strike, nor is it expected that there will be any extensive stoppages until the end of the second week in August.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.—Mr. A. Gee reports that the Woollen Trade is quiet in Huddersfield, there being but little overtime worked. In the heavy woollen district of Dewsbury and Batley, many of the workpeople are on short time; but the Flannel Trade is said to be slightly better than last month. The Worsted Coating Trade is not so promising in Bradford as before, and is quiet in Huddersfield. The Iron Trade is very slack all through the district, and a considerable number of engineers are out of work. The employers in Halifax, however, have postponed their proposed reduction of 2s. a week. The Building Trades are moderately busy. The Cotton Trade is fairly good on the whole. The Silk Trade in and around Brighouse is much depressed, and four firms are now working short time. Neither painters nor tailors are so well employed as last month. The weavers' strike at Haworth was terminated at the end of a fortnight by the withdrawal of the proposed reduction. The woollsorters' dispute at Bradford has been settled, the men accepting a compromise of 1s. a pack instead of the 3s. asked for. A dispute as to overtime has arisen in the Dyeing Trade in the Bradford District. Up to the present, the only effect of the coal dispute has been to raise prices a little.

Barnsley and the Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).—Mr. J. Wadsworth reports that nearly the whole of the underground and surface workers, as well as the coke-men, have either received or given in their notices to terminate contracts, the colliers having resolved not to accept the 25 per cent. reduction asked for by the employers. [A full account of the whole dispute will be found on another page.]

Sheffield and District.—Mr. S. Uttley reports that as the trades of Sheffield are chiefly dependent upon a constant and cheap supply of coal and coke, the outlook for trade is discouraging. The hopeful tone prevailing last month has not been justified by events. In the various branches of the Steel Trade, using the Siemens or "Open Hearth" process, it is stated that out of some thirty to forty furnaces only eighteen are working, and should the coal dispute continue there will possibly be an entire stoppage in this particular industry. Iron and steel founders are very short of orders, and the local trade union funds are being largely drawn upon by the unemployed. The Engineering Trade is depressed, about 7 per cent. of its members being out of work. The principal wagon and carriage building firms are said to have had dull trade for some weeks. In the Railway Spring Trade, several local firms are very slack. The crucible steel makers have been rather better employed, and the rolling mills have been busier, but the effect of the coal strike will be felt here; the price of coke for steel-making already tends to rise, and in the depressed condition of the staple industries the manufacturers will not pay a much higher price for rolling. Except in the scissor branch, there is no improvement in the staple trades. The Silver and the Britannia Metal Trades are both bad, the Knife and Razor Trades are very slack. Edge tool, sheep shears, and spring-knife makers are very quiet. The Building Trades have been rather disturbed through the dispute between the master-builders and the carpenters and joiners. Out of a total of ninety-seven employers, eighty have now conceded the advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per hour asked for; about 900 men are reported to be working at the advanced rate, leaving only 100 now on strike.* There is a fair amount of work on hand.

Hull and District.—Mr. W. G. Millington reports that the Home and Continental Shipping Trade has been very quiet, the bulk of the trade having been done by vessels from the Baltic, Mediterranean, East India, New York, and North European ports, with large consignments of grain from San Francisco. Employment at the docks has been very fair, especially on timber and deals. The export of coal from Hull, prior to the coal dispute, had considerably decreased as compared with the same period last year.† The dispute, if not soon ended, is calculated to cause a complete stagnation of the trade in this district. Many mill-owners and manufacturers have been stocking coal lately; some of the ship-owners have steamers and vessels lying in the docks loaded with coal, and are also sending to the north and to Scotland for further supplies. Employment in the Engineering and Ship Building Trades has been fair, but on the average 10 to 12 per cent. of the members of the trades dependent on these industries have been unemployed in July. Repairing work has been brisk among the engineers, iron ship-builders, boiler-makers, plumbers, shipwrights, and ship-joiners. Orders for new steam, fishery and other vessels have created some activity in the Hull shipyards. In Grimsby and Goole, which almost entirely depend on repair work, trade is very casual, and has not been good lately. There is little change in the Building Trades. Out of about 1,800 men, 6 per cent. are unemployed, and prospects are very fair. Owing to scarcity of rain, the hay crop has been a failure, and food for cattle has been scarce and dear, making dairy produce higher in price. Harvest prospects are now on the whole very favourable; turnip crops are promising, and although the early crops of potatoes were poor the general result will be good. The harvest seems likely to be a fair average one, and much better than was expected.

Wolverhampton and District.—Mr. W. F. Mee reports that in the early part of July trade seemed to be improving. The price of pig-iron had an upward tendency, and orders were coming in more rapidly. That the Iron Trade had been bad has been proved by the accountants' return of the average price, which shows a falling off of 3s. 8d. per ton below the previous returns, when a reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in wages was enforced. The Midland Wages Board, however, met on July 31st, and decided not to alter the present rate of wages. The notices issued by the colliery owners, and the action of the miners, have had a very depressing effect on trade, and have caused a rise in the price of coal. Notices have now been received from the makers of pig-iron in the district, announcing the blowing-out of some furnaces, and the intended stoppage of others, on account of the scarcity of fuel. The price of pig iron is, in consequence, rising to a considerable extent. It should be noted, however, that the miners in the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire districts are still working, as the Wages Board (under whose ruling the miners' wages are fixed), have not yet met to consider the accountants' statement of selling prices. In the Chain Trade, over 200 men are still unemployed. The strike at Dudley in the Nail Trade continues. The employers

* Since the date of this report these men have received the advance asked for.
† The total export of coal from Hull in the first seven months of 1893 was 326,180 tons as compared with 466,910 tons in the corresponding period of 1892.

are considering the advisability of closing their works for a month with a view to keeping up prices, and a ballot of workers in the up-country and Bromsgrove districts is to be taken on the question of ceasing work for a while. The improvement in the Steel Trade has been fully maintained, but there has been a falling off in the Hardware Trades; while in the Tinsplate Trade few men are making full time, and about 8 per cent. are unemployed. The Brass and Copper, and Boot, Shoe and Tailoring Trades are slack. Many of the cycle makers have had to take to other trades temporarily. Galvanizers, enamellers and japanners, engineers, machinists, constructive ironworkers, ironfounders, agricultural implement makers, wire workers, saddlery and harness makers are fairly well employed, and work in the Electrical Trades is steady. The Building Trades are fully employed, but there is a slight decline in cabinet and furniture making. Printers, gas-stokers and iron-plate workers are very quiet, and the Nut and Bolt Trade is very depressed. The dry-cask coopers report trade as very bad. July has been a bad month for the safe makers—only one shop has been working full time. Agricultural prospects are fairly favourable, and harvest work has already commenced.

Birmingham and District.—Mr. W. J. Davis reports that there is no improvement in the general condition of Birmingham industries. The Building Trades are not so brisk; masons and labourers report trade as being fair, bricklayers and plasterers as moderate, and carpenters as bad—the latter having 3 per cent. in their union out of work. There is the usual seasonal falling off in the Cycle Trade. One or two electro-plate houses have good orders for table-ware; the rest are not busy. There is but little change among the brass-founders. Engineers and machinists are slack, except those employed in the largest firms, the percentage of unemployed being about 11. Many iron-plate workers are out of work, the busiest branch being that for enamelled plates. There is an improved home demand for bedsteads; furnishing ironmongery is brisker; lamp makers are fairly busy on domestic work and on railway and ship orders. The Wire Trades are fairly steady, and the Steel Pen Trade, up to the average. Galvanized iron-ware makers have received good foreign orders, and there is a good trade in common sporting guns for export. Metal rolling has declined till it is now below the average, and 58 tinsplate workers are out of work, as against 3 in June. Saddlery and harness makers are in some places fairly well employed on Government orders, but trade is quiet elsewhere. In South Staffordshire the Iron Trade has been disturbed by the prospect of a coal struggle, but apart from this, business has receded. Many mills and forges are on short time, and in districts where "wakes" have been held some have been stopped. In this district general ironmongery is fair, and heavy ironmongery good. Important contracts have been placed for electrical construction, and also a large order for railway wagons. In heavy chains, anchors, shovels, vices, anvils, etc., the trade is moderate, and in the Small Chain and Nail Trades there is much distress. It is probable that, although many of the miners in this district are still at work, there will be considerable interruption to Birmingham industries through the coal dispute. The local supply of fuel will certainly be curtailed, and may wholly cease; while the general effects of so large a disturbance in other parts of the kingdom are sure to be felt here. Some Birmingham manufacturers state that if they have to pay much more for fuel than they do at present they will be compelled to close their works.

A report from Coventry states that many men are unemployed there owing to the seasonal slackness in the Cycle Trade, coupled with the failure of a ribbon factory. Distress is said to prevail among workers in the Watchmaking Industry. The Building and minor Trades are however fairly good.

Nottingham, Derby and District.—Mr. W. L. Hardstaff reports from Nottingham, that nearly all branches of the Lace Trade continue depressed, and about 12 per cent. of the men are out of work. Female operatives are worse off than at any previous period in the year. The Hosiery Trade also continues depressed. Bespoke and Ready-made Clothing Trades are fairly active, but not brisk. The Building Trade continues steady. In the Engineering Trade there is a small increase in the numbers out of work. Lace-machine builders continue busy. Iron-moulders are very slack, about 15 per cent. being out of work. The Cycle Trade is very depressed. Boot and shoe rivetters are fairly well employed. Bakers are not busy, although very few are out of employment. Cabinet makers are fully employed. A number of engine-cleaners and others are under notice, and if the coal strike continues will be turned away. Two brick-yards have been closed and another is working three days a week owing to the coal stoppage. Several factories are working short time from the same cause.

A report received from Derby states that in consequence of the coal dispute the outlook in some of the manufacturing districts is very grave, few large works having much fuel in hand. The boiler

and girder yards are fairly busy; engineering and machinery works in general are fairly well occupied, and few men are out of work; electric-lighting engineers are very busy. The iron and brass moulders are very well employed, as well as the nut, bolt, and rivet makers. The Stove-grate Trade is brisk. The employment of carpenters and joiners is affected by the dispute about the wages of the bricklayers. Stonemasons are quiet, house painters and decorators are in fair demand; sawyers and wood-working machinists moderately employed; box-makers and brush-makers fairly busy, and elastic-web and surgical-bandage makers very busy. The Silk Trade is fair. Bookbinders and letterpress printers brisk. The Tailoring Trade shows a falling off.

Leicester and Northampton District.—Mr. T. Smith reports that the Boot and Shoe Industry has been in a rather depressed condition. In Northamptonshire, trade is very slack, especially in handsewn goods; while some improvement is reported in Wellingborough, where most of the factories are working full time. The Hosiery Trade is improving; some departments are working overtime, and competent workmen are fully employed. The Wool and Spinning Trades generally maintain a healthy tone. Spinners remain moderately busy, although the total output is hardly equal to what is usual at this season. Business is satisfactory in some branches of the Elastic Web Trade, but the manufacturers of boot webs still complain of slackness. The Engineering Trades are only moderately busy, and boot and shoe machinery makers report trade as somewhat dull. Printers are but moderately busy, type-setting machinery having replaced hand labour to some extent. The South Leicestershire Coal Trade was brisk prior to the dispute in this industry, but the colliers are now all out. The stone quarries are being fully worked. Besides the dispute in the Boot and Shoe Trade (of which an account is given on another page), must be noted the decision of the umpire in the Kettering district, fixing the minimum wage of rivetters and finishers on day work at 2s., clickers 26s., and pressmen 22s. for a full week's work. A dispute as to the payment of the minimum rate to elderly men has been referred by the operatives to the executive of their union. Agricultural prospects have much improved, and there is an active demand for harvest labourers.

Bristol and South-Western District.—Mr. J. Curle reports that the Building Trades are less active. Bespoke tailoring is quiet, but the wholesale houses are fairly well employed. All branches of the Iron and Steel Trade continue depressed, except the iron and tinsplate workers, who have full employment. The shipwrights, brush-makers, cabinet-makers, lath-renders, mill-sawyers, and wood-cutting machinists report trade as moderate. The Printing and allied Trades are very dull. The West of England Woollen Industry is in a very unsatisfactory state, but the producers of meltons, military cloths, beavers and covert coatings are very busy. The depression in the Bristol Boot and Shoe Industry has continued, but the prospect is now more hopeful. At Kingswood, trade is fairly good; a few minor disputes which occurred have been amicably settled. A marked improvement is noticeable at the Sharpness, Avonmouth and Bristol Docks; at the latter port dock labourers have found little difficulty in obtaining work. At Bridgewater work along the quayside is very uncertain. At Gloucester, builders are fully employed, and the Shipping Trade is fair, but the engineers, pattern-makers, moulders and others employed in the Iron Trade are extremely quiet. The Boot and Shoe Trade at Street (Somerset) is very bad; the Building Trades are busy. No dispute has occurred in this district during the month, beyond the general cessation of work at the various collieries. Agricultural prospects are much more hopeful than last month, but the usual employment for casual labour has been very scarce.

Cardiff and District.—Mr. T. Davies reports that the Building Trade is good, while the Coal Trade has slightly improved, but otherwise trade is not so good as in June. Some engineering firms are working short time, and many have barely a sufficient number employed to keep the works going. There is no change in the Tinsplate Trade. A few instances have occurred of members of ships' crews signing at lower rates, but on the whole the rate of the Bristol Channel ports has remained unchanged. The new rules of the engineers, limiting the hours of labour per man, including overtime, to 74 hours per week, came into force on the 7th of July, but at the end of a fortnight the Employers' Association asked to have them unconditionally withdrawn. Some firms posted notices that unless the circular be withdrawn all members of the Engineers' Society would be discharged on the 2nd August, and on that day seven firms paid off their engineers to the number of about 110 men. The result of a ballot at a mass meeting was that 373 voted in favour of adhering to the 74 hours' rules, and six against. At Dowlais, about 170 men (chiefly mechanics) left their work, in opposition to the sliding scale system. The dispute at the Pontypridd Chain Works has been settled.

South Wales and Forest of Dean Mining Districts.—Mr. W. Evans reports that in South Wales and Monmouth the collieries have been well employed, but it is said that the mines are so full of men that individually the men have not fully participated in the improved condition of things. Early in the month about 1,000 colliers were on strike for five days at a colliery in South Wales, owing to alterations in the wage rate on a change of ownership. The meeting of the Sliding Scale Committee to receive the auditors' report was postponed from July 29th to Aug. 5th. Special interest attached to the meeting as there was a general anticipation that an advance in wages would be declared.* The hauliers of a very large number of collieries in Rhondda and adjacent valleys struck work early in August, thus throwing all other classes of workmen idle, numbering several thousands. They claim 20 per cent. advance.

In the Forest of Dean the miners have been on strike since July 8th. Two collieries have withdrawn their notices and the collieries are working, but the general dispute continues. House coals are advancing in price, and accumulated stocks have been disposed of. The steam coal collieries are working, and a fair amount is still to be had. Traffic on the Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge Railway has decreased; and some of the engines and trucks have been taken off.

London District.—Mr. C. J. Drummond, one of the Labour Correspondents to the Department, reports as follows:—In 57 branches of Unions connected with the Iron Trades, containing 11,912 members, 1,059 (or 9 per cent.) are unemployed, as compared with 85 per cent. last month. No less than 57 branches, containing 11,057 members (or 91 per cent.) report trade as "bad." In the small kindred industry of the iron safe engineers, 7 per cent. of the members are unemployed. In the Building Trades, 91 branches, containing 7,104 members, report 246 (or 3.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3 per cent. last month; 42 branches, containing 4,339 members describe trade as "good," 89 branches, containing 9,180 members as "moderate," and 40 branches, containing 3,127 members as "bad." Four distinct branches of the Printing Trades, comprising 12,595 members, return their number of unemployed as 341 (or 3 per cent.), compared with 2.4 per cent. last month. The trade generally is described as "moderate," some departments being "bad." In the Furnishing Trades, 18 branches, containing 2,040 members, have 141 (or 7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.7 per cent. last month. All branches of the Boot and Shoe Trades are very quiet, the number of unemployed and partially employed members of the Machine-made Boot Trade being largely on the increase. Three branches of coopers, containing 1,500 members, report 64 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, trade being described as "bad," with no signs of improvement. Several large firms are stated to be reducing their staff. Two branches of sailmakers with 175 members report trade as "bad." The state of trade at the docks and wharves, though not up to the average for the time of year, is reported to be better than for some time past, the Fruit and Tea Trades having provided employment on the south side of the river for the regular labourers. On the north side, trade has increased sufficiently to provide employment for a few casual hands, while in mid-stream work is proceeding steadily. The Wool sales have provided employment for a number of men. In the Victoria and Albert Docks, where trade has been very bad for some time past, employment has also been found for a few extra men. The numbers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during the month ranged from 3,566 to 5,533, as compared with 4,166 to 5,417 in the corresponding period of 1892. There is still a marked absence of disputes in the Metropolitan area, only two having been reported, both of an unimportant character.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.—Mr. J. Mallinson reports that the Shale miners of the two leading companies still continue working only four days a week. An advance has been given on the hewing rates in one mine equal to 3d. or 4d. per ton. The busy season in the Oil Trade begins in August. The improvement in the Coal Trade of Mid and East Lothian is being well maintained, and the miners' union in this district has asked for an advance of wages, in common with most of the other unions in Scotland. The coal strike in England has had the effect of making the movement in Scotland for higher wages take a more definite shape. The demand for coal for export has increased and prices have in consequence risen. The Leith dock labourers are fairly well employed. The Iron Trades are in much the same condition as last month. In the Shipbuilding Trades the percentage of unemployed is higher than last month. In the Building Trades, the masons report trade as good, joiners and the other branches fair. Sett-makers

* Since the above report was furnished, the Sliding Scale Committee announced on Saturday August 5th, an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. from August 1st.

are busy. The Paper-Making Trade is on the whole quiet. Lithographic printers have been better employed this month; the letterpress printers, however, still report trade dull; there has been a weekly average of 2.4 on the unemployed list, while bookbinders show a weekly average of 5 per cent. Typefounders are working only five days per week. Trade with tailors and shoe-makers is bad for this season of the year. Coopers report trade as still very bad, 23.5 per cent. being out of work at the end of the month. The following report trade as quiet:—Carpet weavers, rubber-workers, tinsmiths, bakers, brass finishers, cabinet-makers and painters. With regard to agriculture, while the regular hands have been busy securing the hay crops and dressing turnips, there has not been much demand for casual labour. Farmers report that the supply of this kind of labour is greater than usual, and can be had a little cheaper. There is, however, a scarcity of female labour for field work. The Edinburgh police clothing contracts have this year been arranged on the understanding that the minimum wage recognised by the trade union shall be paid, and that the work shall be done during the slack season.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.—Mr. A. J. Hunter reports that the effect of the English Miners' strike on the Scotch Coal Trade is already great. Vessels are lying at different ports waiting for coal, which, owing to the restrictive method of working, cannot be supplied. In Ayrshire the agitation for an advance in wages has been keenly prosecuted; in Lanarkshire the miners have so far maintained the four days a week policy, but complain that in other counties the restrictive system is not in force. In Stirlingshire three small strikes have been going on against partial reductions. The prospects of the Ship-building Trade on the Clyde are rather more promising than in June. The steel smelters report no change. The millmen report an improvement, but fear that the English coal strike may add to the cost of production. The Building Trades continue busy in all branches. There is a decided improvement among the dock labourers, and labourers generally are well employed. The iron-moulders and engineers report favourably; the position of the sett-makers and quarriers continues good; upholsterers are fully employed. The blacksmiths, irondressers, tinplate workers, hammermen and tool-makers report no change. Sail-makers are exceptionally busy. The shoemakers, coachmakers, coopers and potters say that they are very quiet. Bakers are not well employed. Pattern-makers and cycle makers report trade as being as good as in June, and on the whole trade compares favourably with that of the previous month.

Aberdeen and District.—Mr. W. Johnston reports that there has been little change in the state of trade in this district since the end of June. With the exception of shipbuilding, trade is on the whole fairly prosperous. Iron shipbuilders have had such a long spell of enforced idleness that many of them are glad of employment as dock labourers, or at any work they may find to do. The Boiler-makers and Iron Shipbuilders' Society has no less than 113 members out of work, or over 40 per cent. of the local membership (266); and of the 283 members of the Shipwrights' Society, 96, or about 34 per cent., are unemployed. Moulders and engineers are still dull. House carpenters and joiners, who recently had an advance of 2d. per hour, have been in demand, and ship joiners have now been offered an advance of 1s. 6d. per week. Housebuilders are very busy, while painters, plumbers and plasterers are all fully employed. Unskilled labourers are in better demand. Work is more plentiful at the docks, on account of a larger arrival of vessels than in the preceding month. The herring fishing is now in full activity, and up to the present has proved very remunerative. There can be no doubt that the season will be a good one for fishermen, the catch of herrings at Aberdeen in one week in July being almost unprecedented. There are at present about 1,200 women employed in the curing yards. Coopers and tinplate workers are exceptionally busy, and in almost every instance are working overtime. In a number of provision works, the large Fishing and Fruit Preserving Trades renders this by far the busiest season of the year. At Peterhead there has been considerable excitement, owing to an attempt to import Swedish barrels. The Scotch coopers and others would not allow the barrels to be landed, and the vessel in which they were brought was eventually sent away.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.—Mr. J. P. Nannetti reports that the Building and allied Trades continue busy, and employment is brisk in all departments. The Engineering and Iron Trades maintain last month's improvements. In the Brush-making Industry trade is better, but owing to the destruction by fire of a large factory, a number of men have been thrown out of employment. There is still a dearth of employment in the Basket-making Trade, and the Lath-makers' Society reports trade as being dull. Inactivity prevails in the Clothing Trade, while in the Boot and Shoe Trade the outlook is far from encouraging. The Upholstering

Trade is fairly busy, but work in cabinet-making is very scarce. Printers are fairly well employed, except in the lithographic branch. The bookbinders are in a depressed state. The Glass Bottle Trade is fairly good, while a slight dullness prevails in the Baking Trade. Employment among the members of the Seamen's and Firemen's Union is precarious, as well as among the quay labourers. Owing to increased orders for coal in anticipation of the strike, coal labourers are busy. Several branches of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants were opened during the month. Three branches of the Amalgamated Society of House and Ship Painters were also opened—Kingston, Drogheda and Dundalk. Rates of wages and hours of labour remain unchanged, and a good feeling exists amongst employers and employes.

Belfast and District.—Mr. R. Sheldon reports that returns for the eight branches of the Linen Trade, with a membership of 3,351, show a decrease in the unemployed of from 248 to 212, or a drop of from 7.6 to 6.3 per cent. of the total membership. The hackle and gill makers report trade as good. Flax dressers, flax roughers, beetlers, linen-lappers and power-loom tenters as fair, and the collar and apron cutters and yarn-dressers as dull. The returns for seven branches of the Building Trade, with a membership of 2,412, show that there has been an increase in the unemployed of thirty since June (22 to 52), an increase entirely due to the slackness in plumbing and painting. The total membership of the thirteen societies in the Ship-building and Engineering Industries which made reports is 8,250, and the increase in the unemployed is 210 (from 302, or 3.7 per cent. to 512, or 6.2 per cent.) 65 of whom are boiler-makers, iron-shipbuilders, and shipwrights, and 140 labourers. The Ship-building and Engineering Trades are said to be unsettled, partly on account of the holidays, and partly by the proposed reductions in wages. Consideration of the proposed reduction of 1s. per week in shipwrights' wages has been postponed until September 1st. The blacksmiths have accepted a reduction of 5 per cent. off piece-work rates, and 1s. per week off time-wages of workers receiving 30s. per week, the reduction to take place in the first week in September. Engineers, pattern-makers, machine-workers and brass founders have accepted a reduction of 1s. per week, to commence the first pay-day in October. Reports have also been received from 15 miscellaneous trades, with a membership of 3,749, of whom about 2 per cent. are unemployed, or very slightly more than in June. Butchers, bakers, carters and locomotive engine-drivers report trade as good, the typographical and lithographic printers, bookbinders and railway servants as fair; the Furnishing Trades, coach-builders, tailors, tinplate-workers and packing-case makers as quiet. The coopers are very dull, but the principal employer in this trade has adopted short time in preference to discharging any of the workers. On the whole, taking all the 43 societies making returns, it is found that with a membership of 17,762 there are 857 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed. The figures for June were more favourable, namely, 643 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed out of 17,602.

Cork and District.—Mr. P. O'Shea reports that the Engineering, Boiler-making and Moulding Trades are more depressed than last month, and the Building Trades are beginning to get slack. One large tweed factory, employing more than 800 workers, is extremely busy, and three-fourths of the departments are working night and day. Agricultural workers are well employed, and the Fishing Industry at Blackrock has been very successful. The fishermen are agitating for an extension of the open season from the 15th to the 31st of August. The Youghal Pottery Trade is being revived, and—with the brickyards established in connection with it—promises to be a great source of employment in the locality. The carpenters' strike still continues. The tailors' strike also continues, principally in "second class" shops; 50 men are affected at present. Eight employers are said to have brought in strangers to fill the vacancies. The farriers are complaining that the number of apprentices in their trade is excessive.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN JULY.

The number of persons of British origin who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during July, shows a decrease of 3,067 when compared with the previous month, the numbers having fallen from 19,643 to 16,576. Compared with the corresponding month of last year, however, the decrease is but slight, the difference being 191 only. Of the above emigrants during July, 11,796 were English, 1,839 Scotch, and 2,941 Irish; and 11,923 were bound for the United States, 2,325 for British North America, 1,073 for South Africa, 712 for Australasia, and 543 for other places. In addition to these, there were 8,530 foreigners and others, whose nationality was not stated, making the total number of emigrants for July, 25,106, against 33,899 in the previous month, and 28,192 in July 1892. The total number of emigrants for the seven months ended 31st July has been 130,655 British and 73,539 of other

nationalities, the former being an increase of 7,456, and the latter a decrease of 8,268 as compared with the corresponding period in 1892. The total number of aliens recorded in the Alien Lists as arriving in the United Kingdom from the Continent during July was 10,870, of whom 6,826 were stated to be en route to America. These figures are less than those for July 1892 by 2,154 and 2,429 respectively. Of the 4,044 not stated to be en route to America, 1,575 arrived in London, 479 at the Tyne Ports and 451 at Hull, while of those stated to be en route to America, 3,938 arrived at Hull, 1,434 at Leith, and 1,343 at Grimsby. Grouped according to port of embarkation, 2,251 came from Gothenburg, 1,084 from Hamburg, 919 from Christiania, Arendal, and Christiansand, and 6,616 from other Continental ports. For the seven months ended 31st July, the total immigration was 84,423, being 12,036 less than in the corresponding period of last year.

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS.

Foreign Trade.—The value of the imports for July 1893 was £33,292,273 against £33,497,585 for July 1892, a decrease of £205,312. For the seven months ending 31st July 1893 the total decrease was £15,264,266, the figures for 1893 and the corresponding period of 1892 being £230,924,092 and £246,188,358 respectively. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for July 1893 were valued at £19,651,374, an increase of £187,777 when compared with £19,463,597 for July 1892. For the seven months of 1893 the value was £127,429,314, against £131,324,599 for the corresponding period of 1892, a decrease of £3,895,285.

Traffic Receipts on British Railways.—The receipts of 23 of the principal British railways for the four weeks ending July 30th were £6,122,948, and for the corresponding weeks of 1892 £6,293,367, showing a decrease in the month just past of £170,419.

Cotton Statistics.—The number of bales of cotton imported during July 1893 was 137,417, and exported 38,325, the former being an increase of 3,192 bales, and the latter a decrease of 1,844 bales, as compared with July 1892. For the seven months ended 31st July the imports were 1,540,496 bales and the exports 271,094 bales, being decreases, when compared with the same period of 1892, of 601,345 and 1,402 bales respectively.

Fisheries.—The total quantity of fish (excluding shellfish) landed on the English and Welsh Coasts from the fishing grounds during July was 504,284 cwts., against 522,435 cwts. in July 1892, a decrease of 18,151 cwts. For the seven months of 1893, however, there was an increase of 260,705 cwts., when compared with the corresponding period of 1892, the quantities being 3,239,542 cwts. and 2,978,837 cwts. respectively.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted during July was 380, compared with 381 for the corresponding period of last year. The total number for the seven months ending July 1893 was 2,803, compared with 2,700 during the seven months ending July 1892.

RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF LABOUR.*

The Bill of which a summary was given in the May number of the LABOUR GAZETTE received the Royal Assent on July 27th, with the short title "The Railway Regulation Act, 1893." Since the Abstract was published in the GAZETTE the following changes have been made in the measure:—The question of sufficient relief in respect of Sunday duty has been inserted in Section 1 as an additional matter of representation to and enquiry by the Board of Trade. It is further provided in Section 5 that the Act shall not apply to any servant of a railway company who is, in the opinion of the Board of Trade, wholly employed, either in clerical work or in the company's workshops.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN 1892†.

The annual report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1892, which has recently been issued, shows that 1,069 new societies or branches were registered during the year 1892—or 171 fewer than in 1891. The total for the past year was made up of 792 friendly societies and branches, 107 industrial and provident societies, 111 building societies, 48 trade unions, 8 loan societies, and 3 scientific and literary societies.

A digest of the legal decisions during the year, relating to the various classes of societies coming within the scope of the office is included.

The reports of the Assistant Registrars for Scotland and Ireland are appended to the report with some notes of Friendly and other Societies in the Colonies and abroad.

* Railway Regulation Act, 1893, § 46 and 57 Vic. ch. 29. Copy of Act may be obtained from Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., for 1d.

† Friendly Societies, Industrial and Provident Societies and Trade Unions, Part A. P.P. 146 of 1893.—Price, 11d.

MINING IN NORTHUMBERLAND.

In view of the interest now being taken in questions affecting miners' employment and wages, the following tables have been prepared shewing the average daily wages and the percentage number of days worked at certain Northumberland Collieries between 1890 and 1893. The collieries included in the tables are those from which particulars can be obtained from the books of the Northumberland Miners' Mutual Confident Association, to which the Department has been permitted to have access. In the first table each quarter of 1890, 1891 and 1892 is dealt with, but in the second, the first and second quarters only of each year are taken for comparison, and the table is carried forward to the end of the second quarter of 1893. Each of the quarters in the second table represents 7 fortnights.

I.—HEWERS' WAGES.

Year and Quarter.	No. of Collieries to which the Returns relate.	No. of Collieries at which the Average Daily Wages of Hewers were					Average Wage per Day.*
		Of 7s. 6d. and above 7s. 6d.	Of 7s. 6d. and under 7s. 6d.	Of 6s. 6d. and under 6s. 6d.	Of 5s. 6d. and under 5s. 6d.	Under 5s. 6d.	
1890.							s. d.
1st quarter	54	1	6	9	23	15	6 4
2nd " "	59	4	11	17	20	6	6 7
3rd " "	59	3	14	19	18	3	6 8
4th " "	55	6	12	24	9	4	6 9½
1891.							
1st quarter	48	4	12	21	10	1	6 10
2nd " "	45	6	7	19	10	3	6 9½
3rd " "	43	4	9	20	7	3	6 9½
4th " "	42	4	10	22	4	2	6 10½
1892.							
1st quarter	47	7	15	18	6	1	6 5½
2nd " "	47	5	17	18	6	1	6 5½
3rd " "	44	3	12	15	9	1	6 5½
4th " "	45	2	7	8	20	8	6 5½

* In computing the average for this column the Colliery is taken as the unit.

II.—NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED.
(Percentage number of Collieries working for the undermentioned number of days per quarter.)

Number of Days worked in a Quarter.	1890.		1891.		1892.		1893.	
	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.
75 and up to 77*	...	26	3	...	30	25	4	...
70 and under 75	...	24	49	30	14	14	29	...
60 " " 70	...	19	20	25	24	12	25	15
50 " " 60	...	14	13	12	6	19	16	36
40 " " 50	...	12	7	12	8	14	6	13
30 " " 40	...	2	5	4	8	12	8	15
20 " " 30	7	6	...	2	8
Under 20	...	3	3	10	4	4	10	13

* 77 days represent the recognised full time in a quarter with seven fortnightly pay days (i.e., 11 working days a fortnight).

COAL MINERS.

(Compiled from Statistics issued by Home Office.)
STATEMENT showing the number of persons (exclusive of those on private branch railways and in washing and coking coal) employed under the Coal Mines Regulation Act in each of the undermentioned districts in 1892:—

District.	Men and Boys employed		Total.
	Underground.	Aboveground.	
ENGLAND & WALES.			
Northumberland	26,575	5,388	31,963
Durham	74,093	18,067	92,160
Cumberland	6,118	1,222	7,340
Yorkshire	78,851	16,145	94,996
Lancashire	68,435	10,990	79,425
Staffordshire	32,083	9,017	41,100
Derbyshire	32,193	7,987	40,180
Leicestershire	4,688	1,398	6,086
Nottinghamshire	18,093	4,202	22,295
Warwickshire	4,681	1,415	6,096
Worcestershire	2,249	621	2,870
Gloucestershire	6,166	1,240	7,406
Monmouth	23,022	3,210	27,132
South Wales	77,196	12,733	89,929
North Wales	10,568	2,105	12,673
Other Districts	9,504	2,058	11,562
SCOTLAND.			
Lanarkshire	35,402	5,958	41,360
Ayr	10,856	1,729	12,585
Fife	9,550	1,388	10,938
Stirling	5,194	667	5,861
Other Districts	14,627	2,782	17,409
IRELAND			
	635	203	838
TOTAL	549,279	110,435	659,714

NOTE.—The number of Females employed above ground in these Districts in the year 1892 was 4,546.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JULY.

The following Table is based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trades' Unions.

Table with columns for Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople affected, Particulars of Increase, and Particulars of Decrease. It is divided into 'INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES' and 'DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES'.

NOTICES OF IMPORTANT REDUCTIONS.—A large number of Coal owners in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Forest of Dean, Somerset, and North Wales, and elsewhere, have given notice of a reduction of 25 per cent. on standard rate of wages of 1888.

* The 48 hours per week, which is exclusive of meal times, is made up as follows:—From Monday to Friday inclusive—8 hrs. 40 mins. per day. Saturday—4 hrs. 40 mins.

PAUPERISM IN JULY.

By the courtesy of the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office, the Department is able to give particulars of the number of paupers, both indoor and outdoor, in London and the chief industrial districts of the country, on one day in the second week in July 1893, together with the total number for the corresponding date in 1892.

The main (but not the only) consideration kept in view in the grouping of the Poor Law Unions or Parishes has been the character of the staple trades of the districts.

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of July 1893. Columns include District, Population in 1891, In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of Population, and Total No. of Paupers on corresponding date in 1892. It lists various districts in England & Wales, Scotland, and Ireland.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. The Vagrants in the Metropolis numbered 976 on one day in July 1893, and 866 on the corresponding date in July 1892.

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

CO-OPERATION IN JULY.

A CONFERENCE of delegates from existing London co-operative societies and the central organisations was held in London on July 29th to consider further the proposal for extending co-operation in the Metropolis, as described in the LABOUR GAZETTE for May. A good deal of objection to the proposal was shown, but no final decision was arrived at. The opponents of this scheme have since convened a meeting of members of co-operative societies, at which was submitted as an alternative a proposal to establish a central society for London, with branches in various districts. It is proposed that the committee of this society shall be elected

half by customers and half by employees, and that half the profits shall be returned to the customers as dividend, and one-quarter to the employees in proportion to wages. Both these dividends are to be capitalised as shares, and the remainder devoted to educational and other objects.

The "People's Bank" established in Edinburgh by co-operators, and managed by a committee of representatives of various workmen's organisations, has issued its half-yearly report, which states that the bank has paid a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, and that the number of depositors has been increased by 200 during the past twelve months.

The Assington Agricultural Association has decided to terminate its tenancy of its farms in consequence of the continued losses sustained by the association.

The Manchester and Salford Society has given up its farm of 380 acres at Poynton after an experiment lasting six years. The loss last year was £1,691, and this is increased by £2,480, the amount of loss caused by the forced sale of stock, and compensation paid to the landlord for terminating the lease before its expiry.

A new bread society has commenced business in Scotland.

The Hebden Bridge Fustian Society, after allowing for interest on loans and other expenses, has allotted £281 to the workers as dividend upon their wages at 1s. per £1 earned.

The Kent Co-operative Brickmaking has commenced work.

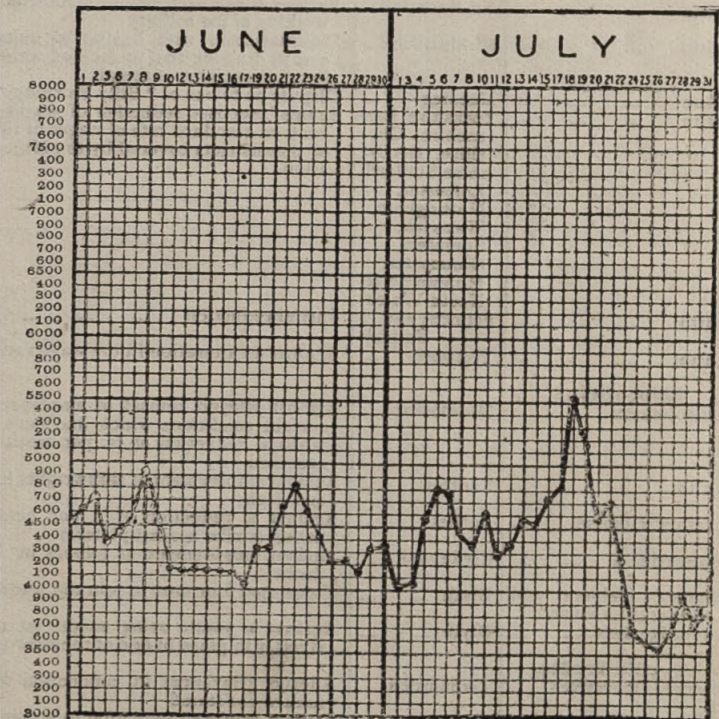
A new distributive society has been formed at Sutton Bridge, near Wisbech. Two new branch stores have been opened by the Leeds Industrial Society, and one by the Barnsley Society.

The Lockhurst Lane, Foleshill, Society has decided to buy land and build houses for such of its members as may apply, the outlay (with interest at five per cent.) to be repaid by weekly instalments.

The Co-operative Union now numbers 932 societies, with a combined membership of 1,020,291, while the remaining 718 societies outside the union have a membership of 159,309.

DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

NOTE.—This chart is constructed in continuation of the charts prepared by Mr. Charles Booth for the Royal Commission on Labour, from figures supplied by the courtesy of the London and India Docks Joint Committee. It shows the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the month. The corresponding diagram for the previous month is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



The following are the figures on which the chart for July is based.

Table with columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed. It provides daily employment figures for July 1893.

(Sundays and Holidays are omitted.) * (During the corresponding period of two months in 1892, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 4,166 (on July 25th) to 6,059 (June 15th).) † Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during June and July 1893 varied from 1,612 on June 21st to 2,438 on July 21st, and fell again to 1,126 on July 29th. The wool sales continued to July 21st.

TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JULY 1893.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Building Trade.							
Plumbers	Keighley	For increase in wages and overtime rate, and for new bye-laws	...	20	July 1	July 24	Increased overtime rate granted.
Bricklayers and Labourers	Derby	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour, reduction in winter hours, and alterations in certain working rules	30	380	1	...	Seventeen employers have conceded the men's demand.
Labourers (drainage works)	Bury St. Edmund's	Dispute as to alleged inequality in rate of payment	1	50	3	...	No details of settlement.
Building Trade Employes (generally)	Blackburn	Lock-out on account of the men refusing to work with non-unionists who have taken the places of the plasterers on strike for an advance in wages	...	About 1000	3	...	Still in progress.
Masons	Halifax	Refusal to work with non-unionists	1	20	6	...	Men obtained work elsewhere.
Bricklayers	Dublin	Against employment of an alleged unskilled man in wall building by contract	1	4	8	...	Still in progress.
Carpenters	Dorchester	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour	1	25	8	...	No details of settlement.
Carpenters and Joiners	Sheffield	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour	...	About 97	10	3 Aug.	Advance granted.
Builders	Newcastle-on-Tyne	In support of plumbers' contention for Newcastle rate of wages from a York firm of contractors	1	36	17	July 25	Work resumed on previous terms.
Painters	Burnley	Against the employment of a man who had not served an apprenticeship to the trade	1	5	...	31	Employer promised to discontinue the practice.
Builders' Labourers	Liverpool	Against a reduction in wages of 4d. per hour	1	30	15	...	Men replaced by others at the reduction
Bricklayers	Newbridge (Ireland)	Language alleged to be insulting to Trade Union	1	8	Lasted 14 days	...	Apology made.
Metal Trades.							
Iron Moulders	Belfast	Against a proposed reduction of 1s. per week	...	152	14	22	Consideration of reduction postponed to 30th September.
Moulders	Hartlepool	Against employment of non-unionists	1	80	21	22	Settled by mutual arrangement.
Brass Finishers	Hull	Against a reduction of 1s. per week	1	30	21	...	Employers consented to reinstate the apprentices, and to be restored at end of apprenticeship.
Apprentice Engineers	Nr. Aberdeen	Looked out for taking more than the permitted holidays	...	50	24	...	No details of settlement.
Mechanics	Dowlais	Refusal to sign sliding scale arrangement	1	170	31	...	...
Steel Workers	Attelcliffe, Sheffield	Against a reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	100	31	...	...
Wash-house Men	Maesteg	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mining.							
Coal Miners	Maesteg	Against proposed re-arrangement in price for "timbering" and "removing top"	1	450	1	2 Aug.	Re-arrangement involving a reduction accepted.
Ditto	Irvine	Work alleged to have been refused on account of adherence to the four days a week policy	1	140	1	...	No details of settlement.
Quarrymen	Breechin	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour	2	...	3	27 July	Work resumed on previous terms.
Coal Burners	Tingley, Leeds	Against proposed reduction of 1d. per ton	1	30	8	...	Still in progress.
Coal Miners	Ruabon	Against proposed reduction in wages, and for discharge of non-union men	2	...	12	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Nr. Barnsley	Various alleged grievances connected with the working of the colliery	1	1100	19	...	Still in progress.
Ditto	Kirkstallloch	Dissatisfaction with having to incur heavier cost in drawing coal to face of workings than in other sections of the pit	1	150	25	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Maesteg	Dispute as to use of "Billy Fairplay"	1	...	28	...	Ditto. (See account on page 84.)
Ditto	Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Stafford, Leicester, Nottingham, Warwick, Somerset, Gloucester, Monmouth & North Wales	Against proposed reduction of wages by 25 per cent. on standard rate of wages of 1885 in most of the districts covered by the Miners' Federation	...	About 300,000	28	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Polmont and Falkirk	Partial reduction	2	...	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Trehaspis	Against an alteration in the wage rate	1	1000	5 days	in July	Work resumed.
Shipbuilding.							
Ship Joiners	Middlesbro'	Against alleged refusal of employers to grant certain conditions which had been conceded when a reduction of 1s. per week had been accepted	3	96	1	3 & 11	Conditions granted by the employers on the dates mentioned.
Ditto	Renfrew	Against employment of shipwrights in laying a sun deck	1	35	13	August	No details of settlement.
Platers' Helpers	Belfast	Against a reduction of 5 per cent. without notice (strike against platers)	...	90	25	...	Ditto.
Shipwrights	Clydebank	Against employment of joiners in laying sun decks	1	80	25	...	Ditto.
Platers' Helpers and General Labourers	Blyth	To compel four men to join the trade union	1	50	31	1	Employer decided that men must join the union or leave their employment.
Rivet Heaters	Blyth	Against a youth being made an apprentice riveter in place of one of themselves	1	25	Half a day	in July	Youth removed.
Textile Trades.							
Female Operatives	Todmorden	Alleged grievances in connection with work, nature not stated	1	30	Dated not known	July 9	Work resumed on assurance that grievances would be remedied.
Woollen Weavers	Hewden, Nr. Leeds	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. 11d. per cut	1	153	3	24	Work resumed at the required reduction.
Cotton Weavers	Haslingden	In consequence of alleged bad material	1	110	5	7	Work resumed upon a promise of improvement.
Linen Weavers	Hunslet, Leeds	Against proposed alteration in method of working	1	220	7	14	Proposed alteration withdrawn.
Spinners, &c.	Glossop	Against alleged inadequate compensation for extra work, said by the employer to be due to inattention to the machinery	1	2000	12	15	Compensation granted to spinners.
Linen Weavers	Haslingden	Refusal of demand for copies of balance sheet, they having become shareholders in the concern	1	200	13	13 (4 hours)	Company agreed to give each operative shareholder a copy of balance sheet.
Dyers and Polishers	Middleton, Lanc.	Against alleged attempt to impose more work	1	91	13	17	Dispute settled to satisfaction of the strikers.
Cotton Weavers	Whitfield, Burnley	Dissatisfaction with rate of wages	1	250	14	24	Work resumed upon a temporary advance upon two sorts of cloth, pending enquiries in other firms as to prices paid
Millworkers	Dundee	Grievance as to retention of wages for two "lie days"	1	50	21	...	No details of settlement.
Piecers	Glossop	Against alleged favoritism in promoting to mules	1	...	24	25	Work resumed on understanding that Spinners' Association would endeavour to arrange the matter.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JULY 1893—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Dyers	Bradford and Halifax	Proposed abolition of extra payment for overtime (strike in 3 firms, followed by a general lock-out)	11	1500	July 25	July 31	Work resumed on a compromise.
Shuttle Makers	Oakworth, Keighley	For advance in wages and reduction in hours	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Woolcombers	Bradford	Having been only a short time in the employ, payment for a half-holiday on 6th July had not been given	1	...	...	Date not stated	Work resumed.
Weavers (Worsted)	Luddenden	Against a reduction in wages, and for information as to how they are being paid	1	80	28	...	No details of settlement.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Glass Bottle Makers	Portobello, Alloa & Glasgow	For advance in wages and reduction in hours	7	600	1	...	Still in progress.
Cabinet Makers	Greenock	Objection to appointment of a certain official	1	70	1	...	Ditto.
Cab-drivers	London, E.C.	For a reduction in price of cab hire	1	...	26	...	...
Saddle and Harness Makers	London, W.C.	Against payment at less than the minimum rate fixed	1	20	...	...	Still in progress.
Agricultural Labourers	Barney, Norf.	Refusal to accept harvest wages offered	1	...	1	...	...

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Chain Makers	Cradley Heath	For payment of the 5s. list, equal to an advance of 10 per cent. on existing prices	1	200	...	July 12 (Lasted 3 mths.)	5s. list conceded.
Pattern Makers	Sunderland	Against employment of cabinet makers and wood turners upon pattern making	1	16	17 Apl.	11	The present men to be retained. In event of leaving, the work shall be done by pattern makers.
Tailors	Leeds	For payment according to time log and against out-working	2	30	26 Apl.	7	Hands replaced by non-unionists.
Wool Sorters	Clayton, Bradford	For advance in wages of 3s. per pack	2	120	23 May	19	Work resumed at an advance of 1s. per pack.
Coal Miners	Near Leeds	Against proposed reduction in wages of 2d. per ton	1	...	26 May	...	Not stated.
Moulders	Hartlepool	Against a reduction in wages of 2s. per week: 1s. on 22nd May and is. on 3rd July	1	47 dir. 94 indir.	29 May	10	Reduction of 2s. per week accepted.
Chain Makers	Pontypridd	Against introduction of an automatic time-checking machine	1	54 dir. 150 indir.	1 June	25	Time check accepted.
Shipyard Joiners	River Tyne	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. per week	12	550	7 June	18	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Curtain Readers, &c. (Lace Trade)	Nottingham District	To obtain a uniform price list	19	130	10 June	11	Price list granted.
Moulders	Middlesbro'	Dispute as to interpretation of certain piece-work prices	1	30	12 June	17	Amount underpaid was refunded, and a satisfactory settlement made.
Chemical Workers	Felling-on-Tyne	Against an alleged objectionable foreman	1	136	17 June	11	Foreman removed.
Platers' Helpers	Walker-on-Tyne	Against alleged attempt on the part of the platers to enforce extra work	1	285	25 June	5	An extra man granted for bulkheads and for painting plates.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Bristol	Objection to employment of a non-union man	1	35	26 June	8	Work resumed on previous terms.
Foundry Employes	Hayle, Cornwall	Objection to fill up time boards or sheets	1	350	28 June	1	Desired time check accepted.
Alkali Workers	Near North-wich	Against increase in hours of labour without proportionate remuneration	1	50	29 June	5	Work resumed at a reduction of from 3d. to 6d. per shift.
Worsted Weavers	Haworth and Oxenhope	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 to 15 per cent.	1	400 dir. 3,600 indir.	30 June	13	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Bristol	Against introduction of the "team" system with respect to the hand work to be done in aid of the machinery	1	...	16 June	20	Work resumed pending reference of the whole question to the National Arbitration Board. (See account on page 84.)
Ditto	Birmingham	Against employers sending work to be finished off the premises partly by machinery and partly by hand labour.	2	...	16 June	20	Work resumed and dispute referred to Sir H. James as umpire.
Ditto	Glasgow	Against proposed reduction of minimum wage or introduction of "team" system	1	...	June	15	Employer has retired from business, and the men have found work in other shops.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO JULY, AND WERE STILL IN PROGRESS AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following strikes occurring before July are still in progress:—Plumbers, North Shields and Jarrow-on-Tyne; joiners, Brighton and Oldham; miners, Benhar (Lancashire), and two collieries at Abercarne and Risca; quarrymen, Festiniog; chainmakers, Blackheath (Staff); nailmakers, Dudley; slaters, Edinburgh; masons, Leith; tailors, Cork; stove-grate workers, Derby; glass-bottle makers, York; plasterers, Blackburn; carpenters, Cork; miners, Mirfield; boot and shoe operatives and collar and apron cutters, Belfast; builders' labourers, Wakefield; bakers, Navan.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING JULY 1893.

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

I.—TEN TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—
 Wilts. Gen. and Agricult. Workers' Union (Devizes).
 Indep. Tailors, Machinists and Pressers' Union (London, E.)
 Society of Iron Safe Engineers (London, E.C.)
 Standish Dist. Miners' Association (Wigan).
 Tyne Steam Packet Prov. Soc. (North Shields).
 Northern Trimmers' and Teamers' Assoc. (South Shields).
 Portsmouth Dockyard Hand Drillers' Assoc.
 Kettering and District Trades Council.
 Hull and District Labour Federation.
 Engravers to Calico Printers and Paper Stainers (Manchester).

II.—SEVEN TRADE SOCIETIES DISSOLVED, OR NOTICE THEREOF RECEIVED DURING MONTH:—
 London Affil. Pottery's Trade Soc.
 Ormesby Iron Works Pipe Makers' Assoc.
 Amal. Socy. of Enginemen, Cranemen, Boilermen and Firemen (Newcastle).
 Amal. Socy. of Laundresses and Gen. Working Women (London, W.C.)
 Amal. Seamen's and Tradesmen's Union of Great Brit. and Ireland (Cardiff).
 St. Helens and District Labour Union.

Sowerby Bridge and Dist. Card and Blowing-room Operatives' Assoc.

III.—EIGHT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—
 (a) Two Manufacturing Societies:—
 Hamilton Shirt Making Socy. Ltd. (London, W.)
 London Amal. Co-op. Builders' Socy. Ltd.
 (b) Three Distributive Societies:—
 New Tredegar and Dist. Co-op. Socy. Ltd.
 Shirburn Co-op. Socy., Ltd.
 Northallerton and Dist. Co-op. Socy. Ltd.
 (c) Miscellaneous Societies:—
 Paddington Rad. Working Men's Club and Inst. Socy. Ltd.
 Inventors and Authors' Co-op. Socy. Ltd.
 Cavendish Med. and Surg. Appliance Socy. Ltd. (London, W.C.)

IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—
 (a) Thirty New Societies:—
 * Ordinary Friendly Societies, 12; Working Men's Clubs, 6; † Specially Authorised Societies, 3; Dividing Societies, 9; total 30.
 (b) Forty-three New Branches of Existing Societies:—
 I.O.R.S.U., 12; I.O.O.F. M.U., 7; A.O.F., 6; G.U.O.O.F., 4; Various, 14; total 43.

* Two of these appear to be connected with special trades, viz.: The Fishermen's Mutual Benefit Society (Liverpool), and the Miners' Protection Friendly Society (Staffs).
 † One of these, the Type Founders Relief Fund, appears to be connected with a special trade.

THE DISPUTE IN THE COAL TRADE.

In the last number of the GAZETTE an account was given of the events leading up to the present dispute in the Coal Trade and the nature of the questions at issue. As there mentioned, a meeting of coal owners, representing the chief districts embraced by the Miners' Federation, with the exception of the northern counties, was held in London on June 30th, following a joint conference of their representatives and representatives of the Federation, and passed resolutions declaring that the condition of the Coal Trade demanded a reduction of 25 per cent. in wages, and that notices should be given not earlier than July 8th to terminate contracts by July 28th, with a view of obtaining such reduction. The coal owners further suggested the reference of the question of reduction to arbitration. As explained last month, the proposed 25 per cent. reduction is calculated in most districts on the standard rate of 1888, not on gross wages now being received.

A conference of the Miners' Federation was summoned to meet in Birmingham on July 18th and following days, to consider the course of action to be taken, and in the meantime district meetings of the miners were held all over the kingdom to ascertain their opinions.

Throughout what may be termed the Federation districts proper (that is, where the Federation has for some time been firmly established), an almost unanimous feeling seems to have been expressed against the acceptance of any reduction. In the districts which are entirely outside the Federation, or which have only recently joined, opinions have been very much divided. Most importance has attached to the attitude of the miners of Northumberland and Durham. In these two counties over 100,000 miners are employed, of whom about 72,000 belong to the Durham and Northumberland Unions, which have quite recently joined the Federation. Many reasons combined to make these miners take a different view of the situation from those in the Midlands. Before joining the Federation they had submitted to reductions of 15 to 16½ per cent. in wages since the beginning of 1891, and the Durham men had not recovered from the disastrous strike of last year. Hitherto these counties had accepted and acted upon the principle that wages must follow prices. The Federation, on the other hand, had been contending for the reverse principle that prices must follow wages. Neither Northumberland nor Durham was now threatened with a further immediate reduction. The lodges of the Durham Union, when consulted, voted against striking by 326 to 104 (with 120 neutral*). They also decided, by 291 to 92 (with 54 neutral), in favour of referring the whole dispute to arbitration. The Northumberland lodges also voted against the proposed strike. Both counties, however, were represented at the Birmingham conference. That conference decided by 198 votes to 50 that no reduction of wages should be submitted to. Further, it declared by 199 to 50:—

"That this Conference is of opinion that those districts which have suffered reductions of wages, and which belong to the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, shall give notice for an advance in wages equal to the reductions suffered during the last two years. And that any district which fails to comply with this resolution shall not thereafter be considered part of this Federation."

The coal porters, and the affiliated unions of seamen and firemen, were called on to refuse, when necessary, to transport coal coming from districts not complying with the resolutions of the conference. In the event of a strike, miners were to be allowed to attend the ponies and to wind water at the old rates of wages. It was resolved that a large number of men in the Federation districts, who had not received notice to terminate contracts, should give notice to leave. Durham, as a rule, voted against a strike policy and Northumberland remained neutral.

The resolution, however, requiring men not under notice to give notice to leave gave rise to strong

* The lodges have votes in proportion to membership—one vote per 100 members.

differences of opinion, being opposed by the Midland delegates and only carried by 149 to 101 votes. Each vote represented 1,000 members.

The notices had been generally given on July 8th, or during the following week. In the Forest of Dean, however, the miners had already received a fortnight's notice, and between 3,000 and 4,000 men actually ceased work on July 8th.

Statistics presented to the conference showed that the proportion of men under notice of reduction varied very greatly in the different districts. Thus, in Nottingham, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, practically the whole of the miners were under notice, and in Yorkshire and Lancashire the proportion under notice was at least 90 per cent. On the other hand, in the districts embraced by the Midland Federation, no fewer than 21,000 miners had no notice of reduction, the number in North Staffordshire being only 1,000 out of 13,000. Again notices had not been given in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Monmouth. The conference claimed to represent a total membership of 268,400. For convenience of reference, the actual number of underground and surface workers in various counties, taken from the Home Office returns, is given on p. 79.

In accordance with the decision of the conference, the Northumberland Miners' Executive decided, on July 22nd, to ask for an advance of 16½ per cent. in wages (equivalent to the reductions since the beginning of 1891*). On the 25th, the lodges of the Durham Union decided, by 262 to 201, to request a corresponding advance of 15 per cent., and also decided against striking by 335 to 104. On the 24th, the Cumberland Miners' Association resolved to ask for an advance of 20 per cent., and if it were not granted to cease work on August 11th. In all these cases the demand for a rise has been made and refused. The Northumberland miners are now taking a ballot as to whether a strike shall take place, and the lodges of the Durham Miners' Association are deciding whether the votes of the coke-men, enginemen and mechanics (who are included in the local Federation, but were not represented at Birmingham) shall be counted with those of the miners in determining whether a strike shall take place.

Efforts have been made by the Federation to induce the Scotch miners to throw in their lot with them. The only Scotch miners represented at Birmingham were some 2,000 miners at Larkhall and Blantyre. The Fife and Kinross miners were taking steps to join the Federation at the time of the crisis, but had not been actually admitted. The miners in the Lothians appear to have waited to see the action of the Fife and Kinross men, who in turn wished to learn what course the Durham and Northumberland men would take. During the month, requests for an advance of 1s. a day in some districts, and 6d. in others, were made without success, and on July 27th, at a conference at Glasgow, it was resolved by votes stated to represent 21,250 to 17,000 not to strike, but to work four days a week only. This decision, however, was reversed on August 8th, when a strike policy was adopted by 24,110 to 10,632. On August 21st, the Fife and Kinross men (some 10,000 in number) will strike for an advance of 25 per cent., and the miners of the Mid and East Lothians are also stated to be prepared to strike. The Lanarkshire and Ayrshire coal owners have offered a rise of 6d. a day, which, however, many of the miners have refused.

In South Wales the audit under the sliding scale resulted on August 5th in an advance of 1¼ per cent. in wages. In that district a large number of miners have, however, been thrown out of work by a strike of hauliers for an advance of 20 per cent., and many miners appear disposed to join the hauliers.

Another district outside the Federation is in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, where some 9,000 miners have their wages governed by a sliding scale. The wages-board, after not meeting for three years, met at Dudley, on July 19th, and decided to have

* See LABOUR GAZETTE, July, p. 60.

an audit to ascertain the selling price of coal. There have consequently been rumours of an impending reduction.

Returning to the Federation districts proper, over 200,000 underground workers and a large number of surface workers left their work on or about July 28th, and at the same time many of those who had not received notice handed in notices to leave work in a fortnight's time, in accordance with the Birmingham decision. In no district was strike pay given for the first week of the strike, and in some places (such as Derbyshire) the miners have resolved not to draw strike pay until the third week. Rumours of a proposed compromise have been current from time to time. It is stated, however, that no offer of this nature has been made by the authorised representatives of the coal owners.

The effect of the stoppage on the state of employment in the northern coalfields can already be traced, mining in Durham and Northumberland being brisker than for some time past, though a considerable number of miners were still out of work in both counties at the end of July.

The price of coal has naturally risen in consequence of the dispute. The effect on other trades is not yet fully developed, since large stocks of fuel were in many cases laid in by manufacturers, in view of the stoppage. A number of steel and iron works have, however, been stopped, and furnaces blown out in various districts; and several salt, alkali, glass and other works in Cheshire and Lancashire have wholly or partially ceased work, or have given notice of their intention of doing so. If the dispute continues, the effect on the trades of the country will soon become much more marked.

THE RECENT DISPUTE IN THE BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

AMONG the industrial events of the month calling for special remark is the crisis through which the Boot and Shoe Trade has passed. A peaceful ending has been arrived at, although at one time a lock out of at least 100,000 operatives seemed probable. A secondary result might have been the breaking up of the National Board of Arbitration recently established in the trade. Both employers and employed are strongly organised, and the two local disputes which led to a general quarrel between the two associations were in themselves of small importance. Both sides asserted that the questions at issue were matters of principle, and each contended that its chief object was to insist upon the enforcement of the rules of the Board of Arbitration. One of the Rules of the Board reads as follows:—

"That where existing prices or conditions are sought to be amended by either employers or workmen, at least three months' notice must be given, to come into operation at the commencement of a season."

Two cases arose, one at Bristol and one at Birmingham, in which the Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives asserted that this rule had been violated. Both had their origin in matters arising out of the employment of new American machinery. The operatives did not object to the use of machinery on principle, but they differed with the employers as to the manner in which machine labour and the accessory hand labour should work in combination, and also as to the sub-division of hand labour under a "team" system dividing the work into a series of minor operations, each performed by a different hand.

In the Bristol case it was alleged by the operatives that a change in the system of hand working, apart from machinery, had been made by a certain firm who had introduced the "team system" of working with its minute stages of sub-division, and which has, it is asserted, the effect of reducing wages. The firm in question reply that the system complained of is not a new one, but has been in operation in their works since 1891, and that it is a method of arrangement which, while cheapening production in the aggregate, enables the workmen to earn higher wages than before. The

number of operatives directly concerned was but 25, but the society, considering that the rules of the Arbitration Board had been broken, withdrew the whole of their members from their employment with the firm on June 19th. There is, however, another rule of the Board, which runs as follows:—

"That every question, or aspect of a question, affecting the relations of employers or workmen, individually or collectively, should, in case of disagreement, be submitted for settlement to the Local Board of Conciliation and Arbitration."

A further rule provides:—

"That on no account should there be any cessation of work either at the instigation of an employer or employers or workmen."

These rules, it was contended by the Federation of Employers, had been violated by the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, who ought to have kept their men at work until any point in dispute had been referred to the Board, as provided by the rules.

The Birmingham case turned upon an alleged breach by two firms of an arrangement entered into under an arbitration award made by Sir Henry James, M.P., in May last. Under this award manufacturers are to be allowed to employ others to execute machine work, provided that the machine owners so employed pay the fair current rate of wages to their workmen, and that the hours of labour of such workmen are those generally recognised in the trade. This award does not sanction the execution of any substantial amount of hand work by machine owners for manufacturers. The men asserted that a machine owner was doing hand work contrary to the spirit of the award for the firms referred to, and a strike resulted in June. The Employers' Federation meeting on July 15th, considering the rules of the Board violated by the Union in both cases, ordered a general lock out. This catastrophe was averted by the intervention of Sir Thomas Wright, president of the National Arbitration Board, who demanded the return to work of the men and the withdrawal of the lock out notices by the Federation, pending a reference to arbitration. This ended the acute stage of the crisis, and the points in dispute were referred to the Board for settlement. The Birmingham dispute was referred by the Board to Sir Henry James. With respect to the Bristol case Sir Thomas Wright decided that the Union had broken Rule V. by ordering the men to cease work, and that the action of the employers was such as not to require the giving of three months' notice. A dispute as to wages at Croydon was also referred to Sir Thomas Wright, who decided that the men should resume work, the question in dispute to be settled by a Committee appointed for the purpose. These events appear likely to strengthen the position of the Board of Arbitration, which has now authorised its president to intervene on his own initiative in cases of stoppage of work.

PROGRAMME OF THE TRADES' UNION CONGRESS.

THE programme of business to be transacted at the Trades' Union Congress, which will meet at Belfast on September 4th and the five following days, has just been issued by the Parliamentary Committee of the Congress. No fewer than eighty-four resolutions are printed on the agenda, of which 6 deal with Factory Inspection or the Amendment of the Factory Act, 6 with the question of Employers' Liability, 6 with Government Contracts and Wages, 4 with the Restrictions of Hours of Labour, 3 with Arbitration, 3 with the Merchandise Marks Act, 4 with the Federation of Trades' Unions, 2 with Co-operation, 2 with the Law of Conspiracy, 2 with Night Work in Bakeries, 2 with Old Age Pensions, 2 with Enginemen's Certificates, 2 with inspection of docks, &c., and the remainder with various miscellaneous subjects, including a Contract Labour Law, Poor Law Reform, amendment of the Truck Act, Allotments, boiler inspection, and various subjects connected with Trade Union policy, e.g., refusal to work with non-unionists, the presence of military forces during trade disputes, and the establishment of a central fund.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

The report of a Committee of inquiry appointed to report to the Vice-President of the Council on Education on the present operation of the laws, both with regard to total and partial exemption from school attendance, and the admission of children to half-time and full-time employment, has been presented to Parliament.

The Committee consisted of three members:—Mr. Tucker [Assistant Secretary] Education Department, nominated by the Vice-President; Mr. Troup [Senior Clerk] Home Office, nominated by the Secretary of State; Mr. Llewellyn Smith, the Commissioner for Labour in the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, nominated by the President of the Board of Trade.

The Report includes a brief *resumé* of the history of the Education Acts in their bearing on this subject, followed by a short summary of the state of the law as it exists at present, showing the various regulations, whether local or Imperial, which govern attendance and exemption at various periods of a child's school life, both in England and Scotland. This, again, is followed by a similar statement with regard to the conditions of admission to factories under the Factory and Workshop Acts, and a summary of the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to and Protection of Children Act, 1889, as far as they bear on the question of children's employment. Statements are added with regard to Ireland and three selected foreign countries, viz.: France, Germany, and Switzerland.

The following tabular statement shows briefly the bearing of various Acts on the employment of children:—

		Age.			
		(Under 10 years of age employment is prohibited.)			
		10 to 11.	11 to 12.	12 to 13.	13 to 14.
1. Education Acts		Half-time employment allowed on passing half-time (bye-law) standard. Full-time employment allowed on passing full-time (bye-law) standard.*		Employment, full time or half-time, allowed if Standard IV. has been passed or if certificate of due attendance obtained.	
2. Factories and Workshops.	Employment prohibited.	Half-time employment allowed if half-time (bye-law) standard has been passed and if children are actually attending school, half-time for specified hours. Full-time employment prohibited.		Half-time employment allowed without educational test if children are actually attending school half-time for specified hours. Full-time employment allowed if Standard IV. has been passed, or certificate of due attendance obtained.	
3. Coal Mines.	Do.	Employment prohibited.	Employment of girls below ground prohibited. Employment of boys below ground and of girls and boys above ground, as in No. 1, except that hours of employment above ground are regulated so as to prevent employment beyond half-time.	Employment of girls below ground prohibited: otherwise as under Education Acts.	
4. Metalliferous Mines.	Do.	Employment below ground prohibited; above ground as in No. 2.	Employment of girls below ground prohibited; of boys as in No. 1. Employment above ground as in No. 2.	Employment of girls below ground prohibited: of boys as in No. 1. Employment above ground as in No. 2.	
5. Casual employment in Streets & Public Houses.		Prohibited between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., with power to local authority to extend these hours by bye-law (in addition to all regulations in Education Acts).			

* In the few cases where the age fixed by the bye-laws is lower than 13, children under 13 to whom the bye-laws do not apply are subject to the same conditions as children between 13 and 14.

With reference to half-time employment, the Committee obtained from the school boards, of five towns in which the half-time system largely prevails, particulars relating to the employments in which half-timers are engaged in those districts. The towns chosen were Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn, Bradford, and Leicester, and the result of the inquiry showed that out of 18,618 half-timers employed at the date of the inquiry, 13,806

were working in factories, 1,079 in workshops, and 3,733 in other miscellaneous employments. Of the last-mentioned class, 1,104 were in Bradford and 1,064 in Oldham. The returns furnished from three of the towns (Bradford, Blackburn and Leicester) were sufficiently detailed to make it possible to analyse the employments more minutely. In these three towns, out of 8,766 half-timers working in factories, 8,433 were engaged in cotton or worsted mills. The miscellaneous employments of half-timers (other than factories and workshops) are classified as follows:—

Domestic	1,304
News-vendors and Errand Boys	485
Office Boys and Shop Assistants	274
Milk Boys	36
Other employments	148
TOTAL	2,247

Of these 1,083, or about half, were under the age of 12. From these figures it appears that the total number of half-timers is considerably less than appears from the returns of schools inspected, which show 32,518 half-timers, compared with 18,618 revealed by the inquiry. Various reasons for this discrepancy are given in the Report, the most important being the fact that the Education Department returns include all half-timers who have attended school during any part of the year, and not only those in attendance at a particular date.

Another fact disclosed is that, in districts in which half-time employment in factories prevails, and it has become a matter of common knowledge among parents that half-time certificates can be easily obtained, many children are working half-time at miscellaneous employments which over the greater parts of the country are carried on without recourse to the half-time system.

The Report sets forth a list of ten anomalies in the state of the law. Of these the first three relate more especially to anomalies in the Education Acts. The remainder are as follows:—

- While the employment of children between 10 and 11 in factories and workshops has been absolutely prohibited, there is no corresponding restriction with regard to other employments. This point is dealt with in the Elementary Education (School Attendance) Bill now before Parliament.
- In the same way, while the full-time employment of children under 13 is prohibited in factories and workshops, it is allowed, subject to educational tests, in other employments. Thus, a child under 13 who has passed the standard for total exemption under the bye-laws cannot be employed full-time under the Factory Acts, but can be employed full-time in any other employment.
- In factories and workshops the number of hours constituting half-time employment is strictly defined by statute; it is also defined as regards the employment of children between 12 and 13 above ground in connection with coal mines: but elsewhere there is no definition of half-time employment, and no restriction as to the number of hours of employment beyond what is implied in half-time attendance at school.
- The provision for securing the attendance at school of half-timers is very different in the case of factories and workshops and in the case of other employments. In factories and workshops the employer is responsible for obtaining a weekly certificate of school attendance, and is subject to penalties if he employs a child under 13 without such certificate. Any other employer has only to see once for all that the child has obtained the certificate of partial exemption. After that he is under no responsibility to see that the child makes half-time attendance at school.
- A child between 13 and 14 years of age may be employed half-time in a factory or workshop if he be actually attending school half-time in accordance with the Factory and Workshops Act, 1878; he may therefore be employed half-time even though he has not reached the standard of proficiency or of previous due attendance prescribed for all other employments by section 5 (2) of the Education Act, 1876.
- In coal mines the hours of the employment of children between 12 and 13 above ground are regulated by statute so as practically to limit them to half-time, whereas below ground the hours of employment are not subject to similar regulations, and if the children have reached the standard for total exemption they are subject to no restriction except the limits of 10 hours a day and 54 hours a week. The practical result of this is stated to be that in districts where the standard of total exemption is low, employment underground commences at 12 and above ground at 13 (Labour Commission, Group A, 3,100-3,110). In the case of metalliferous mines the contrast is still more marked, as the employment of children above ground is in this case regulated by the Factory Acts.
- While in the Factory Acts the provision of half-time education is an essential condition of all half-time employment, the Mines Regulation Acts contain no provisions as to the education of those children whose employment is allowed.

NEW ORDER UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

On August 7th, the Home Secretary issued an Order raising the standard of proficiency for full-timers to the Fifth Standard. The following are the operative clauses of the Order:—

- The Order of the Secretary of State, dated 20th February, 1892, is hereby revoked.
- Between the date of this Order and the 1st of September, 1894, the Order of the Secretary of State, dated 15th February, 1879, shall continue to be in force.
- From and after the 1st day of September, 1894, the Order of the Secretary of State, dated 15th February, 1879, shall be revoked, and instead thereof the following provisions shall take effect, that is to say:—
 - The standard of proficiency for the purpose of a certificate of proficiency to be given any child shall be Standard No. V, as fixed by the Code of 1893, of reading, writing and arithmetic, or any higher standard which may be obtained by the child. Certificates of proficiency may be granted by the persons prescribed by Articles 3-8 and 30 of the Code of 1893.
 - The standard of previous due attendance at a certified efficient school for the purpose of a certificate of previous due attendance shall in the case of any child be 250 attendances (after such child has attained five years of age) in not more than two schools during each year for five years, whether consecutive or not. Certificates of previous due attendance at school may be granted by the persons prescribed by Sections 10, 11 and 12 of the Regulations of the Education Department, dated 27th February, 1893.

The standard prescribed in the Order of 1879, which is revoked by this Order, was the *Fourth*. The Order of 1892 has never come into force: its intention was to make the standard of proficiency the *Fourth*, or such higher standard as the particular school authority concerned might have fixed as the standard of exemption from the obligation to attend school.

LABOUR CASES IN JULY.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

- Glasgow, July 1st.*—Shunter killed by goods train. Widow claimed £1,000. Defence, contributory negligence. Verdict for pursuer, £250.
- Edinburgh Sheriff Court, July 1st.*—Pit-sinker injured through slipping of plank claimed £500. Defence, pursuer's own fault. Sheriff awarded £50 and expenses.
- City of London Court, July 3rd.*—Labourer injured by collapse of shed which he was painting, claimed £150 from his employers, who pleaded irresponsibility. Jury awarded £10 and costs.
- Chesterfield County Court, July 7th.*—Widow claimed for herself and six children £241 16s. (three years' wages) damages for loss of husband, fatally scalded whilst repairing steam pipe in colliery. Jury awarded full amount claimed.
- Hanley County Court, July 12th.*—Boy injured by fall of trap-door, negligently left unfastened by an apprentice. Claim by father for £50. Judgment for defendants.
- St. Helen's County Court, July 12th.*—Woman employed in filling press-box of brick-making machine had right hand smashed by fall of crusher. She claimed £62 8s. damages, alleging negligence on part of man in charge of machinery, and non-provision of proper appliances. Judge ruled that the latter was the only question for jury. Verdict for plaintiff, £20 and costs.
- City of London Court, July 12th.*—Labourer carrying stove down ladder injured owing to rung giving way. Damages claimed £200. Defence: that ladder was not intended for men carrying heavy weights. Jury awarded £25. Counsel then stated that plaintiff had been offered £40 and had refused it.
- City of London Court, July 12th.*—Carman injured by being knocked from van by bale of goods. Claimed £21. Defence was that plaintiff slipped. Jury awarded £5.
- Leeds County Court, July 14th.*—Lad oiling steaming-machine, which suddenly started, had right hand injured, necessitating subsequent amputation of thumb and finger. Damages claimed £78. Verdict for plaintiff, with costs.
- Gateshead County Court, July 15th.*—Water-leader in colliery was voluntarily helping putter with water-tub when it ran off the line and knocked away a prop, injuring plaintiff's foot, which had to be amputated. Father claimed £120 and alleged that timber of prop was unsound, but this was denied by defendants, who submitted that plaintiff had broken the rules of the colliery. Verdict for defendants.
- East Stonehouse County Court, July 20th.*—Labourer was clearing away debris after a charge of dynamite had been fired, when a second explosion occurred by which his eyes were so injured that one had to be removed. Damages claimed, £150. Defendant alleged contributory negligence. Jury awarded full amount claimed. Leave to appeal was given.
- Oldham County Court, July 21st.*—Blacksmiths' striker sued for £50 damages for injury to foot by crank of engine which he was starting. Defendants submitted that plaintiff had no right to meddle with engine. Judgment for defendants.
- Glasgow First Divisional Court, July 28th.*—Two workmen in a shipbuilding yard claimed £500 or £233, and £500 or £128 18s. respectively, for injuries received by the collapse of stags on which they were working. Defendants pleaded that staging was sufficient,

and that pursuers contributed to the accident. Verdict for defenders.

Leeds (Yorkshire Summer Assizes), July 20th.—Navy injured by explosion whilst blasting sued a contractor for damages. A hole had been charged, but the fuse had missed fire, and plaintiff was instructed by defendant to remove the drill. During this operation the fuse exploded. Defendant contended that he was not the employer (his solicitor having taken from him an assignment of the contract), and that he had no authority to give plaintiff his instructions. Jury awarded £40 damages and costs.

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

- Barnsley, July 7th.*—Four miners were summoned for £2 10s. each, and one for £1 15s. for absenting themselves from work during a dispute at the colliery at which they were employed, after having signed a contract to give 14 days' notice. They were ordered to pay the claims (reduced by 10s.) and costs.
- Bolton Sessions.*—Fustian-cutter claimed 4s. 4d. wages due, and 6s. wages in lieu of notice, alleging that on her refusal to sign an agreement to continue her employment for six months she was summarily dismissed. It was stated by manager that the agreement was necessary to protect firm from loss, as it cost between £6 and £7 to teach each girl. Order made for 4s. 4d. the claim for 6s. not being pressed.
- Pontefract, July 14th.*—Two miners claimed 14s. (under list of June 1890) for breaking in new head place in workings. It was stated that the list provided for extra payment for such work, but left the amount indefinite. Defendants contended that end places could not be made without previous permission. Judgment for defendants with costs, on the ground that the miners were not entitled to make the place in question.
- Liverpool County Court, July 20th.*—The Shipping Federation was summoned in a test case for breach of contract. It was stated that 80 men were engaged by the Federation during the Hull strike at 30s. per week, the contract providing that the men should work a fortnight, and a further fortnight if required. In the middle of the third week they were dismissed, receiving pay up to that time, but they contended they were entitled to a full month's pay. In defence, the Federation submitted that the men had received notice at the end of the fortnight, and had remained at work for their own convenience. Judgment for plaintiff, with costs on the higher scale.

(3) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS.

- Bodmin (Cornwall Assizes), July 26th.*—Under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1876, a seaman claimed £300 from a shipowner for injuries received whilst employed on board defendant's schooner, from the fall of boom and gear, owing, as alleged, to the bolts being unsuitable and being improperly fixed by the mate. The defence was that the negligence, if any, was by one of plaintiff's fellow-servants. The judge, having regard to the ruling in a similar case, non-suited the plaintiff. Counsel for plaintiff expressed his intention to appeal, and asked the judge to assess damages pending decision of higher Courts. His Lordship consented, and awarded £300, amount claimed.
- Board of Trade Prosecutions, July 4th.*—The master of a vessel was convicted at Newcastle-on-Tyne for allowing his vessel to be so loaded as to submerge in salt water the centre of the disc, and fined £5 and £2 12s. costs. M.S. Act 1876, s. 28.
- July 7th.*—The master of a vessel was convicted and fined for not serving out lime-juice (M.S. Act 1867, s. 4), and for not entering in official log case of illness and treatment of a seaman (M.S. Act 1854, s. 202), the total fines amounting to £4, with £9 17s. 2d. costs.
- July 13th.*—The master of a vessel was convicted at Hull for having his vessel so loaded as to submerge in salt water the centre of the disc, and fined 20s., with £1 10s. costs. M.S. Act 1876, s. 28.
- July 20th.*—A boarding-house master was convicted at Barry Dock for illegally boarding a vessel and fined £1 and 6s. costs, or ten days' imprisonment in default of payment. M.S. (Payment of Wages) Act 1880, s. 5.
- July 26th.*—A boarding-house keeper was convicted at Cardiff for illegally supplying a seaman, and fined £20 and 10s. 6d. costs, or in default of payment two months' imprisonment. M.S. Act 1854, s. 147.
- July 31st.*—The owner of a trawler was convicted at Dublin for employing an uncertificated second hand, and fined 1s. and £2 2s. costs. M.S. (Fishing Boats) Act 1887, s. 8.

(4) TRUCK ACT.

West Ham Police Court, July 31st.—A firm of matmakers was summoned at the instance of an inspector of factories for infringing the Truck Act by deducting 4d. for repair of shute, 1d. for half-hour time lost, and 1d. for light. The magistrate held that he was controlled by a previous decision, and dismissed the summonses.

At Worcester a farmer was fined 20s. for an offence against the Truck Act. (For details see p. 89.)

(5) WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT.

Glasgow Sheriff Court, July 18th.—Coalmaster was charged with having in use an unjust weighing machine for determining the wages payable to his men. The sheriff said the machine was wrong by something under ½ per cent. There was no suggestion of fraudulent intent, no resultant injustice, and no want of ordinary care; but undoubtedly the machine was unjust. A limited penalty of £1 and expenses was imposed.

(6) SHOP HOURS REGULATION ACT.

London (Worship Street Police Court), July 13th.—Two hairdressers and a publican were summoned by the London County Council for employing boys for longer periods than 74 hours (including meal-times) per week, viz., 93, 97, and 98 hours per week respectively. Each defendant was fined 5s. and 6s. costs.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD SOLD BY CERTAIN WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

THE following table of average retail prices is prepared on exactly the same principle as those published in previous numbers of the GAZETTE. Owing, however, to the large increase in the number of societies which have made returns (which amount to 91 compared with 26 for the previous month), it has been thought advisable to group the societies by districts. The 91 societies represented have a membership of about 175,000. The prices are based on sales during the month of June. (In 19 cases the returns cover a quarter, and in three cases a week instead of a month). The table is based on records of actual transactions, the average prices being obtained by dividing the total sum realised by the total quantity of each article sold. It should be remembered that while the prices given represent the real average prices paid by members of co-operative societies for such qualities of each article as they are accustomed to purchase from the society, the qualities of various articles sold by different societies are not necessarily identical, while the result may be partially affected by the different practice of the societies in regard to the percentage returned to the members.

District.	No. of Societies furnishing Returns.	Flour per stone of 14 lbs.	Bread per 4 lbs.	Fresh Meat per lb.	Bacon per lb.	Sugar per lb.	Tea per lb.	Butter per lb.	Margarine per lb.	Cheese per lb.	Milk per quart.	Potatoes per stone of 14 lbs.	Jams and Marmalades per lb.	District.
ENGLAND & WALES.														
Northern Counties ...	10	1 6 1/2	5 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	0 9 1/2	5 1/2	4 1/2	Northern Counties.
Lancashire & Cheshire ...	15	1 5 1/2	5 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	0 11 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Lancashire & Cheshire.
Yorkshire ...	13	1 4 1/2	5 1/2	8 1/2	8 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	0 11 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Yorkshire.
Eastern Counties ...	2	1 5 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2	...	8 1/2	...	8 1/2	8 1/2	Eastern Counties.
Midland Counties ...	15	1 6 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2	10 1/2	7 1/2	0 11 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Midland Counties.
Home Counties ...	10	1 8 1/2	4 1/2	7 1/2	9 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2	7 1/2	8 1/2	0 11 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	Home Counties.
South & South Western Counties ...	8	1 6 1/2	4 1/2	6 1/2	8 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	1 1 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	0 11 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	South & South Western Counties.
SCOTLAND.														
...	16	1 7 1/2	5 1/2	7 1/2	10 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	9 1/2	7 1/2	0 6 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	SCOTLAND.
IRELAND.														
...	2	1 9 1/2	5 1/2	7 1/2	9 1/2	2 1/2	1 1 1/2	1 0 1/2	...	8 1/2	...	0 11 1/2	5 1/2	IRELAND.
Average prices for the above Societies		1 5 1/2	5	7 1/2	9	2 1/2	2 0 1/2	1 1 1/2	8 1/2	8	3 1/2	10 1/2	4 1/2	Average prices for the above Societies.
Quantities sold on which these prices are based		554,799 stone of 14 lbs.	1,431,830 4 lb. loaves	880,019 lbs.	327,651 lbs.	32,453,343 lbs.	175,073 lbs.	955,006 lbs.	58,019 lbs.	273,273 lbs.	131,466 qts.	194,006 stone of 14 lbs.	195,551 lbs.	Quantities sold on which these prices are based.

AGRICULTURE IN JULY.

DURING the first week of July a series of thunderstorms over the southern part of England disturbed the long drought, which, with unimportant breaks, had lasted since March, and the drought may be said to have been definitely broken up and succeeded by unsettled showery weather from the 10th of the month.

The effects of the change on agricultural conditions, though generally favourable, have been very unequal in different parts of the country. Harvest throughout the kingdom has commenced at a date from three to five weeks earlier than usual, and in certain early spots in the South and South-East it had begun before the break up of the drought. Although too late to have a favourable effect on the corn crops in the East, South-East, and East Midland Counties, the recent rains have greatly improved the prospects of the root and second hay crops.

In the Northern Counties and Scotland, where the rain came sooner and the harvest is later, corn is looking well, and the harvest is expected nearly a month earlier than usual. In the Northern Counties, as well as in Scotland, an August harvest is looked for.

In many districts the extra employment usually forthcoming during harvest time is below the average, and, in some places, especially in parts of the Eastern and Southern Counties of England, the probable difficulty of finding sufficient employment for agricultural labourers during the coming autumn and winter is causing anxiety. A dispute among agricultural labourers is reported at Barney, Norfolk, with regard to the amount of harvest wages.

During the month several County Councils, including West Sussex, Cornwall, Holland (Lincolnshire), Shropshire, and Warwick, are reported to have resolved to take action under the Small Holdings Act (Part 1). 18 applications for small holdings had been received in Cornwall, 8 (within the Act) in Shropshire, and 8 (6 reported to be reasonable) in Warwickshire. The Holland County Council, on 11th July, resolved to purchase 136 acres of land for small holdings. The Cambridge County Council is negotiating for the purchase of land for the same purpose, there being 30 applicants (9 to purchase and 21 to hire land). In Radnor it is reported that negotia-

tions are in progress for the private provision of small holdings for the applicants, of whom there are 6 (4 to hire and 2 to purchase). The Holland (Lincolnshire) County Council has instructed its committee to resort to compulsory powers for the supply of allotments in several cases, if voluntary arrangements fail.

At the County Petty Sessions at Worcester, a farmer is reported to have been summoned for breach of the Truck Act by engaging a labourer at weekly wages of 13s. and three pints of cider in winter, and 15s. and two quarts of cider in summer. The labourer in question stated that he regarded the cider as part of his wages. On the other hand, it was stated that for a certain part of the period of service the cider had been stopped without any claim being made for an increase of money wages. A fine of 20s. was imposed, the magistrates agreeing to state a case for the High Court on three points raised by the defence.

At the end of July the GAZETTE average prices of British corn were as follows:—Wheat 26s. 5d., barley 23s. 1d., oats 21s. 7d., compared with 26s. 9d. wheat, 20s. 9d. barley, and 21s. 5d. oats, at the end of June.

The price of British wheat on the average of the four weeks ending 29th July was 26s. 6d., compared with 29s. 2d. in the corresponding period of 1892.

The total imports of corn into the United Kingdom during July were: Wheat, 8,415,964 cwt. in July 1893, compared with 6,919,491 cwt. in July 1892; barley, oats and maize, 7,094,592 cwt., compared with 6,176,635 cwt. during July 1892; beans and peas, 329,538 cwt., compared with 534,038 cwt. for July 1892; wheatmeal and flour, 1,558,209 cwt., compared with 1,724,012 cwt. during July 1892. The imports of hay during the month were 18,636 tons, compared with 9,045 tons during June 1893, and 3,614 tons during July 1892. Of the amount imported during last month 6,606 tons came from the United States.

Small Holdings.—The Board of Agriculture has published, for the use of County Councils, a form of rules suggested for the sale and letting of small holdings under the Small Holdings Act 1892. A form of application to purchase is given, with an explanatory memorandum, a form of application to hire, and a summary of the particulars to be contained or referred to in the agreement to be made between the County Council and an intending tenant.

PROVISION FOR OLD AGE BY TRADE SOCIETIES.—(Continued.)

THE following statement has been prepared, in continuation of a similar table in the July LABOUR GAZETTE, to show the extent to which Trade Societies make provision for superannuation, the conditions under which such superannuation is granted, its amount, the numbers in receipt of it during last year, and other particulars. The Societies are grouped by trades, and the present number includes the Engineering, and kindred Trades, in which it appears that, in 1892, 9 Societies, numbering 104,424 members, made payments amounting in the aggregate to £63,662 to their aged members, who numbered 3,271 at the end of the year.

NAME OF TRADE SOCIETY.	Number of Members at end of 1892.	Date of Establishment of the Superannuation Benefit at the close of 1892.	Number of Members receiving Superannuation Benefit paid during 1892.	Superannuation paid during 1892.	Weekly Contributions to Union.		Qualifications and Conditions for Receipt of Superannuation Benefit.			Weekly Rate of Superannuation.
					Ordinary Members. (Maximum)	Superannuated Members.	Minimum Age.	Conditions as regards incapacity.	Conditions as regards employment, income or number.	
Engineering and Cognate Trades:— Amalgamated Society of Engineers	70,909	1851	2,257	£ 47,388	s. d.	s. d.	55	All members unable to obtain ordinary rate of wages through old age or infirmity	No restriction as to private means or earning capacity in any other employment	25 years' members, 7s. 30 years, 8s.; 35 years, 9s.; 40 years, 10s.
Steam Engine Makers' Society	6,100	1833	122	2,328	1 0	1 0	55	All members incapable of following the trade through old age	...	25 years' members, 6s.; 30 years, 7s.; 35 years, 8s.; 40 years, 9s.; 45 years, 10s.
Amalgamated Society of Metal Planers, Shapers, Slotters, &c.	1,468	1867	11	91	1 0	Nil.	50	All members unable to obtain the ordinary rate of wages through old age or infirmity	...	25 years' members, 6s.; 30 years, 7s.; 35 years, 8s.; 40 years, 9s.
Friendly Society of Ironfounders	15,190	1836	588	9,308	1 0	...	60	All members over 60 years of age not working at the trade	...	30 to 35 years' members, 5s.; 35 to 40 years, 6s.; 40 yrs. and upwards, 7s. 6d.
Associated Ironmoulders of Scotland	6,268	1844	235	3,633	1 0	0 2 1/2 average	...	All members unable to work at the trade through age or infirmity	...	30 years' members, 7s.; 35 years, 8s.; 40 years, 9s.
Co-operative Society of Smiths	893	1849	5	81	1 0	Nil.	...	All members unable to follow their employment through sickness, accident or old age, and unable to earn more than 15s. per week at any other employment	...	15 years' members, 5s.; 25 years, 6s.; 35 years, 7s.; and a bonus ranging from £20, for 15 years' membership, to £30, for 20 years.
Associated Blacksmiths of Scotland	2,343	1876	23	290	0 9	...	50	All members unable to work at the trade again	Superannuated members allowed to work at any other occupation or calling	18 years' members, 5s.
General Union of Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers	1,170	1876	28	528	1 0	0 3	...	All members unable to follow their usual employment through old age or infirmity	...	15 years' members, 6s.; 20 years, 8s.
London Operative Zinc Workers' Society	83	1887	2	15	0 6	Nil.	55	All members unable to follow their usual occupation through old age or infirmity, or totally incapacitated by accident or otherwise from again following the trade, irrespective of age	...	15 years' members, 3s.; 20 years, 4s.

* In this, and in the previous Table, the contributions given are the full contributions of members entitled to all the benefits of the unions. Some Societies have graduated scales of contributions, the members paying on the lower scales being excluded from certain benefits.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN JULY.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of July, 174 prosecutions were instituted and 161 convictions obtained. Of these 161 convictions, 31 were for employing children under 14 without school certificate, or young persons under 16 without surgical certificate, the average penalty and costs inflicted being £1 7s. per case. For employing persons at illegal hours or for illegal periods, 59 convictions were obtained, with an average penalty and costs of £2 8s. 5d. For neglect of rules as to registers, abstracts, notices, &c., 55 convictions were secured with an average penalty and costs of £1 4s. 2d.

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCES.	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Cases Withdrawn.	Cases Dismissed.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.	Total Amount of Penalties & Costs.
Insanitary and Uncleanly Conditions.					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to limewash ...	3	3	...	...	6 10 0	1 0 6	7 10 6
Danger from Machinery, &c.							
Neglecting to fence ...	11	11	...	...	11 5 0	5 12 0	16 17 0
Employment of Classes of Persons forbidden by Law.							
Under 14 without school certificate or under 16 without surgical certificate ...	32	31	1	...	17 18 6	23 19 7	41 18 1
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment.							
Before or after the legal hour ...	29	24	1	4	33 12 6	16 14 2	50 6 8
At night ...	1	1	...	...	1 5 0	2 19 6	4 4 6
During meal times, or without proper interval for meals ...	4	3	1	...	1 5 0	2 2 6	3 7 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	21	21	...	...	46 2 6	25 18 8	72 1 2
On Sunday, holidays, or children on successive Saturdays (Children) Full time or otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. ...	3	3	...	...	0 16 0	1 5 0	2 1 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.							
Not keeping register ...	26	24	...	2	25 5 11	13 18 6	39 4 5
Making false entry in Register as to young persons employed ...	1	1	...	...	5 0 0	1 9 0	6 9 0
Not affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts ...	23	19	1	2	4 16 0	8 15 6	13 11 6
Not sending notices required by Act ...	11	11	...	...	2 16 6	4 9 6	7 6 0
Prosecution of Parents ...							
...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Information laid under Section 24 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891.							
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars ...	2	2	...	...	4 0 0	3 8 0	7 8 0
Totals for July 1893 ...	174	161	5	8	168 7 11	114 13 5	283 1 4
Totals for June 1893 ...	228	214	7	7	270 16 0	172 10 5	443 6 5

SEAMEN.

I.—NUMBERS SHIPPED IN JULY 1893 AND 1892.

(Based on information supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

The following table gives the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in July 1893 and 1892, respectively. The total number for July of this year is practically the same as that for July 1892. Reports from London, Liverpool, Cardiff, Newcastle and Sunderland state that the supply of seamen is in excess of the demand, and it is also reported that the supply is good at S. Shields, Hull, Swansea, Glasgow and Dublin. The same rates of wages are paid as last month, except at Dublin and Belfast. The changes there are noted under "Changes in Wages," p. 80.

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in July 1893.			Total in July 1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total.			
Tyne Ports ...	177	4,040	4,217	4,450	...	233
Sunderland ...	92	1,161	1,253	1,054	199	...
Middlesbro' ...	10	804	814	533	281	...
Hull ...	119	1,712	1,831	1,806	25	...
Grimsby ...	...	232	232	915	...	83
London ...	459	4,971	5,430	5,505	...	84
Southampton ...	...	1,386	1,386	301	...	...
Bristol ...	...	278	278	257	39	...
Newport, Mon. ...	106	1,165	1,271	995	276	...
Cardiff ...	660	4,793	5,453	5,049	404	...
Swansea ...	92	687	779	1,087	...	308
Liverpool ...	575	9,631	10,206	11,118	...	912
Kirkcaldy ...	...	259	259	166	93	...
(Burntisland) ...	...	564	564	563	1	...
Leith ...	...	275	275	159	119	...
Grangemouth ...	...	2,370	2,545	2,690	...	45
Glasgow ...	175	2,370	2,545	2,690	...	45
Dublin ...	55	37	92	89	3	...
Belfast ...	54	216	270	256	14	...
Total for the above Ports in July 1893	2,583	34,581	47,164	...	90	...
Ditto, July 1892	2,263	33,811	37,074	...	...	...

* Including men shipped at Barry and Penarth. The figures published in the July GAZETTE for Cardiff were exclusive of seamen shipped at those places. The figures for June, inclusive of Barry and Penarth, were 807 in sailing vessels and 4,192 in steam, a decrease of 377 compared with the corresponding month of 1892.
† Of this number 7,649 seamen were shipped under half-yearly Foreign-going Running Agreements dating from July.

II.—LIVES LOST.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

The following table shows the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of July 1893, and between January and July 1893, inclusive, as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Class of Vessels.	Sail or Steam.	Number of Deaths.*				
		By Wreck and Casualty.		By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty.		
		July.	Jan. to July.	July.	Jan. to July.	Jan. to July.
Vessels registered:—						
Trading	Sail	16	281	31	179	47
	Steam	1	268	33	185	34
Fishing	Sail	...	18	3	32	3
	Steam	...	11	...	4	15
Vessels not registered:—						
Trading	Sail	2	16	...	1	2
	Steam	...	...	...	...	2
Fishing	Sail	2	36	1	11	3
Total	Sail	20	351	35	223	55
	Steam	1	281	33	189	34
Total		21	632	68	412	89

* Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

MINES.

(The following information has been supplied by the Home Office.)

During the month of July 334 accidents, causing 193 deaths and injuries to 294 miners, were reported. Of these, 444 miners were killed and injured in England and Wales, 43 in Scotland, and none in Ireland.

Thirty-one convictions have been obtained under the Mines Acts, viz., 8 against owners and managers, and 23 against miners. (See also Note.)

During the month, information was received of the opening or re-opening of 11 and the closing of 11 mines. Ten of the mines opened or re-opened and 10 of the mines discontinued or abandoned are collieries.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of July 1893.

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire-damp ...	139	11	3	...	...	...	139	14
Falls of ground ...	23	116	...	21	...	...	26	137
Miscellaneous in shafts ...	8	6	...	...	...	...	8	6
Miscellaneous underground ...	8	96	...	12	...	...	8	108
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous ...	11	26	1	3	...	...	12	29
Totals	189	255	4	39	...	...	193	294

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE MINES ACTS IN JULY.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.	
					£	s. d.
By Owners, Managers, &c.—						
Storing Gunpowder, &c., underground ...	8	8	...	...	12	0 0
By Workmen—						
Safety Lamps ...	3	13	...	...	1	3 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	2	2	...	...	1	12 6
Lucifer Matches, &c. ...	5	5	...	...	3	5 0
Cruelty to Horses ...	2	2	...	...	2	15 0
Miscellaneous ...	11	11	...	...	9	18 6
Totals	31	31	...	...	30	14 0

NOTE.—Six Owners also were prosecuted, and one convicted, for cruelty to animals, but through an informality, the proceedings were quashed.

* Fine only; costs not known.

† In one case a sentence of two months' imprisonment with hard labour was passed.

MINES OPENED IN JULY.

COAL:—
Hepscott Moor, near Morpeth.
Kilner Bank (Thin Bed), Huddersfield.
Netherton (Blendings), Bradford.
Schrog, Mirfield.
Marsh Lane (Silkstone), near Chesterfield.
Hilton (8 feet and 4 feet seams), Bloxwich.
Black Lake (2 feet seam), West Bromwich.
New Forest, near Neath.
Rhydcyrrig, Pontyberem, Carmarthenshire.
Thornlie, Lanarkshire.

IRON ORE:—
No. 2, Colorado Pit, Mouzell Mines, Dalton-in-Furness.

MINES ABANDONED IN JULY.

COAL:—
Chatton, near Belford, Northumberland.
Alma (Silkstone), Clay Cross.
Markham, No. 2 (Deep Soft), Duckmanton, near Chesterfield.
Boycott (Yard Seam), Pontesbury, Shropshire.
Florence (Ash Seam), Longton, Staffs. (temporarily).
Fishley Colliery, No. 3 Pit (Yard Seam), Bloxwich.
Blaina (Cinder Pit), Monmouthshire.
Nantgarw Llantwit (Yard Seam), Nantgarw, near Pontypridd.
Struther (No. 3 Pit), Lanarkshire.
Trabboch (Splint and Diamond), Ayrshire.

IRON ORE:—
Dalton (Nos. 7 and 8 Pits), Dalton-in-Furness.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

The number of fatal accidents to railway servants recorded during July was 35, as against 31 in June, while the number of accidents not resulting in death fell from 192 in June to 184 in July. The number of injuries necessitating amputations remains the same, viz., 6.

I.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of July 1893.

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total of Injuries.
		Amputations.	Fractures.	Crushes.	Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.		
Engine Drivers ...	1	1	2	1	7	8	19	
Firemen ...	2	...	1	2	10	8	21	
Guard (Passenger) ...	3	...	1	3	14	15	33	
Permanent Way Men (not including labourers) ...	1	...	...	...	2	6	8
Porters ...	9	1	...	2	5	7	15	
Shunters ...	4	...	...	5	5	6	16
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants) ...	2	...	1	6	8	13	28	
	13	4	1	11	11	17	44	
Total	35	6	6	30	62	80	184	
Total for Year ended Dec. 31st 1892	534	98	204	451	718	1,444	2,915	

II.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured as above, in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, distinguishing accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents, in July 1893.

From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c. By Accidents from other causes*	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
...	1	2	2	5	...	...	3	7
...	25	151	7	22	...	4	32	177
Total	26	153	9	27	...	4	35	184
Total for year ended Dec. 31st 1892	426	2,615	89	274	19	26	534	2,915

* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.*

Reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons during July 1893. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

The number of fatal accidents in factories and workshops reported in July is 34, as against 26 in June, while the number of accidents not resulting in death rose from 697 in June to 729 in July. Of the 34 persons killed, 33 were men. Amputations were rendered necessary in 129 cases, as against 126 in June.

Nature or effect of Injury.	Adults (over 14).		Young Persons.		Children.		TOTAL.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Causing death ...	30	1	3	...	...	...	33	1
Amputation of right hand or arm ...	4	...	3	1	...	...	7	1
Amputation of left hand or arm ...	2	...	2	...	...	...	4	...
Amputation of part of right hand ...	22	5	16	5	1	2	39	12
Amputation of part of left hand ...	27	2	20	6	2	2	49	10
Amputation of any part of leg or foot ...	4	...	2	1	...	...	6	1
Loss of sight of one or both eyes ...	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	2
Fracture of limbs or bones of trunk ...	20	2	9	3	1	...	30	5
Fracture of hand or foot ...	18	4	7	5	2	1	27	10
Injuries to head or face ...	36	8	12	1	...	...	48	9
Lacerations, contusions, or other injuries not enumerated above ...	231	52	132	29	18	6	381	87
Total	395	75	206	52	24	11	625	138
Total for 7 months ended 31st July 1893	2503	402	1231	394	127	50	3861	846

* The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 66.

LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad. The small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

FRANCE.

The statistics of strikes supplied by the French Office du Travail, and forwarded through the British Embassy in Paris, show that only 53 fresh strikes were reported in June, as compared with 87 and 80 in May and April respectively.

The total number of persons affected by 42 out of the 53 fresh strikes, for which full particulars are supplied, was 7,859, as compared with 14,898 who were involved in 58 strikes in May. Less than 100 persons were engaged in 24 of the strikes.

Distributed according to industries affected, it appears that disputes were of most frequent occurrence in the Textile Trades, the number of strikes being 19. Of these 9 took place among weavers and 3 among spinners. The aggregate number of operatives engaged in 15 out of the 19 strikes was 3,775, and with one exception (that of 2,500 weaving operatives in Bertheourt and St. Ouen for increased wages) they were of slight importance.

There were 6 strikes in the Building Trades. The total number of workpeople involved in 5 of these strikes was 1,310; and the most important dispute was that of 300 (subsequently 800) masons in Grenoble, whose demand for increased wages was settled by a compromise after the dispute had lasted 13 days. The Metal Trades had 5 strikes, in which 317 persons in all were engaged.

A variety of other industries were concerned in the 23 remaining strikes recorded in June. The total number of persons affected by 17 of these was 2,457, the most considerable strike being that of 800 dock labourers at St. Nazaire for increased wages and a 10-hour working day. This dispute lasted 25 days, and concluded with a compromise.

Paris Labour Exchange.—The Journal des Debats states that in consequence of the closing of the Paris Labour Exchange the section of the Socialists issued a manifesto on July 23rd advocating a general strike. The unions, however, have declared themselves averse to such a step. The trial of the members of the Labour Exchange, charged with non-compliance with the Law of 1884, began early in August, and resulted in each of the defendants being condemned to pay a fine of 50 francs and costs. The court also ordered the dissolution of all the syndicates involved, including the Council-General of the Executive Commission of the Bourse du Travail.

Free Medical Assistance.—A law providing free medical assistance for the indigent sick was promulgated on the 18th of July. It entitles all indigent sick persons of French nationality to free medical assistance, either at their own homes or in a hospital. Women about to be confined are classed as sick. Foreigners residing in France will be entitled to such assistance if a treaty of "mutual assistance" has been concluded with their Government. It provides for the establishment of a service of free medical assistance in each Department, under the authority of the Prefect, with local bureaux d'assistance in each Commune.

The Sojourn of Foreigners in France.—The Journal Officiel of July 22nd publishes the text of a law just passed providing for the registration by the Communal authorities of foreigners not naturalised, within eight days of their entry into any Commune, for the purpose of carrying on any profession, trade or industry.

GERMANY.*

Trade Movements.—Movements for shorter hours and increased wages are in progress in certain industries in the capital. The gilders demand a 9-hour day and a uniform price list for operatives of both sexes. The saddlers of Berlin, Elberfeld and Barmen also demand a 9-hour day, at 43d. per hour, and an increased piece-work scale. The journeymen bakers demand a 12-hour day, including intervals, the exclusive engagement of men from the Union registry, a minimum wage of 18s. a week, or 8s. with board and lodging,

* The information as to trade movements is based on reports published in the Deutscher Reichsanzeiger. The other paragraphs are based on reports published in the Sozialpolitisches Correspondenzblatt.

and cleanliness and ventilation of workrooms. They have introduced a "control-mark," or Union label, as a means of enforcing their claims. The glass workers of Stralau, near Berlin, demand the regulation of their price list according to class and weight, reduced hours, and the regulation of the apprenticeship system.

Three strikes are reported from the province of Brandenburg. At Zehdenick, in the district of Templin, a large number of brick-makers are on strike owing to low wages; from 1,000 to 1,500 of the workers have gone to Hanover, and serious rioting has occurred. A strike of cabmen at Freienwalde against a new fare list, drawn up by the authorities, has concluded adversely for the men. In the town of Brandenburg a strike of 200 men is in progress at an art printing works against reductions of wages, long hours, and other grievances.

Three strikes took place among the cotton and wool-spinning operatives at Mülhausen, in Alsace, during July. The first began on the 13th in opposition to a revised price list. Work was resumed after four days, no advantage being gained by the operatives, of whom 210 were involved. A second strike broke out on the 26th, the demand for increased wages being conceded on the following day. A third strike broke out on the same day, and is still in progress. The strikers, who number 100, complain of the too rapid working of the machinery.

Other Prussian strikes reported in July were those at a weaving mill at Elmbeck, in the province of Hanover, owing to a reduction of wages and other grievances; and at Kreuznach (Rhenish Prussia) in defence of the right of combination.

A strike for a new price list is also reported in the Pottery Industry at Zwickau (German Saxony).

New Regulations for White Lead and Acetate of Lead Works, and for Cigar Factories.—New regulations have been drawn up regarding employment in white lead and acetate of lead works, by which, for the next ten years, the employment of young persons in such works is forbidden, and women may only be admitted on condition that they do not come into contact with products containing lead. Employers may dismiss, without notice, any person introducing alcoholic drinks into the works.

In continuation of the Factory Law of 1st June 1891, fresh regulations have also been drawn up for ensuring the health of persons engaged in the work of removing stalks from tobacco leaves, or the sorting of cigars in cigar factories. The regulations provide for ventilation, cleanliness, and sufficient space in the factories, and require that for the next ten years women and young persons shall be in the direct employ of the factory owner, and not be engaged by, or on behalf of other workers not being members of the same family.

Inspection of Lodging Houses.—A law has just been promulgated in the Grand Duchy of Hesse providing for the inspection of lodging and sleeping houses (including those provided by employers for their employes) by the sanitary and police authorities. It fixes the minimum air space for sleeping accommodation at 10 cubic metres (about 13 cubic yards) for each person. Fines varying from 30 to 100 marks (30s. to £5) are imposed for contraventions of the law.

Loans to Workmen to Build their own Houses.—The Town Council of Lahr, in Baden, has arranged with the Baden Sickness and Old Age Insurance Fund for an advance by the latter of £7,500 at 3½ per cent., and repayable in 50 years, on behalf of workmen desirous of building their own houses. Applicants must pay one-fifth of the purchase and building costs, and the houses which they propose to build must be for their own occupation.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.*

Strikes.—A strike of coopers belonging to 13 breweries in Vienna, which began in June, was concluded early in July. The men demanded a 10-hour day, exclusive of intervals, a minimum weekly wage of £1, rest on Sundays and holidays, and extra payment for work performed on such days, and for overtime on week-days. These demands were only partially conceded, and the places of 66 of the men were filled by imported labour. Two other disputes in progress near Vienna were concluded about the same time, one of leather workers at Meidling, to whom certain concessions were made, the other being at Breitensee, where 37 women belonging to an underclothing establishment have left and been replaced by others.

A strike took place in July at an india-rubber works in Vienna. The employes, 45 in number, succeeded after a fortnight in obtaining their demands for a 10-hour instead of an 11-hour day, with increased wages.

The moulders, numbering 26, at an iron foundry in Brünn, have

* The information as to strikes is based on information published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*.

struck against the dismissal of certain employes and a revised price list. No understanding has yet been reported.

At Kahr, near Falkenau, in Bohemia, a lock-out of miners has taken place owing to their demand for 2s. instead of 1s. 2d. a day.

The smiths and wheelwrights of Salzburg have struck for a mid-day interval, and the chainmakers of Brückl, in Carinthia, against a proposed reduction of 15 to 30 per cent. in wages.

The strike of colliers in Fünfkirchen, referred to in last month's GAZETTE, resulted in certain concessions being made to the men, including permission to organise a union, the administration of which should, however, be in the hands of the employers.

On the 16th of July, the painters of Fünfkirchen, numbering about 30, struck work for a reduction of working hours from 12 to 10, without reduced wages, abolition of Sunday work, and the granting of certain allowances when working out of town, etc.

Scheme for Central Workshops.—A committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Commerce has expressed itself in favour of the establishment of so-called "Central Workshops" in Buda-Pesth. Their object is to furnish accommodation under one roof to the smaller artisans, and to place machine power, lighting and heat, at their disposal at a moderate cost. It is proposed to entrust their erection and management to a joint stock company.

ITALY.

A report received from the British Embassy at Rome, states that two slight disturbances have occurred among workmen in the sulphur mines in Sicily, one at Riesi about an unpopular manager, the other at Sommatino due to political dissensions. The British Vice-Consul at Reggio, Calabria, in a recent report, gives particulars of a Friendly Society amongst the workpeople engaged in the extraction of oils in that district, having 70 members, of whom 60 are females. The men pay 11½d. a month, and the women 8d., and in return have a right to relief at 11½d. a day in case of sickness or destitution; after 15 years' membership and proved incapacity for further work, men are entitled to a pension of 11½d. a day, and women to one of 11½d. The society was founded in 1882. The industry gives employment for only five months in the year, and the hours of labour are from 6 a.m. till midnight, with an interval of two hours for meals; the wages are 1s. 4½d. a day.

The German Official *Reichsanzeiger* of July 20, reports that a strike has taken place in some large wool spinneries at Crema and Cassalputano in the province of Cremona. The strikers demand increased wages and reduced hours of labour. A lock-out has been declared by one of the largest spinning mills in Crema.

BELGIUM.

Mr. Adam, H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Brussels, reports under date of July 29 that the strike of weavers in the Verviers district alluded to in the July LABOUR GAZETTE was prolonged to the end of the month. At Dison, the Burgomaster, in view of the excited condition of the strikers, issued a notice undertaking to protect strikers who might resume work, and in a subsequent order prohibited all meetings of more than 10 persons, under pain of arrest. He also called a meeting for arbitration and conciliation, and after several interviews between the various bodies of workmen and their own employers, the majority of the strikers formerly employed in 4 out of the 6 factories at Dison involved in the dispute returned to work on July 11th. In some cases increased wages are reported to have been secured, but the whole of the strikers were not in all cases re-admitted. Two firms at Verviers and one at Lambermont succeeded in working their looms with new hands. On July 17th the number of weavers still on strike at Dison, Verviers, Lambermont, Ensival and Andrimont was about 300. Some weavers imported from East Flanders were roughly treated at Verviers, but failed to identify their assailants. On July 25th some of the strikers left to seek work in France, and the strike has now apparently come to an end. An explosion of dynamite occurred on July 27th at the house of an employer at Ensival, who is said to have refused mediation during the strike.

PORTUGAL.

Scheme for Labour Exchanges.—Sir H. G. MacDonell, H.M. Minister at Lisbon, under date of July 13th, forwards a royal decree dated May 25th, sanctioning regulations for Labour Exchanges established under a decree of March 9th.

The Exchanges are to be subject to the Department of Public Works, Commerce and Industry, and are to serve as intermediaries, for offering and procuring labour, and as agencies for collecting and publishing accurate information regarding the state of the labour market.

Each Exchange will have a waiting room for those seeking work, a library, and reading and other rooms for meetings of unions, &c. The administrative committee will consist of a president appointed by the Government, and four members elected by the delegates of local unions. The committee, among other duties, is to issue a weekly bulletin of the wages of various trades, based chiefly, but not entirely, on the transactions of the Labour Exchange. Each Exchange will be divided into sections, and will be open free every day.

Applications for work and for workmen are to be made to the agents of the various sections, by whom (if no corresponding offer be registered) they will be posted in frames in the waiting-room. Should a corresponding offer be registered, the agent will furnish the applicant with a way-bill, directing him to the proper quarter.

The agent will draw up weekly schedules of applications which could not be met during the week. The committee will decide with reference to each case whether, in view of the state of the labour market in other industrial centres, notice of these applications should be sent thither. Such notices, if sent to another centre where there is no Labour Exchange, are to be posted in the waiting-room of the postal telegraph station, and on the parish church or other public building.

Sir H. G. MacDonell also transmits some remarks furnished to him by an important English firm stating that the decrees of the Government with regard to labour, children's employment, etc., though mostly enlightened and beneficial, are not being carried into effect owing to the ignorance and apathy of the people.

The principles of trade unions have made great progress within the last two or three years, and almost every class of workmen has its unions. A federation of associations was formed last autumn.

Wages in Portugal are low, and the men pay only one penny or two-pence per week to their associations, a sum which only pays the expenses of management, and provides no fund to help the men during a strike, when they have to depend solely on subscriptions. A reaction is stated to be now setting in against unionism.

SWITZERLAND.

Mr. H. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, in a dispatch to the Foreign Office, dated July 28th, transmits a report on labour in Switzerland. The report is a translation of the notes of Herr Greulich, the chief of the Swiss Labour Office at Zürich, with some modifications and additions by Mr. Angst. The report states that there is still much excitement at Berne over the riots against the employment of Italian masons reported last month. The workmen's union repudiate all responsibility in the matter. There is said to be an unusual influx of workmen from Italy into Switzerland, and, under the circumstances, it is difficult to deal with the distress of the native unemployed. The Federal Assembly has refused a petition of 14 workmen's organisations, made in 1892, asking for support for the families of poor citizens fulfilling the military law. The petition was refused on the ground that the Federal Constitution contains no article which would justify the innovation.

The reports of the cantonal governments to the Federal Council on the carrying out of the Federal Factory Law have just been issued. The whole of Switzerland is divided into three districts, with three inspectors and assistants, but the number of inspectors is

Mr. Hallett, H.M. Vice-Consul at Ghent, reports that the East Flanders Provincial Chamber has adopted experimentally the principle already endorsed by West Flanders, that for all public works ordered by the Provincial Authorities the contractor must engage to pay his workmen the rate of wages current in the district.

A dispute between the women and their employer at a small cotton factory at Ghent, as to whether their wages agreement was at the rate of 1 fr. 50 c. or of 2 fr. a day was ended by the intervention of the Provincial Authorities, the rate of 2 fr. a day being fixed.

The greatest distress prevails amongst the lucifer match makers at Grammont; a letter published in various newspapers in the name of 2,200 workpeople asks that Government should increase the import duty on German matches, and fix a minimum of wages for the different branches of the industry.

Sunday Labour.—The commercial employes and newsprinters of Brussels, and the grocers, butchers, pastrycooks, tailors, and hairdressers of the Centre district have held meetings during the month in favour of Sunday rest: and the apothecaries in various districts have made arrangements among themselves to curtail the number of their shops open during the whole or part of Sundays.—*Le Peuple*.

Strikes, etc.—Several minor trade disputes are reported, including a strike of wood carvers at Cureghem for a rise of wages of 1d. an hour, of marble workers at Erquennes (Prov. Hainaut) for increased wages, of colliers at Wasmes, against deductions from wages for the funds of a provident society, and a lock-out of 91 slate quarrymen at Alle, owing to a dispute about a new price list.

At several of the collieries in the Borinage district, many of the miners have lately worked only four or five days in the week, and it is stated that great distress prevails among them. A considerable improvement is, however, reported in the Metallurgical Industry.

SWEDEN.

A report, dated July 29th, received from H.M. Legation at Stockholm, states that during June and July there has been no lack of employment or of labour; large numbers of workmen at this time endeavour to leave the towns to work for a month in the country at the hay and grain harvests. The men regard this to some extent as a holiday; they are lodged and paid 13d. a day, besides some small allowances, and are satisfied with covering their expenses and taking back a few shillings to town.

The Building Carpenters' Union resolved in June to ask for a 10 hours' working day, to begin on August 1st, and for a minimum rate of 4d. per hour to begin next spring.

The shoe makers' partial strike at Stockholm continues. The employers declined to form a joint committee to settle the dispute, and declared that if they take back any of the strikers it must be individually and unconditionally. The strikers issued a circular asking all the trade unions in Stockholm to support their efforts, naming six retail bootshops to be boycotted. The strike is not for wages, but to settle the length of notice to be given before introducing changes in the price lists; 122 men struck at first; only 30 men are now out, but 10 masters are being struck against. Another strike of bootmakers occurred at a large factory at Stockholm as to the day of the week for making up accounts.

At Gothenburg a lock-out of masons has been in progress for some time in consequence of their demanding an advance in wages; on July 17th 250 masons were receiving strike pay; 70 masons have left Gothenburg; the demand is for 5½d. an hour for the best workmen. A ten-hour working day for masons has been introduced in all but two places in Stockholm.

The Brewers' Trade Union are starting a sick and burial club, and are advocating a working day of 10 hours, instead of 11½ hours.

At a meeting of upholsterers at Stockholm it was decided to ask for 5½d. an hour.

On July 17th, 150 mineral ore carriers struck at Gellivara; they were getting by contract 3s. 3d. a day, and asked for 4s. 4d. On their absenting themselves from work they were dismissed. A large ship being ready at Lulea to take 3,600 tons of ore, the crew and other labourers shipped it instead of the strikers.

as yet too small. The canton of Zürich alone, at the instance of the workmen, has appointed a cantonal factory inspector, whose services have been of great value. Owing perhaps to this additional control, the report of the canton of Zürich shows 77 convictions under the law, while St. Gall has only 24, Glarus 7, Thurgovia 48, and Bâle none. The convictions show that there are still some isolated cases of children under 14 years of age being employed; the term of 8 weeks fixed for lying-in women is not fully kept everywhere; but most of the complaints arise from the disregard of the normal working day. This is fixed by the law at 11 hours, reduced in the Metal Trades by voluntary agreement between employers and workmen to 10 hours, and to 10 or 10½ hours in some other industries. It appears from the report that in some cantons the number of accidents has increased, notwithstanding the general introduction of the newest appliances for protection against accidents. The government of Schaffhausen reports that, notwithstanding the Employers' Liability Law, the injured workmen, from ignorance of the laws, and on account of the indirect pressure brought to bear upon them by employers, have often to content themselves with a small indemnity. Berne, Lucerne, the Grisons and Argovia report that most of the cases were settled amicably. Amongst the accidents were 6 cases of phosphorus poisoning (necrosis).

The delegates of the Swiss Commercial and Industrial Union, consisting chiefly of manufacturers and merchants, have decided to accept the Federal Bill for the establishment of insurance against sickness and accidents, subject to certain important modifications. The amendments of this union of employers are to be submitted to the Federal Council. The demands of the organised workmen with regard to the new Bill are in direct opposition to these on several important points.

A new Law, passed on the 18th of May, is said to be now in force in the Canton of St. Gall regulating female employment in industrial establishments shops and restaurants not included in the Federal Factory Law, and employing more than five women, and in all places where girls or apprentices under 18 years of age are employed. Those engaged as clerks or in Agricultural Industry are excepted. Working hours in industrial establishments are restricted to 11, including a midday interval of at least an hour, and to 10 on Saturdays and the eves of holidays. Shop assistants must be allowed at least 10, and hotel and restaurant waitresses at least 8 consecutive hours of rest. In other respects their hours of work remain unrestricted.—(Handels Museum).

ROUMANIA.

An extensive strike movement is said to be in progress in Roumania. The most serious dispute is that in the Army Clothing Industry, other strikes being those of the bakers in Galatz, and the shoemakers in Plojest. The latter, who are said to work from 15 to 16 hours a day, demand a 13-hour working day and a minimum weekly wage.—Arbeiter Zeitung.

RUSSIA.

The *Viestnik Financoff* (the official organ of the Russian Minister of Finance), of July 16th, reporting on the state of the agricultural labour market in Russia, states that the improved harvest prospects have considerably increased the demand for labour for field work. In the southern governments of Tauris, Bessarabia and Kherson, which, though thinly peopled, are grain-producing regions, there are great fluctuations in wages, which are reported to be rising wherever harvesting is chiefly dependent on migratory labourers as is the case in these governments.

During the spring, owing to the effect of last winter's forage famine on the live stocks of the peasantry, high rates prevailed for so-called "horse labourers," i.e., those who hire themselves out with their horses for certain periods at a stipulated rate including or excluding their own keep and forage for their horses, according to circumstances. These rates are now expected to fall, owing to the abundant hay crop.

Falls in the wages of agricultural labourers are reported in certain parts of the government of Astrakhan, on account of less hopeful

harvest prospects, and many of the labourers who have migrated from the Upper Volga and the central governments are stated to be without employment. A fall in wages is also expected in parts of the government of Riazan, whence few of the labourers have migrated this year. These are, however, exceptional cases.

UNITED STATES.

Captain R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports, under date of July 25th, that the annual conference between representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers and the manufacturers is gradually resulting in the adjustment of a scale of wages, a general desire to avoid a deadlock being observable. The dull condition of the Iron and Steel Trade has had a visible effect on the discussions, while 20,000 men have been idle pending the settlement.

The intention of the glass manufacturers to reduce wages 10 per cent. has not at present proved successful, and the workers are vigorously opposing the suggestion.

Many iron workers are being suspended, the employment of foreigners unable to speak English is being discontinued, and wages are being reduced pending a revival of trade.

The depression in the Cotton Trade is causing a reduction in wages in the textile mills, which the employees are resisting in some instances by strikes.

Many of the coal mines are closing, and those operating claim that a reduction in wages is becoming necessary. The brickmakers' strike is claimed by the men as a victory.

Other matters to be noticed are the plan of erecting a "temple for labour," or Labour Exchange, in which the local unions may meet; the forming of a Federation of Labour to enforce a better regard of Labour Laws; efforts to avoid Sunday work and the reorganisation of carpenters.

Mr. Booker, H.M. Consul-General for New York, reports, under date of June 29th, that the Worst Trade is being restricted and is slack in every branch. The receipts and sales of wool, which during the last two years were greater week by week than the year before, are now less. Woollens are also decreasing in price, and each month sees smaller imports. Announcements are daily being made of the closing of manufactories of various kinds, and many thousands are thereby thrown out of employment. The Iron and Steel Trade is stationary, and no improvement in prices is expected. Prices are being well maintained for coal, although there is no great activity in the market. Crops are mostly doing well, although in some localities the cut worm is proving destructive to the corn, and the hay crop will be lighter than was expected.

Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of July 18th, reports the passing of a Bill by the Illinois General Assembly to regulate the manufacture of clothing, wearing apparel, and other articles, and to provide for the appointment of State inspectors to enforce its regulations. This Act (commonly called the Sweat Shop Act) provides that no room in any dwelling-house used for eating or sleeping purposes shall be used for the manufacture of clothing, etc., except by the immediate members of the family living therein. Such domestic workshops and the articles made in them are liable to inspection, and notification of their existence to the Local Board of Health is compulsory. Articles transported to this State and known to have been manufactured under unhealthy conditions may be condemned and destroyed by the Local Board of Health. The employment of children under 14 years of age in any manufacturing establishment or workshop is forbidden. No females are to be employed in any factory or workshop more than 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week. The Act provides for the appointment by the Governor of a factory inspector, an assistant inspector, and 10 deputy factory inspectors, of whom 5 shall be women.

The Exhibition buildings having been completed, and the rush to finish hotels and other constructions in Chicago being over, the great demand for labour, which forced employers to pay almost any wages in all

branches of the Building Trade no longer exists, and a gradual reduction in the rate of pay is evident.

Difficulties arose at the beginning of July between the Union journeymen carpenters and the contractors, who had agreed to employ none but Union labour. The contractors were accused of violating the hour and wage agreement made in February last for two years by hiring carpenters below the scale. The contractors stated that they were unable to observe the agreement owing to the recently developed stringency in the general money market and the superfluity of the local labour market. The difficulty was submitted to arbitration, and it was agreed that the rate for three months from July 1st should be 35 cents per hour instead of 40, and that carpenters should be allowed to work for non-union contractors. A strike at the coal mines in Southern Kansas, begun in June, has extended widely in the neighbourhood. The miners ask for an advance of 25 per cent. in wages, but the Operators' Committee are only prepared to give an advance of 10 per cent. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad Company's mines are closed down till the strike is over, and will not employ imported men. The 500 Ardmore coal miners in Missouri are on strike, as the Kansas and Texas Coal Company will not reinstate labour Union leaders, and propose to import labour. The strike is causing smelters to shut down.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN ITALY 1878-1891.

The following particulars are taken from a report by Sir D. Colnaghi, H.M. Consul-General at Florence, based on a report drawn up by Signor Bodio, Director-General of Statistics in Rome.

The total number of industrial strikes reported as having taken place in Italy between June 1st 1878 and December 31st 1891, amounted to 1,070—132 of these occurring in 1891. There were 259 in Lombardy, 142 in Piedmont, 134 in Emilia, 86 in Tuscany, 85 in Venetia, 82 in Campania, 71 in Latium (which includes the Capital), 63 in Liguria (a large number in proportion to its population), and 48 in the Marche and Umbria. Of the remaining 100, 77 occurred in Sicily, chiefly among the workers in the sulphur mines.

Dividing the strikes into two periods, the first from June 1878 to the end of 1887, and the second from 1888 to the end of 1891, their causes may be divided as follows:—

Causes of Strikes.	Percentage of strikes due to the undermentioned causes:—	
	1878-87.	1888-91.
For an increase of wages	54	48
For a diminution of working hours	5	8
Against a reduction of wages	10	13
Against an increase in the working hours	2	2
Other causes	29	29

Of the strikes, as far as the results can be approximately ascertained, 17 per cent. ended in favour of the operatives, 41 per cent. in a compromise, and 42 per cent. to the advantage of the employers.

The number of operatives engaged in 1,039 of the strikes recorded is estimated approximately at 265,436. In 1879 the number on strike was under 5,000, in 1890 the number had risen to 38,402, but in 1891 fell to 34,733.

In addition to the industrial strikes, 143 agrarian strikes were recorded between 1881 and 1891, of which no less than 137 occurred in Lombardy, Venetia and Emilia.

The total number of lock-outs recorded between June 1st 1878 and December 31st 1891, was 38, of which 35 affected 5,673 operatives.

NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL OF COMMERCE AND LABOUR.—The Department of Labour under the Government of New Zealand publishes monthly the *Journal of Commerce and Labour*. It contains reports on alterations in tariffs, customs returns, imports and exports, immigration and emigration, bank returns, and general information on economic topics, besides accounts of the condition of the labour market in various districts.

SHOP ASSISTANTS IN GERMANY.

STATISTICS bearing on the conditions of employment of shop assistants have been recently compiled by the Imperial German Statistical Office. The scope of the enquiry was designed to cover about one-tenth of the shops recorded in the Industrial Census of 1882, as engaged in supplying articles of daily use.

Of 10,040 schedules sent out (5,119 to employers, and 4,921 to employés), 8,235 were returned available for the purposes of the enquiry, 4,157 from employers, and 4,078 from employés. In these establishments 23,725 persons were engaged in selling, including 6,880 apprentices, of whom 27 per cent. were girls. Half the shops employed female assistants, while 32 per cent. employed women exclusively. Nearly half the salespeople were women—the proportion being greatest in the large towns.

The report distinguishes between actual working hours and hours during which shops are open to the public (shop hours). The former do not, as a rule, exceed the latter except at stock-taking or Christmas time, etc.; in 18 per cent. of the establishments the shop hours exceeded the actual working hours of employés.

The longest shop hours were found to prevail in Northern Germany, and generally in the small localities and small establishments, chiefly selling groceries and tobacco; while comparatively short hours are the rule in the larger and medium-sized towns, and especially in the clothing and hardware shops. Of the shops covered by the enquiry, 54.5 per cent. remain open during summer for less than 14 hours a day, while 14.9 per cent. are open less than 12 hours. In the great majority of shops where long hours prevail the employés receive free board.

The actual working hours during summer for the different categories of persons engaged in shops were as follows:—

	Percentage of shops in which the working hours exclusive of intervals were						
	10 or less.	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	Over 15
Male Assistants	8	14	15	12	12	13	26
Female	11	19	22	14	12	12	10
Male Apprentices ...	5	12	13	12	12	15	31
Female	13	28	24	13	8	9	5

The portion of the return dealing with the conditions of apprenticeship shows that in the majority of shops apprentices are not indentured, and that premiums are not often paid. The usual period of apprenticeship for boys is three years; for girls, two years or less. Nearly one-third of the male apprentices are allowed to attend technical schools (so-called "Fachschulen"), or schools for completing the education ("Fortbildungsschulen"). In Central and Southern Germany the percentages are higher, viz., about 70 and 58 respectively.

The usual period of notice for shop assistants appears to be six weeks, ending on the calendar quarter day.

COST OF PRODUCTION.*

THE first volume of the Seventh Annual Report of the United States Labour Department deals with the cost of producing various kinds of textiles and glass in the United States and in Europe, and with the time worked and earnings received by persons in these industries. The establishments embraced in the Cost of Production tables are 278 in number, and the basis of presentation adopted is that of kind of product, all the establishments for one particular kind of product within an industry being grouped together. In arriving at the cost of production all expense for interest, insurance, depreciation of value of plant, as well as charges for freight of product to place of free delivery have been excluded; but such facts when known have been tabulated separately. The tables of Part II., dealing with the question of wages, are based on wages sheets secured from 125 of the 278 establishments referred to in Part I.

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULARS OF THE EMIGRANTS' INFORMATION OFFICE can be obtained, free of charge, from that office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W. They contain valuable information of great service to intending emigrants to British Colonies, affording full particulars as to climate, cost of passage, and of railway journey after arrival, luggage allowed, outfit necessary, arrangements for reception on landing, &c. Information is also given regarding the cost of living, wages paid, demand for labour in each Colony, the best months for emigrating, the conditions upon which free grants of land are made, and the amount of capital required for working expenses, together with advice as to the classes of persons who should or should not emigrate.

* Seventh Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1891. Cost of Production: The Textiles and Glass, Vol. 1., Washington, Government Printing Office, 1892.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly Report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official reports, answers from correspondents, and newspapers, mainly dated June and July last).

Canada.—The bulletin of June, 1893, issued by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and Immigration, states: "As in the past there is a great scarcity of female help, which it is impossible to supply. The average wage is 10 dollars (41s.) a month, with board." It is late in the year for men without capital to emigrate; farmers seldom take on fresh hands after August.

New South Wales.—A recent report from Sydney states:—"In the Building Trade the supply of men far exceeds the demand; bricklayers, carpenters and slaters have agreed to accept a 10 per cent. reduction all round. Plasterers are now working at not more than 9s. a day, and other branches have resisted the reductions. Ironworkers on the railways are working five days a week; moulders' wages have been reduced 1d. an hour in two shops; tinsmiths are nearly all on half-time. Men at the docks, boiler-makers, and iron shipbuilders have been asked to accept a 5 to 10 per cent. reduction of wages." Hands have been reduced at the large Broken Hill Silver Mines (800 miles West of Sydney), but the earnings of those remaining are higher than they were. There is also great depression in the Timber Trade, and several saw-mills have been closed. Wages have been reduced at the Lithgow Collieries from 10s. to 8s. a day. Hands have been reduced at Newcastle, and the Southern Collieries, but the Balli Mine in the South has just re-opened, after being closed for more than 2 years. The select committee that was appointed to enquire into the working of the Government Labour Bureau, report that it is "ineffective," and recommend the formation of a department of labour. The government have issued new regulations for the formation of labour settlements. The first detachment for the "New Australia" Colony in Paraguay has left Sydney.

Victoria.—Distress in Melbourne still continues, and reductions are being made almost everywhere. The most important recent reduction is in the inter-colonial Shipping Trade; the monthly wages of seamen are reduced from £7 to £5, of firemen from £9 to £7, of donkey-men from £10 to £8, of trimmers from £7 to £5, and of cooks and stewards according to requirements of the vessels. A recent report from Dookie (130 miles N.E. of Melbourne) states: "There is always a fair demand for good farm hands, who can get permanent employment throughout the year at about 15s. a week, and all found. There is a great deal of 'unemployed' labour at present available, which as a rule is not worth much. Single men have a much better chance than married, there being rarely any accommodation for the latter."

South Australia.—There is a good supply of labour of all kinds, and the demand is dull.

Queensland.—The report of the Government Immigration Bureau, dated May 1893, states that the supply of labour in 1892 "very far exceeded the demand; even for farm labour the demand was never steady and wages were low." At Ipswich "men found it very difficult to obtain employment"; at Maryborough "the demand for all classes of labour was very poor"; at Rockhampton "the supply of all classes of labour—except domestic servants—was nearly two-and-a-half times greater than the demand"; at Toowoomba "the demand for general labour has been completely met by local supply, a few ploughmen are always wanted, and if good ones, are sure of employment at 20s. to 30s. a week with rations; married couples are always difficult to place; female servants are constantly in demand." At Townsville (in the north) "the only unsatisfied demand was for female domestics"; at Mackay (in the north) the demand nearly equalled the supply. Still later reports from Brisbane state "There is no demand for men in the Building Trades, and wages in most trades have been reduced from 10 to 25 per cent." and from Bundaberg "any amount of labourers of all sorts are seeking employment, and employers are reducing hands and wages." In Brisbane, seamstresses have struck against a reduction in wages, and tramway men against payment by results instead of fixed wages.

Western Australia.—There have been some successful finds at the Yilgarn gold mines, 180 miles east of York. Some hands at Albany in the South are complaining of want of work.

Tasmania.—Reports state: (1) from Richmond (15 miles from Hobart), "the demand for labour has increased, especially for miners; still the supply of labourers is more than sufficient to meet the increased demand, and we still have able-bodied men unable to obtain work." (2) From Cluan (43 miles west of Launceston),

"Limited demand for farm and station hands, married men preferred, small demand for female servants." Many are out of work at Hobart and Launceston.

New Zealand.—The large number of arrivals from Australia, where work is scarce, is mostly sufficient to supply any new demand for labour. The Department of Labour at Wellington states (22nd May 1893): At Auckland the Building Trade is reviving; the Iron Trade continues dull, the Soft Goods Trade is still fairly busy, the Tea Trade is very good, trade generally is very healthy, the supply of unskilled labour is slightly in excess of demand, but the surplus find work at the gumfields. At Gisborne labour is very plentiful, but bush-felling will shortly commence. At Napier all branches of trade are very good, but country districts are well supplied with all classes of labour. At Wellington the Building Trade is still fairly busy, but the supply of labour is slightly more than the demand; iron workers are not so busy as in April. The Soft Goods, Boot, and Retail Drapery Trades are very good, dressmaking and millinery branches being exceptionally busy, but there is an excess of unskilled labour. At Christchurch the Building Trade is still fairly busy; boiler-makers are busy, but other iron-workers are dull; the Boot Trade is still very busy, and the Soft Goods Trade fairly so; the unskilled labour market is overstocked. At Dunedin the Building, Engineering, Plumbing, and Soft Goods Trades are fairly busy; bootmakers, Venetian Blind makers, Leathern Trades, and coachbuilders all report business as very good. At Invercargill trade is good, but all classes of labour are fully stocked; bush-felling is expected to ease the labour market considerably. At Ashburton, Masterton and Palmerston North trade is generally fairly good. At Wanganui carpenters are very busy in the country, but not in the town; there is a good demand for steady station hands.

The Cape and Natal.—As many inquiries about South Africa have been received at this office from coal miners, it is necessary to state that coalmining at the Cape and in Natal is at present on a small scale, and that coloured labour at a low wage is largely employed. Only some 42,000 tons were mined at the Cape in 1892, and 141,000 in Natal, so that there is not room for more than a few skilled men.

SUNDAY LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

ON the 11th of July 1891, a circular letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies was sent to Colonial ports, forwarding a copy of the Hong Kong Ordinance, recently passed to restrict the loading and unloading of cargo on Sunday in the waters of that Colony, and requesting the officer administering the Government in each case to consider the advisability of enacting a similar measure. The Ordinance provided that, with certain exceptions (men-of-war), no cargo (except mails and personal baggage, live stock, and food of a perishable nature) should be worked except under a "permit," to be granted on payment of certain fees. In response to this circular, Ordinances very similar to that of Hong Kong have been passed by Gambia, Labuan, Gold Coast and Seychelles Colonies. In the Straits Settlements an Ordinance has been passed, but mail steamers are exempted from its operation, and special exemptions are not obtainable by payment of fees, but by order of the Governor or his representative. In St. Helena, a stringent "Desecration of the Sabbath Ordinance" made further legislation unnecessary. In Sierra Leone, a bill to restrict Sunday labour was introduced, but received with so much opposition that it was abandoned. In Ceylon, Sunday labour was already prohibited, except in cases provided for by special regulations; but, in accordance with the suggestions of the Secretary of State, the scale of fees charged in cases of exemption has been raised. In Jamaica, Sunday labour was already prohibited, except in certain specified cases or by special permission, and in St. Vincent legislation was not required. The Governors of Gibraltar and Malta each report that restrictive legislation would seriously injure trade, and that as the loading and unloading of vessels is nearly always done by local labourers, who do not object to Sunday labour, restrictions other than those already existing are undesirable.

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