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## CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Summary of the State of Employment in August ... ..	PAGE 257
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### Special Articles and Reports—

THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD AND WHEAT ... ..	259
THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE... ..	259
EMPLOYMENT IN THE COAL TRADE IN RECENT YEARS ... ..	260
THE TRADES' UNION CONGRESS ... ..	262
IRISH MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1897 ... ..	262
CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1896 ... ..	261
SETTLEMENT OF THE QUARRY DISPUTE IN NORTH WALES ... ..	261
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES ... ..	263
SUMMARY OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN AUGUST ... ..	264

### Employment in Special Industries and Districts— REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

COAL MINING ... ..	267
IRON MINING ... ..	268
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE ... ..	268
STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS ... ..	269
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ... ..	269
SEAMEN ... ..	270
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR ... ..	270
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES ... ..	271

### DISTRICT REPORTS.

LONDON ... ..	271
ENGLAND: Northern Counties ... ..	272
Lancashire ... ..	272
Yorkshire ... ..	273
Midland Counties ... ..	274
Eastern Counties ... ..	276
South Western Counties ... ..	276
WALES ... ..	277
SCOTLAND ... ..	277
IRELAND ... ..	278

### Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—

COLONIES ... ..	265	HOLLAND... ..	266
FRANCE ... ..	265	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ... ..	266
GERMANY ... ..	265	DENMARK ... ..	267
SWITZERLAND ... ..	266	ITALY ... ..	267
BELGIUM ... ..	266	SWEDEN ... ..	267

### Miscellaneous Reports for August—

LABOUR CASES ... ..	263
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION... ..	264
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS ... ..	288
FOREIGN TRADE ... ..	287
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	287
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION ... ..	287

### Statistical Tables for August—

TRADE DISPUTES ... ..	284
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES... ..	280
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..	282
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS ... ..	279
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS ... ..	288
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	283
PAUPERISM ... ..	283
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS ... ..	264

### Notes—

MANCHESTER UNITY FRIENDLY SOCIETY VALUATION STATISTICS ... ..	260
NEW ORDERS UNDER "PARTICULARS CLAUSE" OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1895 ... ..	282
EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES ... ..	282

## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.\*

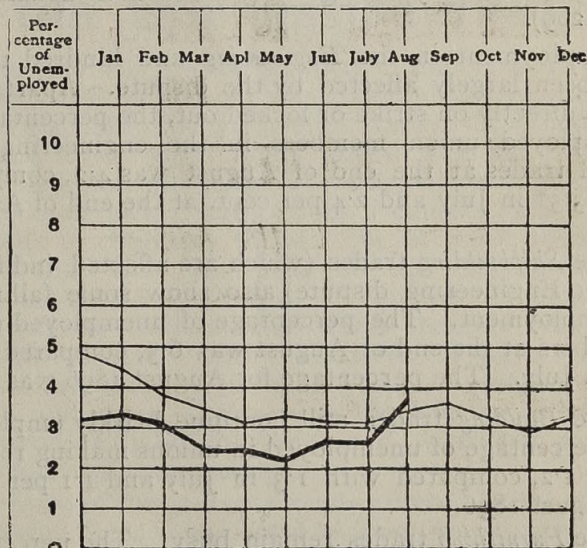
[Based on 2,094 returns, viz.: 1,659 from Employers, 265 from Trade Unions, and 170 from other sources.]

THE labour market at the end of August was considerably affected by the continuance of the dispute in the engineering trade. In the figures given below, care has been taken to exclude those directly affected by the dispute, but after making this allowance, the percentages of unemployed members of Trade Unions in the engineering, metal, and shipbuilding group, show a rise. On the whole the general state of employment has somewhat declined compared both with the previous month and with the corresponding month of last year.

In the 113 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 462,256, 17,440 (or 3.55 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, compared with 2.7 per cent. at the end of July, and with 3.4 per cent. in the 110 unions, with a membership of 429,621, from which returns were received for August 1896.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1896 and of each completed month of 1897.



The table below classifies the membership of the 113 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of August 1897.		Corresponding Percentages for	
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Under 1 per cent. ... ..	21	136,365	29.5	17.8
1 and under 2 per cent. ... ..	27	53,437	11.5	41.7
2 " 3 " ... ..	17	34,975	7.6	6.3
3 " 5 " ... ..	15	105,857	22.9	11.7
5 " 7 " ... ..	15	47,449	10.3	8.1
7 " 10 " ... ..	9	59,847	12.9	13.1
10 per cent. and upwards	9	24,329	5.3	1.3
Total ... ..	113	462,256	100.0	100.0

\* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of August, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between August 31st and September 15th. This remark also applies to the reports on pp. 271-278.



**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment during August remained stationary as compared with July, but was not quite so good as a year ago. Pits employing 415,422 workpeople worked on an average 4.92 days per week in August, as against 4.95 days in July and 5.00 days in August 1896. (For further details see page 267.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment remained good in this industry and was slightly better than a year ago. Mines employing 16,983 workpeople, worked on an average 5.65 days per week in August, as compared with 5.62 days in August 1896. The number employed at the mines included in the returns was 4.6 per cent. more than a year ago. (For further details see page 268.)

In the **Pig Iron** industry employment was better than at a month ago or at the corresponding period of 1896. At the works of 110 ironmasters to which the returns relate, 349 furnaces, employing 22,360 persons, were in blast at the end of August, compared with 347 furnaces employing 22,369 persons in July, and 343 furnaces employing 21,961 persons in August 1896. (For further details see page 268.)

Employment at **Steel works** declined during August though still better at the end of the month than a year ago. At 141 works 38,911 persons were employed at the end of August, being 1,134 less than at the end of July, but 1,573 more than at the end of August 1896. (For further details see page 269.)

At **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills**, employment remained the same as at the end of July, and was better than a year ago. At 95 works 19,547 persons were employed at the end of August, or 7 more than in July, and 609 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 269.)

In the **Timplate** trade, the number of mills at work, though still small, has slightly increased. At 87 works 275 only out of 484 mills were reported as at work at the end of August, or 3 more than at the end of July, but 36 less than a year ago. (For further details see page 269.)

Employment in the **Engineering** and kindred trades has been largely affected by the dispute. Apart from those directly on strike or locked out, the percentage of unemployed union members in the engineering and metal trades at the end of August was 4.2, compared with 3.5\* in July and 2.4 per cent. at the end of August 1896.

The **Shipbuilding** trades (which are affected indirectly by the Engineering dispute) also show some falling off in employment. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 6.3, compared with 4.4 in July. The percentage for August 1896 was 8.2.

The **Building** trades still continue briskly employed, the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns being 1.2, compared with 1.3 in July and 1.1 per cent. in August 1896.

The **Furnishing** trades remain busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 1.7, compared with 1.9 in July and 2.1 per cent. in August of last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades continues fairly good for the season. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 5.3, compared with 3.1 per cent. in July. The percentage in August 1896 was 6.0.

Employment in the **Paper** trades has improved, and at the end of the month was fairly good for the time of year. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August was 3.9, compared with 6.0 in July and 4.8 per cent. in August 1896.

In the **Glass** trades an improvement in the state of employment has taken place. The percentage of unemployed at the end of August was 8.4, compared with 11.6 in July and 13.5 per cent. in August of last year.

\* Amended figure.

Employment in the **Leather** trades remains steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of August being 3.6, compared with 3.5 in July and 3.7 per cent. in August 1896.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade, although still very slack in some centres, has improved a little in others. In the bespoke branch it was fair.

At the end of August employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade was slack in London, but was good in other important centres; in the bespoke branch it declined.

In the **Cotton** trade employment has declined in the **Spinning** branch, and is very slack in the **Weaving** branch.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade continues dull. In the **Worsted** trade it shows a further decline. In the **Hosiery** trade employment is quiet.

As regards the employment of **Women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 480 mills, employing 77,000 women and girls, shows that 58 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 67 per cent. for July, and 84 per cent. for August 1896. (For further details see page 271.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—In London, employment during August was slightly better on the whole than in July, and was decidedly better than in August 1896. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves, was 15,242 in August, 15,135 in July, and 14,290 in August 1896. (For further details see page 270.)

The state of **Agricultural** employment during the month of August was generally very satisfactory, the labourers being busily engaged at harvest work. (For further details see page 269.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Sixty-six fresh disputes began in August 1897, involving 15,303 workpeople. This figure does not include a number of engineers affected during the month by the extension of the engineering dispute. The corresponding number of disputes for July was 65, involving 46,539 workpeople, and for August 1896, 90, involving about 14,200 workpeople. Fourteen disputes took place in the building trades, 8 in mining and quarrying, 13 in engineering and shipbuilding, 4 in other metal trades, 10 in textile trades, 3 in clothing trades, and 14 in other industries. Of the 90 new and old disputes, involving 18,803 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 35, involving 8,520 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 35, involving 6,403 persons, in favour of the employers; while 20, involving 3,880 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 284.)

**Changes in Wages.**—Changes in rates of wages affecting about 132,100 workpeople, were reported during August, of which number about 131,000 received increases, and about 1,100 sustained decreases. The net result was an average advance estimated at 7d. per head on the weekly wages of those affected. The increases include 120,000 coal miners in Northumberland and Durham, about 5,200 workpeople in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and about 3,400 building trade operatives. Changes affecting 950 workpeople were settled by arbitration after strike, while changes affecting about 2,900 workpeople were brought about by strikes. The remaining changes affecting about 128,250 workpeople were arranged by negotiation or otherwise without cessation of work. (For further details see page 280.)

**Pauperism.**—In the 35 selected urban districts, 318,841 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of August. This number corresponds to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 1 less per 10,000 than in August 1896. (For further details see page 283.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during August, was 17,322 as compared with 18,656 in August 1896. (For further details see page 287.)

**THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD AND WHEAT.**

IN the LABOUR GAZETTE for November 1896 statistics were given of the rise in the price of bread which took place between September and November in that year. The figures there given were based on returns received from 40 retail establishments and 201 Co-operative Societies, with an aggregate weekly output of about one and a quarter million 4 lb. loaves, and showed an average rise from 4.25d. the 4 lb. loaf in the week ending September 12th to 4.91d. in the week ending November 7th.

In view of the marked rise in the price of bread which has recently taken place, it has been deemed of interest to obtain further returns showing the amount of the rise during the past month, and also the aggregate rise during the past twelve months.

Since the returns obtained last autumn clearly showed that the average prices of bread sold by the Co-operative Societies did not materially differ from the average of the prices charged by retail shops making returns in the same district, it has been considered sufficient in the present case to obtain returns from 77 of the larger Co-operative Societies in Great Britain with an aggregate output of about three-quarters of a million of 4 lb. loaves per week.

The returns show that the average price of bread sold (excluding fancy bread) on September 6th was 5.68d. the 4 lb. loaf, compared with 4.97d. a month previously, showing an average advance of .71d. in the month, or 14.3 per cent.

The average price a year ago (*i.e.*, in the week ending September 12th, 1896) was 4.22d.\* so that in the past twelve months there has been a total rise of 1.46d. in the price of the 4 lb. loaf, or 34.6 per cent.

The details for the different districts are shown in the following table:—

**I.—Average Price of 4 lb. Loaf.**

District.	At beginning of second week in		A month ago.		A year ago.		Increase compared with a month ago.	Increase compared with a year ago.
	Sept. 1897.	Aug. 1897.	Aug. 1897.	Sept. 1896.	Sept. 1896.	Sept. 1896.		
North of England ... ..	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.		
Midland and Eastern Counties	5.75	5.02	4.33	.73	1.42			
Home Counties ... ..	5.30	4.62	4.06	.68	1.24			
South and South-Western Counties	5.74	5.28	4.65	.46	1.09			
Scotland ... ..	5.43	4.80	4.16	.63	1.27			
Total ... ..	5.87	5.03	4.09	.84	1.78			
Total ... ..	5.68	4.97	4.22	.71	1.46			

The recent changes in the price of wheat are shown in the following table, giving the average prices of British wheat in each week of August and the first half of September for the past five years:—

**II.—Average Price of British Wheat per Quarter.**

Period.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
August—					
1st week ... ..	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
2nd " ... ..	26 3	24 4	24 3	23 6	29 5
3rd " ... ..	26 5	24 5	24 6	22 11	29 8
4th " ... ..	25 11	24 1	24 5	22 4	30 4
5th " ... ..	25 5	22 7	23 10	22 5	31 8
September—					
1st week ... ..	25 7	21 7	23 1	23 7	33 7
2nd " ... ..	26 0	20 5	22 10	23 9	33 1

It appears from this table that the average price during the second week of September 1897 was 33s. 1d. the quarter, compared with 23s. 9d. in the corresponding week of the previous year—a rise in the interval of about 37 per cent.

The imports of wheat from various foreign countries and colonies during the twelve months ending August 1897, with the corresponding figures for the previous twelve months, are shown in the following table:—

\* The average price during that week for all the establishments covered by the last inquiry was 4.25d., which confirms what has been said above that the figures are not materially affected by confining the inquiry to the larger Co-operative Societies.

**III.—Imports of Foreign and Colonial Wheat.**

Countries from which imported.	Quantity imported in twelve months ended		Increase.	Decrease.
	August 1896.	August 1897.		
European Countries† ...	Cwts. 23,955,750	Cwts. 24,236,300	Cwts. 280,550	—
United States ... ..	28,582,500	31,683,300	3,100,800	—
British North America ...	2,971,600	3,543,100	571,500	—
Argentine Republic ... ..	6,109,750	1,301,500	—	4,808,200
Chile ... ..	1,281,400	1,726,200	444,800	—
British East Indies ... ..	4,801,500	422,980	—	4,378,520
Australasia ... ..	449,400	—	—	449,400
Other Countries ... ..	941,240	2,104,110	1,462,870	—
Total ... ..	68,793,090	65,017,490	—	3,775,600

It appears that the aggregate imports of wheat during the past twelve months amounted to 65,017,490 cwts., a falling off of 3,775,600 cwts., or 5.5 per cent., compared with the previous twelve months. The chief decline was in the imports from the Argentine (a falling off of 4,808,200 cwts., or nearly 79 per cent.), and from British India (a falling off of 4,378,520 cwts., or over 90 per cent.). On the other hand imports from the United States show a rise of 3,100,800 cwts.

In despatches from Sir Edmund Monson, H.M. Ambassador in Paris, dated August 24th, it is stated that the price of bread in Paris at that time was about 80 centimes the 2 kilogramme loaf (equivalent to 7d. the 4 lb. loaf), the corresponding price in January having been about 60 centimes (equivalent to about 5½d. the 4 lb. loaf). The price of wheat at the time of reporting was 51s. per quarter, compared with 40s. 6d. in January. (The duty on wheat entering France is about 12s. 3d. per quarter.) The average price of bread in Great Britain about the same date appears from the returns given above to have been about 5.3d. per loaf, or, roughly, three-quarters of the Paris price.

**THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE.**

IN the July and August numbers of the GAZETTE (pages 195 and 227) an account was given, up to August 12th, of the dispute in the engineering trade, arising out of the demand for an eight hours day in London. At that time there were altogether about 27,000 persons actually on strike or locked out, besides a considerable number (difficult to estimate) thrown out of work indirectly. Since that time the area of the dispute has to some extent been widened. A number of employers in Sheffield, Oldham, and other centres who were reported in last month's GAZETTE to have resolved to join the lock-out have carried their intention into effect, and other employers in the Burnley, Rochdale, Heywood, Edinburgh, Leith and Aberdeen districts have followed their example.

In some of the centres already affected by the dispute additional firms have posted lock-out notices, especially in Glasgow and the neighbouring towns. The notices applied in the first place to 25 per cent. of the members of the unions employed by the firms, but the remainder were at once withdrawn by the societies.

As a result of these extensions the number of members of the ten trade unions concerned who are in receipt of dispute benefit owing to the stoppage is now (September 13th) about 28,500. To this figure are to be added about 13,500 labourers and non-society engineers, making a total of about 42,000 who are now directly affected by the dispute.

The number indirectly affected by the dispute cannot be stated precisely. It may be pointed out, however, that the percentage of unemployed members in the unions of kindred trades has risen considerably during the past month. Thus, the percentage for the boiler-makers has increased from 5.1 to 7.7; for the pattern-makers from 3.9 to 8.9; for the iron founders from 6.1 to

† As far as separately distinguished, Asiatic Turkey is included.  
‡ The mean of the price for August 9th and September 6th has been taken.



11:1; for the blacksmiths from 2.9 to 4.2, and for the steel-smelters from 5 to 6.2.

In London, the list of firms who are reported by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to have conceded the eight hours day has increased during the month from 196 to 218, the additional firms being mainly small.

On August 30th, it was announced that the result of the ballot of the members of the Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders' Society was in favour of a reduction of hours to 48 per week, the voting being: for 48 hours a week, 23,392; for 51 hours, 6,627; for 45 hours, 1,070. By 25,433 to 3,403 it was decided to act in co-operation with the federated trades, and not to join the London Joint Committee conducting the present dispute. A meeting of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades to consider their policy on this question is to be held at Carlisle on September 16th.

The Trade Union Congress at Birmingham entrusted the Parliamentary Committee with the duty of receiving and distributing contributions from the various trade unions, in aid of the engineers affected by the dispute. The contributions and levies payable by members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers (the principal union affected) who are still in work, at present amount to about 4s. a week. The number of members, excluding those on strike or locked out, or unemployed for other reasons, or sick or superannuated, and also deducting the apprentices is about 64,000.

**EMPLOYMENT IN THE COAL TRADE IN RECENT YEARS.**

STATISTICS of the state of employment in the coal trade in various districts of the United Kingdom have now been collected and published monthly in the LABOUR GAZETTE for a period of over three years. The results for that period are summarised in the present article. The statistics are based on the average number of days per week worked by the collieries, due weight being given to the number of persons therein employed. Since the figures were first collected there has been some variation in the collieries making returns. Thus in July 1894 the returns related to 838 collieries employing 233,612 persons, while in June 1897 they related to 1,288 collieries employing 404,222 persons. The gradual extension of the area covered by the returns will, no doubt, in some districts, affect the value of the comparison of the average days worked, but for the larger districts and the country as a whole it has been ascertained that the value of the comparison has not been materially affected.

The table given below shows for each important district and for the United Kingdom as a whole the average number of days worked per week during each of the six half-years from July 1894 to June 1897.

District.	Days Worked in Coal Mines.						Average for whole period, July 1894 to June 1897.
	Average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in half-year—						
	July to Dec. 1894.	January to June 1895.	July to Dec. 1895.	January to June 1896.	July to Dec. 1896.	January to June 1897.	
ENGLAND & WALES.							
Northumberland ...	5.21	4.55	4.84	4.64	4.94	4.98	4.86
Durham ...	5.39	4.93	5.31	5.17	5.30	5.27	5.23
Cumberland ...	5.31	5.29	5.07	4.92	5.33	5.36	5.25
Yorkshire ...	4.60	4.36	4.64	4.58	4.99	5.00	4.69
Lancashire and Cheshire	4.78	4.58	4.68	4.79	5.00	5.01	4.81
Nottingham and Leicester	3.98	4.02	4.16	3.79	4.11	4.03	4.02
Derbyshire ...	4.21	3.99	4.57	4.15	4.60	4.69	4.37
Staffordshire ...	4.13	4.27	4.29	4.44	4.85	5.02	4.50
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	4.51	4.42	4.65	4.54	5.12	5.03	4.71
Gloucester and Somerset	4.33	4.39	4.39	4.37	4.65	4.76	4.48
North Wales ...	4.97	4.31	4.39	4.66	4.84	5.14	4.72
South Wales and Monmouth	5.43	5.14	5.20	5.35	5.22	5.52	5.31
SCOTLAND.							
West Scotland ...	4.82*	4.96	5.17	5.10	5.33	5.45	5.14
The Lothians ...	5.16*	5.18	5.41	5.28	5.54	5.56	5.36
Fife ...	5.27*	4.97	5.15	4.71	5.13	5.10	5.05
IRELAND ...	5.35	4.89	4.86	4.23	4.76	4.76	4.81
UNITED KINGDOM	4.82	4.65	4.84	4.80	5.04	5.08	4.87

\* The great majority of pits in Scotland were idle, owing to a dispute, during the first three months of this half-year.

The table shows clearly that employment in coal mining has gradually improved during the past three years, the number of days worked being greater in each half-year than in the corresponding half of the previous year. Thus, taking the first half of each of the years 1895, 1896 and 1897, we have the figures 4.65, 4.80, 5.08, while comparing the last half of each year, 1894-1896, we have the figures 4.82, 4.84, 5.04. It also appears from the figures that coal mining is subject to a seasonal fluctuation, employment on the whole being better during the latter half of the year.

Taking the districts separately, we find that (with the exception of the Lothians) the district with the greatest average number of days worked per week is South Wales and Monmouth (5.31 days). Next come Cumberland, Durham, and West Scotland, while at the other end of the scale are Nottingham and Leicester, with an average of only just over 4 days per week.

The following table shows for the United Kingdom as a whole the average number of days worked per week in each month for which the figures have been obtained:—

	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
January...	...	4.70	4.94	5.15
February...	5.14	5.00	4.91	5.34
March...	4.68	4.93	4.81	5.14
April...	4.46	4.61	4.69	4.84
May...	4.71	4.57	4.68	5.20
June...	4.76	4.23	4.58	4.82
July...	4.69	4.53	4.83	4.95
August...	4.65	4.71	5.00	4.92
September...	4.88	4.80	4.89	...
October...	4.97	5.03	5.02	...
November...	4.80	5.08	5.31	...
December...	4.97	4.88	5.16	...

Seasonal changes, of course, affect differently the collieries producing different classes of coal. The following table shows the average days worked in pits mainly engaged in producing steam and house coal respectively during each month from July 1896 to June 1897. Previous to July 1896 the figures were not separately tabulated.

	Steam Coal.	House Coal.
July 1896	5.09	4.30
August	5.35	4.46
September	5.03	4.52
October	4.94	4.97
November	5.20	5.36
December	5.06	5.12
January 1897	5.28	4.99
February	5.32	5.23
March	5.32	4.82
April	5.01	4.56
May	5.43	4.92
June	5.16	4.78

In the case of house coal, the average number of days worked per week during the six winter months, October to March, was 5.08, compared with only 4.49 for the remaining six summer months. Steam coal, on the other hand, shows little variation between summer and winter, the weekly averages being 5.18 and 5.19 days respectively in the two periods of six months.

**THE MANCHESTER UNITY OF ODDFELLOWS.**

THE report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies upon the returns made by the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows\* contains the annual returns made by the society for the year 1894, and a summary of the quinquennial returns for the years 1887-94, by 3,503 Lodges, 90 districts, and 43 other funds in connection with the society. Of the 3,503 Lodges, 1,488 with total funds amounting to £3,791,188 show surpluses upon their valuations amounting to £724,115, or 19.1 per cent., and 2,015 with funds amounting to £2,445,759 show deficiencies amounting to £1,307,752, or 53 1/2 per cent.

\*Report of Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, part II. Friendly Societies with Branches. [P.P. No. 97-111. of 1897.] Price 11d.

**CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1896.**

THE Fourth Annual Report of the Labour Department on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom dealing with the changes which took place in 1896 was published yesterday (C.—8444. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1s. 6d.)

A preliminary summary of these changes was given in the report for 1895 (see C.—8374 and the LABOUR GAZETTE of February 1897). Since the present report is published about seven months earlier than has hitherto been found possible, the preliminary figures for 1897 cannot be included.

The previous reports showed that in 1894 and 1895 a fall of wages took place mainly in the mining industry. In 1896, on the other hand, the net result of all the changes recorded was a rise of wages amounting in the aggregate to £26,592 a week. The number of individuals whose wages were raised was 382,225, more than twice the number (viz., 167,357) whose wages were decreased during the year; 58,072 individuals were affected by upward and downward changes, leaving wages at the same level at the end of the year as at the beginning.

All groups of trades show a net increase in weekly wages during 1896, with the exception of mining and quarrying. The increase was greatest in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding group. The net result of all the changes in this group of industries, affecting over a quarter of a million of workpeople, was an increase of £19,517 per week in weekly wages, or over £1,000,000 a year. This result is due to a remarkable upward movement in wages in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, which commenced in January 1896 and which still continued at the end of that year.

Next in importance to the advances in the engineering and shipbuilding trades were those in the building trades. An increase in wages is shown in these trades for each of the four years 1893-96, but the total increase of £9,141 in 1896 is much greater than that in any of the preceding years. This result is largely due to a general advance that took place in the London Building Trades during 1896.

Of the 607,654 workpeople whose wages were altered during 1896, the changes in the case of 55,721 (or 9.2 per cent.), were preceded by strikes, while in the case of the remaining 551,933 (or 90.8 per cent.), the changes were settled without any stoppage of work.

Of the 551,933 workpeople whose rates of wages were altered without dispute, 136,288 had their wages changed under sliding scales, 42,901 under conciliation or wages boards, and 4,920 after arbitration.

Particulars are given in the Report of certain bonuses on wages, conceded by wages boards to workpeople in the metal trades.

Reference is also made to all new piece lists, and to important changes in old piece lists that have been reported to the Department as taking effect in 1896. The changes in piece lists during 1896 were not, however, of an important character.

In 1896, 73,616 workpeople had their hours of labour lengthened on the average by .24 hours per week, and 34,655 had their hours shortened on the average by .277 hours per week. The net result on the working hours of the total of 108,271 workpeople affected was a reduction of .73 hours per week.

During 1896 there was an increase as compared with 1895 in the number of workpeople whose hours of labour were reported to have been reduced to 48 per week, and there were fewer cases of a reversion from 48 to longer hours of labour. Altogether, during the four years 1893-96, so far as known to the Board of Trade, the eight hours' day was adopted for 56,223 workpeople, of which number 1,121 are known to have subsequently reverted to their former hours of labour. The greater proportion of these 1,121 were employed in the metal and engineering trades. Of the remaining 55,102 workpeople, 45,421 are in the employ of public authorities. The 9,681 others include 553 iron workers,

500 steel workers, 870 brass and other metal workers, 1,193 workpeople employed in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 651 in coal mining, 120 in the textile trades, 484 in the boot and shoe trades, 1,058 in printing establishments, 419 in chemical works, 2,000 ammunition makers, and 1,833 employed in miscellaneous trades.

**SETTLEMENT OF THE QUARRY DISPUTE IN NORTH WALES.**

DURING last month a settlement has been effected of the prolonged dispute at the Penrhyn Quarries, Bethesda, North Wales, which began on September 29th, 1896. A description of the circumstances and earlier stages of the dispute was published in the LABOUR GAZETTE for November 1896, and the GAZETTE for February 1897 gave an account of negotiations which took place between the Board of Trade and the parties with a view to a settlement. Subsequently, after further informal negotiations between the President of the Board of Trade and the parties, a conference was arranged, and took place on March 19th, between Lord Penrhyn and the men's representatives, the shorthand writer and interpreter being mutually agreed upon, and the workmen who had been suspended not being excluded from the deputation. The conference, at which the question of combination was the only subject discussed, did not result in an agreement. Further negotiations took place between the manager and the men's representatives, and on May 27th suggested terms of settlement were submitted by the manager in writing, but were rejected on May 29th by a mass meeting of the men.

Finally, on August 18th, after further communications, the following terms of settlement were agreed to by the representatives of both parties:—

I.—(a) The grievances of any employee, crew, or class shall be submitted by him or them in the first instance to the local manager. If dissatisfied with the decision of the local manager, then the said grievances shall be submitted to the chief manager, either personally or by deputation appointed in such manner as the workmen may deem advisable, but to consist of not more than five (5) employees selected from the same class as the person or persons aggrieved, who must be included in the deputation.

(b) Grievances in which the employees generally are interested, or which they may adopt on behalf of an employee, crew, or class who have submitted their grievances under the preceding clause and are dissatisfied, can again be submitted to the chief manager by a deputation consisting of not more than six (6) employees appointed in such manner as the workmen may deem advisable.

(c) Finally, in a similar manner, in all cases of importance, an appeal may be made to Lord Penrhyn, either by the individual or by a deputation, against the decision of the chief manager. The grounds of such appeal shall in all cases be first submitted to his lordship in writing.

II.—Suitable Rybelwyr will be given monthly bargains without delay as soon as the management find it practicable.

III.—The letting of contracts to be left in the hands of the management, who engage all persons employed thereon, and see that each employee receives his just ratio of wage.

IV.—Previous to the cessation of work the average wage paid to the quarrymen was 5s. 6d. per day, other piecework classes being in proportion—viz., badrockmen, 4s. 7d., and labourers, 3s. 7d. When work is resumed this same basis will be continued so long as trade permits.

V.—All the late employees who desire work in the Penrhyn Quarry will be readmitted in a body as far as it is practicable, and the remainder as soon as work can be arranged for them, reasonable time being allowed to those who may now be employed at a distance.

Agreed, August 18th, 1897.

E. A. YOUNG (on behalf of Lord Penrhyn).  
 WM. H. WILLIAMS } (on behalf of the  
 ROBERT DAVIES } men for their con-  
 HENRY JONES } firmation).

On August 21st the above terms were unanimously accepted by the men, and work was resumed on September 1st, the stoppage having lasted about eleven months.



THE TRADES' UNION CONGRESS.

The thirtieth annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom, was held in the Central Hall, Birmingham, under the presidency of Mr. J. V. Stevens, of Birmingham, on Monday, September 6th and five following days.

Under the standing orders regulating the admission of delegates to Congress as amended by the Cardiff meeting in 1895, only recognised trade unions are now allowed to send representatives, who must be selected from those who are actually working at their trade at the time of appointment, or are permanent paid working officials of their trade union. Trade Unions may if they choose, send one delegate for every two thousand members or fraction thereof, but as the system of voting is now by card (on the principle of one card for every 1,000 members or fraction thereof, represented), none of the larger societies send the full number of delegates to which they are entitled.

These rules were in operation at last year's Congress, so that the analysis given in the following table of the composition of the Congress and the trades represented in 1897 is strictly comparable with the corresponding figures for 1896.

Groups of Trades.	1896.			1897.		
	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.
Building ... ..	9	29	109,184	10	30	113,512
Cabinet Making and Furnishing Trades, &c.	8	9	16,554	7	9	21,302
Engineering ... ..	9	19	124,557	12	24	135,413
Other Metal Trades ...	24	29	40,073	34	44	59,882
Engineers ... ..	7	8	14,122	6	6	19,195
Shipbuilding (including Boiler Making)	3	20	53,700	3	20	56,420
Mining ... ..	5	56	235,761	4	58	221,800
Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	13	17	38,248	12	19	40,932
Clothing ... ..	9	22	70,975	6	22	62,831
Textile Trades ... ..	18	75	145,657	13	73	157,344
Pottery and Glass ...	4	4	3,253	3	3	2,106
Baking, &c. ... ..	3	6	7,750	3	5	7,900
Transport (including Railway Workers, Seamen, Firemen and Dock Labourers)	13	21	90,128	11	21	104,604
Agricultural, Chemical, Gas and General Labourers	10	23	60,934	13	30	78,869
Miscellaneous Trades ...	10	12	17,208	12	17	20,081
Total ... ..	145	350	1,028,104	149	381	1,093,191

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

From this statement it appears that there was an increase over the previous year both in the number of delegates and in the number and membership of the societies represented.

The programme of business arranged for the meeting was a very full one. There were eleven resolutions on the subjects considered of most pressing importance which were put forward by the Parliamentary Committee and which were taken first in order, but the list of resolutions sent in by the unions generally was an extremely lengthy one.

A resolution in favour of a general legislative eight hours' working day was carried by 923,000 votes against 141,000. Among the subjects bearing on the conditions of labour which were dealt with in the other resolutions of the Parliamentary Committee adopted by the Congress were the amendment of the Truck Act, Factory Acts, and Poor Law, Government Contracts and Fair Wages, Compensation for Accidents, the Administration of the Conspiracy and other Acts in Trade Union cases, and the relations of the Trade Union and Co-operative Movements.

As regards the remainder of the programme, a long discussion arose out of a resolution calling for legislation to forbid the labour of children under the age of fifteen, and night labour in the case of those under eighteen years of age. The resolution was opposed by the representatives of the Lancashire textile workers, but was carried by votes representing 595,000 against 274,000. A resolution in favour of an Eight Hours' Day for Miners was also the subject of considerable discussion between the miners of the North of England and those from the federated districts, and was carried on a show of hands by a large majority.

A large number of resolutions were sent in dealing with the administration of the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, and the Parliamentary Committee were instructed to draft a Bill to amend the 7th clause.

Two delegates were present at the Congress representing the National Federation of Labour in the United States. There were also two delegates from the Co-operative Union. Two delegates were elected to attend the Conference of the American Trade Unions in December.

For the Parliamentary Committee representatives of the following organizations were elected:—Amalgamated Railway Servants, Gasworkers and General Labourers, Yorkshire Miners, Associated Shipwrights, Sailors and Firemen, Boiler-makers and Iron Shipbuilders, Boot and Shoe Operatives, Amalgamated Brass Workers, Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners, Amalgamated Weavers, Card and Blowing Room Operatives, and London Compositors.

The balance-sheet presented by the auditors showed that the income of the Parliamentary Committee for the year had been £1,497 and the expenditure £1,520. The balance at the beginning of the year was £752 and at the end £729.

IRISH MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1897.

THE number of migratory labourers who left the province of Connaught by rail and sea for farm work in England and Scotland in the season 1897 was 22,204, showing a decrease of 536 compared with the season 1896, and of 2,083 compared with 1895.

Of the total number (22,204) booked by rail and sea in 1897 from Connaught, 18,756, or 84 per cent., came from the county of Mayo, or about 36 per cent. of the male population of 20 years of age and upwards in that county, according to the Census of 1891.

The men from the West of Ireland generally go to the Northern and Midland Counties of England. Very few go further south than Lincolnshire and North Cambridgeshire. Some start for England in the early spring, and perform the ordinary work on farms, but the majority do not go until June for harvest, and subsequently for potato-lifting. The women from the West of Ireland chiefly go by steamer to Scotland.

Other migratory labourers from Ireland chiefly came from Donegal in the province of Ulster. They generally start from northern ports for Scotland and Northumberland.

The following table, showing the number of migratory labourers who left the province of Connaught for England and Scotland in 1894, 1895, 1896 and 1897, up to the end of August, has been compiled from information kindly supplied to the Department by the Midland Great Western Railway Company and by the Glasgow, Dublin and Londonderry Steam Packet Company:—

Place of Booking.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
<i>By Rail.</i>				
From stations in Mayo (Connaught) ... ..	17,914	17,750	16,644	17,640
From other stations in Connaught on the Midland Great Western Railway in the Counties of Galway, Sligo, Roscommon, and Leitrim ... ..	5,576	5,835	5,214	3,448
Total booked from stations in Connaught on the Midland Great Western Railway	23,490	23,585	21,858	21,088
<i>By Sea.</i>				
By steamer from Westport (Mayo) to Glasgow and Liverpool ... ..	500	603	702	893
By steamer from Ballina (Mayo) to Glasgow*†	50	99	180	223
Grand Total ... ..	24,040	24,287	22,740	22,204

In addition to the above a small number (92 in 1897 and 60 in 1896) were booked from stations on the Midland Great Western Railway in provinces other than Connaught.

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

† A few of these go to Liverpool.

CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION.

(I.) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Arbitration at the Bestwood Iron Works, Nottingham.

In the July GAZETTE it was mentioned that a strike, which had taken place at the works of the Bestwood Coal and Iron Company, Limited, had been settled, part of the arrangement made being the reference of certain demands of the employees to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, and that Sir David Dale, Bart., had been appointed to act in this capacity. Sir David Dale made his award on August 25th.

The claim for an advance in the wages of gasminders and their assistants was withdrawn, while the demands of the locomotive men for extra assistance and payment for overtime were already met by the employers. The demand that the labourers should have an eight hours' working-day, and the claim for an advance in the wages of metal carriers were refused; while the arbitrator granted an increase in the wages of the hoist-engine drivers to 4s. 1d. per shift, and conceded in part the claims made by certain classes of workmen (the gangs of mine and of fire and the front side men), deciding that extra assistance should be given to these employees. With respect to the demand that the slag bed men consist of 11 men, at 4s. 3d. per day each, and be paid direct from the office, the award recommends that "it be, if possible, arranged for the slag bed gang to be treated as contractors, dividing the present tonnage rate amongst them, after allotting a special allowance to one of their number, who is to be regarded as responsible." As to the request of the employees for the formation of a Board of Conciliation, the arbitrator states that no declaration is called for, "there being no disagreement between the parties as to the expediency of each section of workmen appointing one of its number to form, with an equivalent number of members of the management, a committee for the consideration of any claims made hereafter by the men or by the management, and for referring such claims to arbitration in case they cannot be disposed of by agreement." It is provided that the conditions of service which this award maintains or establishes shall "remain in force till either party gives to the other three calendar months' notice, but neither party to be at liberty to give such notice before December 1st next."

Registration of a Conciliation Board.

The Brassfoundry Trade Conciliation Board was registered by the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act, 1896, on 10th September 1897.

(II.) OTHER CASES.

Oldbury Brickmakers.

On August 13th about 900 brickmakers employed by 20 firms in the Oldbury district of South Staffordshire ceased work for an advance of 20 per cent. in wages. An offer of mediation by Mr. A. M. Chance, an employer of labour in the district, was accepted by both parties to the dispute. One man from each yard was appointed to meet the employers, under the chairmanship of Mr. Chance, on August 23rd. At this conference a minimum scale of wages to be paid to the various classes of workpeople employed by the brickmasters of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Association was agreed upon, the scale to be in force until April 30th, 1898, and then for another twelve months, unless four weeks' notice to terminate the arrangement be given on that date. This arrangement was accepted by the workpeople, and work was resumed on August 24th.

Ardrossan Dock Labourers.

On August 5th the dock labourers employed by a firm in Ardrossan struck work to secure an advance in piece wages from 2½d. to 3d. per ton for discharging ore, &c. The employers refused the advance, but offered to pay extra rates for overtime. The dispute affected altogether about 120 men. The dispute was settled on August 21st by the mediation of the Provost and Mr. Guthrie. The men returned to work at the

old tonnage rates, with an additional payment of 3d. per hour for overtime and an allowance for waiting time at night. The men undertook to cease to be connected with a labour union.

Dundee Blacksmiths.

On August 9th, the blacksmiths, plumbers and tin-smiths employed by a firm in Dundee struck, to the number of 16, against an alteration in working hours from 54 to 50. At the request of the men the Lord Provost acted as mediator, and the change of hours from 54 to 50 was accepted, the weekly rate of pay to be as for 51 hours under the former conditions. Work was resumed on August 16th.

ERRATUM.—In the account given in last month's GAZETTE (p. 251) of the Arbitration in the Ipswich Building trades, the fact that overtime after the fourth hour is to be paid at the rate of 4d. per hour extra was by an oversight omitted.

LABOUR CASES IN AUGUST.

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases of the month, specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers.

(1) EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN'S ACT.

Breach of Contract of Service.—Steaming in Weaving Sheds.

—A firm claimed damages of 10s. from a weaver for leaving her employment without giving a week's notice. The defendant's case was that, owing to the quantity of steam introduced into the mill, the heat became unbearable, and made it impossible to continue working. The facts of the case were as follows:—About 1,300 workpeople were employed by the firm, 450 being weavers. On a certain day in August a deputation of the weavers waited upon the manager and asked that the steaming might be abated. The manager stated in his evidence that he promised to look into the matter, and told the deputation that, if the shed could be worked satisfactorily with less steam, it should be done. After dinner the engine started as usual, but only about 20 of the weavers commenced work. The engine was shortly stopped, and the mill continued to be stopped up to the day of the proceedings on the 13th. The manager expressed the opinion that there had been a slight increase in the humidity of the atmosphere in the weaving shed since January, but said that there was quite as much fainting among the weavers before the steaming. On the 5th of August the heat outside was phenomenal. He also stated that ventilators were being put in. A weaving manager, and also the secretary of the company, were called to prove that the humidity was within the limit allowed by the Act of Parliament; and a certifying surgeon under the Factory Acts said that the introduction of high-pressure steam caused but little increase of temperature, and that it would not increase the temperature as much as the friction resulting from the high speed at which machinery was now run. Provided that the pipes were properly covered, it would be a mistake to say that the heat of the shed was due to the steam. For the defence several weavers were called who spoke of the injurious effect of the excessive heat upon their health. The Bench expressed the opinion that the excessive heat prevailing at that time had caused some inconvenience to the workpeople, but they ordered the defendant to pay 2s. 6d. and costs for breach of contract. Nine other cases of a similar character were adjourned.—*Stockport Police Court, August 13th.*

(2) COAL MINES REGULATION ACT.

Duties of Checkweighmen.—In this case an *ex parte* motion was made to the Court of Appeal, asking for a rule nisi for a mandamus to the justices of Petty Sessions to show cause why they should not state a case on the interpretation of the Mines Regulation Act. The facts of the case were as follows:—Proceedings had been taken under the Coal Mines Regulation Act by the certificated manager of a colliery company against the checkweigher, who was also secretary of the local branch of a miners' association, his removal being required on the ground that he had interfered with the working and management of the mine. There had been a dispute between the owners of the colliery and their workmen as to the number of hours which a certain class of the workmen should work, and the local branch of the Miners' Association had decided that they should not work more than eight. On the day of the alleged offence the checkweighman, having completed his day's work, was in his cabin when some men asked him whether it was right for them to work 12 hours that day or eight, and he informed them that the decision of the board was that they should work eight hours. The men then went down into the pit and did not work the 12 hours. The magistrates ordered the removal of the checkweighman from office. An *ex parte* motion was made to the Divisional Court calling upon the magistrates to state a case for the opinion of the High Court. The application was refused, the Court holding that there was abundant evidence that the checkweighman gave the men information outside the limitations which the Act imposed upon him, and that in giving it he interfered with the management of the mine. The Court of Appeal also refused the application, holding that the checkweighman could not, on the owner's premises, give information or advice on the subject referred to, without bringing himself within the provisions of the Act, whatever he might do in his own house.—*Court of Appeal, August 10th.*



LABOUR CASES IN AUGUST (continued.)

(3) FACTORY ACTS.

**Unfenced Machinery.**—An employer was summoned for neglecting to fence certain machinery, against which a workman fell and was killed. Deceased was going up some steps when he slipped and fell on to some shafting, with his head against a revolving bevel wheel. The shaft was not fenced at the time of the accident, and it was stated that it had been unfenced for a week, but had been fenced since the accident. It was stated that no one but the oiler had any right to go near the wheels, and that the deceased was a pan filler and had no right on the stairs. The Bench expressed the opinion that, if the gearing had been fenced in the manner it ought to have been, such an accident could not have happened, and inflicted a fine of £40 and costs. £13 had already been paid to the mother of deceased by defendant.—*Oldham Police Court, August 11th.*

**Failure to Report an Accident.**—A firm of sawmillers were fined £1 10 and 13s. 2d. costs for having failed within three days to report to the inspector an accident which happened to a boy employed at their works, and for having failed to enter the particulars of the accident in the prescribed register, and also for employing the boy without obtaining a certificate from the certifying surgeon.—*Glasgow Sheriff Court, August 13th.*

**Failure to Supply Particulars.**—Firms of cotton spinners and manufacturers were fined the following amounts for neglecting to supply particulars, or else correct or sufficient particulars. A firm in the case of one employee, 10s. and £1 6s. costs; a firm in the case of 4 employees, £1 and £2 2s. 6d. costs; a firm in the case of 2 employees, £1 and £1 6s. costs; a firm in the case of 4 employees, 8s. and £2 3s. costs.—*Bolton Borough Police Court, August 9th; Burnley Borough Police Court, August 11th; Burnley County Police Court, August 16th; Rochdale Borough Police Court, August 25th.*

(4) TRUCK ACT (1896).

**Failure to fix notice showing deductions.**—A firm of hosiery manufacturers was fined 1s. and 11s. 9d. costs for making deductions from the wages due to three persons employed, without having previously made a contract.—*Edinburgh Sheriff Court, August 10th.*

A firm of printers was fined £1 and 7s. 6d. costs for making a deduction from the wages of an apprentice in respect of a fine, without complying with Sections 1 and 2 of the Truck Act, 1896.—*Liverpool Police Court, August 11th.*

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 834 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,106,836, show total sales for the second quarter of 1897 amounting to £7,908,661, as compared with £7,141,482 in the corresponding period of 1896. Of the societies, 705 show an increase, and 129 a decrease, the net increase being £767,179 or 10.7 per cent.

During the past month three new co-operative distributive societies (two in England and one in Scotland) have been registered, and two in England dissolved.

Two new agricultural and dairying societies and one lace-making society have been registered in Ireland.

A new department has been opened by the English Co-operative Wholesale Society, for the purpose of making advances of capital to its federated societies, to be lent by them to their individual members for the purchase of cottages, the deeds of the property purchased to be deposited with the Wholesale Society. Advances will be made to the extent of three-fourths of the total cost of the properties, and the societies will be responsible for the repayment of the advances by equal quarterly instalments of principal and interest, spread over a period not exceeding twenty years.

A superannuation scheme has been prepared for the employees of the Wholesale Society, and its federated societies. The rules were submitted by the committee at the quarterly delegate meeting, and the question adjourned for three months to permit of consideration by the members of the federated societies.

At the quarterly delegate meeting of the Scottish Wholesale Society, the sum of £3,559 was allotted out of the half-year's profits, as a bonus of 8d. per £ on the wages of the employees in both distributive and productive departments.

Detailed figures showing the recent progress of co-operative societies making returns for England and

Scotland separately, are given in the following table based on returns and reports specially supplied to the Department by the societies.

Societies making Returns.		Sales of Societies making Returns.			
No.	Membership.	In 2nd quarter of 1897.	In 2nd quarter of 1896.	Increase in 1897 compared with 1896.	
		Amount.	Per cent. on Sales.		
<b>I.—Distributive Retail Societies.</b>					
England and Wales	654	923,265	6,318,146	5,711,088	667,058
Scotland	180	183,571	1,590,515	1,439,394	151,121
Total	834	1,106,836	7,908,661	7,141,482	767,179
<b>II.—Wholesale Societies.</b>					
England and Wales:—					
Distributive Departments	1,043*	1,042,086†	2,824,586	2,622,885	201,701
Manufacturing Departments			333,481†	281,500†	48,981†
Scotland:—					
Distributive Departments	287*	200,121.	1,078,907	921,063	157,844
Manufacturing Departments			248,630†	174,147†	74,483†

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN AUGUST

(For Detailed Tables, see p. 279).

THE following table contains a summary of the number of workpeople killed or injured by industrial accidents in August 1897 and 1896 respectively, so far as reported. It will be seen that the number killed was greater by 12 in August 1897 than in August 1896, and the number reported as injured greater by 495.

Occupations.	Killed.		Injured.	
	August 1897.	August 1896.	August 1897.	August 1896.
Railway Servants:—				
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	36	40	354	306
Other accidents	6	3	727	714
Miners	96	83	371	413
Quarriesmen	6	12	50	42
Seamen	108	120	157	177
Factory and Workshop Operatives:—				
(1) Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons:—				
In Factories	48	35	1,182	1,009
In Workshops	—	—	—	—
(2) Other Accidents (non-fatal and only reported to Inspectors):—				
In Factories	—	—	1,826	1,498
In Workshops	—	—	—	—
Others (so far as reported)	6	1	90	103
Totals	306	294	4,757	4,262

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during August, classified by industries [M.—Males, F.—Females]:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>									
China, Earthenware, and Glass	8	10	—	1	—	—	8	11	19
White Lead and Colour Works	12	20	—	—	—	—	12	20	32
Smelting	12	—	1	—	—	—	13	—	13
Tinning and Enamelling	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Industries	11	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	11
<b>Total Lead Poisoning</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>76</b>
Corresponding Total for August 1896	58	15	7	2	—	—	59	17	76
<b>Anthrax—</b>									
Wool Sorting	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
<b>Total Anthrax, August 1896</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7</b>

\* No. and Membership of Federated Societies.

† i.e. Transfers to Distributive Departments.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, &c., mostly dated July and August last.)†

**Canada.**—It is too late in the year for anyone to emigrate to Canada, unless he has capital, or has friends to go to. The rush to the new Klondike gold fields in the North West has continued: the United States and Canadian Governments, as well as this office, have issued notices warning people from going there this year. The passes are reported to have become blocked with immigrants and baggage, and hundreds of persons are said to be returning. Miners wishing to go there should leave England in April; they will want for the journey and twelve months' provisions not less than £250. No more men are now required for the Crows' Nest Railway.

**New South Wales.**—The coal trade at Newcastle has been busy; the export of coal for the first six months of this year was nearly 300,000 tons more than that in the corresponding period of 1896. In other respects there is no demand for labour in the colony, all employment being still seriously affected by the severe drought, which has only lately broken up.

**Victoria.**—The number of the unemployed in the colony is now considerably less than it formerly had been, but there are still many who cannot find employment, and these the Government are giving work to as far as possible on regrading the railways, dredging, &c. Trade generally has not yet recovered from the recent drought.

**South Australia.**—The returns of the wheat harvest in 1896-97 show that the average yield was under three bushels per acre; this low yield was caused by the drought, the average rainfall in 1896 being under 14 inches.

**Queensland.**—The progress of gold mining and of other branches of the mineral industry has been very satisfactory. There is a demand in agricultural districts for ploughmen and farm labourers.

**Western Australia.**—The demand continues for carpenters, and men in the building trades; for miners and for general labourers and navvies.

**Tasmania.**—The output at the Zeehan Mines on the west coast continues steady, and miners are well employed in the district, but there is no demand for inexperienced men. There has been a good demand there for firewood cutters and navvies, and a fair one for female servants; the general demand for labour in the district fluctuates a good deal.

**Cape Colony and Natal.**—There is at the present time no demand for any one in Cape Colony or Natal, except for thoroughly experienced mechanics, and not very much demand even for them.

**Transvaal.**—There is no improvement in the demand for labour, in spite of the increased output of gold at Johannesburg. Considerable distress exists in the Rustenberg district and elsewhere, and the Government has been asked to encourage the construction of public roads in order to provide indigent persons with work. The spread of rinderpest, moreover, is seriously affecting the country. In the report of the Industrial Commission, which has just been issued, it is stated "a miner earns from £18 to £30 sterling per month, according to ability, and your Commission are of opinion that these wages are not excessive, regard being given to the high cost of living at the mines. In fact, they are only sufficient to satisfy daily wants, and consequently it cannot be expected that white labourers will establish their permanent abode in this Republic, unless conditions are made by which their position will be ameliorated."

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

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

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.\*

**Employment in August.**—Employment was good during the month in the mining, quarrying, building, wood working, and iron and steel trades; dull in the printing, leather and clothing trades; slack in the textile trades.

**Coal Mining in July.**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in July was 5.85 as compared with 5.87 in the previous month. In July full time (six days and over) was worked by 75 per cent., and from five to six days by 23 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 68 and 30 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in August.**—Four cases of the application of the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported in August. In two of these the *juge de paix* intervened at the request of the workmen, a compromise being effected in one instance; in the other the employers rejected the proposals made to them. The result of the intervention of the *juge de paix*, in the masons' dispute at Pierre-Bénite has not yet been reported. At the joint request of the coal owners and miners of Saint-Laurs, who terminated a dispute in March 1896 by the establishment of a sliding scale. M. Fontaine, sub-director of the *Office du Travail*, examined the company's books and reported that the average wages of the workmen during the first half of 1897 had not fallen below the level of the average wage during the second half of 1895 (the last half-year before the dispute); and that the average price of coal had been lower than the average price during the second half of 1895.

**Labour Disputes in August.**—The French Labour Department received information of 29 new disputes in August, compared with 32 in the preceding month, and 15 in August 1896. Of these disputes 11 were in the building trades, 7 in the textile trades, 4 in the iron and steel industries, and 7 in unclassified trades. Eighteen of these strikes were settled during the month, in addition to five strikes begun before August.

**Restriction of Production in Cotton Spinning Trade.**—In a communication to the Foreign Office, dated August 23rd, Sir Edmund Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Paris, states that at a meeting of the chief cotton spinners of the district recently held at Rouen, in order to consider remedies for the crisis now existing in the cotton spinning industry, it was decided to restrict the production of yarns, to suspend all work on Monday in each week for a period of three months, and to extend this stoppage not only to spinners, but to spinners who were also manufacturers. A commission was appointed to discuss these proposals with the delegates of other cotton centres, in the Departments of the Nord, Aisne, and Vosges, and a further meeting will be called later on to consider their report.

GERMANY.

**Unemployed Insurance.—Cologne Scheme.**—Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, under date of September 4th, has sent the first annual report of the fund for insurance against want of work in winter established at Cologne last year (see GAZETTE, June 1896), from which the following particulars are extracted:—During the period covered by the report (May 9th, 1897—March 31st, 1897) 229 persons applied to be insured, but 9 were not accepted, being persons not properly within the scheme. Of the 220 persons insured, 87 are classed as skilled, most of whom belonged to branches of the building trade, while the 133 unskilled men were garden labourers and day labourers. A large number of those insured got behind with their payments, but 132 fulfilled their obligations and became entitled to relief in case of unemployment during the period covered by the insurance (December 15th—March 15th). Ninety-six persons reported themselves as unemployed, but permanent employment was found

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department



through the local labour registry for 15 before the expiration of five days, and therefore before the payments of the fund commenced, and 81 persons (31 skilled and 50 unskilled) were provided with temporary employment (2,181 days of work in all), which reduced the number of days on which these persons had a claim on the fund to 1,408, in respect of which they received a total sum of £117 15s. The aggregate premiums paid by these 81 persons amounted to £26 6s. 6d., while the total amount of the premiums paid by the whole of the persons insured (including those who did not receive relief from the fund) was £50 7s. It is remarked that the attempt to obtain unskilled employment for skilled workmen seldom succeeded, because employers expect that such men will leave them as soon as they can get a job at their own trade. It is expected that the fund will be more frequently resorted to now that it is better known; in the first three weeks of the new financial year more than 100 applications for insurance have been received. The accounts of the fund for its first year show a balance standing to its credit of £5,179.

**Labour Disputes in August.**—With respect to the strike of coal-miners in Meuselwitz mentioned in last month's GAZETTE, it was stated by the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* of August 3rd, that this dispute had been brought to a close; the general increase in wages demanded by the strikers was, according to *Soziale Praxis*, not conceded. The strike of wool-combers and sorters at Delmenhorst mentioned in the August GAZETTE, in which, before its close, 2,500 persons were involved, was according to the *Deutscher Anzeiger*, after the repeated failure of attempts to effect a settlement, ultimately arranged at a conference between employers and employees, work being resumed by some classes of workpeople on August 16th, the others to come back on August 17th. The concessions made include an advance in wages of 12d. a day granted to those in the combing department earning up to 2s. a day, and to those in the preparing department earning up to 1s. 11d., and a break of half-hour to be allowed to the night shift. Among the other important disputes reported in the *Anzeiger* in August may be mentioned that in the building trade at Leipsic (see July GAZETTE), which still continued, though the employers stated that 1,500 masons have resumed work on the old terms, while the number required, in order to complete the jobs in hand when the strike took place, would not exceed 300; and a strike in the same trade at Bremen, where on August 10th the whole of the builders' labourers struck for an advance in wages from 4'4d. to 4'8d. per hour. A few employers had granted the advance, but most jobs were idle. A strike at a steel shot factory at Schweinfurth, reported on August 2nd, involved nearly the whole of the 700 employees of the concern, the strikers demanding the dismissal of an official; the dispute was settled by conciliation on August 7th.

**Operations of Public Labour Registries in August.**—The total number of situations offered by employers in August at 41 of the municipal or municipally subsidized registries which have sent returns to *Soziale Praxis* was 27,348, compared with 26,990 in the preceding month, and 20,861 in August 1896.

The number of situations sought by workpeople during the month was 30,219, compared with 29,815 in the previous month, and 26,321 in August 1896. The number of situations found was 19,432 compared with 19,342 in the previous month, and 15,247 in August 1896. (This last set of figures is subject to some deduction, since in some registries a situation found is counted twice—viz., once to the employer and once to the workman.)

#### SWITZERLAND.

**Labour Disputes in July.**—The strike of wool-workers at Burgdorf, mentioned in the August Gazette, has been settled, the employers conceding the 10 hours' day and granting a proportionate increase in wages; work was resumed on August 26th. With regard to the strike of compositors at Lucerne, referred to in last month's issue, it is stated that some of the strikers have formed a co-operative printing society.

**Agreement between watch-makers and their employees.**—At Chaux-de-fonds, in the watch engraving and engine-turning trade, the employers' association and the operatives' union have renewed for a further period of two years the compact made in June 1895, which would have expired at the end of August. The principal provisions of the agreement are that no apprentices are to be employed, and no new workshops are to be opened.

**Co-operation.**—At least 30 new co-operative associations for distribution have been formed this year. The 70 societies which belong to the federation of Swiss distributive societies increased their membership

in 1896 by 4,500. The federation of the agricultural associations of Eastern Switzerland had, at the end of the last financial year (November 30th 1896), 7,320 members, and a capital of £16,097. The turnover for the year was £109,261, and the profits £415; the society, it is stated, aims at making profits sufficient to maintain an adequate reserve fund, but does not try to earn high profits.—*Der Grütliener*.

**Workers' International Congress for Labour Protection.**—An International Congress for Labour Protection was held at Zürich on August 23rd—28th; it was attended by 375 delegates, representing 14 nationalities. Among the subjects discussed were the questions of Sunday labour, children's labour, the legal limitation of the working day, of women's work, home work and night work, and occupations dangerous to health.

#### BELGIUM.\*

**Employment in August.**—Employment has been exceptionally good in coal mining, good in iron and steel works, not quite so busy in machine works. In the textile trades considerable slackness prevails, and there has been no improvement in the glass trade. The building trades continue busy. Employment in the clothing trades is dull.

**Labour Disputes in August.**—Only 4 fresh disputes were reported, and these were unimportant, affecting 240 colliers, 30 locksmiths, and 30 dockers.

#### HOLLAND.

The annual meeting of the Dutch Co-operative Federation (to which 40 co-operative associations, with 17,786 members, are affiliated) was held at the Hague on September 12th. Resolutions modifying the constitution of the Federation with the object of facilitating the admission of societies whose means do not permit of their paying the normal contribution to its funds, and of regulating the conditions for the affiliation of associations for production, were passed. It was decided that the Commercial Chamber of the Federation should, in addition to supplying the affiliated societies with goods required by them, also undertake the sale of articles produced by these associations. It was stated that a practice has recently been adopted by non-co-operative undertakings of using the appellation of "co-operative," the occurrence of this practice in the butter trade being specially adverted to, and it was determined to present a petition to the Legislature, asking for the enactment of a law for the prohibition of the improper use of the title, "co-operative."

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

**Strike of Masons and Bricklayers in Buda-Pesth.**—In a report to the Foreign Office, dated August 24th, Mr. Beauclerk, H.M. Consul-General at Buda-Pesth, states that, as the result of the discontent among the masons and bricklayers of that city which had existed ever since the termination of the strike of brick and tile-makers mentioned in the August GAZETTE, a strike commenced on August 23rd, which was said to include 20,000 workers, the chief demands of the strikers being for more wages and shorter hours of work, with a rise in the minimum wage earned per day. Reporting again under date of August 31st, Mr. Beauclerk states that numerous arrests were made, amounting to 400. According to the *Tagblatt* a shop was wrecked by the mob, and many casualties occurred, though happily none of a fatal nature. Five hundred masons quitted Buda-Pesth immediately after the strike began. On the 24th ult. things were comparatively quiet, owing to the arrests which had been made and to a persistent rain driving the strikers indoors; yet some more or less serious encounters took place between the strikers and the police, and some parties of men who had not joined the strike were assaulted, but were able in most cases to hold their own. The week passed without any further disturbance of the public peace, and was occupied by meetings on both sides and negotiations for an arrangement, which, however, came to no result. On August 30th the number of the strikers increased,

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department by Dr. Verduynde.  
\* Information supplied by an officer of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade who was present.

and further collisions, casualties and arrests took place. Food and bread are being distributed to the poorer strikers.

**Strikes of Harvesters in Hungary.**—With regard to the strikes among harvesters and other farm hands in Hungary, reports on which, made to the Foreign Office by Mr. Beauclerk, were set forth in the July and August GAZETTES, these disputes appear from statements contained in *Soziale Praxis* to have terminated in most cases with the grant of concessions to the strikers. The strikes extended over a large area, reckoned at one-sixth of the whole of Hungary, but the movement was to a great extent prevented from a wider extension through the measures adopted by the Government, which placed at the disposal of the landowners a number of men, officially stated at 5,717, exclusive of a further reserve of 3,926 whose services were, however, not required. The Government was also prepared, in case of urgency, to furnish to the employers a force of convicts, but the necessity for their employment did not arise.

Among the concessions obtained by the strikers in many instances was the abolition of the obligation under which they had previously been placed of doing a certain amount of work for the landowners without remuneration, or a reduction in the amount of this service, an increase in their wages or in the share in crops taken in some cases in lieu of wages, and an agreement that, instead of working, as had been usual, from early dawn to late in the evening, they should have a working day of 12 or 13 hours, and that if overtime work should be necessary to save crops, this should be remunerated by extra pay.

**Strikes at Trieste.**—In the first half of August Trieste was the scene of a series of strikes among the workpeople employed in a great variety of trades (bakers, joiners, timber porters, smiths, engineers, rope workers, stone-cutters, riveters, railway porters, &c.) The number of strikers reported on August 3rd by the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* was 2,300, but on August 5th it was stated that all of these had resumed work except 200 bakers, 700 joiners, and 200 timber porters. The timber porters went back to work on August 5th with an increase of wages amounting to 4d. per day. The joiners' original demands were for a 30 per cent. advance in wages with a minimum for men out of their apprenticeship of 11s. 8d. per week, a working day of ten hours, with higher pay for overtime and the abolition of Sunday work; on the 8th they determined to be content with an advance in wages of 10 per cent., which, however, few of the employers were willing to concede. The bakers' demands included the abolition of night work, and the establishment of a fixed wage scale (instead of payment varying with capacity), with an advance of 5 to 10 per cent. in wages. The town authorities at first set military bakers to work, but subsequently assisted the strikers in an attempt which they made to supply the city by working on co-operative lines; this attempt, however, broke down in a few days, because the men were unable to obtain credit from the flour factors. On August 14th, some bakers returned to work, with a 20 per cent. advance in wages, and by August 17th work in the bakeries had been nearly universally resumed.

#### DENMARK.

**Lock-out in the Iron Trade in Denmark.**—The lock-out in the iron trade in Denmark, an account of which was given in the July GAZETTE has been settled. The *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* states that a conference of representatives of employers and employed had arranged a compromise, subject to ratification by the general body on each side, and that a final settlement of the dispute was arrived at on September 8th.

#### ITALY.

It is stated in *Soziale Praxis* that at the beginning of the harvest a number of strikes took place among the agricultural labourers of Bologna and Ferrara, who asked for an increase in their wages, which varied from 1s 2'4d. to 1s. 7'2d. per day for reapers and thrashers, with a working day of 12 to 15 hours. The strike movement lasted into the second half of July. Ultimately concessions were made embracing some of the demands of the workpeople, to take effect at once on their return to work, it being arranged that their other claims should receive consideration later.

**Co-operative Society of San Pier d'Arena.**—In regard to the Co-operative Society of San Pier d'Arena, concerning which certain particulars were given in the GAZETTE of June 1893, details, showing the present position of the society are given in *La Co-operazione Italiana*, from which it appears that the number of its members is at present 2,800, that its capital amounts to £14,600, exclusive of the reserve fund of £3,000 and a provident fund of £80. The sales of the society, which has its own cornmill and bakery, and a wine shop, and which possesses 15 branch stores, amounted in its last financial year to the total value of more than £52,000; the number of the employees on its regular staff is 78.

#### SWEDEN.

**Strike of Seamen.**—Under date of August 14th, Mr. C. Bolinder, Acting British Consul at Stockholm, reports that a strike of seamen, which commenced on July 27th shortly afterwards collapsed, partly through lack of support, partly owing to the prompt assistance rendered by the Government in bringing seamen who were bound under articles of agreement back to their work, and partly by the stand taken by the owners. The demands were for higher wages and 10 hours work out of the 24.

### REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

#### (a) COAL MINING IN AUGUST.

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

**Summary.**—Employment during August remained practically stationary as compared with July, but was not quite so good as in August 1896.

Returns received relating to 1,339 pits, employing 415,422 workpeople, show that an average of 4'92 days per week was worked at the pits in the four weeks ended 21st August 1897, as compared with 4'95 in July last and 5'00 days in August 1896. The slight falling-off as compared with July is probably due to the interruption caused in some districts by holidays. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in August 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		21st August 1897	22nd August 1896	24th July 1897
England and Wales ... ..	378,023	4'89	4'95	4'94
Scotland ... ..	35,930	5'25	5'54	5'03
Ireland ... ..	569	4'34	4'54	4'39
<b>United Kingdom ... ..</b>	<b>415,422</b>	<b>4'92</b>	<b>5'00</b>	<b>4'98</b>

The next table shows the average number of days worked in pits, classified according to the class of coal principally raised, from which it will be seen that while the number of days worked on gas and manufacturing coal respectively was slightly in excess of the number worked in July, the days worked on coking, house and steam coals show a small decline.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in August 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August 1897.
		August 1897	July 1897	
Coking Coal ... ..	24,863	5'54	5'55	- '01
Gas " ... ..	34,052	5'05	4'97	+ '08
House " ... ..	74,719	4'24	4'26	- '02
Manufacturing Coal... ..	18,677	4'90	4'81	+ '09
Steam " ... ..	126,036	5'16	5'29	- '13
Mixed " ... ..	137,075	4'92	4'89	+ '03
<b>All Classes of Coal ... ..</b>	<b>415,422</b>	<b>4'92</b>	<b>4'95</b>	<b>- '03</b>

Classifying the workpeople according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed, as in the following table, it will be seen that 64'0 per cent. were employed at pits working five or more days per week, as against 64'2 per cent. in July and 63'3 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	August 1897.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	August 1896.	July 1897.
24 days (full time) ... ..	19,817	4'8	6'9	8'8
20 and under 24 days ... ..	245,894	59'2	56'4	55'9
16 " " 20 " " ... ..	79,826	19'2	24'0	20'8
12 " " 16 " " ... ..	44,637	10'8	7'7	8'8
8 " " 12 " " ... ..	18,598	4'5	3'7	4'8
Under 8 days ... ..	6,370	1'5	1'9	1'4
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>415,422</b>	<b>100'0</b>	<b>100'0</b>	<b>100'0</b>







EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

in a certain district. Reports from Lincolnshire state that employment is regular in the Unions of Brigg, Boston, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Notts). In some parts of the county extra labour is said to have been very difficult to obtain.

**Home Counties.**—Favourable reports come from Buckinghamshire from the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow; from Berkshire from the Unions of Faringdon, and Wantage, and from the Berkshire portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (Oxon and Berks); from Surrey from the Unions of Farnham, and Godstone; from Kent from the Unions of Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, and Tenterden; from Hertfordshire from the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, and Hemel Hempstead. In a district in the Hertfordshire portion of the Luton Union (Beds) it is reported that a number of casual men failed to get employment at harvest, partly owing to the use of self-binders.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Reports of a favourable character come from Sussex from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Horsham, Lewes, and Rye; from Hampshire from the Union of Stockbridge; from Dorsetshire from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne; from Wiltshire from the Unions of Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Pewsey, Warminster, Westbury and Whorwellsdown and Wilton, and from Gloucestershire from the Cirencester and Gloucester Unions. In Herefordshire employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Bromyard, and Ledbury; in Somersetshire in the Unions of Langport, Taunton, Wellington, and Wells; in Devonshire in the Unions of Barnstaple, Tavistock, and Torrington, and in Cornwall in the Bodmin Union.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN AUGUST.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

The number of men shipped in August last as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 35,777, being 1,732 more than in August 1896. At nearly all the ports the supply of seamen and firemen during August was reported as equal to or greater than the demand, but at Poplar firemen were rather scarce in the early part of the month.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in August 1897 and 1896 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the eight months ended August in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in August 1897.			Total in August 1896.	Total number Shipped* in eight months ended August.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in August 1897.		1897.	1896.
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	52	3,627	3,679	3,364	28,568	25,064
Sunderland ...	21	594	615	664	5,217	6,132
Middlesbrough ...	72	314	386	616	3,898	4,405
Hull ...	26	1,283	1,309	1,140	10,066	9,614
Grimsby ...	—	179	179	202	954	877
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	7	140	147	212	1,692	1,766
Newport, Mon. ...	8	1,053	1,061	1,749	10,223	9,210
Cardiff ...	428	4,312	4,740	4,947	44,525	43,442
Swansea ...	197	625	822	567	8,956	4,934
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	392	10,596	10,988	10,147	77,632	77,314
London ...	567	6,086	6,653	6,157	49,768	47,807
Southampton ...	13	1,462	1,475	1,276	10,783	10,185
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth Glasgow ...	155	2,666	2,821	2,529	19,383	17,814
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	6	89	95	105	783	560
Belfast ...	—	149	149	174	1,874	1,432
<b>Total, August 1897...</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>33,833</b>	<b>35,777</b>	—	<b>277,321</b>	—
<b> Ditto, August 1896 ...</b>	<b>2,104</b>	<b>31,941</b>	—	<b>34,045</b>	—	<b>265,676</b>

\* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements not of separate individuals.  
† Including Barry and Penarth.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT during August was better than a year ago both at the docks and at the wharves. It was best in the first week of the month and afterwards gradually declined but improved in the fifth week and the daily average number employed for the whole month was slightly higher than the average for July. The average daily number employed at all the docks, and at 114 of the principal wharves, during the five weeks ended August 28th, was 15,242, as against an average of 15,135 in the four preceding weeks, and 14,290 in August 1896.

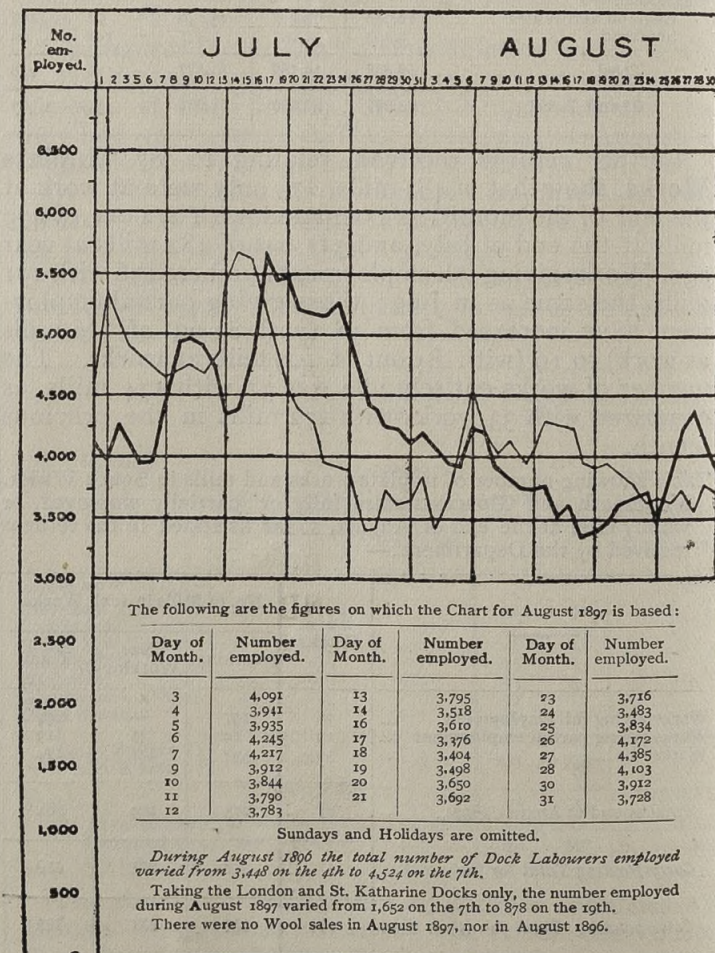
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 114 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of August ...	7,472	3,037	10,509	5,811	16,320
2nd " " ...	6,901	2,658	9,559	5,684	15,243
3rd " " ...	6,708	2,471	9,179	5,783	14,962
4th " " ...	6,710	2,391	9,101	5,729	14,830
5th " " ...	6,878	2,357	9,235	5,822	15,057
<b>Average for 5 weeks ending Aug. 28th 1897</b>	<b>6,893</b>	<b>2,580</b>	<b>9,473</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>15,242</b>
<b>Average for Aug. 1896</b>	<b>7,008*</b>	<b>1,739</b>	<b>8,747*</b>	<b>5,543</b>	<b>14,290*</b>
<b>Average for July 1897</b>	<b>7,606</b>	<b>2,464</b>	<b>10,070</b>	<b>5,065</b>	<b>15,135</b>

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during July and August is shown on the chart below. The numbers in August ranged from 3,376 on the 17th to 4,385 on the 27th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of July and August 1897. The corresponding curve for July and August 1896 is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1897, and the thin curve to 1896.]



\* Amended figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON.

Employment in mid-stream was fairly good for the first two weeks, but fell off somewhat during the remainder of the month. Stevedores, lumpers, lightermen and deal porters have had good employment; coal porters and winchmen moderately good. Employment with corn porters has been fairly good at the Victoria and Albert docks, moderate at the Millwall docks, but slack at the Surrey docks.

The fruit porters in Thames-street have not been so well employed, the average daily number of men employed being 273, as compared with 368 for July.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women again showed a decline in every branch of the textile trades. Information has been received with regard to 480 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills, which is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago.

Trade and Month.	Approximate No. of Women and Girls in Mills reported on.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
		Working full Time	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.	Working Short Time.
<b>Cotton Trade—</b>					
August 1897 ...	58,480	62	29	5	4
July 1897 ...	58,400	67	29	3	1
August 1896 ...	70,520	86	10	2	2
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trade—</b>					
August 1897 ...	16,870	47	43	10	—
July 1897 ...	13,530	71	22	6	—
August 1896 ...	9,930	64	29	7	—
<b>Silk Trade—</b>					
August 1897 ...	1,760	31	49	20	—
July 1897 ...	1,650	48	52	—	—
August 1896 ...	1,200	94	6	—	—
<b>Total of above Trades</b>	<b>77,110</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
August 1897 ...	73,500	67	29	3	1
July 1897 ...	80,750	84	12	3	1

**Cotton Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 58,480. Of these 62 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 67 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in July, and with 86 per cent. in August 1896); 29 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 5 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 4 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted trades reported on is 16,870. Of these 47 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 71 per cent. in July and 64 per cent. in August 1896); 43 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; and 10 per cent. in mills running short time.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in Various Industries.**—Some falling off in the state of employment took place during the month, but on the whole many of the industries were well employed, both when compared with July and with August 1896. Returns from 394 branches of 104 unions, with an aggregate membership of 73,121, show that 2,930 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.4 in July and 3.6 per cent. at the end of August 1896.

The **Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding** trades remain unsettled owing to the dispute. Reports from 118 branches of 25 unions, with a membership of 22,973, show that 841 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, in addition to those directly affected by the dispute, compared with 3.6 in June and July. The percentage in August of last year was 2.9.

Employment in the **Building** trades continues brisk. Reports from 168 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 10,387, show that 80 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 1.2 in July, and 0.9 per cent. in August 1896. The bricklayers, stonemasons, painters and decorators, and millwrights describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; the stonecarvers as dull.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has improved. Reports from 37 branches of 9 unions, with a membership of 6,513, show that 139 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 2.9 in July and 1.3 per cent. in August 1896.

The **Coopers** still continue busy. Two societies, with a membership of 970, returned only 3 (or 0.3 per cent.) unemployed as in June and July. The percentage for August 1896 was 1.7.

The **Coachbuilding** trades remain actively employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,266, show 14 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1.6 in July and 0.7 per cent. in August of last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has not been so good, particularly in the letterpress branch of the former trade. Reports from 22 unions, with a membership of 21,688, show 1,222 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3.0 in July and 5.1 per cent. in August 1896.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade and in the East End bespoke trade has been slack; in the West End bespoke trade dull. Employment in the ladies' tailoring and mantle-making trade has not been up to the average for the season; in the hat trade unusually depressed; in the cap trade good; with fur skin dressers slack; with furriers good; with silk weavers bad.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—Employment in the machine branch has been bad, short time being the rule; in the high-class bespoke branch fairly good; with slipper-makers busy, good men being in demand.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has somewhat improved. Returns from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,773, show 43 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3.2 in July, and 2.4 per cent. in August 1896.

**Glass and Pottery Trades.**—Employment in these trades has slightly improved. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,446, show that 65 (or 4.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 5.1 in July, and 4.4 per cent. in August of last year.

**Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.**—Employment in these trades has fallen off. Returns from 5 societies, with a membership of 894, show that 30 (or 3.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month compared with 1.8 in July and 5.8 per cent. in August 1896.

In the **Gold and Silver** trades reports from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,032, show 25 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 1.8 in July. The percentage in August 1896 was 1.4.

The **Tobacco** trades are better employed. Reports from 4 societies, with a membership of 2,357, show 140 (or 5.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 7.8 in July and 7.0 per cent. in August 1896.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in August was 15,242, or 107 more than in July last, and 952 more than in August 1896. Employment has been fairly good with workers in mid-stream during the first part, but not so good in the latter part of the month. It has been good with stevedores, lumpers, lightermen and deal porters; moderately good with coal porters and winchmen; not so good as usual with fruit porters; fairly good with corn porters at the Victoria and Albert Docks, moderate at the Millwall, but slack at the Surrey Docks (see also page 270).

**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—In addition to the dispute in the engineering trade, 10 fresh disputes were reported during the month, involving in all 401 persons. Seven of these disputes were in the furnishing trades, and one each in the metal, building, and wharf industries (see p. 284). Advances in wages were obtained by 50 coopers and about 100 casual labourers. Reductions of hours were also obtained by 78 compositors, and others engaged in the printing trade.

**Labour Bureaux.**—Returns from the eight labour bureaux which furnished returns for August, in both 1896 and 1897 show that 1,437 fresh applications for work were registered during the month, as compared with 1,802 in August 1896, a decrease of 365. The number of persons for whom work was found was 671, as compared with 1,205 in the corresponding month of 1896, a falling off of 534. This was chiefly owing to a decline in the operations of one bureau.



## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of August was 97,987, an increase of 1,773 on the number for the corresponding day in July. As compared with August 1896 there is an increase of 360 due to increases in the West, South and North districts, partly balanced by decreases in the East and Central districts.

On the same day in August, 1,082 vagrants were relieved as against 810 on the corresponding day in July, and 1,106 in August 1896.

In the West Ham district the number of paupers relieved on one day in the second week was 8,071 in August, 8,183 in July, and 8,539 in August 1896.

## ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

## Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—Northumberland.—Excluding holidays, steam coal pits have averaged 4.95 days, and house coal collieries 5.45 days per week. Of the 20,252 union members 3 are in receipt of unemployed benefit, as against 2 in July. Durham.—Coking coal collieries have averaged 5.52 days; pits producing a mixed class of coal, house coal pits and gas coal pits have averaged respectively 5.44, 5.31, and 5.26 days per week. Returns from 111 pits employing 58,555 men and boys show an average of 5.36 days worked during the month ending August 21st, the same as in July. Of the union miners, 502 (or 0.9 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 440 (or 0.7 per cent.) in July. Coke workers are fully employed; out of 2,708 union members none are idle.

**Metal Mining.**—Ironstone mining continues slack. Employment in the lead mines has improved.

**Quarrying.**—Employment at quarries in Gateshead and district continues good. Limestone quarrymen are reported as slack; whinstone and freestone quarrymen are fairly employed.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—On the Tyne.—Of the 12,303 union members of these trades 675 (or 5.5 per cent.) are out of work, besides a large number of engineers directly affected by the dispute. Engine shops not concerned in the lock-out are busy. At the large shops, however, work continues suspended. The dispute is now affecting the shipyards. At two yards about 1,000 men of all classes have been discharged. On the Wear.—Of the 4,579 union members of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades, 299 (or 6.5 per cent.) are out of work, in addition to those directly affected by the dispute. Employment in non-associated engine shops is brisk, overtime being worked. The stoppage at the other firms is beginning to affect the work in the yards, although one yard hitherto closed has been re-opened. Out of 360 union drillers and hole-cutters, 9.7 per cent. are unemployed. The shipwrights have 150 out of work, but report an improvement. Of shipjoiners 3.5 per cent. are laid idle. Out of 1,343 moulders on both rivers, 155 (or 11.5 per cent.) are out of work, largely owing to the engineers' dispute. At Newburn smelting shops are working 4 shifts per week, with several men idle. In the Consett district steel smelters and plate mills continue full time; angle mills have been idle one week. Iron mills are employed 5 shifts per week. Sailmakers continue slack.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The demand for sailors and firemen continues good. Of the 990 union coal porters, trimmers and teamers on both rivers, all are employed, averaging 4 days per week. Tyne watermen report employment as good, quayside labourers as fairly so.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers, slaters and tilers, and masons report employment as good.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Millsawyers and woodcutters on the Tyne have 3.4 per cent. out of work. Upholsterers on both rivers are affected by the engineering dispute, 12.7 per cent. of their members being idle. Coopers are still slack.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers and bookbinders on the Tyne and at Sunderland continue quiet. Out of 777 union members, 67 (or 8.6 per cent.) are unemployed. Five paper mills have worked 115 shifts out of a possible 235; four others report full time.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Chemical factories are working fuller time. White lead and copper works are well employed. Bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are busy. The pressed glassmakers have 3.5 per cent. of members idle.

**Fishing.**—The quantity of white fish landed during the month has been above the average. Herring fishing is reported as poor in quantity, but good prices have been obtained.—J. Ratcliffe.

## Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

**Ironstone Mining.**—The Cleveland miners have been fairly employed during the month.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Work has been fairly good at most of the works during the month, but some of the steelworks have been slack towards the end. One large works at Stockton is reported to have suspended a number of workmen. At the blastfurnaces, bridge-works and foundries employment continues fairly good.

**Engineering.**—Employment continues good at all the works not affected by the dispute. At Middlesbrough some of the men have obtained employment at other works. Pattern-makers report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough and Stockton; at Hartlepool as rather slack; moulders as good at Middlesbrough, slack at Hartlepool; but a number have been stopped at Stockton. Shops not affected by the disputes are busy.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment still continues fairly good, the engineering dispute having as yet produced little effect. At Hartlepool some shipjoiners have been paid off, and one of the yards is slack in other departments. The Stockton and Thornaby yards are well employed. At Middlesbrough one yard continues busy, another is fairly so.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues good in all branches.

**Shipping.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair at Middlesbrough; good at Hartlepool.—A. Main.

## Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry is still good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended 21st August at pits from which returns have been received was 5.21 per week, as compared with 4.98 in August 1896. The number of workpeople employed was, so far as shown by the returns, more by 249 than in the corresponding month of last year.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good at the Cumberland iron mines. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 21st August at the 45 mines from which returns have been received was 5.93, as against 5.92 in August 1896. The number employed was 6,342, compared with 6,061 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 281.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast during August was 43, being the same number as returned last month, and two more than in August 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 3,449, an increase of 26 when compared with July last, and of 263 when compared with August 1896.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

## Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—Spinning.—The state of employment is a little worse. In Oldham and surrounding districts, as well as in Stockport and Rochdale, it is reported as moderate; in Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Dukinfield as bad. Many mills are closed or working short time. The cardroom operatives report employment as moderate in Oldham and slack in Mossley. Employment is good with ring frame spinners, and moderate with twiners. Weaving.—The powerloom overlookers and the weavers report employment as slack in calicoes, and bad in velvets. A large number of looms are stopped, causing employment for ball and sectional warpers to be slack. Reelers and winders are only moderately employed.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment is reported as bad in Stockport, and as moderate in Rochdale and Milnrow districts.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is reported as good by three branches of the engineers, and as moderate by seven branches. Patternmakers, irongrinders, tinplate workers, gasket makers, boiler-makers, and ironfounders report employment as moderate, and the brassfounders and the plate and machine moulders as good. Most of these branches of labour are affected by the dispute in the engineering trade, and it is estimated that upwards of 15,000 workmen are directly and indirectly out of employment in Oldham in consequence.

**Building Trades.**—Bricklayers and carpenters and joiners report employment as good, plasterers as fair, and painters and plumbers as moderate. Out of 914 union members, none are unemployed.

**Coal Mining.**—The reports obtained from collieries show that full time is being worked in one pit, five days in another, and at another three and four days per week.—T. Ashton.

## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

## Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—Spinning.—Employment in Bolton is slightly worse than at the end of July. In Chorley, Bury and Wigan there is also a further decline. Cardroom operatives are only moderately employed in Bolton and the immediate district; in Bury they continue steadily employed; in Wigan employment is irregular, and in Chorley rather slack. Weaving.—Employment continues exceptionally slack in Chorley, Bury and Wigan. In Bolton and district it remains slack.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Owing to the dispute, the number of unemployed grinders, smiths and strikers, spindle and flyer makers and unskilled labourers is daily increasing in the Bolton district. Of the engineers, about 1,000 members are idle through the dispute. In Bury a slight increase in the number out of work is reported, especially among labourers. In Wigan engineers report employment as moderate; iron and steel workers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in Bolton and immediate district is not so good as at the end of July. In Chorley the painters are busy; joiners, plasterers, slaters and other sections are slack. In Wigan employment is reported as good; in Bury as moderate.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment is reported as slightly slack in the Bolton district, the principal collieries working 4 days, others 3 days per week. In Wigan the best pits are averaging 4½ days per week.—R. Tootill.

## Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—Weaving.—Returns from the various districts show that employment in the weaving trade is only moderate. In Burnley a number of looms are stopped for want of warps, and one firm with 550 looms has stopped for an indefinite period. In Blackburn a considerable number of looms are stopped for want of warps, and a number of looms for want of tenants. In Nelson some 2,000 looms are on short time, or stopped for want of warps. In Darwen some 748 looms are stopped, whilst in Preston and Colne no change is reported, many looms being stopped. Loomers and drawers report work as slack in the Burnley and Blackburn districts. Winders and warpers in many districts are again only partially employed. Employment in the coloured goods trade shows no improvement. Spinning.—Employment is reported as fairly good in Darwen; moderate in Preston, Accrington and Blackburn; in Burnley and Padiham as far from good. Employment in the carding department, in Accrington, Darwen, Padiham, Burnley and Colne is reported as fair, with only a few members on short time. Branches of twisters and drawers, warpdressers and spinners with 3,979 members, return 2.21 (or 5.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 163 (or 4.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues good, except with plumbers.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—The various departments in these trades report employment as fairly good, especially in the machine works.

**Coal Mining.**—In Accrington, miners report work as fair, with a number on short time; in Burnley, the average time worked is about 5 days per week; in Townley the average is about 3½ days.

**Miscellaneous.**—Tailors are slack, short time being worked. Letterpress printers continue busy; cabinet-makers report employment as quiet; calico printers are fairly well employed.

W. H. Wilkinson.

## Manchester and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (not including engineering and metal trades affected by the dispute) with 15,822 members, return 497 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 435 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers report about 2,300 members as idle at the end of August through the dispute; and employment in the other branches of the metal trades in Manchester is affected by it. In Stockport employment generally is good; in Warrington it is slightly better. Wire drawers, wire weavers, and tinplate workers are fully employed, and filesmiths are doing fairly well. In Macclesfield employment is fair.

**Textile Trades.**—In Manchester the cotton spinners describe employment as moderate, but worse than in July, some mills running short time and others being stopped for want of orders. Short time is also prevalent amongst the weavers. In Macclesfield cotton workers in general are fairly well employed, with the exception of winders and warpers. Doublers are rather slack at Stockport. Employment in the silk trade remains slack, both in hand

and power loom weaving. Fustian cutters continue busy. The "bleachers, dyers and finishers" describe employment as bad; the "dressers, dyers and finishers" as bad in the velvet trade, but good in printed moles for the colonies.

**Clothing Trade.**—Employment in the bespoke department of the tailoring trade is described as bad throughout Manchester, and at Warrington and Stockport as moderate; in the wholesale tailoring trade as quiet. Mantle-makers, shirt makers, and waterproof garment-makers are busy. Cap and umbrella makers are quiet. Boot and shoe makers are moderately well employed. Amorgst hatters employment on men's felts continues bad, and on ladies' felts good.

**Building Trades.**—In Manchester, Northwich and Stockport plasterers, stonemasons, plumbers and painters describe employment as moderate, other branches as good. In Warrington and Macclesfield employment generally is described as moderate, but plumbers in Macclesfield are slack.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Lithographic artists report employment as good; letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and pattern cardmakers as moderate.

**Woodworking and Coach Building Trades.**—The Hebrew cabinet-makers report employment as moderate, and other cabinet-makers as good in Manchester and Stockport, fair at Warrington; upholsterers and french polishers as busy; coachmakers at Manchester, Stockport and Warrington as good. Coopers are fairly well employed.—G. D. Kelley.

## Liverpool and District.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as moderate; engineers, pattern-makers, brass and ironfounders as rather quiet; shipwrights as fair. Shipjoiners' work is falling off. Branches of the boiler-makers, ironfounders and whitesmiths, with 3,334 members, return 470 (or 14.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 217 (or 6.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers continue well employed. French polishers report employment as moderate; upholsterers, coopers and millsawyers and woodcutting machinists as fair; coach makers and painters as good.

**Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair; dock labourers as dull, except in the timber trade. Mersey flatmen are fairly well employed; quay and railway carters continue quiet. Employment with coal and salt heavers is dull.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report work as moderate; lithographic printers as good; electrotypers and stereotypers as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—The bespoke tailors report employment as rather dull; the boot and shoe makers as moderate.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good in most branches, but the joiners are affected by the plasterers' dispute in Liverpool.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—At St. Helens the coal miners report an average of five days per week. Employment in Whiston is dull. Stone quarrymen are well employed.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Glass bottle-makers report employment as good; chemical workers continue dull.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford describes employment in the salt, chemical and building trades at Winsford and Middlewich as slack; moulders at Winsford report employment as fair; fustian cutters at Winsford and Middlewich as dull.

## YORKSHIRE.

## Hull and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The brassfinishers and founders report employment as good; the pattern-makers, iron and steel dressers, drillers and holecutters and boiler-makers as moderate; the ironfounders, shipwrights, sailmakers and general shipyard and engine and boiler-shop labourers as bad. Societies with 5,591 members have 1,911 (or 34 per cent.) unemployed or locked out in consequence of the dispute in the engineering trades. The shipwrights and boiler-makers at Goole report employment as good; the shipwrights at Grimsby as bad; the engineers at Doncaster as moderate.

**Building Trades.**—The painters, plumbers, and lathrenders report employment as moderate; other branches as good, but the ship carpenters have several unemployed through the engineering dispute. At Goole and Driffield employment is reported as good.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment with sailors and firemen continues moderate; with the dock and wharf labourers good



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

The deal carriers and fruit porters are well employed. Employment on general cargoes is moderate. Dock labourers at Goole report employment as moderate.

**Fishing Industry.**—The supply of fish brought to market has been good. Employment with trawl fishermen in Hull and Grimsby is reported as moderate; with steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull as fair, and at Grimsby as moderate; with fish curers and general fish trade workers as good at Grimsby and Hull.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers in Doncaster report employment as good; at Hull as moderate; the lithographic printers and bookbinders and rulers in Hull as moderate.

**Leather Workers.**—The tanners, lace cutters and belt-makers at Hull report employment as moderate; at Doncaster as good.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—The coopers and coach-makers at Hull report employment as good; the cabinet-makers as moderate; the brushmakers as bad; the coachmakers at Doncaster as moderate.

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

W. G. Millington.

## Leeds and District.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The position in the engineering trade remains unchanged. About 3,600 skilled men (unionist and non-unionist) are signing the books weekly for dispute pay. The ironfounders, pattern-makers and boiler-makers are now feeling the effects of the stoppage. Employment with ironfounders at Stanningley, Rodley and Bramley is good; with engineers at Wakefield moderate. Spindle and flyer makers and brassworkers report employment as quiet; stove grate workers as fair; whitesmiths as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the boot and shoe trade has somewhat improved in Leeds; at Heckmondwike it continues bad. Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade has been good; bespoke tailoring quiet. Employment with slipper-makers is fair.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the Leeds mills continues bad, and short time is being worked. Blanket-raisers report employment as dull, woollen spinners, and willeys, and fettlers as slack; linen workers as fair; flax workers as busy. At Wakefield employment is fair; at Stanningley and Bramley bad; at Yeadon there is no improvement.

**Building Trades.**—In Leeds employment generally is good, although joiners are not so busy. At Harrogate it is moderate; at Wakefield, Stanningley and Bramley good.

**Mining.**—Employment at the principal pits in Leeds has been moderate, four days a week being worked. At Gipton a new pit is being opened out, the miners working full time.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners, curriers and leather shavers report employment as quiet; saddlers and harness-makers as busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as fair; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as quiet; paper millworkers as moderate.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment in the glass bottle trade in Leeds remains fairly good; at Wakefield it is moderate. With flint glass makers it is fair.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment is good with cabinet-makers; fair with coachmakers; slack with brushmakers.

O. Connellan.

## Bradford and Huddersfield District.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment in Bradford seems a little worse. In the sorting and combing branches employment is rather quieter than in July. In the Worth Valley also employment is slack; in Halifax and Huddersfield it shows no change.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment in and around Huddersfield is about the same as in July, with a slight improvement in the Colne Valley. One or two firms are running all night, but they are exceptions. Employment in the heavy woollen districts is bad, although one or two firms are working long hours. Employment in the rag trade of Batley is quiet.

**Other Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade is reported as bad at Halifax, Brighouse and Manningham; in the cotton trade as moderate, both in Huddersfield and Brighouse. Employment in carpet weaving is quiet.

**Metal Trades.**—Employment is good in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, as yet unaffected by the dispute. It is unsettled by the dispute at Halifax, Bradford and Keighley.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as good throughout the district.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as quiet with printers and tailors; slack with dyers at Bradford; good with stone quarrymen.

A. Gee.

## Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners, and engineers affected by the lock-out), with 14,480 members, have 150 (or 1 per cent. unemployed), the same percentage of their membership as at the end of July.

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Blast furnacemen, iron rollers, core-makers, hot water fitters, iron and steel dressers, and Siemens steel smelters report employment as good. There is an improvement in the armour plate trade; stove grate workers continue well employed; boiler-makers, railway springmakers and steel workers generally report employment as fair; wire drawers as moderate; iron-founders are well employed. Branches with 5,438 members, have 54 (or 1 per cent.) unemployed, in addition to 486 engineers idle through the dispute. At Thorncliffe all departments are busy. At Mexborough angle and tee iron rollers are busy; at Parkgate iron workers are slack; at Eccles steel workers are busy in all departments; at Rotherham brass stove grate and bath workers are busy.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—Employment in the cutlery trades is much quieter. File workers report employment as good; engineers' tool-makers, edge tool grinders, handle and scale cutters, haft and scale pressers, bayonet and sword makers, sawsmiths, and handle-makers, as fair; all branches of the razor trade as slack. Societies with 5,039 members have 25 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, but a number are on short time.

**Other Metal Trades.**—All sections of the silver and kindred metal workers continue well employed, seven branches, with 1,464 members, having none unemployed.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 55 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.08 days per week worked during the month, as compared with 5.19 in July.

**Building Trades.**—In Sheffield plumbers report employment as moderate; other branches as good; in Rotherham all sections are busy; at Barnsley employment is quiet.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment shows no change, short time still being worked.

**Clothing Trades.**—The bespoke tailors in Sheffield report employment as declining; in Rotherham as fair. Employment in the ready-made trade is moderate. In the boot and shoe trade it has maintained the improvement reported in July.

**Glass Trades.**—The glass bottle-makers are busy in the Rotherham, Mexborough, and Barnsley districts.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as slacker; the lithographers and bookbinders as good.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Cabinet-makers report employment as fair; coachmakers and railway carriage and wagon builders as good.—S. Uttley.

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

## Derbyshire District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 6,719 members have 85 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed benefit, as against 47 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Branches with 2,394 members have 29 (or 1.2 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 23 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Employment in the locomotive works continues good; it is fair in other engineering branches, and moderate in bridge and girder yards. Ironfounders in Derby report employment as moderate; in Butterley, Somercotes, and Chesterfield as good; brassmoulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent as good; lace machine builders in Long Eaton as bad; cycle workers at Draycott and Long Eaton as dull, one or two shops being nearly closed. Stove grate workers in Derby, Belper and Langley Mill continue well employed.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 57 collieries employing upwards of 21,000 men show an average of 4.30 days per week, a decrease compared with July, when 4.37 days per week were worked.

**Quarrying.**—Employment in limestone quarries has been fairly well maintained.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment with cotton weavers and spinners in Borrowash and Belper is reported as fair; in Glossop and Hadfield as slack. Hosiery workers in Heanor, Belper and Ilkeston report employment as improving, but slack on shirts and pants. Dyers and bleachers Belper continue fairly well employed; lace

## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

makers in Long Eaton and Ilkeston continue slack. Surgical bandage makers in Derby report employment as good; elastic web weavers as bad; calico printers in Hayfield and Dinting as improving.

**Building Trades.**—All branches continue fairly well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with boot and shoe operatives, tailors and dress and mantlemakers is reported as moderate.

**Coachbuilding Trades.**—Railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby report employment as good; in Long Eaton as fair. Carriage builders in private shops are well employed.

**Woodworking Trades.**—The coopers in Burton-on-Trent report employment as good. In most timber yards employment remains regular. Cabinet-makers report employment as moderate.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders is reported as fair.

C. White-Deacon.

## Nottingham and District.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment in the plain net branch continues good, in the curtain and lever branches it is fair. Warp lace workers, curtain readers, wipers, designers and draughtsmen report employment as bad. The female laceworkers report employment as moderate.

**Hosiery Trade.**—The framework knitters have many working short time, and a number unemployed. Employment in the hand-frame and rib top branch is fairly good; in the circular hosiery branch it is slack. Hand-frame workers at Sutton are making short time in the plain goods branch; busy on fancy goods. All branches are fairly well employed at Mansfield; quiet at Daybrook and Arnold. Employment with shawl makers is declining at Hucknall Torkard. Surgical bandage-makers are busy. Dyers and bleachers report employment as bad.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Reports from Newark, Mansfield and Colwick are favourable; those from Beeston, Bulwell, and outlying districts unsatisfactory. In Nottingham many branches are affected by the dispute. Employment is moderate with cycle-makers; fair with lace and hosiery machine builders; good with carriage straighteners and bobbin-makers, brass workers, wheelwrights and smiths and farriers. The blast furnacemen are well employed at Bestwood.

**Building Trades.**—All branches report employment as fairly good throughout the district.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 21 collieries, employing over 14,000 men, show that the average number of days worked per week during the month was 3.63, as compared with 3.42 days in July.

**Printing Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as bad; bookbinders as slack; lithographic printers as moderate; lithographic artists as fair.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, coach-builders and general furniture-workers and upholsterers are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Silk-dressers are working only 40 hours per week. Boxmakers report employment as slack; boot and shoe workers as moderate; bespoke tailors as dull.—W. L. Hardstaff.

## Leicester and Northampton District.

**Boot and Shoe Industry.**—Employment has slightly improved in the rivetting and finishing branches of the boot and shoe trade at Leicester and Northampton, though many clickers and pressmen are still reported as working short time. Work is good at Melton, moderate at Kettering and Wellingborough, but slack in the Hinckley district.

**Hosiery, Yarn, and Woolspinning Trades.**—Employment is quiet in most branches of the hosiery industry, being less steady at Leicester, Loughborough, and Hinckley. It is fairly regular with wool-spinners, and improving with hosiery trimmers. Dyers and scourers are fully employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Workpeople are busier in the wholesale tailoring trade, but slacker in the bespoke branch at Leicester and Northampton. Employment continues brisk with corset-makers. It is better with mantle-makers, but less regular with dressmakers and milliners. Work is not so plentiful in the hatting trade, and some branches are working short time.

**Elastic Web Trade.**—Employment in the elastic web trade is unsatisfactory.

**Engineering and Cycle Trades.**—At Loughborough, Northampton and Rugby employment is good in all departments of the engineering trade, some working overtime. At Leicester, in consequence of the dispute, work is less steady in the allied branches, especially with moulders and ironfounders.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Employment has improved slightly with coal miners. Work is brisk in all departments of stone quarrying, and good with iron and limestone miners.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment in the printing trade is good at Leicester and Kettering; moderate at Loughborough and Rugby, and slack at Northampton. It is fair with bookbinders.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good with bricklayers, plasterers, joiners and slaters at Leicester, Northampton and Rugby, and moderate at Hinckley and Kettering. It is fair with stonemasons, painters and builders, and good with plumbers.

**Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.**—Work is not so regular in the cabinet and upholstering trades. It continues good with coach-makers and car and wagon builders.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners and curriers at Northampton and Market Harborough are generally well engaged.

**Miscellaneous.**—Railway workmen continue fully employed. Work is brisk with brick and tilemakers and basket-makers; good with cigar-makers; fairly so with leather-bag and gaiter makers, saddlers, farriers, bakers, and brushmakers.—T. Smith.

## Potteries District.

**Pottery Trades.**—Employment shows a further decline. Hollow-ware-pressers are averaging less than three days per week, with a number totally unemployed. Printers and transferrers report employment generally as bad; women gilders and decorators, men artists, modellers, designers and mouldmakers, and throwers and turners as slack; encaustic tilemakers as busy.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—There is an improvement in the iron trade. Forgemasters are fully employed and mill operatives are busier. There is a further improvement in the steel trade. Anchor chain makers at Ford Green remain busy.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers and boiler-makers are not so busy in the Potteries, but are well employed in other parts of the district. Copper-workers at Oakmoor and Froghall report employment as good, with a number working overtime. Agricultural engineers at Rugeley and Uttoxeter report a further improvement.

**Coal Mining.**—At Cheadle the miners are working only from two to three days per week. At Rugeley an improvement is reported.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leeds there is no improvement in the silk trade. At Congleton trimming weavers are indifferently employed; silk dressers are moderately employed, and throwsters are slack. Fustian cutters report a further falling-off. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with tailors is only moderate. Shoemakers at Stafford report employment as quiet, with some totally unemployed and a number on short time; at Stone employment is bad, nearly all being on short time. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter continue busy.

**Building Trades.**—These trades remain busy in all departments.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report a decline in the Potteries, with 10 per cent. out of employment, and a slight improvement at Stafford. Lithographic artists and printers report employment as fair; bookbinders and rulers as moderate.

**Miscellaneous.**—At Alton and Hollington stone quarrymen remain busy. Gasworkers in the Potteries are busier.—I. S. Harvey.

## Wolverhampton and District.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is still good in the steel smelting, iron bar, angle and hoop, plates and sheet trades. Employment in all branches of the steel trade is reported as good, except in the common sheet trade. In Shropshire the mills and forges, with one exception, are reported as busy.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment in the engineering trades is good; boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers are working full time; moulders are a little quieter. Employment at Coalbrookdale has fallen off, and short time is being worked. At Wednesbury employment is still good. The cycle works are busier, but short time is still being worked. At Walsall, the malleable iron casters report employment as fair.

**Hardware Trades.**—Employment with makers of anvils, vices, tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, wrought nails, malleable nails and protectors, axles, springs and coach iron work, hand-cut files, wrought iron odd work, builders' ironmongery, spring traps, keys, edge tools, plantation and Brazil hoes and safes, and with brassworkers, tinplate-workers, hinge-makers, stampers and piercers is reported as good; with makers of tin and galvanised odd ware, gun locks, rim, mortice and cabinet locks, hollow ware and steel toys as fair; with chainmakers as slack. Tip, tack and cut nail-makers and cycle casters are working three days per week.



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

**Coal Mining.**—On Cannock Chase the pits are working from 2½ to 5 days per week; in Shropshire from 4 to 5 days per week. The pits in the Tamworth district are slack.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good.

**Glass Trades.**—At Wordsley, Stourbridge and Brettle Lane employment in the etching, engraving and cutting departments was fair at the beginning of the month and good at the end. The glass bottle makers at Brierley Hill are only working half time.

**Leather Trades.**—The improvement in employment at Walsall continues.

**Textile Trades.**—At Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, employment in the carpet spinning and weaving trades is slack, short time being worked. Full time is being worked at the Tamworth tape mills.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment is fair in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades; in the boot and shoe trade it is quiet, factories running short time.—C. Anthony.

**Birmingham and District.**

**General.**—Branches with 17,490 members return 282 (or 1·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 236 (or 1·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Engineering.**—Employment in the engineering trade is not so good, although unaffected by the general dispute. Five branches report employment as moderate, and three as fairly good; smiths and strikers as good. One motor car works is closed. The cycle industry remains quiet, with many out of work in Birmingham and Coventry. At Redditch employment in the cycle trade is fair.

**Brass and Copper Trades.**—In the brass trades employment remains good, with overtime at some firms and no short time. Employment in the copper trade is good.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.**—In the jewellery trade employment is reported as quiet; in the electro-plate as fairly good; in the Britannia metal trade as moderate, with one firm working overtime and twelve firms on short time.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Ironfounders report employment as moderate, with some firms working overtime, while others are on short time; the bedstead-makers and filesmiths as good; the ironplate workers as still quiet.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is still good in all branches throughout the district.

**Glass Trades.**—The flint glass workers report employment as still fair, and the glass bevellers and silverers as fairly good. In West Bromwich employment is good.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers report employment as good; the mill-sawyers as fair. Coachmakers are fully employed. Coopers report employment as good in the wet trade, but as still slack in the dry trade.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as bad; boot and shoe makers as quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—Printers report employment as moderate. Sporting and military gunmakers are well employed. Gasworkers are busy. In Coventry, employment in weaving continues bad, and in the watch trade is slack. In Redditch, employment is good in the needle trade, fair with fishing tackle makers, and good in the fancy case trade.—A. R. Jephcott.

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

**General.**—Branches with 3,374 members have 33 (or 1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 12 (or 0·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors at Norwich, Yarmouth and Cambridge are fairly well employed; the clothing factories are on full time. Employment in the boot and shoe trade in Cambridge is fair; in Norwich a number of clickers and lasters are still out, through the dispute; corset-makers are fairly well employed.

**Building Trades.**—Throughout the district employment is fairly good, except with painters.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Throughout the district engineers and boiler-makers are well employed, and at present unaffected by the dispute. Shipwrights at Yarmouth report employment as bad. At Lowestoft shipwrights and boat builders are not busy.

**Textile Trades.**—The silk and crape factories are still on full time. Employment is good with mat weavers at Diss.

**Printing Trades.**—Employment is fair in Norwich, Fakenham and Yarmouth.

**Fishing Industry.**—Herring catching at Yarmouth and Lowestoft has been quiet during the month. Trawl fishing has also been quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is fair with electric light workers in Norwich; good with horticultural builders in Norwich; moderate with brushmakers.—G. Cleverley.

**Suffolk, Essex, and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.**—The engineers report employment as good at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; moderate at Ipswich; bad at Wickham Market; as affected by the dispute at Chelmsford. Moulders, boiler-makers and shipwrights report employment as good at Ipswich; the shipwrights as moderate at Rowhedge and Wyvenhoe.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is bad at Colchester; moderate at Ipswich. Employment is good in the clothing factories at Ipswich and Colchester; with bespoke tailors generally employment is slack. Corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury are fairly well employed.

**Textile Trades.**—The mat weavers at Lavenham and Hadleigh report employment as good; at Sudbury, Glemsford, and Long Melford as moderate. Horsehair weavers are well employed at Lavenham. Employment is reported as good with the silk weavers at Sudbury; quiet at Braintree. The silk and crape workers at Halstead and Earl's Colne continue busy.

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

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers has been moderate at Ipswich, Colchester, Bury St. Edmunds, and Chelmsford; good at Beccles and Southend; improved with lithographers at Ipswich; moderate with bookbinders.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as good with horticultural workers at Ipswich and Chelmsford; moderate with leather-workers at Colchester. Gasworkers are well employed at Ipswich and Colchester. Shipping and dock labour at Ipswich improved towards the close of the month.—R. W. Mather.

**ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.****Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.**

**General.**—Societies with 8,569 members have 101 (or 1·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 145 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Building Trades.**—Work is still brisk with most branches. Out of 2,786 union members, only 23 (mostly painters) are returned as unemployed.

**Mining.**—In the Radstock and Bristol districts the average time worked is reported as about 4½ days per week. In the Forest of Dean employment continues steady.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Societies with 3,072 members, report 23 (or 0·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 40 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. The fitters and ship repairers in Bristol are slack, otherwise employment is good throughout the district.

**Dock Labour.**—In Bristol employment has continued good on grain and timber cargoes.

**Clothing Trades.**—An improvement is reported in the Bristol boot and shoe industry. Some firms are on full time, but the average is about 4 days per week, as against 2½ days at the end of July. Wholesale tailoring operatives are busy; corset-makers moderately so; bespoke tailoring is quiet.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in and around Stroud is reported as dull on heavy woollens, and fair on worsteds and serge goods; in the Trowbridge district as good upon heavy woollens; slack on worsteds, and fair on covert coating and ladies' dress goods.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—The brushmakers, cabinet-makers and turners report employment as good; the coopers as fairly good; the box and packing-case makers as improving; the lathrenders as good in Bristol and slack at Gloucester.

**Printing Trades.**—Branches of letterpress printers with 696 members have 26 (or 3·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 32 (or 4·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Lithographic printers are fully employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The brick and tile makers report employment as good; the saddle and harness makers as moderate; the floorcloth and linoleum workers as slack.—J. Cuvle.

**Plymouth and South-Western District.**

**Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.**—The metal mining industry of Cornwall remains unchanged. Clayworkers and quarrymen are busy.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—The engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, brassfounders and finishers again report employment as good. With a membership of 1,394 only three are reported as unemployed. Smiths and wheelwrights also continue busy.

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

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the ready-made department of the tailoring trade has continued fairly busy. The bespoke branch has shown a decline, but employment has been moderate. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is rather quiet, short time being worked by one firm.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good, except in Torquay.

**Dock Labour.**—Employment with dock and quayside labourers has not shown much improvement during the month. Bargemen and river-service men continue busy.

**Printing Trades.**—Employment with the letterpress and lithographic printers is moderate, many being only partially employed.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment continues fairly good with the mill-sawyers, machinists, cabinet-makers, upholsterers and polishers.

**Miscellaneous.**—The bakers continue busy. The fishing industry is fair. General labourers, excavators and brickyard workers continue well employed.—J. Welland.

**WALES.****North Wales District.**

**Mining.**—Employment has been moderate at the collieries in the Wrexham district; good in the Ruabon, Buckley and Mold districts. One pit at Ruabon is still idle, but at other pits in the neighbourhood nearly all the men are in work. Employment continues good at the Minera lead mines, and in the Mold district fresh workmen are being continually taken on.

**Quarrying.**—Employment at the North Wales slate quarries has been good, and the dispute at Bethesda has terminated. Employment is brisk at the granite sett quarries; fair at the limestone and roadstone quarries; good at the freestone quarries.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment continues good at the Brymbo steel works and also at the Mostyn iron works. The engineers at Ruabon are fully employed; at Oswestry and Sandycroft employment is moderate. Employment is good at the spelter works at Baggilt and irregular at Mold; fair at the tinplate works at Mold and at the wagon works at Johnstown.

**Building Trades.**—At Llandudno the plasterers report employment as good; at Wrexham the carpenters and joiners as fair, the painters as slack. Employment in the building trades at Rhos is reported as fair; at Ruabon and Cefn as brisk.

**Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.**—Employment in the brick and terra cotta works continues good at Wrexham, Ruabon, Rhos, Buckley and Penybont.

**Chemical Trades.**—The chemical workers continue fully employed at Flint and Ruabon.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—In the woollen and tweed industry of Montgomeryshire the operatives are fully occupied. The bespoke tailors report employment as slack at Oswestry, Bangor and Rhyl. G. Rowley.

**South Wales District.**

**Coal Mining.**—Employment has been dull throughout the month in nearly every district, especially in the Rhondda and Ferndale districts. Returns show that at Cyfarthfa, Dowlais and Tredegar the collieries have worked full time; at Ebbw Vale and Pontypool about 5 days a week; the Garw Valley and western districts have averaged from 4 to 5 days a week. Reports respecting 49 collieries in the Rhondda and Ferndale districts show that there was an aggregate of 16 days stoppages, and that 32 collieries were affected to the extent of one or more days, exclusive of recognised holidays.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in nearly all branches is reported as good. Branches of carpenters and joiners, with 1,424 members, give 27 (or 1·9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 18 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Ship Repairing and Engineering.**—Engineers have not been so well employed. Branches with 2,892 members return 122 (or 4·2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 88 (or 3·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. Boiler-makers have been well employed, and return 5 per cent. out of work, as against 20 per cent. at the end of July. The shipwrights return 12 per cent. unemployed, as against 30 per cent. at the end of July. Moulders report employment as good. The ship painters and scalers have had a busy month, and in Cardiff and Barry were unequal to the demand. Returns from foundries and engineering works at the colliery and inland districts report employment as good, with considerable overtime.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The shipment of crews has been dull. Employment in coal shipments has been quiet at Cardiff, Barry and Penarth; in the import trade it has been fairly good at most ports. The corn porters and general hoblors have been slack, but

employment in the iron ore and other mineral trades, and the pitwood, timber and deal trades has been fair.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns from eight large works state that mills and furnaces are going well, new plant being laid and preparations for restarting furnaces being made in the Ebbw Vale, Blaenavon, Cyfarthfa and Tredegar districts. In Landore and Morriston employment is reported as slack.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the fuel trade is reported as good, especially at Swansea; in copper smelting and chemical industries as quiet; with wagon builders and lifters as good; with compositors and lithographers as moderate.—T. Davies.

**The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.**—This industry is still in a depressed condition, and employment is also disturbed at some works by trade disputes. Unemployed workmen are gradually leaving the trade or emigrating to America. Returns relating to 87 works, with 484 mills, show that 36 works with 191 mills were giving full employment at the end of the month, and 32 works with 174 mills were entirely idle. The remaining 19 works with 119 mills were giving partial employment, 84 of these mills being at work, the total number of mills at work being thus 275, as compared with 272 at the end of July, and 311 a year ago.

**SCOTLAND.****Edinburgh and District.**

**General.**—Branches with 16,785 members return 241 (or 1·4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 220 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good in Mid and East Lothian, full time being generally obtained. In West Lothian employment is fairly good, though at some of the collieries in the Benhar and Armadale districts the miners are working short time.

**Shale Mines and Oil Works.**—Employment in these trades continues much the same. Returns received from 34 pits, employing 3,875 workpeople (as compared with 3,865 in August 1896) show an average of 5·72 days worked per week. At two other pits, employing 492 persons in 1896, no work was done.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches, with 2,442 members, have 54 (or 2·2 per cent.) idle, the same number as at the end of July.

In Falkirk branches with 2,294 members report none idle.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment in the shipbuilding yards in Leith is still bad with the shipwrights, and has declined considerably with the boiler-makers. Three branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights, with 568 members, have 106 (or 18·7 per cent.) idle, as against 70 (or 12·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Textile Trades.**—The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. In the woollen industry in Galashiels short time remains the general rule with both spinners and weavers; in Selkirk spinners are slack, weavers fairly employed; in Hawick both spinners and weavers continue to have a good deal of broken time. Employment in the linen industry in Dunfermline has not improved. Hosiery workers are slack in Hawick, fairly well employed in Selkirk.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 5,282 members have 6 idle, as against 3 at the end of July.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,057 members have 1 idle, as against 13 at the end of July.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors and firemen report employment as quiet, with a number idle. Employment with dock labourers is quiet; with coal porters fair.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 2,285 members have 46 (or 2·0 per cent.) idle, as against 56 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

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

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

**Shipbuilding.**—Branches with 10,201 members have 502 (or 4·9 per cent.) idle, as against 339 (or 3·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment has continued fairly good where not affected by the dispute. Branches with 26,864 members have 864 (or 3·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 721 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July, in addition to about 3,600 idle through the dispute.

**Mining.**—In Dumbartonshire employment has been good, 5 days per week being worked. In Stirlingshire the miners, with few exceptions, are working full time. In Ayrshire employment in coal mining is exceptionally good, full time being worked. Ironstone



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

workers are fairly well employed. In Dalry men are getting 4 1/2 days per week. In Lanarkshire the pits are working full time (from 5 to 6 days per week), but during the last fortnight the output has been restricted. In Renfrewshire employment in the ironstone trade shows little change. A pit at Lugton has been stopped. Employment in the coal trade is fair.

Building Trades.—Employment in the West of Scotland is good. Branches with 12,363 members return 56 (or 0.5 per cent.) as idle, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of July.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is good generally. Branches with 3,868 members return 50 (or 1.3 per cent.) as idle, as against 58 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow employment in cotton, silk and carpet weaving is dull. The beamers and calendermen also report employment as dull. In Kilbirnie employment in thread mills is good, in net works quiet. In Port Glasgow textile workers are on full time. In Greenock networkers and women employed on hosiery and woollen goods are busy; textile workers are well employed. In Paisley thread mill workers are still busy.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as fair. Employment in the ready-made tailoring and mantle factories has been busy. Tailors' machinists and pressers report employment as dull, but improving. Boot and shoe operatives and knee shoemakers report employment as dull; boot, pump, and slipper makers as greatly improved; curriers as slightly improved.

Shipping, Dock, and Transport Labour.—Sailors report employment as good during the month; dock labourers as fair; carters, railwaymen, tramwaymen, and hackney carriage drivers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers and electrotypers and stereotypers report employment as good; lithographic printers as dull.

Glass Trades.—The flint glassmakers and cutters report employment as dull; the bottle-makers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Marquee and tent makers are busy. The sett-makers and paviers report employment as busy; tobacco pipe makers as dull; potters and labourers as good.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the mills and factories throughout the district is on the whole good. In consequence of breakdowns of machinery, a number of workers are temporarily out of employment.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the Fifeshire coal pits has been fairly steady. Returns from collieries employing upwards of 10,800 workpeople show an average of 5.14 days per week worked during the four weeks ending 21st August, as compared with 4.79 in the month of July.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering trades remains good, being as yet unaffected by the general dispute. At the shipbuilding yards there is still considerable activity, and all classes of workmen are busy. Branches with 2,303 members report 63 (or 2.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 66 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the building trades continues good. Cabinet-makers, polishers and upholsterers remain in full employment. Societies with 1,566 members report 10 (or 0.6 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 14 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Dock Labour.—Work at the harbour has been fairly good.

Fishing Industry.—The herring season at Arbroath and Montrose is now practically over. The total catch to date is far short of that of last year, and more boats have been fishing. Fair takes have been made by the haddock boats. The net salmon fishing was closed on the Tay and Earn on the 26th; the season has been very unsuccessful.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and kindred trades has improved; with tailors, boot and shoe operatives, and bleachfield workers it continues quiet; in the floorcloth and linoleum trade it is still brisk.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches with 6,794 members have 68 (or 1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 31 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Quarrying.—Blockers, drillers, cranemen, settmakers, granite polishers, monumental masons and labourers report employment good.

Building Trades.—All branches, except plumbers, report employment as good. Societies with 2,312 members report only 6 as unemployed.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as declining; the shipwrights, black-

smiths, ironmoulders, engineers, pattern-makers, brassfounders and finishers, tinplate workers, tool smiths and horse shoers as good. Branches with 1,263 members return 39 (or 3.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 31 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Printing and kindred Trades.—All branches report employment as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Boot and shoe-makers (hand sewn), boot and shoe operatives (rivetters and finishers), report employment as good; tailors as quiet; jute workers as moderate; flax and cotton operatives as fair; carpet weavers as bad.

Transport Trades.—Railway servants, sailors and firemen, shore labourers, carters and general labourers report employment as good. Fishing.—In August at the port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 54,529 cwt. of fish, valued at £29,599, about the same weight as compared with July, but an increase in value.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers report employment as good; upholsterers, combmakers and bakers as moderate.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment remains good in all branches.

Metal Trades.—Employment is returned as fair, except with gasfitters and plumbers. Branches with 1,109 members, return 27 as unemployed.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—The upholsterers, cart and wagon builders, organ builders and coopers report employment as fair; the coachmakers and brushmakers as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors and boot makers report employment fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers, stereotypers, machine minders, and bookbinders report employment as fair; the lithographers as moderate. Branches, with 1,251 members, return 72 (or 5.8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 81 (or 6.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen and dock labourers have been fairly well employed.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches with 10,487 members report 251 (or 2.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 198 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July, in addition to 619 members directly affected by the dispute.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 3,990 members report 124 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 118 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Building Trades.—Employment with the painters is affected by a dispute. The dispute with the plumbers is ended, but 46 members are unemployed. Other branches with 2,638 members have only eight unemployed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Associations with 669 members return 28 (or 4.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 3.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Societies with 892 members report 39 (or 4.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 44 (or 4.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of last month.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot and shoe operatives, with 714 members, report employment as quiet, a number being only partially employed.

Miscellaneous.—Societies of bakers, butchers, carters, engine drivers, railway servants, tinplate workers, paviers and sailmakers, with 1,786 members, report 47 (or 2.6 per cent.) as unemployed, against 51 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of July. R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment is reported as fair with boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders in Cork, Limerick, Waterford, and Passage West; moderate with shipwrights, shipjoiners, riggers, and sailmakers. Engineering in all its branches is dull throughout the district.

Building Trades.—The various branches of these trades throughout the district send in favourable reports.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull; flax and tweed operatives in Millfield, Blarney, Douglas, and Cork as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—All branches of cabinet-makers, coachmakers, sawyers and woodworking machinists continue fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate. Deep sea fishing round the south and west coast has been dull. Employment with coal porters and quay labourers is moderate.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

(For Summary of these detailed Tables, see p. 229.)

I. Railway Servants.

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned, during the month of August 1897.

(The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December, 1895.)

Table with 7 columns: Class of Service, Killed, Dislocations, Fractures, Contusions and Bruises, Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total Injured. Rows include Brakesmen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, Guards (Passenger), Permanent Way Men, Porters, Shunters, and Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants).

Total for August 1897 ... 36 2 28 119 78 127 354
Total for August 1896 ... 40 4 27 120 56 105 306

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 6 servants killed and 127 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during August, as compared with 3 killed and 114 injured in August 1896.

II. Miners and Quarrymen.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of August 1897.

(The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 725,803, and in and about quarries (more than 20 feet deep) as 112,829, in 1896.)

Table with 4 columns: Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured), Cause of Accident, Number of Persons (Killed, Injured). Rows include Underground (Explosions of Fire-damp, Falls of ground, In shafts, Miscellaneous) and Surface (Miscellaneous).

Total for August 1897 ... 86 371 6 50
Total for August 1896 ... 93 473 12 42

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

III. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

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

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of August 1897 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

Table with 6 columns: Cause and Class of Accident, On Trading Vessels (Sailing, Steam), On Fishing Vessels (Sailing, Steam), Total in August 1897, Total for 3 months June to August 1897, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1896. Rows include By Wreck or Casualty, By other Accidents, and All Accidents.

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.\*

(A) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of August 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops. †

(The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.)

Table with 7 columns: Class of Accident, Number of Males (Adults, Young Persons, Boys, Total), Number of Females (Adults, Young Persons, Girls, Total), Total Males and Females. Rows include In Factories (Killed, Injured) and In Workshops (Killed, Injured).

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,826 other non-fatal accidents (all of them in Factories) only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, as compared with a total of 1,498 in August 1896.

(B) Table showing the number of persons killed or injured by accidents reported to H.M. Inspectors of Factories by occupiers of factories and workshops during July and August 1897 respectively, grouped according to industries.\*

Table with 4 columns: Groups of Industries, August 1897 (Number of Persons Killed, Injured), July 1897 (Number of Persons Killed, Injured). Rows include Textiles, Non-Textiles, and Total.

\* Exclusive of accidents reported by Mines' Inspectors.

V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

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

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accident reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accident Act, 1894, during the month of August 1897.

Table with 4 columns: Nature of Works, Construction or Repair (Number of Persons Injured, Killed), Use or Working (Number of Persons Injured, Killed). Rows include Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tramway, Tunnel, Other Workst, and Traction engine.

\* Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. † Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. ‡ Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST.

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

Summary.—The total number of workpeople affected by changes in wages reported in August was about 132,100, and the net effect per head on the wages of these workpeople was an average increase of 7d. per week. About 131,000 received increases, averaging 7½d. per week, and 1,100 sustained decreases, averaging 1s. 10½d. per week.

Increases.—The principal increase reported was an advance of 2½ per cent. (2 per cent. for certain classes in Northumberland) to 120,000 Northumberland and Durham miners. About 3,400 workpeople in the building trades, and 5,200 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding, also received increases.

Decreases.—About 950 fustian cutters at Congleton sustained a decrease.

Method of Arrangement.—Changes, affecting about 950 workpeople, were settled by arbitration after strikes, and changes, affecting about 2,900 workpeople, were brought about by strikes. The remaining changes, involving about 128,250 workpeople, were settled by negotiation or otherwise, without cessation of work.

Totals for first Eight Months of 1897.—For the eight months—January to August—about 513,000 workpeople were reported as having received advances, and 9,000 as having sustained decreases. The net effect of all these changes on the weekly wages of these 522,000 workpeople is estimated at an increase of 11½d. per head.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, and EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

\* Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

† See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN AUGUST—continued.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES, and MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

\* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

† Allowances of beer formerly given are now abolished.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST—continued.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES—(continued).

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN AUGUST.

The changes in hours of labour reported during August affected about 5,800 workpeople, and with one exception were all decreases. Two thousand eight hundred masons, and 1,500 masons' labourers at Edinburgh and Leith have obtained a reduction of 6 hours per week during the summer months.

Strikes preceded changes affecting about 4,700 workpeople; the remainder, involving about 1,100, were effected by negotiation or otherwise without stoppage of work.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of increase or decrease per week, Particulars of Change, Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Extent of increase or decrease per week.

\* Summer hours.

† See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. ‡ The firm giving one hour's pay, and the men losing three.

§ Winter hours.

NEW ORDERS UNDER "PARTICULARS CLAUSE" OF FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1895.

THE Home Secretary has issued an order dated August 10th, applying the provisions of Section 40 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, to factories and workshops in which iron and steel cables, chains, anchors and grapnels are made, subject to certain modifications necessary for adapting these provisions to the circumstances of the case.

By an order dated August 20th, the provisions of Section 40 are also applied with modifications to factories and workshops in which locks, latches and keys are made. Under this order particulars of the rates of wages applicable to the work to be done by each worker must be furnished to him in writing at the time when the work is given out to him, or must be exhibited in the room in which he is employed on a placard not containing any other matter than the particulars of the rates of wages of persons employed in that room and posted in a position where it is easily legible by all persons affected thereby.

Both orders come into force on October 1st 1897.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Midland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. William Saunders, Wilson-street, Derby.

North and East Lancashire and Ireland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18 King-street, Wigan.

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

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

In 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom 318,841 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of August. This number corresponds to a rate of 204 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1897.

Compared with July last the number relieved has increased by 3,600, and the rate per 10,000 by 3. The most marked increases were in the Manchester district (8 per 10,000), Leicester district (7), Central London (6), Bolton, Oldham, &c., and West London districts (5 each). In three districts the rate remained the same, and in eight districts, four of them being in Scotland, the rate decreased. The rate for the Metropolis has increased by 4 per 10,000 of population.

Compared with August 1896 the total number relieved has increased by 912, being the balance of an increase of 1,640 in indoor and a decrease of 728 in outdoor pauperism. The rate per 10,000 of population, however, shows a decrease of 1. Nineteen districts show a decreased rate, the largest decreases being in the Leicester district (19 per 10,000), West Ham and Hull districts (17 each), Wolverhampton (12), and Leeds (10). In the Central London district the rate shows no change, while in the remaining 15 districts increases are shown, the most marked being in the Paisley and Greenock, Coatbridge and Airdrie districts, and in the Manchester, and Bolton and Oldham districts.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of August 1897, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population.

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES\*, Metropolitan, Other Districts, Total Metropolitan, Total West Ham, Total Other Districts, Total "Other Districts".

Table with columns: SCOTLAND\*, IRELAND†, Total for above 38 districts in August, Total for previous month.

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

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

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August 2,122 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns, as compared with 3,108 in August 1896, a decrease of 32 per cent. Work was found for 842 persons by these bureaux during the month, a number less by 500 (or 37½ per cent.) than in August of last year. The number remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 2,526 in August last, and 2,894 in August 1896.

(I.) Work Done in August.

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

(II.) Workpeople on Registers at end of August classified by Occupations

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Warehouse-men, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Sempstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total.

\* These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. † Women and Girls are not registered. ‡ Not furnished.



TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.

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

**Number and Magnitude.**—Sixty-six fresh disputes were reported as beginning in August 1897, as compared with 65 reported in the previous month, and 90 in August 1896. In these 66 disputes 15,303 workpeople were involved, compared with 46,539 in July, and about 14,200 in August 1896. The figure for August 1897, does not include a number of engineers affected during that month by the extension of the engineering dispute.

**Trades Affected.**—In the building trades there were 14 disputes, involving 3,507 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 8 disputes, involving 3,755 workpeople; engineering and shipbuilding, 13 disputes, involving 1,384 workpeople; other metal trades, 4 disputes, involving 407 workpeople; textile trades, 10 disputes, involving 3,331 workpeople; clothing trades, 3 disputes, involving 65 workpeople; and in other industries, 14 disputes, involving 2,854 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 66 disputes, 31 arose chiefly on wages questions, 16 on questions of working arrangements, 4 were for reduced hours of work, 5 were demarcation disputes, 7 arose on the employment of non-unionists and desire of employers to cease employment of union men, 1 was in sympathy with men engaged in another strike, and 2 were for reinstatement of dismissed fellow-workpeople.

**Results.**—Forty-seven new disputes, involving 10,443 workpeople, and 43 old disputes, involving 8,360 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 90 new and old disputes terminated, 35, involving 8,520 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 35, involving 6,403 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and 20, involving 3,880 workpeople, by a compromise.

**Number of Working Days Lost.**—The number of working days lost in August owing to labour disputes new and old, was about 1,406,000, as compared with 761,000 in July, and 231,700 in June. This large number is chiefly due to the engineering dispute.

**Total Disputes for the First Eight Months of 1897.**—For the eight completed months of 1897 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 703 disputes which commenced in those months was 179,918, as compared with 138,231 workpeople involved in the 771 disputes occurring in the corresponding months of 1896. The number of working days lost owing to disputes in the first eight months of 1897 was about 4,210,000.

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
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I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST 1897.

14 Disputes. BUILDING TRADES. 3,507 Workpeople affected.						
Building Employees generally	Leeds ...	Aug. 23	Against employment of non-society bricklayers...	30	2	Non-society men agreed to join the union. No settlement reported.
Bricklayers ...	Scarborough	2	For advance in wages and limitation in number of apprentices	100	—	Replaced by non-unionists.
	Sheffield ...	12	For each day's work to stand by itself when overtime is worked	79	15	The reduction of hours conceded as from February, 1898. No settlement reported.
Stone Masons ...	Edinburgh & Leith	3	For change in working rules involving reduction of hours per week from 51 to 45	2,500	17	Immediate advance of 1d. per hour granted, and second 1d. promised for March 1st, 1898. No settlement reported.
	Blackburn ...	2	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (8 1/2 to 9d.) and revision of working rules	400	—	—
Carpenters & Joiners	Dunfermline...	23	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (7d. to 8d.)	35	7	—
	Kilmarnock ...	14	For advance in wages of 1/2d. per hour (8d. to 8 1/2d.)	100	—	—
Plasterers ...	South Shields	9	For a line of demarcation between the work of plasterers and bricklayers in regard to cement flooring, &c.	86	—	—
	Barnsley ...	1	For advance in wages and other alterations in working rules	17	18	Advance of 1/2d. per hour conceded, and a code of rules agreed to.
Plasterers ...	Norwich ...	16	Against employment of a special man to fix laths	58	1	The lathing work given to plasterers. No settlement reported.
	Chesterfield ...	28	For a code of rules, including a minimum rate of wages of 8 1/2d. per hour	18	—	—
Plumbers ...	Forfar and Kirriemuir	2	To enforce new bye-laws involving advance of minimum wage rate from 6d. to 7d. per hour, and other changes	14	2	Bye-laws accepted by all employers but one.
	Belfast ...	23	Against employment of "redleaders" temporarily upon an urgent job	96	9	"Redleaders" finished the work in question. No settlement reported.
Builders' Labourers ...	Dewsbury ...	1	For an advance in wages of 1/2d. per hour (5 1/2d. to 6d.) generally conceded	34	—	—

8 Disputes. MINING AND QUARRYING. 3,755 Workpeople affected.						
Coal Miners, &c.	Washington (Durham)	10	Dispute as to bottom cutting in the main seam ...	978	—	No settlement reported.
	Mold ...	2	For advance in cutting prices and against having to keep roads in repair	155	6	Negotiations resulted in an advance of 1d. per ton, the miners to keep roads in order. No settlement reported.
Coal Miners, &c.	Hamilton ...	16	Against reduction in price of 1d. per ton in small section of mines	680	—	No settlement reported.
	Maryhill ...	23	Against proposed reduction in wages of 6d. per day	305	1	Pit closed as unprofitable.
Putters ...	Motherwell ...	17	In sympathy with above ...	550	3	Resumed work on advice of union. A conference between management and deputation removed misunderstanding. No settlement reported.
	Tranent ...	12	Misunderstanding as to tare of hutches ...	95	1	—
Putters ...	Uddingston ...	20	Against notices that men must work six days per week	500	—	—
	Bedlington ...	3	Against a reduction of price per score awarded by the Joint Committee	492	9	Reduction of 1 1/2d. per score in standing rank to the 29 putters who struck.

13 Disputes. ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 1,384 Workpeople affected.						
Shipwrights ...	Walker-on-Tyne	14	Demarcation of work dispute with another trade	542	—	No settlement reported.
Apprentice Machinists	West Hartlepool	30	Against employment of an apprentice fitter upon a drilling machine	14	1	Five returned on old conditions, the apprenticeships of the rest were cancelled. Still unsettled. Services of union men entirely dispensed with.
Ironfounders ...	Leeds ...	16	Against employment of non-society men ...	15	—	—
	Castleton, Lancs.	25	Alleged objection of employers to employ union men	60	1	—
Cycle Makers ...	Birmingham ...	24	Against reduction of prices from 2s. 10 1/2d. and 3s. per machine to 1s. 9d. and 2s. 3d. per machine	342	5	A conference between firm and deputation resulted in mutual concessions. No settlement reported.
	London, E.C.	17	For reduction in hours from 60 to 54 per week, 10 per cent. advance on piece work prices, and extra rate for overtime	47	—	—
Rivet Heaters and Carriers (generally)...	Cardiff...	16	For advance in wages ...	90	4	Advance given, amounting to 3s. per week to heaters and 4s. to carriers. Men resumed work without alteration in conditions.
Engineers (generally)...	Carnarvon ...	10	For abolition of piece work system...	107	11	—

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST—(continued).

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
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I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST 1897—(continued).

ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.—(continued).						
Blacksmiths, Tinsmiths, and Plumbers	Dundee ...	August 9	Against proposed re-arrangement of working hours	16	6	Conference arranged by Lord Provost (see p. 263). Weekly hours reduced from 54 to 50, with a reduction in wages of 1s. 6d. per week. Work resumed on old conditions after interview between employers and union delegate.
Riveters ...	Dundee ...	23	Because riveters brought from Glasgow to meet pressure of work were paid at a higher rate.	48	8	—
Iron Moulders ...	Dalkeith and Granton	16	Objection to proposed new terms of employment, especially as to giving notice to cease work	73	13	Conference resulted in an agreement to give three days' notice on either side of any cessation of work, full work being guaranteed during such notice. Advance conceded. Work resumed on old conditions.
Shipriggers ...	Govan ...	7	For advance in wages from 7d. to 7 1/2d. per hour	17	4	—
Apprentice Engineers	Johnstone ...	24	For payment at rate of time and half during continuance of engineers' dispute, and for advance of 1s. per week after termination thereof	13	1	—

4 Disputes. OTHER METAL TRADES. 407 Workpeople affected.						
Edge Tool Forgers ...	Sheffield ...	21	For a revised price list involving advance of about 10 per cent. in wages	300	—	No settlement reported.
Brassworkers (Bedstead and Fender Trade)	Birmingham ...	20	Employer was not a member of trade alliance. Grievances also as to fines and excessive lathe rents.	13	13	Employer joined alliance, abolished fines, and reduced lathe rents.
Kettle and Spout Makers	Wolverhampton	23	Against reduction in wages of from 6 to 2 1/2 per cent. per gross ...	9	—	No settlement reported.
Steel Smelters ...	Cardiff ...	8	Against 5 per cent. deduction by contractor for waste from weight of ingot	85	12	Work resumed on old terms.

10 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES 3,331 Workpeople affected.						
Cotton Weavers ...	Blackburn ...	9	Against refusal of employer to refund fines inflicted for a previous stoppage of work (see Aug. Gazette, p. 254) and for reinstatement of workpeople who then lost their employment	609	—	No settlement reported.
Cotton Weavers	Blackburn ...	9	Ditto ...	379	—	Ditto.
	Oldham ...	5	Re-adjustment of card room machinery and claim of two men for advance of wages	210	6	The two men received an advance of 2s. 6d. per week.
Overlookers ...	Heywood ...	4	Against proposed reduction in piece rates ...	264	11	Reduction not enforced. Employer threatened to close the mill until after the holidays, and hands resumed work, though some were dismissed.
Cotton Weavers ...	Preston ...	5	In sympathy with overlooker who was ceasing his connection with the mill	240	1/2	Places filled by other men. A conference held, no actual grievances proved. Weavers not to cease work again without authority of association, and to be fined 1s. per loom, the sum to go to charitable institutions. Employer ceased to engage union men.
Overlookers ...	Preston ...	18	To retain a guaranteed rate of wages ...	19	1	—
Cotton Weavers ...	Stockport ...	5	As a protest against alleged oversteaming in weaving sheds, and alleged tyranny on part of an official	1,200	15	—
Lace Makers (Levers Branch)	Nottingham ...	16	Removal of works to another district partly to avoid employment of union men	11	1	Employer ceased to engage union men.
Dyers ...	Leeds ...	3	Alleged determination of employer to discontinue the employment of union men	13	6	Employers are stated to be carrying on work with non-union men.
Jute Spinners ...	Monifeth ...	31	Alleged bad material ...	386	6	Work resumed on old conditions.

3 Disputes. CLOTHING TRADES 65 Workpeople affected.						
Tailors and Tailoresses	Leeds ...	20	Objection to introduction of pieceworking ...	33	—	Some of the workpeople accepted the new conditions, others were replaced. Union men reinstated.
Tailors ...	Manchester ...	21	Against dismissal of union men and replacement by a non-unionist	18	13	—
Clothing Pressers ...	Bristol ...	20	For minimum wage rate of 8d. per hour instead of piecework, and limitation of apprentice and female labour	14	—	No settlement reported.

14 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 2,854 Workpeople affected.						
Riverside Labourers ...	Middlesbro' ...	14	For advance in prices of 1/2d. per ton on certain work	98	7	Advance granted, equal to an increase of 2s. 6d. to 3s. per week. Work resumed without the desired advance.
Timber Dischargers and Carriers	Fleetwood and Preston	3	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	400	10	—
Navvies (Railway Tunnel construction)	Crewe ...	30	For advance in wages ...	67	1	49 of the men allowed to resume work on old conditions, the rest paid off.
Brickmakers ...	Oldbury District	13	For advance in piece rates of 20 per cent. ...	900	8	By mediation of a large local employer of labour a minimum scale of wages was settled, giving advances in some cases (see p. 265).
Crystoleum Workers ...	London, E.C.	7	Against a reduction of 25 per cent. in wages ...	3	3	Two men resumed at an advanced rate offered by firm and one at Union rate. Advance conceded.
Upholsters ...	London, E.C.	23	For advance of from 10 to 30 per cent. on piece-work prices	5	4	—
Crane Drivers (Dock-yard Extension)	Devonport ...	19	For payment during stoppages caused by wet weather	320	3	Work resumed on old conditions by such men as there were vacancies for.
Cab Drivers ...	Bangor ...	25	For a standing wage of 14s. per week and other conditions	6	7	Work resumed by three men on the old terms, remainder found work elsewhere.
Dock Labourers ...	Ardrossan ...	5	For increase from 2 1/2d. to 3d. per ton for discharging iron ore	150	15	By mediation of the Provost (see p. 263) work resumed at old rates, with an extra rate for overtime; men severed connection with trade union.
Retort Men (Oil Works)	Broxburn ...	5	Against requirement to do the work formerly performed by 40 men, and at an increase of 3 1/2d. per day	830	7	Extra work accepted, but with an advance of about 6d. per day.
Lithographic Printers...	Glasgow ...	18	Objection of employer to grant the 48 hours week which had in some cases been conceded	2	—	No settlement reported.
Labourers (Tannery) ...	Greenock ...	9	For advance in wages of 2s. per week ...	31	6	Men returned gradually without advance in wages; a reduction in hours from 57 to 56 per week which had been offered by employers to avert the strike was accepted.
Ashpit Cleaners ...	Greenock ...	31	For re-instatement of two dismissed colleagues	9	4	Work resumed on understanding that the dismissed men should be reinstated.
Saddle and Harness Makers	Dublin ...	14	Refusal to work with two non-unionists, and alleged excess of boy and girl labour	33	—	No settlement reported, but 14 of the men have found employment elsewhere.



TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST—(continued.)

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.</b>						
<b>Building Trades.</b>						
Stonemasons	Colne	15 May	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (84d. to 9d.) and code of working rules	85	75	Men returned to work at old rates.
Ditto	Huddersfield	1 May	For advance in wages and alteration in working rules, involving prohibition of wall stone dressers, quarrymen or bricklayers doing masons' work	250	80	Advance of wages from 8d. to 84d. per hour, to be increased to 9d. per hour on 1st May 1898, with alteration in working rules.
Builders' Labourers	Huddersfield	1 May	For advance in wages from 5d. to 6d. per hour and alteration of working rules	330	86	The advance of wages and altered working rules conceded.
Carpenters, Plasterers, and Labourers	Plymouth, Stonehouse, & Devonport	1 May	For advance in wages, reduced hours of labour concessions as to walking time, and regulations as to age of apprentices, and number to be employed	635	—	Carpenters settled on 1 July, plasterers on 14 August, and labourers resumed work at end of August. Carpenters, plasterers and some of the labourers obtained increased wages, on other points mutual concessions were made. Advance of 3d. per hour conceded, and mutually satisfactory arrangement made as to apprentices.
Plumbers	Belfast	1 July	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and limitation in number of apprentices	220	36	Usual price of district conceded.
<b>Mining &amp; Quarrying.</b>						
Miners	Chesterfield	22 June	To obtain the usual tonnage rate of the district for cutting certain coal	275	40	Usual price of district conceded.
Coal Miners	Buckley	17 July	Objection to the distance of haulage and rate allowed for the same	200	24	Amicable compromise arranged.
Quarrymen (Slate)	Bethesda	30 Sept. 1896	For reinstatement of suspended fellow-workmen, and for removal of various grievances (see GAZETTE, November 1896, p. 347)	2,800	270	Conference resulted in settlement, for terms of which see p. 261.
<b>Metal Trades.</b>						
Coffin Furniture Makers	Birmingham	14 June	Refusal of firm to join the trade alliance of employers and workpeople	8	60	Places gradually filled by other men.
Key Makers	Wolverhampton and Willenhall	5 July	To enforce an advance in wages from 20s. to 22s. per week conceded by 80 per cent. of trade	30	42	The advance conceded.
Wrought Nail Makers	South Staffs and North Worcester-shire Districts Loughborough	12 July	To regain the 1892 price list (reduced in 1894,) involving advance of 10 per cent.	800	29	Employers conceded the advance.
Cycle Makers		26 July	Against proposed reduction in piecework prices	20	15	Half of the men returned at the reduced rate, remainder finding work elsewhere.
Tin Plate Workers	Gowerton	27 April	For 1874 price list and its amendments	161	80	Work resumed on 1874 list as before stoppage.
<b>Other Trades.</b>						
Cycle Rubber Workers	Birmingham	21 July	Against proposed reduction in wages, and introduction of piece-working	52	21	Work resumed by majority of the men at an advanced rate, rest obtained work elsewhere.
Boot and Shoe Lasters	Dudley	10 May	Lock-out of certain men for joining union	13	100	Union recognised, and statement of prices agreed to.
Mill Sawyers	Nottingham	26 June	Against employment of men other than mill sawyers upon machines.	4	55	Replaced by non-unionists.
Lace Operatives	Beeston	19 Mar.	For advance in wages	83	130	Places entirely filled by other workpeople.
Deal Carriers, Pickers and Pliers	Cardiff	12 July	For advance in wages	500	23	Work resumed on old conditions.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, BUT OF WHICH INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED.

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, BUT OF WHICH INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED.</b>						
<b>Building Trades.</b>						
Bricklayers	London, E.	19 July	To enforce an agreement as to bricklayers doing tiling work	10	6	Agreement to be carried out.
Stonemasons	Bury	1 July	Alleged infringement of local working rules	6	38	Employers agreed to adhere to local rules.
Plasterers	Manchester	3 July	To enforce compliance with working rules	6	3	Employer agreed to comply with rules.
Plumbers	New Brighton	23 June	To enforce compliance with district rules as to binding apprentices	2	—	Men replaced by non-union labour and finding work elsewhere.
Ditto	Leatherhead	10 July	To enforce payment of London district rates	14	2	Work resumed on old conditions.
Builders' Labourers	Stockton-on-Tees	1 May	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour	47	24	Advance conceded from 26s. to 28s. 2d. per week.
<b>Mining and Quarrying.</b>						
Putters	Near South Shields	26 July	Putters wanted places in which to hew coal while waiting for hewers	69	2	Putters summoned for breach of contract, but returned to work on old conditions and to pay 3s. 6d. each as damages.
Coal Miners	Pontefract	20 July	Sectional dispute against proposed change of conditions in difficult workings	28	12	Work resumed on old conditions.
Ditto	Near Wakefield	29 July	To obtain reinstatement of 8 men who had been imprisoned in default of paying damage for leaving work without notice	1,150	31	Work resumed without reinstatement of the eight men.
Ditto	Castle Rankin	22 July	Against reduction of 2d. per ton because of shorter haulage road	66	27	Men obtained desired tonnage rate.
<b>Metal, Engineering &amp; Shipbuilding Trades.</b>						
Engineers	Barnsley	29 May	Refusal of employer to pay an advance in wages of 2s. per week generally conceded in the town	4	51	Advance of 1s. per week given.
Foundry Employees generally	Gomersal, Leeds	17 July	For reduction in hours of labour	14	7	Hours of labour reduced from 54 to 53 per week.
Smiths' Strikers	Donnington, Salop	10 July	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	16	6	Advance of 1s. per week accepted (18s. to 19s.).
Smiths' Strikers	Oakengates, Salop	10 July	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	12	7	Advance of 1s. per week granted (18s. to 19s.).
Hollowware Turners	West Bromwich	21 May	Alleged supply of bad castings	30	—	No settlement reported.
Tinplate Workers	Llanely	8 June	General discontent at being only partially employed	337	—	Still unsettled.
Tinsmiths	Edinburgh	22 July	Against plumbers doing the work of tinsmiths	5	13	No plumber in future to be employed on tinsmiths' work, and line of demarcation arranged as to repair work.
Ironmoulders	Falkirk	23 July	Against employment of non-union men	160	1	Non-unionists to remain, but to work separately from the union men.
Engineers (Apprentices)	Paisley	22 July	For pay at time and one half during the continuation of the general dispute of journeymen and 1s. per week advance when the men return to work	26	3	Advance of 1s. per week during dispute conceded with promise of bonus on settlement thereof.
<b>Clothing Trades.</b>						
Boot and Shoe Makers (Hand)	Chester	21 June	For revised statement and classification of material	44	36	Demand for classification withdrawn.
Boot and Shoe Makers	Stafford	15 May	For an advance in wages	9	18	Two of the men had received an advance, and an arbitrator advised men to return to work, and ask an advance for other two men.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Stafford	22 July	With regard to classification of certain work said to involve reduction of wages	104	10	Referred to Conciliation Board, with result in men's favour.
Tailors (Hebrew)	Leeds	26 July	Refusal to work with four men who had worked during a previous dispute	40	—	No settlement reported.
<b>Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.</b>						
French Polishers and Cabinet Makers	London, N.E.	27 July	French polishers struck against non-union labour; cabinet makers came out in sympathy	14	—	Men immediately replaced by non-unionists.
Cabinet Makers, Carvers & Polishers	London, E.	24 July	On account of discharge of fellow workmen alleged to be for activity in union matters	70	—	No settlement reported.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST—(continued.)

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, BUT OF WHICH INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED—Continued.</b>						
French Polishers	London, E.C.	31 July	On account of discharge of two men for alleged incompetency	150	—	No settlement reported.
Upholsterers	London, W.	11 July	Dispute as to wages paid at Wycombe shop of the firm, and objection to non-union labour	40	—	Ditto.
French Polishers	Ditto	24 Mar.	For an allowance of lunch time and reinstatement of two men discharged for taking lunch time	12	—	Men replaced by non-unionists.
<b>Miscellaneous Trades.</b>						
Wharf Labourers	London, S.E.	5 July	For advance in wages of ad. per hour when backing saltpeper and heavy grain	50	5	Advance granted.
Letterpress Printers	Coleraine	10 July	For advance in wages	13	42	Advance granted of 10 per cent. on piece rates, and 2s. per week on time wages.

FOREIGN TRADE IN AUGUST.

**Imports.**—The imports during August were of a total declared value of £33,371,385, an increase of £890,912 (or 2·7 per cent.) as compared with August 1896. For the eight completed months of 1897 there is an increase of 4·0 per cent. over the figures for the corresponding period of last year. The following table gives the total declared value of the imports grouped in large classes for August 1897 and August 1896 respectively:—

Class of Goods.	August 1897.	August 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco	15,205,749	14,383,178	822,571	—
Metals	1,572,652	1,836,201	—	263,549
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances	955,609	1,054,710	—	99,101
Raw Materials for Manufacture	7,883,004	7,502,698	380,306	—
Manufactured Articles	6,812,742	6,635,724	177,018	—
Miscellaneous	941,629	1,067,962	—	126,333
Totals	33,371,385	32,480,473	890,912	—

Most classes of foodstuffs show increased imports, but wheat has decreased by over two million cwt. in the quantity, and by £341,252 in the value imported. This decline is accounted for by diminished imports from all our chief sources of supply, notably the United States (811,800 cwt. less), Argentine Republic (373,900 cwt. less) and Chili (284,800 cwt. less). Among metals there is a decrease of £202,045 in the value of tin (in blocks, ingots, &c.) imported. In the group of raw materials, cotton shows a decrease of 168,649 cwt. in quantity, and of £397,507 in the value, while jute on the other hand shows an increase in the value imported of £158,781. Wood and timber have increased by £594,377.

**British and Irish Exports.**—The exports during August amounted to £18,773,997 of declared value. This amount is £1,552,799 (or 7·6 per cent.) less than the value for August 1896. A decrease is also shown for the eight completed months of 1897, as compared with the corresponding months of 1896, amounting to 2·0 per cent. In the following table the exports, grouped in large classes, are shown for August 1897 and August 1896:—

Class of Goods.	August 1897.	August 1896.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink	961,095	1,020,104	—	59,009
Raw Materials	1,714,252	1,621,269	92,983	—
Yarns and Textile Fabrics	8,055,663	9,476,615	—	1,420,952
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery)	2,615,718	2,620,119	—	4,401
Machinery and Mill Work	1,240,278	1,261,606	—	21,328
Miscellaneous	4,186,991	4,327,083	—	140,092
Totals	18,773,997	20,326,796	—	1,552,799

Among raw materials the exports of coal, coke and patent fuel show an increase of 121,693 tons in quantity and of £88,635 in value. In the class of yarns and textiles, cotton piece goods show a decline of more than 4½ million yards, the decrease in value amounting to £661,881, chiefly accounted for by diminished exports to Bengal and Burmah, South America and China. There is also to be noted a marked falling off in the exports of yarns and textiles to the United States, amounting, so far as the figures are separately shown, to £522,300 as compared with August 1896 and to £998,990 as compared with August 1895, the total values exported being £190,042 in August 1897, £712,342 in August 1896, and £1,189,032 in August 1895. The falling off is most pronounced in worsted and woollen tissues, and linen piece goods.

**Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.**—These amounted in August to £4,651,947; an increase of £477,887 over the value in August 1896.

**Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.**—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports of the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions amounted to 3,161,720 tons, or 113,426 tons more than in August 1896. The vessels cleared

totalled 3,384,842 tons, or 12,232 tons less than a year ago. The tonnage of vessels entered coastwise was 2,732,453 tons, and of vessels cleared 2,627,388 tons, as against 2,695,183 and 2,531,165 tons respectively in August 1896.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The imports of raw cotton show a falling-off of 52 per cent. (mostly in American cotton) as compared with a year ago, and of 41·5 per cent. (chiefly in American and East Indian cotton) as compared with August 1895. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was greater than in August 1896, but less than in August 1895.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.		Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	
August 1897	36,557	181,887	41,544
" 1896	76,436	169,041	31,410
" 1895	62,517	220,340	51,140

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended September 4th amounted to £8,782,268, an increase of £188,389 (or 2·2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £4,742,218, an increase of £122,541, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,040,050, an increase of £65,848.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during August numbered 322, being 13 more than in August 1896, 40 less than in August 1895, and 53 less than in August 1894.

**Fishery Statistics.**—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during August was £781,881, an increase of £53,682 as compared with August, 1896. In England and Wales there was an increase of £32,156, and in Scotland one of £33,069, while in Ireland there was a decrease of £11,543.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

**Total Emigration.**—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during August was 25,279, as compared with 27,759 in August 1896.

**British and Irish.**—Of the 25,279 passengers 17,322 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 1,334 compared with a year ago. The falling off was mainly due to decreases of 1,471 and 737 in the numbers bound for the United States and South Africa respectively, partly balanced by increases in the numbers proceeding to British North America and Australasia. The following table gives the figures for August 1897 and 1896:—

Destination.	August 1897.	August 1896.
United States	11,148	12,619
British North America	2,332	1,906
Australasia	1,123	805
South Africa	1,900	2,637
Other places	819	689
Totals	17,322	18,656

The remainder of the 25,279 passengers, viz., 7,957, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 1,146 less than in August 1896.

**Alien Immigration.**—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during August was 8,482. Of these, 3,322 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 3,279 so stated in August 1896. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, numbered 5,160 (including 956 sailors), the corresponding figure for August 1896 being 5,171 (including 1,053 sailors).



INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN AUGUST.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*

Nature of Offence.	Informations laid.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>				
Neglecting to Limewash ... ..	3	3	£ s. d. 1 18 0	£ s. d. 1 0 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ... ..	6	6	53 15 0	4 6 0
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c. ... ..	1	1	0 10 0	0 15 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ... ..	14†	19	12 4 6	6 12 2
Employing Children under the legal age ... ..	1	1	1 0 0	0 13 6
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>				
Before or after the legal hour ... ..	94†	115	42 7 0	42 18 3
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ... ..	25	25	9 10 0	13 0 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ... ..	43†	59	14 16 6	20 17 6
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays... ..	10	10	2 1 0	5 1 0
At night ... ..	29	29	33 10 6	10 6 6
Employing Children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c... ..	6	6	2 15 0	3 7 0
Employment outside Factory or Workshop after employment therein before and after dinner ... ..	4	4	0 10 0	1 0 0
<b>Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c.:</b>				
Not keeping Registers ... ..	20†	24	17 16 0	11 3 11
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ... ..	15	14	7 17 6	4 16 6
Not sending Notices required by Act ... ..	5	4	5 10 0	1 4 4
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars	13	13	2 18 0	7 4 6
Prosecutions under Truck Acts, 1831, 1887, 1896 ... ..	4†	5	2 1 0	1 15 3
<b>By Workmen...</b>				
<b>By Parents:</b>				
Allowing Children to be illegally employed...	1	1	0 5 0	0 14 0
<b>Total for August 1897</b> ... ..	<b>294†</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>211 8 0</b>	<b>136 15 11</b>
<b>Total for August 1896</b> ... ..	<b>164†</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>90 8 6</b>	<b>71 4 7</b>

II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.\*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					
Ventilation ... ..	1	1	—	—	£ s. d. 1 9 6
Shafts and Manholes ... ..	1	1	—	—	1 9 6
Miscellaneous ... ..	7	7	—	—	9 12 6
<b>By Workmen:</b>					
Safety Lamps ... ..	6	6	—	—	8 14 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ... ..	3	3	—	—	1 0 0
Timbering ... ..	1	1	—	—	1 0 0
Lucifer Matches, &c. ... ..	5	4	—	1	4 17 6
Riding on Trams ... ..	3	3	—	—	3 1 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	7	7	—	—	4 18 0
<b>Total for August 1897</b> ... ..	<b>34</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36 2 0</b>
<b>Total for August 1896</b> ... ..	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48 18 6</b>

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Penalties.	Costs.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships:</b>				
Illegally engaging Seamen ... ..	1	1	£ s. d. 0 10 0	£ s. d. { Costs of Court.
Employing Officers without certificate ... ..	3	3	1 15 0	0 13
Proceeding to sea whilst under detention ... ..	1	1	10 0 0	—
<b>By Boarding-house Keepers and Others:</b>				
Illegal supply ... ..	2	2	7 0 0	3 5 0†
<b>Total for August 1897</b> ... ..	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>19 5 0</b>	<b>3 18 0§</b>
<b>Total for August 1896</b> ... ..	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>32 10 0</b>	<b>5 8 0</b>

IV.—Under the Friendly Societies and other Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	With- drawn on compliance with Act.	Convic- tions.	Fines & Costs.
Failure to send Annual Returns ... ..	11	2	9	£ s. d. 49 18 0
Failure to attend before an Inspector appointed under Building Societies Act, 1894 ... ..	2	—	2	13 3 0
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>63 1 0</b>

\* Supplied by the Home Office. There were no prosecutions under the Quarries Act during August 1897. In August 1896 there were 3 prosecutions, 3 convictions and £1 6s. 6d. fines and costs.

† In these cases the numbers of convictions are greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

‡ Defendant sent to prison in default of payment.

§ Exclusive of costs in one case.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN AUGUST.\*

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in August it will be seen that 6 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 3 Associations for Production, and 2 Miscellaneous Societies, 16 new Friendly Societies, and 33 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Two Trade Unions, 27 Building Societies, and 4 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding up."

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Manchester and Lancashire District Bricklayers' Labourers' Union, Locomotive Inn, Oldham Road, Manchester; Manchester and Salford Slaters' and Labourers' Society, Stanley Street Temperance Hall, Port Street, Manchester; Liverpool Lightermen's Union, 13 Washington Buildings, Goree Piazzas, Liverpool; Amalgamated Society of Coopers, Ship and Star Inn, Sparrow Corner, Minorities, E.C. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Yarn Beavers' Trade Society, Stag's Head Hall, Rosemary Street, Belfast; Sligo Builders' Labourers' Benevolent Union, 46 High Street, Sligo.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Hitchin United Co-operative Society, Ltd., Co-operative Stores, Hitchin; Longwood Industrial Society, Ltd., 83 Longwood Gate, Longwood, *Scotland.*—Greenock United Co-operative Society, Ltd., Lynedock Goods Station, Dellingham Street, Greenock. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Clonkeen Kerril Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Society, Ltd., Gurteen, co. Galway; Ardahan Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Society, Ltd., Ardahan, co. Galway; Youghal Co-op. Lace Society, Ltd., Youghal, co. Cork.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Atlas Land Society, Ltd., 95 Cannon Street, E.C.; Self-Help Cab Drivers, Ltd., 15 Little Titchfield Street, W.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly (including 1 order), 6; Working Men's Clubs, 4; Specially Authorised, 3; Collecting, 1; Dividing, 1. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Working Men's Club, 1.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—I.O. Rechabites, 6; Manchester Unity Oddfellows, 5; A.O. Foresters, 2; Grand United Order Oddfellows, 2; B.O.A. Free Gardeners, 2; various, 5. *Scotland.*—I.N.F.B.S., 3; C.O.U.O., 2; various (including 1 juvenile), 6. *Ireland.*—None.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Wiltshire General and Agricultural Workers' Union, 2 Prospect Terrace, St. Paul's Road, Salisbury; South London Society of Operative Plasterers, St. George's Tavern, Lambeth Road, Southwark. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—(By instrument), Ordnance Arms Inn Permanent Money Club, Ltd., Ordnance Arms Inn, Park Road, Oldham; National Temperance Nurses Co-operation, Ltd., 8 Great Marylebone Street, Portland Place, W. (Resolution to wind-up received); Kentish Town Industrial Co-operative Society, Ltd., 17 Prince of Wales Crescent, Kentish Town. (Liquidator's Final Return received); Tisbury and Wardour Co-operative Society, Ltd., The Stores, Tisbury, Salisbury. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Building Societies.**—By instrument of dissolution, 7; notice of commencement of dissolution, 6; notice of termination of dissolution, 13; notice of commencement of winding up, 1.

\* The return of new branches of Friendly Societies in Scotland includes July and August, no return having been received last month.

NOTICE.

Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—

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