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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.*

[Based on 2,286 returns, viz.: 1,652 from Employers, 448 from Trade Unions, and 186 from other sources.]

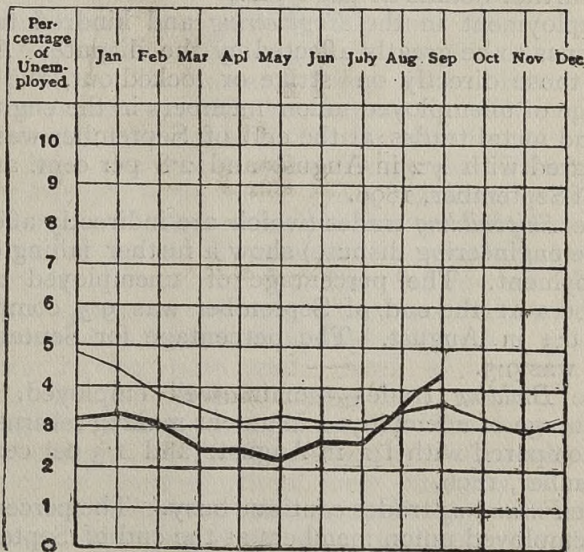
On the whole the state of employment shows some decline, especially in groups of trades affected, directly or indirectly, by the engineering dispute. Employment in the cotton trade is slack, while on the other hand coal miners have been better employed during the month.

In the following figures persons directly on strike or locked out owing to the engineering dispute have been omitted.

In the 113 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 462,292, 20,228 (or 4.38 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 3.55 per cent. at the end of August, and with 3.6 per cent. in the 110 unions, with a membership of 434,876, from which returns were received for September, 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 September, 1897. | | Corresponding Percentages for | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Number of Unions making Returns. | Total Membership of such Unions. | A Month ago. | A Year ago. | |
| | | Number. | | | Percentage. |
| Under 1 per cent. | 25 | 96,529 | 20.9 | 29.5 | 18.6 |
| 1 and under 2 per cent. | 20 | 91,145 | 19.7 | 17.5 | 24.9 |
| 2 " 3 " | 19 | 35,932 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 21.9 |
| 3 " 5 " | 21 | 116,535 | 25.2 | 22.9 | 15.0 |
| 5 " 7 " | 9 | 19,251 | 4.2 | 10.3 | 5.4 |
| 7 " 10 " | 10 | 35,197 | 7.6 | 12.9 | 3.5 |
| 10 per cent. and upwards | 9 | 67,703 | 14.6 | 5.3 | 10.7 |
| Total | 113 | 462,292 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of September, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between September 30th and October 15th. This remark also applies to the reports on pp. 303 to 310.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment during September was better in nearly every district than it was either a month or a year ago. Pits employing 425,617 workpeople worked on an average 5.24 days per week in September, 4.92 days per week in August, and 4.89 days per week in September, 1896. (For further details see page 298.)

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good in this industry, and is slightly better than a year ago. Mines employing 17,066 persons worked an average of 5.79 days in September, as compared with 5.78 days a year ago, while the number employed at the mines included in the returns shows an increase of 5.6 per cent. over the number employed in September, 1896. (For further details see page 299.)

In the **Pig Iron** industry employment remains the same as at the end of August, and is better than a year ago. At the works of 110 ironmasters to which the returns relate, 349 furnaces, employing 22,452 persons, were in blast at the end of September, compared with 349 furnaces, employing 22,360 persons in August, and 345 furnaces, employing 22,164 persons at the end of September, 1896. (For further details see page 299.)

Employment at **Steelworks** improved slightly during the month. It continues better than a year ago. At 138 works 38,965 persons were employed at the end of September, or 337 more than at the end of August, and 1,147 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 300.)

At **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** there was a falling off in employment during the month, at the end of which, however, it was still better than a year ago. At 91 works 18,943 workpeople were employed at the end of September, or 302 less than at the end of August, and 309 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 300.)

Employment at **Tinplate Works** continues depressed. Out of 484 mills reported on 273 were at work at the end of September, the same number as at the end of August. A year ago out of 482 mills, 306 were at work. (For further details see page 300.)

Employment in the **Engineering** and kindred trades continues to be greatly 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 September was 5.5, compared with 4.2 in August and 2.8 per cent. at the end of September, 1896.

The **Shipbuilding** trades (which are indirectly affected by the engineering dispute) show a further falling-off in employment. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of September was 9.5, compared with 6.3 in August. The percentage for September, 1896, was 9.5.

The **Building** trades remain well employed. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns was 1.4, compared with 1.2 in August, and 1.3 per cent. in September, 1896.

The **Furnishing** trades continue busy. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of September was 1.4, compared with 1.7 in August, and 1.2 per cent. at the end of September last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades remains unchanged. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of September was 5.4, compared with 5.3 in August and also in September, 1896.

Employment in the **Paper** trade has continued to improve. The percentage of unemployed union members was 3.7 at the end of September, compared with 3.9 in August and 2.8 at the end of September, 1896.

The **Glass** trades show a still further improvement in the state of employment. The percentage of unemployed at the end of September was 7.9, compared with 8.4 in August. The percentage for September, 1896, was 13.8.

Employment in the **Leather** trades shows a slight falling off. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of September was 3.9, compared with 3.6 in August. The percentage for September last year was also 3.9.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade continues bad in London; it has declined in Leicester and Northampton, and has improved in the other centres. In the bespoke branch it is slack.

Employment in the ready-made **Tailoring** trade has declined; in the bespoke branch it has improved.

Employment in the **Cotton** trade has become slightly worse in the **Spinning** branch, and remains very slack in the **Weaving** branch.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade has improved. In the **Worsted** trade it is still slack. In the **Hosiery** trade it shows a further decline.

As regards the employment of **Women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 517 mills employing 83,000 women and girls, shows that 62 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 58 per cent. for August, and 79 per cent. for September, 1896. (For further details see page 302.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment improved steadily throughout the month, and was on the whole better than a year ago, and slightly better than in August. At the docks and principal wharves the average number employed in September was 14,962, as compared with an average of 14,884 in August, and 14,062 in September, 1896. (For further details see page 302.)

During the month of September **Agricultural** labourers were generally fully employed at harvest, and also at hop picking in the hop districts. In a very few districts a few casual men were in irregular work. This was either attributed to the increased use of self binders at harvest, or to unfavourable weather. A number of reports state that extra labour for harvest was difficult to obtain. (For further details see page 300.)

Trade Disputes.—Forty-nine fresh disputes began in September, 1897, involving 9,067 workpeople. This figure does not include the number of engineers affected during the month by the further extension of the engineering dispute. The corresponding number of disputes for August was 66, involving 15,303 workpeople, and for September, 1896, 51, involving about 8,874 workpeople. Twelve disputes took place in the building trades, 10 in mining and quarrying, 11 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 8 in the textile trades, and 8 in other industries. Of the 70 new and old disputes, involving 12,968 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 21, involving 2,756 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 26, involving 4,836 persons, in favour of the employers; while 23, involving 5,376 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 316.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during September affected a total of 36,200 workpeople, of which number 12,700 received increases, and 23,500 sustained decreases. The increases and decreases approximately balanced each other. The increases included 5,000 blastfurnacemen and 2,000 workpeople in the coal mining industry. The principal decreases affected 20,000 iron workers and 2,642 blastfurnacemen. Changes affecting 2,400 workpeople were brought about by strikes. Changes involving 22,650 workpeople were settled under sliding scale agreements; the remaining changes, affecting 11,150 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties without any cessation of work. (For further details see page 312.)

Pauperism.—In the 35 selected urban districts 322,254 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of September. This number corresponds to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, being the same rate as in September, 1896. (For further details see page 315.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during September was 21,122, as compared with 21,022 in September, 1896. (For further details see page 319.)

AMERICAN COMPETITION IN THE TINPLATE INDUSTRY.

THE following account of the present position of the tinplate trade, as regards the American market, is based on a report* prepared for the Foreign Office by Mr. O'Beirne, Second Secretary at the British Embassy at Washington, on the American tinplate industry and the Welsh tinplate export trade to the United States, supplemented by the New Tariff Act which has finally passed since that report was published. It is stated in this report that the growth of the tinplate industry in the United States dates practically from the passage of the McKinley Tariff Act of 1890, under which the duty on imported tin and terne plates was raised from 3d. to 1.1d. per lb. This rate was subsequently lowered by the Wilson Act of 1894 to 3d. per lb., but the recent Tariff Act (1897) has raised it to 3d. per lb.

During the four years preceding the passage of the McKinley Tariff Act, the importation of British plates averaged some 650,000,000 lbs. per annum, and has since rapidly declined, the amount imported in the year ending June, 1896, being 385,138,983 lbs.

On April 1st, 1897, there were 39 tinplate works in the United States, of which 4 were not operating. The remaining 35 have 180 mills, of which 170 are now running. Eleven new mills are in process of construction, making 191 mills, with a total potential capacity of 6,250,000 boxes of 108 lbs. The present rate of production is estimated to represent an output of about 4,500,000 boxes a year.

Of these 39 firms, 11 are situated in Pennsylvania, the great oil-producing State, 9 in Ohio, the second great oil-producing State, 2 in Wheeling, West Virginia, also an important oil region, 6 in Indiana, chiefly within the gas-belt, and 1 in each of the meat-packing centres, Chicago and St. Louis. There are besides 29 "dipping" firms which do not make plates, but buy and then tin them. About one-half of these are in Pennsylvania.

As regards relative cost of production, the American manufacturer obtains his steel material about 20 per cent. cheaper than his South Wales competitor. Thus, in the last week of April, 1897, American steel bars (Bessemer) for making tinplate were quoted at £3 2s. at Pittsburg, compared with British Bessemer bars for the same purpose quoted at £3 17s. 6d. in South Wales. While English steel advanced in price in 1896, American steel continued to fall during the same period, partly owing to trade depression and other causes of a temporary character; partly to the reduction of cost of carriage, and the economy of labour by labour-saving inventions.

Though steel is thus obtained at 20 per cent. less cost than in South Wales, the Pennsylvania tinplate manufacturer can only turn out the finished plate at a cost of about 30 per cent. higher, i.e., at the rate of about 13s. 10d. per box of 108 lbs., while South Wales tinplate could be landed, if free of duty at New York, at 10s. a box. The excess of cost is ascribed to the higher rates of wages which prevail in America.

The rates of wages per ton for the highest class of workmen (who form a large majority of the whole) are as follows in America and South Wales:—

| Class of Workmen. | Rate of Wages per Ton. | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | United States† (1894 rates). | South Wales‡ (1874 rates). |
| Roller, including catcher | s. d. 15 10 | s. d. 8 0 |
| Doubler | 7 5 | 4 9 |
| Heater | 6 6 | 4 6 |

Thus the United States piece rates are nearly double those for South Wales. A similar result is shown by comparing the average weekly rates of wages per head earned by tinplate workers of all classes in the two countries. The average for South Wales, according to

* Miscellaneous Series, No. 426 of 1897 (C. 8278—25).

† Nos. 21 to 24. Nos. 25 and 26 are slightly higher.

‡ i.e., Roller and behinder.

the Board of Trade census of wages in 1886, was about £1 2s. 5d. The average for Pennsylvania is stated at about £2 2s. 8d. (the proportion of men, women and boys being the same), or nearly double the Welsh rate of 1886. Under the American tariff of 1894, imports of tinplate paid a duty of about 3d. per lb., or 5s. 5d. per box, which had the effect of rendering South Wales tinplate dearer than American on the Atlantic coast, Chicago, and New Orleans, but still gave them an average advantage of about 11d. per box on the Pacific coast, which represents an annual consumption of about 50,000,000 lbs. The new duty, however (which represents an increase of about 1s. 4d. per box), appears likely to enable the American manufacturer to undersell South Wales plates, even on the Pacific coast, by about 5d. per box.

The above calculations do not of course apply to tinplates imported for re-export, which are allowed a drawback, and therefore may be regarded practically as entering the United States free of duty. The importation of "drawback" plates amounted last year to 130,000,000 lbs., the main consumers being the great oil, fruit, and meat-canning industries. This section of the South Wales export trade is practically unaffected by tariff changes in America; and even were the drawback abolished (as was proposed in the latest Tariff Bill as it left the House of Representatives), it is stated that the Standard and other oil companies (which consume more than 75 per cent. of the total "drawback" plates) would probably can their oil abroad, still using Welsh tinplate for the purpose.

THE DISPUTE IN THE ENGINEERING TRADE.

IN previous numbers of THE LABOUR GAZETTE accounts were given of the engineering dispute up to September 12th. Since then the area of the dispute has somewhat widened, the places more or less affected by the extension during the past month including Dumbarton, Dundee, Bristol, and other centres in Gloucestershire, Hanley and district, Blackburn, Ashton and district, Carlisle and Otley. There have also been some extensions of the dispute in districts already affected. The number of firms directly concerned in the dispute is stated by the Employers' Federation, on October 9th, to be about 570. The number of persons directly on strike or locked-out at the same date is estimated by the Department at nearly 45,000. The number of firms in London working on the eight hours' system at the present time is stated by the Unions concerned to be 211, compared with 218 a month ago, there having been some cases of reversion to the nine hours' system during the month, affecting altogether about 500 engineers. Of the above 211 firms 21, belonging to the Ship Repairers' Association, gave notice on October 7th of their intention to revert to the nine hours' system, from Friday, October 15th. These notices as given affect not only the engineers but the boilermakers and other allied trades, some of which have been working a 48 hours' week for a considerable time. The joiners will not be affected.

During the past month efforts have been made to promote a meeting between the parties, with a view to a settlement of the dispute, but so far without success.

The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades has also made efforts to secure a conference with the Employers' Federation, with a view to laying before them a proposal for reduction of hours in accordance with the ballot of their members. On October 5th, however, the Employers' Federation declined to agree to a conference during the continuance of the engineers' dispute, in which two of the federated trades unions are directly involved. In consequence of this reply, the Executive Council of the Federated Unions resolved on October 11th "to appoint a deputation to approach the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act to consider with them the present industrial position."

WORKING HOURS OF CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES.

RETURNS collected by the Co-operative Union show that of 1,453 co-operative distributive societies believed to exist in the United Kingdom 1,234 had made returns of the number of their employees, showing that at the end of 1896 they directly employed a total of 40,053 persons, 28,946 being engaged in the distributive and 11,107 in the productive departments of the societies.

Workpeople Engaged in Distribution.

Eleven hundred and twenty-nine of the societies have stated in the returns the working hours of their employees, and from these it appears that the average hours of 27,742 persons engaged in the distributive departments are 53.6 per week, compared with an average of 54.3 hours for 24,190 employees whose hours were returned for the year 1895, a decrease of nearly three-quarters of an hour per week. This is due entirely to a decrease of the hours in England and Wales, where the average for 1896 is 53.3 hours, as compared with an average in 1895 of 54.7. In Scotland the average is 54 hours a week, compared with 53.3 in 1895. It will be seen from Table I. that 11.6 per cent. of the English and Welsh employees are working a 48 hour week or less. These are mainly in the colliery districts of Durham and Northumberland. Of the total number of employees in England and Wales, 66 per cent. are working between 51 and 57 hours, the main body of these being in the North-Western Counties. The tendency noted last year for the hours of store employees to correspond closely with the hours of the industries in which the members are themselves employed is again clearly shown in the returns. Thus, in the factory districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, where the usual mill hours are 56½ per week, 50½ per cent. of the store employees (compared with 49.3 in 1895) are working from 55 to 56½ hours a week. On the other hand, 51.3 per cent. of the store employees in the northern colliery districts have a 48 hour week.

In the agricultural and southern counties, where the hours of labour generally are not so clearly defined, the hours of store employees tend to be longer. It is still, however, in the smallest societies that the longest hours prevail.

In Scotland about 80 per cent. of the employees are working between 51 and 57 hours per week, only about 2 per cent. working over 60 hours, while, on the other hand, only 2.6 are working a 48 hour week.

I.—Table showing the number of hours per week worked by the employees (engaged in distribution) of 1,123 Workmen's Co-operative Distributive Societies in Great Britain* in 1896.

| No. of hours worked per week, exclusive of meal-times. | 1896. | | | | | | Corresponding percentage for Great Britain for 1895. | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------|--|----------------|
| | No. of Societies included in returns. | No. of Employees. | | | Percentage of Employees. | | | |
| | | Eng-land & Wales. | Scot-land. | *Great Britain. | Eng-land & Wales. | Scot-land. | | Great Britain. |
| 48 and under | 74 | 2,552 | 146 | 2,698 | 11.6 | 2.6 | 9.7 | |
| Over 48 & up to 51 | 64 | 1,787 | 512 | 2,299 | 8.1 | 9.0 | 12.1 | |
| " 51 " 54 | 236 | 5,371 | 2,832 | 8,203 | 24.4 | 49.6 | 38.0 | |
| " 54 " 57 | 408 | 9,163 | 1,726 | 10,889 | 41.6 | 30.3 | 39.2 | |
| " 57 " 60 | 229 | 2,484 | 366 | 2,850 | 11.3 | 6.4 | 13.7 | |
| Over 60 | 112 | 652 | 121 | 773 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | |
| Totals | 1,123 | 22,009 | 5,703 | 27,712 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

Workpeople engaged in Production.

Table II. relates to the persons employed in the productive departments of distributive societies, returns as to hours having been received from 522 societies, employing 9,898 persons in production.

The average working hours of these employees are 53.8 a week, as compared with an average of 55.1 per week in 1895. The reduction in hours was mainly in England and Wales, where the average was only 54 hours a week, compared with 56.1 in 1895; while in Scotland the average hours remain practically the same as last year, being 53.1, as compared with 53 in 1895.

It will be noted in the tables that 12.7 per cent., compared with 11.0 in 1895, of the English and Welsh

* In addition particulars have been furnished by six co-operative distributive societies in Ireland, the number of employees being 30.

employees are working a 48 hour week, these again being mainly in the northern colliery districts (where 62 per cent. are working the 48 hour week) whilst 69½ per cent. are working between 51 and 57 hours. These again are largely in the factory districts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, where about 48 per cent. are working from 55 to 56½ hours a week.

In Scotland it will be seen that practically all are working between 48 and 57 hours a week, there being only one per cent. working 48 hours and less, and about the same number over 57 hours.

II.—Table showing the number of hours per week worked by employees (engaged in production) of 522 Workmen's Co-operative Distributive Societies in Great Britain in 1896.

| No. of hours worked per week, exclusive of meal-times. | No. of Societies included in returns. | 1896. | | | | | | Corresponding percentage for Great Britain for 1895. |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------|----------------|--|
| | | No. of Employees. | | | Percentage of Employees. | | | |
| | | Eng-land and Wales. | Scot-land. | Great Britain. | Eng-land and Wales. | Scot-land. | Great Britain. | |
| 48 and under | 40 | 861 | 32 | 893 | 12.7 | 1.0 | 7.9 | |
| Over 48 and up to 51 | 48 | 463 | 828 | 1,291 | 6.8 | 26.8 | 8.3 | |
| " 51 " 54 | 164 | 1,956 | 1,262 | 3,218 | 28.7 | 40.8 | 40.7 | |
| " 54 " 57 | 155 | 2,768 | 936 | 3,704 | 40.7 | 30.3 | 31.4 | |
| " 57 " 60 | 83 | 632 | 14 | 646 | 9.3 | 4 | 10.5 | |
| Over 60 | 32 | 125 | 21 | 146 | 1.8 | 7 | 1.2 | |
| Totals | 522 | 6,805 | 3,093 | 9,898 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | |

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS, showing the rates of dividend paid to members on purchases for the second quarter of 1897, have been received from 833 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,122,341, as compared with 1,087,897 in the 779 societies making returns for the corresponding period of 1896.

The rates of dividend shown are those paid upon the main volume of trade. In a few cases, higher or lower dividends were paid upon purchases from minor departments, such as butchery, drapery, &c.

The returns show an average dividend of 2s. 7.60d. in the £1 on purchases, as compared with 2s. 8.49d. in the corresponding period of 1896.

With few exceptions, the societies paid a dividend to non-members at one-half the rates paid to members.

Table showing the number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies paying the undermentioned rates of dividend per £1 of purchases in the second quarter of the year 1897.

| Rates of dividend per £1 of purchases. | Number of Societies. | | | Membership of Societies making returns in 2nd quarter of 1897. | | Percentage for corresponding period of 1896. |
|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--------|--|-------------|--|
| | England and Wales. | Scotland and Ireland. | Total. | Number. | Percentage. | |
| | | | | | | |
| No dividend | 11 | 1 | 12 | 2,127 | 0.2 | |
| Sixpence and under | 4 | 1 | 5 | 2,376 | 0.2 | |
| Over 6d. but not exceeding 1s. | 33 | — | 33 | 14,321 | 1.3 | |
| " 1s. 6d. " 1s. 6d. | 64 | 3 | 67 | 43,224 | 3.9 | |
| " 1 6 " " 2 0 | 123 | 11 | 134 | 201,344 | 17.9 | |
| " 2 0 " " 2 6 | 93 | 29 | 122 | 161,542 | 14.4 | |
| " 2 6 " " 3 0 | 149 | 48 | 197 | 394,197 | 35.1 | |
| " 3 0 " " 3 6 | 106 | 39 | 145 | 208,981 | 18.6 | |
| " 3 6 " " 4 0 | 56 | 31 | 87 | 81,747 | 7.3 | |
| " 4 0 " " 4 6 | 11 | 10 | 21 | 8,275 | 0.7 | |
| " 4 6 " " 5 0 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 3,879 | 0.4 | |
| " 5 0 " " 5 0 | — | 1 | 1 | 328 | — | |
| Totals | 656 | 177 | 833 | 1,122,341 | 100.0 | |

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON LABOUR LEGISLATION AT BRUSSELS.

ON September 27th and following days an International Congress on Labour Legislation was held in Brussels, the principal subjects of discussion being the progress which has been made in labour legislation since the conference at Berlin in 1890, the regulation of home industries, the possibility of an international understanding for the regulation of dangerous and unhealthy occupations, the inspection of factories, and the establishment of an International Office for Labour Statistics. The Congress was opened under the presidency of the Duc d'Ursel, the President of the Higher Council of Labour.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN GERMANY IN 1896.*

THE figures hitherto published in the GAZETTE (June, 1894, page 190; October, 1894, page 318; and June, 1897, page 169) as to the work of Industrial Courts (*Gewerbegerichte*) in Germany, have related only to the action of these courts as tribunals for the settlement of differences arising out of claims in respect of existing conditions of employment, the decisions of Industrial Courts being in such cases final, so long as the matter in dispute does not exceed the value of £5. The law of July 29th, 1890, however, provides that an Industrial Court may form itself into a board of conciliation for the settlement of disputes relating to future conditions of labour. Under this law an Industrial Court can only act as a board of conciliation in such disputes when an application to that effect has been made to it by both of the parties interested. Its decision in such cases is not binding, and cannot be enforced. Its duty is to bring about, if possible, an amicable agreement, or, failing that, to give its decision as arbitrator, and notify it to the parties concerned, who have to declare within a given time whether they will accept it or not. An award, to be valid, must be pronounced by a majority of the Board. In case of a tie the president may give a casting vote, or may declare that no decision can be arrived at. In general, the decision as to the establishment of an Industrial Court is left by the law to the authorities of the parish, or of a union of parishes; but should those authorities prove remiss, the employers or workmen concerned may apply to the Central Government Authorities of the State for an order for the establishment of a Court. There were 284 Industrial Courts in existence in Germany in 1896. Each court consists of a president and at least two assessors, but when the court acts as a board of conciliation there must be at least four assessors. The president, who is nominated by the parish authorities—his nomination being, however, subject to Government approval—may neither be an employer nor a workman. The assessors are elected for at least a year, one-half by the employers and one-half by the employees of the district, and in the trades in which the Court has jurisdiction. They must be over 30 years of age, must have lived, or been employed, for at least two years in the district, and be free from any legal disability; they cannot refuse election except for special reasons, and are compensated for travelling expenses and loss of time. All persons over 25 who would be eligible under the above rules are voters.

When a court acts as a board of conciliation, the parties are represented by deputations, limited in number (as a rule not more than three persons for each side) and further assessors may be named in equal numbers by each side, provided the persons so named are not concerned in the dispute.

According to *Das Gewerbegericht* (the organ of the Federation of German Industrial Courts) of September 2, 1897, the number of cases in 1896, in which the intervention of an Industrial Court as a board of conciliation was sought by both parties to a dispute, was 42, in 39 of which proceedings took place, the remaining three cases being settled by the parties themselves on or before the day appointed for a meeting. Twenty of the 39 cases were settled by the Industrial Courts; 18 by conciliation, and 2 by arbitration. Of the 19 cases of failure to effect settlements, 11 were due to the refusal of one or both of the parties to submit to an award pronounced by the Court (4 refusals being by employers, 6 by workpeople, and 1 by both sides); 6 were due to inability on the part of the Court to arrive at an award, and 2 to other causes not stated.

TRADE UNIONS IN GERMANY IN 1896.

A recent number of *Correspondenzblatt der Generalkommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands* gives figures as to the present position of the "Gewerkschaften" (social-democratic trade unions). The number of central federations at the end of 1896 was 51;

* Based on *Das Gewerbegericht* of September 2nd, 1897, *Gesetz betreffend die Gewerbegerichte vom 29. Juli, 1890, Berlin, 1891*, and Foreign Office Report, Misc. Series, 1891, No. 212.

the returns made by these organisations show that they included 5,430 branch societies, and that their total mean membership during 1896 was 329,230 (313,965 male, 15,265 female), while the non-federated local unions making returns as to membership comprised 5,858 persons—giving a grand total of 335,088. The 50 federations which made returns as to their financial position had in 1896 a total income for trade union purposes of £180,822. Their expenditure for trade purposes was in 1896 £54,377; for unemployed, travelling, sick, superannuation and other similar benefits £54,751; while the publication of trade union organs cost £18,135, and their office expenses (at head offices) came to £14,617. The funds in hand at the end of the year amounted to £116,184.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE Third International Co-operative Congress was held at Delft, in Holland, on September 14th to 17th, and was attended by a large number of delegates and visitors from different countries (including the United Kingdom, which was represented by 27 delegates, Holland, France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, Germany, Russia, and the United States). Mr. Schloss was present on behalf of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade.

The Committee appointed by the preceding Congress to study the questions of profit-sharing and of co-partnership brought up its report, in which definitions of these terms were drawn up. The definition of profit-sharing which was based upon that laid down by the International Congress on Profit-sharing, held at Paris in 1889 ("an agreement, freely entered into, by which the employee receives a share, fixed in advance, of the profits"), was adopted by the Congress; but it was determined to omit all that part of the Committee's report which dealt with Co-partnership—a resolution, however, being adopted which declared the importance of organising an active propaganda in favour of this principle. The Statistical Committee reported that they intended to take up the statistics of one class of co-operation each year, and would begin with those of co-operative credit associations. With regard to agricultural co-operation, the Congress passed a resolution advising the establishment of central organisations undertaking the collective purchase of seeds, manures, &c., and of machines and instruments required for agriculture, and of all other articles used by the agricultural population, and the collective sale of the articles produced by the co-operators. It was resolved that, in order to promote international commercial relations between co-operators, information bureaux shall be established in various countries, and an international list of products, &c., shall be published by the Executive Bureau of the International Co-operative Alliance.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN SEPTEMBER.

(For Detailed Tables, see p. 311).

THE following table contains a summary of the number of workpeople killed or injured by industrial accidents in September, 1897, and 1896, respectively, so far as reported. It will be seen that the number killed was greater by 12 in September, 1897, than in September, 1896, and the number reported as injured greater by 533.

| Occupations. | Killed. | | Injured. | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Sept. 1897. | Sept. 1896. | Sept. 1897. | Sept. 1896. |
| Railway Servants— | | | | |
| Accidents connected with movement of vehicles | 37 | 37 | 338 | 377 |
| Other accidents | 2 | 5 | 714 | 787 |
| Miners | 70 | 72 | 359 | 431 |
| Quarrymen | 8 | 8 | 57 | 55 |
| Seamen | 119 | 109 | 193 | 145 |
| Factory and Workshop Operatives— | | | | |
| (1) Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons— | | | | |
| In Factories | 42 | 40 | 1,278 | 1,196 |
| In Workshops | — | — | — | — |
| (a) Other Accidents (non-fatal and only reported to Inspectors)— | | | | |
| In Factories | — | — | 2,230 | 1,649 |
| In Workshops | — | — | 15 | — |
| Others (so far as reported) | 8 | 3 | 101 | 112 |
| Totals | 286 | 274 | 5,285 | 4,752 |

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(i) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Dispute at the Trent Sanitary Works, Hanley.

On June 24th the sanitary earthenware pressers, employed at the Trent Sanitary Works, Hanley, to the number of about 200, came out on strike against a proposed alteration in the method of payment of wages, involving the abolition of the system previously adopted, by which the men were allowed to draw 75 per cent. of their wages due on clay work before put into the oven, and 87½ per cent. in biscuit oven.

On August 30th an application was received by the Board of Trade from the men to take action under the Conciliation Act, with a view to the settlement of the dispute. An officer of the Department visited the district on September 3rd, and had several interviews with the parties concerned, and, as the result of these negotiations, a meeting of the men was held the following week to consider certain suggestions which had been made. A settlement of the dispute was, however, not then made, and the officer of the Department again visited the district on September 13th, and had several interviews with the employers, and with the representative of the men. On the 14th a meeting took place of two of the employers, two members of the strike committee, and the officer from the Board of Trade, and the following agreement was drawn up. This agreement was subsequently ratified at a meeting of the sanitary pressers employed by the firm, and also at a district meeting:—

All the men on strike may return to work up to Thursday, September 16th, at 4 p.m., on the following conditions:—

- Pressers of all classes of work, with the exception of lavatories 25 by 18 and larger ones, shall be allowed a three weeks' balance. The pressers of the large lavatories will be allowed a four weeks' balance. The balance to be fixed for three months, as published in the *Daily Sentinel*, subject to individual alterations where the men can point out that the balance is not sufficient. Revision of balances will take place on personal application of workmen based on earnings extending over a period of not less than three months.
- If men are ordered to work so that their stipulated balance does not cover the amount of work they have in the clay shop, then their balance will be increased in proportion to their balances.
- If men's work of a particular class is not required for orders or stock, they can at all times cease work, on receiving permission from the "order-getter up," and what work there is to give will be equally divided between that class of men, but in all cases the employers will make every effort to see that absolute impartiality is observed between all classes of workmen. The firm will be always ready to hear and deal with legitimate grievances.
- On their return to work, all monies due will be paid to the workmen.

NOTE: Definition.—

If a man's clay work goes over his stipulated balance he shall go to the Manager, and find out whether his work is needed, and if he orders him to go to work, he shall receive his week's wages in proportion to his balance.

N.B.—There will be no counting at all, and no percentage.

The men returned to work on September 16th. On the 17th a disagreement arose over the construction of clause (d), and the men again ceased work and applied for the assistance of the Board of Trade. The difficulty was satisfactorily adjusted at a meeting between the firm and a deputation of the men on the 18th, and work was finally resumed on September 20th.

Registration of a Conciliation Board.

The Board of Conciliation for Cotton Warp Dyers (West Riding of the County of York) was registered by the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act, 1896, on September 24th, 1897.

(ii) OTHER CASES.

Formation of a Joint-Committee of Platers and Helpers at Hull.

A dispute, occurring in a shipbuilding yard at Hull, between platers and their helpers, has led to the formation of a permanent joint committee. The dispute was due to the platers refusing to entertain any claim for compensation in the event of the helpers not being able to start work in the morning, through the platers missing the first quarter of the day. A question, also, arose as to the hour at which the helpers should commence work, the platers demanding that they should start earlier than heretofore. The helpers offered to refer all questions of compensation for lost time to a joint committee of representatives of the two parties, with an independent chairman, provided that they should continue to commence work at the usual time (6.30 a.m.). This offer was ultimately accepted, and work was resumed on these terms on October 1st. The agreement between the parties is to remain in force for at least three months, and afterwards may be terminated by either party giving a month's notice.

The South Wales Sliding Scale.

The representatives of the miners on the South Wales and Monmouthshire sliding scale joint committee have given formal notice to the coal owners to terminate the sliding scale agreement, dated 1st January, 1892, on the 31st March next. A ballot of the workmen on the question had resulted in 41,880 voting in favour of giving notice, and 12,178 against. The existing agreement regulates the wages of about 100,000 workpeople.

New List for Mule Twiners in the Oldham District.

A list for mule twiners, which has been under consideration for some time past, was signed by representatives of employers and operatives on September 25th, and came into effect on October 1st. Twiners' weekly wages for counts of 25's and upwards are fixed at 31s. per week for pairs of mules of 800 spindles and less, with 4d. extra for every 40 extra spindles. For counts below 16's, 2s. per week is to be added, and for counts from 16's to 24's inclusive, 1s. per week. Much discussion has taken place as to the extra to be paid for quick speeds, the employers and operatives having been unable for some time to agree on what quickness of speed constituted a claim to an extra. It has now been agreed that amounts of from 4d. per second for 800 spindles to 7½d. per second for 2,120 spindles, with ¼d. extra for every further 40 spindles, shall be paid in case mules with a 70 inch draw run quicker than 3 draws in 56 seconds when on counts below 60's, and 3 draws in 62 seconds when on higher counts. For other lengths of draw the speed is to be found by proportion as in the case of spinning mules. Extras for double decked mules and for tubing, turning strings, breaking out, twining off, labouring, etc., are also provided for in the new list.

New Wages Statement for Cycle Shoes at Kettering.

A statement of wages for making and finishing cycle shoes has been agreed to by the employers and workpeople at Kettering, through the medium of the Arbitration Board for the boot and shoe trade. The agreement came into operation on October 1st.

Bakers and Confectioners at Nottingham.

At a conference held on September 9th between the representatives of the Nottingham Master Bakers' and Confectioners' Association and the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers and Confectioners, an agreement regulating the wages and hours of labour, &c. of bakers and confectioners at Nottingham was drawn up and signed.

This agreement fixes the hours, including meal times, at 66 per week for bread bakers and 60 for other classes. Foremen are to be paid 32s. per week, first and single hands 30s., second hands 28s., third hands 26s., and junior hands 20s. Overtime is to be limited to 10 hours per week, and paid time and a quarter; Sunday work (except sponging and fermenting) to be paid time and a half.

Jobbing hands are to be paid 6s. per day for foremen and single hands, 5s. for other adults, and 4s. for junior hands, with overtime at the rate of 8d., 7d. and 6d. per hour respectively. The hours for night workers are to be 54 per week, or two hours per day less than day workers. The Trade Union signing the agreement has about 200 members. The agreement came into operation on September 13th.

Working Rules in the Exeter Building Trades.

A Joint Committee representing the building trades of Exeter District has agreed to a set of working rules which came into force on October 4th. The wages per hour are fixed for bricklayers (7½d.), carpenters and joiners (7d.), and walling masons (7½d.), until March 1st, 1898. After that date these classes secure an advance of ¼d. per hour, and rates of wages for plasterers (7d.), and hodmen and navvies (5d.) also come into force. The rules may be altered by four months' notice, to expire on July 1st of any year. They provide for questions of interpretation or infringement being referred to a Conciliation Board appointed when necessary, and in case of disagreement to arbitrators and umpire.

NOTE.—With reference to the summary of the award in the arbitration at the Bestwood Ironworks, Nottingham, which appeared in the September GAZETTE (p. 263), it should be explained that, while extra assistance was given to the topmen, the claims of the mine and fire fillers were not conceded.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.*

Employment of Children.—Negligence.—A machine-minder, aged 13 years, claimed damages from a firm of canister-makers for injuries received while in their service. The plaintiff's duty was to stamp tin lids by a machine worked by a treadle. While engaged on this machine the die or press, used for stamping the tin lids, came down on plaintiff's hand, and crushed three of her fingers, one being permanently injured. It was stated that, just before the accident, when the girl put her foot on the treadle, the die did not come down, whereupon she placed her hand on the platform of the machine to put the tin straight, and, as she was doing so, the die came down on her fingers. Evidence was given that about eight other girls had been injured during the year. The case for the defendants was that the injuries were caused by the neglect of the plaintiff, she having admitted that she had not put in the tin straight. In giving judgment the Court found that, though the machine was supposed to start instantaneously, it was evident that it did stick occasionally; that had the action been brought by a man he would probably not have been successful, but that a young child could not be expected to understand the machine. The Court further expressed the opinion that it was to be regretted that such young girls should be employed on such machines. Judgment for plaintiff. Damages £25 and costs.—*Salford County Court, August 27th.*

Compensation for Pain and Suffering.—A labourer sued a firm of contractors for injuries received while working in their employment at the erection of a warehouse. The case for the plaintiff was that when the first floor of the warehouse was completed, the workmen, under the superintendence of the foreman, proceeded to raise a girder which was to be fixed on the second floor. The girder was placed on a trolley which slipped, and falling on plaintiff broke his leg. Plaintiff contended that the appliances for the removal of the girder, and the construction of the gangway, were not suitable, or were not properly fixed; that the foreman was guilty of negligence; and that the accident could have been avoided if greater care had been exercised. Plaintiff claimed compensation for loss of wages, and also for pain and suffering. Defendants' case was that the accident was due to the carelessness of the men engaged in hauling the girder; that the floor over which it was hauled was sufficiently solid, and that the foreman had nothing to do with the superintendence of the removal of the girders. It was also contended that plaintiff could not claim compensation for pain and suffering. The Court found that an inadequate and insufficient roadway was made; that the method employed of pulling heavy weights about was highly dangerous; that the foreman was in authority and had to be obeyed; that he was aware that the workmen were going to pull an enormously heavy weight over a transitory and shaking kind of roadway, and that great negligence had been exhibited. Judgment was given for plaintiff for £20 for loss of wages, and for £10 for pain and suffering incurred, the Court holding that the plaintiff was entitled to the same kind of damages under the Employers' Liability Act as he was at common law.—*Sheffield County Court, September 17.*

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Dismissal of Workman.—Claim for Part of Weekly Wages.—A lacemaker claimed from a firm of lace manufacturers 8s. 2d. as wages for work done by him on three days in July. Defendants claimed 10s. for loss sustained through having to keep one of their

*Under this heading are also included actions at Common Law to recover from employers compensation for injuries to workpeople.

machines idle in consequence of plaintiff's misconduct. Plaintiff had two shifts at the factory, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Plaintiff's case was that on a certain Monday in July, feeling unwell, he asked the commissionaire at the door to be allowed to go out, but that he replied that it was against the rules for a workman to go out when the machines were working, except with a certificate from the manager. Accordingly plaintiff left the factory of his own accord. Next morning he was told his services were no longer required. He claimed wages for work done on the Friday, Saturday and Monday. It was contended on his behalf that the contract under which plaintiff was engaged was one which renewed itself with every piece of work performed, and that therefore plaintiff was entitled to be paid for work actually done. Defendants' case was that on the Monday in question plaintiff did not arrive until 7.15 a.m., and left at 8.30 a.m., and that he did not come again until 1.50 p.m. and left at 2.15 p.m.; that in consequence of plaintiff's dismissal the machine was partly idle during the week. Defendants contended that the plaintiff's misconduct which resulted in his dismissal barred him from claiming for wages on account of work performed during the week. The Court considered that the case was one of some difficulty, but made an order on defendants for 8s. 2d., and dismissed the counter-claim. No costs were allowed.—*Nottingham Police-court, August 31st.*

(3) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Absence of Shuttle-guards.—A manufacturer was prosecuted for neglecting to have shuttle-guards fixed at his mill. It was stated that in June a delicate girl, in his employment, was struck by a flying shuttle in the side; and, although she continued working for about ten days, she then left her employment, and shortly afterwards died from the result of the injury. The girl's parents had received £50 as compensation. It was stated that since the accident happened guards had been provided. Fined 20s. and costs.—*Bolton County-court, September 27.*

Failure to Supply Sufficient Particulars.—A firm of woollen manufacturers, and also a firm of cotton manufacturers, were fined, in the one case £1 and £1 5s. 6d. costs, and in the other £1 and £3 10s. 6d. costs, for failure to supply sufficient particulars of work to 3 and to 5 employees respectively.—*West Riding Police-court, Halifax, September 11th, and Borough Police-court, Burnley, September 29th.*

ENGAGEMENT AND DISCHARGE OF BRITISH SEAMEN ABROAD.

The report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of the engagement and discharge of British seamen at Continental ports within the home trade limits has been published as a Parliamentary Paper (C.—8577; price 1½d.). The Committee conclude that Section 186 of the Merchant Shipping Act (which deals with the discharge of seamen in foreign countries) is not at present fully understood and acted on. They consider that the intention of the Act is that "the owner shall not under any circumstances be able to divest himself of the obligation to provide, by one of several methods, for the repatriation of his men when discharged abroad," and that "Consuls should invariably—as in many cases they already do—bring this fact prominently before masters whenever they are discharging seamen."

The Committee also conclude that the remittance fees under the Money Order and Transmission systems, in the case of larger sums, unduly high, and deter seamen from remitting wages home; and lastly, that as regards the ports selected for inquiry the operations of shipping masters have resulted in the exaction of exorbitant fees from seamen as the price of securing employment, and should, as far as possible, be diminished or put an end to.

The following are the recommendations of the Committee:—

- That revised Consular instructions should be issued in regard to Section 186, and that owners should be informed of the effect thereof.
- That fees charged for remittances under the Money Order and Transmission systems should be abolished.
- That advance notes should be examined by the Consul or Vice-Consul to see that the amount entered thereon agrees with the amount signed for in the articles, and that it bears no endorsement of any shipping fee, and that the note should be handed by the Consul or Vice-Consul direct to the seaman.
- That the shipping office and staff of the Consulate—at all events at the ports of Hamburg, Antwerp and Rotterdam—should be separate from the general office and staff, and should be established near the docks.
- That to these shipping offices should be attached a yard or waiting-room for seamen.
- That shipping masters should be refused admission to such offices and yards.
- That owners should be asked to co-operate in these arrangements by instructing their captains to offer every facility to seamen to gain employment by direct application to them.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.—The offer of employment to persons of the agricultural class on the construction of the railway through the Crow's Nest Pass remains open until the close of the navigation of the river St. Lawrence, that is, till the latter part of November. Approved applicants—who must, among other conditions, pay their own passages to Montreal—sailing before that time will obtain such employment. Application must be made to the High Commissioner for Canada, at 17, Victoria-street, London, S.W. There was a surplus of ordinary farm labourers in Ontario last summer, and wages tended downwards. In Manitoba there was a large demand for extra men during harvesting and threshing, which was supplied by "Harvest Excursions" from the Eastern Provinces.

Warning to Intending Emigrants.—The attention of the Managing Committee of the Emigrants' Information Office having been drawn to various advertisements of persons or syndicates professing to dispatch parties of emigrants and prospectors to the Klondyke goldfields, the public is warned that these goldfields are not at present accessible to ordinary emigrants, and is strongly urged not to send money in consequence of such advertisements without making inquiry either at this office (31, Broadway, Westminster) or at the office of the High Commissioner for Canada, 17, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

New South Wales.—A strike has taken place among the gold miners at Lucknow, near Orange, owing to a reduction in their wages. There is a considerable number of workmen at Sydney who are unable to find employment. The coal trade at the Newcastle collieries has been very slack, and many hands have been discharged.

Victoria.—Heavy rain has fallen after a protracted drought, and the prospects of the farmer have greatly improved in consequence. Reports from Ballarat and Sale state that there is no demand for labour in those districts, and that at Ballarat a good many artisans and mechanics have been out of work. There is also a considerable number of unemployed persons at Melbourne. The Wages Board, acting under the authority of the Factories and Shops Acts, has fixed the minimum wage to be paid to adult males in the boot trade at 7s. 6d. per day of 8 hours, and that to females of 18 years of age and upwards at 20s. per week of 48 hours. The vine-growing industry—for which the country is admirably suited by nature—is now in a very depressed condition owing to the low prices offered for the wine, and the general want of co-operation among the wine producers. According to the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1896, which has just been issued, the number of factories in that year was the largest on record, but the number of employees was 7,000 less than in 1890, though larger than in any of the intervening years except 1891; the largest increases in the number of employees were in the following classes of trade: Clothing, dresses and millinery, foundries, furniture, printing and stationery, and shirts.

South Australia.—There is no demand for anyone except for female servants. Owing greatly to the general depression very little labour is employed on farms, and many men are roaming through the country seeking work. Abundant rains, however, have recently fallen, so that prospects should gradually improve.

Queensland.—There is a demand in agricultural districts for good farm labourers. At Roma, the centre of a good wine and wheat district, 317 miles west of Brisbane, there is a demand for country carpenters, and especially for female general servants.

Western Australia.—A correspondent in the South-west states: "There is a good demand for farm labourers; it is most difficult to get a man to do any job; men with families are preferred."

* 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.

New Zealand.—Most of the last reports were dated in August, which is one of the winter months; work was therefore generally dull, and outdoor employment in the North Island was very slack, owing to the wet weather. The building trades at Christchurch and Dunedin especially were doing very little; the most prosperous trade was the engineering trade, which was very busy at Dunedin, Christchurch and elsewhere, boiler-makers especially being in great request at Wellington. The winter being now practically over, work both in town and country is likely to be brisk during the next few months.

Cape Colony.—There is a steady demand for good cabinet-makers, upholsterers and compositors, and for good carpenters in the building trade.

Natal.—There is no demand for more labour, and the rinderpest is seriously affecting the agricultural and pastoral classes in this Colony, as in other parts of South Africa.

Bulawayo.—The following warning has been issued by the Acting Deputy Administrator at Bulawayo:—"Warning is hereby given to persons intending to proceed to Rhodesia from the various South African States, that it is undesirable until the Railway is open to Bulawayo for any person to proceed there who has not independent means of support, or who has not secured regular employment, as owing to the present difficulties of Transport, all Mining and Building operations are only being carried on to a limited extent, and the cost of living is too high for those not in regular employment."

Transvaal.—The great depression in the Transvaal continues, and considerable numbers of clerks, mechanics and labourers at Johannesburg and other towns, have been thrown out of work, the supply of carpenters, bricklayers, masons, plumbers, painters and brickmakers especially being more than the demand; no one therefore should emigrate there now.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Coal Mining in August.*—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in August was 5.91 as compared with 5.85 in the previous month. In August full time (six days and over) was worked by 70 per cent., and from five to six days by 29 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 75 and 23 respectively. The pits making these returns employ three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Labour Disputes in September.†—Information was received by the French Labour Department in September of 35 new disputes, compared with 29 in the preceding month and 26 in September, 1896. Two disputes begun before September were also in progress at the beginning of that month. The trades most affected by the new disputes were those of the textile and building groups, each of which had 7 disputes. Five took place in mines and quarries (including 3 in slate quarries), 5 in the woodworking trades, 3 in the boot and shoe trades, and the rest in unclassified trades. The total number of persons known to have been directly involved in 28 of the 35 new disputes was 4,102, the largest number engaged in any one dispute being 1,000. This was a strike of slate-quarrymen of Trélazé (Maine-et-Loire) for increased wages and the dismissal of a foreman, begun on September 29th, and still in progress at the end of the month. Among the causes of disputes, the most frequent were demands for increased wages (15), and for a shorter working day (5).

In 4 out of 22 disputes which ended in September the workpeople were successful, in 11 partially successful, and in 7 unsuccessful.

Conciliation and Arbitration in September.†—The Conciliation and Arbitration Law was put in operation in September in connection with 10 disputes. The

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, September, 1897.

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

initiative was taken by the workpeople in 7 and by the *juge de paix* in 2 cases, information on this point being wanting in respect of one case. Conciliation committees were formed in 5 cases and settled 3 strikes. One of these involved 300 masons and bricklayers, another 108 weavers, and the third 45 plumbers.

One of the disputes in which the law was put in operation without effect involves 500 chairmakers belonging to three factories. At one of the establishments the men struck against deductions being made from wages for the use of electric light and for insurance. The men at the other two factories were locked out by the employers with a view to putting an end to the original dispute. The employer originally affected refuses to make any concessions.

Restriction of Production in Cotton Spinning Trade.—Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Paris, in a communication to the Foreign Office, dated October 1, states that he learns on good authority that no result will ensue from the resolutions passed at the meeting of cotton spinners of the Rouen district referred to in last month's GAZETTE (page 265).

This result is said to be attributable to three causes: (1) Owing to orders coming in from Algiers and Tunis, where the harvest is stated to have been good;

(2) Owing to orders expected from Madagascar, where the stocks now held are chiefly of British and American goods, both of which, it is hoped, will be driven out of the market by the new prohibitive duties on cotton goods other than French, and,

(3) Owing to the rumour of an impending crisis in the cotton industry in England.

It is stated that these three causes combined are tending to improve the situation in Normandy, and that there is very little prospect of any concerted action being taken, as was proposed, to curtail the production of the cotton mills.

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes in September.—The most noteworthy of the disputes reported on in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* in September occurred among the ironmoulders in Berlin. The trouble began on August 23rd, when the moulders at a certain foundry refused to undertake a particular job at the piece-rate offered by the employer. On being given to understand that the work was to be sent out, they went out on strike. On behalf of the employer, it is stated that the men demanded a rate which was 25 per cent. above what had been previously paid for similar work. The moulders, however, contended that the conditions in this case involved their doing the work of coremakers along with their own. Owing to the efforts of the employer to get the work done at other foundries, and the refusal of the men in those foundries to handle it, the dispute extended, and, on October 7th, it was reported by *Soziale Praxis* that 654 moulders at 26 foundries were involved. In view of the threatened extension of the dispute to the whole of the Berlin metal trades, the Industrial Court offered its services as a board of conciliation, the offer being in the first instance refused by the employers, who, however, subsequently accepted it. The terms of a compromise were fixed by the Court on October 5th, and laid before the parties, who were to declare their acceptance or rejection within three days. It is understood that the men, though not entirely approving of the suggested terms, have declared the strike to be at an end. No details of the settlement have, however, been received.

Other important disputes reported in September were strikes of miners for increased wages in Prussian Silesia. In one case 1,200 colliers belonging to the Helenengrube in Scharley went out, and are said to have returned to work unconditionally. Another case was a strike of 700 zinc miners of the "Jenny Otto" mine in Beuthen, who were forthwith discharged, but of whom 650 were subsequently re-engaged.

Operations of Public Labour Registries in September.—The following figures are based on particulars contained in *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, a new monthly journal which is being issued by Dr. Jastrow, who retired on October 1st from the post of editor of *Soziale Praxis*, (hitherto the source from which the figures published each month under this head in the GAZETTE, since March, 1897, have been taken):—The total number of situations offered by employers in September at 45 of the municipal or municipally subsidized registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, was 32,496, as compared with 29,822 in the preceding month, and 27,120 in September, 1896.

The number of situations sought by workpeople during the

month was 38,008, compared with 36,222 in the previous month, and 35,967 in September, 1896. The number of situations found was 24,422, compared with 21,329 in the previous month, and 20,610 in September, 1896.

Agreement in the Bookbinding Trade in Leipsic.—A uniform wages and hours list, drawn up jointly by the employers and journeymen of the Leipsic bookbinding trade, came into operation on September 1st. With a few exceptions all the bookbinding firms of Leipsic have signified in writing their adherence to the tariff.

SWITZERLAND.

Labour Disputes in September.—No dispute of importance is reported in Swiss labour papers* to have occurred during September.

Conciliation in Labour Disputes by the Industrial Court of Berne.—From an account of the work of the Industrial Court of the town of Berne in 1896, contained in *Der Grütliener* of September 30th, it appears that the Court acted as a board of conciliation in connection with four collective labour disputes in that year, effecting settlements in the case of three.

Child Labour in Silk Factories in Ticino.—*Der Grütliener* of October 7th states that since 1880 the provision of the Federal Factory Act of 1877, which forbids the employment of children under the age of 14 years in factories, has been suspended in the case of silk manufactories in the Canton of Ticino, the employment of children in those factories being permitted from the age of 12 years. This privilege, it is stated, has now been withdrawn.

Demands of Swiss Textile Operatives.—The meeting of the Swiss Textile Workers' Union, held in Zürich on September 5th, was attended by 16 delegates from 11 branches, and passed resolutions in favour of an early amendment of the Factory Act with a view to (1) the working day being limited to 10, instead of (as at present) to 11 hours; (2) the appointment of women factory inspectors, and (3) the closing of factories on Saturday afternoons.

BELGIUM.

International Diamond Workers' Congress.—The International Diamond Workers' Congress began its sittings in Antwerp on Sunday, September 19th, representatives attending from all the Belgian, Dutch and English diamond workers' unions, and from Hanau, the seat of the German diamond cutting industry. It is proposed to establish an "International League." The chief question discussed related to the exclusion of children from diamond cutting workshops. —*Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger*.

Communal Assistance for Trade Unions paying Unemployed Benefit.—The Communal Council of Ghent has under consideration a scheme by which it is intended (1) to grant subventions to trade unions which provide for their members when out of work, and (2) to establish a fund which would make similar provision for workpeople not belonging to any trade union.—*Soziale Praxis*.

HOLLAND.

Bill for Compulsory Insurance of Workmen against Accidents.—According to *Soziale Praxis* of September 9th, the Government has introduced a Bill for the compulsory insurance of workers in certain trades (including mining, shipping, and transport) against accidents. For death the proposed compensation is 10 per cent. of the yearly wages of the deceased as burial money, and a pension, amounting to 30 per cent. of such wages, to the surviving wife, husband or parent, and 15 per cent. to each child. For total disablement it is proposed to give a pension of 70 per cent. of the yearly wage, and for partial disablement a pension proportioned to the degree of disablement. Employers will be divided into classes paying different rates of premium. The Bank of Holland is to be responsible for the suitable investment of accumulated funds. The Austrian method of *Kapital-Deckung* is to be adopted, so that the capitalised value of the obligations incurred during the year will be levied on the employers at the end of the year.—*Soziale Praxis*.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Strike of Masons and Bricklayers in Buda-Pesth.—From information contained in a report supplied by Mr. Beauclerk, H.M. Consul-General at Buda-Pesth, under date of September 17th, this strike—of which an account appeared on p. 266 of last month's GAZETTE—had practically come to an end, very few of the men still remaining out. The employers, it is stated, have been able to withstand the pressure brought to bear upon them without calling in the assistance of 4,000 outside workmen, whom they could have procured as a last resource.

* *Der Grütliener* and *Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschafts- und Sozialpolitik*.

Other Disputes in September.—Of the disputes reported in Austrian employers' and workmen's papers* as having begun in September, two only are of sufficient importance to be mentioned. One was a strike in the chandelier-making trade of Vienna, begun on September 29th, in order to obtain a working day of 9 hours, minimum wages of 18s. 4d. per week, the abolition of piece-work, and the employers' recognition of the trade union labour registry. Of some 700 workers in 8 establishments said to be employed in the trade in Vienna, 600 were stated to be on strike on October 4th. The second dispute was a strike of some 1,000 building operatives in Fünfkirchen employed in the construction of a military college. Further particulars with regard to this dispute are wanting.

Accident Insurance by a "Trade Group" in Metal and Engineering Trades.—At a meeting of metal-workers held in Vienna on Sept. 5th a resolution was adopted protesting against the proposed substitution of the "trade group" system for the territorial system in the metal and engineering trades, on the ground that the effect of such a change would be hostile to the interests of the workpeople.—(See GAZETTE, July 1897, p. 202.)

Wages Movement among Miners in Western Bohemia.—Meetings of miners were held on September 26th in all the mining centres of Western Bohemia, at each of which a resolution was passed for demanding an increase of 15 per cent. in wages and the introduction of a 10 hours shift for all persons employed in or about the mines. The miners' delegates have been instructed to request the mineowners to reply to these demands within a fortnight.

DENMARK.

Lock-out in the Iron Trade in Denmark.—The settlement of this dispute is reported by Sir C. S. Scott, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, to have taken place on September 10th (See GAZETTE, July, 1897, p. 202, and September, 1897, p. 267), an agreement having been come to between the representatives of the employers' and workmen's unions.

Work was resumed in all the factories and workshops on Monday, September 13th.

By the terms of the agreement the employers are safeguarded against the frequent recurrence of labour disputes by an article which prohibits the declaration of a strike or lock-out before the matter in dispute has been referred to arbitration.

These arbitration rules are to be adopted by all branches of the iron industry in Denmark; the workmen, on their side, have obtained the abolition of the unpopular discharge certificates, which appear to be have been the main cause of their discontent.

ITALY.

Co-operative Societies in Italy at the end of 1896.—According to figures contained in a report presented to the International Co-operative Congress, held in Delft in September, by Comm. Lorenzo Ponti, the delegate of the National Federation of Italian Co-operative Societies, and published in the organ of the Federation, *La Cooperazione Italiana*, of September 25th, the number of co-operative societies of all kinds in Italy at the end of 1896 was 3,698, as compared with 3,385 at the end of 1895.

The following statement shows the number and nature of the different kinds of societies of which these totals are made up, and the net increase in the number of each kind of society in 1896:—

| Nature of Society. | No. of Societies end of 1895. | No. of Societies end of 1896. | Net increase in number of these Societies in 1896. |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| People's Banks and Credit Societies | 750 | 754 | 4 |
| Rural Banks | 433 | 602 | 169 |
| Distributive Societies | 937 | 1,003 | 66 |
| Labour Societies of Masons, Bricklayers, Navvies, &c. | 441 | 492 | 51 |
| Dairy Societies | 394 | 400 | 6 |
| Societies for Building Houses for the use of Members | 79 | 79 | — |
| Productive and other Societies | 351 | 368 | 17 |
| Total | 3,385 | 3,698 | 313 |

* Including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), *Das Handels-Museum*, *Die Gewerkschaft*, *Die Arbeiter Zeitung*, and others.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Bituminous Coal Miners.—In a report dated September 26th, and forwarded through the Foreign Office by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, it is stated that the strike has, for the time being, stopped, but that neither the miners nor the coalowners appear to be satisfied. They are in no better position than they were on the day prior to the strike, nor are they any nearer a permanent basis of satisfactory business relations, so that the settlement really amounts to a truce.

In the State of Iowa, however, where coal has risen in price from 8s. 3d. to 12s. 4d. a ton, the miners, who number about 800, have perfected a strong organisation and say that they will not go back to work until they get a wage of 3s. 6d. a ton, an advance of 5d.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN SEPTEMBER.

[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.]

EMPLOYMENT during September was better in nearly every district than during August or than a year ago. The improvement during the month was most noticeable in the Midlands and in the West of England, particularly in pits producing chiefly house coal.

Returns received from 1,353 pits, employing 425,617 workpeople, show that an average of 5.24 days per week was worked at the pits, as compared with averages of 4.92 days in August, and 4.89 days in September, 1896. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

| District. | No. employed in Sept. 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|-----------------|----------------|
| | | 25th Sept. 1897 | 26th Sept. 1896 | 21st Aug. 1897 |
| England and Wales | 390,014 | 5.23 | 4.86 | 4.89 |
| Scotland | 35,151 | 5.33 | 5.20 | 5.25 |
| Ireland | 452 | 4.35 | 4.72 | 4.34 |
| United Kingdom | 425,617 | 5.24 | 4.89 | 4.92 |

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. Chiefly as the result of the seasonal improvement at house coal pits, employment at the various classes of pits shows less variation than for some months past.

| Description of Coal. | No. employed in Sept. 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table. | Number of days worked per week. | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept. 1897. |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | | September 1897 | August 1897 | |
| Coking Coal | 23,491 | 5.61 | 5.54 | + .07 |
| Gas | 32,693 | 5.25 | 5.05 | + .20 |
| House | 78,661 | 5.04 | 4.24 | + .80 |
| Manufacturing Coal | 17,366 | 5.21 | 4.90 | + .31 |
| Steam | 135,092 | 5.27 | 5.16 | + .11 |
| Mixed | 138,314 | 5.25 | 4.92 | + .33 |
| All Classes of Coal | 425,617 | 5.24 | 4.92 | + .32 |

Classifying the workpeople according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed, 74.7 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as against 64.0 per cent. in August, and 56.0 per cent. in September, 1896.

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. | September, 1897. | | Corresponding percentages in— | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| | No. of Workpeople employed. | Percentage proportion to total. | September 1896. | August 1897. |
| 24 days (full time) | 50,544 | 11.9 | 6.0 | 4.8 |
| 20 and under 24 days | 267,272 | 62.8 | 50.0 | 59.2 |
| 16 " " 20 " | 83,431 | 19.6 | 29.5 | 19.2 |
| 12 " " 16 " | 17,623 | 4.1 | 8.2 | 10.8 |
| 8 " " 12 " | 4,416 | 1.0 | 5.8 | 4.6 |
| Under 8 days | 2,331 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.6 |
| Total | 425,617 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—COAL AND IRON.

The number employed at the pits covered by the returns is greater by 6,874 in England and Wales, and by 616 in Scotland than a year ago.

Comparison by Districts.—West Scotland is the only district of any importance in which employment was not better than at the corresponding period of 1896. In Derbyshire, Nottingham and Leicester, and North Wales, the improvement amounted to something over two-thirds of a day, while in six of the remaining eleven districts an improvement of over half a day was recorded.

The highest averages worked during the month were in the Lothians (5.81 days), in Cumberland (5.72 days), and in Fife (5.63 days). The lowest were in Ireland (4.35 days), in Nottingham and Leicester (4.44 days), and in Lancashire and Cheshire (4.93 days). In the remaining 10 districts the average was between 5 and 5½ days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN SEPT., 1897 AND 1896, AND IN AUGUST, 1897.

| District. | No. employed in Sept. 1897 at the Collieries included in the Table. | Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept. 1897 as compared with | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------|-------------------|---|--------------|
| | | 25th Sept. 1897. | 26th Sept. 1896. | 21st August 1897. | A year ago. | A m'th ago. |
| ENGLAND & WALES. | | | | | | |
| Northumberland | 31,729 | 5.33 | 4.77 | 4.98 | + .56 | + .35 |
| Durham | 88,490 | 5.49 | 5.29 | 5.47 | + .20 | + .02 |
| Cumberland | 6,269 | 5.72 | 5.12 | 5.21 | + .60 | + .51 |
| Yorkshire | 48,102 | 5.26 | 4.70 | 4.93 | + .56 | + .33 |
| Lancashire and Cheshire | 46,663 | 4.93 | 4.71 | 4.72 | + .22 | + .21 |
| Nottingham and Leicester | 25,103 | 4.44 | 3.74 | 3.55 | + .70 | + .89 |
| Derbyshire | 37,930 | 5.11 | 4.40 | 4.30 | + .71 | + .81 |
| Staffordshire | 20,961 | 5.15 | 4.70 | 3.96 | + .45 | + 1.19 |
| Salop, Worcester and Warwick | 7,374 | 5.48 | 4.83 | 4.48 | + .65 | + 1.00 |
| Gloucester and Somerset | 7,248 | 5.06 | 4.42 | 3.94 | + .64 | + 1.12 |
| North Wales | 10,683 | 5.01 | 4.32 | 4.73 | + .69 | + .28 |
| South Wales & Monmouth | 59,462 | 5.41 | 5.30 | 5.47 | + .11 | + .06 |
| SCOTLAND. | | | | | | |
| West Scotland | 20,319 | 5.08 | 5.25 | 5.33 | - .17 | - .25 |
| The Lothians | 3,468 | 5.81 | 5.69 | 5.11 | + .12 | + .70 |
| Fife | 11,364 | 5.63 | 4.99 | 5.14 | + .64 | + .49 |
| IRELAND. | | | | | | |
| Ireland | 452 | 4.35 | 4.72 | 4.34 | - .37 | + .01 |
| Grand Total & Averages | 425,617 | 5.24 | 4.89 | 4.92 | + .35 | + .32 |

Percentage of Unemployed.—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.6 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of September, the same percentage as at the end of August. The percentage a year ago was 1.2.

Exports of Coal.—During September 3,197,400 tons of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel were exported, as compared with 3,406,053 tons in August, and 2,914,758 tons in September, 1896.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT was good in this industry during September and was better than in August, in which month, however, some interruption was occasioned by holidays. As compared with September, 1896, most districts show an improvement in the number of days worked, the exceptions being the Cleveland and the Staffordshire and Shropshire districts. The total number of persons employed at the 129 mines included in the returns was 5.6 per cent. greater in September than a year ago.

The 17,066 workpeople covered by the returns, worked an average of 5.79 days per week in the four weeks ended September 25th, as against 5.65 days in August and 5.78 days in September, 1896. Of the total number employed, 84.8 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 81.1 in August and 85.8 per cent. a year ago.

The following tables summarise the returns received:—

(I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

| District. | No. employed in Sept. 1897 at the Mines included in the Table. | Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in September, 1897, as compared with | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|------------------|-------------------|---|--------------|
| | | 25th Sept. 1897. | 26th Sept. 1896. | 21st August 1897. | A year ago. | A month ago. |
| ENGLAND— | | | | | | |
| Cumberland and Lancashire | 6,335 | 5.96 | 5.92 | 5.93 | + .04 | + .03 |
| Cleveland | 6,468 | 5.72 | 5.80 | 5.63 | - .08 | + .09 |
| Lincolnshire and Leicestershire | 639 | 5.62 | 5.48 | 5.95 | + .14 | - .33 |
| Northamptonshire and Staffordshire | 665 | 5.95 | 5.49 | 5.69 | + .46 | + .26 |
| Shropshire | 1,477 | 5.28 | 5.37 | 4.31 | - .09 | + .97 |
| Other places in England | 265 | 5.70 | 5.40 | 5.63 | + .30 | + .07 |
| SCOTLAND | 1,060 | 5.99 | 5.68 | 5.78 | + .31 | + .21 |
| IRELAND | 157 | 6.00 | 5.81 | 6.00 | + .19 | — |
| Total | 17,066 | 5.79 | 5.78 | 5.65 | + .01 | + .14 |

(II.) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—

| Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks. | September, 1897. | | Corresponding percentages in— | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| | No. of Workpeople employed. | Percentage proportion to total. | September, 1896. | August, 1897. |
| 24 days (full time) | 9,677 | 56.7 | 51.0 | 47.5 |
| 22 and under 24 days | 4,794 | 28.1 | 34.8 | 33.6 |
| 20 " " 22 " | 2,223 | 13.0 | 10.9 | 8.0 |
| Under 20 days | 370 | 2.2 | 3.3 | 10.9 |
| Total | 17,066 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT was better in this industry at the end of September than a year ago. As compared with the end of August last it showed a slight improvement in the north of England and a slight falling-off in the Midlands, but on the whole there was substantially no change. At the works of 110 ironmasters, owning about 90 per cent. of all furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, 349 furnaces were reported as being in blast at the end of September, the same number as at the end of August, but four more than a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 349 furnaces was 22,452, being 92 more than in August and 288 more than in September, 1896.

The subjoined table gives in detail the number of furnaces in blast in each district so far as covered by the returns received:—

| Districts. | Present time compared with a year ago. | | Present time compared with a month ago. | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept. 1897. |
|---|--|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| | Sept. 1897. | Sept. 1896. | Sept. 1897. | August 1897. | |
| ENGLAND & WALES— | | | | | |
| Cleveland | 93 | 97 | - 4 | 93 | + 1 |
| Cumberland & Lancs | 44 | 42 | + 2 | 44 | + 1 |
| S. and S.W. Yorks. | 18 | 16 | + 2 | 18 | — |
| Lincolnshire | 14 | 13 | + 1 | 14 | — |
| Midlands | 92 | 87 | + 5 | 92 | + 1 |
| Glamorgan and Mon. | 17 | 19 | - 2 | 17 | — |
| Other districts | 9 | 8 | + 1 | 9 | — |
| Total England and Wales... | 287 | 282 | + 5 | 287 | 287 |
| SCOTLAND | 62 | 63 | - 1 | 62 | 62 |
| Total furnaces included in returns | 349 | 345 | + 4 | 349 | 349 |

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British Possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during September amounted to 102,517 tons, as compared with 105,423 tons in August, and 123,950 tons in September, 1896.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—IRON AND STEEL; AGRICULTURE.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES AND ROLLING MILLS.

EMPLOYMENT during September in these industries as a whole again declined, and at the end of the month was not so good as a year ago, a large decrease in the number employed in tinplate manufacture being not quite balanced by increases in the numbers employed in the other branches of the group.

Returns received from 255 employers show that they were employing 82,907 workpeople at the end of September, or 316 less than at the end of August and 293 less than a year ago.

Of these workpeople, 38,965 were employed at 138 Steel Works, or 337 more than at the end of August and 1,147 more than a year ago.

Workpeople to the number of 18,943 were employed at 91 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills. This number is less by 302 than at the end of August, but greater by 309 than a year ago.

The following table shows the number of workpeople employed* in the occupations named at the end of September, 1897 and 1896, and August, 1897, respectively, by the 255 employers making returns:—

| Occupation. | Number Employed. | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept. 1897 as compared with | |
|--|------------------|---------------|---------------|---|--------------|
| | Sept. 1897. | Sept. 1896. | August 1897. | A year ago. | Month ago. |
| Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling and Forging. | | | | | |
| England and Wales ... | 33,166 | 32,441 | 33,051 | + 725 | + 115 |
| Scotland ... | 5,799 | 5,377 | 5,577 | + 422 | + 222 |
| Total ... | 38,965 | 37,818 | 38,628 | + 1,147 | + 337 |
| Iron Puddling and Rolling. | | | | | |
| England and Wales ... | 14,872 | 14,711 | 15,167 | + 161 | - 295 |
| Scotland ... | 4,071 | 3,923 | 4,078 | + 148 | - 7 |
| Total ... | 18,943 | 18,634 | 19,245 | + 309 | - 302 |
| Tinplate Manufacture. | | | | | |
| England and Wales† ... | 10,892 | 12,827 | 11,147 | - 1,935 | - 255 |
| Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.* | | | | | |
| England and Wales ... | 12,722 | 12,619 | 12,804 | + 103 | - 82 |
| Scotland ... | 1,385 | 1,302 | 1,399 | + 83 | - 14 |
| Total ... | 14,107 | 13,921 | 14,203 | + 186 | - 96 |
| Grand Total ... | 82,907 | 83,800 | 83,223 | - 293 | - 316 |

Further returns relating to 87 Tinplate Works show that out of 484 mills 273 were at work and 211 idle. These numbers are the same as at the end of the previous month. At the end of September, 1896, out of 482 mills reported on, 306 were at work and 176 were idle. Of the 273 mills at work at the end of last month 189 were at 36 works which were giving full employment, whilst 84 were at 18 works giving only partial employment, the remaining 37 mills at these works being idle.

Table showing number of tinplate works and mills in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire fully or partially employed, or wholly idle, at the end of September, so far as stated in the returns received by the Department:—

| | No. of Works. | No. of Mills in such Works. | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------|
| | | Working. | Not Working. | Total. |
| Works giving full employment ... | 36 | 189 | — | 189 |
| Works giving partial employment ... | 18 | 84 | 37 | 121 |
| Works idle ... | 33 | — | 174 | 174 |
| Total at end of September, 1897 ... | 87 | 273 | 211 | 484 |
| Corresponding Total for Aug., 1897 ... | 87 | 273† | 211† | 484 |
| Corresponding Total for Sept., 1896 ... | 88 | 306 | 176 | 482 |

* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.
† The figures on this line relate to only 332 of the 484 mills referred to in the next table.
‡ Amended figures.

Returns received from the owners of 55 tinplate works show that 10,892 workpeople were employed at the end of September, or 255 less than at the end of August and 1,935 less than a year ago.

The Exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom in September amounted to 18,625 tons, of which quantity 4,656 tons were taken by the United States. In August the total exports were 21,021 tons, and the exports to the United States 3,526 tons. In September, 1896, the total exports were 18,368 tons, and the exports to the United States 7,167 tons.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN SEPTEMBER.

THE agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 170 returns from various parts of the country, reports as follows:—

During the month of September the state of agricultural employment was generally satisfactory, the labourers being engaged at harvest work, and also in the hop districts, at hop-picking. In the corn-growing districts a good deal of threshing was also done at the end of the month. Extra labour in a number of districts is said to have been difficult to obtain. In a few cases some casual labourers are said to have been in irregular work, and this is either attributed to the increased use of self-binders at harvest, or to wet weather.

Northern Counties.—Reports from certain Unions in the counties of Cumberland, Durham, Lancashire, Northumberland, Westmorland, and Yorkshire state that employment was generally regular in the month of September. A few men were in irregular work towards the latter part of the month in the Carlisle Union of Cumberland. In the Malton Union of Yorkshire a report states that Irish harvest hands could not get work the first fortnight of harvest, and that fewer extra men have been employed owing to the use of the self-binder.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Cheshire state that in the Nantwich and Tarvin Unions all men were fully employed. In certain parishes in the former Union farmers found a difficulty in procuring sufficient assistance at the harvest. In Derbyshire work is reported as regular in the Unions of Belper, and Chesterfield; also in the Derbyshire portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Stafford). Reports of a favourable character come from Shropshire from the Unions of Market Drayton, and Oswestry; from Warwickshire from the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick. In the Alcester Union some employers had a difficulty in getting extra hands for harvest. Work is said to be generally regular in Worcestershire in the Evesham Union; in Staffordshire in the Unions of Lichfield, and Tamworth (Staffs and Warwick), and in certain parishes in the Uttroter Union. Reports of a favourable character come from Leicestershire from the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), and Market Bosworth; from Nottingham from the Unions of Mansfield, Newark, Southwell, and Worksop; from Oxfordshire from the Union of Thame (Oxon and Bucks), and from the Oxfordshire portion of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (Oxon and Berks). In Northamptonshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, and Potterspurty, and in the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick); in Huntingdonshire in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds); and in Bedfordshire in the Unions of Bedford, and Leighton Buzzard. A report from certain parishes in the Bedford Union states that extra men were difficult to get, especially during the latter part of September, as there was so much threshing done.

Eastern Counties.—Favourable reports come from Essex, from the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring. In Norfolk the state of employment is said to be generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Gaultcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Laundith, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, Wayland, and Walsingham. In Suffolk the state of employment is said to have been generally of a satisfactory nature in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lotingland, Plomesgate, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. In Cambridgeshire in the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford,

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—AGRICULTURE (contd.); SHIPBUILDING.

Linton, and in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union (Northants). Favourable reports come from Lincolnshire from the Unions of Brigg, Boston, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and from the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Notts).

Home Counties.—In Buckinghamshire work is said to be regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow; in Berkshire in the Union of Wantage, and in the Berkshire portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (Oxon and Berks); in Surrey in the Unions of Farnham, and Godstone; in Kent in the Unions of Bridge, Faversham, Hoo, Hollingbourne, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden; and in Hertfordshire in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, Hemel Hempstead, and in a district in the Hertfordshire portion of the Luton Union (Beds).

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Reports of a favourable character come from Sussex from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Horsham, and Rye; from Hampshire from the Unions of Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, and Stockbridge; from Dorsetshire from the Unions of Blandford, Dorchester, and Wimborne; from Wiltshire from the Unions of Devizes, Pewsey, Westbury and Whorwellsdown, and Wilton. In Gloucestershire work is stated to be generally regular in the Unions of Cirencester, and Gloucester. In the Barton Regis Union a few casual men were said to be in irregular work in the early part of the month, but it is stated that they obtained work afterwards. Employment is said to be generally of a satisfactory character in Herefordshire 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, Crediton, Tavistock, and Torrington; in Cornwall in the Union of Bodmin. In the Truro Union some men are reported to have been in irregular work.

HARVEST WAGES IN ENGLAND IN 1897.

Returns have been received from 125 farmers in the Midland, Eastern, Home, Southern, and South-Western Counties, giving the cash earnings, exclusive of perquisites, of their men at harvest. The average earnings of 1,670 labourers in a period of 26 working days were £6 2s. 2d., or 8½d. more than the average earnings of 1,735 men in these districts in 1896.

The following table shows the average harvest earnings per man in the years 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897 in the Midland, Eastern, Home, Southern, and South-Western Counties, so far as reported to the Department:—

| Year. | Number of Labourers included in the returns. | Average amount per man in 26 working days. |
|-------|--|--|
| 1894 | 887 | £ s. d. 6 2 7 |
| 1895 | 719 | 6 3 8 |
| 1896 | 1,735 | 6 1 5½ |
| 1897 | 1,670 | 6 2 2 |

In addition to these payments beer is given in a good many cases, and sometimes light refreshments such as tea, bread, butter and cheese. Overtime is also sometimes paid for. In Norfolk and Suffolk 1s. is often given for hiring money, and also "horkey" money, i.e., 2s. or 2s. 6d., for a supper at the end of harvest.

This year cutting commenced early, and was frequently done without interference by bad weather in a number of these districts. Many farmers in the Eastern, Home, Southern and Western Counties were able to complete a good part of their harvest before the weather broke up, but in some of these districts, and also in many parts of the Midlands, and also in the North of England, the harvest was protracted by wet weather.

In districts where harvest was completed during the spell of fine weather, labourers who undertook the harvest by piecework, or who contracted to do it for a lump sum, regardless of the time it took, were able to earn their money quickly. When harvest work is interrupted by bad weather, it is the custom on a good many farms to offer such men the opportunity of doing ordinary farm work at the current rate of weekly wages.

With reference to earnings this year, it is generally stated that the wages and piecework rates paid were very similar to those of last year, though it is frequently

reported that fewer hands were necessary, owing to the increased use of the self-binder. In Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Lincolnshire the harvest payments usually came to between £6 5s. and £7 10s., exclusive of the value of any beer given or of other extras.

A farmer in North Cambridgeshire reports that his best men earned rather over £10 each in five weeks and five days at piecework, while two earned only 25s. a week.

The system of payment at harvest varies considerably in different parts of the country. In the Northern counties, where the majority of the men are hired by the year or half-year, the hired men are paid no extra harvest wages, but are frequently supplied with extra food and drink, but the married men attached to the staff of a farm are usually paid extra money wages, and often given food and drink. Extra hands, both English and Irish, get from £4 to £6 a month, frequently with an allowance of food and drink. Irishmen are usually given accommodation in barns. In other parts of the country the systems of payment are to give piecework; to contract for a certain sum for the harvest; to give the ordinary weekly wages, and, in addition, a bonus at the end of harvest; to pay double the weekly wages during harvest; to give extra wages for a month certain, and then to pay the ordinary weekly wages.

No disputes about harvest wages are reported from any part of the country.

(f) SHIPBUILDING.

Tonnage under Construction.*

ACCORDING to the quarterly returns published by Lloyd's Register, the gross tonnage of vessels under construction in the United Kingdom on September 30th last was (excluding warships) 884,336 tons. This figure is the highest recorded since June, 1889, and exceeds that for the quarter ended June 30th last by 12,675 tons, and that for the quarter ended September 30th, 1896, by 224,695 tons. Warships (including warships for foreign countries) under construction in Government and private yards at the end of September amounted to 318,612 tons displacement, being 28,583 tons less than three months ago, but 50,582 tons more than a year ago.

The following table summarises the above figures:—

| Date of Return. | Merchant Vessels. | | War Vessels. |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | Tons gross. | Tons displacement. | Tons displacement. |
| Present time (September 30th, 1897) ... | 884,336 | 318,612 | |
| Three months ago (June 30th, 1897) ... | 871,661 | 347,195 | |
| A year ago (September 30th, 1896) ... | 659,641 | 268,030 | |

The number of merchant vessels included in the tonnage given above for September last was 455, of which number 420 (gross tonnage 877,387 tons) were steamships, and 35 (6,949 tons) sailing vessels. The tonnage of steamships was 244,155 tons more, and for sailing vessels 19,460 tons less, than a year ago.

The following table shows the gross tonnage of vessels (except warships) under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts at the end of September, 1897, June, 1897, and September, 1896, respectively. The figures include about 94½ per cent. of the total tonnage under construction:—

| District. | At | | | Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Sept. 1897, as compared with | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---|-------------|
| | Sept. 30th 1897. | June 30th 1897. | Sept. 30th 1896. | 3 months ago. | A year ago. |
| Clyde ... | 259,339 | 268,735 | 213,224 | - 9,396 | + 46,115 |
| Belfast ... | 158,602 | 148,322 | 124,851 | + 10,280 | + 33,751 |
| Wear ... | 145,436 | 144,835 | 81,639 | + 601 | + 63,797 |
| Tyne ... | 130,449 | 127,809 | 113,626 | + 2,640 | + 16,823 |
| Middlesbro' and Stockton | 81,632 | 76,637 | 45,594 | + 4,995 | + 36,038 |
| Hartlepool and Whitby ... | 56,985 | 47,283 | 30,090 | + 9,702 | + 26,895 |
| Barrow, Maryport and Workington | 3,160 | 6,881 | 11,490 | - 3,721 | - 8,330 |

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the amount of work remaining to be done.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TEXTILE; SEAMEN.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN SEPTEMBER.

ALTHOUGH employment at the docks and wharves was at the beginning of September not so good as during August, it improved week by week throughout the month, so that the average number employed for the whole month was slightly greater than in August. It was also greater than in September, 1896.

The average daily number employed at all the docks and at 114 of the principal wharves during the four weeks ended September 25th was 14,962, as compared with an average of 14,884 in August and 14,062 in September of last year. The estimated number employed on any one day ranged from 13,966 on September 2nd to 15,997 on the 24th.

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

Table with 5 columns: Period, By Dock Companies or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, &c., Total, Labourers employed at 114 Wharves making Returns, Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during August and September is shown on the chart below. The numbers in September ranged from 3,649 on the 13th to 4,734 on the 30th.

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 August and September, 1897. The corresponding curve for August and September, 1896, is also given for comparison.

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

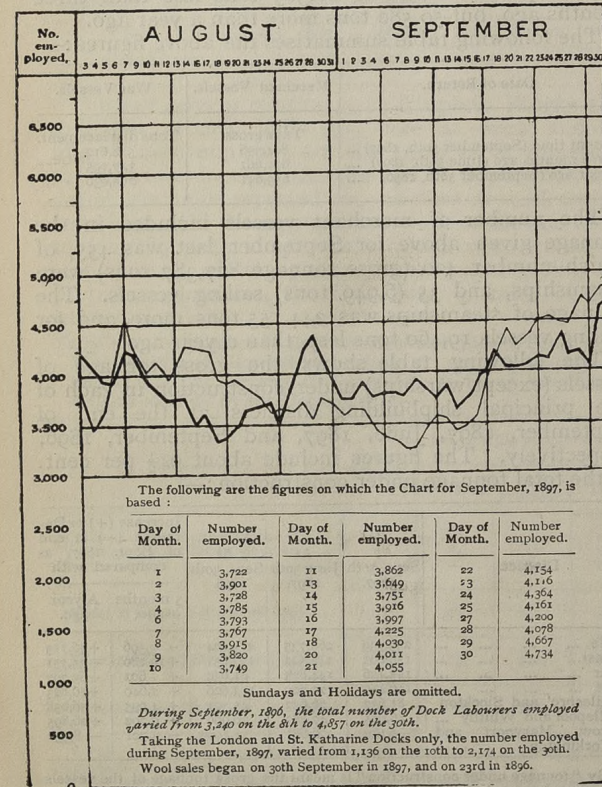


Table with 6 columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed.

During September, 1896, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 3,400 on the 6th to 4,857 on the 30th. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during September, 1897, varied from 1,136 on the 10th to 2,174 on the 30th. Wool sales began on 30th September in 1897, and on 23rd in 1896.

* Amended figures.

Employment in mid-stream was only moderate, and not so good as in August. Deal porters and lumpers have been busy; stevedores, lightermen, coal porters and winchmen moderately well employed. Corn porters have had fair employment in the Victoria and Albert Docks, but work has been slack in the Millwall and Surrey Docks.

Employment for fruit porters in Thames-street has not been satisfactory, the average number employed daily being only 232, as compared with 273 in August.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women showed no improvement in the cotton trade during the month; in the worsted trade employment, though still slack, improved. Information has been received with regard to 517 cotton, woollen, worsted and silk mills, and is summarized in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago.

Table with 6 columns: Trade and Month, Approximate No. of Women and Girls in Mills reported on, Working full Time, Working Short Time, Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 60,330. Of these 60 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 62 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in August, and with 82 per cent. in September, 1896); 28 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment; 7 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 5 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 19,240. Of these 75 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 47 per cent. in August, and 66 per cent. in September, 1896); 18 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 7 per cent. in mills running short time.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN SEPTEMBER

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

The number of men shipped in September 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 34,503, being 351 more than in September, 1896.

At nearly all the ports the supply of seamen and firemen during September was reported as being equal

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON.

to, or in excess of, the demand; but at Grimsby the demand was stated to be greater than the supply.

Particulars of changes in rates of wages of seamen, which have taken place during the month at Newcastle, North Shields, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, and Methil, will be found on page 313.

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 September, 1897 and 1896 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the nine months ended September in each of these years:—

Table with 6 columns: Principal Ports, In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total in Sept. 1897, Total in Sept. 1896, Total number Shipped* in nine months ended September.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—On the whole the state of employment remained stationary, most of the industries continuing well employed, and comparing favourably with the corresponding month of 1896. Returns from 398 branches of 106 unions, with an aggregate membership of 73,554, show that 3,058 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.0 in August, and 3.6 per cent. at the end of September, 1896.

The Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades still remained unsettled, in consequence of the dispute. Reports from 120 branches of 25 unions, with a membership of 23,108, show that in addition to those directly affected by the dispute, 1,019 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.7 in August and 3.4 per cent. in September of last year.

Employment in the Building trades still continued brisk. Reports from 168 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 10,334, show that 126 (or 1.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September, compared with 0.8 in August and 1.2 per cent. in September, 1896. The bricklayers, stonemasons and millwrights described employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers and stonecarvers as fair; the painters and decorators and plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the Furnishing trades continued fairly good. Reports from 38 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,764, show that 168 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.1 per cent. in August. The percentage for September, 1896, was 0.5.

The Coopers still continued busy. Two societies, with a membership of 970, returned only 3 (or 0.3 per cent.) unemployed, as in August. The percentage for September, 1896, was 0.7.

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

Employment in the Coachbuilding and Wheelwrights' trades remained good. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,280, show that 18 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.1 in August, and 1.5 per cent. in September of last year.

Employment in the Printing and Bookbinding trades slightly improved, particularly the latter. Reports from 22 unions, with a membership of 21,701, show that 1,121 (or 5.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.6 in August and 4.7 per cent. in September, 1896.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade was fair; in the West End bespoke trade it was dull, but improved, towards the end of the month. In the ladies' tailoring and mantlemaking trades employment was fair, but below the average for the season; the hat trade was depressed; the cap trade good; the helmet trade also good. Employment with furriers was good, with fur skin dressers depressed, with silk weavers still bad.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the machine branch remained bad, short time being still the rule; in the high-class bespoke branch it was slack, with a slight upward tendency towards the end of the month; slipper-makers remained busy.

Employment in the Leather trades was scarcely so good. Returns from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,811, show 48 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.4 in August, and 2.3 per cent. in September, 1896.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in these trades still further improved. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,412, show 46 (or 3.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, compared with 4.5 in August, and 4.6 per cent. in September of last year.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—Employment in these trades continued to fall off. Returns from 5 societies, with a membership of 902, show 36 (or 4.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3.4 in August and 4.6 per cent. in September, 1896.

In the Gold and Silver trades little change took place. Reports from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,024, show 24 (or 2.3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.4 in August. The percentage in September, 1896, was 0.8.

Employment in the Tobacco trades continued to improve. Reports from 4 societies, with a membership of 2,339, show 111 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 5.9 in August, and 5.7 per cent. in September, 1896.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in September was 14,962, or 78 more than in August, and 900 more than in September, 1896. Employment in mid-stream was only moderate, and not so good as in August. Deal porters and lumpers were busy; stevedores, lightermen, coal porters and winchmen moderately well employed; corn porters fairly employed in the Victoria and Albert Docks, but slack in the Millwall and Surrey Docks. Employment of fruit porters in Thames-street was slack. (See also page 302.)

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only one fresh dispute was reported as having taken place during the month, viz., one in the building trade, lasting a day, in which 80 persons were involved (see p. 316). Two other small disputes in the metal trades were settled, but the engineering dispute still continued.

Labour Bureaux.—Returns from eight labour bureaux show that 1,771 fresh applications for work were registered during September, as compared with 1,615 in September, 1896, an increase of 156. The number of persons for whom work was found was 810, as compared with 1,340 in the corresponding month of 1896, a decrease of 530, chiefly owing to a decline in the operations of one bureau.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of September was 98,566, or 579 more than on the corresponding day in August. As compared with September, 1896, the number increased by 498, due to increases in the West, North and South districts, partly balanced by decreases in the Central and East districts.

On the same day in September, 1,003 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 1,082 on the corresponding day of August, and with 1,064 in September, 1896.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved on one day in the second week was 8,261 in September, 8,071 in August, and 8,459 in September, 1896.

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

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—Steam coal pits are working better; house coal collieries continue fairly steady, having averaged 5'34 and 5'25 days per week respectively. Of the 20,117 union members, only 2 are unemployed. **Durham.**—A number of coking coal pits have worked extra time; one or two other have been idle several days, the average number of days worked per week being 5'65 as against 5'52 in August. Collieries producing gas, manufacturing, and a mixed class of coal have worked 5'24, 5'35, and 5'51 days per week respectively. Returns from 103 pits, employing 52,070 men and boys, show an average of 5'38 days worked during the month, as against 5'36 shown in 111 returns for August. The number of union miners unemployed owing to depression in trade is 446 (or 0'8 per cent.) as against 502 (or 0'9 per cent.) in August. From other causes 160 are unemployed. Employment of coke workers continues good.

Metal Mining.—At the lead mines employment is better. Iron ore mining is still quiet, short time prevailing.

Quarrying.—Freestone quarries at Blyth are working well. Whinstone and limestone quarries in the Weardale district are reported as slack. Stone quarries at Gateshead continue in full employment.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—An increased number of platers, riveters and caulkers is out of work owing to the engineers' dispute. Several engine shops not connected with the dispute continue busy. Of the 12,309 union members of these trades 1,602 (or 13 per cent.) are out of work, in addition to 49'76 per cent. directly affected by the dispute. **On the Wear.**—One large shipbuilding yard closed on October 2nd. Operations in a few others are hindered for want of engines. Engineering firms unconnected with the dispute are full of work. Out of the 4,645 members of engineering and shipbuilding trades 476 (or 10'2 per cent.) are unemployed, in addition to 28'8 per cent. affected directly by the dispute. Shipwrights on both rivers have a large number of men out of work. Of the 1,176 drillers and hole cutters, 189 (or 16 per cent.) are laid idle; of moulders, with a membership of 1,384, 15'8 per cent. are out of work. Branches of painters, plumbers and joiners (house and ship) with 4,689 members, have 333 (or 7'1 per cent.) unemployed, several of the latter having left the Tyne for Belfast. At Consett furnaces are being laid in owing to the dispute. Steelplate mills have worked less than full time; steel angle mills 3 shifts, and iron mills 4 shifts per week.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal porters, trimmers and teamers are well employed on both rivers. Quayside labourers have fuller employment. The demand for sailors and firemen is reported as fair. Employment with Tyne watermen is better.

Building Trades.—Of the 954 union bricklayers in the Newcastle and Sunderland districts, 2 per cent. are idle. Slaters and tilers are fully employed. The demand for stonemasons is reported as steadily increasing.

Woodworking Trades.—Upholsterers and mill-sawyers and woodcutters are affected by the engineers' dispute. Coopers are moderately employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Two paper mills are busy; five others have worked 132 shifts out of a possible 240. Employment with letterpress printers is quiet; with bookbinders moderate. Of the 773 members of these trades 68 (or 8'8 per cent.) are out of work.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are fully employed, working five shifts per week. Pressed glass makers, with 506 members, have 3'9 per cent. idle. White lead and copper works are busy. Chemical factories continue steady.

Fishing.—Large catches of herring have been landed during the month of September, the only month in which there has been an increase as compared with last year. Trawl and line boats have fished regularly.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

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

Iron and Steel Trades.—Work has continued fairly good at most of the works. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration Board, wages remain unchanged for October and November. Employment at blast-furnaces, bridge works and foundries is reported as fair.

Engineering.—Employment continues good at the works not affected by the dispute. Moulders continue well employed at

Middlesbrough, but a number are unemployed at Stockton and Hartlepool. Branches of engineers and ironfounders at Darlington, Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool, with 3,313 members, have 232 unemployed, in addition to 931 directly affected by the dispute.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues fair at Middlesbrough; at Stockton moderate. At Hartlepool, all the yards, with one exception, are practically at a standstill. It is estimated that between 3,000 and 4,000 men are out of work, owing to the dispute in the engineering trade.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches.

Shipping.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at both ports; dock labour is good at Hartlepool; and dock and riverside labour fair at Middlesbrough.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry is good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended September 25th, at pits from which returns have been received, was 5'72 per week, as compared with 5'12 in September, 1896. The number of men employed was 6,269, as compared with 5,958 a year ago, being an increase of 311.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland iron mines. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended September 25th at the 45 mines, from which returns have been received, was 5'96, as against 5'92 days worked at 46 mines in September, 1896. The number employed was 6,335, compared with 5,931 in the corresponding month of last year, being an increase of 404.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast during September was 44, as compared with 43 a month ago, and 42 in September, 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 3,494, an increase of 45 when compared with August last, and of 301 when compared with September, 1896.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The state of employment is worse than at the end of August. In Oldham and surrounding districts, and in Rochdale, it is reported as moderate; in Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Dukinfield and Stockport as bad. The card-room operatives report employment as moderate in Oldham, and as bad in Mossley. Ringframe spinners are well employed; twiners moderately so. **Weaving.**—The powerloom overlookers and the weavers report employment as bad in velvets, and slack in calicoes and ball warping, and moderate in winding, reeling, and sectional warping.

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

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The majority of the engineers, irongrinders, and plate and machine moulders are idle through the dispute, but employment is good wherever work is being carried on. The pattern-makers, tinplate-workers, gas meter-makers, boiler-makers, and ironfounders report employment as moderate, and the brassfounders as good.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and plumbers report employment as good; plasterers as fair; painters and carpenters and joiners as moderate. Out of 907 union members none are unemployed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 5 collieries show that 6 days per week were worked at 3 pits, 4 days at 1 pit, and 3 to 4 days at the remaining pit.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment in Bolton remains irregular. In Bury employment is reported as unsteady; in Chorley as moderate; in Wigan as somewhat irregular. Cardroom operatives in Bolton report employment as irregular, owing to some mills working short time; in Bury as steady; in Chorley as slack; in Wigan as irregular. **Weaving.**—Employment continues unsettled in Bolton, and unsteady in Bury and Wigan, whilst at Chorley much waiting for warps prevails at nearly all the mills.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade continues practically unchanged; in the allied trades it is much disturbed owing to the dispute. In Bury engineers are nearly all locked out. At machine shops employment is reported as fairly good. At Wigan the steel rolling mills are not so well employed; steel smelting is slack; metal works are moderately busy. At Chorley employment in the iron trade is slack.

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

Building Trades.—In Bolton and the immediate district building operatives are fairly busy. In Wigan, Chorley and Bury they are moderately well employed.

Coal Mining.—Collieries in Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Lever, Hulton and Ratcliffe are working an average of 4½ days per week. The best collieries in Wigan continue moderately busy, working on an average 4½ days per week.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The returns regarding employment from the several districts show little change. In Burnley and Blackburn no looms are on systematic short time, but at both places large numbers of looms are stopped for want of warps. The number stopped for this reason in Nelson is upwards of 2,100, and in Colne is on the increase. In Darwen some 1,000 looms are totally stopped. In Preston employment is reported as bad. Employment in the hard waste weaving trade is good, many firms working overtime. Winders and warpers are rather better employed. Loomers and drawers report work as still slack at both Blackburn and Burnley. Employment in the coloured goods trade is reported as showing a slight improvement. **Spinning.**—Employment is reported as bad in Preston, fair in Darwen, and moderate in Accrington, Burnley, Blackburn, and Padibam. In the carding department employment is reported as fair. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warppers, with 3,955 members, have 210 (or 5'3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 221 (or 5'6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as good.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment continues good in the machine shops, but in other works moulders and engineers are only moderately employed.

Coal Mining.—Employment is reported as brisk in the Burnley district, and moderately good in Accrington. In Townley the average time worked is slightly over four days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers are busy; tailors are fairly employed. Boot, shoe and slipper workers in the Rossendale district are still slack; cabinet-makers are quiet; brickmakers are busy. Dyers, bleachers, and sizers in the Todmorden district are slack.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and metal trades affected by the dispute) with 15,877 members have 689 (or 4'3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 500 (or 3'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment on the whole is far from good. With boiler-makers and engineers it is moderate in Northwich, and bad in Manchester. Ironfounders and brassfounders in Stockport and Manchester are moderately well employed. Wire drawers, wire weavers and filesmiths are fully employed. In Warrington all iron-workers are rather better employed than last month; braziers and sheet metal-workers are slack. At Macclesfield ironworkers in general are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Spinning mills in Manchester in general are running full time. Short time still continues amongst the weavers. In Macclesfield cotton workers are fully employed. Doublers at Stockport are slack. Employment with hand and power loom silk weavers is bad; with fustian cutters it is moderate. The "bleachers, dyers and finishers" describe employment as bad; the "dressers, dyers and finishers" as bad in the velvet trade, and good on heavy materials.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade is moderate in Manchester and Warrington, and good in Stockport; in the wholesale branch work is quiet. Ready-made mantle-makers and waterproof garment-makers are busy. Capmakers in Manchester and shirtmakers throughout the district report employment as moderate; umbrella-makers as rather better. Boot and shoe makers are moderately well employed. In the hatting trade employment on men's felts has improved; on ladies' felts it continues good.

Building Trades.—The painters in Manchester report employment as bad. Other branches in Manchester, Stockport, Warrington, Northwich and Macclesfield continue fairly busy.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Lithographic artists and pattern cardmakers report employment as good; lithographic printers as bad; letterpress printers and bookbinders as moderate. Printers in Stockport are busy.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The Hebrew cabinet-makers report a considerable diminution in the number out of

employment. Other cabinet-makers in Manchester, Stockport and Warrington are busy. Coopers are fully employed. Employment with coachmakers is good at Manchester and Stockport, moderate at Warrington. French polishers and upholsterers report employment as moderate throughout the district.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as unchanged. The engineers and pattern-makers as quiet; the brass and ironfounders as moderate; the iron and steel dressers and whitesmiths as fair; the shipjoiners, shipwrights and painters as moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers are fairly well employed on better class work, but dull on lower class. The french polishers and upholsterers report employment as moderate; the mill-sawyers and woodcutting machinists as good; the coopers as fair; the coachmakers and painters as good.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as fair; the dock labourers and coal and salt heavers as dull; the flatmen as moderate; quay and railway carters as quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as fair; the lithographic printers and the electrotypers and stereotypers as good; the bookbinders as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors upon better class work report employment as dull; other branches as improving; the boot and shoe makers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Plumbers and painters report employment as moderate; joiners as rather quiet; all other branches as good.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Employment in Whiston and Skelmersdale continues dull. The St. Helens miners have averaged 5 days per week. Stone quarrymen continue busy.

Glass and Chemical Workers.—Employment with bottle-makers continues good; with chemical-workers it is dull.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade is dull at Winsford and moderate at Middlewich. Chemical workers at Middlewich report employment as normal; moulders at Winsford as moderate. Fustian-cutters are having better employment. In the building trades employment is moderate, painters being well employed in both towns.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The brassfounders and finishers report employment as good; the smiths and strikers as unsettled, the ironfounders as slack through the dispute; the boiler-makers, drillers, and hole cutters and sailmakers as moderate; the shipwrights, patternmakers, iron and steel dressers, engineering and shipyard labourers as bad. Branches of societies with 5,214 members have 558 unemployed, in addition to 891 directly affected by the engineers' dispute. The shipwrights and boiler-makers at Grimsby and Goole report employment as good; the moulders as moderate; the engineers at Doncaster as moderate.

Building Trades.—The lath-renders report employment as fair, the plumbers as moderate, other branches as good. At Grimsby, Goole, Beverley, Doncaster, Bridlington and Selby all branches report employment as good.

Transport Trades.—The dock labourers and deal carriers report employment as good, although, owing to labourers thrown out of employment by the engineering dispute seeking work at the docks, the supply of labour is greater than the demand. Employment for seamen in the long voyage trades is reported as good; in the shorter voyages as moderate. The railway workers report employment as good. Dock labourers, deal carriers and seamen at Grimsby report employment as good.

Fishing Industry.—The prices obtained for fish have been high, but the quantity brought to market has only been moderate. The trawl fishermen at Hull and Grimsby report more unemployed. Steam fishing-vessel engineers and firemen report employment as fair at Hull, moderate at Grimsby; employment with the fish-curers at Grimsby is good.

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

Leather Workers.—The tanners, lace cutters, beltmakers at Hull, and the curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster report employment as good.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The coopers and coachmakers at Hull report employment as good; the coachbuilders at

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

Doncaster, and cabinet-makers at Hull as moderate; the brush-makers at Hull as bad.

Seed Crushing, Oil, Varnish, and Paint Trades.—Employment in the seed crushing mills is reported as only moderate; in the paint and colour works as fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—The farriers, and bakers and confectioners at Hull report employment as good; the gasworkers and general labourers as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Nearly 4,000 skilled men (society and non-society), besides a large number of apprentices and labourers, are still unemployed owing to the dispute. In the shops not affected by the dispute work is brisk. Ironfounders, boiler-makers and spindle and flyer makers are severely affected, and their unemployed lists show a large increase. Smiths and strikers are fairly employed; stovegrate-workers and whitesmiths are busy; brassworkers are only moderately employed.

Clothing Trades.—The improvement in employment in the boot and shoe industry in Leeds has been maintained, full time being general; at Heckmondwike work has also been brisker. Ready-made tailoring operatives in Leeds have not been so busy as usual at this season, most firms being only moderately employed. Bespoke tailors are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally in Leeds continues quiet. It is slack with woollen spinners; bad with blanket raisers; not so good with flaxworkers, and rather dull in the linen trade; with dyers it is bad, short time being general. Willeyers and felters report a slight improvement. At Yeadon employment is no better; at Stanningley and Bramley it is bad; at Wakefield fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment with bricklayers, masons, plasterers and plumbers at Leeds continues good; with joiners it is fair; with painters moderate. At Wakefield and Bramley employment is good; at Harrogate fair.

Coal Mining.—In the Leeds district employment is fairly good, an average of five days per week being worked.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and leather shavers report employment as moderate; curriers as slightly improved in some departments; saddlers as slacker.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographers as moderate; bookbinders and machine-rulers as good; papermill-workers as brisk.

Glass Trades.—Employment in the glass bottle industry in Leeds as falling off a little, as is usual at this season; at Wakefield it is moderate. Flint glassworkers are fairly employed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers and coach-makers are well employed; brushmakers are slack.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford and Huddersfield District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment is still bad in and around Bradford; a number of looms and frames are standing, or only working short time. In the Haworth Valley it is slack, especially in weaving. In Halifax employment shows no change, but in Huddersfield it seems rather worse. The woollers at Bradford report employment as fairly good; the wool combers as slack; the dyers as quiet.

Woollen Trades.—Employment in Huddersfield seems to be slightly worse, but in the Colne Valley a number of firms are working overtime. Employment in the heavy woollen trade of Dewsbury and Batley is a little better, although still considered poor; in the rag trade also it seems rather better.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham, Halifax and Brighouse is still quiet, but in the velvet trade at Manningham it seems better. In the cotton trade in Huddersfield and Brighouse it remains moderate. Employment in the carpet trade is reported as fair.

Metal Trades.—Employment in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, and in firms elsewhere unaffected by the dispute, is fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment in one or two centres is suffering a little on account of the engineers' dispute, but in Huddersfield men are in demand.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as quiet in the tailoring and printing trades, and fair with quarrymen.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of engineers and kindred trades affected by the dispute, and of coal miners) with 9,086 members, have 109 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 97 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Iron and Steel Industries.—The dispute in the engineering trade has led to stoppage or short time among steel forgers and some other classes of workmen. Branches of societies with 5,278

members, have 74 unemployed, in addition to 504 directly affected by the dispute. Ironfounders and coremakers report employment as good. Siemens steel-smelters and boiler-makers as moderate. In the Bessemer trade, employment is quiet; the wire drawers and iron rollers are slack. At Parkgate and Iccles the steelworkers are busy, but the ironworkers are slack. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders are well employed.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment is good in the edge tool trade and bayonet and sword trade; fair in the saw trade; quieter in the file trade; slack in the razor trade; moderate in the table and butcher knife trade. In the pen and pocket knife trade a number of workmen are on short time. Societies with 4,673 members have 29 (or 0.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 26 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. There is a large increase in the number on short time.

Other Metal Trades.—The silversmiths, electro-plate finishers, platers and gilders, and brassworkers report employment as good; the Britannia metalsmiths, hollow ware buffers and metal stampers as fair. Societies with 1,602 members have only 4 unemployed. In the brass trade at Rotherham employment is good.

Coal Mining.—Employment has been better during September than for some time past, returns from 61 collieries showing an average of 5.43 days worked per week. The stoppage of a seam in one large colliery has thrown about 200 men and boys idle.

Building Trades.—Employment in Sheffield is fair with the plumbers, and good with all other branches. In Rotherham all sections are busily employed; at Barnsley moderately so.

Linen Trades.—Employment in this industry still continues slack.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring trade throughout the district is quiet; in the ready-made trade it is moderate. In the boot and shoe trade employment is good in Barnsley, but only moderate elsewhere.

Glass Trades.—The glass-bottle makers and flint-glass workers throughout the district are fairly well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers and lithographers report employment as fair; bookbinders are well employed.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers and coachmakers are fairly well employed. Work with railway carriage and wagon builders has been affected by the engineers' dispute.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 6,713 members, have 68 (or 1.0 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 85 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,401 members have 46 (or 1.9 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 29 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. Employment in the locomotive works continues good; it is fair generally in other branches of engineering, and in bridge and girder yards. Ironfounders in Derby, Butterley and Somercotes report employment as improving; in Chesterfield as good; brassmoulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent as fair; lace machine-builders in Long Eaton as improving; cycle-workers in Long Eaton and Draycott as dull. Stove-grate-workers in Derby, Belper and Langley Mill continue well employed. The blast furnacemen at Ilkeston are well employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from collieries employing upwards of 37,000 men, show that an average of 5.11 days per week was worked, compared with 4.3 days in August.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries continues satisfactory.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton weavers and spinners is reported as moderate in Belper and Borrowwash; bad in Glossop and Hadfield. With hosiery-workers in Heanor, Belper and Ilkeston it continues to improve; dyers and bleachers in Belper continue fairly well employed; lacemakers in Long Eaton and Ilkeston report employment as improved in the levers branch, but dull in the curtain trade; surgical bandage-makers in Derby as fair; elastic web weavers as improving; calico printers and engravers in Dinting and Hayfield as improving.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe makers, tailors, and dress and mantle makers is improving.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Coachbuilding Trades.—Railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby report employment as good; in Long Eaton as fair; carriage builders in private shops as moderate.

Woodworking Trades.—The coopers in Burton-on-Trent report employment as good; in most timber yards employment remains regular.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers is reported as good.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment is moderate in the levers branch, slack in the curtain section, and continues good in the plain net branch. There is no improvement in any other branch. In the dyeing, bleaching, and finishing departments short time is general.

Hosiery Trade.—The hosiery trade is on the decline; employment is bad in nearly all branches. The hand frame branch is fairly well employed on silk goods, both in Nottingham and Mansfield districts; shawl-makers at Hucknall Torkard are slack. Employment is precarious at Carlton, Ruddington, Arnold and Kirkby.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders report employment as moderate at Nottingham, Mansfield and Retford; cycle-makers are not fully employed; lace machine and hosiery machine builders not affected by the dispute are well employed. Many workmen are leaving the town for other districts. Boiler-makers, stove grate fitters, and iron and steel dressers are moderately employed. Employment is reported as fair in Mansfield, Newark, Grantham and Netherfield. Brassworkers, carriage straighteners, bobbin and carriage makers are well employed. Employment in Grantham is fair, and not yet affected by the dispute.

Building Trades.—All branches are well employed throughout the district.

Coal Mining.—Returns from collieries employing over 16,000 men show a decided improvement, the average number of days worked per week during the month being 4.25 as compared with 3.63 days in August.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is bad; it has slightly improved in the bespoke tailoring trade, and is fairly active in the ready-made branch and with the mantle-makers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers is bad; lithographic artists are busy; lithographic printers and bookbinders report a decline.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, coach-builders, coopers, brush-makers and basket-makers are fairly well employed.—*W. L. Harstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—The improvement in the state of employment in the boot and shoe trade has not been maintained, and in nearly all the principal centres short time is again the rule.

Hosiery, Yarn, and Woolspinning Trades.—Except in a few special branches, employment in the Leicester hosiery trade remains quiet, work being exceptionally slack at Loughborough. Operatives in the woolspinning factories are in regular work generally. Employment is moderate with trimmers, and slack with dyers and scourers.

Clothing Trades.—Workpeople in the wholesale tailoring trade are regularly employed, and employment is improving with bespoke tailors. Work is not quite so good with corset-makers, but is slightly better with milliners and dressmakers. It is moderate with felt and silk hatters, and improving with capmakers.

Elastic Web Trade.—In all branches of the elastic web trade employment is bad, short time being general.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—At Leicester employment at all firms not affected by the dispute is good. At the Loughborough electric works fitters, turners and winders are working overtime. Work is also good with pattern-makers, boiler-makers and ironfounders, but slack with cycle-makers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment at the South Leicester coal pits has improved during the month. Work continues regular with stone quarrymen and ironstone miners.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—At Leicester, Northampton and Kettering work with letterpress printers and bookbinders is reported as good. It is fair at Rugby, and rather quiet at Loughborough.

Building Trades.—With bricklayers, builders' labourers and plasterers employment is good; it is very fair with joiners and stonemasons; moderate with painters and plumbers and good with gasfitters.

Coachmaking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is good with coachmakers and tramcar-builders, railway wagon-makers, and repairers. It is very fair with upholsterers and moderate with cabinet-makers.

Leather Trades.—At Northampton curriers are well employed for the time of the year; waxers are busy, but dressers of coloured leather are slacker. Tanners are fully employed at Market Harborough.

Miscellaneous.—In all departments of the railway service work continues brisk. Employment is good with cigar-makers; moderate with basket-makers, and good with brick tile and terra cotta-makers. *T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Ovenmen, kilnmen, saggar-makers and hollow-ware pressers, and throwers and turners in the open trade, average less than three days per week, with a number of unemployed; sanitary pressers are now working better; flat pressers are only averaging two days per week; printers and transferers, women gilders and decorators, men artists, modellers, designers and mould-makers report a decline; encaustic tilemakers are working well.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Forgemen are on full time, but some of the rollers are short of work; steelworkers and blast furnacemen are well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and boiler-makers in the Potteries report employment as unchanged. At Crewe and Stafford they are busy. Steelmoulders at Crewe are working well, but malleable moulders report a decline. Copper-workers at Oakamoor and Froghall are busy in all branches. Agricultural engineers at Rugeley and Uttoxeter are working well. Anchor chainmakers at Ford Green are making full time.

Coal Mining.—Around Talk-o'-th'-Hill and district, and at Rugeley miners are busy. At Cheadle miners are now working four days per week.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade has declined. At Congleton employment in the thrown silk trade is bad; trimming weavers report a slight improvement on silk goods, but a decline in the cotton department; fustian cutters report a serious decline; towel weaving is improving. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with tailors is scarce throughout the district. Shoemakers at Stafford report a slight improvement, but both there and at Stone there is much short time.

Building Trades.—All branches throughout the district are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as slightly improved in the Potteries, and good at Stafford. Lithographic artists and printers, and bookbinders and machine rulers are fairly employed.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are busy. Bakers in the Potteries are well employed. Railway-workers at Stafford and Crewe are generally busy, and in the Potteries they are fairly employed. Gasworkers report an improvement. *I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, employment continues good in the iron bar, angle and hoop trades, and all branches of the steel trade. In the sheet trade it is unchanged. In Shropshire, the mills and forges are steadily employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment in the engineering trades is very good. The machine departments of several firms in Shropshire and Staffordshire are running day and night shifts. Boiler, bridge, girder and tank makers continue busy. Moulders report employment as good; cycle-makers as unchanged. The malleable ironworkers at Walsall are quiet.

Hardware Trades.—Maker of anvils, vices, tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, wrought nails, axles, springs, coach ironwork, hand-cut files, wrought iron oddwork, builders' ironmongery, spring traps, gunlocks, edge tools, plantation and brazil hoes report employment as good; brassworkers, locksmiths, chainmakers, tin-plate-workers, hingemakers, stampers and piercers, and makers of tin and galvanised oddware, iron plate, steel toys, and hollowware all report employment as fair. Tack and cut nailmakers are slack. Cycle casters are working half-time.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Cannock district has greatly improved on the whole; on one or two inferior seams it is still poor. In Shropshire employment continues good; in the Tamworth district it is slack.

Building Trades.—Employment continues fairly good.

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley, Stourbridge and Brettle Lane the flint glass etchers, engravers and cutters are rather quiet. The glass-bottle-makers at Brierley Hill are at a standstill, owing to the collapse of a factory.

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

Leather Trades.—Employment in the leather trade at Walsall and district is fair.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster some of the carpet mills have started full time, but the spinning department is still quiet. The woolstaplers are rather slack. At Bridgnorth employment is now good in both the weaving and spinning departments. At Tamworth the mills are still working steadily.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives are working short time. The ready-made and bespoke tailors are quiet.

C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches with 14,995 members return 244 (or 1.6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 219 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Engineering.—Employment in the engineering trade is only moderate. The toolmakers and machinists report employment as quiet; the smiths and strikers as good. In Coventry, Redditch and West Bromwich employment is moderate. In the cycle trade many of the workpeople are either unemployed or on short time. At Redditch, however, full time is still being worked.

Brass and Copper Trades.—All branches of the brassfounders are well employed. In the copper trade, especially at tube mills, employment is not so brisk. Fire brassmakers and fender-makers report employment as fair.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Jewellers report employment as improving; electro-plate-workers as good, with several firms working overtime, and Britannia metal-workers as fair.

Other Metal Trades.—Ironfounders are moderately employed; bedstead-makers and hand file cutters are well employed. In the iron-plate trade employment continues bad, two-thirds of the men being on short time.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches of these trades has been good throughout the district.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass workers report employment as good the glass bevellers and silverers as fairly good. In West Bromwich employment continues good.

Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers again report employment as good; coachmakers are fully employed; coopers continue well employed in the wet trade, but quiet in the dry trade.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is fairly good both with the tailors and with the boot and shoe makers.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as moderate; gas-workers continue busy; brushmakers report employment as slack; bakers and confectioners as fair. The watchmakers in Coventry are fairly well employed. Brickmakers are well employed. Employment in the needle trade at Redditch is fair.—A. R. Fepcott.

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

General.—Branches of societies with 3,491 members have 56 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 21 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made tailoring operatives at Norwich and bespoke tailors throughout the district are fairly busy. At Cambridge, boot and shoe makers are fairly well employed. At Norwich the dispute in the boot and shoe trade continues.

Building Trades.—The painters have a large number unemployed, other branches are busy.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering trade is fairly good throughout the district; in the shipbuilding trade at Yarmouth it is bad. Boat builders at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft are not busy.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are running full time; corset-makers at Diss are fairly well employed.

Printing Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers is dull in Norwich, Yarmouth and Fakenham; lithographic printers at Norwich are fairly busy, and bookbinders are fully employed.

Fishing Industry.—At Yarmouth some boats have landed good catches. Trawl fishing has been rather quiet. At Lowestoft the mackerel fishing is proving profitable. Trawl fishing has also been good.

Miscellaneous.—Horticultural builders are busy in Norwich; wire weavers are not working more than half time; brushmakers are not busy; mat and matting weavers at Diss are fairly busy.

G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment with engineers is reported as good at Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Halstead and Earl's Colne; moderate at Ipswich; depressed at Wickham Market; and affected by the dispute at Chelmsford. The boiler-makers, moulders, and shipwrights at Ipswich again report employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives report employment as good at Colchester and moderate at Ipswich. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is good in stock-cutting, and slow in general work at Ipswich; good at Colchester. Corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury report employment as moderate.

Textile Trades.—The mat weavers report employment as good at Hadleigh, Lavenham, and Long Melford; moderate at Sudbury and Glemsford. The horse hair weavers at Lavenham report employment as good; furniture silk weavers as quiet at Braintree, good at Sudbury. The silk and crape workers are still busy at Halstead and Earl's Colne.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good at Ipswich, Felixstowe, Hadleigh, Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, Clacton-on-sea, Chelmsford and Southend; moderate at Sudbury, Halstead, and Earl's Colne.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers are well employed at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Beccles, Colchester, Chelmsford and Southend. Employment is steady with lithographers; moderate with bookbinders.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with leather-workers at Colchester; fair with horticultural builders at Ipswich and Chelmsford; steady with woolstaplers and tanners at Chelmsford; moderate with cigar-makers at Ipswich. Shipping and dock labour at the port of Ipswich has declined.—R. W. Mather.

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

General.—Societies and branches with 8,721 members have, in addition to members out of work through disputes, 83 (or 1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 105 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Building Trades.—All branches are busy. Branches with 2,858 members have only 8 unemployed, as compared with 23 at the end of August.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Somerset district has improved, and an average of five days per week is now reported. In the Forest of Dean employment is good in the steam coal trade, improving in house coal.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The engineers in Bristol report employment as steady on the whole, except at firms affected by the general dispute. With other trades in this group employment is good. Branches with 3,199 members have 33 (or 1 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage as at the end of August. This number is exclusive of 169 engineers directly involved in the general dispute.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as good; the wholesale garment makers as slack with most firms; the silk hatters as moderate. The boot and shoe operatives in Bristol report an increase of work at the principal factories. At Kingswood employment is good. There is a demand in the district for shirt and collar makers.

Textile Trades.—Silk net weavers at Tiverton are reported as very busy. At Wellington the cloth factories are in full swing. Cotton operatives in Bristol report employment as steady.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—French polishers report employment as quiet. In other trades in this group employment continues brisk.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Societies with 688 members have 18 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 27 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The letterpress printers report employment as improving; the bookbinders and machine rulers as moderate; the lithographic printers as good.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners report employment as dull; the railway servants as steady; the quayside labourers as dull; the brickmakers as good.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—No change in employment has taken place in the metal mining industry of Cornwall. The clayworkers and quarrymen continue well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The engineers report employment generally as good; the ironfounders and brassfounders and finishers as fairly good; the boiler-makers as fallen off. The wheelwrights and smiths continue well employed.

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

Building Trades.—Employment has been good throughout the district, except at Torquay.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has been fair in the ready-made tailoring trade; quiet in the bespoke branch. In the boot and shoe trade it has improved.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers are slack, many being idle, and others only working short time.

Dock Labour.—Employment with the quayside and dock labourers has shown an improvement. Bargemen continue busy, but with river service men employment has fallen off.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers and polishers report employment as fair. The machinists and mill-sawyers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The fishing industry has been fair. The bakers are still busy. Brickyard-workers, general labourers and excavators continue well employed.—J. Welland.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment has been good during the month in the Buckley, Mold and Ruabon districts; moderate in the Wrexham district. It has been brisk in the metalliferous mines of Flintshire.

Quarrying.—Employment is good at the slate, granite, sett, lime and road stone quarries. At the freestone quarries the men are fully employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment at the Brymbo steel works has been good. The engineers report employment as moderate at Sandycroft and Oswestry; brisk at Ruabon and Cefn. Employment at the wagon works at Johnstown and Ruabon is reported as steady. At the spelter works at Mold and Baggilt the men have been fully employed. Employment has been irregular at the Mold tinplate works.

Building Trades.—Employment is fair throughout the district. **Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.**—Employment in the various departments of the brick and terra cotta works at Mold, Buckley, Wrexham, Rhos, Ruabon and Penybont is reported as brisk.

Chemical Industries.—Employment is reported as moderate at the Flint chemical works and good at Ruabon.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tweed mills of Montgomeryshire is good. The bespoke tailors report employment as good at Oswestry and Rhyl, and improving at Bangor.

G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment has been unsettled during the month in many districts. There has been an unusual number of stoppages, and disputes have been rather prevalent. In the Western district and Garw Valley, employment remains much the same, pits averaging from 4½ to 5 days a week. Collieries in the Monmouthshire Valleys are not working regularly. At 9 collieries in the Ebbw Vale, employing 3,500 men, there have been stoppages amounting in the aggregate to 31 days, and at 48 collieries in the Rhondda, Ferndale, Aberdare and Merthyr districts an aggregate of stoppages amounting to 157 days. At Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, Tredegar and Blaenavon the collieries are working full time; at Pontypool an average of 5 days a week. The sliding scale audit leaves wages unchanged.

Building Trades.—The masons, bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers report employment as moderate; the painters and paper-hangers as dull. Branches of carpenters and joiners, with 1,468 members, have 24 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 26 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—The engineers report employment as bad throughout the district. Branches with 2,855 members have 161 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 122 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The boiler-makers, shipwrights and ironfounders report employment as moderate. Foundries and engineering works in the inland and colliery districts have been less busy. Work has been slack with general labourers and fitters' helpers, but good with ship painters, scalers and scruffers.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been below the average at Cardiff, Barry and Penarth. Swansea and Newport shipments have reached a fair average. The pitwood and timber trade has fallen off, and the ore trade has been quiet. Corn-porters have had a quiet month. The shipment of crews has not been brisk.

Iron and Steel Trades.—At Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Tredegar, Rogerstone, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Dowlais Cardiff works and Briton Ferry employment has been good, with mills and furnaces working regularly.

Miscellaneous.—Metallurgical and chemical-workers have been quiet; fuelworkers moderately employed; wagon builders less busy.

T. Davies.

The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—The state of employment at the end of September was much the same as at the end of the previous month. There has, however, been considerable reduction of stocks, and since the end of September an important and long-standing dispute has come to an end. Of the 87 works reported on, 36 with 189 mills were in full work, and 33 with 174 mills were entirely idle, while 18 works were giving partial employment, 84 of their mills being at work and 37 idle. Thus out of 484 mills 273 were at work, the same number as at the end of last month.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches with 16,851 members have 376 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 241 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Coal Mining.—In West Lothian from ten to twelve days' work per fortnight has been generally obtained. In Mid and East Lothian employment was not so good at the end as at the beginning of the month.

Shale Mines and Oil Works.—Employment has been on the whole fairly regular. Returns received from 35 pits employing 3,993 workpeople (as compared with 4,530 in September, 1896), show that full time was worked at 25 pits employing 3,267 men, 22 and under 24 days were worked at 7 pits employing 682 men, and 10 days at 1 pit employing 44 men, the remaining 2 pits being idle.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,559 members have 96 (or 3.8 per cent.) idle, as against 54 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The increase in the number idle is mainly due to the dispute in the engineering trade; 320 engineers directly affected by the dispute are not included in above figures. In Falkirk branches with 2,922 members have only one idle.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in Leith with the boiler-makers is much the same. The shipwrights have a considerable increase in the number idle owing to the dispute in the engineering trade.

Textile Trades.—The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. In the woollen industry in Galashiels short time continues general with both spinners and weavers. In Selkirk employment has declined considerably, one of the largest weaving mills having started short time, and spinners being slack. In Hawick weavers continue to have a good deal of broken time, but spinners are a little better employed. Employment in the linen industry in Dunfermline has not improved. Employment in the hosiery industry continues steady in Selkirk and slack in Hawick.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,989 members have 22 idle, as against 6 at the end of August.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,057 members have 10 idle, as against 1 at the end of August.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with dock labourers and coal porters and with seamen and firemen is quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,311 members have 68 (or 2.9 per cent.) idle, as against 46 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers report employment as quiet; the sett-makers as good; the shoemakers and tailors as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—A great number on the Clyde have been thrown idle in consequence of the dispute. Branches with 10,852 members have 760 (or 7 per cent.) idle, as against 497 (or 4.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment has been much affected by the dispute during the month. Branches with 26,930 members have 1,425 (or 5.23 per cent.) idle, as against 864 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August, in addition to about 4,000 idle through dispute.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire, Dumbartonshire and Ayrshire coal-miners in general are working 5 days a week. In Renfrewshire employment is good. Ironstone miners in Ayrshire are also working 5 days per week.

Building Trades.—Employment throughout the West of Scotland is still good. Branches with 12,418 members return 76 (or 0.6 per cent.) as idle, as against 56 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in these trades still continues good. Branches with 3,954 members return 34 (or 0.9 per cent.) as idle, as against 58 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

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

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow there is no improvement in cotton, silk or carpet weaving. With beamers and dyers employment has been fairly good during the month; with rope, twine and hemp dressers and in the lace trade it has improved. Warpens and calendermen report employment as still dull. Employment in Kilbirnie remains much the same. In Galston and Darvel all hands are fully employed. The Paisley thread mills are fully employed. In Port Glasgow textile workers are on full time.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as improved. Employment in the mantle factories has been fairly busy, but in the ready-made tailoring department it has not been so good. Tailors' machinists and pressers report employment as dull in some branches, fairly busy in others. Boot and shoe operatives report employment about the average for the season; knee shoemakers as improved; pump boot and slipper makers as busy; with carriers the improvement still continues.

Shipping, Dock and Transport Labour.—Sailors report employment as much the same; dock labourers as good in Glasgow and Govan, and fairly good in Ardrossan; carters and railwaymen and hackney carriage drivers and tramway men as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers, bookbinders and electrotypers and stereotypers report employment as fairly good; lithographic printers as much the same.

Glass Trades.—Flint-glass makers report employment as improved; bottlemakers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Spindle and flyer makers and scale and beam makers are busy. Tobacco-pipe makers and finishers report employment as dull.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry continues good, and more looms have been put in operation. In the linen trade employment continues quiet.

Coal Mining.—At all the collieries in Fifeshire work has continued steady. Returns from collieries employing upwards of 11,000 workpeople show an average of 5'63 days per week worked during the four weeks ending September 25th, as against 5'14 in the month of August.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineering dispute directly affects 449 unionists and 173 non-unionists in Dundee. The pattern-makers and moulders have also been indirectly affected, the latter having a large percentage unemployed. In the shipbuilding yards all classes of workers are busy.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches of the building trades. In the house-furnishing trade cabinet-makers and polishers remain busy, but upholsterers are quiet. Branches with 1,579 members report 11 as idle, as compared with 10 at the end of August.

Fishing Industry.—The herring season is now over. Fair takes of haddocks and whittings have been obtained by the deep sea boats. The sparring fishing has again commenced in the Tay.

Dock and Shore Labour.—Work at the harbour has not been so brisk, and shore labourers have only been moderately employed.

Miscellaneous.—The printing and kindred trades have continued fairly busy. Tailors report employment as having much improved; but employment with boot and shoe operatives remain quiet. Floorcloth and linoleum-makers are still well employed.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches with 5,901 members have 221 (or 3'7 per cent.) idle, as against 48 (or 0'8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

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

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as moderate; other branches as good. Branches with 2,371 members, report 15 die, as against 6 at the end of August.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights, ironmoulders and tinplate-workers report employment as bad; blacksmiths, pattern-makers and brassfinishers as fair but unsettled. The dispute in the engineering trade has seriously affected other societies. Branches of societies (excluding the engineers) with 1,092 members, have 185 (or 16'9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 38 (or 3'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

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

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The handsewn boot and shoe makers and the riveters and finishers report employment as good; tailors as quiet; cotton and jute operatives as fair; flax operatives as moderate; carpet-weavers as bad.

Transport Trades.—Railway servants, carters, and labourers, sailors and firemen, and shore labourers report employment as good.

Fishing.—In September, at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 53,677 cwt. of fish, realising £36,194, an increase in value as compared with August.

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

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment continues satisfactory in most branches; but is dull with lathsplitters and paviors.

Metal Trades.—Employment continues fair in all branches. Of 1,107 members, 29 (or 2'6 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 27 (or 2'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with the upholsterers, cart and wagon builders, saddlers and brushmakers is reported as fair; with the coachmakers and cabinet-makers as dull; the tailors as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad; the lithographers as moderate; the binders, stereotypers, and machine assistants as fair. Of 1,212 union members, 108 (or 8'9 per cent.) are unemployed, as compared with 72 (or 5'9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers report employment as good; the seamen and firemen as dull; dock and general labourers, tramway and railway servants have had full employment.

J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches with 10,360 members report 147 (or 1'4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 251 (or 2'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August, in addition to 646 members directly affected by the dispute. Nearly all occupations are reported as quiet owing to the dispute.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 3,997 members return 107 (or 2'7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 124 (or 3'1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The women workers report employment as bad; the yarn-dressers and spindle and flyer makers as dull; beetlers, flax-dressers, flax-roughers, linen-lappers and yarn bundlers as fair; power-loom tenters as improving; and hackle and gill makers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches, with 3,323 members, return 61 (or 1'8 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of September. The plumbers report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; bricklayers, hodsmen and labourers, mill-sawyers and machinists and paviors as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies, with 671 members, report 31 (or 4'6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 28 (or 4'2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. Packing-case-makers and coachbuilders report employment as dull; cabinet-makers and coopers as fair; upholsterers and french polishers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Societies, with 903 members, return 35 (or 3'9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 39 (or 4'4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and boot and shoe operatives, with 734 members, report employment as quiet.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,775 members have 41 (or 2'3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 47 (or 2'6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The sailmakers report employment as bad; the bakers, carters and railway servants as fair; the loco engine drivers and tinplate-workers as good.—R. Sheldon.

Gork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as fair in Cork, Passage West and Limerick; dull in Waterford. All branches of the engineering trades report employment as fair throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good except with stonecutters and sculptors, who are in their dull season.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed and feather operatives report employment as steady; tailors and boot and shoe operatives continue dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers, cabinet-makers, mill sawyers, woodworking machinists and packing-case-makers at Cork, Waterford and Tralee report employment as fair.

Fishing Industry.—The deep-sea fishing on the south and southwest coast has been fairly good during the month.

Miscellaneous.—The printers and allied trades report employment as dull; the railway servants as fair; the coal porters and quay labourers as dull.—P. O'Shea.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

(For Summary of these detailed Tables, see p. 293.)

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 September, 1897.

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

Table with 8 columns: Class of Service, Killed, Caus. Amputations, Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries, Contusions and Bruises, Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total Injured. Rows include Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, Guards (Passenger), Permanent Way Men, Porters, Shunters, and Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants).

Total for September 1897: 37 Killed, 5 Caus. Amputations, 41 Dislocations, 96 Contusions, 75 Cuts, 121 Unspecified, 338 Total Injured.

Total for September 1896: 37 Killed, 3 Caus. Amputations, 39 Dislocations, 143 Contusions, 78 Cuts, 114 Unspecified, 377 Total Injured.

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 2 servants killed and 714 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during September, as compared with 8 killed and 787 injured in September, 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 September, 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 Explosions of Fire-damp, Falls of ground, In shafts, Miscellaneous, and Surface.

Total for Sept., 1897: 70 Killed, 389 Injured.

Total for Sept., 1896: 72 Killed, 431 Injured.

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 September, 1897, as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours

Table with 7 columns: Cause and Class of Accident, On Trading Vessels (Sailing, Steam), On Fishing Vessels (Sailing, Steam), Total in Sept. 1897, Corresponding total for 3 months of 1896. Rows include I.—By Wreck or Casualty, II.—By other Accidents, III.—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 Atlantic 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 September, 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 2,245 other non-fatal accidents (2,230 in Factories and 15 in Workshops) only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, as compared with a total of 1,649 in September, 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 August and September, 1897, respectively, grouped according to industries.*

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

* Exclusive of accidents reported by Mines' Inspectors.

Y. 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 accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of September, 1897.

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

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during September affected a total of 36,200 workpeople, and the computed result of all the changes upon the weekly wages of those affected showed that the increases and decreases about balanced each other. About 12,700 received increases averaging 1s. 3½d. per week, and 23,500 sustained reductions averaging 8½d. per week.

Increases.—The principal increases reported affected 5,000 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland, 1,200 building operatives, 2,000 workpeople in the coal mining industry, and 1,640 seamen and firemen shipped on foreign-going vessels at ports on the North-east Coast.

Decreases.—Twenty thousand iron workers in the Midlands, and 2,042 blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and North Lancashire sustained decreases under sliding-scale agreements.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 2,400 workpeople were brought about by strikes, and, with the exception of one case, determined by arbitration, the alterations in wages were subsequently arranged by negotiation between the parties. Changes involving 22,650 workpeople, were settled under sliding-scale agreements, while the remaining changes, affecting 11,150 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties without any cessation of work.

Totals for first Nine Months of 1897.—For the nine months—January to September—the aggregate number of workpeople reported as having received advances is 526,100, and 32,400 as having sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these 558,500 workpeople is estimated at an increase of 10½d. 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.

Main table on page 312 showing changes in wages for various trades including Building Trades, Coal Mining, Iron and Steel Trades, and Seamen. Columns include 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, and Increase or Decrease in a full week.

* 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 REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER—continued.

Main table on page 313 showing changes in wages for various trades including Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Printing and Allied Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, Miscellaneous Trades, and Seamen. Columns include 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, and Increase or Decrease in a full week.

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

The changes in hours of labour reported during September affected 2,760 workpeople, whose working hours were reduced on the average by 2.9 hours per week.

The changes in the case of 661 workpeople were preceded by strikes, the other alterations being arranged by direct negotiation between the parties without any 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.

DECREASES.

Table listing decreases in hours of labour for various trades and localities, including Building Trades, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Printing and Bookbinding, and Miscellaneous Trades.

INCREASES.

Table listing increases in hours of labour, specifically for Coal Mining in Cambuslang.

Factory and Mining Inspectors.—Appointments.—Mr. A. D. Nicholson has been appointed an Assistant Inspector of Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, and an Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the purposes of the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1895.

Miss Anna Tracey has been appointed Lady Inspector of Factories and Workshops. Her official address is 23, Great George-street, London, S.W.

* See also under changes in Rates of Wages. † Summer hours. ‡ Winter hours.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE average selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following table, in which are also included, for purposes of comparison, the results of the previous audits.

The fall in the prices of pig-iron in Cumberland and manufactured iron in the Midlands has resulted in decreases in the wages of the workpeople under sliding scale agreements.

Table showing prices of Coal and Pig Iron in various districts, including Northumberland, South Wales and Monmouth, and Cumberland.

* The exact amount of the ascertained selling price cannot be stated.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

DURING September four new co-operative productive and two new distributive societies were registered in England, and one agricultural and dairy society in Ireland.

Returns received from 833 co-operative distributive societies show that the average dividend paid to members on purchases in the second quarter of 1897 by 656 societies in England and Wales was 2s. 6.78d. in the £, and by 177 societies in Scotland and Ireland, 2s. 11.83d. in the £, the average for the United Kingdom being 2s. 7.6d.

In Ireland a series of sixteen district conferences of delegates from co-operative agricultural and dairy societies has been held, at which an aggregate of 410 delegates were present, representing 93 societies.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

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

Table showing cases of Lead Poisoning by industry and gender, including China, Earthenware, and Glass, White Lead and Colour Works, Smelting, and Other Industries.

NOTE.—No cases of Anthrax were reported during September, 1897. In September, 1896, 3 cases of Anthrax (men) were reported.

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

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

ON one day in the second week of September, 322,254 persons were relieved in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, a number corresponding to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts.

Compared with August last there is an increase of 3,413 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. The most marked increases are in the Bolton, Oldham, &c., district (14 per 10,000), Bristol (8), Aberdeen (6), and Manchester, Liverpool, and West Ham districts (5 each).

Compared with September, 1896, the total number relieved has increased by 2,389 and outdoor paupers by 1,045. The rate per 10,000, however, shows no change. Decreased rates are shown in 18 districts, the largest decreases being in the Leicester district (20 per 10,000), Hull (18), Wolverhampton (11), West Ham, and Leeds districts (10 each).

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of September, 1897, categorized by Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of September, 1897, and Paupers on corresponding date in previous year.

ENGLAND & WALES.*

Table showing pauper statistics for England & Wales, including Metropolitan areas (West, North, Central, East, South Districts) and Other Districts (Newcastle, Stockton & Tees, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan, Manchester, Liverpool, Bradford, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds, Barnsley, Sheffield, Hull, North Staffordshire, Nottingham, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff & Swansea).

SCOTLAND.*

Table showing pauper statistics for Scotland, including Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock Dist., Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, and Coatbridge & Airdrie.

IRELAND.†

Table showing pauper statistics for Ireland, including Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, and Galway District.

* 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 SEPTEMBER.

DURING September, 2,502 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns, as compared with 2,373 in September, 1896, an increase of 5.4 per cent. Work was found for 1,022 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 1,492 in September last year.

(I.) Work Done in September.

Table showing work done in September by various bureaux, including London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army, Y.W.C.A.), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool), and Glasgow.

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

Table showing workpeople on registers at end of September classified by occupations, categorized by Name of Labour Bureau, Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Warehouse-men, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, and Other Occupations.

Table showing workpeople on registers at end of September classified by occupations, categorized by Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Seamstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, and Grand Total.

* These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities.

† Of the total number employed 50 were found temporary employment only.

‡ Women and Girls are not registered. § Not furnished.

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.

(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.—Forty-nine fresh disputes were reported as beginning in September, 1897, as compared with 66 reported in the previous month, and 51 in September, 1896. In these 49 disputes 9,067 workpeople were involved, compared with 15,303 in August, and about 8,874 in September, 1896. The figure for September, 1897, does not include a number of engineers affected during that month by the further extension of the engineering dispute.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades there were 12 disputes, involving 345 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 10 disputes, involving 3,630 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding, 11 disputes, involving 516 workpeople; textile trades, 8 disputes, involving 3,818 workpeople; and in other industries, 8 disputes, involving 758 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 49 new disputes, 28 were on wages questions (17 being for increase in wages, 1 for increase, combined with other concessions, 5 against reduction, 4 with reference to previous settlements, and 1 on account of bad material, causing low earnings), 1 on the question of hours of labour, 4 in connection with working arrangements, 5 on the questions of apprentice, boy and female labour, 4 were in defence of fellow-workpeople, 4 on account of objection to work with non-unionists, 2 were sympathetic disputes, and 1 was on a demarcation question.

Results.—Thirty-nine new disputes, involving 4,930 workpeople, and 31 old disputes, involving 8,038 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 70 new and old disputes terminated, 21, involving 2,756 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 26, involving 4,836 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and 23, involving 5,376 workpeople, by compromise.

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in September owing to labour disputes new and old was about 1,614,000, as compared with 1,406,000 in August, and 761,000 in July.

Total Disputes for the First Nine Months of 1897.—For the nine completed months of 1897 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 773 disputes which commenced in those months was 192,016, as compared with 164,053 workpeople involved in the 849 disputes occurring in the corresponding months of 1896. The number of working days lost owing to disputes in the first nine months of 1897 was about 5,884,000.

| Employment. | Locality. | Date when Dispute began. | Alleged Cause or Object. | No. of Workpeople directly or indirectly affected. | Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Result. |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---------|
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|---------|

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER, 1897.

| BUILDING TRADES. | | 345 Workpeople affected. | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Building Employees generally | London, S.W. | Sept. 6 | 12 Disputes. Against employment of three non-unionist engineers (during the general dispute of that trade) to fix lifts in a building under construction |
| Bricklayers and Labourers | Grantham | 27 | 26 Labourers struck for increase in wages, and bricklayers came out in sympathy |
| Bricklayers | Colchester | 23 | 25 Objection to employment of a particular non-union man |
| Stonemasons | Kilmarnock | 22 | 24 Dispute with regard to employment of apprentices |
| Carpenters and Joiners | Salcoats, Ardrossan & Stevenston | 9 | 51 For a rule limiting the number of apprentices to be engaged by each employer, and for advance in wages of 3d. per hour |
| | Liverpool | 4 | 34 Against cabinet makers fixing parts of permanent woodwork of building, alleged to be joiners' work |
| Plumbers and Gasfitters | Cork | 6 | 15 Against employment of apprentices in excess of the proportion allowed under union rules |
| Plumbers | Bolton | 22 | 11 Objection to an office boy being taught the trade of a plumber |
| | Nelson, Colne & Brierfield | 25 | 34 For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (8d. to 9d.) |
| Builders' Labourers | Accrington | 20 | 37 For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (5d. to 6d.) |
| | Leeds | 6 | 5 Objection to employment of a non-union man, and infringement of working rules |
| Plasterers and Labourers | Leeds | 27 | 3 In sympathy with builders' labourers in foregoing dispute |

| MINING AND QUARRYING. | | 3,630 Workpeople affected. | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| Coal Miners, &c. | Normanton | 10 | 263 Refusal to accept an arbitrator's award fixing the tonnage rate on introduction of a coal-cutting machine | |
| | Aber, Rhondda Valley | 13 | 448 Against introduction of the sub-contracting system in working a new colliery | |
| | Ebbw Vale | 23 | 750 Dispute as to cutting prices for rib coal | |
| | Benhar | 13 | 45 Against proposed reduction of 6d. per ton, in view of an improvement in the coal seam. | |
| | Dalry | 10 | 50 Against reduction in tonnage rates of 2d. per ton | |
| | Hamilton | 7 | 570 For reinstatement of two men, dismissed for using abusive language to a man who worked on an "idle" day | |
| | Kirkintilloch | 21 | 62 For advance in tonnage rates of 2d. per ton | |
| | Uddingston | 1 | 477 Against proposed rule prohibiting men ascending pit shaft before actual termination of shift | |
| | Hauliers and Daymen | Blaina | 20 | 465 For advance in wages of 2d. per day to hauliers, and 2d. to other daymen, with reduction in hours from 58 to 54 per week |
| | Pit Boys | Rotherham | 23 | 500 For advance in wages of about 4d. per day |

| METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. | | 516 Workpeople affected. | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Shipwrights | Stockton and Thornaby-on-Tees | 15 | 135 In consequence of lock-out notices posted by employers to bring to an end a dispute in two establishments on the Tyne (see Part II.) |
| Platers' Helpers | Thornaby-on-Tees | 6 | 34 Claim of platers' helpers for payment for time during which they were laid idle by absence of platers |
| | Hull | 6 | 165 Demand for payment for time lost through absence of platers, the platers also requiring the helpers to commence at 6 a.m. instead of 6.30 as previously |
| Cycle Filers | Birmingham | 8 | 16 Against reduction in piecework prices on certain work |
| Brassworkers | Birmingham | 24 | 7 Objection to working 56 hours per week, and for abolition of alleged excessive fines |

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER—(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. |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---------|
|-------------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--|---------|

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER, 1897—(continued).

| METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES—(continued). | | 3,818 Workpeople affected. | |
|---|------------|----------------------------|--|
| Apprentice Engineers | Dundee | Sept. 28 | 15 For advance in wages |
| | Dundee | 20 | 56 For advance in wages of 3s. per week |
| | Dundee | 28 | 60 For advance in wages |
| Range and Stove Fitters | Falkirk | 18 | 2 Refusal to do certain extra work unless with increased pay |
| Holders-on | Glasgow | 1 | 8 For advance in wages |
| Engineers | Glenarnock | 1 | 18 For advance in wages of 20 per cent |

| TEXTILE TRADES. | | 768 Workpeople affected. | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Cotton Spinners | Blackburn | 2 | 113 Alleged bad material |
| Cotton Weavers | Burnley | 22 | 375 Alleged payment at less than list prices |
| | Burnley | 23 | 176 Ditto |
| Overlookers | Church | 15 | 6 In defence of two colleagues who had received notice to leave |
| Cotton Weavers, &c. | Clitheroe | 1 | 3,000 Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent. |
| Cotton Weavers | Preston | 2 | 150 For reinstatement of a discharged overlooker |
| Lacemakers | Borrowwash, Derbyshire | 16 | 25 Against proposed reduction in wages |
| Fustian Weavers | Hebden Bridge | 10 | 33 Desire to be paid at same rate of wages as given by employer to certain slow-speed loom weavers taken over on acquisition of a new business |

| MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. | | 768 Workpeople affected. | |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------|---|
| Dock Labourers | Sunderland | 15 | 65 For advance in wages of 1s. per day (5s. to 6s.) in unloading a steamer which had been stranded |
| Organ Builders | Birkenhead | 6 | 26 Objection to introduction of female labour on certain small work, and in defence of liberty to belong to union |
| Sanitary Pressers | Hanley | 17 | 335 Dispute as to clause (d) of the settlement in a previous dispute (see Part II. and page 244) |
| Bakers | Nottingham | 18 | 10 Alleged refusal to advance wages to an agreed uniform rate. |
| Brick and Tile Makers | Tamworth | 15 | 210 For increase in wages |
| Boot and Shoe Lasters | Desborough | 7 | 43 For increase of 3d. per dozen on certain classes of work |
| Tailors | Peebles | 7 | 9 Against employment of a man who refused to join the tailors' union |
| Quay Porters | Dublin | 21 | 60 Alleged payment at less than the agreed rate for unloading a vessel |

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

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------|---|-----|---|
| Coal Miners | Bedlington | 2 July | 520 Alleged refusal of employer to pay an increased rate per ton awarded by the joint committee | 55 | Work resumed in obedience to a majority vote of the county, matter to be again referred to joint committee. |
| Shipwrights | River Tyne | 14 Aug. | 542 Demarcation of work dispute with other branches of the shipbuilding trade | 33 | Work resumed on advice of union executive, the disputed work to be stopped pending mutual settlement, and lock out notices which had been posted by associated employers to be withdrawn. |
| Builders' Labourers | Dewsbury | 2 Aug. | 34 For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (5d. to 6d.) generally conceded | 30 | Advance granted. |
| Edge Tool Forgers | Sheffield | 21 Aug. | 180 For a revised price list, involving advance in wages of about 10 per cent. | 21 | Negotiations resulted in 34 men obtaining an advance of 10 per cent., 84 obtained 5 per cent., and the remainder resumed work without increase. |
| Sanitary Pressers | Hanley | 24 June | 335 Against limitation of system of drawing money on account | 71 | Settlement effected under the Conciliation Act. (For terms see p. 244.) |
| Wire Workers | London, E.C. | 12 July | 29 Objection to introduction of boy labour | 51 | Men obtained work elsewhere. Apprentices were summoned to Police-court and compelled to resume work. |
| Safe Makers | London, E.C. | 16 Aug. | 47 For increase in piece-work rates of 10 per cent., a 54 hour week instead of 60, and increased rate of pay for overtime | 36 | Work resumed on old conditions, employer promising to use his influence with other firms in the trade to concede the 54 hours week. |
| Navvies and General Labourers | Barry Docks | 5 July | 2,500 For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (5d. to 6d.) and adoption of a code of working rules | 66 | Work resumed without alteration in conditions. |
| Tinplate Workers | Llantrissant | 1 May | 320 Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent. | 113 | Reduction accepted. |
| Coal Miners | Uddingston | 20 Aug. | 500 Against notice requiring men to work a full six days per week | 18 | "Idle day" to be taken, but one day's notice to be given to management. |

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

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------|--|-------|---|
| Bricklayers | Thirsk and Sowerby | 3 July | 12 For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (5d. to 6d.), the employers offering 1s. per week | 12 | Three firms gave an advance of 3d. per hour, the other of 1s. per week. |
| Plumbers | Fleetwood | 1 July | 8 For advance in wages, with a code of working rules | 15 | Advance granted of 3d. per hour (7d. to 8d.), with a code of working rules. |
| Plasterers | Crewe | 2 Aug. | 24 To obtain signatures of certain employers to a code of rules, including an increase in wages | 1 | Rules signed. |
| Building Employees generally | London, S.W. | 25 Aug. | 60 Against employment of certain non-unionist engineers (during dispute of that trade) to fix machinery in a building under construction | 1 day | Non-unionist engineers dispensed with. |
| Carpenters | Lurgan | 16 Aug. | 20 For advance in wages of 4s. per week (26s. to 30s.) | 6 | Advance granted, and also a reduction in hours from 57 to 56 per week. |
| Mining & Quarrying. | Chester-le-Street | 2 July | 220 To compel non-union men to join the union | 12 | Non-unionists agreed to join the miners' union. |
| Hauliers | Gwaun-cae-Gurwen | 23 Aug. | 650 For advance in wages of 2d. per day | 6 | Referred to Sliding Scale Committee. |
| Ditto | Pontypool | 19 Aug. | 778 For re-arrangement of the working hours | 3 | Rearrangement of hours effected at a meeting between manager and men. |

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER—(continued).

| Employment. | Locality. | Date when Dispute began. | Alleged Cause or Object. | No. of Workpeople directly or indirectly Affected. | Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days. | Result. |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE SEPTEMBER, BUT OF WHICH FULL INFORMATION HAS ONLY RECENTLY BEEN OBTAINED—(continued). | | | | | | |
| Metal, Engineering & Shipbuilding Trades | | | | | | |
| Shipwrights ... | Thornaby-on-Tees | 13 May | Demarcation of work dispute with joiners ... | 60 | 3 | Referred to standing joint committee, disputed work to be held over. |
| Steel Smelters ... | Middlesbro' | 12 July | In support of three men who had received notice of discharge on the ground of alleged incompetency | 13 | 10 | Notices to the three men in question withdrawn, and the others received compensation for the stoppage. |
| Planers and Shapers ... | Manchester | 3 May | Against proposed introduction of piece-working system | 20 | 3 | Proposal withdrawn after interview with union officials. |
| Hollow-ware Moulders | West Bromwich | 6 May | In sympathy with the hollow-ware turners in the employ of the same firm, who had been in dispute, and for the abolition of certain fines | 50 | 53 | Men were advised to return to work, a few of the fines being remitted. |
| Tinplate Workers ... | Abercarn | 24 May | Against proposed reduction of 15 per cent. on Canada plates | 321 | 114 | Reduction accepted. |
| Tinplate Workers (Rollermen) | Morrleston | 25 Aug. | For a helper when rolling big steel sheets, and also for increased wages | 50 | 22 | Employer conceded the extra help desired, and the men withdrew their demand for increased wages. |
| Textile Trades. | | | | | | |
| Cotton Weavers ... | Bury | 29 July | Alleged bad material ... | 270 | 1 | Improved material promised. |
| Ditto ... | Croston, Preston | 5 July | Alleged bad material. In course of the dispute an official was assaulted | 290 | 59 | All, except 13 who were actually concerned in the assault, were allowed to resume work. |
| Miscellaneous Trades. | | | | | | |
| Clay Tobacco Pipe Makers | Rainford, Lancs. | 19 June | On question of apprentices, and also for increased wages | 25 | 84 | Work resumed on old conditions. |
| Coal Porters ... | Southampton | 7 July | Objection to be called upon for work at midnight | 4 | 1 | Replaced at first by non-union men, but afterwards reinstated on old terms. |
| Tramway Trace Boys | Edinburgh | 30 Aug. | For advance in wages ... | 28 | 1 day | Work resumed at the old rate of wages. |
| Harness and Collar Makers | Belfast | 17 July | For a minimum rate of wages of 2s. per week, increase of 5 per cent. to men earning less than 27s. per week, reduction in hours, and other concessions | 58 | 38 | Demands partially conceded after negotiation between parties concerned. |
| Boot and Shoe Makers | Belfast | 9 June | Refusal of members of the national union to work with those belonging to the local society | 30 | 60 | Work resumed on previous conditions, after consultation between the officials of the national union and the employers. |

IV.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE SEPTEMBER, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 38 disputes, the commencement of which has been previously reported, and which now involve about 54,700 workpeople, were still unsettled at the end of September: Disputes commencing in—*January*: Boot and shoe operatives, Norwich. *March*: Boot and shoe operatives, Leicester; coal miners, Pontefract; tinplate operatives, Pentrych. *April*: Carpenters and joiners, Dudley and district (settled as regards the town) and Tavistock; hosiery operatives, Ilkeston; tinplate workers, Lydbrook. *May*: Plasterers, Liverpool and Colne and Nelson; iron dressers, Liverpool and Birkenhead. *June*: Lace operatives, Newmills; tinplate workers, Lydney (since settled—October) and Aberdare; brassmoulders, Clydebank; carpenters and joiners, Oxford and Bournemouth. *July*: Cotton weavers, Blackburn 2 disputes; engineers, United Kingdom generally; French polishers, London, E.C.; bricklayers and carpenters, Exeter (since settled—October); coal miners, Leeds, Castleford, Staveley and Mansfield; boiler makers, Ebbw Vale. *August*: Kettle and spout makers, Wolverhampton; plumbers, Chesterfield; coal miners, Washington (Durham) and Hamilton; plasterers, South Shields; joiners, Kilmarnock (since settled—October) and Blackburn; saddle and harness makers, Dublin; bricklayers, Scarborough; clothiers' pressers, Bristol.

FREE LABOUR PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

An association, under the title of the "Free Labour Protection Association," has recently been formed with the following objects:—

1. To test systematically the efficiency, or otherwise, of the existing laws for the protection of non-unionists, and, if necessary, to obtain an amendment of such laws.
2. To watch all strikes, and ensure the observance of the law in all disputes between employer and employed.
3. To oppose all legislation injuriously affecting the trades and industries of the United Kingdom.

The Association consists of individual members paying annually not less than £1, and corporate bodies and associations paying annually not less than £10.

Work and Wages of Men, Women and Children (United States).—The eleventh annual report of the Department of Labour of the United States contains the results of an investigation relative to the comparative employment of men, women, and children at two periods of time, a week in either 1895 or 1896 being selected for comparison with a week at least ten years previous to the week selected. The different establishments, from whose pay rolls and officials information was obtained, are classified according to industries and States. For each establishment are given the occupations in detail, with information as to the sex, age, and weekly earnings of the employees. In 436 of the 1,067 establishments canvassed, the agents of the Department secured data as to the relative efficiency of women and children, and of men working at the same occupations. Tables based on these data are given, comparing the earnings of women and children and of men of the same grade of efficiency, by industries.

Friendly Societies in 1896.—The report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies* for 1896 was issued in September, and contains a review of the legislation in 1896 relating to friendly and other societies, together with the full text of the Consolidated Friendly Societies Act of 1896, and the Collecting Societies and Industrial Assurance Companies Act of 1896, and also the new Treasury regulations relating to both Acts. Lists are given of the friendly societies and branches registered during 1896, and particulars of various law cases and decisions of the Chief Registrar interesting to members of workmen's organizations. The report also includes a review by the Chief Registrar, with explanatory tables, of the report issued by him last year containing information as regards the experience of friendly societies during the years 1895 to 1880 with reference to sickness and mortality. Certain statistics relating to registered workmen's clubs in 1895, and to the twelve registered railway savings banks, and also the annual reports of the assistant registrars for Scotland and Ireland, giving the lists of societies of various classes which have been registered and dissolved during the year, are included in the report.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES

Midland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on October 28th, 29th and 30th. Intending candidates should communicate, on or before October 27th, with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. William Saunders, Wilson-street, Derby.

West Scotland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a mine will be held on November 26th and 27th. Intending candidates should communicate, on or before November 19th, with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. Stuart Foulis, 140, Hope-street, Glasgow.

* Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1896. Part A, No. 97. Price 1s. 2d.

FOREIGN TRADE IN SEPTEMBER.

The monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the imports from foreign countries and British possessions for the month ended 30th September last, amounted in value to £35,195,893, as compared with £33,006,346 for September, 1896, an increase of £2,189,547, or 6.6 per cent. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for September, 1897, were valued at £18,305,275, as compared with £19,824,125, for September, 1896, a decrease of £1,518,850, or 7.7 per cent.; and the exports of foreign and colonial merchandise were valued at £3,979,092, or £704,626 more than in the corresponding month of 1896—an increase of 21.5 per cent.

Imports.—The following table gives the declared value of the imports grouped in large classes for September, 1897, and 1896, respectively:—

| Class of Goods. | September 1897. | September 1896. | Increase. | Decrease. |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Food, Drink, and Tobacco | £16,504,272 | £14,826,219 | £1,678,053 | — |
| Metals | 1,651,108 | 1,614,578 | 36,530 | — |
| Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances | 1,069,736 | 1,126,667 | — | 56,931 |
| Raw Materials for Manufacture | 7,461,704 | 7,117,807 | 343,897 | — |
| Manufactured Articles | 7,408,934 | 7,062,867 | 346,067 | — |
| Miscellaneous | 1,100,139 | 1,258,208 | — | 158,069 |
| Totals | 35,195,893 | 33,006,346 | 2,189,547 | — |

There was an increase in the value of imported articles of food and drink of nearly every class. The increase in the value of fresh beef was £158,483; of cattle for food, £111,923; of hams, £194,734; of butter, £104,906; of cheese, £206,146; of currants, £118,965; and of raisins, £117,283. There was an increase in the value of wheat to the extent of £221,767, although there were 1,030,480 cwt. less imported than in September, 1896. Wheat meal and flour decreased in value to the extent of £111,395, and Indian corn or maize £106,036. As regards certain other imports which showed marked increases in value, the increase in the value of wood and timber was £682,831; of leather £99,213, and of silver ore £70,080, but the imports of raw cotton have decreased £609,200, caoutchouc £173,276, woollen stuffs £84,038, tin in blocks, ingots or bars £77,116, flax or linseed £60,731, silk broad stuffs £39,714, raw silk £37,942.

British and Irish Exports.—The following table gives the declared value of the exports, grouped in large classes, for September, 1897, and 1896, respectively.

| Class of Goods. | Sept., 1897. | Sept., 1896. | Increase. | Decrease. |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Articles of Food and Drink | £1,134,554 | £1,166,641 | — | £32,087 |
| Raw Materials | 1,607,180 | 1,461,989 | 145,191 | — |
| Yarns and Textile Fabrics | 7,158,310 | 8,522,890 | — | 1,364,580 |
| Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) | 2,825,884 | 2,780,378 | 45,506 | — |
| Machinery and Mill Work | 1,206,986 | 1,362,463 | — | 155,477 |
| Miscellaneous | 4,372,361 | 4,529,764 | — | 157,403 |
| Totals | 18,305,275 | 19,824,125 | — | 1,518,850 |

As regards raw materials the increase is due to the greater shipments of coal, the price of which has advanced to a slight extent, and this increase is spread over all countries generally; among metals more copper was exported but less iron and steel, although the value of this item is greater. As regards articles of food and drink, the decrease is very general, the greatest decreases being in fish, beer, spirits and sugar. The export of yarns and textile fabrics shows the serious falling off of £1,364,580; cotton piece goods have decreased by £827,587; worsted tissues by £156,925; woollen tissues by £92,391; linen piece goods by £86,904, and jute piece goods by £43,873. In the case of cotton piece goods the decrease amounts to over 74½ million yards, smaller shipments to China, South America, and the British East Indies being for the most part the cause.

With regard to the total value of the exports of yarns and textile fabrics for September, 1897, as compared with September, 1896, and September, 1895, the following table will show to what extent the exports of certain classes of yarns and textiles from this country to the United States have decreased:—

| Articles. | September 1897. | September 1896. | September 1895. |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cotton piece goods | £61,174 | £87,048 | £106,170 |
| Jute piece goods | 57,763 | 77,146 | 100,370 |
| Linen yarn | 2,268 | 4,436 | 1,790 |
| Linen piece goods | 56,712 | 120,621 | 185,472 |
| Woolen and worsted yarns | 47 | 2,726 | 10,712 |
| Woolen tissues | 4,321 | 60,338 | 132,993 |
| Worsteds tissues | 9,343 | 84,415 | 424,391 |
| Carpets (not being rugs) | 1,775 | 11,209 | 14,271 |

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered during September at ports of the United Kingdom, from *Foreign Countries and British Possessions* amounted to 2,936,821 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,368,785 tons, as compared with 2,770,833 tons entered, and 3,185,196 tons cleared during September, 1896. The tonnage entered *Coastwise* amounted to 2,748,005 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,655,006 tons, as compared with amounts of 2,618,441 tons, and 2,545,337 tons respectively in September, 1896.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during September show a large falling-off as compared with a year ago, this decrease being almost entirely due to the falling-off in the quantity of American cotton imported. As compared with September, 1895, however, the figures show a slight increase. The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns was greater than in September, 1896, but slightly less than in September, 1895.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

| | Imports. Bales. | Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales. | Exports. Bales. |
|---------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| September, 1897 ... | 49,888 | 221,061 | 30,033 |
| " 1896 ... | 115,246 | 202,919 | 13,667 |
| " 1895 ... | 47,414 | 221,480 | 35,901 |

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended October 2nd amounted to £6,725,639, an increase of £319,441 (or nearly 5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1896. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,131,092, an increase of £151,419, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,594,547, an increase of £168,022.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during September was £746,731, an increase of £131,790 as compared with September, 1896. In England and Wales there was an increase of £86,702 and in Scotland one of £45,348, while in Ireland there was a decrease of £260.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during September numbered 290, being 19 more than in September, 1896, 1 less than in September, 1895, and 8 less than in September, 1894.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during September was 32,294, as compared with 31,707 in September, 1896.

British and Irish.—Of the 32,294 passengers, 21,122 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 100 as compared with a year ago. Decreases are shown in the numbers bound for South Africa and the United States respectively, which, however, are counterbalanced by increases in the numbers proceeding to British North America, Australasia and other places. The figures for September, 1897, and 1896, are as follows:—

| Destination. | September 1897. | September 1896. |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| United States ... | 12,897 | 13,319 |
| British North America ... | 2,474 | 1,814 |
| Australasia ... | 1,683 | 1,369 |
| South Africa ... | 2,419 | 3,088 |
| Other places ... | 1,649 | 1,432 |
| Totals ... | 21,122 | 21,022 |

The remainder of the 32,294 passengers, viz., 11,172, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 487 more than in September, 1896.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during September was 9,544. Of these 4,605 were stated to be *en route* to America, or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 3,861 so stated in September, 1896. Those not stated to be on their way to America, or other places out of the United Kingdom, numbered 4,939 (including 765 sailors), the corresponding figure for September, 1896, being 4,001 (including 795 sailors).

Information for intending Emigrants.—The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on October 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, rates of wages, and cost of living in the various British Colonies. Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the Colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to emigrants. Copies can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

