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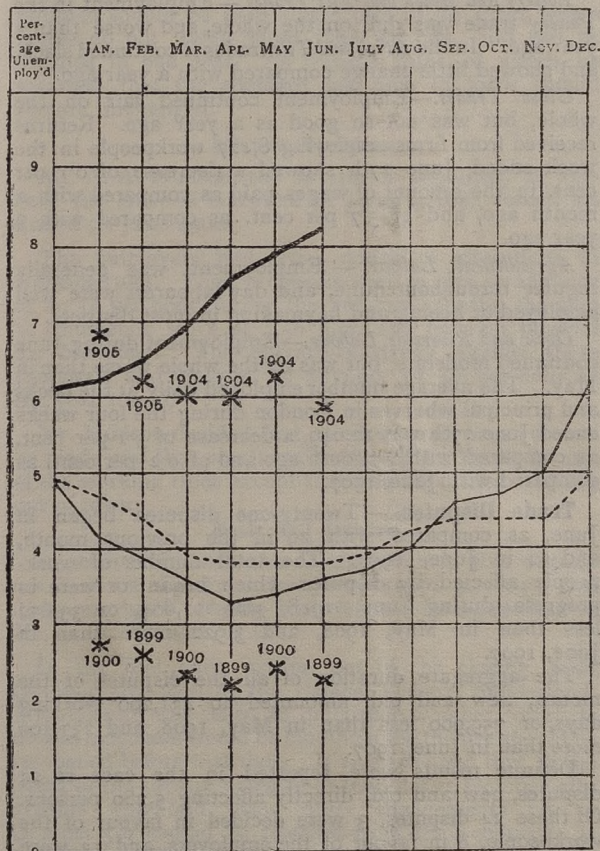
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For June, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 653,327 members in the following trades:—

Building... ..	64,403	Printing & Bookbinding	55,373
Coal Mining	128,226	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering	155,384	nishing	34,730
Shipbuilding	64,758	Miscellaneous	21,112
Other Metal Trades ...	31,808		
Textiles	97,533	Total	653,327

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JUNE.

[In addition to the 2,614 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,718 were received from employers relating to 1,093,599 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,332 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in June was on the whole not quite so good as in May. It was still affected by the continuance of the dispute in the engineering trade and by the recent dispute in the shipbuilding industry.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in employment in most of the principal industries.

In the 268 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 653,327, making Returns, 53,766 (or 8.2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 7.9 per cent. at the end of May, 1908, and 3.6 per cent. at the end of June, 1907.

Coal Mining.—Employment continued good during June. There was a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The Whitsun holidays in June, 1908, affected the comparison with a month ago and a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued fair, and showed little change on the whole compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during June continued moderate. It was considerably worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing nearly 22,000 workpeople showed 288 furnaces in blast at the end of June, as compared with 287 in May, 1908, and 347 in June, 1907.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed a further decline, and was worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended June 27th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 0.6 per cent. less than in the week ended May 23rd, 1908, and 14.7 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during June continued good, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month. It was not so good as a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 432 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of June, as compared with 438 in the previous month and 451 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued slack on the whole, and was adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of June was 10.5, as compared with 9.5 a month ago and 3.4 a year ago.*

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment showed some improvement on the termination of the recent dispute, but was still bad and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of June was 20.6, as compared with 26.1 in May, 1908, and 6.4 in June, 1907.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* branch was quiet and worse than a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it continued slack, and showed a considerable decline as compared with a year ago. In both branches organised short time was worked. Returns from firms employing 117,804 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 9.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 27,575 workpeople in the week ended June 27th, showed a decrease of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 8.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,268 workpeople in the week ended June 27th, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 10.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment during June continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,204 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 19.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment, though still fairly good, showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,792 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,092 workpeople in the week ended June 27th, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,609 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decline of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 22.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was moderate, and showed some decline as compared with a month ago. It showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,864 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch was fair, and not so good as a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was fairly good, and about the same as a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the *Silk Hat* branch was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* branch it was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

* Members on strike are not included in these figures.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was fair, and showed a decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,776 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,559 had 8.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 8.0 per cent. in May, and 4.1 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades was good.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was quiet with printers, and bad with bookbinders. It was worse than a year ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of June was 4.8, as compared with 5.2 a month ago and 4.1 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 9.2, 7.9, and 6.4 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in June continued slack. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.9 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 6.8 per cent. a month ago, and 3.3 per cent. in June, 1907.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Pottery* trade was dull on the whole, and worse than a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it continued slack, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,127 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 5.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment was generally regular throughout June, and day labourers were well employed at hoeing and haymaking in most districts.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during June continued moderate, but was on the whole worse than in May. The average number employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended June 27th was 12,049, a decrease of 3.1 per cent. as compared with a month ago and of 0.2 per cent. as compared with June, 1907.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-one disputes began in June, as compared with 29 in the previous month, and 22 in June, 1907. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during June, 1908, was 21,604, or 33,672 less than in May, 1908, and 3,922 more than in June, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 431,200 working days, or 759,900 less than in May, 1908, and 237,100 more than in June, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 24 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 5,280 persons. Of these 24 disputes, 3 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 8 in favour of the employers, and 13 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in June affected 156,800 workpeople, of whom 4,500 received advances and 152,300 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were reduced included 115,000 coal miners in the Forest of Dean and Scotland, 4,000 shale miners in Scotland, 23,000 ironworkers in the Midlands and Scotland and 5,500 workpeople engaged in shipyards on the North-east coast. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of about £16,700 per week.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

Painters, Prestwich and Whitefield.

On June 12th the Board of Trade received a joint application from certain master painters at Prestwich and Whitefield, and the operatives in their employment asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the rate of wages to be paid to painters in that district.

On June 17th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in that capacity.

Coal Miners, Mansfield.

Sir F. Forbes Adam, C.I.E., the umpire appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for April, p. 102), issued his award on June 13th.

The question at issue was the price to be paid for getting coal in the Kilburn seam, where holing was done by machinery at the company's expense. The umpire decided that the price should be 1s. 6½d. per ton, plus ½d. for extra difficulties occasionally met with, plus ¾d. for safety lamps, plus 2s. 6d. per running yard for ripping in gates where the thickness is not less than 3 feet.

Tube Workers, Landore.

Mr. W. B. Yates, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, p. 169), issued his award on June 25th.

The arbitrator was asked to decide the conditions to be observed and the rates to be paid for certain operations. He decided (1) that the firm should provide two extra men to assist the furnace gang in charging on all days except on Monday mornings, and (2) that millmen should be paid single rate in all cases where ingots do not weigh more than 15 cwt. and can be finished in one heat. As regards rates of wages he awarded that the standard list now in force should remain unchanged.

Painters, Blackburn.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, p. 168), issued his award on June 25th.

The employers had given notice of alterations in working rules. Their proposals were to give an advance of an ½d per hour during the summer months, the men to commence work at 7.30 a.m., and have no interval for breakfast. The operatives struck against these proposals and claimed an advance of ½d. per hour all the year round.

Mr. Hudson decided that no advance in wages should be made and that no alteration should be made in any of the working rules except that relating to men working out of town.

Music Hall Artists.

In accordance with the award given in this dispute (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, 1907, p. 163), two questions have recently been referred for settlement to Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C.

In the first case, arising out of the closing, until October 5th, 1908, of the Palace Theatre, Sunderland, Mr. Askwith was asked to determine whether contracts now in existence would be binding if the theatre should be re-opened before that date. It was arranged that, in the event of the theatre being re-opened before October 5th, artistes who had taken other engagements up to October 5th should be released from their contracts at the Palace Theatre, Sunderland, but that artistes who had not entered into other engagements should be called upon to fulfil their contracts at this theatre.

In the second case, arising at the Regent Theatre, Salford, Mr. Askwith was asked to determine whether the words "all matinees included" could be added to contracts, and allowed a matinee to be included in the weekly salary. He decided that the addition would be contrary to the award, and that clause 2 of the award relating to matinees prevails over such addition.

Carpenters and Joiners, Blackburn.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, p. 168), issued his award on June 30th.

The workpeople had applied for an advance in wages from 9d. to 10d. per hour, while the employers counter-claimed for a reduction to 8d. per hour. Mr. Hudson decided that from July 7th, 1908, the rate of wages should be 9½d per hour.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, East of Scotland.

Sir Alfred E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, p. 169), issued his award on July 6th.

Three points were referred for decision, viz.:—(1) as to whether moulding machines should be classed with the lasting department and their operators be paid the minimum weekly wage of that department; (2) the claim by the operatives for a weekly minimum wage of 30s. for all workmen; and (3) as to the employment of girl labour in the clicking, rough stuff and lasting departments.

The arbitrator decided (1) that moulding machines should be classed in the pressmen's department, and the wages of that department should apply to operators of these machines; (2) that the minimum wage in the pressmen's and rough stuff departments should be raised from 25s. to 26s. per week, the minimum rate in the other departments to be unchanged; and (3) that the question of the substitution of girl for male labour was one that could be discussed under the rules, and could be decided by him as arbitrator and he further awarded that no sufficient evidence had been adduced to show that girl labour was being substituted for male labour.

The arbitrator further decided that the award should come into operation on August 3rd, 1908, and that none of the questions determined by him should be re-opened before January 1st, 1910.

Painters, Oldham.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, p. 169), issued his award on July 2nd.

The operatives had claimed an advance in wages from 8½d to 9d. per hour, and that the starting time for work in summer should be 6 a.m. instead of 6.30 a.m. The employers claimed that the starting time in summer should be 7.30, and that the men should breakfast before starting.

Mr. Hudson disallowed both claims, and by consent of the parties enlarged the rule as to walking time, and amended the rule as to arbitration.

Cotton Weavers, Hyde.

In the June LABOUR GAZETTE (see p. 169) details were given of the steps taken by the Board of Trade to effect a settlement of this dispute. On June 29th a conference was held between Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., and representatives of the weavers, at which a settlement was arrived at. The questions in dispute were the price to be paid for weaving on Northrop looms and the number of looms to be worked by each weaver, and the terms of settlement are as follows:—

That the wage shall be based on .77d. for 20,000 picks, 36-inch cloth.

That no objection shall be taken to speeding-up looms above present speeds.

That the number of looms to be worked by an employee is not to be limited, provided employer and employee agree upon the number to be worked by such employee.

That the above covers up to and including 56 reeds. Reeds above 56, to have .00834d. for 20,000 picks added for every two counts up to and including 60; above 60, .01116d. for every two counts up.

The prices for 32-inch and 40-inch to be worked out to give a like wage, 32-inch running 176 picks, and the 40-inch 160 picks. 64-inch cloth to be paid 1.5d. for 20,000 picks.

COST OF LIVING IN GERMAN TOWNS.

THE Board of Trade have for some time been engaged in making a series of investigations with regard to the cost of living of the working classes in the more important towns in the principal industrial countries. The first instalment of the results of these investigations was contained in a volume published last January, and had reference to the United Kingdom (see BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1908, pp. 36-7). The second volume has now appeared, and relates to the German Empire.*

For the present volume thirty-three German towns were visited by investigators of the Board of Trade. Nineteen of the towns are in Prussia, five in Saxony, three in Bavaria, and the remaining six in other States of the Empire. The populations of these towns range from 2,040,000 in Berlin and 803,000 in Hamburg to 25,000 in Aschaffenburg, 18,000 in Stassfurt and 13,000 in Oschersleben. The range of industrial occupations comprised within these urban areas is very wide, and includes coal mining, the metal industries, engineering and shipbuilding, the hardware and cutlery trades, the textile trades (cotton, wool and silk), paper-making, printing, the chemical trades, brewing, sugar refining, the various branches of the building trades, dock labour, a number of miscellaneous trades, and the municipal services.

The investigation had reference primarily to the rents of working-class dwellings, the prices usually paid by the working classes for food and fuel, and wages and hours of labour; and a very large amount of original statistical material relating to these subjects has been collected. It is with these matters that the General Report, and the separate Town Reports which accompany it, are mainly concerned; but much additional information as to German industrial conditions generally is also given. In order to arrive at some estimate of the standard of living prevalent among the German industrial classes, however, over five thousand budgets showing the expenditure on food by working-class families in a normal week, and representative of numerous occupations and of all grades of working-class incomes, were obtained from the various towns. The principal results furnished by an analysis of these budgets are also set out in the Introductory Report, and an attempt is also made in that part of the volume to institute such comparison as is possible between the results yielded by the German enquiry and those relating to English towns which were dealt with in the first Report of this series.

(i.) Rents of Working-Class Dwellings.

It has been found that while the German working classes are housed almost exclusively in flats in large tenement buildings, the English working-class family for the most part occupies a small separate house. In the case of Germany, tenements of two rooms and three rooms are the most frequent types of working-class dwellings; in England self-contained houses of four and five rooms are the predominant types. The rooms of the German tenement are, however, as a rule both larger and loftier than the English.

The predominant rents for tenements of two, three and four rooms in England and Germany respectively are shown below:—

Number of Rooms per Tenement.	Predominant Weekly Rents.			
	England and Wales.		Germany.	
	Range of Rents.	Mean Rent.	Range of Rents.	Mean Rent.
Two rooms ...	3s. 0d. to 3s. 6d.	3s. 3d.	2s. 8d. to 3s. 6d.	3s. 1d.
Three rooms ...	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.	4s. 1 1/2d.	3s. 6d. to 4s. 6d.	4s. 1 1/2d.
Four rooms ...	4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d.	5s. 0d.	4s. 3d. to 5s. 0d.	5s. 1 1/2d.

* Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into working-class Rents, Housing, and Retail Prices, together with Rates of Wages in certain occupations in the principal Industrial Towns of the German Empire. Cd. 4932. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 4s. 11d.

The Table shows an approximate equality of rents in the two countries, but, for reasons which it explains, the Report arrives at the conclusion that rents of working-class dwellings in Germany are about 1 per cent. higher than in England. Rents paid by workpeople in England, however, comprise an element of local rates, while in Germany, where local taxation is levied in the form of an addition to the State income tax, the workman after paying his rent has still to pay a certain sum towards the cost of local government. Inquiries made in 50 English towns led to the conclusion that local rates, less water rate, represent, approximately, 18 per cent. of the rent paid for working-class tenements in the industrial towns of England and Wales. When this deduction is made from the English rent figures, so as to render them more comparable with those for Germany, it is found that (apart from local taxation) German rents bear to English rents the ratio of 123 to 100. In other words, the workman in a German town pays for housing accommodation about one-quarter more than the workman in an English town, for the same number of rooms, exclusive in both cases of local taxation.

(ii.) Cost and Consumption of Food, &c.

The following Table shows the retail prices commonly paid by the working classes in England and Wales and in Germany respectively for certain commodities in October, 1905:

Commodities.	Predominant Prices in October, 1905.		Ratio of Mean Predominant Price in Germany to Mean Predominant Price in England, taken as 100.
	England and Wales.	Germany.	
Sugar, white granulated per lb.	2d.	2 1/2d. to 2 3/4d.	119
Butter ...	1s. 1 1/2d.*	1s. 1d. to 1s. 2 1/2d.	103
Potatoes ... per 7 lb.	2 1/2d. to 3d.	2 1/2d. to 3d.	85
Flour, wheaten ... per qt.	8d. to 10d.	11d. to 1s. 1 1/2d.	140
Milk ...	3d. to 4d.	2 1/2d. to 3d.	75
Beef ... per lb.	7 1/2d. to 8 1/2d.	7 1/2d. to 8 1/2d.	122
Mutton ...	7 1/2d. to 8 1/2d.	7 1/2d. to 8 1/2d.	137
Pork ...	7d. to 8d.	8d. to 1 1/4d.	123
Bacon ...	7d. to 8d.	8d. to 1 1/4d.	123
Coal ... per cwt.	9d. to 1s.	10 1/2d. to 1s. 4d.	124
Paraffin oil ... per gal.	7d. to 8d.	9d. to 1 1/4d.	135

It will be seen from the ratios of German prices to English, in the last column, that the prices paid by the German working classes in October, 1905, were, in most cases, from 20 to 40 per cent. higher than the prices paid by the English working classes at the same period. But there are two very striking exceptions, viz., the prices paid for milk and for potatoes. For milk the German price was only 2 1/2d. to 3d. a quart, as against 3d. to 4d. in England, a difference amounting to 25 per cent. of the English price. In the case of potatoes the predominant prices in Germany ranged from 2 1/2d. to 3d. per 7 lbs.; in England from 2 1/2d. to 3d. The difference is over 12 per cent. of the English price. Of the remaining commodities, butter was about 5 per cent. dearer in Germany; beef, pork, bacon and coal from 20 to 25 per cent. dearer; and mutton, wheaten flour, and paraffin oil 35 to 40 per cent. dearer.

In the Report on the United Kingdom, the price levels of different towns were compared by the amount required to purchase in each town the groceries, meat and coal in an approximate average working man's budget. Applying the same principle to the present case, it was found that, if the average British working man went to live in Germany, and tried to live there as nearly as possible in the same way as he had previously lived in England, purchasing the same food in the same quantities, he would have to spend nearly 219 pence in Germany in order to purchase the

* Mean of Colonial or Foreign and Danish. † British or home-killed. ‡ Foreign or Colonial.

same quantities of the commodities specified above as he could have bought for 185 pence in England, or, in other words, he would have to increase his expenditure on food, &c., to the extent of 18 per cent.

(iii.) Wages and Hours of Labour.

The following Table compares the predominant range of weekly wages in certain occupations in England and Wales with the ranges in the same occupations in Germany. The ranges in England and Wales represent in all cases standard rates for an ordinary full week, exclusive of overtime; the German figures are in some cases standard rates, and in others the predominant range of earnings in a similar week. It is to be observed that (apart from municipal employment) the building, engineering and printing trades were the only occupations which were to be found in practically all the German towns investigated.

Trade.	Predominant Range of Weekly Wages at October, 1905, in		Ratio of Mean Predominant Wage in Germany to Mean Predominant Wage in England, taken as 100.
	England and Wales.	Germany.	
Building Trades—			
Bricklayers ...	37s. 6d. to 40s. 6d.	26s. 11d. to 31s. 3d.	75
Masons ...	37s. 2d. to 39s. 4d.	26s. 11d. to 31s. 3d.	77
Carpenters ...	36s. 2d. to 39s. 4d.	24s. to 28s. 6d.	70
Plumbers ...	35s. 4d. to 39s. 9d.	24s. to 28s. 6d.	78
Painters ...	31s. 6d. to 37s. 6d.	19s. 6d. to 24s.	86
Labourers ...	23s. 6d. to 27s.	27s. to 32s.	85
Engineering Trades—			
Fitters ...	32s. to 36s.	27s. to 33s.	88
Turners ...	32s. to 36s.	28s. 6d. to 33s.	90
Smiths ...	34s. to 38s.	25s. 6d. to 30s.	77
Patternmakers ...	18s. to 22s.	18s. to 22s.	100
Labourers ...	28s. to 33s.	24s. 9d. to 25s. 11d.	83
Printing Trades—			
Compositors ...	28s. to 33s.	24s. 9d. to 25s. 11d.	83
All the above trades (average)			83

From the above it appears that for skilled men in the building trades the German wages are about 75 per cent. of the English; for skilled men in the engineering trades about 85 per cent. of the English; whilst for compositors in the printing trade (hand compositors) the ratio is about 83 per cent. Building trades labourers in Germany earn about 86 per cent. of the weekly earnings of the corresponding class in England, and it is only the lowest paid class of all—the engineering labourers—whose earnings in Germany are as high as in this country. For all the occupations taken into account in the comparison, the wages in Germany are 83 per cent. of those in England and Wales.

The following Table gives a comparison of the average usual hours of labour per week in the two countries in the same selected trades:—

Trade.	Average usual Hours of Labour per week in		Ratio of average Hours of Labour in Germany to those in England taken as 100.
	England and Wales.	Germany.	
Building Trades—			
Bricklayers and Masons ...	52 1/2	59	112
Carpenters ...	53	59	111
Plumbers ...	53 1/2	58	108
Painters ...	53 1/2	59	110
Labourers ...	52 1/2	59	112
Engineering Trades—			
Fitters ...	53	59 1/2	112
Turners ...	53	59 1/2	112
Smiths ...	53	59 1/2	112
Patternmakers ...	53	59 1/2	112
Labourers ...	53	59 1/2	112
Printing Trade—			
Compositors ...	52 1/2	54	103
All the above trades (average)			111

It will be seen that, except in the case of the printing trade, which is a highly organised trade in Germany, and for which the working hours have been fixed by agreement at the relatively low level of 54 per week, hours of labour in the above industries are from 8 to 12 per cent. higher in Germany than in England. On the average of the above trades, the German hours of

labour exceed those in England and Wales by about 11 per cent.

Hourly Earnings.—In the trades which have been taken into account the German weekly wages are found to be 83 per cent. of those in England, while the hours of labour during the week in Germany are 11 per cent. longer than in England and Wales, so that the hourly earnings of the German workman may be taken as roughly equal to about 75 per cent. of those of the English workman. That is to say, for the building and engineering trades in the towns investigated, the average hourly earnings of the workman in Germany are only about three-quarters of those of the English workman doing the same kinds of work.

(IV.) Summary of Conclusions.

Summarising the preceding sections, it has been found that, as regards rents:—

Net rents of working-class dwellings in Germany are to gross rents (including rates) of working-class dwellings in England as ... 101 to 100

Net rents of working-class dwellings in Germany are to net rents of working-class dwellings in England (excluding that portion of English rents which represents local taxation) as ... 123 to 100

As regards prices:—

On the basis of the ordinary English standard of consumption the expenditure of the workman on food and fuel in Germany is to his expenditure in England as ... 118 to 100

If the expenditure on rent be combined with that on food and fuel, the expenditure on the latter items being taken, with sufficient accuracy for present purposes, at four times the former, the results are:

The expenditure on food, fuel and rent of the workman in Germany, on the same basis as above, would be to that of the same workman in England, on the same items but including local taxation, as ... 115 to 100

The expenditure on food, fuel and rent of the workman in Germany would be to that of the same workman in England on the same items, exclusive of local taxation, as ... 119 to 100

It appears, therefore, that an English workman in Germany, living so far as possible as he had been accustomed to live in England, would find his expenditure on rent (exclusive of local taxation), food and fuel increased by some 19 per cent. (or roughly by one-fifth).

As regards wages and hours of labour:—

Weekly money wages of the working classes in German towns are to weekly wages of the same classes in England, in the trades selected for comparison, as ... 83 to 100

Average usual working hours per week of the working classes in German towns are to those of the same classes in England, in the trades selected for comparison, as ... 111 to 100

Consequently the hourly rates of money wages for the working classes in German towns are to those of the same classes in England, for the trades selected for comparison, as ... 75 to 100

Thus on the above basis the German rate of money wages per hour is about three-quarters of the English rate, and the cost of rent, food and fuel nearly one-fifth greater than in England.

It may be as well to repeat here the two principal limitations of this estimate, viz., (1) the data as to wages and hours of labour are based on the building, engineering and printing trades alone; (2) the comparison of cost of living is based on the English standard of consumption, and covers only expenditure on food, fuel, and house room, or rather more than three-quarters of the whole expenditure.

WAGES BOARDS AND INDUSTRIAL CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACTS OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

THE Report of Mr. Aves, the Commissioner appointed to make an investigation into the systems of Wages Boards and of compulsory arbitration in industrial disputes established in Australia and New Zealand, has been issued by the Home Office.*

The Report, in an introductory chapter, points out that "The comparatively small population of Australasian States, their democratic constitutions and the simplicity of their industrial organizations as compared with that of older communities tend to make the progress of industrial legislation rapid, and, in the same way, if modifications be found expedient, to lead to rapid changes in laws already passed." In no State therefore "was it possible to study the workings of legislation that was regarded as having reached its satisfactory and most appropriate form."

"Thus in Western Australia proposals for a Bill amending the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act were being drawn up. In South Australia the Factories Act of 1906 was already marked out for important amendments. In Victoria, although employers were anxious for respite from further change, it had been decided again to amend the Factories and Shop Act, and in various respects the scope and functions of the Special Boards were being actively canvassed. In New South Wales the Arbitration Act of 1901 was regarded as moribund, the only question being as to the form of the Act which was to take its place, and the extent to which the principles of 1901 were to be retained.† In Queensland a Wages Board Bill was before Parliament,‡ and politicians were considering the expediency of taking a similar step in Tasmania. Finally, in New Zealand evidence on an extremely important Bill amending the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was being taken by the Parliamentary Labour Laws Committee, and much of the machinery of the Act was felt to be in the crucible.§

Special Boards.

Victoria.—The Report outlines the history of factory legislation in Victoria with special reference to the circumstances preceding the Factories and Shops Act of 1896, which made provision for the establishment of "Wages," or, in the terms of the Act, "Special" Boards. The Act was only to be operative for four years, and in 1900 when the Act was renewed, the operative period was limited to two years and a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire as to the operations and effect of the preceding Acts. The Commission reported in 1902 and 1903. "The major recommendations of the Commission were three in number, and were of a somewhat startling character: for the consolidation (and separation) of the laws relating to factories and shops; for the repeal of 'all matter relating to Wages Boards when the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Bill recommended by us is placed on the statute'; and for the introduction of such a Bill."

In 1902 a serious break in continuity occurred owing to a sudden dissolution of Parliament in September, while a revisionary and amending Act was still under consideration by the Legislative Council. This breakdown "was the result, not simply of the temporary character of the preceding Acts, but also of the difficulty in securing their re-enforcement," and the Continuance Act passed in December, 1902, was only to be operative until October 31st, 1903. "In the interval a fresh Act was passed containing various important amendments, concerning which very diverse opinions are held, some stigmatising them as the 'blot' on the original measure, and others claiming that they are its 'steadying' features."

Under this Act new Special Boards could be formed, but only by the sanction of a vote of both Houses of

Parliament. "The power to limit the number of improvers was left untouched, but that with regard to apprentices was withdrawn. Boards formed after October, 1903, were to base their determinations on the 'average prices or rates of payment' paid by 'reputable employers to employees of average capacity.'" The definition of the less competent workers to whom permits or licences to accept less than the minimum wage might be granted was amended so as to make this class include not only the old and infirm but also the "slow." "Finally, and perhaps the most important amendment of all, a Court of Industrial Appeals was formed to which determinations could be referred by either party, or by the Minister, or which could be called upon to frame determinations, the Board failing to do this."

The Act of 1903 was only to be operative until 1905. A consolidating Act was passed in October, 1905, and statutory permanency was given to the Special Boards system in Victoria. In 1907 an amending Act was passed, strengthening the position of the Court of Industrial Appeals, and giving the Minister power to suspend a Determination in the case of an organised strike or dispute.

The Report describes the working of the Special Boards, and the executive machinery of administration. "The duties of the female inspectors are complicated by the outworkers, practically all of whom are females, and who should be visited. The instructions are to cover the factories in their appointed districts in six months, and this is aimed at, although the amount of emergency work interferes a good deal with the mere routine visiting. As regards the outworkers themselves, the instructions are to progress with the work as well as possible. There is no time limit, and in practice the inspectors are thus guided by the time that may be available. In reply to a question as to about how often the home workers among the white workers, for instance, were visited, I was informed that they were not visited once a year, although some during that period might be seen six times. Neither could it be asserted that they were visited once in two years. Out-workers were admittedly the most difficult to keep in touch with, and although periodical and systematic visiting is not attained—the frequent changes of address making this consummation almost impracticable in Melbourne—there is a feeling of confident assurance—I think from evidence from various sources justified—that the general position with regard to outworkers, not less than of those in the factories is known."

In 1906, in trades coming under Special Boards, 3,272 factories were registered employing 26,063 men and boys and 22,715 women and girls. In trades not under Special Boards there were 1,494 factories registered employing 13,551 men and boys and 5,216 women and girls. The number of home workers was estimated at 1,602 in 1907.

South Australia.—In 1900 an amending Factory Act empowered the formation of Boards in clothing, white work, boot and shoe, furniture, bread, "and such other manufacture, process, trade or business as Parliament may, by resolution, decide." In this Act no power was given to make regulations, and the Board clauses in consequence remained inoperative until a further amending Act was passed in November, 1904. During 1905 two Boards were formed; a "Clothing Board" and a "Shirtmaking and White Work Board," and during 1906 a "Dressmaking and Millinery Board." "The experience of South Australia is too short and too confused to yield any statistics that will throw light on the influence of the Special Boards on either wages or conditions."

General Conclusions.—In his concluding remarks on Special Boards the Commissioner is of opinion that "the experience of Victoria, valuable and interesting though it is, is thus not conclusive, if only because too brief, too simple and too exclusively connected with an era of prosperous trade. The problem, highly contentious even there, has differed from that presented in this country

very fundamentally—in intensity, in scope, and in circumstance.

"Even under the comparatively favourable conditions that have prevailed in Victoria it has been seen that, as regards wages, the distinguishable effects of the Special Boards on total average remuneration have often been slight, and that, when compared, so far as women's earnings are concerned, with changes that have taken place in trades without Special Boards, they are, in the aggregate, hardly appreciable.

"In spite of this, the Boards, especially those formed in the women's trades, are greatly valued and are widely believed in, and a chief explanation of this must, I think, be found, not so much in any demonstrable and lasting effects that they have had on the individual earnings of women as in the increased feeling of security that they give, and in the belief that they make treatment more uniformly fair."

Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration.

New Zealand.—The chief years of factory legislation were in 1891, 1894 and 1901; the important operative Act of the present time having been passed in the year last mentioned. "In 1894 the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act was passed. With three amending Acts it was consolidated in 1900, and other amending Acts have followed, including the Compilation Act of 1905—itsself amended in the same year." "It may be noted that the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act . . . was not an important influence until about 1899-1900, and up to the present time agricultural and pastoral pursuits have, except indirectly, been unaffected by it."

A clause in the Factory Act provides that "every person who is employed in any capacity in a factory shall be entitled to receive from the occupier payment for the work at such rate as is agreed on, in no case less than 5s. per week for boys and girls under 16 years of age, and thereafter an annual increase of not less than 3s. weekly till 20 years of age." This clause has an important effect upon the scope of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act, "inasmuch as by legal enactment the ground for most of those very trades that are chiefly liable to the evils of underpayment is covered by the direct action of Parliament. One result is seen in the fact that no award has been given for women in any branch of the clothing trade in New Zealand except in tailoring." In the awards in the bootmaking trade, in which the proportion of women is large, there is no reference to them. With this exception, that the Conciliation and Arbitration Act has little effect on the employment of women, it covers a more varied field than does the Special Board system of Victoria.

In the whole series of awards of the Arbitration Court, there has been only one insignificant case where wages have been reduced, and two where hours have been increased. Applications to the Arbitration Court have practically always proceeded from the side of the employees. "This is, of course, the natural accompaniment of times of increasing prosperity, but the fact is another illustration of the incompleteness of the test to which Courts and Boards have been submitted."

New South Wales.—The Industrial Arbitration Act of 1901 was made a temporary measure, to lapse on June 30th, 1908. "The Act has had a chequered career, and, in view of the numerous defects which the Act contained; of the absence of all amending legislation as these defects became manifest; of the congestion of its work and consequent delays in hearing; of the declaration by the late Carruthers Government in favour of Wages Boards 'as an alternative policy'; of the early errors of administration, alike in the character of some of the judgments given which were within, and of others which were without, its proper jurisdiction; of the almost uniformly hostile attitude maintained by the daily press, and of the instances of positive breakdown that have occurred; the extent to which the Act has been able to get through its work, and to make to its awards effective in the community, is a

matter for some surprise." (For an account of the *New South Wales Industrial Disputes Act, 1908*, see below.)

Western Australia.—Legislation in this State has been almost completely modelled on that of New Zealand.

INDUSTRIAL COURT AND WAGES BOARDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.—NEW LAW.

THE Industrial Arbitration Act, 1901, of New South Wales (see *LABOUR GAZETTE*, February, 1902, pages 39-40), and the Amending Act [the "Industrial Arbitration (Temporary Court) Act, 1905"] ceasing to continue in force after June 30th, 1908, a new law (the "Industrial Disputes Act, 1908"), has been passed to take their place. This Act provides for the establishment of an Industrial Court, consisting of a single judge (a Supreme Court judge or a District Court judge appointed by the Governor), and of Wages Boards for the industries (including Government railways but not agriculture or dairy farming) specified in the Act. The Governor may, on resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament, amend or add to the list of industries mentioned in the Act.

Wages Boards.

With respect to the constitution of Wages Boards, the Act provides that on the application of an employer or employers of not less than 20 employees in any industry to which the Act applies, or of a Trade Union registered under the Act having a membership of not less than 20 employees in the same industry, or of an Industrial Union whose members are such employers or employees, or (if there be no such Trade or Industrial Union) of not less than 20 employees in the same industry, the Industrial Court may recommend to the Minister administering the Act the constitution of a Board for the industry concerned, and the Minister shall direct its formation; he has also power to direct a Board to be constituted on the recommendation of the Industrial Court without any such application. Each Board is to consist of a chairman, and not less than two nor more than ten other members, as determined by the Industrial Court, one half employers, the other employees, but in either case persons who have been or are actually engaged in the industry for which the Board is constituted; but this qualification may be waived where the industry largely consists of females. All the members are appointed by the Governor; but except as to the chairman, these appointments are to be made on the recommendation of the Industrial Court from persons elected by the employers and the employees respectively. The chairman is to be nominated by a majority of the other members; if they fail to nominate, the Governor may appoint a Supreme Court Judge or a judge of a District Court, or some person nominated by the Industrial Court. Proceedings before a Board are commenced by reference to the Board by the Industrial Court of any dispute originating between an employer or an Industrial Union of employers on the one part, and an Industrial Union of employees or Trade Union or branch or not less than 20 employees on the other part, or by an application to the Board by employers or employees signed by an employer or employers of not less than 20 employees employed in the industry concerned, or by not less than 20 such employees, or by the secretary of a registered Trade Union having not less than 20 members so employed, or by an Industrial Union, whose members are such employers or employees.

A Board has full powers as to taking evidence on oath; but unless a person raises the objection that the profits of an industry are not sufficient to enable him to pay the wages or grant the conditions claimed, no person shall be required without his consent to produce his books.

Any Board may appoint two assessors to advise it on technical matters, but without power to vote.

All matters coming before the Board are to be determined by a majority of those present, the chairman having a casting vote.

* Cd. 457. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1s. 10d.

† See page 207.

‡ This Bill was passed on April 15th, 1903.

§ This Bill was introduced on July 8th, 1908.

Industrial Court.

Any decision of a Board may, by leave of the Industrial Court, be appealed against to that tribunal, which has similar powers (including power to appoint assessors) to those possessed by the Boards, and whose decision is to be final. "The Crown may, where, in the opinion of the Minister, the public interests are or would be likely to be affected by the award, order, or direction of a Board or of the Industrial Court (a) intervene in any proceedings before such Court or Board, and make such representations as it thinks necessary in order to safeguard the public interests; (b) at any time after the making of an award by a Board apply for leave to appeal, and appeal from such award to the Industrial Court."

Any breach of an award makes the offender liable to a penalty up to £50, and in default of payment to imprisonment up to three months, "or where the breach has been committed by the wilful act or default of the person charged, the Court in its discretion may, in lieu of imposing such penalty, sentence the said person to imprisonment for any period not exceeding three months."

The Act provides for the making of industrial agreements between any registered Trade Union or branch and an employer, which may be enforced in the same manner as an award.

Strikes and lock-outs (as also the instigation of, or any aid given in such acts) are made punishable by penalty up to £1,000, or in default imprisonment up to two months; but no prosecution shall be commenced except by leave of the Industrial Court.

The Act provides that when any person convicted on any such prosecution was, at the time of committing the offence, a member of a Trade or Industrial Union, the Industrial Court, unless satisfied that the Union has bona fide endeavoured to prevent its members from so acting, may order the Union to pay any amount not exceeding £20 of the penalty imposed.

Any Board or the Industrial Court has power, before or after making an award, to require the deposit of security for its due performance, and also to cover penalties which might be incurred by a strike or lock-out.

Inspectors are to be appointed by the Governor to ascertain whether awards are being complied with, with power to inspect factories, etc., and to examine time-sheets and pay-sheets.

ALIEN PASSENGER MOVEMENT IN 1907.

The second annual Report* of H.M. Inspector under the Aliens Act has been published. The principal statistics contained in this Report may be briefly summarised as follows:—

	Alien Passengers	
	Into the United Kingdom.	From the United Kingdom.
From or to the Continent	480,743	335,932
From or to non-European Countries	129,183	239,040
Total	609,926	574,972

Upon comparing the total number of alien passengers who arrived in the United Kingdom during the year with the total number who left the country, it will be seen that the arrivals exceeded the departures by 34,954. It should, however, be mentioned that the inward passengers included 12,327 seamen, of whom 8,683 were under actual contract to join ships in British waters; and it may be assumed that these seamen, and probably a very large proportion of those not under actual contract, left the country during the year as part of the crews of ships, and were consequently not included in any outgoing passenger returns. On the other hand, a certain

number of returning seamen and cattlemen, estimated at about 6,000 or 7,000, are believed to enter the country as members of crews and leave as passengers.

Taking first the traffic with European countries (including all ports on the Mediterranean Sea), the incoming alien passengers may be thus divided; the corresponding figures for 1906 are added for purposes of comparison:—

	1907.	1906.
Cabin Passengers	149,334	137,692
Second Class Passengers Exempted from Inspection	97,213	93,707
Transmigrants	172,438	159,788
Other Alien Passengers	61,758	64,313
Total	480,743	465,500

There was an increase in 1907 under each head, except that of "other alien passengers," which shows a decrease of 2,555. The cabin and second class passengers mostly arrive at the "cross-channel" ports. "Transmigrants" are passengers holding through tickets to a foreign country, and with regard to whom security has been given that they will leave the United Kingdom; all but 856 of them are known to have proceeded to their destination; and of these 791 returned to the Continent, 19 died in the United Kingdom, and 13 had not left the country on April 1st, 1908, leaving only 33 (as compared with 107 in the preceding year) unaccounted for.

In addition to the 791 intending transmigrants mentioned above who returned to the Continent, 1,139 aliens who had left British ports as transmigrants were rejected on arrival at their destination outside the United Kingdom. All but 33 of these have been traced out of the United Kingdom on their return.

The "other alien passengers" included in the Table above may be further sub-divided, as follows:—

	1907.	1906.
Proceeding to a destination outside the United Kingdom	8,905	7,991
Holding return tickets to a foreign country	6,815	6,141
Seamen	12,001	11,165
Of whom were under contract to join ships	8,664	8,181
Residents returning	5,709	Not stated
Refused leave to land	786	489

It will be seen that alien residents returning to their domicile in this country were not distinguished in 1906. Allowing for these, the residuum not accounted for above (27,541) shows a decrease of 5,277 as compared with 1906. This residuum of 27,541 alien passengers included 18,210 men, 7,030 women, and 2,301 children. The principal nationalities represented were:—

Russians and Poles	7,681	Italians	3,921
French	7,622	Germans	2,458

Allowing for the residents returning, who were not enumerated in the previous year, the Russians and Poles show a decrease of 4,804, and Italians of 688, as compared with 1906. There was a marked decrease in the number of these "residual" aliens at London; this decrease was entirely in the Russians and Poles.

The number of aliens from whom leave to land was withheld (including immigrants both from the Continent and from non-European countries) was 975—532 on account of want of means, &c., and 443 on medical grounds. 601 of these persons appealed, of whom 173 were successful and 428 unsuccessful. The number finally refused leave to land was therefore 802 (632 men, 97 women, and 73 dependents). The nationalities of the persons rejected were: Russians and Poles, 302; Greeks, Syrians and Armenians, 177; Italians, 98; French, 73; German, 33; other nationalities, 119. The persons so rejected are, of course, additional to the transmigrants who were rejected and returned to their countries of departure.

In addition to the intending immigrants thus rejected on arrival in this country, expulsion orders were made against 306 aliens convicted in the United Kingdom during 1907.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

LIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED.

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

HULL AND BARNESLEY RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. Goods Manager's Department.—Linton Pearson, checker, Neptune Street; Jesse Allitt, porter, Neptune Street; Charles Devonport, checker, Neptune Street.

Sectional Board B. Locomotive Department.—Charles W. Foster, fireman, Springhead; Ernest E. Haycock, engine driver, Springhead; George Carson, engine driver, Springhead.

Sectional Board C. Superintendent's Department.—Henry William Maynard, passenger guard, Cannon Street; John Headon, goods guard, Spring Bank West; William Borman Wilson, signalman, Alexandra Dock.

Sectional Board D. Permanent Way and Signals.—William Smith, platelayer, Kirk Smeaton; Thomas William Thompson, platelayer, Alexandra Dock; Herbert Lawes, ballastman, Willerby.

SOUTH EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY.

Sectional Board No. 1. Engineers' Department, &c.—London District.—Arthur Ernest Moore, platelayer, Hither Green; John Henry Prior, ganger, Wandsworth Road. Eastern District.—George Dixon, platelayer, Canterbury West; Thomas Gibbs, signal fitters' smith, Ashford. Western District.—George Staples, platelayer, Sevenoaks; Thomas Moss, ganger, Ash.

Sectional Board No. 2. Traffic.—London District.—Frederick Charles Fagg, signalman, Stewart's Lane; Thomas Wicks, goods guard, Rotherhithe Road. Eastern District.—Henry B. Cobb, signalman, Ashford East; William B. Brett, passenger guard, Dover Harbour. Western District.—William Stephens, district relief signalman, Tonbridge; Frederick George Burgess, passenger guard, Maidstone West.

Sectional Board No. 3. Locomotive Department.—London District.—William Westlake, engine driver, Battersea; Alfred Harber, carriage examiner, Maze Hill. Eastern District.—Harry Robert Williams, engine driver, Margate West; Edward Elphick Ockenden, engine driver, Dover Town. Western District.—William Hoath, engine driver, Tonbridge; Arthur Kinchen, engine driver, Redhill.

Sectional Board No. 4. Miscellaneous Grades.—London District.—Donald Weir, checker, Bricklayer's Arms; James Maycock, office porter, New Cross. Eastern District.—Thomas Millen, ticket collector, Dover Town; Arthur Spice, goods porter, Sittingbourne. Western District.—Henry Ingram, porter, Redhill; John Finn, ticket collector, Tonbridge.

BRECON AND MERTHYR RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. Traffic.—William Davies, porter, Brecon; Thomas Jenkins, goods guard, Bassaleg; Eber Richards, signalman, Tallylyn.

Sectional Board B. Locomotive.—John Davies, engine driver, Brecon; Thomas Powell, engine driver, Bassaleg; Washington Williams, fireman, Tallylyn.

Sectional Board C. Permanent Way.—William Davies, ganger, Fochriw; William Thomas, platelayer, Machen.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

The only classes of emigrants wanted in Canada at the present time are experienced farm labourers, farmers financially able to take homesteads or purchase lands, and female domestic servants. The Regulation now in operation in Canada requiring every emigrant 18 years of age or over to have in his possession at least 25 dols. cash at the time of landing, besides ticket to destination, is enforced strictly and impartially in the case of all emigrants outside of the classes above mentioned. All emigrants sent out by British Charitable Societies or Public Funds must be certified as suitable by the Canadian authorities in London. The *Dominion Labour Gazette* states that employment in May was less plentiful than in the corresponding month in 1907. Experienced farm hands were in demand at high wages, but the market for railway construction hands was already filled, and there was a surplus of men at Winnipeg and other points. Unskilled labour was in excess of the demand at many points, and wages declined in British Columbia and elsewhere. The production of lumber was expected to be below that of

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

1907. In mining the Nova Scotia collieries, the asbestos mines in Quebec and the cobalt camp in Ontario had a very busy month, and there was a marked revival of activity in the metalliferous mines of British Columbia. The mica and copper mines of Quebec, however, and the western collieries were dull. The amount of building is considerably less than in 1907, so that at Winnipeg and elsewhere many mechanics in all lines of the building trade have been out of employment. At Sault Ste. Marie (Ont.), following a recent shut-down of the rail mill, the blast furnaces were blown out, leaving the steel industry there in idleness, and affecting some 1,500 men. At Sydney, N.S., however, the large steel industry has been active. Cotton mills have not been so busy as usual, and there have been serious strikes at Montreal and Ste. Hyacinthe in the Province of Quebec. Generally speaking mechanics and unskilled labourers are not recommended to go to Canada now, unless they have means of their own, or go to assured work or to friends.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales is not now giving assisted passages to any others than farmers, farm workers, and female domestic servants: there is an excellent demand for these classes. General labourers and mechanics are not taken unless they are nominated by friends in New South Wales. The coal industry at Newcastle is again unsettled, owing to disputes as to wages; silver mining at Broken Hill is depressed. Immigration to *Victoria* is now very limited, and is not likely to become large until the Government's policy of opening up land to small settlers is carried out. In *South Australia* there have been several unemployed in the Wallaroo district, but in other parts there are openings for competent men in the building trade. *Queensland* offers free passages to female servants between 17 and 35 years, and assisted and nominated passages to others; farm labourers, especially dairy hands, are much wanted; the local supply of men on sugar farms is sufficient. Skilled carpenters and blacksmiths can find work.

In *Western Australia* the Report of the Government Labour Bureau for 1907 states that Perth and all the chief mining centres as Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie, Mount Margaret, Murchison and Collie were well supplied—and in some cases over supplied—with miners and mechanics; prospects were rather better at Peak Hill, Ashburton and Northampton. In several country districts, as Northam, Katanning, Blackwood, Bridgetown, Wagin and Bunbury, there was a good demand for experienced farm hands, fencers and clearers. Capable men of this kind had practically no difficulty in getting work all the year round. There was a good demand for female servants in most parts.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages to New Zealand may be granted on certain conditions to farmers, farm labourers and domestic servants, for whom there is an excellent demand. At Auckland the building, boot, engineering, clothing, carriage building, and brick and pottery trades have all been busy, and machinists are wanted in the boot trade. At Napier good hands in the clothing trade are wanted. At New Plymouth and Dunedin female workers are wanted for tailoring and boot manufacturing. At Wellington there is a good demand for girls in the dressmaking and the woollen mills; almost all the farm and general labourers who recently arrived from England have been placed. At Christchurch good female brush-makers and boot machinists are wanted. Many flax mills are closed down.

South Africa.

There is no demand for more labour in any part of South Africa; and in Johannesburg, and in many of the chief towns of Cape Colony, Natal, and the Orange River Colony there is considerable distress owing to the scarcity of employment. Emigrants should not go there now.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 201 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in May.—There was a further improvement in employment in the building and allied trades in the provinces, but at Paris, in spite of the termination of the lock-out of masons, many workpeople were unemployed. In the metal trades the depression in the automobile branch continued both in Paris and certain provincial centres. In the textile trades there was still a high degree of unemployment in most of the Nord centres, and at Flers and St. Quentin short time was worked. In the smaller centres of the Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres employment continued moderate; on the other hand it continued satisfactory in the Vosges and Ardennes. Among silk weavers in the St. Etienne and Lyons districts employment was moderate. In the garment-making trades full seasonal activity was experienced, especially at Paris; employment was also good in the printing trades. There was much unemployment among the Brittany tin box makers and among diamond workers and leather dressers. Employment among vineyard workers in the south showed a slight improvement, and was considerably better than a year ago. Woodcutters found full employment in bark peeling and agricultural work, and employment among gardeners in the Paris district continued good.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in May were received by the French Labour Department from 987 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 240,265. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 11.9 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 9.6 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.9 per cent. in May, 1907.

Coal Mining in May.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during May was 5.87, as compared with 5.99 in April, and 5.66 in May, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 56.15 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 43.43 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 95.88 and 4.12, and in May, 1907, 10.67 and 89.33.

Labour Disputes in May.—Seventy-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in May, compared with 114 in the previous month and 165† in May, 1907. In 69 of the new disputes 5,999 workpeople took part, as compared with 8,626 workpeople who took part in 101 of the April disputes, and 18,056 who took part in 142 of the disputes in May, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (37), pottery (9), woodworking (7), and textile (5). Of 63 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 11 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 23 in favour of the employers, while 29 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in May.—Two instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in May. Committees of conciliation were formed in both cases, and succeeded in settling the disputes.

GERMANY.

Employment in May.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Depart-

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

ment) for the month of June:—"The condition of the labour market in May was somewhat variable, but changes for the worse were recorded in a few industries only. In coal mining employment was good, the partial decline noted in past months having come to an end. The state of the chemical and electrical industries, too, was favourable. The engineering trades were quiet, but employment was for the most part adequate, and there were no signs of any further decline. The locomotive and railway carriage construction branches were well provided with orders throughout the whole month, and the same was true of the electrical engineering branch. In the building trades employment improved somewhat, but was far less plentiful than last year. Throughout the greater part of the wood-working trades, employment continued unsatisfactory. This was also true of the metal trades, the decline being most marked in the iron founding, plate rolling and hardware branches, especially in North Germany. The reports as to the textile industry, too, are unfavourable. For the book-printing trades May marks the beginning of the slack season. The brewery industry suffered through unfavourable weather conditions. The reports from labour registries point to continued depression in a number of trades. The reports from Bavaria are the most favourable."

BELGIUM.*

Employment in May.—According to Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department 3.9 per cent. of 39,110 members of 199 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 3.1 per cent. in April, and 1.4 per cent. in May, 1907. There was a serious degree of unemployment among Antwerp diamond workers, of whom 1,461 were out of work during the week ending May 23rd; these are not included, however, in the foregoing percentages. (As regards foreign unemployment returns in general see note under "Labour Abroad" above.)

Labour Disputes in May.—Fifteen strikes, affecting 4,130 workpeople (2,805 directly and 1,325 indirectly), and one lock-out of 1,250 workpeople in the building trades, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in May. In addition, 4 strikes, affecting 736 workpeople, which began before May 1st, were in progress during the month. The termination of 16 disputes was reported. Two of these (involving 140 strikers) ended in favour of the workpeople, and 12 (involving 2,569 strikers) in favour of the employers, while 2 (involving 114 strikers and 1,250 persons locked out) were compromised.

HOLLAND.†

Employment in May.—Employment in the building trades was slack for bricklayers and masons and carpenters, especially towards the end of the month; but in the case of painters and decorators, and, to a less extent, stucco-workers, there was a continuance of the seasonal activity. In the larger metal and engineering establishments, and in shipbuilding, employment was good. Employment in the textile trades was still slack, but the revival in the garment-making trades continued, and with boot and shoe makers employment was good. With woodworkers it was not so satisfactory as in April. In the printing trades there was some unemployment, but little change from a month ago. In bulb-growing employment continued regular. On May 10th the diamond workers at Amsterdam resumed work after a stoppage which began on April 4th, but in less numbers than before. In the margarine and tobacco trades employment was satisfactory, and seasonal activity was resumed in the brewing trades. In the cocoa and chocolate trades employment showed a slight decline.

* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
† *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

Labour Disputes in May.—Eight strikes and one lock-out, affecting 384 workpeople, were reported to have commenced in May. Thirteen disputes came to an end during the month, including 9 which had begun in previous months. The results were known in 12 cases. Two of these resulted in favour of the workpeople and 5 in favour of the employers, while 5 were compromised.

Appointment of Commission on Government Labour.—A despatch from H.M. Minister at the Hague, dated June 12th, gives the text of a Royal Decree of May 19th, 1908, appointing a Commission to enquire into the conditions of State labour in Holland. The chief duties of the Commission are to submit proposals to the Government with a view to the introduction and maintenance of uniformity in the conditions of State labour (e.g., as regards wages, hours of labour, night work, etc.), to consider the desirability of instituting a permanent committee which should furnish the Government with recommendations respecting proposed modifications in such conditions, and to consider the composition of and draft the instructions to be given to such permanent committee. The Commission held its inaugural meeting on May 25th.

NORWAY.*

Employment in May.—According to returns made to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics 1.8 per cent. of the 9,893 members of Trade Unions reporting were described as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.4 per cent. in the previous month, and 1.4 per cent. in May, 1907. In the following Table the figures are grouped by trades:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.
Metal Workers	5,308	5,332	5,170	1.4	1.3	0.4
Carpenters, &c.	659	655	662	7.0	5.2	3.9
Painters	550	550	600	...	...	2.8
Printers	1,301	1,283	1,285	1.1	1.3	2.9
Wood Pulp and Paper Makers	1,162	1,122	1,172	0.1	...	0.1
Sawyers and Planers... ..	211	237	352	6.6	31.6	0.6
Cabinet Makers	235	230	250	2.6	1.7	4.0
Bakers	200	200	170	9.5	13.5	7.1
Tinned Goods (Food Preparation)	277†	277	219	...	3.6	5.5
Total	9,893	9,885	9,880	1.8	2.4	1.4

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 210.)

SWEDEN.

Dispute in Building Trades at Stockholm.—On the termination on April 1st last of an agreement entered into in 1905 by employers and workpeople in the building trades at Stockholm, certain reductions in wages were introduced. The Trade Unions declined to accept these, and on April 6th a strike took place, some 10,000 workpeople being involved. The employers declared a lock-out on April 13th against all workmen belonging to the Unions. A threatened extension of the lock-out was postponed pending negotiations for a settlement of the dispute. The negotiations were still in progress at the date of the last despatch.

New Agreement in the Baking Trades at Stockholm.—A despatch from H.M. Minister at Stockholm, dated June 17th, reports the settlement by the official mediator of a dispute between employers and employed in the baking trade, and gives the terms of a new agreement signed on June 16th. The terms of the agreement provide for an increase in wages of 3s. 4d. per week. Thus, whereas the minimum wage scale ranged from 22s. 3d. to 33s. 4d. per week, according to occupation, it will now range from 25s. 7d. to 36s. 8d. The hours of labour have been reduced from 60 to 58 per week. The

* Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
† End of April.

† Based on despatches from H.M. Minister and H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Stockholm, dated April 8th-July 10th, 1908.

new agreement is to remain in force until June 1st, 1911.

*Strike of Stevedores at Swedish Ports.**—On May 1st it was reported that Trades Union stevedores and dock labourers at the northern ports on the east coast of Sweden wished to exclude all others from working ships' cargoes. Upon the employers' organisation refusing to accede to this policy a strike was declared. Among the ports affected by the dispute are Stockholm, Sundsvall, Hernösand, Umea and Gefle. On June 9th it was stated that shipowners had requisitioned men from England to discharge cargoes in place of the strikers. A report of July 11th states that the blockade has, for the time, been raised on merchant vessels at Stockholm. A general lock-out in all industries in Sweden is said to be threatened for July 20th unless the strike has ceased by July 16th.

ITALY.†

Labour Disputes in April.—One hundred and seventy-nine strikes were reported to the Italian Labour Department as having occurred in April, as compared with 173 in the previous month. The number of persons directly involved in 161 of the April disputes was 29,639, as compared with 20,823 who took part in 136 of the March disputes. The trades in which most strikes occurred in April were the building (40), pottery, &c. (31), and textile (24). So far as can be seen from the available data, the most extensive of the strikes were those in the metal trades (where, in 11 strikes there were 9,528 strikers), the textile (5,329 in 23 strikes), the pottery, &c. (3,697 in 27), and the building trades (3,555 in 35). The termination of 171 of the above strikes was reported. Of these 38 ended in favour of the workpeople and 61 in favour of the employers, while 65 were compromised. In 7 cases the results were not stated.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.‡

Labour Disputes in Hungary in 1906.—The following official statistics of strikes and lock-outs which occurred in 1906 relate to Hungary, exclusive of Croatia-Slavonia. Both as regards 1905 and 1906 the statistics are not complete, inasmuch as three important branches of industry, viz., agriculture, mining and the transport trades, are excluded. From 1907 onwards, however, an effort is to be made to include the first two of these groups.

During the year 1906, 558 strikes occurred, as compared with 335 in 1905, an increase of 223 or 66.6 per cent. The number of workpeople affected was 56,593 (45,919 directly and 10,674 indirectly). In 1905 the number affected was 44,644 (39,742 directly and 4,902 indirectly). Thus the number of persons affected showed an increase of 26.8 per cent. in 1906. Of the 45,919 strikers, 10,314, or 22.5 per cent., were employed in the building trades; 8,408, or 18.3 per cent., in the food preparation trades; 6,807, or 14.8 per cent., in the clothing trades; and 5,970, or 13.0 per cent., in the woodworking, &c., trades. In 1906, 546,159 working days were lost by strikers, as compared with 694,148 in the previous year. Of the 558 strikes of 1906, 192, involving 12,172 strikers, terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 140, involving 11,102 strikers, in favour of the employers, while 226, involving 22,645 strikers, were compromised.

Fourteen lock-outs occurred in 1906, as compared with 5 in 1905. The number of persons affected was 8,158 (6,072 directly and 2,086 indirectly), as compared with 5,318 in 1905 (2,187 directly and 3,131 indirectly). In 1906, 549,971 working days were lost by persons

* Based on a series of despatches from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires and H.M. Consul at Stockholm, dated May 1st to July 11th.

† *Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro* (Journal of the Italian Labour Department).

‡ Based on a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Budapest, dated April 14th, and on *Völkswirtschaftliche Mitteilungen aus Ungarn* (Journal of the Hungarian Ministry of Commerce) for April, 1908.

locked out as compared with 22,884 in 1905. This increase was largely due to a dispute in the building trades at Budapest, which affected 3,034 workpeople, and lasted from September 1906 to July, 1907. Seven of the lock-outs, involving 4,027 workpeople, terminated in favour of the employers.

UNITED STATES.

Decrease in Number of Immigrants arriving at Boston.—A despatch from H.M. Acting-Consul at Boston, dated June 9th, reports a marked falling off in the number of alien immigrants arriving at that port during the first five months of the year. The number for the period January to May was 13,930, as compared with 33,930 for the corresponding period in 1907, a decrease of 20,000, or 59 per cent. The month in which the decline was most marked was May, the number of arrivals being 6,627 less than in May, 1907. During the five months under review the number of foreign workpeople leaving the port was twice as great as that of foreign workpeople arriving.

*Employment in Textile Trades in New England: Resumption of Activity.**—Owing to the increased demand for textile goods, there has been a resumption of activity in the New England textile centres. [See GAZETTE, April, p. 109; May, p. 141; June, p. 176.] Manufacturers employing from 35,000 to 40,000 persons increased their hours of labour during the latter part of May, and many mills which had been on short time for months started working full time on June 1st.

Employment in Massachusetts.—In the Massachusetts Labour Bulletin (the journal of the Bureau of Statistics of Labour of Massachusetts) for May, 1908, appear the results of the Bureau's first attempt to procure statistics relating to the state of employment in organised trades in the States. Schedules were sent to every local labour organisation in the State asking for the number of members idle, and the causes of idleness, on March 31st, 1908, the last day of the quarter. Two hundred and nineteen unions, with a total membership of 56,394, made complete returns. Of these persons 8,902, or 15·8 per cent., were reported as unemployed. In this figure account is taken of all causes of unemployment, viz., lack of work, lack of material, weather, disputes, disability, &c. The number unemployed owing to lack of work and weather alone was 7,739, or 13·7 per cent.

The following table gives the number and percentage of persons out of work owing to these two causes, classified by groups of trades:—

Trade.	Membership of Trade Unions reporting.	Number unemployed owing to lack of work and weather.	Percentage unemployed owing to lack of work and weather.
Building Trades	11,296	2,393	21·2
Stone Working Trades (Quarrying, Granite Cutting, &c.)	1,818	161	8·9
Metal and Engineering Trades	3,342	353	10·6
Textile Trades	3,903	1,497	38·4
Clothing Trades	16,712	1,106	6·6
Transport Trades (including Railway Clerks and Telegraphers)	8,056	789	9·8
Printing, Paper and Allied Trades	1,714	90	5·3
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades...	901	204	22·6
Food and Tobacco Trades	4,801	510	10·6
Other Trades	3,851	636	16·5
Total	56,394	7,739	13·7

Employment in St. Louis Consular District.—H.M. Consul at St. Louis, in a despatch dated May 27th, states that at that date labour conditions in the consular district of St. Louis showed a slight improvement, but that there were still many men out of work. In Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri some 35,000 coal miners who had ceased work for nearly two months pending a new agreement were returning to work.

* Based on despatches from H.M. Consul-General at New York and H.M. Acting-Consul at Boston, dated June 2nd and 4th respectively.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN JUNE.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 474 Returns—431 from Employers, 31 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued good during June. There was a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,377 pits employing 639,423 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended June 27th, 1908, was 4·75, as compared with 5·48 in May, 1908, and 5·49 in June, 1907. In June, 1908, however, rather more than half a day per week was lost on account of holidays.

Of the 639,423 workpeople covered by the Returns 355,652 (55·9 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended June 27th, 1908, while 40,127 (6·3 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest averages were in Ireland, 5·22 days; in Durham, 5·19 days; South Wales and Monmouthshire, 5·14 days; and Northumberland, 5·13 days. The lowest averages were in Nottingham and Leicester, 3·77 days, and in Derbyshire, 3·96 days.

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended June 27th, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in May, 1908, and June, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in June, 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in June, 1908, as compared with	
		June 27th, 1908.†	May 23rd, 1908.	June 22nd, 1907.	A m'nth ago.*	A year ago.*
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	41,588	5·13	5·45	5·45	– '32	– '32
Durham	116,635	5·19	5·47	5·50	– '28	– '31
Cumberland	7,524	4·65	5·26	5·72	– '61	– 1·07
South Yorkshire	65,734	4·72	5·74	5·64	– 1·02	– '92
West Yorkshire	22,866	4·41	5·47	5·30	– 1·06	– '89
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,779	4·19	5·15	5·35	– '96	– 1·16
Derbyshire	40,428	3·96	5·22	5·32	– 1·26	– 1·36
Nottingham and Leicester	33,350	3·77	4·96	5·07	– 1·19	– 1·30
Staffordshire	28,959	4·18	5·43	5·20	– 1·25	– 1·02
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop	11,110	4·38	5·57	5·20	– 1·19	– '82
Gloucester and Somerset	8,040	4·01	5·12	5·09	– 1·11	– 1·08
North Wales	11,169	4·65	5·66	5·70	– 1·01	– 1·05
South Wales and Mon. ...	143,010	5·14	5·86	5·86	– '72	– '72
ENGLAND AND WALES	588,232	4·73	5·81	5·81	– '78	– '78
SCOTLAND.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	26,750	4·82	4·99	5·29	– '17	– '47
The Lothians	4,364	4·89	5·17	5·39	– '28	– '50
Fife	19,341	4·95	5·35	5·04	– '40	– '09
SCOTLAND	50,455	4·87	5·14	5·20	– '27	– '33
IRELAND	736	5·22	4·46	4·87	+ '76	+ '35
United Kingdom ...	639,423	4·75	5·48	5·49	– '73	– '74

Compared with a month ago, and after making allowance for the time lost on account of holidays, employment in Northumberland and Durham showed little change; in all other districts of England and Wales and in West Scotland there was a slight decline. In Fife and in the Lothians there was some improvement. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in all districts except Northumberland, where employment was about the same, and in Fife where there was an improvement.

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

† The number of days worked in June, 1908, and the comparison with a month ago and a year ago are affected by the Whitsuntide holidays.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 210,070 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the description "mixed." There was a slight decline at pits producing all classes of coal as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in June, 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in June, 1908, as compared with	
		June 27th, 1908.*	May 23rd, 1908.	June 22nd, 1907.	A m'nth ago.*	A year ago.*
Anthracite	7,619	5·14	5·71	5·63	– '57	– '49
Coking	32,777	5·23	5·54	5·71	– '48	– '48
Gas	40,030	4·95	5·39	5·44	– '44	– '49
House	81,651	4·07	5·19	5·13	– 1·12	– 1·06
Manufacturing and Steam	267,276	4·93	5·61	5·64	– '68	– '71
Mixed	210,070	4·64	5·43	5·42	– '79	– '78
All Descriptions ...	639,423	4·75	5·48	5·49	– '73	– '74

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in June, 1908, amounted to 5,251,230 tons, or 738,914 tons less than in May, 1908, and 268,084 tons less than in June, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 88 Returns—71 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

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

In tin and copper mines employment was not so good as a month ago. In lead mines it continued good. It remained moderate on the whole in quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended June 27th, 1908, the average number of days per week worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5·57, as compared with 5·74 a month ago and 5·86 a year ago. The figures for June, 1908, however, are affected by Whitsuntide holidays, the time lost through these amounting to 0·22 of a day.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in June, 1908, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in June, 1908, as compared with	
		June 27th, 1908.*	May 23rd, 1908.	June 22nd, 1907.	A month ago.*	A year ago.*
Cleveland... ..	7,489	5·72	5·80	5·96	– 0·08	– 0·24
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,726	5·47	5·75	5·90	– 0·28	– 0·43
Scotland	750	5·35	5·08	5·24	+ 0·27	+ 0·11
Other Districts	2,505	5·40	5·72	5·75	– 0·32	– 0·35
All Districts ...	15,470	5·57	5·74	5·86	– 0·17	– 0·29

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 71·8 per cent. worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended June 27th, as compared with 92·7 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,324 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended June 27th, as compared with 3,363 a month ago, and 3,224 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked in the four weeks ended June 27th, was 5·71, as compared with 5·70 a month ago, and 5·43 a year ago.

* The number of days worked in June, 1908, and the comparison with a month ago and a year ago are affected by the Whitsuntide holidays.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall was not so good on the whole as a month ago; in the Camborne district it remained steady.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in North Wales and in Weardale.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack in North Wales, short time being worked in the Festiniog district. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) it continued fair.

Granite.—Employment was fair on the whole in Aberdeenshire and Leicestershire. It was bad, and worse than a month ago, on Dartmoor, and bad at Penryn.

Limestone.—Employment was good in Weardale. It continued bad in the Somerset blue lias quarries, and was slack in the Buxton district, in Cumberland, and in the Plymouth district.

Other Stone.—Employment remained good with chert quarrymen in Derbyshire and in the Clee Hill road material quarries. It remained fair in freestone quarries in the Gateshead district. In the Bath stone quarries employment was dull; it was slack in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries. It was moderate in grindstone quarries at Barnsley, and quiet at Wickersley. It was bad, and worse than a month ago, in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. Employment remained bad in Forfarshire.

Settmaking.—Employment was fair, and somewhat improved in North Wales and in Leicestershire. It was generally fair at Aberdeen, Glasgow and Airdrie. It was moderate at Rowley Regis (Staffs), and dull in the Clee Hill district.

China Clay.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago in the St. Austell district, and was regular at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during June continued moderate. It was considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing nearly 22,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of June, 1908, was 288, as compared with 287 in May, 1908, and 347 in June, 1907. During June 4 furnaces were re-lit (in Cleveland, Staffordshire, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire), while 3 were blown out (in Lancashire, Lanarkshire and Ayrshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in June, 1908, as compared with	
	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	A month ago.*	A year ago.*
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	79	78	88	+ 1	– 9
Cumberland & Lanes.	24	25	38	– 1	– 14
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	11	11	15	...	– 4
Derby & Nottingham	34	34	43	...	– 9
Leicester, Lincoln, & Northampton	26	26	26	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	32	31*	37	+ 1	– 5
S. Wales & Monmouth	13	13	16	...	– 3
Other districts	6	6	6	...	...
England & Wales	225	224*	269	+ 1	– 44
Scotland	63	63	78	...	– 15
Total	288	287*	347	+ 1	– 59

* Revised Figure.

The Imports of iron ore in June, 1908, amounted to 523,865 tons, or 11,997 tons more than in May, 1908, but 73,333 tons less than in June, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in June, 1908, amounted to 105,885 tons, or 8,738 tons less than in May, 1908, and 93,656 tons less than in June, 1907.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 212 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 5 from Trade Unions; and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works during June showed a further decline, and was worse than a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended June 27th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received, was 0.6 per cent. less than in the week ended May 23rd, 1908, and was 14.7 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended June 27th, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns, was about 461,300, as compared with 464,000 a month ago, and 540,700 a year ago.

Table with columns: Departments, In week ended June 27th, 1908, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, In week ended June 27th, 1908, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.

Table with columns: Districts, In week ended June 27th, 1908, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and Wales and Monmouth districts and in Scotland; in the Northumberland and Durham and Staffordshire districts there were decreases; in the other districts there was not much change.

As compared with a year ago the number employed decreased in every district; the decline was most marked in Northumberland and Durham, Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and in Scotland. As regards

departments the decline was greatest at puddling forges, steel rolling mills and open hearth melting furnaces.

The average number of shifts per man per week was 5.32, as compared with 5.33 a month ago, and 5.60 a year ago. Compared with a month ago the average number of shifts worked showed increases at the puddling forges and at steel forging and pressing departments. The most marked decreases were at the iron forging, crucible furnaces and Bessemer converting departments.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in all districts and departments except in the iron forging department, where there was an increase of 0.17 of a shift per week.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during June, 1908, amounted to 86,806 tons, or 8,055 tons more than in May, 1908, and 13,950 tons more than in June, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during June, 1908, amounted to 188,844 tons, or 36,696 tons less than in May, 1908, and 48,980 tons less than in June, 1907.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

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

EMPLOYMENT during June continued good, but showed a decline as compared with the previous month. It was not so good as a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 382 tinplate mills were working at the end of June, as compared with 387 in May, and 393 a year ago. The number of sheet mills working was 50, 51 and 58 respectively.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of June and May, 1908, and June, 1907. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople.

Table with columns: Number of Works open, Number of Mills in operation, At end of June, 1908, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.

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

Table with columns: Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets, Black Plates for Tinning, Tons, June, 1908, May, 1908, June, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a year ago.

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

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 342 Returns—6 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 321 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed some improvement on the termination of the recent dispute, but was still bad and much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 64,758 members had 13,346 (or 20.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of June, 1908, as compared with 26.1 in May, 1908, and 6.4 in June, 1907.

Compared with a month ago there was a decrease in the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in those districts which had been involved in the dispute, and an increase in the other districts. Compared with a year ago, there was a general decline in employment, only one district showing a reduction in the percentage unemployed.

Table with columns: District, No. of Members* at end of June, 1908, included in the Returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of June, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for June, 1908, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for June, 1908, as compared with a year ago.

On the Tyne employment was slack, but improving. On the Wear it was still bad. On the Tees it was slack, but better than a month ago. At Hull it was bad on merchant shipbuilding, and moderate on repairs and trawler building. At Barrow it was moderate.

Employment continued quiet in London. It was slack at Lowestoft and Yarmouth; fairly good at Ipswich and Wyvenhoe, and also at the Royal Dockyards and Southampton. At the Bristol Channel ports it was slack, and worse than a month ago. On the Mersey employment remained slack.

On the Clyde employment was slack, but improving. It was slack at Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen. At Belfast it was slack, and worse than a month ago.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyds Returns for the quarter ended June, 1908, there was a decrease in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 48,323 tons gross (or 5.7 per cent.) as compared with March, 1908, and of 451,140 tons gross (or 36.1 per cent.) as compared with June, 1907. The figures relating to war vessels show a decrease of 31,471 tons displacement as compared with the March quarter, and of 4,640 tons as compared with a year ago.

Table with columns: District, Merchant Vessels, War Vessels, Tons Gross, Tons Displacement, June, 1908, Mar., 1908, June, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a year ago.

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with March, 1908, there were increases on the Tyne, Wear, in the Middlesbrough and Stockton districts, and in "Other Districts." The

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † Members on strike or locked out are excluded from these figures.

remaining districts showed decreases. As compared with June, 1907, each district showed a decrease. The decrease on the Wear amounted to 55 per cent., and that on the Clyde to 40 per cent.

War Vessels.—On the Tyne and in the Barrow, Maryport and Workington district little change was shown as compared with the March, 1908, quarter, but as compared with June, 1907, there were increases in both districts. On the Clyde a large decrease is shown as compared with both periods. Compared with June, 1907, the tonnage under construction at the Royal Dockyards showed an increase of nearly 40 per cent.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 979 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 930 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 42 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued slack on the whole, and was adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 155,384 show that at the end of June the percentage unemployed was 10.5, as compared with 9.5 a month ago, and 3.4 in June, 1907. The increase as compared with a month ago was common to all districts, except London, the Hull and Lincolnshire, and the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry districts, where a slight improvement was shown. As compared with a year ago there was an increase in the percentage unemployed in all districts, especially noticeable on the North-East Coast and in Scotland.

Table with columns: District, No. of Members* of Unions at end of June, 1908, included in the Returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of June, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for June, 1908, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for June, 1908, as compared with a year ago.

On the North-East Coast employment was very slack, being greatly affected by the strike of fitters, turners and machinemen. At Darlington, however, it continued good with boilermakers and wagon makers, and moderate with engineers and ironfounders. The railway shops at Gateshead have also been fairly busy.

In Lancashire employment continued good with makers of textile machinery, and overtime was still reported. In general engineering employment was generally slack. At Accrington, Darwen and Wigan, however, it was reported as fair, as also with smiths and strikers at Manchester.

Employment in Yorkshire was dull generally, especially at Sheffield, Huddersfield and Keighley.

At Lincoln and Grantham it was fairly good, with some overtime.

In the motor industry at Birmingham some overtime was reported. In the cycle and motor trades at Coventry, Wolverhampton and Nottingham employment was slack and short time was general. General engineering was moderate at Wolverhampton, and slack at Birmingham

* Exclusive of Superannuated members. † Exclusive of members on strike.

and in the Potteries. Shoe machinery makers at Leicester were well employed, but otherwise employment was slack, and worse than a month ago, in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire. The railway works at Derby continued slack, but railway carriage and wagon builders were fairly well employed. At Ipswich employment was good with agricultural machinery makers.

In London employment continued very quiet, but was on the whole slightly better than in May. It was good at Southampton, and overtime continued to be worked. It continued moderate at Bristol, and bad at Swindon, with short time.

In the Glasgow district employment was bad, and worse than a month ago, with brassfinishers, iron, steel, and brassdressers and toolmakers. At Falkirk the foundries continued to work only from four to five days per week. Employment at Edinburgh and Aberdeen was dull on the whole; at Dundee it was moderate, but declining. At Belfast employment was bad in all branches. It was dull at Dublin, with short time general.

The Imports of machinery in June, 1908, amounted to £369,932, as compared with £481,933 in May, 1908, and £413,843 in June, 1907; and the Exports for the same months to £2,365,684, £2,898,925, and £2,490,087 respectively.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 98 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 70 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during June was slack generally. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 16,013 had 3.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 4.0 per cent. at the end of May, and 3.7 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers continued quiet at Birmingham and at Wolverhampton, and bad in London. It was fair on the whole at other centres. With bedstead workers at Birmingham it continued bad, with much short time.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment was slack in all branches of the nut, spike, and rivet trades. With nut and bolt makers at Darlaston it was fairly good; at Birmingham it was quiet. Employment continued fair with wire nail and shoe rivet makers and moderate with cut nail makers at Birmingham.

Wire.—Employment continued, on the whole, slack, with much short time. It was, however, reported to be fairly good at Glasgow.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trade continued bad, and short time continued to be worked. In the hollow-ware trade it was quiet at Wolverhampton; at West Bromwich it was bad, with some short time. With hollow-ware buffers at Sheffield it was bad, with hollow-ware stampers slack, short time being worked.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was on the whole bad, and short time was general. At Bury and at Bolton it was reported to be fair.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield was moderate with sawmakers, and fair in the file trades. In other trades it was on the whole, slack, short time being worked by toolmakers. Employment continued quiet in the edge tool trade at Birmingham and with needle makers at Redditch.

Tubes.—Employment in South Wales was reported to be slack. At Birmingham, it was fairly good with brazed brass and copper tubes.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—Employment with chain makers at Cradley Heath was bad; at Winlaton it was moderate. With anchor smiths at Cradley Heath and on the Wear it was bad. At Wednesbury employment with railway axle, wheel, and spring makers showed a decline as compared with a month ago; at Sheffield it

continued slack with railway spring fitters and vicemen. At West Bromwich it continued fair with spring makers, and moderate with axle makers. At Dudley anvil and vice makers continued to work short time.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers continued quiet at Manchester and at Bolton. It was fair at Bury and good at Aberdeen. With tinsplate workers it continued bad at Nottingham, quiet at Birmingham and fair at Edinburgh. With ironplate workers at Birmingham and in the Lye district it was bad.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment in London continued slack with goldsmiths and jewellers, but was slightly better than a month ago. It was also slack with silver-workers. In Birmingham employment was quiet with jewellers, much short time being worked; it was bad with silversmiths and Britannia metal workers. At Sheffield it was bad with silversmiths and slack with Britannia metal workers. With watchmakers at Coventry it was quiet, but slightly improved.

Farriers.—Employment continued fair generally.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	9,036	7,710	11,246	+ 1,326	- 2,210
Hardware	66,811	76,409	71,386	- 9,598	- 4,575
Exports:—					
Cutlery	47,829	50,100	53,329	- 2,271	- 5,500
Hardware	165,727	172,971	191,642	- 7,244	- 26,215
Implements and Tools	171,998	167,373	169,827	+ 4,625	+ 2,171

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 469 Returns—364 received from Employers, 95 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch was quiet and worse than a year ago. In the Weaving branch it continued slack, and showed a considerable decline as compared with a year ago. In both branches organised short time was worked.

Description.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Departments.				
Preparing	13,414	+ 0.3	11,564	- 1.1
Spinning	23,898	+ 0.1	22,058	- 1.8
Weaving	56,101	+ 0.0	47,449	+ 1.0
Other	10,382	+ 0.6	11,158	+ 1.3
Departments not specified	14,009	- 1.5	14,352	- 3.1
Total	117,804	- 0.1	106,581	- 0.2

Departments.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	+ 0.3	- 0.0	11,564	- 1.1	- 7.7
Spinning	+ 0.1	- 1.9	22,058	- 1.8	- 8.5
Weaving	+ 0.0	- 2.3	47,449	+ 1.0	- 10.5
Other	+ 0.6	- 2.3	11,158	+ 1.3	- 4.1
Departments not specified	- 1.5	- 3.1	14,352	- 3.1	- 10.9
Total	- 0.1	- 2.1	106,581	- 0.2	- 9.2

Districts.	No. employed.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with
Ashton District	6,287	- 0.8	5,577	- 3.2
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,949	+ 0.7	6,482	+ 0.3
Oldham District	13,349	- 0.9	12,901	- 7.7
Bolton and Leigh	11,223	+ 0.2	10,753	+ 0.9
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	10,769	- 0.2	9,455	- 1.7
Manchester	8,800	- 0.8	6,679	+ 0.5
Preston and Chorley	13,986	+ 0.1	11,630	+ 0.4
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	16,208	- 0.7	15,567	- 0.3
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	14,633	+ 1.8	15,242	+ 6.6
Other Lancashire Towns	4,520	+ 0.0	3,822	+ 1.1
Yorkshire Towns	5,244	- 0.6	4,427	- 4.2
Other Districts	5,836	- 0.3	4,046	+ 6.1
Total	117,804	- 0.1	106,581	- 0.2

Returns from firms employing 117,804 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed,

and of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

As compared with a month ago there was little change in any of the departments, but as compared with a year ago the decline was marked, especially in the weaving department.

In five districts there was a decline in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, the most marked being in the Oldham district. In the remaining districts there were increases, the most marked being in the Burnley district. As compared with a year ago, every district, except "Other Lancashire Towns," showed a decrease. In the Yorkshire district the decline amounted to over 15.0 per cent.; in the Ashton and Oldham districts, to over 14.0 per cent.; and in the Bury, Manchester, and Burnley districts, to over 10 per cent.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of June the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.52d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.70d. per lb. and the lowest 6.36d. The price for May, 1908, was 6.04d. per lb., and for June, 1907, 7.22d. per lb. For the period from July 1st to 10th, the average price of "middling American" was 6.28d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during June averaged 7.38d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.7d., and the lowest 7.1d. per lb. The price for May, 1908, was 7.04d. per lb., and for June, 1907, 10.03d. per lb. For the period from July 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.18d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on July 10th, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 471,300 bales, as compared with 961,110 bales on July 12th, 1907.

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

Description of Cotton.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	190,216	243,950	206,048	- 53,734	- 15,832
Brazilian	2,221	2,614	12,524	- 393	- 10,303
East Indian	3,804	4,675	7,482	- 871	- 3,678
Egyptian	30,098	28,767	16,093	+ 1,331	+ 14,005
Miscellaneous	2,976	5,144	5,326	- 2,438	- 2,350
Total	229,315	285,470	247,473	- 56,155	- 18,158

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	13,747	14,062	15,470	- 315	- 1,723
Bleached and Dyed	2,961	3,378	2,287	+ 417	+ 674
Total	16,708	17,440	17,757	- 732	- 1,049
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached	142,291	149,673	152,346	- 7,382	- 10,055
Bleached	112,687	133,194	127,770	- 20,507	- 15,083
Printed	87,766	90,727	86,499	- 2,961	+ 1,467
Dyed or Manufactured Dyed Yarn	86,673	82,373	78,316	+ 4,300	+ 8,357
Total	429,117	455,967	444,731	- 26,550	- 15,314

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 400 Returns—376 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 27,575 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
Wool Sorting	536	+ 0.6	487	+ 2.3
Spinning	5,595	- 2.0	4,956	- 4.3
Weaving	11,861	- 0.7	9,583	- 5.3
Other Departments	7,828	- 0.3	7,835	- 1.4
Unspecified	1,755	- 2.2	1,512	- 4.5
Total	27,575	- 0.9	24,373	- 8.5

In the Huddersfield district employment showed a further decline, and was much worse than a year ago. In the Leeds and Dewsbury and Batley districts employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In Hawick, Galashiels and Selkirk it was slack, and showed a marked decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Some short time was reported in all the above districts.

Worsted Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,268 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 10.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a
Wool Sorting & Combing	5,161	+ 0.3	4,845	+ 2.6
Spinning	25,289	+ 0.1	13,347	+ 0.6
Weaving	8,878	- 1.4	7,325	- 3.8
Other Departments	5,427	- 1.7	5,565	- 2.1
Unspecified	1,463	- 2.8	912	- 7.3
Total	46,268	- 0.5	31,992	- 10.0

Total, Worsted ... 46,268 - 0.5 - 4.2 31,992 - 0.9 - 10.0

Employment in the Bradford district continued quiet, and was much worse than a year ago; a considerable amount of short time was reported. In the Keighley district employment was quiet, and short time and slackness were reported. In the Halifax and Huddersfield districts employment showed a decline, and several firms were working short time.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS').					
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	13,336	45,367	17,159	- 33,031	- 3,823
British Exports ..	1,888	1,670	1,918	+ 218	+ 30
Yarn:					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	154	221	180	- 67	- 26
Worsted ...	3,716	3,570	4,638	+ 1,668	+ 922
Alpaca & Mohair ..	960	950	1,344	+ 10	- 384
Total, Yarn ..	4,830	4,741	6,162	+ 89	- 1,332
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	6,702	5,122	6,961	+ 1,580	- 259
Worsted ...	6,411	4,423	7,434	+ 1,988	- 1,023
Total, Piece Goods ..	13,113	9,545	14,395	+ 3,568	- 1,282

Prices of Raw Material.

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

	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hoggs ... Pence per lb.	8 1/2	8 1/2	13
40's Crossbred tops ...	10	9 1/2	16 1/2
50's Super Botany tops ...	25 1/2	22 1/2	28 1/2
Course of Prices during the month:			
Lincoln Hoggs ...	8 1/2-8 1/2	8 1/2-8 1/2	13
40's Crossbred tops ...	10	8-10 1/2-10	16 1/2-16 1/2
50's Super Botany tops ...	23-23 1/2	21 1/2-24-24	28 1/2

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 111 Returns—104 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during June continued dull, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,204 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the number employed showed a decrease of 4.7 per cent., and the amount of wages paid of 19.4 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.
Preparing ...	6,356	- 0.4	3,005	- 2.9
Spinning ...	11,762	- 0.3	4,933	- 1.6
Weaving ...	14,274	- 1.8	7,310	+ 1.1
Other ...	6,897	- 0.3	5,002	- 1.9
Not specified ...	6,915	+ 3.3	3,514	+ 1.9
Total ...	46,204	- 0.3	23,772	- 0.5

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Belfast ...	17,004	...	5,381	- 0.3	- 25.5
Other Places in Ireland ...	14,486	- 0.5	6,856	+ 0.3	- 17.8
Total, Ireland ...	31,490	- 0.2	15,237	...	- 22.2
Fifeshire ...	6,426	- 0.6	3,642	+ 0.5	- 18.6
Other Places in Scotland ...	6,338	- 0.1	3,687	- 3.0	- 10.4
Total, Scotland ...	12,764	- 0.4	7,329	- 1.3	- 14.7
England ...	1,950	- 0.9	1,206	- 1.7	- 7.7
United Kingdom ...	46,204	- 0.3	23,772	- 0.5	- 19.4

As compared with a month ago there was some decline in the preparing and spinning branches; the weaving branch showed little change on the whole. As compared with a year ago there was a marked decline in all branches. In the Belfast district employment continued bad, the majority of mills working only 32 hours per week. In other parts of Ireland much short time was worked. In Scotland employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago; there was a good deal of short time.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	9,874	13,093	9,583	- 3,219	+ 291
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	9,613	11,267	12,141	- 1,654	- 2,528
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	105,166	92,835	148,412	+ 12,331	- 43,246

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 33 Returns—31 from Employers and Employers' Associations and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though still fairly good, showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 17,792 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 17,792 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,695 (or 88 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago the amount of wages paid showed a decline in every department. Some short time was reported.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.
Preparing ...	4,147	- 1.4	2,702	- 5.2
Spinning ...	5,028	+ 0.3	3,092	- 3.4
Weaving ...	5,878	- 0.8	4,267	- 4.0
Other ...	1,845	+ 0.2	1,927	- 0.5
Not specified ...	894	- 0.7	568	- 0.7
Total ...	17,792	- 0.5	12,655	- 3.4

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	23,932	23,846	14,133	+ 86	+ 9,799
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	39,693	34,514	43,109	+ 5,179	- 3,416
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	147,937	130,094	160,207	+ 12,843	- 17,270

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 54 Returns—52 from Employers, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,092 workpeople, and paying £5,346 in wages on pay-day in the week ended June 27th, showed that, as compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 5.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.
Throwing ...	925	+ 3.2	383	+ 10.4
Spinning ...	2,667	- 0.6	1,955	- 2.3
Weaving ...	3,128	- 1.1	1,932	- 1.0
Other ...	1,064	- 1.7	827	- 1.0
Not specified ...	508	- 1.0	189	- 8.2
Total ...	8,092	- 0.5	5,346	- 0.9

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,007	- 1.0	2,315	- 2.3	- 1.3
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	884	+ 0.3	636	- 0.2	- 6.3
Eastern Counties ...	2,335	+ 2.3	1,277	...	- 13.6
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,866	- 2.1	1,118	+ 0.9	- 0.9
Total ...	8,092	- 0.5	5,346	- 0.9	- 5.0

Employment continued good with spinners and throwsters at Macclesfield, Leek, and Congleton. With trimming weavers it was fair at Leek and Congleton. At Macclesfield it was bad with both handloom and powerloom weavers, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. In the Bradford district employment was quiet. In the Eastern Counties employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... Lbs.	139,637	91,936	40,516	+ 47,701	+ 93,121
Thrown Silk ...	41,889	53,076	42,504	- 11,187	+ 615
Spun Silk Yarn ...	26,643	36,415	25,788	- 9,772	+ 815
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,659,515	5,949,390	4,203,940	- 289,875	+ 1,455,575
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs.	3,337	4,354	3,552	- 1,017	- 215
Spun Silk Yarn ...	75,398	96,714	67,088	- 21,316	+ 8,310
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	290,096	304,169	685,881	- 14,073	- 395,785

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 92 Returns—84 from Employers, 6 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 8,609 workpeople in the week ended June 27th, and paying £7,171 in wages, showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 6.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 22.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and slack in the plain

net branch. Much short time was worked, especially in the levers section. In the Long Eaton district employment continued bad, with short time prevalent. In Scotland there was a further decline.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.
Levers ...	2,411	- 1.2	2,325	+ 8.4
Curtain ...	2,622	- 0.6	2,292	- 7.5
Plain Net ...	2,744	- 1.9	2,031	- 3.4
Others ...	832	- 0.5	523	- 4.2
Total ...	8,609	- 1.2	7,171	- 1.4

Districts.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Nottingham City ...	1,897	...	1,588	- 1.7	- 20.2
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,519	- 1.6	1,435	+ 2.6	- 38.1
Other English districts ...	3,279	- 1.6	2,526	- 1.1	- 23.4
Scotland ...	1,914	- 1.2	1,622	- 4.9	- 1.8
Total ...	8,609	- 1.2	7,171	- 1.4	- 22.6

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Silk Lace ...	16,250	9,955	17,446	+ 6,295	- 1,196
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	255,993	249,740	328,939	+ 6,253	- 72,946
Silk Lace ...	7,337	7,109	8,193	+ 228	- 856

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 105 Returns—98 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, and showed some decline as compared with a month ago. It showed little change compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 17,864 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 2.0 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 0.3 per cent.

In Leicester employment continued moderate; some short time was worked. At Hinckley there was a decline. At Loughborough there was a slight improvement. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was still slack, and worse than a year ago; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was reported as fairly good. It continued good at Hawick and Selkirk.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.
Leicester ...	8,362	- 0.5	6,456	- 1.7
Leicester Country District ...	2,465	- 0.5	1,807	+ 0.9
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	4,415	+ 1.3	3,069	- 3.4
Scotland ...	1,966	+ 1.0	1,373	+ 3.2
Other Districts ...	655	+ 4.3	402	+ 2.8
Total, United Kingdom ...	17,864	- 0.1	13,107	+ 0.3

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in June, 1908, amounted to £22,390 and £83,659 respectively, as compared with £26,744 and £102,898 in May, 1908, and £25,939 and £94,853, in June, 1907.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in June, 1908, amounted to £105,037 and £34,628 respectively, as compared with £70,116 and £27,783 in May, 1908, and £109,180 and £39,625 in June, 1907.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 38 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

Employment in this industry showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Some short time was worked. Returns received from firms employing 4,768 workpeople, and paying £3,172 in wages on pay-day in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 4.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 22.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woolen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. About one-half of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-eighth worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

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

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers was moderate, and worse than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers it was fair. In Glasgow it continued bad with calico printers and engravers, and was worse than a year ago; with block printers it was good, and better than a year ago.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester a further slight improvement was reported, but short time was still general; at Hinckley employment continued slack; at Loughborough it was fairly good. With dyers at Nottingham and with dyers and bleachers at Basford employment was bad; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate; on the whole employment was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. In Dundee it was reported as slack, and worse than a year ago.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 496 Returns—479 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 6 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair. It showed a decline compared with a month ago, but it was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 62,776 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.4 per cent. in the number employed, and also in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was fair, but showed a considerable decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. At Northampton it continued good, and was much better than a year ago; at Kettering it was reported as quiet; with army bootmakers it was moderate, and worse than a month ago. At Bristol it was reported as quiet. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood employment was moderate, and better than a year ago. At Leeds it showed a further improvement. In Scotland employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.			£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	2,308	- 2.0	2,624	- 4.3	- 8.4
Leicester	13,159	- 1.8	13,473	- 10.3	+ 4.5
Leicester Country District	2,989	- 2.2	2,560	- 4.2	- 5.4
Northampton	9,665	+ 0.6	9,372	- 0.2	+ 10.3
Northampton Country District	8,681	- 1.2	8,083	- 1.8	+ 2.3
Kettering	3,626	- 0.7	3,710	- 1.0	+ 5.5
Stafford & District	2,672	- 0.2	2,569	- 2.7	+ 10.0
Norwich & District	3,322	+ 0.5	2,930	+ 1.3	+ 1.7
Bristol & District	1,990	- 1.2	1,811	+ 0.7	+ 4.0
Kingswood	1,869	+ 3.0	1,780	+ 5.8	+ 12.0
Leeds & District	4,201	- 1.1	4,970	+ 4.4	+ 2.8
Manchester & District	2,472	- 0.4	2,160	+ 4.7	- 9.1
Birmingham & District	1,021	- 0.1	792	- 5.3	- 3.3
Other parts of England and Wales	2,677	+ 0.3	2,226	- 2.2	- 1.3
ENGLAND & WALES	58,652	- 0.7	56,160	- 3.2	+ 3.3
SCOTLAND	3,845	- 0.2	3,582	- 0.9	+ 5.8
IRELAND	279	+ 0.4	196	+ 3.2	- 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM	62,776	- 0.7	59,938	- 3.0	+ 3.4

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity Dozen pairs	18,967	27,089	22,064	- 8,122	- 3,097
Value £	51,571	72,817	67,592	- 21,246	- 16,021
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity Dozen pairs	79,596	70,491	74,771	+ 9,505	+ 5,225
Value £	169,651	163,031	155,955	+ 6,620	+ 13,696

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see under "Other Leather Trades," p. 221.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 15 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 12 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during June in the Silk hat branch was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. In the Felt hat branch it was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

In the Silk hat branch the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of June was 10.9, compared with 11.3 a month ago, and 6.9 a year ago.

In the Felt hat branch the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of June was 3.4, compared with 2.8 a month ago, and 2.6 a year ago. Employment was reported as bad at Denton and Stockport, with much short time. In Warwickshire employment was reported as fair.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds	35,071	33,250	27,366	+ 1,821	+ 7,705
Exports:					
Felt	28,791	29,686	29,649	- 895	- 858
Straw	42,761	40,065	54,056	+ 2,696	- 11,295
Other Sorts	6,973	5,397	4,273	+ 1,666	+ 2,700
Total	78,525	75,058	87,978	+ 3,467	- 9,453

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 118 Returns—90 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch was fair, and not so good as a year ago. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good, and about the same as a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment was fair, and showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago.

Firms paying £13,826 in wages to their workpeople during the four weeks ended June 27th showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as good at Liverpool and Belfast, and fair at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment continued fairly good, and was about the same as a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 6,990 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment with Jewish operatives was reported as quiet at the beginning of the month, but showed an improvement at the close.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a year ago. At Bristol it was fairly good. At Norwich it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Glasgow it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in June, 1908, were valued at £256,819, as compared with £241,540 in May, 1908, and £254,507 in June, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £343,408, £291,009, and £350,438 respectively.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 188 Returns—178 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the West-End dressmaking trade was fairly good, but not so good as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades, and in the shirt and collar trade generally it was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the corset trade it was moderate, and about the same as a year ago.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,787 dressmakers in the week ended June 27th, showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Court dressmakers, employing 1,270 workpeople in the week ended June 27th, showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Employment with milliners in the West-End was fair.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,425 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 7.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 6.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a year ago. In the costume

and skirt trade firms employing 1,694 workpeople in the week ended June 27th showed a decrease of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,197 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended June 27th, showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,545 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,209 in wages, in the week ended June 27th, showed a decrease of 6.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 10.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was moderate.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 46 Returns—30 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,559 had 8.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 8.0 per cent. in May, and 4.1 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with skinner was quiet at Birmingham and Leeds; fair in London. With curriers it continued bad generally. With leather workers generally it was fair at Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Manchester; it was quiet at Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was bad in London and Walsall, and worse than a month ago. At Glasgow and Dublin it was fair.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad; in London it was fair with fancy and morocco leather finishers. With portmanteau and trunk makers it continued fair in London, and bad in Manchester.

Imports and Exports.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	23,833	27,505	31,554	- 3,672	- 7,721
Doitto, wet	52,590	57,608	36,793	- 5,018	+ 15,797
Total, hides, dry and wet	76,423	85,113	68,347	- 8,690	+ 8,076
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	542,891	928,221	1,080,255	- 385,330	- 537,364
Sheep skins ,, (value) £	186,470	167,351	256,260	+ 19,119	- 69,690
Leather*	86,204	88,028	66,412	- 1,824	+ 19,792
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	31,198	31,533	39,016	- 335	- 7,818

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 420 Returns—134 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 265 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades was good. Returns received from firms employing 22,104 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the total number of work-

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

people employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of June, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,354	- 0.1	+ 3.4
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	4,005	...	+ 3.6
Southern Counties	7,201	+ 0.5	+ 6.3
Scotland	5,675	- 0.2	+ 1.6
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,235	+ 0.1	+ 3.9
Hand-made Paper	869	- 0.2	+ 0.1
Total	22,104	+ 0.1	+ 3.7

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade, with 1,703 members, had 1.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 1.9 per cent. a month ago, and 2.3 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of paper in June, 1908, amounted to £469,326, as compared with £474,557 in May, 1908, and £384,005 in June, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods amounted to £174,427, £194,823, and £192,338, respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was quiet generally. It was rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of June, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	20,606	4.7	4.9	4.1	- 0.2	+ 0.6
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,300	4.8	5.6	4.7	- 0.8	+ 0.1
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,551	4.5	5.8	4.3	- 1.3	+ 0.2
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,293	3.5	3.5	3.6	...	- 0.1
West Midlands	2,502	5.9	5.3	5.7	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,614	3.7	3.3	2.9	+ 0.4	+ 0.8
Scotland	5,457	4.7	4.8	2.5	- 0.1	+ 2.2
Ireland	2,398	8.0	9.4	6.2	- 1.4	+ 1.8
United Kingdom	48,721	4.8	5.2	4.1	- 0.4	+ 0.7

London.—Employment was not so good as a year ago. Compositors reported it as slack, and electrotypers and stereotypers as quiet, though better than a month ago. With printing machine managers and correctors of the press it was fair, but not so good as in May. With lithographic printers it continued slack; with lithographic artists it was fair. At the end of June, 4.7 per cent. of the Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 4.9 per cent. a month ago and 4.1 per cent. in June, 1907.

Other Centres.—Employment was quiet generally. It was fairly good, however, with letterpress printers at Edinburgh (except in the machine department), and also at Sheffield, Bolton, Leicester, Derby, Norwich, Ipswich, Oxford and Plymouth. At Manchester and Newcastle it was better than a month ago, but it declined at Liverpool, and at Leeds a considerable amount of short time was reported. Lithographic artists continued to be fairly well employed.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment continued bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. A considerable amount of short time was reported, especially at Edinburgh.

	No. of Members of Unions at end of June, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,593	9.2	8.9	8.4	+ 0.3	+ 0.8
Other Districts	3,059	9.1	6.9	4.2	+ 2.2	+ 4.9
United Kingdom	6,652	9.2	7.9	6.4	+ 1.3	+ 2.8

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,697 Returns—791 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 852 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 54 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in June continued slack. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from 723 firms employing 44,830 workpeople at the end of June are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease in the total number employed of 1.5 per cent., while compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 7.2 per cent.

District	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	June, 1908.		June, 1907.		June, 1908.	
	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London	7,895	8,698	9,021	6,280	6,073	6,550
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,305	2,294	2,675	1,817	2,018	2,386
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,071	3,941	4,114	3,461	3,679	3,405
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,304	2,361	2,416	1,743	1,783	1,868
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	3,002	2,885	3,277	1,869	1,792	2,158
England and Wales ...	19,477	20,179	21,503	15,170	15,345	16,367
Scotland	3,157	3,111	3,150	1,886	1,598	1,903
Ireland	741	699	867	902	1,006	818
United Kingdom	23,375	24,089	25,520	17,958	17,949	19,088
	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
London	576	552	554	14,751	15,323	16,125
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	526	529	612	4,618	4,841	5,673
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	848	839	871	8,280	8,459	8,390
Midland & Eastern Counties	304	310	342	4,351	4,454	4,628
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	480	478	533	5,351	5,158	5,968
England and Wales ...	2,734	2,708	2,912	37,381	38,233	40,782
Scotland	691	700	738	5,734	5,509	5,791
Ireland	72	74	75	1,715	1,779	1,760
United Kingdom	3,497	3,482	3,725	44,630	45,220	48,333

Employment with painters continued fair, overtime being frequently worked, but in other branches employment was slack generally. Compared with a month ago a slight improvement was reported by masons and plumbers, other branches showing little change. Compared with a year ago slaters reported a slight improvement and other branches a decline.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of June was 7.4, as compared with 7.5 a month ago and 4.9 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 12.8, 14.3, and 8.3 respectively.

London.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 15.8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 12.3 per cent. a month ago and 10.3 per cent. in June, 1907. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 15.6, 16.2, and 12.9 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment continued slack in nearly all districts. It was much the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Painters were fairly well employed, with a good deal of overtime.

Employment remained moderate with bricklayers at Middlesbrough and Hull. At Oldham employment was fair generally, and rather better than a year ago. A slight improvement was reported at Bolton and Blackburn, and at Burnley carpenters were moderately well employed. With masons at Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Burton employment was fair. Employment showed an improvement in the Bristol district. It was fair with masons and carpenters at Dundee, with masons and bricklayers at Edinburgh, and with carpenters at Aberdeen. Bricklayers at Belfast and Dublin reported an improvement.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 199 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 164 from Trade Unions, and 31 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,730 reported 6.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 6.8 per cent. a month ago, and 3.3 per cent. in June, 1907.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued bad generally, and considerably worse than a year ago. There was an improvement, however, on a month ago, at Glasgow, where, on the whole, employment was fair during June. Employment was also fair at Manchester, Bristol, and in South Wales, and at Edinburgh, Leith, and Aberdeen. Trade Unions reported 9.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 7.7 per cent. a month ago, and 4.0 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in June, 1908, were valued at £36,931, as compared with £40,171 in May, 1908, and £42,686 in June, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods at £39,001, £50,812, and £47,946, respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. It was reported as fair, however, at Hull and Dundee. Trade Unions reported 9.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 8.3 per cent. a month ago, and 4.5 per cent. a year ago.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	90,081	87,564	77,254	+ 2,517	+ 12,827
" sawn	687,176	303,277	613,286	+ 383,899	+ 73,890
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 15,6.8	£ 15,409	£ 19,369	+ £ 239	- £ 3,721

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was still dull on the whole, but showed some improvement compared with a month ago. It was fair at Dublin, Hull, Manchester and Bristol, but bad at Burton and Edinburgh.

Coachbuilding.

Employment remained moderate on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 4.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of June, compared with 4.2 a month ago, and 1.8 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.5 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 3.6 per cent. a month ago, and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Employment was fair on the whole with packing-case makers. With basket-makers it was generally moderate; it continued good with skipmakers at Oldham.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in June, 1908, were valued at £23,995, as compared with £32,258 in May, 1908, and £26,214 in June, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £15,305, £14,366, and £13,690 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 92 Returns—58 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 23 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,127 workpeople in the week ended June 27th, and paying £9,970 in wages, showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago.

Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 5.0 per cent. in numbers employed and of 5.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the decline being common to all branches of the trade.

	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended June 27th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.	
Branches.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Glass Bottle	5,465	- 1.2	- 4.6	6,914	- 1.0	- 6.7
Plate Glass	720	+ 1.9	- 14.9	1,997	+ 8.2	- 8.1
Flint Glass Wares (not Bottles)	1,737	- 0.4	- 1.3	1,907	+ 0.5	- 0.6
Other Branches	205	...	- 8.1	261	+ 1.2	- 3.7
Total ...	8,127	- 1.0	- 5.0	9,970	- 0.1	- 5.7
Districts.						
North of England	818	+ 4.1	- 2.0	945	+ 5.6	- 8.8
Yorkshire	4,371	- 2.2	- 3.2	5,514	- 2.2	- 6.4
Lancashire	658	+ 2.0	- 25.0	774	+ 3.2	- 19.9
Worcester and Warwick	1,215	- 0.2	- 4.0	1,517	+ 4.4	+ 3.1
Scotland	746	- 3.1	+ 0.7	911	- 0.8	+ 3.3
Other parts of the United Kingdom	319	- 2.1	- 2.1	309	- 4.0	- 4.6
Total ...	8,127	- 1.0	- 5.0	9,970	- 0.1	- 5.7

Employment with glass bottle makers was moderate in Yorkshire, good at Bristol, and fair at Portobello and Dublin; at Glasgow and in the North of England it continued moderate. In Lancashire it was bad, and worse than a month ago. With medical glass bottle makers employment was fairly good at Rotherham, and moderate at Barnsley. With flint glass makers employment was fairly good at Birmingham, and fair at Stourbridge and in the Wordsley district; in Scotland it was fairly good. Employment with flint glass cutters showed a decline. With London glass blowers employment was not so good, but plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham reported an improvement on the previous month. It continued fair with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was very bad, short time being general, and many men were unemployed during the month. Employment with decorative glass workers at Manchester and Liverpool was fair.

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

Description.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	86,232	86,773	90,576	- 541	- 4,344
Plate	35,059	25,851	34,264	+ 7,208	- 1,205
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	54,563	51,811	57,830	+ 2,752	- 2,667
Manufactures, other sorts...	317	1,355	2,190	- 1,038	- 1,873
Bottles	130,009	126,172	113,482	+ 3,837	+ 16,527
Exports:	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Plate	11,380	13,462	17,150	- 2,082	- 5,770
Flint	5,351	4,624	4,866	+ 727	+ 485
Manufactures, other sorts ...	42,617	41,556	47,004	+ 1,061	- 4,387
Bottles	54,446	73,200	70,482	- 18,754	- 16,036

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 33 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 11 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade was dull on the whole, and worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued slack, and showed little change compared with a year ago. A good deal of short time was worked in these trades during the month.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was bad, short time being general. It was fair at Bristol, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Swadlincote, and in Scotland and Devonshire. With earthenware makers employment continued slack in South Yorkshire and the River Aire district, and in the Potteries. With insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries employment was bad. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was good at Manchester and dull at Gateshead and Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was good in South Wales and Monmouthshire, in Bedfordshire and at Stourbridge; and fairly good in North Wales. It was moderate in the Tees and Hartlepoons district. Employment continued slack in the Eastern Counties and Devonshire. It was dull at Nottingham and Birmingham. Some improvement was shown at Peterborough and Market Harborough, and in Shropshire, although employment was quiet on the whole in these districts. In South Staffordshire and at Glasgow it was bad.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in June, 1908, were valued at £73,812, as compared with £88,315 in May, 1908, and £75,521 in June, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £182,145, £195,179 and £207,326, respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 199 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was generally regular throughout June, the weather causing little or no interruption. Hoeing and haymaking were the chief kinds of work for which day labourers were required, and in most districts they were well employed. In a few districts, owing to the dry weather, there was less hoeing to be done than usual.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland report regular employment generally during June, and a fair demand for extra labour. Employment was fairly good in Lancashire. In Yorkshire hoeing, preparing land for green crops, and haymaking generally provided full employment; in certain districts, however, the backwardness of the root crop restricted the demand for extra labour. In the Patrington Union men for hoeing corn were reported as scarce, owing to the non-arrival of Irish migratory labourers.

Midland Counties.—Employment was regular in Cheshire, where hoeing, singling turnips and mangels, and haymaking occasioned a full demand for labour. Employment was also regular in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Hoeing and haymaking provided regular work for farm labourers in Leicestershire. Reports from Staffordshire and Shropshire state that employment was generally regular, extra labour being in fair demand. The supply of day labourers was, on the whole, sufficient. There was a good and constant demand, which was generally met by the supply, for extra men in Worcestershire and Warwickshire. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported in certain districts in these counties. Employment was regular in Northamptonshire, and the supply of day labourers generally sufficient. A correspondent in the Wellingborough Union writes:—"The weather has been very favourable for outdoor work, and good

progress has been made in securing the hay crop, which requires little labour to get." In Oxfordshire regularity of employment was somewhat affected in certain districts by the dry weather, which caused less work than usual in hoeing. In Buckinghamshire the supply of day labourers was usually sufficient, but there was some scarcity of men for permanent situations. In Herefordshire and Bedfordshire hoeing and haymaking provided full employment in most districts.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was reported as regular in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire. There was a fair demand generally for extra men in Lincolnshire; hoeing potatoes, weeding corn, and threshing caused a demand for day labourers, and the supply of this class of men was reported as insufficient in certain districts. Hoeing, weeding and haymaking generally provided regular employment in Norfolk and Suffolk, but the supply of extra labour was fully equal to the demand. Outdoor work was regular and plentiful in Essex, and many persons found employment in pea-picking. The supply of extra labour was generally equal to the demand, but one correspondent mentions that the hay crop was too heavy in places for cutting by machinery, and more men were wanted for mowing than could be found.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was regular in Kent; there was some surplus of extra labour, although fruit-picking and haymaking caused a large demand in certain districts. Hoeing and haymaking generally provided full employment in Surrey. Day labourers were generally in regular employment in Sussex and Hampshire. In Berkshire and Wiltshire, owing to the dry weather, there was less hoeing to be done than is usual in June, and less hand labour was required for haymaking. Day labourers were in fair demand, but the supply was sufficient on the whole. There was generally full employment in Dorset and Somerset; some scarcity of day labourers was reported from the latter county. Reports from Herefordshire state that employment was regular. The supply of and demand for extra labour were generally about equal. Hoeing and haymaking afforded a good deal of work in Gloucestershire, but the supply of day labourers was generally sufficient. There was regular employment in Devon and Cornwall.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 133 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during June continued moderate, but was on the whole worse than in May.

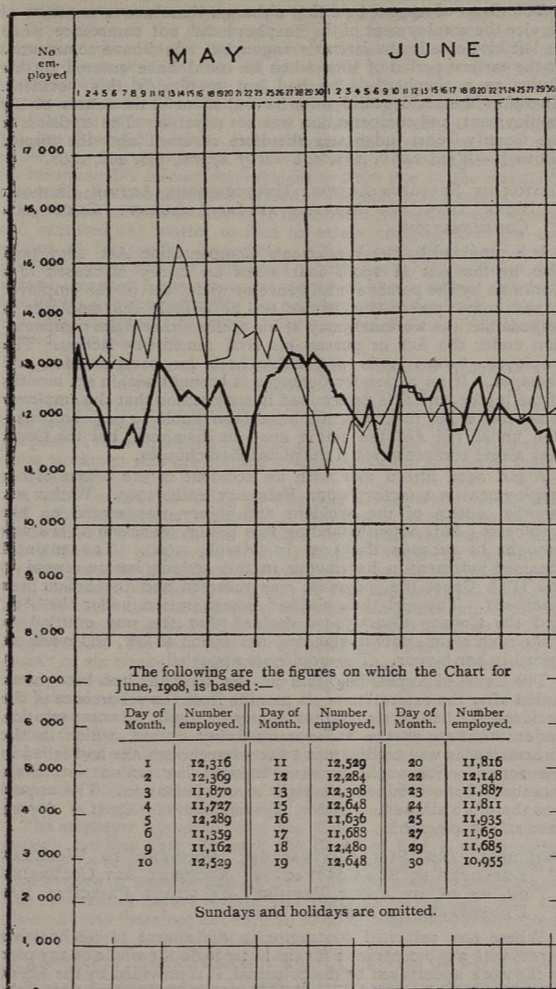
London.*—Employment generally was moderate, worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. The average number employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended June 27th was 12,049, a decrease of 3.1 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 0.2 per cent. as compared with June, 1907. The daily numbers in June, 1908, ranged from 10,955 on the 30th to 12,648 on the 15th and 19th. During June, 1907, the numbers ranged from 10,927 on the 1st to 13,003 on the 12th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended June 6th	4,209	2,383	6,592	5,396	11,988
" " " 13th	4,292	2,548	6,840	5,322	12,162
" " " 20th	4,403	2,292	6,695	5,457	12,152
" " " 27th	4,374	2,170	6,544	5,342	11,886
Average for 4 weeks ended June 27th, 1908	4,318	2,347	6,665	5,384	12,049
Average for May, 1908	4,485	2,819	7,304	5,689	12,993
Average for June, 1907	3,865	2,695	6,560	5,519†	12,079†

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of May and June, 1908. The corresponding curve for May and June, 1907, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1908, and the thin curve to 1907.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for June, 1908, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	12,316	11	12,529	20	11,816
2	12,359	12	12,284	21	12,148
3	11,870	13	12,308	22	11,887
4	11,727	14	12,648	23	11,811
5	12,289	15	11,636	24	11,935
6	11,359	16	11,688	25	11,650
7	11,162	17	12,480	26	11,685
8	12,529	18	12,648	27	10,955
9		19		28	
10				29	
				30	

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,098 during June, as compared with 1,077 during May, and 1,004 during June, 1907.

At Liverpool employment was bad generally, and worse than in May.

Other Ports.—Employment was fairly good on the Tyne and at Blyth and on the Wear. It was moderate at Hartlepool and fair at Middlesbrough; at both towns an improvement was reported compared with a month ago. At Hull employment generally had improved, it was fair with coal porters and moderate with dock labourers. It was fair at Grimsby and slack at Goole. Employment was good at Yarmouth and Lynn. It was fair at Southampton, Plymouth and Bristol. At the South Wales ports it was generally slack, but fair at Newport. Short time was general with dock labourers at Manchester. At Leith employment was fair; at Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee, it was dull and worse than a month ago. It was dull at Belfast and fair at Dublin and Cork.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Employment at the principal ports during June was fair generally. At Yarmouth it was good with fishermen, and

fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Grimsby and Hull it was fair; at Lowestoft it was moderate generally, and about the same as a year ago. Employment at Aberdeen was bad with fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and fish curers; it was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. At Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead it was fair generally, and better on the whole than a month ago. Off the South-Western Coast of England employment was reported as fair. Off the Southern Coast of Ireland there was a considerable improvement on a month ago.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	June, 1908.	June, 1907.	June, 1908.	June, 1907.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 899,911	Cwts. 906,090	£ 539,665	£ 537,082
Ireland	1,345,305	1,413,381	262,300	408,818
Scotland	154,550	64,655	41,949	21,819
Total	2,399,766	2,384,126	844,414	967,719
Shell Fish	—	—	32,979	30,883
Total Value	—	—	877,393	998,602

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in June, 1908, were valued at £163,554, as compared with £41,177 in May, 1908, and £250,555 in June, 1907.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JUNE.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during June 40,519 seamen*, of whom 3,879 (or 9.6 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with June, 1907, there was a net increase of 108. There were increases at Liverpool and London, but there was a decline at the Bristol Channel Ports and at Glasgow.

For the six months ended June, 1908, the total number of seamen* shipped was 235,867, a decrease of 1,668 as compared with the number shipped during the corresponding period of 1907. The greatest increase was at Southampton, and the most marked decreases were at Cardiff and Glasgow.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	June,			January-June,		
	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.
ENGLAND AND WALES, East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,502	2,384	- 118	15,250	14,124	- 1,126
Sunderland	357	328	- 29	2,139	2,032	- 107
Middlesbrough	374	322	- 52	2,482	1,463	- 1,019
Hull	1,084	1,070	- 14	7,108	6,382	- 726
Grimsby	100	115	+ 15	478	553	+ 75
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol†	642	600	- 42	3,689	3,584	- 105
Newport, Mon.	958	752	- 206	5,164	5,643	+ 479
Cardiff	4,637	4,386	- 251	31,351	28,328	- 3,023
Swansea	526	407	- 119	2,842	2,374	- 468
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	15,229	16,191	+ 962	88,316	88,976	+ 660
London	6,004	6,670	+ 666	35,987	35,640	- 347
Southampton	3,443	3,457	+ 14	16,327	23,786	+ 7,459
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	461	336	- 125	2,619	2,203	- 416
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	170	107	- 63	1,236	942	- 294
Glasgow	3,633	3,455	- 178	20,756	18,229	- 2,527
IRELAND.						
Dublin	51	31	- 20	318	286	- 32
Belfast	240	108	- 132	1,473	1,322	- 151
Total	40,411	40,519	+ 108	237,535	235,867	- 1,668

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

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: WRONGFUL ACT OF FELLOW WORKMEN.

An injured workman is entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, only where the accident causing the injury is one "arising out of and in the course of the employment."

A workman was employed along with several others in filling sacks with biscuits at a factory adjoining the river Thames. As the sacks were filled from a barge on the river they were hoisted by a crane to various floors of the factory. While he was engaged in this occupation two of his fellow workmen, by way of a practical joke, attached the hook of the crane to his necktie. The result was that he was hoisted up about 50 feet from the ground, when the necktie broke and he fell, receiving injuries which made him a cripple for life. The men guilty of this outrageous act were prosecuted and convicted of doing the workman grievous bodily harm.

The injured man claimed compensation under the Act, but the County Court judge refused to make an award in his favour on the ground that there had not been an "accident" within the meaning of the Act, as the men had intentionally and wrongfully fixed the hook in his necktie; and also that what had happened did not arise out of the employment of the workman.

The claimant appealed, and in support of his appeal it was contended that this was an accident arising out of the employment, inasmuch as except for the employment it would never have happened; that by reason of the employment he had to work with two foolish and dangerous fellow workmen, and that the risk he ran was a risk incidental to his employment. The Court of Appeal, however, decided that the County Court judge was right and dismissed the appeal.—*Fitzgerald v. Clarke & Son, Court of Appeal, June 1st, 1908.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT: INJURY WHILE RESCUING ANOTHER FROM DANGER.

Two or three of a number of men employed in certain engineering works left the works for a short time and went to a public house, a few minutes' walk distant, for beer. On returning to work they found a number of men hauling a bogie by a rope. When the men who had been absent came up to where the hauling was being done one of them seized the rope and began to pull against the other men in play. In doing so he fell across the rope and would have been run over and probably killed by the bogie if one of his companions had not run to his assistance and dragged him out of danger just in time. The rescuer, however, was himself injured before he could get clear of the rails. The injured man claimed compensation, but the Sheriff-Substitute refused to make an award in his favour on the ground that his injuries were not caused by an accident arising out of or in the course of his employment. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Session, while expressing much sympathy with the man for his injuries and admiration of his brave conduct, held that the Sheriff-Substitute was right, and that in no sense did the accident arise out of the employment.—*Mullen v. Stewart & Co., Ltd., Court of Session, June 17th, 1908.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: CONTRACT OF SERVICE: NEWLY ENGAGED SERVANT: ACCIDENT ON JOURNEY IN EMPLOYER'S VEHICLE TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT.

A workman injured by accident is not entitled to compensation under the Act of 1906 unless the accident was one arising out of and in the course of the employment. "Workman" (with some exceptions) includes any person who has entered into or works under a contract of service with an employer.

The wife of a shepherd saw in a newspaper an advertisement of a farmer who required the services of a shepherd, and offered by way of remuneration a free cottage and garden in addition to wages. The farm was about seven or eight miles from the shepherd's home. Application by letter for the situation was made by the woman on behalf of her husband. In reply the farmer agreed to employ the shepherd, and offered to send a wagon and horses to convey him, together with his family and furniture, to the cottage on the farm. This was the usual custom among farmers in engaging such men. According to the arrangement, in October, 1907, the wagon was sent, and the man and his family proceeded in it towards the scene of his new engagement. When the wagon had nearly reached its destination the driver, who was a servant of the farmer, pulled up the wagon suddenly because of an obstruction on the road and started again with a jerk. The result was that the shepherd was thrown off, fell under the wheels, and was killed. His widow claimed compensation. At the hearing before the County Court judge the question raised was whether at the time of the accident the shepherd was a workman in the employ of the farmer. On the farmer's behalf it was contended that he had not become the farmer's workman, and that the accident did not arise from any risk incidental to the work which the shepherd had engaged to perform, and therefore did not arise out of or in the course of his employment. The judge decided that the relation of employer and workman did exist at the time of the accident; that it was a term of his engagement that a wagon should remove the workman to the

farm in order that he might take up his duties; that the accident did arise out of a risk incidental to his employment; and that therefore the claimant was entitled to compensation. The farmer appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that although there was a contract of service the employment of the shepherd did not commence when he left his home in the farmer's wagon, but would have commenced at the earliest period of time when he could have entered on his duties as a shepherd if he had not met with this accident. Therefore the accident did not arise out of or in the course of the employment, and compensation was not payable. The decision of the County Court judge was therefore reversed and the appeal allowed.—*Whitbread v. Arnold, Court of Appeal, June 2nd, 1908.*

OPTION OF BRINGING ACTION: UNSUCCESSFUL ACTION BROUGHT MORE THAN SIX MONTHS AFTER ACCIDENT: CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, (and also by the Act of 1906) that when an injury is caused to a workman by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, the workman may at his option either claim compensation under the Act or pursue his civil remedy by action. The employer, however, is not liable both for compensation and damages. If an action for damages is brought within six months of the injury, and it is determined in such action that the employer is not liable, but that he would have been liable to pay compensation under the Act the action must be dismissed, but the Court may assess compensation if the plaintiff so chooses.

A girl aged fifteen met with an accident in the course of her employment in a factory upon February 20th, 1905. Within six months, notice of the accident and injury was served on her employers; but, notwithstanding this notice, an action at law was brought to recover damages in March, 1906. The plaintiff obtained judgment in her favour in this action; but on appeal to the High Court the judgment was reversed and the action was dismissed. The girl then claimed compensation under the Act, and the County Court judge decided that she was entitled to make such claim, notwithstanding her action at law, and made an award in her favour. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that as the claimant had brought an action after the expiration of six months from the occurrence of the accident she had no right subsequently to apply for compensation under the Act, as she had exercised her option, which in the circumstances was binding upon her even though she had failed in her action. She ought to have brought her action within six months to have retained any right to compensation. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Cribb v. Kynoch, Limited, Court of Appeal, June 1st and 4th, 1908.*

PRINCIPAL AND SUB-CONTRACTOR: ACCIDENT TO WORKMAN EMPLOYED BY SUB-CONTRACTOR: ACCIDENT NOT OCCURRING ON, OR IN, OR ABOUT PREMISES ON WHICH PRINCIPAL HAS UNDERTAKEN TO EXECUTE WORK.

Where any principal contractor in the course of his business agrees with a sub-contractor for the latter to do the whole or any part of the work undertaken by the principal, it is provided by the Act of 1906 that the principal shall be liable to pay compensation to a workman employed by the sub-contractor, as if that workman had been immediately employed by the principal. The principal, however, is entitled to be indemnified by the sub-contractor, who himself always remains liable under the Act to compensate his own workmen. But where an accident causing injury to such workman has occurred elsewhere than on, or in, or about premises on which the principal has undertaken to execute the work, or which are under his control or management, the principal is not liable, and the workman must look solely to his own direct employer for compensation.

A builder and contractor had made a contract to do certain work near the Albert Hall, Kensington. He made a sub-contract with a certain man to cart a quantity of rubbish away from the Albert Hall, which rubbish the sub-contractor was at liberty to tip either on premises belonging to the principal contractor or anywhere else he liked. On August 16th last, while a workman (who was the son of the sub-contractor and in his employ) was carting this rubbish from the Albert Hall to a place of his own choosing in which the principal was not concerned, the workman went to sleep, fell from the cart and was run over and killed. The place where the accident happened was about two miles from the Albert Hall.

The widow of the deceased workman claimed compensation under the Act. The County Court judge decided that the sub-contractor was liable to pay compensation; also that the principal was liable to indemnify the sub-contractor; and that the work of carrying was to be executed not only at the termini from and to which the materials were to be carried, but also on the roads between those termini, and that therefore the accident had occurred on, in, or about premises on which the principal had undertaken to execute the work in the course of which the accident had occurred. From this decision the principal appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that it was wholly unjustifiable to say that any portion of the roads radiating from the Albert Hall and going to any distance over which the sub-contractor might be minded to take his cart was premises on which the principal had undertaken to execute work or which were otherwise under his control or management. Therefore the principal was not liable to pay compensation, and the appeal must be allowed.—*Andrews v. Andrews & Mears, Court of Appeal, June 3rd, 1908.*

PARTIAL INCAPACITY: INCAPACITY DUE PARTLY TO ACCIDENT, PARTLY TO PREVIOUSLY EXISTING AILMENT.

Where a workman is injured by an accident in circumstances entitling him to compensation, compensation is payable as long as total or partial incapacity for work lasts, provided such incapacity is the result of the injury.

A miner, in April, 1907, met with an accident which injured his right eye; and compensation was by agreement paid to him till November of the same year. By that time he had recovered from the injury to the right eye (so far as recovery without an operation was possible), but the eye was of little use. Previously to the accident his left eye had been affected by nystagmus, and he was now unfit for underground work, though able to do certain work above ground. He claimed continuance of compensation, but the Sheriff-Substitute held that as the nystagmus was not either caused or aggravated by the accident, his existing incapacity for resuming his former employment was not due to the accident. Compensation was therefore refused. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Session held that the Sheriff-Substitute was wrong, and remitted the matter to him to assess compensation on the footing of his partial incapacity. The Court held that as the man's right eye had been rendered of little use by the accident, his partial incapacity was the consequence of the accident, although but for his previous infirmity the accident, his existing incapacity unfit to resume his work.—*Lee v. Baird & Co., Ltd., Court of Session, June 6th, 1908.*

EMPLOYMENT OF A CASUAL NATURE: WINDOW CLEANER EMPLOYED AT IRREGULAR INTERVALS.

By the provisions of the Act of 1906 any person whose employment is of a casual nature, and who is employed otherwise than for the purpose of the employer's trade or business, is not included among those workmen who are entitled to compensation in case of injury by accident.

A man earned his living by cleaning windows and doing other odd jobs for various persons. A gentleman, a member of the Stock Exchange, was in the habit of employing this man to clean the windows of his private dwelling house. When he was wanted for this purpose the wife of the gentleman, or one of his servants, used to send a postcard asking him to call and clean the windows. He then came and did the work, and was paid at the rate of 6s. 6d. a day. There was no kind of agreement for permanent or periodic employment. He was sent for at irregular intervals of about a month or six weeks. This course of procedure had continued for some two years, when he, one day while cleaning a window, fell to the ground and was killed.

A dependant of the deceased man then claimed compensation under the Act, but his claim was resisted on the ground that the employment of the deceased was of a casual nature. The County Court judge, however, decided that there was sufficient continuity about the work to take it out of the definition of work of a casual nature. Compensation accordingly was awarded.

The employer appealed, and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that although the deceased had a well-founded expectation of employment which would probably have resulted in employment at more or less regular intervals, still the employment was of a casual nature within the meaning of the Act, and the claimant was therefore not entitled to compensation.—*Hill v. Begg, Court of Appeal, June 3rd and 4th, 1908.*

DEPENDANTS: ILLEGITIMATE CHILD: QUESTION OF PATERNITY.

Where a workman meets with a fatal accident, the dependants of the man entitled to compensation include an illegitimate child dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death. It is provided by the Act of 1906 that any question as to who is a dependant shall in default of agreement be settled by arbitration or by the County Court judge in the same manner in which questions of compensation are settled.

A dock labourer was killed in the course of his employment while loading a steamship. A claim for compensation was then made on the employers of the deceased man by a girl who stated that she was the illegitimate daughter of the deceased, and dependent upon him. The employers denied that she was a daughter of the deceased. The Sheriff-Substitute held that he could not decide the disputed question as to the claimant's paternity, and he accordingly adjourned the proceedings until she should have established her title in a competent Court. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Session held that it was the duty of the Sheriff-Substitute to determine the question as to whether the claimant was the illegitimate child of the deceased, and therefore a dependant within the meaning of the Act. The claim was, therefore remitted to the Sheriff-Substitute to determine all questions.—*Johnstone v. Spence & Co., Court of Session, June 18th, 1908.*

(2) Coal Mines Regulation Acts.

APPOINTMENT OF CHECK-WEIGHER: WHAT IS A "MINE"? DISTINCT SEAMS OF COAL.

By the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, the men employed in a mine, and who are paid according to the weight of coal got by them, are entitled to appoint at their own cost a "check-weigher" at each place appointed for weighing.

At a certain colliery there were two distinct seams, worked by separate shafts, one being several hundred yards below the other. A dispute arose as to the validity of the appointment of a certain person as check-weigher, and an action was brought to determine the question. The matter depended substantially upon the question whether each of these seams was or was not a "mine" within the meaning of the Act. The judge decided that "mine" includes seams of coal which are in part opened.—*Thorpe v. Davies, King's Bench Division, June 26th, 1908.*

(3) Trade Union Acts.

TRADE DISPUTES ACT: TO WHAT EXTENT ACT IS RETROSPECTIVE: AGREEMENT TO REFER TO CONCILIATION COMMITTEE BROKEN BY EMPLOYEES: INDUCING WORKMEN TO BREAK CONTRACTS: JUSTIFIABLE STRIKE.

By the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, an action against a trade union, whether of workmen or masters, or against any members or officials thereof on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union, shall not be entertained by any Court.

In the year 1904 a master plasterer took a contract for plastering a large building some fourteen miles from Birmingham. He engaged as foreman a man who in the previous year had been expelled from a trade union of workmen. An agreement was in force between this trade union and two associations of employers, representing plasterers and builders. By this agreement it was provided that no boycotting or black-listing was to take place by the workmen's union where the employers' firms adhered to rules mutually agreed upon; that in the event of any dispute between his men and any employer who belonged to either of the contracting associations no strike should be sanctioned by the union until six clear working days had expired from receipt of notice from the district branch of the union, during which time the matter in dispute should be considered by a joint committee of employers and workmen; that failing a settlement by such committee reference of the matter should immediately be made to a standing joint committee of members of the employers' and workmen's central bodies, and that no strike or lock-out should be sanctioned by the central bodies of either the employers or the men until this joint committee had met and discussed the grievance; that workmen, members of the union, should not be required to work with defaulters or men who had made themselves especially objectionable to the trade union; and that no employer should be required to pay more than the local standing rate of wages to men engaged in the town or district where work was being executed, or where no such rate existed, that of the nearest town or district. The union also undertook not to take any steps to compel men to become members, and the employers undertook not to take steps to compel men to abstain from becoming members. The men belonging to the union who were employed on the work in question objected to work with the foreman and with some other men who had been fined by the union as defaulters, and they were anxious to have the matter of complaint settled under the agreement. The secretary of the local branch of the Union brought the cause of the men's complaint to the notice of the contractor. A long correspondence took place during December, 1904, and January, 1905. On January 11th, 1905, the secretary demanded a meeting of the committee under the agreement to consider the matter in dispute. On January 14th a meeting of the local branch of the union was held, and the members employed by the contractor were told that unless they received instructions to the contrary they were to give an hour's notice on the following Tuesday evening. Most of the men were entitled to leave work at any time on giving one hour's notice. But two of them, who were engaged as scagliola workers, were working, one of them under an agreement for a term of five years from Christmas, 1901, and the other under an agreement for three years from March, 1904. Previously to this the local conciliation committee consisting of six employers and six men had met, but the employers refused to discuss the matter with the men on the ground that the building upon which the work was being carried out was too far away from Birmingham to be within their jurisdiction. In pursuance of the instructions given to the men on January 14th, 1905, they all gave an hour's notice on the evening of the 17th, and refused to return to work. The union paid strike pay to all their members on strike including the two scagliola workers.

The contractor then brought an action against the trade union and its trustees and the secretary of the Birmingham Local Branch for an injunction and for damages for inducing the men to break their contracts, and against the two scagliola workers for damages for breach of contract. The point was taken on behalf of the union that the action could not be maintained after the passing of the Trades Disputes Act; but the judge decided that the Act was not retrospective in the sense that an action, commenced, as this was, before the passing of the Act, could be stayed. The action accordingly proceeded, and a considerable amount of evidence was taken. The plaintiff contended that the defendants had brought about the strike in order to compel him to dismiss the foreman. The judge found that the defendants, the central union, had authorized and sanctioned the calling out of the men: that neither the central officials nor the district secretary knew when the men were called out that the two scagliola workers had been engaged under agreements; that the union ratified the action of the local branch after they knew of those agreements and continued to pay strike pay to the men, but that such ratification was not sufficient to enable the plaintiff to recover against the union for wrongfully inducing the men to break their agreements; that the employers represented on the local conciliation committee were wrong in refusing to attempt to settle the matter in dispute; and that the union had acted *bona fide* in calling out the men after such refusal. As far as the two men were concerned, however, they had broken their agreements and were liable to pay damages. Judgment was accordingly given in favour of all the defendants except these two men. The plaintiff was awarded £25 damages for breach of agreement against each of them.—*Smithies v. National Association of Operative Plasterers and Others, King's Bench Division, May 14th, 18th, 20th, and June 4th, 1908.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

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

District.	1st July, 1908.			1st June, 1908.			1st July, 1907.		
	Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5½	5½	5.5	5½	5	5.4	5½	5	5.3
E. & N.E. ...	5½	5	5.3	5½	5	5.3	5½	4	5.0
S.E. ...	6	5	5.6	6	5½	5.6	5½	5	5.0
S.W. ...	6	5½	5.6	6	5½	5.6	5½	5	5.2
W. & W.C. ...	6	5½	5.7	6	5½	5.7	5½	5	5.3
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5	5.7	7	5	5.7	6	5	5.2
Midlands ...	6	4½	5.4	6	4½	5.4	5½	4½	5.0
Eastern Counties ...	6	5	5.4	6	5	5.4	6	4½	5.2
Southern Counties ...	6½	4½	5.9	6½	4½	5.9	6½	5	5.7
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5.5	6	5	5.5	6	4½	5.3
Scotland ...	7	5½	6.2	7	5½	6.2	6½	5	5.6
Great Britain ...	7	4½	5.6	7	4½	5.6	6½	4	5.3

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices remains unaltered. As compared with a year ago, an increase of ½d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.

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

The above Table shows that, compared with a month ago, prices remain unaltered throughout. As compared with a year ago, the predominant price of bread has risen in 18 of the towns. In 3 of these, including London, the increase amounted to ½d. per 4 lbs., in 14 to ¼d., and in 1 to 1d. per 4 lbs. Eight of the towns show no change, and two, Cardiff and Oldham, show decreases of ¼d. and ½d. per 4 lbs. respectively

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September, 1907-June, 1908, amounted to 79,092,410 cwts., or 2,902,810 cwts. more than during the corresponding period of 1906-7. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1907-June, 1908, amounted to 11,974,797 cwts., or 623,268 cwts. more than in September, 1906-June, 1907.

The following Table gives the mean London Gazette

price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated.

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).		(Average Declared Value.)		
	Per cwt.*	s. d.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	
June 1907.	7 4	7 5	9 9	10 2	
May 1908.	7 8	8 3½	10 9½	11 6½	
June 1908.	7 6	8 0½	10 6½	11 3½	

ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

The fortieth annual Co-operative Congress was held at Newport (Mon.) during Whit week, under the presidency of Councillor T. W. Allen (manager of the Blaina Co-operative Society), when 1,276 delegates from 490 co-operative associations in the United Kingdom were present, together with 23 delegates from co-operative organisations of ten foreign countries.

The Congress was convened by the Co-operative Union, which is a federation of 1,243 societies with an aggregate membership of 2,297,300, or 94.4 per cent. of the total membership of all industrial co-operative societies known to the Union.

The report presented to the Congress stated that 1,566 co-operative societies, with an aggregate membership of 2,434,085, had made returns to the Union for the year 1907. Their total share capital amounted to £32,055,229, the total trade to £105,717,699, and the profit to £12,003,341.

The growth of co-operation in agriculture was reported upon, 160 agricultural co-operative associations being reported as affiliated to the Agricultural Organisation Society in England at the end of 1907, the aggregate membership being stated as 10,000, and the turnover for the year as about £500,000. Special efforts are being made to promote co-operative small holdings societies under the Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1907, a paper being read at the Congress by Mr. W. L. Charleton on "The Small Holdings and Allotments Act, 1907, and its Relation to Distributive Co-operative Societies."

A paper on "The Co-operative Movement Abroad" was read by Dr. Hans Müller (Switzerland) setting forth the present position of distributive and productive co-operative societies in 13 countries other than the United Kingdom.

A paper was also read by Mr. W. H. Watkins (Plymouth) on "Present Co-operative Educational Resources and some Immediate Needs."

A report was submitted by a Special Committee appointed in accordance with a resolution passed at the previous Congress to consider the question of the practicability of establishing a minimum wage for co-operative employees. The Committee now recommended that Co-operative Distributive Societies should pay not less than 24s. per week for male labour at 21 years of age and upwards, and not less than 17s. per week for female labour at 20 years of age and upwards. For young persons a scale was suggested, ranging for boys from 6s. per week at 14 years of age to 24s. at 21 years of age, and for girls from 5s. per week at 14 years of age to 17s. at 20. A resolution, also recommended by the Committee, was adopted urging all societies to adopt these recommendations, and also urging "His Majesty's Government to grant facilities for the passing of the Bill introduced by Mr. Toulmin, M.P., establishing 'wages boards' in the sweated trades, with power to fix minimum rates of payment."

The next Congress will be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne in Whit week, 1909.

* In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, the rate of conversion from quarters to cwts. is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during June was 64, consisting of 58 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of mercurial poisoning, 2 of arsenic poisoning, and 3 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 19 cases of lead poisoning (2 of which were fatal) were reported during June among house painters and plumbers.

During the six months ended June, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 371, as compared with 261 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 19, as against 20 in 1907. In addition there were 94 cases of lead poisoning (including 13 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first six months of 1908, as compared with 74 cases (including 22 deaths) in the first six months of 1907.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.		
	Month of June, 1908.	Six Months ended June, 1908.	Month of June, 1908.	Six Months ended June, 1908.	
					1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.
Lead Poisoning.					
Smelting of Metals ...	6	34	8	1	1
Brass Works ...	1	4	2	—	1
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	7	1	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	3	15	8	—	1
Printing ...	3	10	11	—	1
File Cutting ...	1	6	2	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	1	2	12	—	—
White Lead Works ...	8	39	27	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	1	6	3	—	—
China and Earthenware*	13	70	38	5	6
Litho-Transfer Works ...	1	1	4	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	2	1	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	1	4	1	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	1	14	8	1	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	—	10	9	—	—
Coach Making ...	9	37	28	1	—
Shipbuilding ...	3	7	13	—	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	3	19	20	—	—
Other Industries ...	3	32	23	4	1
Total in Factories and Workshops	58	319	219	14	11
House Painting and Plumbing ...	19	94	74	2	13

Other Forms of Poisoning.

Mercurial Poisoning—					
Barometer and Thermometer Making	1	1	—	—	
Furriers' Processes ...	—	1	2	—	
Other Industries ...	—	1	—	—	
Total ...	1	2	2	—	
Phosphorus Poisoning—					
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	—	1	—	
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	1	
Total ...	—	—	1	—	
Arsenic Poisoning—					
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	2	15	4	—	
Other Industries ...	—	1	1	—	
Total ...	2	16	5	—	
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	3	18	8	—	1

Anthrax.

Wool ...	2	12	15	—	1	3
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	10	8	—	1	2
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1	8	6	—	—	1
Other Industries ...	—	4	5	—	2	1
Total, Anthrax ...	3†	34	34	—	4	7

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

* Of the 13 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 9 were females.
† Including 1 dock labourer.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JUNE.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during June, 1908, was 197, a decrease of 30 as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 27 as compared with June, 1907.

The mean number for June in the years 1903-1907 was 225, the maximum year being 1906 with 237 deaths, and the minimum year 1905 with 217 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in June, 1908, was 91, as compared with 112 in May, and 105 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during June, 1908, was 81, as compared with 79 in the previous month, and 87 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 22, 34, and 26 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during June, 1908, was 88, as compared with 59 in both May, 1908, and June, 1907.

During the six months ended June, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 1,488, as compared with 1,443 in the corresponding period of 1907. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 633 in 1908, and 693 in 1907.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, as compared with a	
	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	3	2	- 2	- 1
Engine Drivers...	1	1	...	...	+ 1
Firemen ...	1	1	...	...	+ 1
Guards (Passenger) ...	...	...	...	...	...
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	6	5	...	+ 1
Porters ...	2	5	2	- 3	...
Shunters ...	1	2	1	- 1	- 6
Miscellaneous ...	9	15	15	- 6	- 6
Contractors' Servants ...	1	1	1	...	...
Total, Railway Service	21	31	26	- 12	- 4
Mines—					
Underground ...	78	95	89	- 17	- 11
Surface ...	6	7	5	- 1	- 2
Total, Mines ...	84	102	97	- 18	- 13
Quarries over 20 feet deep ...	7	10	8	- 3	- 1
Factories (including Workshops)					
Textile—					
Cotton ...	3	3	2	...	+ 1
Wool and Worsted ...	1	2	4	- 1	- 3
Other Textiles ...	1	1	1	- 1	- 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals ...	2	7	2	- 5	...
Founding and Conversion of Metals	10	7	10	+ 3	...
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	4	...	2	+ 4	+ 2
Ship and Boat Building ...	5	4	7	+ 1	- 2
Wood ...	4	1	3	+ 3	+ 1
Chemicals ...	4	3	3	+ 1	+ 1
Laundries ...	1	...	1	...	...
Other Non-Textile Industries	25	21	28	+ 4	- 3
Total, Factories ...	58	50	62	+ 8	- 4
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays...	10	10	13	...	- 3
Warehouses ...	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	10	17	10	- 7	...
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	23	29	25	- 6	- 2
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894					
Total, exclusive of Seamen	197	227	224	- 30	- 27
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing ...	35	18	13	+ 17	+ 22
Steam ...	47	39	39	+ 8	+ 8
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing ...	2	...	3	+ 2	- 1
Steam ...	4	2	4	+ 2	...
Total, Seamen ...	88	59	59	+ 29	+ 29
Total, including Seamen	285	286	283	- 1	+ 2

TRADE DISPUTES IN JUNE.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-one disputes began in June, 1908, as compared with 29 in May, 1908, and 22 in June, 1907. By the 21 disputes, 3,964 workpeople were directly and 637 indirectly affected; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before June, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 21,604 workpeople involved in trade disputes during June, 1908, compared with 55,276 in May, 1908, and 17,682 in June, 1907.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining	10	3,144	637	3,781
Metal and Engineering	2	438	...	438
Textile Trades	3	108	...	108
Clothing	2	177	...	177
Other Trades	4	97	...	97
Total, June, 1908	21	3,964	637	4,601
Total, May, 1908	29	5,987	193	6,180
Total, June, 1907	22	7,184	4,857	12,041

Causes.—Of the 21 new disputes, 5 arose on demands for increased wages, 5 on objections to reduction in wages, 3 on other wages questions, 3 on details of working arrangements, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 3 on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 12 new disputes, directly affecting 2,497 persons, and 12 old disputes, directly affecting 2,783 persons. Of these 24 new and old disputes, 3, directly involving 1,622 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople;

8, directly involving 907 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 13, directly involving 2,751 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of one other dispute, work has been resumed pending further consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in June of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 112,900 working days. In addition, 318,300 working days were lost during June owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in June of all disputes, new or old, was 431,200 working days, as compared with 1,191,100 in the previous month, and 194,100 in the corresponding month of 1907.

Summary for the First Six Months of 1907 and 1908.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the six months January—June, 1907 and 1908, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-June, 1907.			Jan.-June, 1908.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	16	927	20,400	16	2,638	67,300
Mining and Quarrying... ..	47	21,141	259,800	57	18,296	545,400
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	45	11,575	258,800	30	53,772	3,036,500
Textile	91	23,978	346,000	37	9,662	462,300
Clothing	25	2,889	30,600	22	1,889	50,100
Transport	15	4,731	16,700	11	2,003	15,400
Other Trades	37	2,972	53,800	27	2,454	43,100
Total	276	68,213	984,100	200	90,714	4,220,100

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result †
		Directly.	Indirectly.‡				
Coal Mining—							
Coal Miners	Blaina	800	...	4 June	3	Against introduction of new safety lamp	Work resumed pending further negotiations.
Coal Miners	Cardiff (near)	1,100	300	1 June	9	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation or left the district.
Cotton Weaving—							
Weavers, Winders, Warpers, Spinners, Card-room Operatives, &c.	Hyde	1,213	1,030	30 Mar.	77	Dispute as to prices to be paid for weaving on Northrop looms, and as to number of looms to be worked by each weaver	For terms of settlement see p. 203.
Clothing—							
Bootmakers (hand-sewn)	Glasgow	170	...	4 May	45	For advance in wages	Work resumed at old rates.
Shirtmakers	Glasgow	150	...	11 June	5	Against reduction in price paid for gusseting	Modified reduction accepted.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople indirectly affected. † £. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE UNIONS IN AUSTRIA IN 1907.

STATISTICS of Trade Unions in Austria in 1907* have recently appeared in *Die Gewerkschaft* (the journal of the Central Committee of Austrian Trade Unions).

In 1907 the "central" unions numbered 49, as in 1906. The number of local unions was 5,030, as compared with 4,062 in 1906. The "district" unions decreased from 89 in 1906 to 77 in 1907. The total number of organisations thus increased from 4,200 in 1906 to 5,156 in 1907. The total membership at the end of December, 1907, was 501,094, as compared with 448,270 in 1906.

The total receipts of the Trade Unions in 1907 amounted to £338,365, and the total expenditure to

* Stärke und Leistungsfähigkeit der Gewerkschaften Oesterreichs im Jahre 1907. "Die Gewerkschaft," July 12th, 1908.

£297,822, the corresponding totals for 1906 being £290,932 and £233,742. The receipts consisted chiefly of ordinary contributions of members, and these amounted to £307,787 in 1907, whilst the principal items of expenditure were expenses of administration £50,129, unemployment benefit £43,647, cost of journal £42,343, sick benefit £32,476, and propaganda and organization £31,952. The funds of the unions at the end of 1907 amounted to £366,918 (as compared with £304,954 at the end of the preceding year), nearly half of which sum was in the hands of the printers' and metal workers' unions. The foregoing figures are exclusive of "strike funds," for which a sum of £136,822 was collected and £76,066 disbursed in 1907, the total available for distribution under this head at the end of the year being £106,589.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in June.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in June, 1908, was a decrease of £16,671 per week, as compared with a decrease of £3,624 per week in May, 1908, and an increase of £24,416 per week in June, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 156,783, of whom 4,529 received advances amounting to £75 per week, and 152,254 sustained decreases amounting to £16,746 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 147,566, and in June, 1907, 323,918.

Four changes, affecting 93,830 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; five changes, affecting 25,673 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales; and five changes, affecting 3,555, were settled by mediation. The remaining changes, affecting 33,725 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives. In six of the above cases, affecting 3,775 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the six completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the six months ended June 30th, 1908, was 851,119, as compared with 1,168,443 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 415,641 workpeople a net increase of £21,496 per week, and 429,478 workpeople a net decrease of £37,743 per week, whilst the remaining 6,000 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes was thus a decrease of £16,247 per week, as compared

with an increase of £115,170 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

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

Groups of Trades.	January—June.			
	1907.		1908.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	2,447	+ 144	6,544	+ 242
Coal Mining	805,321	+ 96,285	643,750	- 6,814
Iron, &c. Mining	15,340	+ 1,375	14,031	- 2,018
Quarrying	2,441	+ 129	2,202	- 217
Pig Iron Manufacture	16,119	+ 866	16,855	- 1,774
Iron and Steel Manufacture	50,981	+ 3,143	51,514	- 4,451
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	29,003	+ 1,480	79,400	- 2,875
Other Metal Trades	533	+ 34	2,919	- 341
Textile Trades	234,995	+ 10,759	9,366	+ 1,012
Printing, &c., Trades	4,922	+ 288	10,042	+ 879
Glass, &c., Trades	3,788	+ 386	5,959	+ 281
Other Trades	1,186	+ 95	6,571	- 365
Employees of Local Authorities	3,367	+ 195	1,966	+ 194
Total	1,168,443	+115,170	851,119	-16,247

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in June, 1908, affected 3,830 workpeople, of whom 330 had their aggregate working hours increased by 53 per week, and 3,500 had reductions amounting to 4,088 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the six months ended June 30th, 1908, was 10,330. Of these 490 had their aggregate working time increased by 117 hours per week, and 9,840 had reductions amounting to 14,200 hours per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN JUNE.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1908.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)	
					Increase.	Decrease.
I.—RATES OF WAGES.						
Building ...	Liverpool and District	1 June	Carpenters and Joiners†	2,500	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.).
	Birkenhead and District	1 June	Carpenters and Joiners†	1,000	...	Advance of ¼d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.).
Coal Mining	Forest of Dean ...	1 June	Hewers, other Underground and Surface Workers (including Engine-men and Mechanics)	5,500	...	Decrease of 5 per cent., leaving wages 35 per cent. above the standard of 1888.‡
	Scotland ...	3 June	Underground Workers	90,000	...	Decrease of 12½ per cent., leaving wages 68½ per cent. above the standard of 1888.
	Scotland ...	17 June	Surfacemen, Mechanics and Firemen	18,000	...	Decrease of 2d. per shift.
Shale Mining...	Scotland ...	4 June	Miners	2,000	...	Decrease of 3d. per shift.
	Scotland ...	4 June	Oncostmen, Boys and Enginem ...	4,000	...	Decrease of 12½ per cent.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Midlands (including parts of S. Yorks and S. Lancs.)	8 June	Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen	20,000	...	Decreases of from 2d. to 6d. per day.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	8 June	Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen, Enginem, &c.	1,609	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
	West of Scotland	1 June	Iron Puddlers	3,000	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (9s. 3d. to 9s.).
Shipbuilding	Tyne, Tees and Hartlepool	1 June	Iron Millmen	3,500	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
	Wear	18 June	Shipwrights, Ship Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Millsawyers and Wood-cutting Machinists	2,000	...	Decrease of 1s. 6d. per week. Rates after change: Shipwrights—Tyne, 37s. 6d.; Tees and Hartlepool, 37s. Joiners and Cabinet Makers—Tyne, 37s.; Tees and Hartlepool, 36s. 6d.; Millsawyers—Tyne, 37s.; Tees and Hartlepool, 33s. to 37s. 6d.
			Drillers and Hole Cutters	2,000	...	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates.
II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.						
Building	Liverpool and District	1 June	Carpenters and Joiners†	2,500	...	Revision of hours of labour resulting in an average decrease of about ½ hour per week in ordinary hours, and of about 1½ hours per week to men engaged on unprotected work.
	Birkenhead and District	1 June	Carpenters and Joiners†	1,000	...	Revision of hours of labour, resulting in an average decrease of about 1 hour per week in ordinary hours, and of about 2½ hours per week to men engaged on unprotected work.

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—It was arranged on July 4th that the wages of miners in Northumberland should be reduced by 2½ per cent. Pig Iron Manufacture.—Early in July the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland were reduced by 1½ per cent., and in South Wales and Monmouthshire by 4 per cent. In Cleveland and Durham the rates were increased by 1 per cent. Iron and Steel Manufacture.—The rates of wages of iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire were reduced by 4 per cent, early in July. Full particulars will appear in the August GAZETTE.
* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. ‡ This represents the total number employed in the district, but the number immediately affected by the reduction is considerably less.

PAUPERISM IN JUNE.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)
 THE number of paupers relieved on one day in June, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 216 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with May, 1908, the total number of paupers decreased by 8,504 (2·2 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 4. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 5,079 (2·9 per cent.), and outdoor paupers 3,425 (1·6 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 29 districts, most noticeably in the Central London district (28 per 10,000). Of the remaining 6 districts, 3 showed slight increases, and in 3 other there was no change.

Compared with June, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 6. The number of indoor paupers increased by 7,697 (4·7 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 5,898 (2·8 per cent.). In 21 districts there were increases, of which the greatest were in the Stockton and Tees district (107 per 10,000) and in the East London district (22 per 10,000). In twelve districts there were decreases, the most marked of which were in the Central London district (19 per 10,000), Leeds district (15 per 10,000) and North Staffordshire district (16 per 10,000). In the remaining two districts no change was indicated.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of June, 1908.			Rate per 10,000 of Esti- mated Popula- tion.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In- door.	Out- door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolians.						
West District ...	11,428	3,167	14,595	172	- 6	- 2
North District ...	15,982	9,518	25,500	238	- 9	+ 5
Central District ...	6,533	4,455	8,988	485	- 28	- 19
East District ...	15,712	8,331	24,043	333	- 7	+ 22
South District ...	26,057	19,063	45,120	247	- 8	+ 5
Total, Metropolis ...	75,712	42,534	118,246	239	- 9	+ 5
West Ham ...	4,242	11,913	16,155	221	- 6	...
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District...	2,560	6,019	8,579	190	- 6	+ 12
Stockton & Tees District...	1,380	6,492	7,872	354	- 10	+ 107
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,161	6,185	10,346	133	...	+ 2
Wigan District ...	2,211	5,989	8,200	201	- 2	- 3
Manchester District ...	10,275	8,644	18,919	198	- 8	+ 8
Liverpool District ...	12,420	11,280	23,700	224	- 4	+ 13
Bradford District ...	1,942	2,642	4,584	124	- 1	+ 7
Hull District ...	1,285	4,057	5,342	146	- 1	...
Leeds District ...	2,894	4,882	7,776	197	- 5	- 15
Barnsley District ...	702	2,960	3,662	144	- 4	- 5
Sheffield District ...	3,366	3,599	6,965	153	...	+ 7
Hull District ...	1,617	5,484	7,101	249	- 7	+ 7
North Staffordshire ...	2,196	7,202	9,398	243	...	- 16
Nottingham District ...	2,254	6,160	8,414	198	- 2	+ 2
Leicester District ...	1,512	4,045	5,557	234	- 6	- 13
Wolverhampton District...	3,786	11,030	15,716	238	- 2	- 1
Birmingham District ...	5,228	4,690	9,918	187	- 1	+ 11
Bristol District ...	2,898	6,348	9,246	231	- 3	- 7
Cardiff & Swansea ...	2,199	7,754	9,953	205	- 3	+ 6
Total, "Other Districts" ...	64,886	115,762	180,648	196	- 3	+ 5
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	5,810	17,790	23,600	233	- 4	+ 16
Paisley & Greenock District	839	2,634	3,473	192	- 2	+ 16
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,794	5,445	7,239	173	- 2	+ 1
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	920	2,676	3,596	178	+ 2	+ 8
Aberdeen ...	697	3,144	3,841	230	+ 1	- 2
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	374	1,453	1,827	186	- 10	- 3
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	10,434	33,142	43,576	209	- 3	+ 10
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	6,668	5,536	12,204	312	- 3	+ 3
Belfast District ...	3,943	781	4,724	111	+ 1	+ 15
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,389	4,935	9,324	382	- 6	+ 3
Galway District ...	373	336	709	203	- 2	- 4
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	15,653	11,588	27,241	247	- 2	+ 7
Total for above 35 Dis- tricts in June, 1908	170,927	214,939	385,866	216	- 4	+ 8

* 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 ind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN JUNE.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 234.

THE following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of June, by those Committees whose registers were still open at that date. The following Distress Committees closed their registers for the receipt of fresh applications during June:—Tynemouth (N. Shields), Northampton and Tottenham.

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

Distress Committees.	No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of June, 1908	Distress Committees.	No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of June, 1908
Outer London:—		Stockport ...	186
Edmonton ...	1,015	Stockton ...	215
West Ham ...	3,283	Sunderland ...	2,311
		Wolverhampton ...	217
		Other Towns (11) ...	700
Barrow-in-Furness ...	1,077	Total, England and Wales	20,427
Birkenhead ...	499		
Bolton ...	554	Aberdeen ...	57
Bradford ...	366	Edinburgh ...	1,373
Devonport ...	277	Glasgow ...	1,383
Dudley ...	160	Govan ...	237
Erith ...	350	Greenock ...	179
Halifax ...	237	Leith ...	61
Hull ...	1,014	Partick ...	26
Leeds ...	1,128		
Leicester ...	982	Total, Scotland ...	3,316
Liverpool ...	383	Total, Great Britain	23,743
Manchester ...	113*		
Middlesbrough ...	172		
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	359		
Sheffield ...	1,965		
Southampton ...	213		
South Shields ...	1,550		

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

Distress Committees.	No. given Employment-relief.†	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.	Total Amount of Wages paid.
London (Central Body):		Days.	£
At Hollesley Bay ...	193	3,468	405
In Women's Workrooms ...	135	2,538	241
In Parks, &c. ...	429	6,176	1,345
At Alexandra Palace... ..	402	6,885	2,064
By arrangement with Borough Councils	...	...	...
Total, London ...	1,159	19,067	4,055
Outer London (5 Committees) ...	1,404	8,560	1,467
Barrow-in-Furness ...	67	1,166	201
Dudley ...	76	226	30
Kettering ...	51	1,156	155
Leeds ...	53	633	117
Leicester ...	23	143	22
Manchester ...	68	925	160
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	123	1,263	217
Northampton ...	59	850	106
Smethwick ...	40	1,000	44
South Shields ...	64	3,498	700
Sunderland ...	64	3,986	731
Other Towns (5) ...	24	202	44
Total, England and Wales...	4,429	42,675	8,049
Aberdeen ...	12	80	12
Edinburgh ...	375	5,366	609
Glasgow ...	895	16,491	1,850
Govan ...	43	410	49
Greenock ...	90	902	114
Leith ...	32	284	67
Partick ...	18	247	31
Total, Scotland ...	1,465	23,720	2,732
Total, Great Britain...	5,894	66,395	10,781

It will be seen that the average number of days' employment-relief given was between 11 and 12, and the average amount of wages paid was about 36s. 4d., or 3s. 3d. a day.

* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number on the "unemployed register" was 614.
 † Including some not registered by the Distress Committees.
 ‡ Including 34 on piecework. § the aggregate duration of whose employment including 9 on piecework. cannot be stated.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for June.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.
 NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

	June.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	21,189,573	20,602,812	19,776,561	- 526,251	- 1,413,012
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	13,965,001	15,337,088	14,699,504	- 637,584	+ 734,503
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	12,551,975	11,670,112	11,487,048	- 183,064	- 1,064,927
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	175,104	195,533	173,169	- 22,364	- 1,935
Total value of Imports	47,881,653	47,808,543	46,136,282	- 1,669,263	- 1,748,371

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	June.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1908, compared with	
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1906.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,537,119	1,733,523	1,592,585	- 140,938	+ 55,466
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	3,252,498	4,509,395	4,091,505	- 417,890	+ 839,007
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	25,458,194	26,403,653	22,853,697	- 3,549,956	- 2,604,497
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	391,376	464,498	415,352	- 49,146	+ 23,976
Total value of Exports of British produce.	30,689,187	33,111,069	28,953,139	- 4,157,930	- 1,686,048

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,252,029 in June, 1906; £7,098,226 in June, 1907; and £6,029,312 in June, 1908.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING JUNE.

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

(1) REGISTERED.
 THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in June was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 6; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 15; under the Friendly Societies Act, 45 (including 31 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all, 69.

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

Trade Unions.—England.—4, viz., Fleetwood Steam Trawlers' Engineers' and Firemen's Soc., Station Road, Fleetwood; Birkenhead, Liscard and Dist. Bricklayers', Plasterers' and Slaters' Labourers' Soc., 36, Cloughton Road, Birkenhead; Natl. Union of the Mersey and Dist. Navvies, Builders' Labourers' and General Labourers in Great Britain and Ireland, 39, Greenland Street, Liverpool; Natl. Association of Builders' Labourers, 62, Hopwood Street, Hull. Scotland.—1, viz., International Chefs' Union of Glasgow, Buchanan Street Station Hotel, Cowcaddens, Glasgow. Ireland.—1, viz., Kilkenny Miners' Fedn., Gazebo National Schools, Castlecomer.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England.—12, viz., Co-operative Productive Society (2), Ryedale Dairy Assoc., Ltd., Helmsley, S.O., Yorks; Gilbert Brothers' Employees, Ltd., School Lane, Nantwich. Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (3), Bullth Upper Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Llwynpiod, Garth, S.O., Brecon; High Wycombe Farming Assoc., Ltd., 80, Totteridge Road, High Wycombe. Alton and Dist. Co-op. Land Soc., Ltd., West End Farm, Medstead, Arlesford. Working Men's Clubs: (3), South Moor Excelsior Club and Institute, Ltd., Front Street, South Moor, Chester-le-Street; Barnet and Dist., Constitutional Club, Ltd., 33, High Street, Barnet; West Kent Catholic Literary and Social Club, Ltd., 73, High Street, Lewisham, S.E. Miscellaneous: (4) (including 3 Small Holdings Societies). Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—(3),

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
 † Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
 ‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c., hides and skins.
 § Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (2), Deer Park Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Deer Park Glenarm, Castledermot Co-op. Agric. Soc., Ltd., Parochial Hall, Castledermot. Miscellaneous: (1).

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—14, viz., Hall and Bowling Green Club, Sandiacre, Nottingham; Shepperton and Dist. Conservative and Unionist Club, Shepperton, S.O.; Amalg. Musicians' Union Working Men's Club and Inst., Nottingham; Wheatley Working Men's Club and Inst., Wheatley, Doncaster; Skipton Working Men's Club and Inst., Skipton; Burley Vale Working Men's Club and Inst., Leeds; Bromley and Dist. Credit Soc., Bromley; Fleetwood Mutual Self-Help Money Soc., Fleetwood; Foxhound £2 ros. Loan Soc., Nottingham; Merthyr Mutual Investment and Loan Soc., Merthyr Tydfil; Stewkley Primitive Methodist Sunday School Benefit Soc., Stewkley, Leighton Buzzard; Kensington and Notting Hill Juvenile Foresters' Society, Notting Hill Gate, W.; Havana Sick and Dividend Soc. (D.), Birmingham; Star of Bethlehem Friendly Soc., Uppermill, S.O., Yorks. Scotland.—nil. Ireland.—nil.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in June of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commence- ment of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions ...	...	2	...
Industrial and Provident Societies ...	...	3	7
Friendly Societies ...	...	8	4
Building " ...	1	5	...

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended June 27th, 1908, amounted to £3,882,446, a decrease of £460,238 (or 10·6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the twenty-six weeks ended June 27th, 1908, the receipts amounted to £27,181,189, a decrease of £993,148 (or 3·5 per cent.) as compared with the first six months of 1907.

	4 weeks ended June 27th, 1908.		26 weeks ended June 27th, 1908.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.	1,387,879	- 232,802	10,163,348	- 436,395
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury Lanes, and Yorks., and N. Eastern	396,762	- 45,192	2,924,429	- 110,378
L. & S.W., and Gt. Western L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	727,959	- 98,993	5,016,157	- 168,274
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	613,000	- 40,800	4,125,100	- 11,400
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	142,168	- 10,472	921,905	- 41,205
Total ...	498,177	- 34,102	3,270,773	- 159,762
Total ...	3,882,446	- 460,238	27,181,189	- 993,148

EMIGRATION BENEFIT PAID BY PRINCIPAL TRADE UNIONS IN 1906.

REPORTS and returns received from 100 principal Trade Unions show that in 1906 emigration benefit to the total amount of £1,117 was paid by 10 Unions, the remaining 90 Unions having made no payment under this head during 1906. In 1905, £919 was paid in emigration benefit by the same number of these Unions.

Of the total £1,117 expended in 1906, £457 was spent by two Unions of letterpress printers, £189 by two Unions of cabinet makers, and £222 by the cigar makers' Union; the remaining five Unions spent £249 on this benefit.

Canada. Report of Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King on his Mission to England, in connection with the Immigration of Asiatics into Canada. [Cd. 4118: pp. 7: price 1d.]

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

Census of 1906. Bulletin II. Manufactures of Canada. [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, King's Printers, pp. xxix. + 70 + xxxi.]

The Labour Gazette, May, 1908. Building operations in Canada during 1907; proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during April 1908; Fair Wages schedules in Government Contracts, &c.

Commonwealth of Australia. Official Year Book, No. 1. 1901-1907. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co.: pp. xvi. + 931.]

New Zealand. Awards, Recommendations, and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. VIII. 1907. Vol. IX. Part I. April 1908. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

Census of New Zealand, 1906. Registrar-General's Report. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. vii. + 163.]

Journal of the Department of Labour, May 1908. Conditions of employment and trade; recent legal decisions; cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

General.

Fourth International Report on the Trade Union Movement, 1906. Compiled by the International Trade Union Secretary. Published both in German and English. [Berlin: General Commission of German Trade Unions: pp. 139 + xxiv.]

Journal of the Permanent Committee of International Congresses of Social Assurance, December, 1907, and January-April, 1908. Contains text of laws, articles and statistics relating to insurance against unemployment, sickness, old age and invalidity and accidents in various countries. [Paris: Siège Social du Comité Permanent, 55, Rue de Chateaudun: price 2s. 5d. each number.]

United States.

Statistical Abstract of the United States. 30th Number, 1907. Contains sections dealing with labour, wages and prices of commodities, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 763.]

Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour. No. 74. January, 1908. Employers' Liability in United States, by L. D. Clark: Summary of Foreign Workmen's Compensation Acts.

Census Bulletins. Census of Manufactures, 1905. No. 93. Earnings of Wage Earners (pp. 179). No. 94. Statistics of Employees, Executive Civil Service of the United States, 1907 (pp. 163). [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. May, 1908. State of employment in the organised industries, recent Court decisions affecting labour, &c.

Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the State of Illinois, 1906. Statistics of manufactures, wages, &c. [Springfield, Ill.: Phillips Bros., State printers: pp. 358.]

Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Board of State Charities and Corrections of Rhode Island, 1907. [Howard (R.I.), pp. 154]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, May, 1908. Text of Law of April 10th, 1908, relating to small property and cheap houses. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie.: price 2d.]

Statistics of Disputes and Conciliation and Arbitration in 1906. French Labour Department, 1907. [Paris: pp. xxi. + 824.]

French Population Census, 1906. Ministry of the Interior. 1907. [Paris: pp. 900.]

Germany.

Quarterly Journal of Statistics of the German Empire, Part II., 1908. Sickness insurance, 1906; strikes, 1907. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: price 2s.]

Journal of the German Labour Department, June, 1908. Text of Finnish old age and invalidity Bill; employment in May. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]

Prussian Mining Law of June 24th, 1865, with Amendments to July 14th, 1905. [Essen: G. D. Baedeker: pp. 295 + xvi: price 2s.]

Report for 1907 of the Central Labour Registry of Upper Bavaria. Municipal Labour Bureau of Munich. [Munich: pp. 42.]

Report for 1907 of the Federation of German Paviors. [Berlin: Hauptvorstand des Verbandes: pp. 151.]

Wages and Conditions of Labour in the Upholstery Trade, September 30th, 1907. [Extract from "Korrespondenz-Blatt für Tapezierer," No. 9.]

Austria-Hungary.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, April and May, 1908. Ministerial decree of April 15th, 1908, relating to measures for the protection of painters and varnishers; sickness funds in 1905; wages and hours of miners, 1901-6. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d.]

Statistics of Employment Registries in Austria in 1906. Austrian Labour Department, 1907. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. 50.]

Trade Unions in Austria, 1907, "Die Gewerkschaft" of June 12th, 1908. [Vienna: Vorwärts, Swoboda & Co.]

Report on the Work of the Austrian Labour Department in 1907. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. 31.]

Statistical Journal of Hungary, April, 1908. Disputes in 1906. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, May, 1908. Unemployed subventions of the Società Umanitaria in 1907. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Text of the Italian Law of March, 22nd, 1908, on Prohibition of Night Work in Bakeries, together with the Parliamentary Proceedings upon the Bill. Italian Labour Department. (Supplement to the Journal of the Italian Labour Department, No. 6) [Rome: pp. 86.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, May 31st and June 15th., 1908. Disputes in April; labour registries in 1907. [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price 1d.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, May, 1908. Employment and disputes in April; municipal unemployment subventions of Amsterdam, January-March. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: price 2d.]

Factory Inspection in Holland. Reports for 1905 and 1906. 2 Vols. Department of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1908. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante.]

Switzerland.

Marriages, Births and Deaths in Switzerland, 1891 to 1900. Part I. Marriages and Divorces. Federal Statistical Office, 1908. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. lxxviii + 83 with diagrams.]

Sweden.

Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, April, 1908. Accidents in mines, 1906; factory inspection, 1906. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

Swedish Immigration and Emigration, 1907. Swedish Central Statistical Office. [Stockholm: pp. 15.]

Norway.

Industrial Statistics for 1900. Statistics of wages, hours, insurance, employment of women and children, &c. Norwegian Insurance Institution, 1908. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.: pp. xxxvii. + 2677.]

Statistical Yearbook of Christiania, 1905 and 1906. Statistics of population, prices, wages, labour registries, savings banks, &c. Municipal Statistical Office. [Christiania: pp. 174 and 166.]

Russia.

Statistical Yearbook of Moscow, 1st year, 1906-7. Part I. Statistical tables relating to prices, wages and rents. Statistical Office of Moscow, 1908. [Moscow: pp. xvii. + 181.]

Journal of the Finnish Labour Department, No. 2, 1908. Labour registries in 1907. [Helsingfors: Kejsarliga Senatens Tryckeri: price 2½d.]

Inquiry relating to Conditions of Labour of Sempstresses, &c., in Finland, 1908. [Helsingfors: Kejsarliga Senatens Tryckeri.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, May, 1908. Royal decree approving provisional regulations for application of Emigration Law of 1907. [Madrid, Calle Mayor 93: price 2½d.]

Bulgaria.

Statistics of Primary Schools in Bulgaria, 1903-4. Statistical Department of Bulgaria, 1907. [Sofia: pp. x. + 259.]

Roumania.

Foreign Commerce of Roumania, 1906. Roumanian Finance Department, 1908. [Bucarest: pp. lxxxvii. + 614.]

Diagrams illustrating Foreign Commerce of Roumania, 1871-1907. Roumanian Finance Department. [Bucarest, 1908.]

San Salvador.

Statistical Studies. Series I, 1907-8. [San Salvador, Imprenta Nacional, 10A A. Sur, No. 18 pp. 50.]

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

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 4001. Trade of the Consular District of Berlin, 1907. Increase of national wealth, state of the labour market, statistics of industries, &c. [Cd. 3727-84: pp. 88: price 4½d.]

No. 4005. *Trade of Roumania for the year 1907.* Statistics of the petroleum and other industries; law for the encouragement of industry, &c. [Cd. 3727-88: pp. 53: price 3d.]

No. 4008. *Trade of Leipzig and Chemnitz, 1907.* Wages and hours, strikes, statistics of industries, &c. [Cd. 3727-91: pp. 26: price 2d.]

No. 4026. *Trade of Japan, 1907.* Condition of factory labour, strikes, &c. [Cd. 3727-109: pp. 86: price 4½d.]

No. 4029. *Trade of Marseilles, 1907.* Rise in retail price of commodities in 1907, &c. [Cd. 3727-112: pp. 45: price 2½d.]

No. 4035. *Trade of New York, 1907.* Change in character of immigration; warning to British emigrants; statistics of unemployment, &c. [Cd. 3727-118: pp. 31: price 2d.]

No. 4038. *Trade of Consular District of Boston, 1907.* New labour legislation in 1907; proposed State industrial education, &c. [Cd. 3727-121: pp. 68: price 3½d.]

No. 4043. *Trade of the Consular District of Philadelphia, 1907.* Labour conditions in the iron trade, new basis of Sliding Scale, &c. [Cd. 3727-126: pp. 27: price 2d.]

Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by VEALE, CHIPFERIEL & CO., LTD., 31-37, Cursitor Street, London, E.C.; and to be purchased, either directly or through any Newsagent, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C., or OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.—Price 1d.—July, 1908.