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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

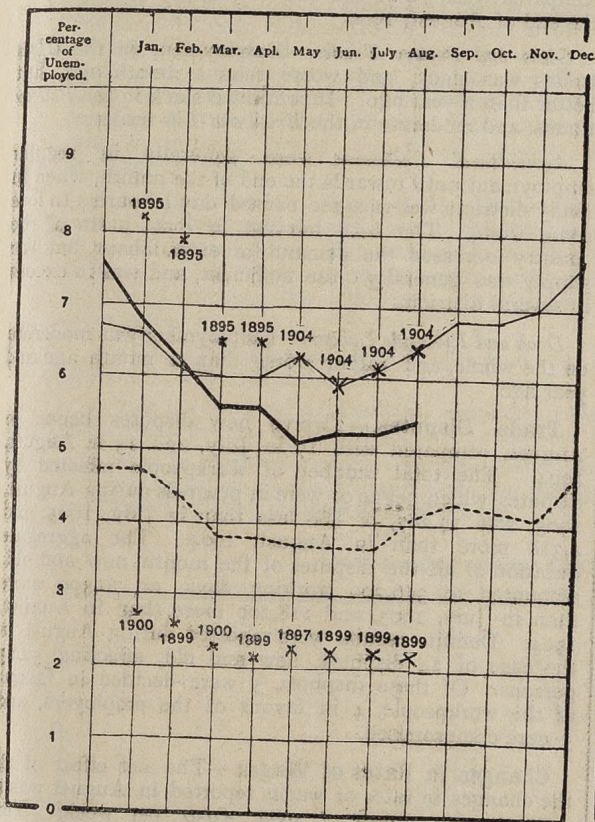


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve = 1905.
Thin Curve = 1904.
Dotted Curve = Mean of 1895-1904.
X The crosses indicate the maxima and minima percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN AUGUST.

[Based on 4,838 returns, viz.: 3,480 from Employers or their Associations; 1,271 from Trade Unions, and 87 from other sources.]

As is usual at this time of the year, employment in August showed a slight falling off as compared with July. The cotton trade continued to be very busy, and in the pig iron and iron and steel manufacturing industries a further improvement was reported.

Compared with a year ago employment has improved. A marked improvement is shown in the pig iron, iron and steel, and tinplate industries, as well as in the cotton, woollen, worsted and hosiery trades. Certain other trades have also improved; on the other hand,

coal mining was at about the same level as in August, 1904, and the building trades showed some decline.

In the 270 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 578,444, making returns, 31,046 (or 5.4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 5.2 per cent. at the end of July and 6.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1904.

Employment in various Industries.—*Building Trades.*—Employment in the building trades continued dull. It was on the whole rather better than a month ago, but slightly worse than a year ago.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry in August showed some recovery as compared with July, and was the same as a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked by coal mines during the four weeks ended August 26th, 1905, was 4.76 as compared with 4.63 in the previous month, and 4.76 in August, 1904.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. At the 118 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended August 26th was 5.73, as compared with 5.72 a month ago, and 5.77* in August, 1904.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during August was fairly good, being better than in July, and considerably better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that 326 furnaces, employing about 23,000 workpeople, were in blast at the end of August—4 more than in July 1905, and 27 more than in August, 1904.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment at iron and steel works continued good, and showed a great improvement as compared with a year ago, the number employed in 198 works from which returns have been obtained having risen from 85,084 to 91,160, an increase of over 6,000. The returns show that the volume of employment (shifts worked multiplied by numbers employed) in the week ended August 26th, 1905, was 1.8 per cent. greater than a month ago, and 9.7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry remained about the same as in July. As compared with August, 1904, the number of mills in operation showed an increase of 25 (404 compared with 379).

Engineering Trades.—Employment on the whole was moderate and showed little change on the previous month; it continued to be better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 4.9, as compared with 4.8 per cent. in July, 1905, and 7.0 in August, 1904.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was, on the whole, at about the same level as in July, and was slightly better than a year ago.

* Revised figures.

Cotton Trade.—Employment, although interrupted by local holidays, continued very brisk, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 126,268 workpeople in the last full week in August showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in July, and of 12.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment continued good, and was considerably better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 16,856 workpeople during the last full week in August showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in July, and an increase of 7.2 per cent. compared with the corresponding week a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continued quiet, but was distinctly better on the whole than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 36,609 workpeople during the last full week in August showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in July, and an increase of 5.6 per cent. compared with the corresponding week a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment was, on the whole, better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,311 workpeople in the last full week in August showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the last full week in July, 1905, and of 1.2 per cent. compared with August, 1904.

Jute Trade.—Employment in this industry was moderate, and better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 20,242 workpeople in the last full week in August showed an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the total wages paid as compared with the last full week in July, and a decrease of 1.4 per cent. compared with August, 1904.

Silk Trade.—Employment in this industry showed very little change compared with a month ago, but was rather better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,258 workpeople showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number of throwing and spinning spindles as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 4.0 per cent. compared with a year ago; the number of power looms working showed a decrease of 1.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was slightly better than a month ago and considerably better than a year ago. Firms employing 19,863 workpeople in the last full week in August showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in July, and of 7.3 per cent. compared with the corresponding week a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch was dull, showing the usual seasonal decline; it was, however, better than in August, 1904. In the *ready-made* branch it continued moderate, and was better than a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the *Silk* and *Felt* hat trade showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 4.9, compared with 4.1 per cent. at the end of July, and 3.8 per cent. a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued quiet, and was slightly worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from 478 firms, employing 63,193 workpeople, and paying £60,358 in wages on the last pay-day in August, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last pay-day in July, 1905, and an increase of 3.2 per cent. compared with the last pay-day in August, 1904.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment in August remained quiet, but was considerably better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of August was 6.8, as compared with 6.3 at the end of July, and 9.7 a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment in August was slack generally. With letterpress printers there was a decline compared with a month ago, and little change compared with a year ago. With lithographic printers and bookbinders there was an improvement compared with a month and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of the month was 6.2, as compared with 4.9 in July, 1905, and 6.3 in August, 1904.

Papermaking Trade.—Employment remained fairly good in machine mills, and quiet in the hand-made trade, showing little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment on the whole continued fair. Compared with a month ago the coach and brush making trades showed a decline, while the furnishing trades showed some improvement. Compared with a year ago there was a general improvement. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 5.0, as compared with 5.0 at the end of July, 1905, and 6.4 at the end of August, 1904.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in the *Glass* trades was slack, and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. It continued slack in the *Pottery* trades, and moderate in the *Brick and Tile* trades.

Agricultural Labourers were generally in regular employment until towards the end of the month, when in many districts wet weather caused day labourers to lose some time. The corn harvest in most parts of the country increased the demand for extra labour, but the supply was generally quite sufficient, and was in excess in several districts.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment was moderate on the whole, and rather worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Twelve new disputes began in August, compared with 17 in July, and 15 in August, 1904. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes, which began or were in progress during August, 1905, was 17,287, or 868 less than in July, 1905, and 4,318 more than in August, 1904. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 346,200 working days, or 70,300 more than in July, 1905, and 118,200 more than in August, 1904. Definite results were reported during August in the case of 14 disputes, new and old, affecting 5,923 persons. Of these disputes, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 4 in favour of the employers, and 5 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported in August was a decrease in wages of over £950 per week. The changes affected 247,500 workpeople, of whom 92,800 received advances, while about 154,700 sustained decreases. The changes of the previous month affected over 183,300 workpeople, the net result being an increase of nearly £4,600 per week. During August, 1904, the number of workpeople affected was nearly 356,600, and the net result a decrease of over £17,600 per week.

The principal changes reported were the grant of a bonus of 5 per cent. for twelve weeks from the first pay-day in September to 87,000 card and blowing room operatives, spinners, etc., in the principal cotton manufacturing districts in England, and a decrease of 3.3 per cent. on standard rates affecting 150,000 coal miners in South Wales.

One change, affecting the 150,000 coal miners referred to above, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and one change, affecting over 600 workpeople employed in steel mills, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes affecting nearly 96,900 workpeople were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 950 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing a stoppage of work.

COTTON SPINNING TRADE.

DURING the latter part of 1904 the price of raw cotton fell considerably and since then employment has been very brisk, especially in the mills using American cotton.

As a result of the improvement in trade and employment the weavers obtained, under an Agreement dated March 24th, an advance of 5 per cent. on List prices to take effect from the second pay-day in July. Very soon after the weavers had obtained this concession the card and blowing room operatives and spinners outside the Bolton District, applied to the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations for a similar advance of 5 per cent.

After two unsuccessful conferences between the parties formal notice was given by the operatives to cease work on August 19th.

Up to this stage of the dispute the card and blowing room operatives and spinners in the Bolton District were not directly affected by the threatened stoppage, but, on August 4th, their employers (whose Association has recently been affiliated to the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners) decided to give them a month's notice, expiring on September 6th, for a reduction of 5 per cent. off List prices. The effect of this notice together with that of the operatives in the other districts was to threaten nearly the whole industry with a stoppage of work.

At this point the Lord Mayor of Manchester intervened, and in a letter, dated August 10th, invited all the parties to meet in a conference. This was held in the Manchester Town Hall on August 16th and 17th, and, after two prolonged sittings, the following terms of settlement were agreed to:—

- (1) That the Federation withdraw its application for a 5 per cent. reduction in the Bolton area.
- (2) That the operatives withdraw their application for a 5 per cent. advance in wages in the Federation area, exclusive of Bolton.
- (3) That the Federation agrees to a 5 per cent. bonus being paid for twelve weeks from the first pay-day in September, paid monthly, at all Federation mills, exclusive of the Bolton area.

(4) That at the end of the twelve weeks the bonus shall lapse and the present rate of wages shall continue up to March 1st, 1906, after which date either side shall be at liberty to take whatever action it may think desirable with regard to a wages advance or reduction.

(5) That the Joint Committees meet together as early as possible for the purpose of framing some scheme for the automatic regulation of wages in future.

It is estimated that about 87,000 operatives will be affected by the bonus, which, in effect, temporarily makes wages in the Federation area 5 per cent. above List prices. In the Bolton District wages remain 5 per cent. above List prices.

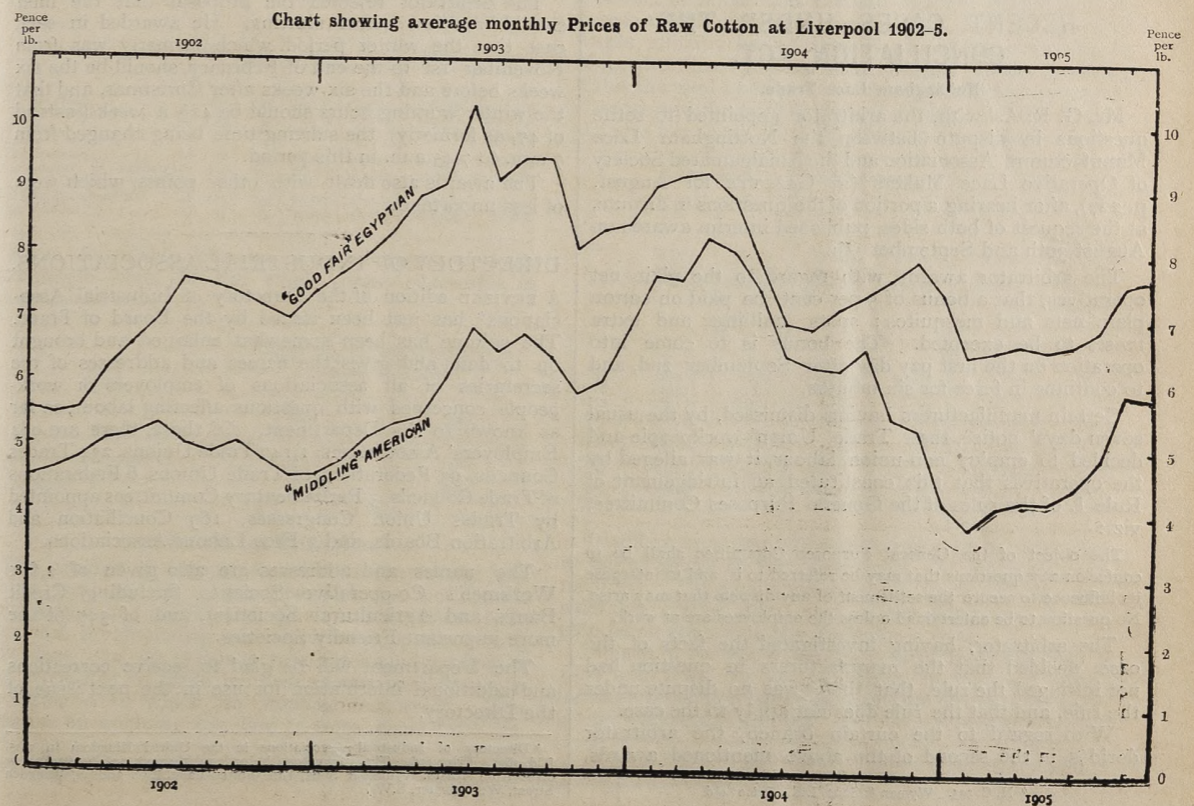
It may be of interest to record previous changes in wages and also recent changes in the price of raw cotton. The percentage of wages above or below List prices since 1877 in the case of the Oldham and Bolton price Lists, by which wages in the cotton spinning trade are mainly regulated, are shown below:—

End of Year.	Bolton List.	Oldham List.
1877	List prices.	— 5
1878	List prices.	— 15
1879	— 10	— 20
1880	— 5	— 15
1881-1884	— 10	— 10
1885-1887	— 5	— 15
1888-1889	— 5	— 10
1890	List prices.	— 10
1891-1892	List prices.	— 5
1893-1896	List prices.	— 7.91
1899	List prices.	— 5
1900-1904	+ 5	List prices.
1905	+ 5	+ 5*

In connection with this Table it should be noted that there has been a tendency for earnings to increase apart from variations in the percentages on the List, owing to the speeding up of machinery and the increase in the number of spindles per mule.

The price of "Middling American" cotton at Liverpool, which averaged 4.89d. per lb. in June, showed a sudden rise of over 1/2d. per lb. on July 4th, and the average price for the month of July was 5.93d. For August the average price was 5.85d. The chart below shows the fluctuations in the price at Liverpool of "Middling American" and "Good Fair Egyptian" since the beginning of 1902.

* For twelve weeks from the first pay-day in September.



PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT IN 1903-5.

THE Fifth Report* by the Board of Trade of Proceedings under the Conciliation Act, 1896, which has recently been issued, covers a period of two years, viz., from July 1st, 1903, to end of June, 1905.

The number of cases dealt with in these two years was 27, bringing the total number of cases under the Conciliation Act to 181 in the period of nearly nine years which has elapsed since it was passed.

In the majority of cases the parties, having agreed to refer the matters in dispute to arbitration, applied to the Department to appoint an arbitrator. In 23 of the 27 cases dealt with in the Report the application to the Board of Trade was made on behalf of both parties to the dispute.

Twelve of the cases arose in the building trades, 7 in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, and the remaining 8 in various other groups of trades.

The number of cases settled under the Act in the two years was 23, in 10 of which a cessation of work was involved. In 20 of these cases the matters in dispute were settled by arbitrators or umpires, and in 3 cases by conciliators appointed under the Act. Of the remaining 4 cases, one was pending at the date of the Report; in one the action taken did not directly lead to a settlement, the cause of dispute practically ceasing to exist; and in two cases the Board of Trade, being of opinion that action could not usefully be taken, declined the application.

In Appendices to the Report a short account is given of each case dealt with in the period under review, also copies of the awards or other terms of settlement of disputes. Copies are also given of the rules of Conciliation Boards and other agreements between employers and workpeople, containing a provision that in the event of a deadlock application shall be made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator or conciliator. Such rules were adopted in seven cases during the two years under review, making a total of 48 agreements of this character between employers and workpeople which are known to the Department.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Nottingham Lace Trade.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the arbitrator appointed to settle questions in dispute between the Nottingham Lace Manufacturers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Operative Lace Makers (see GAZETTE for August, p. 227), after hearing a portion of the questions in dispute, at the request of both sides, published interim awards on August 30th and September 5th.

The arbitrator awards, with regard to the plain net operatives, that a bonus of 5 per cent. be paid on cotton plain nets and mosquitos; spots, quillings and extra twists to be excepted. The bonus is to come into operation on the first pay day after September 2nd, and to continue in force for six months.

Certain manufacturers having dismissed, by the usual seven days' notice, their Trade Union workpeople and decided to employ non-union labour, it was alleged by the operatives that this constituted an infringement of Rule I. of the rules of the General Purposes Committee, viz.:—

The object of the General Purposes Committee shall be to confer on any questions that may be referred to it, and to interpose its influence to secure the settlement of any dispute that may arise. No question to be entertained unless the employees are at work.

The arbitrator, having investigated the facts of the case, decided that the manufacturers in question had not infringed the rule, that there was no dispute under the rule, and that the rule does not apply to the case.

With regard to the curtain branch, the arbitrator decides, in the second of the above mentioned awards,

that the revised list of prices for lace goods made on the curtain machine as agreed to by the Lace Trade Board of Conciliation on September 20th, 1897, shall be amended by certain reductions per cent. being made in the prices. The reductions, which are set out in detail in the award for the various classes of goods, range from 2½ to 17½ per cent. on Standards I to VIII. The most important for the Nottingham lace trade is Standard II, in which the alterations are as follows:—Up to and including 23 quarters—reduction of 10 per cent. on all gauges; above 23 quarters to 29 quarters inclusive—12½ per cent. on all gauges; above 29 quarters to 35 quarters inclusive—up to and including 10 points, 15 per cent., and above 10 points, 12½ per cent.; from 35 quarters upwards—up to and including 10 points, 17½ per cent., and above 10 points, 12½ per cent. No changes are made in Standards IX and X, or in the "extras" on any Standard in the existing list, but the present clause with regard to "alterations" is struck out and an entirely new set of clauses headed "alterations" and "short alterations" is added to the price list.

The award with regard to the curtain branch comes into force on the second pay-day after the date of issue of the award (i.e. after September 5th), and is to remain in force for five years, no advance or reduction to be asked for or granted on either side during that period.

Building Trades at Birkenhead.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed to deal with certain matters in dispute between the Birkenhead and Wirral Building Trades Employers' Association and the Birkenhead and District Operative Carpenters' and Joiners', Bricklayers', and Stonemasons' Societies respectively (see GAZETTE for July, p. 195, and for August, p. 227), issued his awards on August 30th.

The principal differences between the parties arose out of the employers' proposal that in winter the men should have breakfast before commencing work. The employers desired that the hours of work in winter should be reduced, and had proposed that the summer period should be extended and the winter period reduced, so that the aggregate of hours worked during the year should not be materially reduced, but that the men should breakfast before starting.

The arbitrator rejected the proposal that the men should breakfast before starting. He awarded in each case that the winter period, which formerly was from November 1st to the end of February, should be the six weeks before and the six weeks after Christmas, and that the winter working hours should be 42½ a week (instead of 47, as formerly), the starting time being changed from 7 a.m. to 7.45 a.m. in this period.

The awards also dealt with other points, which were of less importance.

DIRECTORY OF INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS.

A REVISED edition of the Directory of Industrial Associations* has just been issued by the Board of Trade. The volume has been somewhat enlarged and brought up to date, and gives the names and addresses of the secretaries of all associations of employers or workpeople concerned with questions affecting labour, so far as known to the Department. Of these, there are 984 Employers' Associations, 1,147 Trade Unions, 232 Trades Councils, 93 Federations of Trade Unions, 6 Federations of Trade Councils, 3 Parliamentary Committees appointed by Trades Union Congresses, 169 Conciliation and Arbitration Boards, and 3 Free Labour Associations.

The names and addresses are also given of 2,671 Workmen's Co-operative Societies (including Credit Banks and Agricultural Societies), and of 347 of the more important Friendly Societies.

The Department will be glad to receive corrections and additional information for use in the next issue of the Directory.

* Directory of Industrial Associations in the United Kingdom in 1905. [Cd. 2675. Price 11d. The volume can be ordered through any bookseller, or direct from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.]

LABOUR DISPUTES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN FRANCE IN 1904.

Labour Disputes.

ACCORDING to the Report on Strikes and Lock-outs in France during 1904, issued by the French Labour Department,* the number of disputes, the number of workpeople taking part and the number of days lost, showed a considerable increase over the corresponding figures for 1903. This is partly explained by the disputes among agricultural labourers and vineyard workers, partly by the disputes occasioned by the application of the law reducing the hours of labour in certain establishments from 11 to 10½ (see LABOUR GAZETTE, May 1902, p. 133), and partly by the disputes among ships' officers and engineers and dock labourers at Marseilles and other ports.

The following Table shows the extent to which the principal groups of trades were affected, as compared with 1903:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.		No. of Work-people who took part in Disputes.		No. of Working Days lost by Work-people affected directly and indirectly by Disputes.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
Building Trades	61	119	5,566	14,672	53,694	170,262
Mining and Quarrying ...	32	34	3,837	8,056	66,642	166,402
Metal Trades	85	120	9,673	13,959	187,587	134,455
Textile Trades:—						
Manufacture	175	181	76,376	76,293	1,783,736	1,637,779
Textile Goods (Clothing &c.)	11	13	918	1,103	20,818	31,958
Transport	57	185	11,753	69,293	72,108	1,099,498
Agricultural, Forestry, and Fishing	14	149	3,512	52,333	19,827	257,735
Miscellaneous Trades ...	136	226	12,322	35,558	238,807	440,685
Total	571	1,028	123,957	271,267	2,443,219	3,936,774

In the following Table the disputes of 1903 and of 1904 are classified according to their causes or objects, each dispute having two or more causes being counted under each:—

Cause or Object.	No. of Disputes.		No. of Work-people who took part in Disputes.		No. of Working Days lost by Work-people affected directly and indirectly by Disputes.	
	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1904.
Wages:—						
For increase	284	593	86,595	184,891	1,838,970	3,142,102
Against decrease	58	59	6,522	15,484	180,611	210,941
Other	78	165	15,083	45,153	177,588	665,763
Hours of Labour:—						
For decrease	58	192	12,323	99,732	213,534	1,584,814
Employment of Particular Classes or Persons	155	250	22,181	133,565	346,822	2,422,187
Working Arrangements	105	144	19,172	48,947	474,930	761,771
Other Causes	54	124	15,230	47,056	248,089	461,752

From the Table following it would appear that the workpeople were, on the whole, more successful in 1904 than in 1903:—

Result.	Percentage of Workpeople engaged in Disputes, the Results of which were as shown in column 1.	
	1903. (1)	1904. (2)
In favour of Workpeople	10.51	19.81
In favour of Employers	17.10	18.25
Compromised	72.39	61.94

Conciliation and Arbitration.

The number of disputes in which recourse was had during 1904 to the means provided by the French Conciliation and Arbitration Law of December 27th, 1892, was 247, including 9 in which no stoppage of work took place. In the previous year the disputes which it was attempted to settle by these means numbered 152 (including 9 in which no stoppage occurred). The initiative in applying the law in 1904 came from the

workpeople in 115 disputes, from the Justice of the Peace in 116 disputes, from the employers in 10 disputes and from the employers and workpeople jointly in 6 disputes. The number of conciliation committees formed was 164, resulting in the settlement of 116 disputes (108 by conciliation and 8 by arbitration). In addition 4 disputes were settled before the committee had time to meet, and 14 others immediately after conciliation had been declined, while 8 strikes are said to have been settled subsequently to the meetings of the committees, as a result of negotiations which took place at such meetings. The report therefore concludes that there were in 1904 a total of 116 disputes settled directly, and 26 indirectly by the application of the law, as compared with 44 directly and 26 indirectly in 1903 by the same means.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1904.

THE Twelfth Annual Report of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom* has recently been issued. It deals with the changes in the market price of the same quantity and quality of labour, but not with the changes in average earnings arising out of variations in the extent of employment offered.

The changes in rates of wages during 1904 resulted, as in each of the three preceding years, in a net reduction. The industries which accounted for the greater part of the reduction were coal mining, iron mining, iron and steel manufacture, shipbuilding, glass bottle making and the building trades.

The Report shows that, exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and railway servants, 800,658 workpeople had their wages changed during 1904. Of this number 16,054 obtained increases amounting to £1,202 a week, while 784,604 sustained decreases amounting to £40,432 a week. The net result of all the changes reported was thus a decrease of £39,230 in weekly wages. This compares with decreases of £38,327 in 1903, £72,595 in 1902 and £76,587 in 1901.

Though 1901-04 have been years of declining wages it should be noted that the fall has not been much in excess of the abnormal rise in 1900, and the level of wages remains higher than it was at the beginning of 1899, after three years of rising wages. In the following Table the total number of workpeople affected by wages-changes and the total computed weekly amount of such changes are shown for each of the last ten years:—

Year.	Net Increases.		Net Decreases.		Total.	
	Work-people affected.	Total weekly amount.	Work-people affected.	Total weekly amount.	Work-people affected.	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with each preceding year.
1895	No. 80,107	£ 6,159	No. 349,645	£ 34,284	No. 429,752	£ -28,125
1896	379,975	33,648	167,357	7,120	547,332	+ 26,519
1897	560,707	32,861	13,855	1,354	574,562	+ 31,507
1898	1,000,240	81,500	11,865	787	1,012,105	+ 80,713
1899	1,170,937	90,418	1,132	104	1,172,069	+ 90,314
1900	1,109,284	211,412	23,010	2,822	1,132,294	+ 208,590
1901	429,715	40,790	480,318	117,377	910,033	- 76,587
1902	91,812	5,326	785,891	77,921	863,703	- 72,595
1903	21,327	1,541	874,721	39,868	896,048	- 38,327
1904	16,054	1,202	784,604	40,432	800,658	- 39,230

It will be seen that while 1895 and 1901-04 were years of falling wages, in the other years net increases were recorded. The aggregate of these increases was considerably greater than that of the decreases, the net gain being approximately £182,800 a week.

In each of the above ten years, with the exception of 1896 and 1897, the wages-changes in the coal mining industry accounted for more than half of the total number of workpeople affected. In 1902, 1903 and 1904 the

* Cd. 2674, price 7d. The Report can be obtained through any bookseller, or direct from the publishers, Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 32, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.

* Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus pendant l'Année, 1904. Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1905.

proportion was over 80 per cent. The numbers affected and the net results of the changes during each of the last three years in the various groups of trades are shown in the Table below:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople* whose wages were changed in			Net Amount of Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in the Weekly Wages of those affected, as compared with the preceding year.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Building	15,575	4,638	10,829	+ 926	+ 304	- 884
Coal Mining	735,524	752,190	658,390	-73,872	-34,488	-31,294
Other Mining (Iron, &c.)	7,121	9,361	10,753	+ 250	+ 429	+ 531
Quarrying	6,733	3,160	2,701	+ 306	- 222	- 92
Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture	50,343	23,492	60,097	+ 855	+ 1,076	+ 3,444
Engineering and Shipbuilding	32,812	74,680	31,094	- 2,419	- 4,281	- 2,614
Other Metal Trades...	15,357	1,934	1,973	+ 145	- 178	- 42
Textile	2,107	1,601	3,939	+ 142	+ 18	+ 109
Clothing	3,112	3,496	353	+ 291	- 86	+ 27
Glass, &c. Trades ...	85	6,386	7,313	+ 10	- 600	- 823
Other Trades†	10,555	7,610	4,986	+ 189	+ 199	- 83
Employees of Public Authorities	7,871	8,650	8,245	+ 602	+ 512	+ 657
Total†	887,206	896,598	800,658	-72,595	-38,327	-39,230

The Table shows that, after coal mining, the industries chiefly affected during the last three years have been pig iron and iron and steel manufacture, and engineering and shipbuilding.

Of the 800,658 workpeople whose wages were changed during 1904, 25,628 (or 3·2 per cent.) had their changes arranged under sliding scales, 570,822 (or 71·3 per cent.) by Conciliation Boards, mediation or arbitration, and the remaining 204,208 (or 25·5 per cent.) by direct arrangement, negotiation, &c. The large number of workpeople whose changes of wages were arranged by Conciliation Boards in 1904 was mainly accounted for by the changes in the coal mining industry, the general changes which took place in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, the Federated Districts, South Staffordshire, Somerset and South Wales being arranged by joint boards of employers and workpeople. The principal changes which took effect under sliding scales were those affecting workpeople engaged in pig iron and iron and steel manufacture.

The Report states that although questions of wages are a frequent cause of labour troubles, the great bulk of the changes were arranged without any interruption of work.

The changes in recognised hours of labour recorded in 1904 were comparatively unimportant. The net effect of all the changes was a reduction of 24,599 hours per week in the working time of 16,792 workpeople. Temporary alterations in the working hours owing to changes in the state of trade, e.g., the short time movement in the cotton trade, are not recorded in these statistics.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The Thirty-eighth Annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom was held in the Victoria Hall, Hanley, on Monday, September 4, and five following days. The Congress was presided over by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr. James Sexton, General Secretary of the National Union of Dock Labourers. The standing orders of Congress provide that it shall consist of representatives of Trade Unions who are actually working at their trade at the time of their appointment, or are permanent paid officials of the Unions they represent. Trade Unions may send one delegate for every 2,000 members or fraction thereof, but many of the larger societies do not send the full number of delegates to which they are entitled. Voting on important questions is by card, on the principle of one vote for every 1,000 members represented.

The analysis into groups of trades given below shows the composition of the Congress, and the trade groups

* Including workpeople affected by changes during the year, but whose wages stood at the same level at the end as at the beginning.
† Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and railway servants.

represented are compared with the corresponding figures for the Congress of 1904:—

Groups of Trades.	1904.			1905.		
	No. of Organi-sations.	No. of Dele-gates.	No. of Mem-bers.	No. of Organi-sations.	No. of Dele-gates.	No. of Mem-bers.
Building	11	29	182,942	8	23	157,594
Mining and Quarrying ...	10	82	373,326	13	98	447,453
Engineering	13	16	36,576	14	24	127,234
Shipbuilding (including Boiler Making)	3	21	68,261	3	21	69,400
Other Metal Trades	21	37	62,079	20	37	58,531
Textile Trades	15	96	156,721	12	91	157,276
Clothing	10	24	54,052	8	23	50,140
Transport (Land and Sea) ...	16	39	123,535	16	41	131,576
Chemical, Gas and General Labourers	10	34	68,736	9	24	62,220
Printing, Bookbinding, &c.	11	19	49,319	12	20	51,078
Pottery and Glass	3	3	2,340	6	8	8,149
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades, &c.	9	12	31,645	7	9	28,814
Baking and Cigar Making ...	2	4	7,000	2	4	6,991
Engineers	0	14	25,384	9	15	23,656
Post Office Employees	4	7	39,032	4	7	45,749
Miscellaneous	12	16	38,984	11	13	43,673
Total	159	453	1,320,432	154	458	1,469,514

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

The number of organisations accounted for in the above statement is 154, but allowing for the number of distinct societies included in Federations, members of about 218 separate Trade Unions attended Congress as delegates this year out of a total of about 1,166 Unions in existence. The membership represented, however, comprised about three-fourths of the total membership of all Trade Unions. The number of organisations represented this year was five less than in 1904, but the total membership was greater by 149,082. This increase is more than accounted for by the inclusion in 1905 of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the Durham Miners' Association, which were not represented last year. The Glass trades increased their representation, and the Post Office Employees and Miscellaneous unions continued to show an increased membership. The decrease in the membership of the Building group is largely owing to the Operative Plasterers' Society and the Associated Society of Carpenters and Joiners not being represented this year. The General Labour group of trades again showed some falling off in membership.

Among the principal industrial subjects on which the Congress passed resolutions were:—Restriction of the hours of labour to eight per day for miners and workpeople generally; certificates of competency for persons in charge of steam engines and boilers; amendment of the law in relation to Trade Unions and industrial disputes; amendment of the Mines Regulation Act, the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Shop Clubs Act, the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and the Truck Act; the wages and general conditions of labour of Government employees; general old-age pensions; abolition of the character note system; improved housing accommodation for working people; investment of Trade Union funds; municipal trading and banking; uniform compulsory hours of closing for shops; special courts for trial of claims for wages due, etc.; measures to prevent the dismissal of workmen for being members of Trade Unions; use of Trade Union labels on manufactured goods; nationalisation of mines, railways and canals; and abolition of the privilege cab system at railway stations.

A resolution in favour of compulsory arbitration in trade disputes was rejected by a majority of 92,000 votes; the majority at the previous Congress was 486,000.

Delegates representing the National Federation of Labour of the United States, the Co-operative Union, the General Federation of Trade Unions, and the Labour Representation Committee attended the Congress and delivered addresses. Two British delegates were elected to attend the Annual Conference of the American Federation of Labour to be held in December next.

The voting by the Congress for members of the Parliamentary Committee for the ensuing year resulted in representatives of the following organisations being elected:—Northern Counties Weavers, Boiler Makers and

Iron and Steel Shipbuilders, Cotton Spinners, Shipwrights, Gas Workers and General Labourers, Railway Servants, Miners' Federation, Boot and Shoe Operatives, Dock Labourers, Brassworkers, London Compositors, and Amalgamated Engineers. Mr. W. C. Steadman, Barge Builders' Society, was elected Secretary to the Committee. Mr. D. C. Cummings, representative of the Shipbuilders Society, was appointed by the Committee as Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was decided that next year's Congress should be held at Liverpool.

HOURS OF LABOUR OF WOMEN IN FACTORIES IN GERMANY.*

THE Imperial Home Office in Berlin has published the results of an inquiry into the daily hours of labour of women factory operatives in Germany. The work of investigation was carried out by the factory inspectors, who were required to report on each of the following questions:—

1. What were the daily hours of labour and what was the length of the midday interval for women employed in factories and similar establishments on October 1st, 1902?
2. How far is it the custom in the various trades for women to cease work before 5.30 p.m. on Saturdays and the eves of festivals?
3. Does it appear to be expedient and possible: (a) to reduce the maximum legal working day for women in factories from 11 to 10 hours per day? (b) to extend the present minimum legal length of the midday interval from one hour to one hour and a half? (c) to fix the time at which women employed in factories shall be required to cease work on Saturdays and the eves of festivals at some earlier hour of the day than that now prescribed (viz., 5.30 p.m.), and, if so, at what earlier hour?

The inquiry covered a total of 38,706 industrial establishments, in which 813,560 women over 16 years of age were working on October 1st, 1902. Of these 813,560 women, 348,538, or 42·9 per cent., were textile operatives.

The distribution of the women, according to the length of the working day, was found to be as follows:—

(1) Length of working day (exclusive of intervals for meals, etc.).	(2) Number of female operatives over 16 years of age.	
	Total.	Per cent.
Nine hours or less	86,191	10·6
Over 9 hours to 10 hours (inclusive)	347,814	42·7
Over 10 hours to 11 hours (the legal maximum)	379,555	46·7
Total	813,560	100·0

It follows, from the above figures, that 434,005, or 53·3 per cent. of all the women factory operatives, worked 10 hours or less per day, and that 379,555, or 46·7 per cent. worked over 10 hours.

Of the 379,555 women who worked more than 10 hours already stated, the total number of women employed in the textile trades on the date of the inquiry was 348,538; the majority of these (viz., 70·8 per cent.) worked over 10 hours per day, though the legal maximum of 11 hours is stated seldom to be reached.

In the printing and allied trades, in which a total of 24,362 women were employed, 96·5 per cent. were found to be working 10 hours or less per day, so that these trades compare favourably with the textile group in this respect.

The length of the mid-day interval was found to be one hour in 18,330 factories, employing 351,030 women. Only a small proportion (4·3 per cent.) of women had a midday interval of more than one hour and a half. Under the existing law, the minimum duration of the midday interval for women is one hour, but by special permit, a shorter interval may be sanctioned in particular cases, and many of these permits are granted subject to the condition that the hours of labour in the establishment concerned shall not exceed 9 per day. On the other hand, where a woman has a household to attend to, she has a legal right to insist on being allowed an interval of an hour and a half.

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).

So far as could be judged from the incomplete data obtainable with regard to the hours at which women leave off work on Saturdays and the eves of festivals, the report concludes that about one-fourth of all women employed in factories are allowed to leave off work before the hour prescribed by the law for such days, viz., 5.30 p.m.

Sixty-six of the 84 factory inspectors advocate the reduction of the legal working day for women in factories from 11 to 10 hours. About four-fifths of the inspectors consider an extension of the statutory length of the midday interval from one hour to one hour and a half to be unnecessary and inexpedient, while about three-fifths are opposed to any change in the law in the sense of requiring women in factories to cease work before 5.30 p.m. on Saturdays and the eves of festivals.

PROFIT-SHARING IN 1904-5.

IN continuation of the Report on Profit-sharing published by the Department in 1894 (C. 7458 of 1894) and of the statements on this subject contained in previous numbers of the LABOUR GAZETTE,* the following details, obtained by correspondence with the firms concerned, are submitted, bringing the information previously published up to date.

Returns have been received from 63 out of the 68 firms with which profit-sharing was, according to the information available at the date of the statements made in the GAZETTE of October, 1904, in force (60 in the United Kingdom, 3 in British Colonies). In regard to 5 cases (all in the United Kingdom) it has been ascertained that profit-sharing has ceased to be in operation:—

Profit-sharing Schemes that have ceased to exist.

Duration of Profit-sharing.	Name.	Business.	No. of Em-ployees.	Cause of cessation of Profit-sharing.
1887-1905	J. Boyd Kinnear ...	Farming...	24	Occupation of farm given up.
1890-1904	Idris & Co., Ltd....	Mineral Water Manufacturers	750	Depression of trade.
1892-1904	V. Trotter & Son, Ltd.	Paper Manufacturers	302	Apathy of employees.
1898-1904	Ilford, Ltd. (formerly Britannia Works Co., Ltd.)	Manufacturers of Plates and Papers	250-270	Dissatisfaction of employers with results.
1904-1905	Douglas Cockerell	Bookbinder ...	3-6	Transfer of business.

Particulars have been received as to 2 cases (1 in the United Kingdom and 1 in the British Colonies) not previously known to practise profit-sharing, and as to 1 case (in the United Kingdom) in which profit-sharing has been adopted within the present year.

Additional Cases of Profit-Sharing.

Date of adoption of Profit-Sharing.	Name.	Business.	No. of Em-ployees.	How Bonus Treated.
1890	Albert Bush, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia	General Merchants	25	Cash.
1896	Nottingham Brewery, Ltd., Nottingham ...	Brewers, Bottlers, Maltsters, etc.	250-240	Cash.
1905	"A. A." ...	Drapers & Milliners	12	Cash.

The total number of persons employed by the 67 firms known to practise profit-sharing at June 30th, 1905 (varying according to seasons, etc.), is *minimum* 48,847, *maximum* 51,144 (47,767-49,914 employed by 62 firms in the United Kingdom, 1,080-1,230 by 5 firms in British Colonies). According to the latest available information the number of profit-sharing firms a year ago was 69, with 46,137-49,597 employees (45,090-48,400 employed by 64 firms in the United Kingdom, 1,047-1,197 by 5 firms in British Colonies).†

With respect to the addition made to the wages of the participating employees by the bonus allotted in 1904, details in regard to 56‡ cases (53 with 38,263 employees

* See July, 1895, p. 207; July, 1896, p. 208; September, 1896, p. 275; July, 1897, p. 195; August, 1898, p. 228; August, 1899, p. 227; August, 1900, p. 227; August, 1901, p. 231; March, 1902, p. 70; July, 1902, p. 183; October, 1903, p. 272; and October, 1904, p. 293.

† In addition to the firms referred to above there are at present 17 firms (as compared with 16 in 1904) which are known to have adopted profit-sharing, but as to which it has not been found possible to obtain information.

‡ In 1 case (in the United Kingdom) in which the bonus is stated separately for distinct branches of a business, the ratios are stated separately for each branch. The 56 cases include 4 (all in the United Kingdom) in which profit-sharing ceased to be in force after the date in 1904 for the distribution of bonus.

in the United Kingdom, 3 with 774 employees in British Colonies) are available, and are as shown below:—

Ratio of Bonus to Wages in 1904.

Ratio of Bonus allotted in 1904 to Wages.	No. of cases in which the Bonus in Col. I. was paid.	No. of Em- ployees (mean between minimum and maximum) in 1904.	Number of participants in 1904.
Nil	16	3,348	—
1/2 and under 2 per cent.	3	415	388
3	4	18,321	2,577
4	4	991	786
5	15	5,691	3,661
6	6	2,158	1,268
8	3	5,787	5,132
10	2	170	170
14	1	47	44
22	1	2,000	1,559
52	1	109	50

The figures show a mean bonus of 4.9 per cent. on wages paid in 1904 in the above cases (compared with 5.1 per cent. paid in 1903 in the 52 cases as to which information was available). Excluding 16 cases in which no bonus was earned, the bonus allotted in 1904 in the remaining 40 cases was (taking into account the number of participants in each case) at the mean rate of 7.6 per cent. (compared with 7.8 per cent. in 1903).

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS.

Whitsuntide Hirings in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire.

INFORMATION as to the rates of wages agreed upon at the half-yearly hiring fairs, held at Whitsuntide in Cumberland, Westmorland and North Lancashire, has been received from a Correspondent who made special inquiries on behalf of the Department. The report states that there was a plentiful supply of men of all classes on hire at all the fairs, but there was a general scarcity of women. Owing to the shortness of the half-yearly term (22 weeks), farmers were loth to give last year's wages, but the men generally opposed reductions and many men and lads were left unhired, preferring to take the chance of hay-time engagements.

The following are the rates of wages generally agreed upon for the half-year: Best men, £16 to £18 10s.; second class men, £10 to £15; youths and boys, £4 to £10; best women, £10 to £14; second class women and girls, £4 to £10. In addition to the cash wages, board and lodging is provided.

Spring and Summer Hirings in Scotland.

Information has been received by the Department from a Correspondent who has made special inquiries as to the rates of wages agreed upon by farm servants and employers at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland during the first six months of 1905.

The report shows that the downward movement in wages of male farm servants in the latter half of 1904,* has been checked, but only in exceptional cases have rates been restored to the level of a year ago. The supply of men servants has been, generally speaking, greater than it was a few years ago.

In the Eastern Border Counties of Berwick and Roxburgh the hiring fairs held early in the year were, on the whole, well attended. Men who could provide women workers were readily engaged at their old wages (17s. or 18s. and in some cases 19s. per week, with free house and garden, some fuel and 900 to 1,800 yards of potato drill). Men without women workers were not so much sought after, and in some cases had to accept slight reductions. Women workers were in demand and got 10s. to 11s. per week with about £1 extra at harvest.

At some of the fairs in Dumfries-shire there was a slight decline in men's wages as compared with the corresponding period of 1904, but women's wages showed no falling off, the supply of women servants being still short of the demand. Single ploughmen got from £11 to £16 per half-year with board and lodging, while married ploughmen got up to 18s. per week with the usual allowances in kind. In the counties of Kirkcud-

* The Report on the hirings held in Scotland from August to December, 1904, showed that, owing chiefly to an increase in the supply of farm servants rates of wages were, generally speaking, reduced by £1 to £2 for the half-year (in a few districts up to £2 10s.).

bright and Wigtown wages showed a tendency to decline.

The Border hirings for shepherds were moderately well attended and wages remained practically unaltered.

In the counties of Peebles and Selkirk wages showed little or no change, but in the Lothians most classes of farm servants had difficulty in maintaining old rates of wages. Women for field work, however, were scarce and easily obtained former rates. Ploughmen got from 16s. to 18s. per week with the usual perquisites. In the counties of Fife, Stirling and Kinross, there was a slight downward tendency in wages as compared with a year ago.

In the counties of Lanark, Renfrew and Ayr there was little change in wages except in the case of women workers, whose wages continued to tend upwards. Byre women got from £9 to £11 for the half-year, with board and lodging.

Farm servants in Perthshire and Forfarshire had to submit in a great many cases to a fall of about £1 per half-year, as compared with the summer hirings of last year. In these counties, and along the coast to Elgin, ploughmen got from £12 to £18 for the half-year, with board and lodging, or free house and the usual allowances of milk, meal, &c. In many cases married men got up to £48 per annum, with free house, garden and coals. Experienced cattlemen got about the same rates of wages as the best class of ploughmen. Women obtained £8 to £12 for the half-year, with board and lodging.

In the counties in the extreme north of Scotland, the hirings were dull and the wages were either stationary or tended downwards. From Orkney it is reported that farmers held out against the high rates of wages paid in recent years, and that in consequence not a few farm servants remained unengaged. The rates of wages were, for ploughmen £8 to £11, lads £5 to £6, and women £6 to £8 for the half-year with board and lodging.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the second quarter of 1905, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,773,280, an increase of 4.5 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1904, while compared with five years ago (i.e. with the corresponding quarter of the year 1900) the sales show an increase of 28.2 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,491,232, an increase of 6.3 per cent. on the second quarter of 1904, while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1900 an increase of 58.2 per cent. is shown.

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales.			Percentage increase of 1905 as compared with	
	In 2nd quarter of			A year ago.	Five years ago.
	1905.	1904.	1900.		
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	5,066,205	4,801,344	3,909,660	5.5	29.6
Manufacturing " ...	872,282*	844,217*	535,184*	3.3	63.0
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	1,681,951	1,659,976	1,356,137	1.3	24.0
Manufacturing " ...	577,220*	524,861*	407,634*	10.0	41.6
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE:—					
Manufacturing Department	41,730*	33,950*	—	22.9	—
IRISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES:—					
Irish Agency	—	—	—	—	—
AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	25,114	18,151	18,015	38.4	39.4
Totals—Distributive Depts. ...	6,773,280	6,479,471	5,283,212	4.5	28.2
Manufacturing " ...	1,491,232	1,403,028	942,818	6.3	58.2
Grand Total ...	8,264,512	7,882,499	6,226,030	4.8	32.7

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.
† In 1900 this department was carried on exclusively by the English Wholesale Society.

‡ No particulars are available for the Irish Agency.

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.

There has been a large demand for farm labourers during the summer, and especially at harvest time; but it is too late in the season for the ordinary emigrant to go now, unless he can keep himself during the winter, when farm work is much slacker. Experienced men can find work at lumbering in the woods during the winter months. The Nova Scotia collieries have been very busy, and mechanics throughout Canada have been generally well employed, especially carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, lathers, plasterers, builders' labourers, metal workers, printers, patternmakers, etc., but men are not recommended to go out at this season of the year on the chance of work.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Residents in Queensland can obtain cheap passages for their relatives or personal friends at from £5 for adult males, and from £3 for adult females. Western Australia offers similar passages at £8, and also grants assisted passages at £9 to anyone with a capital of about £100, and at £13 to persons without such capital if otherwise suitable. Emigrants to Western Australia can obtain 160 acres of land free of cost. The principal demand in the Commonwealth at the present time is for farm labourers, and skilled fruit growers; mechanics also are likely to succeed if they are skilled without being too specialised, and can afford to keep themselves at first while looking for work. There is a good demand for female servants, but not for women above that class. Emigrants, who before arrival enter into any agreement to perform manual labour in the Commonwealth, will not be allowed to land.

New Zealand.

The last reports from New Zealand show that though the various trades were fairly busy—considering it was the winter season—the local supply of workers was generally quite sufficient. Men in the iron trade, and unskilled labourers, are recommended not to go to Auckland. In one or two places good carpenters and tailors were wanted, and with the approaching summer employment is likely to improve everywhere.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one is permitted to land in Cape Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, or has secured employment beforehand. There is no opening for more labour, the supply exceeding the demand in nearly every department of industry. This is not only the case at Cape Town, but also at East London, Port Elizabeth, Kimberley, Cradock, King William's Town, and other centres of population. The supply, especially of carpenters, painters, clerks, bricklayers, fitters, grooms and waiters at Cape Town, of men in all branches of the building and engineering trades at East London, and of bricklayers, carpenters, clerks, joiners, salesmen, fitters and turners, and factory hands at Port Elizabeth, greatly exceeds the demand. At East London the wages of carpenters, bricklayers and plasterers have been reduced by 3d. an hour.

Natal.—The supply of labour is quite sufficient in all branches, and in the building trades it is in excess of the demand. Three months' notice has been given to plasterers in Durban of a reduction of 1s. a day in their wages.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. There is no change in the demand for labour, except that there has been a temporary improvement in the printing trade. Houses are now less difficult to obtain, as many men have sent their families away to save expense. Female servants and other wage-earning women may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Other emigrants should not go to the Transvaal at the present time. The cost of living in the Transvaal is very high.

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

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. There is no demand for more labour at Bloemfontein, Harrismith, or other towns or in country districts. Female servants may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in July.*—The building trades were at the height of their busy season. Employment in the metal trades continued satisfactory, except for tin-box makers in the fish-preserving factories along the Atlantic coast. A decline was reported from the linen manufacturing centres of the North, while a reduction of the weekly working time to 50 hours was made in several of the textile districts of Normandy. For cotton and silk weavers in the Departments of Loire and Rhone, and for both spinners and weavers in the Ardennes, employment continued to be bad, while in the Vosges and Rheims districts it remained normal. The situation in the pottery trades is described as satisfactory, and that in the printing and bookbinding trades as about normal. Harvesting operations gave plenty of employment to agricultural labourers in the northern and central parts of France.

Out of 174,143 members of 883 Trade Unions (not including those of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments), 16,753, or 9.6 per cent., were out of work on July 15th, as compared with 8.8 per cent. in the previous month, and 8.9 per cent. in July, 1904.

Coal Mining in July.*—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground during July was 5.79, as compared with 5.44 in the previous month and 5.57 in July, 1904. Taking surface and underground workers together, 56.35 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 37.60 from 5 to 6 days per week, the corresponding percentages in the previous month being 0.60 and 95.16 respectively, while in July, 1904, they were 41.60 and 50.67 respectively. The above figures were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 155,000 workpeople—more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in July.*—Fifty-six disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in July, as compared with 67 in the previous month, and with 80 in July, 1904. The number of participants in 51 of the disputes of July last was 5,961 as compared with 8,157 who took part in 61 of the disputes of the previous month, and with 12,454 who took part in the disputes of July, 1904. Ten of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 3 in mining and quarrying, 7 in the metal trades, 11 in the textile trades, 6 in the transport and warehousing trades, 7 in the leather trades, and 12 in other trades. Forty-eight disputes came to an end during July. Of these 8 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 16 in favour of the employers, while 24 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in July.*—Sixteen cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department during July. The initiative was taken in 11 cases by the Justice of the Peace, in 4 by the workpeople, and in 1 by the employers. In 10 cases committees of conciliation were formed and resulted in the settlement of 3 disputes. In 3 of the 6 cases in which no committee of conciliation was formed, mediation was rejected by the employers, and in 1 by both parties. In 1 of the remaining 2 cases the employers left the district, and in the other the dispute was settled before a committee of conciliation could be formed.

Strike of Dockers at Boulogne.†—A strike of dockers commenced at Boulogne on August 31st. The men demanded increase of pay and a 10-hour working day. After several interviews between workmen and employers,

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

† Based on a report from H.M. Consul at Calais, dated September 8th.

the Mayor was accepted as arbitrator, and work was resumed on September 6th, the following rates of wages having been awarded:—

For landing coal	1rd. per ton.
For stowing coal in sheds	6½d. per hour.
For stowing cement in holds	7d. "
For general work at cargoes other than of coal	6d. "

GERMANY.

*Employment in July.**—In spite of somewhat extensive labour disputes in the Southern and Western parts of Germany, the general trend of the industrial labour market in July was favourable—more so even than a year ago. Agriculture, too, absorbed a considerable amount of the available labour in July for harvesting operations. A further increase of activity was discernible in the coal-mining industry at the beginning, but was followed by a decline towards the end of the month. In the metal and engineering trades the situation was, on the whole, very favourable. The chemical and electrical trades were satisfactorily employed, as were also the textile trades, notwithstanding a certain disturbing influence due to fluctuation in the price of the raw material. In most districts employment in the building and allied trades is described as "not unfavourable," and in Berlin as "particularly good." The effects of seasonal slackness in the printing and ready-made clothing trades, as well as of the summer exodus to watering places, were perceptible, as usual during the month of July.

*Special Rules for Lead Smelting, etc. Works.**—A code of special rules (dated July 16th, 1905) has been issued by the Federal Council, prescribing conditions to be fulfilled by establishments carrying out any of the following processes:—Roasting, slagging, or smelting lead ores; extracting or working up raw lead; extracting silver from lead; manufacturing, grinding, sifting, storing or packing lead oxides, or compounds thereof; and the distillation of zinc dross.

The rules have reference to the internal dimensions and proper ventilation of the workrooms; the suitable construction and maintenance of floors and walls with a view to preventing accumulations of dust; the adoption of suitable arrangements for removing dust and for preventing its diffusion during operations involving that risk.

The hours of labour (exclusive of intervals) must not exceed ten in the twenty-four in rooms in which any of the processes referred to above are carried on. For certain operations (e.g., attending to the kilns), the hours are restricted to eight, and for certain others (e.g., the cleaning of condensing chambers and flues which contain dry dust), to four hours per day. Women and children must not be allowed to enter the condensing chambers or to engage in the transport of dust, nor may any new workpeople be engaged for employment in the condensing chambers or in the transport of dust, unless they can produce a certificate from a doctor, appointed by the Government, that such employment will not be prejudicial to their health or physical development.

Other rules make it obligatory for the employer to provide, in a part of the premises free from dust, washing and bathing accommodation, and dressing and meal rooms, heated in cold weather. He must employ a doctor to examine his workpeople at least once a month. No person who, in the doctor's opinion, shows symptoms of lead poisoning, may engage in certain specified operations until his (or her) health has been completely restored, while persons who appear to be specially susceptible to lead poisoning must abandon those operations altogether.

The above rules are to take effect from January 1st, 1906.

Dispute in Building Trades at Munich.†—A dispute in the building trades in Munich has been settled, and work was resumed on August 23rd owing to an

* *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department).
† Based on a despatch from Mr. R. T. Tower, H.M. Minister-Resident at Munich, dated August 21st, received through the Foreign Office.

agreement under which the minimum hourly rate for bricklayers is to be 6d., for carpenters, 5½d., and for labourers, 4½d.

These rates in all cases represent increases on the rates agreed upon in 1904, and further increases are provided for on April 1st, 1906, and 1907. The tariff will remain in force until April 1st, 1908, and after that date provided notice of an alteration in its terms be not given three months in advance.

*Strike of Dock Labourers at Hamburg.**—On September 8th the piecework dock-labourers at Hamburg, numbering about 600, struck for an increase in wages of 1½d. per ton. The strikers were informed that they must complete the work for which they had contracted before the question of an increase in pay would be considered by the employers. The men continue on strike.

BELGIUM.†

Seats for Female Shop Assistants: New Law.—A new Law, dated June 25th, prescribes that in warehouses or shops in which goods are stored or sold, seats shall be provided in the proportion of one to each female assistant, and that such assistants shall be allowed to use them whenever they can do so without hindrance to their duties. Factory and workshop inspectors are to have free access to such establishments with a view to enforcing the law. Contraventions are punishable by a fine (not exceeding £1) which shall be doubled in case of a second conviction within twelve months. The Law is to take effect from September 25th.

Sunday Rest: New Law.—On and after July 17th, 1906, a new law, dated July 17th, 1905, will come into operation in Belgium, by which employees in industrial and commercial establishments (other than members of the employer's family or his domestic servants) will not be allowed to work more than six days per week, Sunday being observed as the day of rest. Exceptions are permitted in the case of (1) work rendered urgent by unavoidable circumstances or necessity, (2) caretaking of business premises, (3) necessary cleaning, repairs or preparatory work, (4) work necessary to prevent the deterioration of materials or products.

Persons may be employed for 13 days out of 14, or 6½ out of 7 in the following classes of enterprises:—(1) preparation of food for immediate delivery, (2) retail sale of articles of food, (3) hotels, restaurants and public-houses, (4) tobacconists and florists, (5) chemists, druggists and makers of surgical apparatus, (6) public baths, (7) newspaper offices and public entertainments, (8) lending libraries and enterprises for the hire of chairs or carriages, (9) lighting and distribution of water or power, (10) land transport, loading and discharging at ports, wharves and stations, (11) employment registries and inquiry offices, (12) industries in which, by reason of their nature, the work must be continuous. The day, or two half-days in each fortnight need not necessarily fall on Sunday.

Exceptions other than those enumerated above may be made hereafter by Royal Decree.

AUSTRIA.

Employment in July.‡—According to reports made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, relief stations, and other agencies for procuring employment, the number of applications per 100 situations offered was as follows:—

		July, 1905.	June, 1905.	July, 1904.
No. of Applications per 100 Situations offered	Males ...	166	184	175
	Females ...	110	111	103
	Total ...	143	151	146

According to the above there was a noticeable decrease in the number of male applicants per 100 situations offered as compared with a month ago and also with a year ago.

* Based on information supplied by H.M. Consul-General at Hamburg.
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

*Disputes in July.**—Not counting any disputes which may have taken place in the mining industry, 48 disputes (one described as a lock-out), were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in July, the number of persons taking part in 46 of these being 7,975. Of these disputes 23 were in the building trades, 8 in the metal trades, 5 in the clothing trades, 4 in the woodworking trades, 2 in the pottery, &c. trades, 2 in commercial employment, and 1 each in the quarrying, the textile, food, and leather trades. Thirty-four of the above disputes came to an end in July, 8 terminating in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employer, and 15 being compromised. The results of the remaining 2 disputes were not known at the date of reporting.

ITALY.

Labour Disputes in July.†—Eighty-eight strikes‡ were reported to the Italian Labour Department as having begun in July, as compared with 66 in the previous month. The number of workpeople taking part in 77 of the July strikes was 14,942, as compared with 8,422 who participated in 45 of the June strikes.

Fifteen of the new strikes occurred in the building trades, 4 in mining, 16 in the metal and engineering trades, 13 in the textile trades, 7 in agriculture, 6 in the transport trades, 6 in the pottery and chemical trades, 3 in the printing trades, 4 in the woodworking trades, 12 in the food preparation trades, and 2 in trades not included in any of these groups.

Of 66 strikes, of which the results were fully reported in July, 14 (with 3,581 strikers) terminated in favour of the workpeople, 27 (with 4,139 strikers) in favour of the employers, and 25 (with 3,992 strikers) were compromised.

NORWAY.§

Employment, February - June.—The proportion of members unemployed at the end of the month in the Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics during the period February to June is shown in the following Table:—

Month.	Total Membership of Unions reporting.	Membership Unemployed at end of Month.	
		Number.	Percentage of Total Membership.
February ...	12,248	864	7.1
March ...	12,345	655	5.3
April ...	12,411	532	4.3
May ...	12,495	221	1.8
June ...	11,882	179	1.5

The two largest Unions furnishing returns as to unemployment are those of metal workers and printers, the membership of the former being 4,417, and of the latter 1,029 at the end of June, 1905. Of the metal workers 1.4 per cent., and of the printers 4.0 per cent., were out of work at the end of June, 1905, the corresponding percentages for June, 1904, being 1.1 and 6.3 respectively.

SWEDEN.¶

Dispute in the Building Trades at Stockholm.—The lock-out in the building trades, which has caused a suspension of labour for more than three months (see June GAZETTE, p. 167) during the most favourable season of the year for that industry, has definitely come to an end, work having been resumed in the various branches between August 19th and 21st, as a result of an agreement which has been embodied in a contract signed by the representatives of the parties concerned. It is agreed generally that the employer shall apportion and direct the work, and shall engage or dismiss workmen without intervention on the part of Trades Unions. The minimum pay for masons is fixed at 60 öre (8½d.) per hour up to April 1st, 1906, and

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.
† *Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro* (Journal of the Italian Labour Department).
‡ There were, in addition, 2 lock-outs, 1 of 3,600 metalworkers, the other of 50 hat makers. The former ended in a compromise, the latter in favour of the employers.
§ Based on *Arbeidsmarkedet* (Journal of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics) and on information supplied through the courtesy of the same Department.
¶ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from Sir Rennell Rodd, H.M. Minister at Stockholm, dated August 21st.

at 65 öre after that date. In other trades the pay is increased by 1 öre per hour and an additional öre will be paid after April 1st, 1907. The agreement is valid until April 1st, 1907, for certain trades, and until April 1st, 1908, for others, including the masons. If not denounced three months before the expiry of the term it will remain in force for another year.

RUSSIA.*

Wages and Hours Agreement: Seamen at Odessa.—As the result of a strike of seamen at Odessa in April last, a Commission was appointed to consider the demands of the strikers. The following scale of wages per month was agreed upon:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Boatswains (1st Class) ...	84	5	Senior Firemen ...	63	4
" (2nd ") ...	63	4	Firemen (1st Class) ...	52	9
Able Seamen ...	63	4	" (2nd ") ...	42	3
Ordinary " (1st Class) ...	52	9	" (3rd ") ...	31	8
" " (2nd ") ...	42	3			

These rates are to be permanent even when steamers are laid up for the winter, or are under repairs, or placed in reserve. In addition to wages, subsistence allowance ranging from 21s. 1d. to 27s. 5d. per month was granted. The new scale of wages and allowances came into operation on August 14th, 1905.

Working hours, in port and at sea, were fixed at eight daily, extra payment at the rate of 5d. per hour being made for work by seamen (not firemen) before 7 a.m. and after 5 p.m., and also for Sunday labour.

SPAIN.

Agrarian Unemployment in Andalusia.†—A serious agricultural crisis now prevails in the south of Spain. On August 15th the Minister of Agriculture laid before his colleagues in the Cabinet the result of his investigations in the affected districts. His Excellency gave, as the cause of the crisis, the unprecedented drought, which had occurred last winter, and stated that the only possible solution lay in the construction of a vast system of irrigation works.

It was calculated that in the provinces of Seville, Cadiz and Cordoba some 200,000 persons were in distress.

UNITED STATES.

Strike of Bakers at New York.‡—At the beginning of August the Hebrew and German bakers in New York struck work, 1,700 men being affected. Among their demands were included a maximum working day of 10 hours, and an increase of wages, foremen to receive from 70s. 10d. to 83s. 4d. per week, and journeymen from 54s. 2d. to 62s. 6d. The strikers made no effort to approach the Master Bakers, who, though willing to concede an advance of wages and a 12-hour working day, refused to recognise the Unions and advocate the "open shop" policy. By September 11th, all except 200 of the men had resumed work; one half of the shops adopted the open policy, and the other half signed an agreement with the Union for slightly higher wages and a 10-hour day.

Wages and Hours of Labour of Carpenters at Boston.§—The judge chosen as umpire to adjudicate upon certain differences which had arisen between the Master Carpenters' Association and the officials of the Carpenters' District Council at Boston has decided upon an increase of wages from 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 8½d. per hour, or an increase from 12s. 4d. to 13s. 6d. per day of 8 hours, to take effect from October 1st, and upon a reduction of the hours of labour from 9 to 8 per day in the case of carpenters employed in workshops and mills.

* Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from Mr. R. Erskine, Acting British Consul-General at Odessa, dated August 25th.
† Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from Mr. Fairfax L. Cartwright, H. M. Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid, dated August 18th.
‡ Based on despatches of various dates from August 8th to September 11th, addressed to the Foreign Office by the Acting Consul-General at New York.
§ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Boston, dated August 26th.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES
IN AUGUST.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on Returns from the Trade Correspondent, from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the building trades continued dull during August, but on the whole it was rather better than a month ago. The improvement affected bricklayers and plumbers generally, masons in England, and slaters in Scotland; in other branches there was little change.

Compared with a year ago it was generally rather worse, although in some branches an improvement took place. The falling off compared with a year ago affected all occupations with the exception of plumbers and slaters, and, in some cases, bricklayers, masons and carpenters.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of August was 6.5, which compares with the same percentage as a month ago and 5.9 per cent. a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union plumbers unemployed at the end of August was 8.9, compared with 10.1 in July and 9.2 a year ago. The figures for the principal districts are given in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of August, 1905.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for August, 1905, as compared with a	
		August, 1905.	July, 1905.	August, 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	6,831	5.5	7.9	4.2	-2.4	+1.3
Northern Counties†	6,041	9.7	8.3	9.9	+1.4	-0.9
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,182	5.0	5.3	6.2	-0.3	-1.2
Yorkshire ...	5,052	8.8	8.4	7.3	+0.4	+1.5
East Midlands ...	2,994	5.9	5.6	3.7	+0.3	+2.2
West Midlands ...	4,610	4.5	5.3	3.4	-0.8	+1.1
Eastern Counties ...	1,109	8.6	9.0	5.1	-0.4	+3.5
S. and S.W. Counties ...	5,840	6.4	6.0	3.8	+0.4	+2.6
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,890	5.3	4.7	3.3	+0.6	+2.0
Other Districts ...	64	3.7	3.9	1.1	-0.2	+2.6
SCOTLAND ...	3,285	10.1	6.9	9.0	+3.2	+1.1
IRELAND ...	4,776	4.6	5.0	6.2	-0.4	-1.6
UNITED KINGDOM ...	53,275	6.5	6.5	5.9	...	+0.6
PLUMBERS.†						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	1,101	8.7	11.1	7.6	-2.4	+1.1
Northern Counties†	1,532	8.4	7.9	8.3	+0.5	-0.8
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,440	7.8	10.0	8.6	-2.2	+0.8
Yorkshire ...	977	9.4	11.9	8.4	-2.5	+1.0
East Midlands ...	601	7.7	9.0	6.6	-1.3	+1.2
West Midlands ...	430	9.3	10.0	5.1	-0.7	+4.2
Eastern Counties ...	111	6.3	9.3	7.3	-3.0	+1.0
S. and S.W. Counties ...	464	7.5	10.8	6.3	-3.3	+1.2
Wales and Monmouth ...	284	12.0	12.6	5.5	-0.6	+6.5
Other Districts ...	44	9.1	4.3	3.8	+4.8	+5.3
SCOTLAND ...	865	12.7	11.3	13.6	+1.4	-0.9
IRELAND ...	646	9.4	10.6	11.3	-1.2	-1.9
UNITED KINGDOM ...	9,545	8.9	10.1	9.2	-1.2	-0.3

Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 59 London employers show that in the last week of August they paid wages to 12,499 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 12,256 in July and 14,802 in August, 1904. Employment was stated to be rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

According to returns received from 73 Employers' Associations in the provinces and in Scotland and Ireland employment showed some improvement as compared with the previous month in Oldham, Bury, St. Helens, Hull, Northampton, Loughborough, Ipswich, Glasgow and Dublin, while in certain of the smaller towns in Lancashire, the West Midlands, and the Southern and South-Western Counties there was a falling-off. In the remaining districts there was little change. Compared with a year ago employment was reported to be worse in 31 out of the 73 districts, while

* Exclusive of superannuated members. † Including Middlesbrough. Revised figures for August, 1904.

in 36 districts it was stated to be the same. Only six districts reported an improvement, viz., Oldham, Lancaster, Hull, Selby, Loughborough and Coventry.

COAL MINING.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry in August showed some recovery as compared with July, and was the same as in August, 1904.

Returns relating to 1,337 pits, employing 554,347 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended August 26th, 1905, was 4.76, as compared with 4.63 in the four weeks ended July 22nd, and 4.76 in August, 1904. The average weekly number of days worked was affected by holidays to the extent of over a quarter of a day in August, 1904 and 1905, and to the extent of .16 of a day in July, 1905. Disputes in Lancashire and South Wales also affected employment to some extent in these districts in August, 1905.

Of the 554,347 workpeople covered by the returns, 334,203 (or 60.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended August 26th, and of these 138,023 (or nearly 25 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

As compared with a month ago, an improvement was shown in most districts, and was greatest in Scotland, Shropshire, Warwick and Worcester, West Yorkshire and Derbyshire. In Scotland, however, the time lost through holidays in August was smaller than in July. Of the three districts, Cumberland, South Wales and Durham, showing a falling off in employment in August, one, South Wales, was affected by disputes which caused an estimated aggregate loss of about 30,000 working days.

As compared with a year ago, the principal improvements were in the North Wales and Fifeshire districts, and the most noticeable decline was in the Gloucester and Somerset districts.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in August, 1905, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1905, as compared with	
		August* 26th, 1905.	July* 22nd, 1905.	August* 20th, 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	37,957	5.13	5.04	5.19	+ .09	- .06
Durham ...	97,999	5.22	5.25	5.20	- .03	+ .02
Cumberland ...	7,669	4.50	4.60	4.36	+ .10	+ .14
South Yorkshire ...	60,248	4.91	4.75	4.85	+ .16	+ .06
West Yorkshire ...	18,810	4.01	3.64	3.86	+ .37	+ .15
Lancashire and Cheshire...	52,567	4.22	4.16	4.15	+ .06	+ .07
Derbyshire ...	40,943	3.97	3.71	4.09	+ .26	- .12
Nottingham and Leicester	28,203	3.71	3.61	3.68	+ .10	+ .03
Staffordshire ...	24,415	3.82	3.68	3.89	+ .14	- .07
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	7,545	4.26	3.62	4.43	+ .64	- .17
Gloucester and Somerset	7,612	4.02	4.00	4.45	+ .02	- .43
North Wales ...	10,001	4.79	4.64	4.49	+ .15	+ .30
South Wales and Mon. ...	117,368	5.19	5.28	5.26	- .09	- .07
ENGLAND & WALES...	511,337	4.72	4.64	4.73	+ .08	- .01
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	23,158	5.08	4.29	5.08	+ .79	...
The Lothians ...	4,328	5.33	5.10	5.42	+ .23	- .09
Fife ...	14,912	5.38	4.61	5.10	+ .77	+ .22
SCOTLAND ...	42,398	5.21	4.60	5.18	+ .61	+ .06
IRELAND.						
IRELAND ...	612	5.10	5.38	4.68	- .28	+ .42
United Kingdom ...	554,347	4.76	4.63	4.76	+ .13	...

In Northumberland and Durham employment was good, especially in pits producing steam coal in the former county, and in those producing coking coal in the latter. In Cumberland employment remained moderate, and one pit was idle during the month on account of breakage in machinery.

* The average number of days worked was affected by holidays.

In Yorkshire and Lancashire employment improved somewhat as compared with the previous month; it was only moderate on the whole.

In the Midland Counties employment was dull generally, though there was an improvement in most districts as compared with the previous month. In Cannock Chase less than 3 days per week were worked. In Shropshire employment was fair.

In the Forest of Dean full time was worked in the steam coal pits. In the Bristol district employment was slack.

In South Wales the average number of days worked showed a slight decline, but the district was affected to a considerable extent by holidays and disputes. In North Wales employment showed a slight improvement.

Employment in Scotland generally showed a considerable improvement on the previous month, but in certain districts in the Lothians there was some broken time.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel in August, 1905, amounted to 4,306,857 tons, as compared with 4,298,967 tons in July, 1905, and 4,081,192 tons in August, 1904.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on information from Employers, Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in August was good in iron and shale mines. Compared with a month ago and a year ago little change was shown in iron mines, but in shale mines employment was better. In tin and copper mines (Devonshire and Cornwall) employment continued fair on the whole, and in lead mines in Flintshire and Denbighshire, and Weardale it was good. With quarrymen employment generally was fair.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended August 26th, the average weekly number of days worked by the 118 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers making returns was 5.73, as compared with 5.72 a month ago and 5.77* in August, 1904.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Aug., 1905, at the 118 Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1905, as compared with	
		Aug. 26th, 1905.†	July 22nd, 1905.†	Aug. 20th, 1904.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,165	5.94	5.76	5.98	+ 0.18	- 0.04
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,803	5.69	5.94	5.78	- 0.25	- 0.09
Scotland...	991	5.36	4.68	5.32	+ 0.68	+ 0.04
Other Districts...	2,370	5.32	5.61	5.24	- 0.29	+ 0.08
Total and Averages	15,329	5.73	5.72	5.77	+ 0.01	- 0.04

Of the 15,329 workpeople covered by the returns 12,866, or 83.9 per cent. were employed in mines working twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended August 26th, as compared with 91.0 per cent. a month ago, and 85.4* in August, 1904.

Shale Mining.—At 27 mines respecting which returns have been received 2,871 men were employed in August, as compared with 2,885 a month ago, and 2,809 in August, 1904. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended August 26th was 5.79, as compared with 5.63 a month ago and 5.57 in August, 1904.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was slack in North Wales, and worse than a month ago.

* Revised figures. † The average number of days worked was affected by holidays.

Granite.—Employment continued fair on the whole in Aberdeenshire and Leicestershire, and was good in North Wales. It was bad generally in Devonshire and Cornwall.

Limestone.—Employment was good in North Wales, Stanhope and Westgate, and fair in the Cleveland district. It continued moderate in the Buxton district and dull in the Plymouth district. In Cumberland employment was slack.

Other Stone.—At the Bath-stone quarries in the Bristol district employment was slack. It was good in road-material quarries in North Wales and the Clee Hill district and fair in the Forest of Dean, and with chert quarrymen in Derbyshire. In the grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate; in Forfarshire it was bad; at Gateshead fair.

Settling.—Employment was good in the Clee Hill, North Wales, Airdrie, Edinburgh, and Belfast districts. It continued fair in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire some improvement was shown on the previous month, when it was reported as fair, but in the Rowley Regis district employment was bad and worse than a month ago.

China Clay.—Employment remained fair at St. Austell and Lee Moor.

TINPLATE WORKS.

(Based on Returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry during August remained about the same as in July, but was much better than a year ago. The demand for and supply of labour were about equal.

At the end of August 404 mills were working, the same number as in July, but an increase of 25 (or 6.6 per cent.) as compared with a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 404 mills at work was about 20,200.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,* at each of the three periods:—

Works giving full employment	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	64	361	—	361
Works giving partial employment ...	12	43	20	63
Total at end of August, 1905* ...	76	404	20	424
Corresponding Total for July, 1905* ...	76	404	20	424
Corresponding Total for Aug., 1904* ...	75	379	33	412

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and black-plates for tinning from the United Kingdom are shown in the following Table:—

Month ended 31st Aug., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August		Eight Months ended 31st Aug., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
	1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States ...	Tons. 6,556	Tons. - 357	Tons. 24,969	Tons. 46,631	Tons. - 2,160
„ Other Countries ...	20,947	- 4,738	4,066	200,538	+ 19,624
Total ...	27,503	- 5,095	+ 7,032	247,169	+ 17,464
Black Plates for Tinning.					
To United States ...	12	- 1	- 59	84	+ 56
„ Other Countries ...	5,533	+ 569	+ 511	42,278	- 182
Total ...	5,545	+ 568	+ 452	42,362	- 126

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on Returns from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; also on Returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good. The improvement as compared with a year ago was very marked, over 6,000 more workers being employed at the works covered by the returns received.

The total volume of employment (*i.e.*, numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) at 198 iron and steel works from which Returns were received was 1·8 per cent. greater during the week ended August 26th, 1905, than during the week ended July 22nd last, and 9·7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the returns was approximately 503,300, as compared with 494,200 last month, and 459,000 a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, the only decreases of any importance in the numbers employed took place in Bessemer Converting Departments (98 or 4·7 per cent.) which also showed the only decrease on a year ago, and at Rolling Mills (538 or 1·8 per cent.) which, however, showed a considerable increase (1,286 or 4·6 per cent.) on last year.

Compared with a month ago, the only decreases in the average number of shifts worked per man per week were at Crucible Furnaces and Open Hearth Melting Furnaces. The greatest increase was 0·23 of a shift in puddling forges. Compared with a year ago there were increases in all departments, by far the greatest being 0·74 of a shift in Crucible Furnaces.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making returns		Average number of Shifts worked per man		Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	
	In week ended Aug. 26th, 1905.	A month ago.	In week ended Aug. 26th, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A year ago.
Open-Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,665	- 54	+ 438	5·88	- 0·02	+ 0·08
Crucible Furnaces	541	+ 1	+ 33	5·62	- 0·13	+ 0·74
Bessemer Converters	1,994	- 98	- 21	5·24	+ 0·20	+ 0·13
Puddling Forges	9,743	- 24	+ 109	4·91	+ 0·23	+ 0·11
Rolling Mills	29,372	- 538	+ 1,286	5·31	+ 0·15	+ 0·16
Forging and Pressing	3,720	+ 220	+ 349	5·60	+ 0·06	+ 0·15
Founding	11,384	+ 337	+ 1,169	5·83	+ 0·02	+ 0·14
Other Departments	8,389	+ 207	+ 1,287	5·81	...	+ 0·07
Mechanics and General Labourers	17,852	+ 154	+ 1,426	5·73	+ 0·02	+ 0·04
Total	91,160	+ 205	+ 6,076	5·52	+ 0·09	+ 0·13

Districts.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making returns		Average number of Shifts worked per man		Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	
	In week ended Aug. 26th, 1905.	A month ago.	In week ended Aug. 26th, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A year ago.
Northumberland and Durham	11,497	- 1	+ 295	5·53	+ 0·03	+ 0·22
Cleveland	6,908	+ 71	+ 253	5·46	- 0·08	- 0·08
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,847	+ 270	+ 1,380	5·68	+ 0·04	+ 0·20
Leeds, Hull and other Yorkshire Towns	4,186	- 6	+ 375	5·43	+ 0·15	- 0·03
Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire	11,962	+ 24	+ 619	5·35	+ 0·12	+ 0·29
Staffordshire	9,910	- 97	+ 362	5·46	+ 0·25	+ 0·03
Other Midland Counties	4,339	- 92	+ 428	5·29	+ 0·03	+ 0·01
Wales and Monmouth	8,984	+ 41	+ 1,026	5·67	+ 0·18	+ 0·14
England and Wales	74,613	+ 210	+ 5,248	5·52	+ 0·09	+ 0·14
Scotland	16,547	- 5	+ 828	5·54	+ 0·07	+ 0·06
Total	91,160	+ 205	+ 6,076	5·52	+ 0·09	+ 0·13

Compared with a month ago there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in four districts and decreases in five, but the increase of 270 (1·6 per cent.) in the Sheffield and Rotherham district was greater than all the decreases together. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable increase in every district, the greatest being 1,580 (10·3 per cent.) in the Sheffield and Rotherham district, and 1,026 (12·9 per cent.) in Wales and Monmouth.

In the average number of shifts worked per man per week a decrease of 0·08 of a shift on both a month ago and a year ago took place in the Cleveland district, and in Leeds, Hull, and other Yorkshire towns there was a decrease of 0·03 of a shift compared with a year ago.

In other cases an increase is shown compared both with a month and a year ago, the greatest increase on a month ago being 0·25 of a shift in Staffordshire, and on August 1904, 0·29 of a shift in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on Returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was fairly good during August, being better than in July and considerably better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that three furnaces in Cumberland, and one each in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Scotland were re-lit, while one each in Cleveland, Cumberland and South Wales were damped down or blown out. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of August was 326, being 4 more than in July and 27 more than in August, 1904. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the returns, which are summarised below, is estimated at about 23,000.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1905, as compared with	
	Aug., 1905.	July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland	84	85	77	- 1	+ 7
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks.	35	33	30	+ 2	+ 5
Derby & Nottingham	16	15	13	+ 1	+ 3
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	38	37	36	+ 1	+ 2
Stafford & Worcester	27	27	24	...	+ 3
S. Wales & Monmouth	33	32	28	+ 1	+ 5
Other districts	15	16	15	- 1	...
Returned from England & Wales	284	281	229	+ 3	+ 25
Returned from Scotland	72	71	70	+ 1	+ 2
Total furnaces included in returns	326	322	299	+ 4	+ 27

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in August was, on the whole, at about the same level as in July. It was slightly better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,431 members had 7,436 (or 13·2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 11·7 per cent. at the end of July and with 12·7 per cent. a year ago. These figures are affected by holidays and by a dispute in South Wales. If the increase in the number unemployed in the latter district be omitted, the general percentage for August, 1905, is reduced from 13·2 to 12·3.

The percentages for the various districts are shown below:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1905 included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Aug., 1905, as compared with	
		Aug., 1905.	July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,084	9·9	9·6	11·3	+ 0·3	- 1·4
Wear	4,953	5·5	6·4	8·6	- 0·9	- 3·1
Tees and Hartlepool	4,802	11·3	10·0	12·6	+ 1·3	- 1·3
Humber	2,312	6·8	8·4	10·5	- 1·6	- 3·7
Thames and Medway	3,954	11·6	10·3	7·7	+ 1·3	+ 3·9
South Coast	3,934	10·3	9·2	5·6	+ 1·1	+ 4·7
Bristol Channel Ports	2,638	39·9	21·7	20·7	+ 18·8	+ 19·2
Mersey	3,590	24·2	19·5	13·7	+ 4·7	+ 10·5
Clyde	14,679	12·5	12·4	16·0	+ 1·0	- 3·5
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	2,062	22·5	21·7	26·0	+ 1·0	- 3·5
Belfast	2,809	11·2	10·2	15·1	+ 1·0	- 3·9
Other Districts	2,932	10·0	9·6	7·8	+ 0·4	+ 2·2
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	56,431	13·2	11·7	12·7	+ 1·5	+ 0·4

As regards the chief shipbuilding centres it was reported that, generally speaking, employment was good on the Wear, fair in the Tyne and Clyde districts, moderate at Belfast. In the Humber district it was good in work on steam trawlers, slack in other branches.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

In the South Wales district work was almost at a standstill owing to a dispute affecting ship painters and labourers at Cardiff, Barry and Penarth (*see p. 283*). In other centres it was generally slack.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was moderate and showed little change on the previous month; it continued to be better than a year ago.

As compared with a month ago, there was some improvement in Scotland, while on the North East Coast and in the East Midlands the proportion of unemployed showed an increase.

As compared with a year ago the South Coast showed a decline, but most other districts showed an improvement, which was greatest in Lancashire, the West Riding towns, Hull, and the East of Scotland.

Returns relating to 145,346 members of Trade Unions show that 6,267 (or 4·9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 4·8 per cent. in July, 1905, and 7·0 per cent. in August, 1904.

The percentages for the various districts are shown below:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1905, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Aug., 1905, as compared with	
		Aug., 1905.	July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	14,715	7·3	5·4	7·4	+ 1·9	- 0·1
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,785	4·5	4·8	8·2	- 0·3	- 3·7
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,879	3·7	3·2	11·1	+ 0·5	- 7·4
West Riding Towns	12,039	4·6	5·1	8·7	- 0·5	- 4·1
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,578	3·3	3·1	6·4	+ 0·2	- 3·1
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,582	4·1	3·4	5·5	+ 0·7	- 1·4
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	3,889	7·5	6·3	8·1	+ 1·2	- 0·6
London and Neighbouring District	12,159	4·5	4·0	4·3	+ 0·5	+ 0·2
South Coast	3,683	6·1	5·7	2·5	+ 0·4	+ 3·6
South Wales and Bristol District	6,556	5·6	4·7	5·1	+ 0·9	+ 0·5
Glasgow and District	12,823	7·9	9·4	8·7	- 1·5	- 0·8
East of Scotland	3,686	6·4	8·4	10·6	- 2·0	- 4·2
Belfast and Dublin	3,390	5·3	5·3	7·2	...	- 1·9
Other Districts	5,455	2·8	2·6	5·2	+ 0·2	- 2·4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	145,346	4·9	4·8	7·0	+ 0·1	- 2·1

Though not quite up to the level of the previous month, employment with pattern makers was fairly good generally; with this section it was very good on the North East Coast, dull in the London district.

On the North East Coast employment was a little better in marine shops, but not so good in electrical and general engineering. Ironfounders were well employed, except at Darlington and Durham. There was a further decline with fitters and turners at Elswick. In the Newcastle and Sunderland districts employment generally was moderate; at Jarrow it was still bad, but rather better than a month ago. Brassfinishers reported employment as improving, smiths as fair; with engine-men, firemen, and cranimen it was fairly good.

At Manchester employment on the whole was fairly good, with some overtime; boilermakers, however, were slack. At Crewe it was bad, and short time was worked. It was also bad at Horwich. In Liverpool and Birkenhead employment was dull with most sections. At Oldham it was fairly good, and overtime was worked in many departments. Employment was good at Blackburn, Preston and Burnley. Iron-grinders and glaziers were well employed, and worked overtime in several towns. Spindle and flyer makers reported employment as fair. In the greater part of the Lancashire district ironfounders were well employed. At Barrow employment generally was fairly good.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

At Sheffield employment was good with coremakers, ironfounders, and iron and steel dressers. There was a slight improvement at Leeds, but employment was still rather dull. At Bradford it was good; at Halifax bad.

In the London district there was some decline on the whole, but at Dartford and Erith employment was good. Brassfounders and brassfinishers were fairly well employed.

In the dockyard towns and at Plymouth and Southampton employment generally was bad. It was also bad in South Wales, where it was affected by a dispute. At Bristol it was dull; at Swindon good. At Doncaster it was bad, at Hull good. Employment generally was slack in Derby and Nottingham. In the latter town there was some improvement with lace and hosiery machine builders. At Leicester hosiery and shoe machine builders were fairly busy. In the cycle industry employment was not so good. With electrical engineers it was good at Birmingham. Ironfounders were generally well employed in the West Midlands, but in the East Midlands employment was bad with this section.

In the Glasgow district employment improved, and was very fair on the whole. At Paisley it was bad. At Dundee there was an improvement, and employment was fairly good, with some overtime. At Leith it was bad. At Belfast employment generally was very fair; at Dublin it was bad.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in these trades showed little change compared with a month ago, except in the railway axle, spring and tire trades and in the wire trade, which reported an improvement. Compared with a year ago employment generally was better.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—With brassworkers employment was moderate generally, with many men on short time, there being little change compared with July, but a considerable improvement on a year ago. Bedstead makers at Birmingham reported employment as fair; fender and fire brass makers as quiet.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—In Birmingham employment in these trades remained moderate generally. It was good with nut and bolt makers at Winlaton. With spike and wrought nail makers it was reported as bad.

Tubes.—In Birmingham cased tube workers reported employment as moderate; makers of steel tubes for bedsteads as fair; South Staffordshire tube makers as slightly improved. At Landore employment was reported as good, and better than a month ago.

Chains, Anchors, etc.—With heavy chain makers on the North East Coast employment was good; at Cradley it was moderate with chain makers generally, and remained slack with anchor smiths. With anvil and vice makers at Dudley employment continued fair. Axle makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich reported employment as fairly good; spring makers were fully employed. Makers of railway axles and tires at Wednesbury reported employment as good, at Sheffield as improved.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—In the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment remained bad, with much short time. With makers of iron fences and hurdles at Wolverhampton it continued fair.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield was slack in the cutlery trade generally, but fairly good in the sheep shear branch. In the file trade it was quiet in Wolverhampton, improving in Birmingham and Rotherham.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was fair at Falkirk and Leeds. At Glasgow it was reported as quiet; at Birmingham and Mansfield as improving.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London employment was reported as dull, with much short time, and rather worse than

a month ago. Employment remained moderate at Birmingham and quiet at Wolverhampton, the Lye, and Glasgow. At Edinburgh it improved. At Manchester it was fair.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment in Sheffield remained slack generally, except with platers and gilders. In London goldsmiths and jewellers reported employment as fair, and better than a month ago; silver workers as slack, with much short time. In Birmingham silversmiths and electro-platers reported employment as moderate but improving; britannia metal workers as good. In the Birmingham jewellery trade employment was quiet, but improving. In Coventry the watch trade was reported as quiet.

Wire.—Employment in this industry continued good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Farriers.—Employment generally was fair.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent, and on Returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry, although interrupted by local holidays, continued very brisk, and was much better than a year ago, when organised short time was general.

The average price of "middling American" raw cotton in August was 5'85d. per lb., compared with 5'93d. in July, and 6'21d. in August, 1904. "Good fair Egyptian" cotton averaged 7'61d. in August, or '05d. more than in July, and '44d. more than in August, 1904.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last full week in August was 163,447, showing practically no change, compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3'4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 126,268 of these operatives have stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. Compared with a month ago the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 0'1 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 2'0 per cent. Compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 3'6 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 12'4 per cent.

Analysis by Departments and Districts.

Compared with a month ago the wages paid in the Weaving department showed an improvement, partly owing to the advance in wages taking effect in several factories which had not received it in July. In the Spinning and Preparing branches there was little change.

Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in every branch.

The following Table relates only to those firms who furnished information as to wages paid as well as numbers employed in the three periods mentioned:—

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed in last week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		
Preparing ...	13,310	+ 0'2	+ 2'7	11,552	- 0'3	+ 10'6		
Spinning ...	23,494	- 0'0	+ 6'5	22,379	+ 0'2	+ 15'9		
Weaving ...	61,143	- 0'1	+ 2'7	55,912	+ 3'0	+ 12'7		
Other ...	11,539	+ 0'6	+ 4'9	13,277	+ 1'1	+ 7'7		
Departments not specified	16,982	+ 0'2	+ 3'1	17,598	+ 3'4	+ 12'1		
Total ...	126,268	+ 0'1	+ 3'6	120,718	+ 2'0	+ 12'4		

The changes in the amount of wages paid, compared with the previous month, were greatest in the Stockport, Oldham and Manchester districts, which showed an increase of more than 4 per cent.; no district showed a decrease. Compared with a year ago the same districts showed the greatest improvement.

Districts.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed in last week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.		July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.		
Ashton District ...	8,899	- 0'2	+ 3'1	8,742	+ 0'1	+ 11'4		
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	6,487	- 0'3	+ 1'8	6,223	+ 4'6	+ 32'0		
Oldham District ...	12,582	+ 0'2	+ 6'3	12,912	+ 4'5	+ 23'9		
Bolton and Leigh ...	15,142	+ 0'3	+ 2'5	15,211	+ 2'6	+ 6'5		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	9,773	- 0'3	+ 5'6	9,896	+ 2'7	+ 10'2		
Manchester District ...	9,338	- 1'7	+ 3'7	7,591	+ 4'3	+ 19'7		
Preston and Chorley ...	10,128	+ 0'1	+ 2'6	9,043	+ 2'4	+ 10'4		
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	21,188	- 0'1	+ 1'7	20,572	+ 0'1	+ 5'1		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	18,283	+ 0'9	+ 2'1	20,599	+ 1'1	+ 7'2		
Other Lancs. Towns ...	4,901	+ 0'5	+ 9'0	4,241	+ 2'0	+ 18'9		
Yorkshire Towns ...	5,425	+ 0'6	+ 4'7	5,421	+ 2'1	+ 13'8		
Other Districts ...	4,122	+ 0'5	+ 11'0	4,867	+ 0'8	+ 22'0		
Total ...	126,268	+ 0'1	+ 3'6	120,718	+ 2'0	+ 12'4		

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of August the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5'85d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6'01d., and the lowest 5'61d. The price for July was 5'93d., and for August, 1904, 6'21d. For the period from 1st to 11th September the average price of "middling American" was 5'70d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" in August averaged 7'61d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7'18d., and the lowest 7'18d. The price for July was 7'56d., and for August, 1904, 7'17d. For the period from 1st to 11th September the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7'56d. per lb.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month ended August 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August		Eight months ended August 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
		Bales.	Bales.		Bales.	Bales.
American ...	196,900	+45,967	+103,092	2,021,191	+602,367	+368,555
Brazilian ...	7,304	+3,662	+3,634	35,462	-13,231	-56,905
East Indian ...	3,831	-1,311	-374	21,444	-46,043	-16,153
Egyptian ...	20,174	+5,880	+11,137	217,187	+16,494	+45,318
Miscellaneous ...	4,013	+668	+567	25,311	+2,661	+12,140
Total	231,782	+54,346	+110,838	2,320,595	+556,026	+399,575

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on September 8th, 1905, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 734,970 bales, compared with 154,010 bales at September 9th, 1904.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

The following Table shows the quantities of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	Month ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August,		Eight Months ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
		1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.		1000's lbs.	1000's lbs.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—						
Grey ...	14,516	+ 3,057	+ 5,852	105,410	+ 21,625	+ 27,011
Bleached ...	5,459	+ 1,030	+ 681	26,704	+ 7,851	+ 5,185
Dyed ...						
Total ...	17,955	+ 4,087	+ 6,534	132,114	+ 29,476	+ 32,196
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached ...	212,223	+ 19,443	+ 49,304	1,537,586	+ 269,405	+ 165,718
Bleached ...	144,761	+ 807	+ 26,246	1,157,899	+ 183,772	+ 217,732
Printed ...	95,569	+ 217	+ 5,564	685,432	+ 2,813	+ 2,688
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	104,795	+ 9,235	+ 6,316	722,312	+ 76,711	+ 106,527
Total ...	560,348	+ 20,269	+ 76,302	4,076,229	+ 477,075	+ 487,919

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent and on Returns from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Woollen and Worsted trades during August showed a slight decline compared with the previous month; compared with a year ago there was a considerable improvement. The prices of all kinds of raw material continue very high.

Woollen Trade.

Employment in the Woollen trade showed a slight decline but continued good and was considerably better than a year ago. Overtime and some night work were reported from Huddersfield, the Colne Valley, and the heavy woollen district.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last full week in August was 26,718, an increase of 0'2 per cent. upon the number employed by these firms in the last week of July, and of 2'0 per cent. upon the number employed in the corresponding week of August, 1904.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 16,856 workpeople furnished information as to wages paid. From these returns it appears that in the last full week in August there was a decrease of 0'1 per cent. in the number employed and of 1'0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with July. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2'8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7'2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The following Table relates only to those firms who furnished information as to wages paid as well as numbers employed in the three periods mentioned.

Departments—	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	Number employed at end of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay day in August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		
Wool Sorting ...	423	+ 1'9	- 2'8	450	+ 2'3	+ 1'6		
Spinning ...	2,687	- 0'3	+ 1'2	2,295	- 1'0	+ 1'7		
Weaving ...	6,333	- 1'0	+ 2'7	5,513	- 0'5	+ 7'5		
Other Departments	4,772	+ 0'8	+ 2'0	4,765	- 1'2	+ 7'6		
Unspecified ...	2,641	+ 0'4	+ 7'1	2,344	- 2'3	+ 12'7		
Total ...	16,856	- 0'1	+ 2'8	15,388	- 1'0	+ 7'2		

Districts—	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	Number employed at end of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay day in August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		
Huddersfield District ...	2,533	- 1'0	+ 4'5	2,680	- 0'9	+ 9'3		
Leeds District ...	1,784	- 0'2	+ 1'2	1,577	+ 4'2	+ 3'8		
Dewsbury & Batley District	3,149	+ 1'4	+ 5'2	3,042	+ 0'8	+ 7'3		
Other Parts of West Riding	1,029	+ 4'8	- 6'9	880	+ 3'5	- 10'8		
Total West Riding ...	8,495	+ 0'7	+ 2'5	8,179	+ 1'2	+ 5'0		
Scotland ...	6,438	- 0'3	+ 5'0	5,347	- 4'3	+ 14'4		
Other Districts ...	1,923	- 2'6	- 3'3	1,862	- 0'3	+ 1'3		
Total Woollen ...	16,856	- 0'1	+ 2'8	15,388	- 1'0	+ 7'2		

From this Table it will be seen that the decline during the last full week in August, as compared with July, was marked only in Scotland. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in all the principal districts, that in Scotland and Huddersfield district being most pronounced.

Worsted Trade.

Employment in the Worsted Trade continued quiet throughout August. With woollers and wool-combers it was bad. Compared with a year ago employment showed an improvement in all branches except the spinning, where there was a slight decline.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns for the last full week in August was 50,137, a decrease of 0'4 per cent. upon the number employed in July, and an increase of 1'6 per cent. upon the number employed in August, 1904.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 36,609 workpeople furnished information as to wages paid. From these returns it appears that in August there was a decrease of 0'6 per

cent. in the number employed, and of 0'5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with July. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1'3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5'6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The following Table relates only to those firms who furnished information as to wages paid as well as numbers employed in the three periods mentioned.

Departments—	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed at end of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay day in August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		
Wool Combing & Sorting	3,401	- 0'3	+ 5'4	3,463	- 2'8	+ 5'8		
Spinning ...	18,397	- 0'3	- 0'9	10,131	- 0'2	+ 1'1		
Weaving ...	8,729	- 1'1	+ 6'7	7,575	- 0'2	+ 10'5		
Other Departments	4,196	- 0'8	- 3'2	4,221	- 0'4	+ 4'3		
Unspecified ...	1,886	- 0'3	+ 2'3	1,573	...	+ 5'6		
Total ...	36,609	- 0'6	+ 1'3	26,963	- 0'5	+ 5'6		

Districts—	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed at end of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay day in August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		
Bradford District ...	20,236	- 0'5	+ 2'2	13,970	- 0'9	+ 7'0		
Keighley District ...	5,569	- 1'1	+ 2'1	4,211	- 2'0	+ 2'4		
Halifax District ...	2,953	- 0'9	- 3'0	2,615	- 3'4	- 5'0		
Huddersfield District	4,401	+ 0'3	+ 1'7	4,104	+ 2'9	+ 16'4		
Other Parts of West Riding	2,384	+ 0'1	+ 2'3	1,547	+ 5'0	+ 5'4		
Total West Riding ...	35,543	- 0'5	+ 1'7	26,357	- 0'4	+ 6'2		
Other Districts ...	1,066	- 3'0	- 10'3	606	- 6'0	- 15'6		
Total Worsted ...	36,609	- 0'6	+ 1'3	26,963	- 0'5	+ 5'6		

Employment in Bradford although slightly worse than in the last full week in July was considerably better than a year ago. In Huddersfield it was slightly better than a month ago and very much better than a year ago, and the miscellaneous group in the West Riding showed an improvement. In Halifax there was a marked decline.

Prices of Raw Material.

The course of prices at Bradford for the three periods, August, 1905, July, 1905, and August, 1904, is shown in the Table below. Compared with July, there was an advance in the prices of Lincoln Hogs and Botany Tops, but no change in that of Crossbred Tops. The prices of all these classes of wool were considerably higher than during recent years.

	August, 1905.	July, 1905.	August, 1904.
Lincoln Hogs ...	13 to 13½	13½ to 13	11½ to 11
40's Crossbred tops ...	16½	16½	14½ to 14
60's Super Botany tops ...	25½ to 26½	25½ to 25½	24½ to 24

Imports and Exports.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported and exported raw wool, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and of woollen and worsted piece goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	Month ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August,		Eight Months ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
		1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.		1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMB'S)						

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT was, on the whole, better than a month ago and a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns in the last full week in August, 1905, was 57,222, an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with the last full week in July, and of 0.8 per cent. compared with August, 1904. In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, firms employing 49,311 operatives have stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. From these returns it appears that, compared with July, there was an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.1 per cent. in the wages paid. Compared with a year ago there were increases of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed in last week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in last week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		
Preparing ...	6,666	+ 0.6	+ 1.5	3,535	+ 1.1	+ 1.9		
Spinning ...	10,802	+ 0.4	...	4,692	+ 0.4	- 0.2		
Weaving ...	17,849	+ 0.6	+ 0.8	10,333	+ 1.8	+ 0.6		
Other ...	6,764	+ 0.3	- 0.4	5,121	+ 1.7	+ 2.5		
Departments not specified	7,230	+ 0.4	+ 1.0	3,913	- 0.3	+ 2.2		
Total ...	49,311	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	27,594	+ 1.1	+ 1.2		
Districts.								
Belfast ...	18,228	+ 0.4	+ 0.2	10,247	+ 1.6	+ 2.7		
Other Places in Ireland	16,913	+ 0.7	+ 1.8	8,517	+ 0.8	+ 1.8		
Ireland ...	35,141	+ 0.6	+ 1.0	18,764	+ 1.2	+ 2.3		
Fifeshire ...	7,114	+ 0.2	- 1.7	4,429	+ 1.7	- 4.1		
Other Places in Scotland	6,055	+ 0.4	+ 0.1	3,797	- 0.1	+ 2.1		
Scotland ...	13,169	+ 0.3	- 0.8	8,226	+ 0.9	- 1.3		
United Kingdom*	49,311	+ 0.5	+ 0.6	27,594	+ 1.1	+ 1.2		

Compared with a month ago a slight improvement was shown in Ireland and in Fifeshire.

The Employers' Association for Belfast and Ulster reported employment in the spinning branch as good. Trade Unions in Belfast reported it as fair generally in the spinning branch but as bad with power loom tenters and quiet with weavers. In Dunfermline an improvement was reported. At Kilbirnie and Johnstone short time was reported.

Compared with a year ago there was a slight general improvement except in Fifeshire which showed a decline.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	Month ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August,		Eight months ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with the corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
		Imports:				
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) Tons	5,593	+ 3,565	+ 1,363	74,068	+ 18,061	- 204
Exports:						
Linen Yarn 100 Lbs.	12,823	+ 1,237	+ 1,878	95,482	- 165	+ 3,211
Linen Piece Goods, Yds.	142,428	+ 21,662	+ 4,751	1,219,404	+ 132,804	+ 177,886

The increase in the quantity of linen piece goods exported in 1905 as compared with both 1904 and 1903 is very noticeable.

* Including 6 returns from Yorkshire.

JUTE TRADE.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was still only moderate, although better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. The number of workpeople employed in the last full week in August, by firms making returns, was 26,242, an increase of 3.0 per cent. on the number employed in the last full week in July, and a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed a year ago. Of the total number covered by the returns, 22,252 were employed in Dundee, an increase of 3.6 per cent. as compared with the number employed by the same firms in July, and a decrease of 1.2 per cent. as compared with August, 1904.

Firms employing 20,242 workpeople supplied particulars of the wages paid in the last week of August, 1905, compared with a month ago and a year ago. The following Table, which summarises these returns, shows that compared with a month ago there was some improvement, and compared with a year ago there was a decline in employment.

Department.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	Number employed in last full week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in last full week of August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week of		Per cent.	Per cent.
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		
Preparing ...	4,644	+ 5.1	- 1.5	2,894	+ 3.2	+ 0.5		
Spinning ...	5,542	+ 3.5	- 1.0	3,165	+ 3.6	...		
Weaving ...	6,774	+ 4.4	- 1.3	4,703	+ 4.0	- 3.5		
Other ...	2,059	+ 1.2	- 3.4	2,055	+ 1.7	- 2.9		
Undefined...	1,223	+ 0.1	- 0.7	885	+ 0.5	+ 1.0		
Total ...	20,242	+ 3.9	- 1.5	13,702	+ 3.2	- 1.4		

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated:—

Description.	Month ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August,		Eight months ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
		Imports:				
Jute... Tons	2,821	+ 1,335	- 480	144,360	- 10,715	+ 57,350
Exports:						
Jute Yarn 100 Lbs.	24,804	- 7,475	- 3,200	288,597	- 10,944	- 25,345
Jute Piece Goods, Yds.	121,742	- 9,089	- 33,755	1,073,757	- 242,173	- 228,510

The decline of jute manufactures in 1905 as compared with both 1904 and 1903 is shown by this Table.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Silk trade showed very little change compared with a month ago. Compared with August, 1904, there was a slight improvement.

Number of Workpeople.

The number of workpeople employed at the end of August by firms making returns was 10,258, about the same as in July, and 252 more than in August, 1904.

Little variation is shown in the numbers employed in the different departments as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the increase in numbers employed was confined to the spinning and weaving departments.

Compared with the previous month, there was a slight decline in the numbers employed in August in the two chief districts—Lancashire and West Riding, and Eastern Counties—but a counter-balancing increase in the remaining districts. Compared with a year ago the increase was most marked in the miscellaneous group of districts and in the Macclesfield district.

Districts.	Number employed in August, 1905, by firms making returns.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Lancashire and W. Riding of York	3,376	- 0.1	+ 1.8
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	1,973	+ 1.4	+ 7.1
Leek ...	688	+ 1.2	+ 4.0
Eastern Counties ...	2,339	- 1.3	- 3.5
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,882	+ 0.3	+ 10.2
Total ...	10,258	+ 0.0	+ 2.5

Number of Spindles and Looms.

From the following Table, showing the numbers of spindles and looms returned as working in the three periods specified, it will be seen that there was a slight increase in the number of throwing spindles at work at the end of August as compared with July, and a slight decrease in the number of spinning spindles and of looms. Compared with a year ago there was a considerable decrease in the number of throwing spindles and an increase in the number of spinning spindles and of looms.

Spindles and Looms.	Number of Spindles and Looms working in last week of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	August, 1905.	July, 1905.	August, 1904.	July, 1905.	August, 1904.
	Throwing Spindles ...	153,941	153,634	169,827	+ 0.2	- 9.4
Spinning Spindles ...	112,046	112,114	107,215	- 0.1	+ 4.5
Looms ...	4,334	4,398	4,188	- 1.5	+ 3.5

The increase in the number of throwing spindles at work, as compared with July, occurred mainly in the Lancashire and West Riding, and the Macclesfield districts. The number of spinning spindles increased in the Lancashire and West Riding district and decreased in the Eastern Counties. The decline in the number of looms was most marked in the Lancashire and West Riding district and in the Eastern Counties.

Compared with a year ago, the decline in the number of throwing spindles occurred mainly in the Eastern Counties. The increase in the number of spinning spindles was most marked in that district and in the Macclesfield district; in Lancashire and West Riding and Leek there was a decline. The number of looms working was greater in all districts except the Eastern Counties, where there was a falling off.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of raw and thrown silk, of spun silk yarn, and the exports of thrown silk and yarn and of silk broadstuffs are shown in the Table below for the periods specified:—

Description.	Month ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August,		Eight Months ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
		Imports:—				
Raw Silk ... Lbs.	168,856	+ 77,626	+ 24,421	809,990	- 16,148	+ 88,026
Thrown Silk ... Lbs.	51,324	+ 9,237	+ 6,913	370,302	+ 3,940	+ 11,599
Spun Silk Yarn ... Lbs.	23,780	+ 727	+ 16,796	240,868	+ 114,594	+ 161,471
Exports:—						
Thrown Silk, Twist & Yarn ... Lbs.	57,568	+ 25,501	- 1,559	545,378	+ 172,575	+ 23,265
Silk Broad-stuffs ... Yds.	709,843	+ 331,007	+ 290,859	4,566,273	+ 1,644,970	+ 1,396,461

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

Employment showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a considerable improvement compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 19,863 workpeople, and paying £14,638 in wages during the last full week in August made returns, which are summarised in the Table

below. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 5.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was fairly regular, but was still only moderate. At Hinckley it was good; at Loughborough moderate. In the Nottingham district it was fairly good, better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago; in the Derbyshire district it was not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. In Hawick and Selkirk employment was good.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns received.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on last pay-day in	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		Aug., 1905.	July, 1905.		Aug., 1904.	July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.
Leicester ...	8,697	+ 0.1	+ 3.1	£ 6,875	+ 0.2	+ 4.9
Leicester Country District ...	2,757	+ 0.1	+ 7.6	2,309	+ 0.9	+ 6.7
Notts and Derbyshire ...	3,979	+ 0.2	+ 3.7	2,957	- 1.9	+ 17.8
Hawick ...	821	+ 3.5	+ 5.4	660	+ 1.7	+ 4.4
Other Parts of Scotland ...	2,163	+ 0.5	+ 2.1	1,166	+ 8.0	+ 5.4
Other Parts of United Kingdom	1,446	+ 4.4	+ 5.5	702	- 2.0	+ 0.9
Total ...	19,863	+ 0.6	+ 5.0	£ 14,638	+ 0.4	+ 7.3

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Lace Trade.

(Based on Returns from an Employers' Association, a Trade Union, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though still bad, was on the whole slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. In Nottingham it was reported as bad in the levers branch, but better than a month ago and a year ago; as bad in the curtain branch, and about the same as a year ago; in the plain net branch it was good, and slightly better than a year ago. Employment was reported as good in the levers section at Beeston; as fair at Stapleford and Sandiacre; moderate at Kimberley and Bulwell. Employment at Long Eaton was slack. At Glasgow and Newmilns it was good, and better than a month ago.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was reported as better than a month ago and a year ago. About two-fifths of the Trade Union members worked overtime, and about one-half worked short time.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment was reported as good at Manchester, and better than a month ago; at New Mills it was fair; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was good, about one-half working overtime. At Glasgow it was fairly good with calico printers, very good with engravers to calico printers, and bad with block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester employment showed a further decline, and was slack. At Loughborough also a decline was reported. Employment was slack with dyers on lace goods at Nottingham and Basford, but good with those engaged on silk goods. With bleachers at Basford it was quiet; with hosiery trimmers it was worse than a month ago. Employment generally was better than a year ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In Dundee employment was reported as fair in the finishing departments, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago; the Trade Union bleachfield workers reported it as good; the Trade Union calenderers as bad.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal decline, but was better than in August, 1904. In the *ready-made* branch employment generally continued moderate, but was better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment showed the usual seasonal decline; it was better than a year ago. Firms paying £9,000 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended August 26th showed a decrease of 19.3 per cent. in the amount paid compared with the four weeks ended July 29th, but an increase of 5.2 per cent. on the corresponding period a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was bad at Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin; fair at Belfast.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was dull, and slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment during the month was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. According to returns received from firms employing about 9,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during August was good with firms employing 39 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 59 per cent., and bad with firms employing 2 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 65 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 18 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 17 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 62 per cent. reported it as improved, firms employing 19 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 19 per cent. as worse.

Other Centres.—In Manchester employment was moderate and slightly worse than a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In Bristol employment continued moderate, and was better than a year ago. It was fair at Leicester, good at Kettering, not so good at Wellingborough. At Norwich employment was fairly good; at Colchester it was fair. In Glasgow employment continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on Returns received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent, and on Returns from Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued quiet, and showed a further slight decline compared with a month ago; it was a little better than a year ago.

The number employed in the last full week in August by the 586 firms making returns was 74,703, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 478 firms, employing 63,193 workpeople, have stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review. These returns showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last full week in July, and an increase of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Leicester there was a considerable decline, and the closing of two firms (not included in the returns) threw several out of work. In Northampton employment was fairly regular. At Kettering, although the returns show an increase in the amount of wages paid by firms making returns, there was a decline in the number employed by them, and the Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment there as dull; in the Higham and Rushden district employment improved with the army boot makers. At Norwich employment was reported as still good, although declining. In the Leeds district, although a marked improvement was shown, employment was still reported as bad, with many unemployed.

Compared with a year ago there was a general improvement, but in the Leeds district employment was worse than a year ago, although the amount of wages paid in August, 1904, in that district was 16.8 per cent.

less than in August, 1903. In London also there was a marked decline.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during last week in August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in August, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with last week in	
		July, 1905.	August, 1904.		July, 1905.	August, 1904.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	3,406	- 1.9	+ 1.3	4,081	- 4.2	- 6.6
Leicester	12,706	- 2.1	+ 1.8	12,197	- 7.3	+ 7.4
Leicester Country District	2,938	+ 1.5	- 0.4	2,671	+ 5.2	+ 4.2
Northampton	8,606	+ 0.3	+ 8.3	8,324	- 0.7	+ 9.8
Northampton Country District	8,940	+ 0.2	+ 0.8	8,438	+ 2.2	+ 3.8
Kettering	3,001	- 1.2	+ 2.2	3,148	+ 5.2	+ 6.6
Stafford and District	2,510	- 1.2	+ 2.2	2,088	- 1.4	+ 4.0
Norwich & District	4,030	- 1.6	+ 2.4	3,358	- 4.5	+ 4.0
Bristol & District	2,155	+ 0.7	- 4.5	1,590	+ 3.1	- 4.2
Kingswood	2,488	+ 0.8	- 3.1	2,638	+ 6.8	+ 3.0
Leeds and District	2,859	+ 0.8	- 10.6	2,741	+ 6.3	- 3.0
Manchester & District	1,755	- 1.1	+ 0.4	1,749	+ 2.3	+ 4.3
Birmingham & District	872	- 3.5	- 6.4	713	- 3.3	- 11.8
Other parts of England and Wales	2,589	- 0.3	- 0.7	2,046	- 2.2	+ 0.3
England and Wales	58,855	- 0.7	+ 1.1	56,182	- 1.0	+ 3.6
SCOTLAND	3,807	- 0.3	- 4.7	3,768	- 1.2	- 2.7
IRELAND	531	+ 6.6	- 1.1	408	+ 7.9	+ 1.5
UNITED KINGDOM	63,193	- 0.6	+ 0.7	60,358	- 0.9	+ 3.2

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported during August, 1905, and the eight months ended August, 1905, together with the increases or decreases as compared with the corresponding periods of 1903 and 1904:—

	Month ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with August,		Eight months ended Aug. 31st, 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with corresponding period in	
		1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
		Imports				
Dozen pairs	16,775	+ 1,538	- 731	147,546	+ 4,166	- 13,484
Value £	48,711	- 3,061	- 17,045	576,496	+ 50,431	- 68,251
Re-Exports						
Dozen pairs	1,147	+ 64	- 933	9,619	- 2,962	- 4,702
Value £	3,381	+ 24	- 2,367	25,548	- 8,359	- 13,080
Exports (British and Irish)						
Dozen pairs	74,535	+ 12,311	+ 328	492,287	+ 78,304	- 44,018
Value £	184,910	+ 32,536	+ 1,582	1,183,586	+ 210,039	- 96,170

HAT TRADE.

(Based on Returns from Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.)

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 14.2, compared with 13.1 at the end of July, and 14.2 a year ago. Employment in London was slack, but better than a year ago. In Denton employment remained quiet. In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 3.4, compared with 2.7 at the end of July, and 2.1 a year ago. In Denton the number unemployed was much increased by the failure of a firm. In the remaining districts employment generally was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Local Correspondents, Trade Unions, and Women's Employment Bureaux in London.)

EMPLOYMENT in London showed the usual seasonal slackness, and was about the same as a year ago; firms employing 5,231 workpeople in the dressmaking, blouse, and millinery trades in the last week in August employed 791 fewer than a month ago, and 108 more than a year ago. Employment in the shirt and collar trade continued fairly good and was better than a year ago. In the corset trade it was moderate and better than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

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

THE returns show that employment in the printing and bookbinding trades was slack generally, and considerably worse in the former than a month ago, though better with bookbinders. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement with lithographic printers and bookbinders; letterpress printers showed little general change.

In *letterpress printing* there was a considerable decline in employment, especially in the provinces, partly owing to the completion of the voters' lists. In Scotland, however, employment improved. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 39,620 members had 6.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.5 per cent. in July, and 6.1 per cent. in August, 1904. In *lithographic printing* employment was moderate on the whole, there being a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a considerable improvement compared with a year ago. Trade Unions of lithographic printers and artists with 6,534 members had 4.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4.9 a month ago, and 5.8 a year ago. With *bookbinders* employment remained bad, but was better than a month and a year ago. Trade Unions with 7,020 members had 6.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 7.7 in July, and 7.8 in August, 1904.

The following Table shows by districts the percentage unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades*:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1905 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Aug., 1905.	July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London	22,438	6.7	5.9	6.7	+ 0.8	...
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,881	6.1	2.9	5.7	+ 3.2	+ 0.4
Lanes. and Cheshire	6,946	7.7	5.3	8.4	+ 2.4	- 0.7
East Midlands and Eastern Counties	2,528	6.0	4.3	6.0	+ 1.7	...
West Midlands	2,506	7.1	4.3	8.2	+ 2.8	- 1.1
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,718	4.3	1.4	2.8	+ 2.9	+ 1.5
Scotland	5,348	3.0	3.6	2.6	- 0.6	+ 0.4
Ireland	2,809	7.7	9.4	10.5	- 1.7	- 2.8
United Kingdom	53,174	6.2	4.9	6.3	+ 1.3	- 0.1

London.—With letterpress printers employment underwent a further decline and was worse than a year ago. With electrotypers and stereotypers, however, employment was fairly good and better than a month and a year ago. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 16,709 members had 6.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5.3 in July, and 6.3 in August, 1904. In the lithographic trade employment with printers was quiet, but better than a month ago and year ago; with lithographic artists it continued good. Bookbinders remained badly employed, with much short time; there was, however, an improvement compared with July, 1905, and August, 1904. The percentage unemployed of 3,703 Trade Union bookbinders was 7.2 at the end of August, against 8.6 a month ago and 8.7 a year ago.

Other Centres.—In Edinburgh the letterpress branches were busy, most of the larger offices having a good deal of overtime. Lithographic printers were not well employed, but bookbinders reported employment as better than in any month during the past two years. With typefounders employment remained unsatisfactory, short time continuing to be worked. At Glasgow employment with letterpress printers declined until the end of the month, when work began on the voters' lists; in some offices, however, overtime was worked on certain jobs. At Manchester and Liverpool employment with bookbinders was worse than a year ago, and at Manchester it was also worse than a month ago. Lithographic printers at Liverpool reported employment as bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Letterpress printers at Derby reported it as good.

employing 929 dressmakers in the last week in August, showed a decrease of 31.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 13.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Court dressmakers, employing 558 workpeople, showed a decrease of 54.7 per cent. compared with the end of July, and of 9.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms employing 2,698 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the last week in August showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment was fairly good during the month, and better than in July, but worse than a year ago. Firms employing 1,046 milliners showed an increase of 26.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago; the increase was entirely in the wholesale branch, the retail branch showing a decline, as is usual in August.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a decline in the demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago; the supply was greater than the demand, and about the same as a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a month ago, but slightly worse than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was moderate, being worse than a month ago and about the same as a year ago; firms employing 1,849 workpeople in the last week in August showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,054 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) and paying £4,132 in wages during the last week in August, showed an increase of 6.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a year ago; compared with a month ago, there was no change except in Scotland, where holidays affected the returns for July. Employment was reported as good in London, Manchester, Glasgow, and Belfast; as moderate in London-derry.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,821 workpeople in their factories at the end of August showed a further decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was reported as moderate during the month. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 63 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 6 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 31 per cent. as worse.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on Returns from an Employers' Association, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT remained quiet during August, but was considerably better than a year ago, Trade Unions with a membership of 4,628 having 6.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 6.3 per cent. in July and 9.7 in August, 1904.

Skinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment, though still quiet, was better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. In London, however, it was worse than in July.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—Employment remained quiet, but was better than a year ago, and rather better than a month ago. Short time was still worked at Walsall by saddlers, but some horse collar makers were on overtime. In London employment was reported as having improved with saddlers and declined with harness makers.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Employment with portmanteau and trunk makers was fairly good, and better than a month ago and year ago. With fancy leather workers it was fair, and rather better than a year ago, but worse than in July.

PAPER TRADES.

(Based on Returns from Employers, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT remained fairly good generally in the machine trade, and slack in the hand-made trade, showing little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 20,918 workpeople at the end of August showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with July and of 1.2 per cent. as compared with August, 1904. This decline is, however, entirely due to the closing of two hand-made mills in Kent for repairs.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Aug., 1905, 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 ...	7,128	- 0.3	+ 0.4
Midlands, Wales and Ireland ...	1,828	+ 4.5	+ 0.2
Southern Counties ...	6,244	...	+ 2.7
Scotland ...	5,153	+ 0.4	+ 0.2
Total Machine-made Paper, &c. ...	20,355	+ 0.4	+ 1.0
Hand-made Paper ...	565*	- 43.9*	- 44.5*
Total ...	20,918*	- 1.7*	- 1.2*

Trade Unions in the machine-made trade with 1,771 members had 3.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of August, against 1.7 per cent. a month ago and 2.0 per cent. a year ago. In the hand-made trade, Trade Unions with 620 members had 7.6 per cent. unemployed, against 6.7 in July, 1905, and August, 1904.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT during August continued fair on the whole. Compared with a month ago, the coach- and brush-making trades showed a decline, but an improvement has to be recorded in the furnishing trades. Compared with a year ago, there was a general improvement. The percentage of Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades unemployed at the end of August was 5.0, as compared with the same percentage at the end of July, 1905, and with 6.4 at the end of August, 1904.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued slack, but showed a slight improvement compared with a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,938 showed 25.5 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 5.1 per cent. at the end of July, 1905, and 5.8 per cent. at the end of August, 1904.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment, though slack, showed some improvement compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 14,026, showed 9.13 (or 6.5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 7.4 per cent. at the end of July, 1905, and 8.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1904.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was not quite so good as a month ago, but a little better than a year ago. In the principal English centres and at Glasgow it remained dull, but in the other Scottish centres and at Dublin it was good.

Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry was generally moderate, and not so good as a month ago though better than a year ago. In London, however, and at Leicester and Derby it was good. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with

* Two mills in the hand-made trade, employing 442 workpeople, were closed for repairs in August. The state of employment at these mills being fairly good previous to closing, it is anticipated that the full number of workpeople will be required after the completion of the repairs.

a membership of 8,318, reported 232 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 2.0 per cent. at the end of July, 1905, and 4.0 per cent. at the end of August, 1904.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was dull and worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was generally fair; with basket makers it was bad in London, but good elsewhere.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the Glass trades was slack and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. It continued slack in the Pottery trades, and moderate in the Brick and Tile trades.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers was slack and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham were fairly busy.

Employment with flint-glass makers was bad on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, good at Glasgow, fairly good at Birmingham, and moderate at Barnsley. Employment with flint-glass cutters continued quiet generally. It was bad at Birmingham, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. Employment with sheet-glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens continued good. With pressed-glass makers in the Tyne and Wear district it continued slack, with much short time. With plate-glass bevellers at Birmingham it continued fair. Employment with glass blowers in London was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment was slack, and an extension of the holidays was generally observed, some works being closed ten days and others a fortnight instead of the usual week. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) there was some improvement, three factories being on full time, and the remainder working about four days per week. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment continued fair. In the South Yorkshire district employment was moderate, about four days per week being worked. Employment in the Woodville district continued good with conduit pipe makers, and quiet with sanitary ware makers; with drain pipe makers it had improved. In the North and South Devon districts it was quiet generally.

In Scotland employment generally was fair, and better than a year ago. At Glasgow it continued dull with tobacco-pipe makers, and bad with white hollow-ware potters, four days per week being again worked.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Peterborough district improved slightly. It was good in the Oldham district; brisk in the Tees and Hartlepool district; fairly good in the Market Harborough and Woodville districts; steady at Norwich, Wroxham and Cambridge; fair in South Wales, and at Ipswich and Chelmsford; quiet in North Wales, at Calstock and Gunnislake, and in the Sibley district; moderate in the Nottingham district, and in South Staffordshire; slack in the Sheffield and Rotherham district; dull in the Plymouth district, and at Exeter; and bad in the Birmingham district, and in the Sudbury district of Suffolk.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on Reports from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

FARM labourers were, generally speaking, in regular employment until towards the end of the month, when day labourers in many districts lost some time on account of wet weather. The corn harvest caused an increase in the demand for extra labour, but owing to the large use made of self-binders and to the light crop of oats

in some districts the demand was less than usual. The supply of extra men for this work was generally quite sufficient, and in several districts it was in excess of the demand. A scarcity of men for permanent positions continued to be reported from districts in the south-western counties.

Northern Counties.—Agricultural employment in Northumberland and Cumberland, though generally regular, was interrupted somewhat by rain, and the light corn crops in these counties caused a less demand than usual for extra labour. Employment in Westmorland was regular, but in Lancashire rain caused some interruption of outdoor work. In Yorkshire farm labourers were well employed until near the end of the month, when rain delayed harvesting operations and some day labourers were in irregular work in consequence. The supply of this class of labour was greater than the demand in several districts, and harvest wages were lower than a year ago in certain localities.

Midland Counties.—Employment was somewhat irregular with day labourers in Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire on account of wet weather. Harvesting generally gave full employment in Leicestershire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire, but some loss of time is reported in the case of day labourers. Rain caused some extra men in Worcestershire to be in irregular employment for a few days. In Warwickshire employment was generally regular. A scarcity of extra men was reported in the Stratford-on-Avon Union. A few day labourers in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire lost time during the last days of the month on account of wet weather. There was a plentiful supply of extra men for harvest in these counties. In Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, and Bedfordshire the harvest generally provided full employment.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was regular for farm labourers in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, and Lincolnshire until the last week of the month, when rain delayed harvesting operations and some day labourers lost a little time. In Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex agricultural labourers were for the most part fully employed in the harvest fields. The supply of extra men was quite equal to the demand, and at the end of the month, when harvesting was practically completed, some men of this class were not in constant employment.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was regular in Kent until the close of the month, when rain interrupted harvesting and hop-picking. In Surrey farm labourers were, generally speaking, in full employment during the greater part of the month. Employment was generally regular in Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire, but a few day labourers on harvest work lost time through rain. There was a good demand for this class of men in districts where the corn was laid by storms and had to be cut by hand, but there was no scarcity of men for the work. Employment in the counties of Dorset, Somerset, Herefordshire, Gloucester, and Devon was fairly regular. The supply of day labourers for harvesting, hoeing, etc. in these counties was generally quite sufficient, but in several districts men for permanent positions continued to be scarce. Regularity of employment is reported in Cornwall. The supply of cattlemen and milkers was not equal to the demand in this county.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based, as regards London, on Returns from Dock Companies, the Owners of the principal Wharves, the Shipping Federation, and Trade Unions; as regards other principal ports, on information supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents of the Department.)

EMPLOYMENT in August was moderate, and rather worse on the whole than a month ago and a year ago.

London.—Employment was moderate generally, but fair with workers in mid-stream, deal porters, fruit porters, stevedores, lumpers, and lightermen.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended August 26th was 12,081, a decrease of 2.8 per cent. on last month and of 1.4 per cent. on August, 1904.

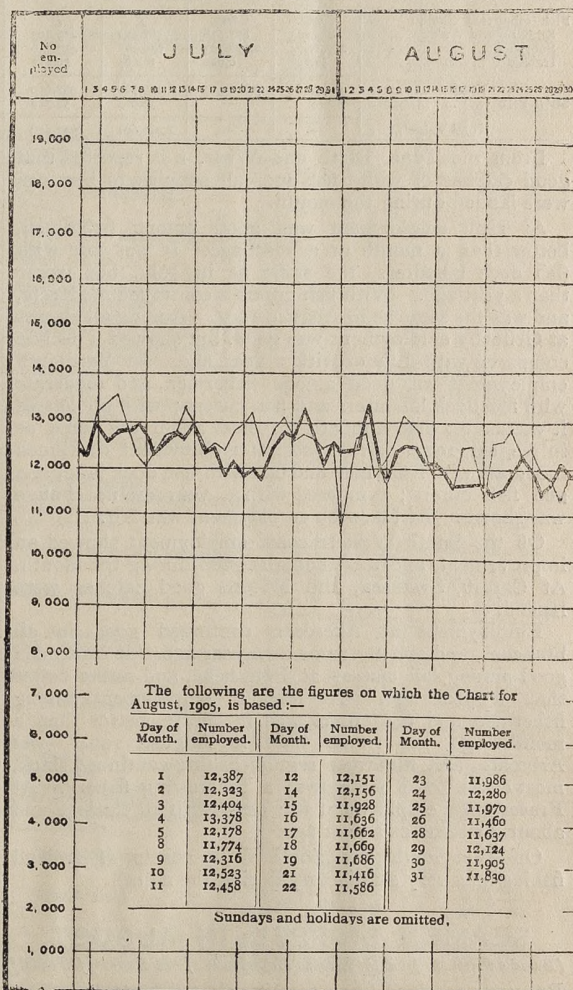
* Exclusive of Tilbury.

The daily numbers ranged from 11,416 on the 21st to 13,378 on the 4th. During August, 1904, the numbers ranged from 10,617 on the 2nd to 13,096 on the 11th.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves.			At 108 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	In Docks				
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Aug. 5th	5,249	2,113	7,362	5,171	12,533
" " " 12th	5,131	1,916	7,047	5,197	12,244
" " " 19th	5,167	1,319	6,486	5,304	11,790
" " " 26th	4,842	1,673	6,515	5,268	11,783
Average for 4 weeks ended August 26th	5,096	1,748	6,844	5,237	12,081
Average for July, 1905	5,668	1,748*	7,416*	5,118	12,488*
Average for Aug., 1904	4,927*	2,011	6,938*	5,314*	12,252*

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 108 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of July and August, 1905. The corresponding curve for July and August, 1904, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1905, and the thin curve to 1904.]



Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during August, 41 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the Office supplies labour, as compared with 43 per cent. last month, and 71 per cent. in August, 1904.

In Liverpool employment was dull with dock labourers and quay and railway carters. With cotton porters and warehousemen it declined.

* Revised figures.

At other ports employment was moderate on the whole. In *South Wales*, however, it was reported as slack, and worse than a month ago, except with coal trimmers, who remained fairly well employed. At *Leith* and *Middlesbrough* employment was good, and better than a year ago.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

The fish landed in August showed a considerable increase in value as compared with a year ago in spite of a slight falling off in the quantity. On the whole, fishermen had a good month in August.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in August, 1905, and August, 1904, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.
Fish (other than Shell):			£	£
England and Wales ...	884,065	877,518	561,363	479,103
Scotland ...	2,348,374	2,358,373	630,121	439,366
Ireland ...	42,821	46,622	18,285	19,171
Total ...	3,275,260	3,282,513	1,209,769	937,640
Shell Fish ...	—	—	30,925	34,718
Total Value ...	—	—	1,240,694	972,358

From the Tyne, Blyth and Wear, it is reported that good catches of white fish and fair supplies of herrings were landed during the month.

At Hull employment was good among fishermen, better than a month or a year ago. It was fair with fish dock labourers, the same as in July, but worse than a year ago. With fish curers it continued moderate, and was the same as in August, 1904. Among all classes at Grimsby employment was good, but showed a decline compared with July or with a year ago. At Yarmouth employment was good among fishermen, and moderate with fish dock labourers and fish curers; with all classes it was better than a month ago, and about the same as in August, 1904. At Lowestoft employment continued moderate with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers; compared with a year ago no change was shown. At Harwich employment was fair.

Off the South-Western coast employment showed an improvement, and was generally good during the month. At Cardiff, Swansea, and Milford good catches were landed.

Employment at Aberdeen continued good in all branches, and was the same as a year ago. It continued good among all classes at Peterhead, and rather better than a year ago. At Macduff employment among fishermen and fish curers was moderate, better than a month ago, but worse than in August, 1904. At Arbroath and Montrose regular fishing continued slack, most of the boats being away at the herring fishery. At Fraserburgh employment was good with all classes, and about the same as a year ago.

Off the South and South-West coasts of Ireland fishing was very satisfactory during the month.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN AUGUST.

(Based on Returns from the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during August 40,113* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 233 on the number shipped in August, 1904. Increases were most marked at London and Swansea; the greatest decreases were at Hull and Cardiff.

During the eight completed months of 1905, 296,648 seamen were shipped, of whom 43,027 (or 14.5 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 1904, the principal increases were at Liverpool

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.

and Glasgow, and the greatest decreases at Southampton and Bristol.

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom during the periods mentioned:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	August.			Eight months ended August.		
	1904.	1905.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.	1904.	1905.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	3,039	3,078	+ 48	23,461	22,710	- 751
Sunderland ...	402	500	+ 98	3,858	3,690	- 168
Middlesbrough ...	301	356	+ 55	2,049	2,420	+ 371
Hull ...	1,223	1,050	- 173	9,052	8,684	- 368
Grimsby ...	112	98	- 14	792	1,101	+ 309
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	716	642	- 74	5,207	4,617	- 590
Newport, Mon. ...	833	714	- 119	6,676	7,409	+ 733
Cardiff ...	4,387	4,215	- 172	36,220	36,456	+ 236
Swansea ...	391	591	+ 200	3,352	4,222	+ 870
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	15,423	15,384	- 39	105,674	109,703	+ 4,029
London ...	6,518	6,756	+ 238	48,456	47,805	- 651
Southampton ...	2,128	2,101	- 27	17,157	15,067	- 2,090
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	238	342	+ 104	3,038	3,456	+ 418
Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grange-mouth ...	218	368	+ 150	1,678	1,914	+ 236
Glasgow ...	3,756	3,758	+ 2	23,356	25,085	+ 1,729
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	3	78	+ 75	512	540	+ 28
Belfast ...	201	82	- 119	1,994	1,769	- 225
Total ...	39,880	40,113	+ 233	292,516	296,648	+ 4,132

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread, per 4 lbs., on September 1st, 1905.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 229 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 125 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

District.	Present Prices (1st Sept., 1905.)			Price last quarter. (1st June, 1905.)			Price a year ago. (1st Sept., 1904.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
ENGLAND AND WALES.									
N. Counties and Yorkshire ...	7	5	5-78	7	4½	5-72	7	4½	5-81
Lancs. & Cheshire ...	6	4½	5-29	6	4	5-29	6	4	5-3
N. Mid. Counties ...	5½	4	4-75	5½	4	4-74	5½	4	4-64
W. do. do. ...	5½	4½	5-18	5½	4½	5-15	5½	4½	5-09
S. do. do. ...	6	4	4-96	6	4	4-98	5½	4	4-82
Eastern Counties ...	6	4½	5-40	6	4½	5-47	6	4½	5-43
London ...	5½	5	5-48	6	5	5-58	5½	5	5-40
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5-63	6	5	5-64	6	5	5-66
S.W. Counties, Wales & Mon. ...	5½	5	5-10	5½	5	5-11	5½	4	5-08
England and Wales ...	7	4	5-24	7	4	5-24	7	4	5-20
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6½	5½	5-77	6½	5½	5-79	6½	5	5-60
Eastern Counties ...	5½	4	4-69	6	4	5-08	6½	4	5-66
Lanarkshire ...	6	5½	5-65	6	5½	5-63	6½	5½	5-68
Other Southern Counties ...	6½	5½	5-93	6½	5½	5-94	6½	5½	6-00
Scotland ...	6½	4	5-77	6½	4	5-77	6½	4	5-78
Great Britain ...	7	4	5-13	7	4	5-13	7	4	5-38

From the above Table it will be seen that the mean of the prices at September 1st charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns remains the same as at June 1st.

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

As compared with the prices a year ago there is a slight increase both in England and Wales, and Scotland.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

The Returns as to the price of bread* per 4 lbs., as furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large provincial towns at the beginning of September.

As compared with a month ago, the prevailing price at September 1st was the same at all the towns given in the Table.

As compared with a year ago, an increase of ¼d. per 4 lbs. has taken place in London, an increase of ½d. per 4 lbs. at Bristol and Dublin, and a decrease of like amount at Glasgow.

Place.	Present Price (1st Sept., 1905.)	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't. per 4 lbs.
London ...	d. 5	d.	d.	April '05	d. ½
Birmingham ...	4½ to 5½	...	...	Aug. '04	— ½
Bolton ...	5	...	...	...	— ½
Bristol ...	5½	...	+	Oct. '04	½
Derby ...	4½ & 5	...	...	Feb. '05	½
Gateshead ...	5½	...	...	Jan. '05	½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	½
Hull ...	4½ & 5½	...	...	Feb. '04	½
Ipswich ...	5½	...	...	Aug. '03	½
Leicester ...	4½	...	...	...	½
Liverpool ...	5	...	...	June '03	...
Manchester ...	4½	...	...	Mar. '05	½
Middlesbro' ...	6	...	...	Aug. '03	½
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	5½	...	...	April '02	½
Norwich ...	4½	...	...	July, '04	— ½
Nottingham ...	5	...	...	...	...
Oldham ...	4½	...	...	Sep. '03	½
Plymouth ...	5	...	...	Feb. '05	— ½
Potteries ...	4½	...	...	Aug. '04	½
Wolverhampton ...	5½	...	...	Mar. '03	½
Aberdeen ...	5½	...	...	Aug. '04	½
Dundee ...	5½	...	...	Aug. '04	½
Edinburgh ...	6	...	...	April '05	— ½
Glasgow ...	5½	...	— ½	May '05	— ½
Belfast ...	5½	...	...	une '05	— ½
Dublin ...	6	...	+ ½	Sep. '04	+ ½

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, the average declared value of the 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 London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price (England and Wales).	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	Average Declared Value.	Average Declared Value.	
1904.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	
August ...	6 9	6 11½	9 3½	10 7½	10 0	
1905.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt. s. d.	
July ...	7 6½	7 1½	9 8½	10 0	10 0	
August ...	6 9	7 1½	9 8½	10 0	10 0	

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1904, to August 31st, 1905, amounted to 105,125,030 cwts., or 12,022,930 cwts. more than in the corresponding twelve months of 1903-4. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the twelve months September to August of 1904-5 amounted to 10,882,143 cwts., or 8,259,615 cwts. less than in the corresponding period of 1903-4.

Index to Memoranda on British and Foreign Trade and Industry.—An Index† has been prepared to the two volumes of Memoranda, Statistical Tables, and Charts, prepared in the Board of Trade, with reference to various matters bearing on British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions (Cd. 1761 of 1903, and Cd. 2337 of 1904), and may be obtained of Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Fetter Lane, London, E.C., or through any bookseller.

* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all places the same, the prices for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago. The prices selected are so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.
† Cd. 2669 of 1905. Price 6d.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The total number of cases of poisoning reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during August was 60, consisting of 59 cases of lead poisoning and 1 of mercurial poisoning. There were no cases of anthrax, and no deaths were reported.

During the eight months ended August, 1905, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 433, as compared with 383 during the corresponding period of 1904. The greatest increase occurred in the lead poisoning group. The number of deaths decreased by 2; deaths due to lead poisoning dropped from 18 to 13, but those due to anthrax rose from 5 to 9.

[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.]

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Aug., 1905.	Eight Months ended Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Eight Months ended Aug., 1904.
	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals ...	1	17	18	—
Brass Works ...	—	4	5	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	1	4	4	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	5	16	15	—
Printing ...	2	12	11	—
File Cutting ...	—	6	16	—
Timing and Enamelling of Iron	—	—	—	3
Hollow-ware ...	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	2	11	7	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	6	58	64	—
China and Earthenware ...	—	3	8	—
Litho-transfer Works ...	—	6	63	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	3	2	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	1	2	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	—	2	1	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	3	16	12	—
Shipbuilding ...	6	41	16	—
Coach Making ...	5	38	29	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	2	21	31	—
Other Industries ...	12	31	15	—
Total Lead Poisoning* ...	7	40	27	—
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making ...	—	—	1	—
Furriers' processes ...	1	1	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	2	2	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning ...	1	3	3	—
Phosphorus Poisoning ...	—	2	1	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ...	—	—	3	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	2	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning ...	—	—	5	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting ...	—	3	2	—
Wool Combing ...	—	15	7	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	6	8	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmougers, &c.) ...	—	9	7	—
Other Industries ...	—	1	7	—
Total Anthrax ...	—	34	33	—
Grand Total ...	60	433	383	—

NOTE.—During August, 1905 and 1904, there were 9 cases affecting females. For the period from January to August, 1905, the total number of such cases was 78, as compared with 72 in the corresponding period of 1904.

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

(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 August, 1905, was 214, being 126 less than in July, 1905, and 3 less than in August, 1904. The unusually high figures for July are mainly owing to the Welsh coal mining disaster in that month. The mean number for August in the years 1900-1904 was 215, the maximum year in this period being 1903, with 242 deaths, and the minimum year 1902, with 195 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in August, 1905, was 71. The number reported in August of the years 1900-1904 varied from 99 to 160, the mean for the five years being 126.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 255, as compared with 321 in the corresponding period of 1904. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents reported in August, 1905, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1905, as compared with	
	Aug., 1905.	July, 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	4	3	1	+ 1	+ 3
Engine Drivers	5	2	1	+ 3	+ 4
Firemen	1	3	3	- 2	- 2
Guards (Passenger)	1	...	...	+ 1	+ 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	12	11	10	+ 1	+ 2
Porters	5	5	5	...	+ 1
Shunters	4	4	3	...	+ 4
Miscellaneous	20	17	16	+ 3	+ 4
Contractors' Servants	2	3	2	- 1	- 1
Total Railway Service	54	48	41	+ 6	+ 13
Mines—					
Underground	70	202	72	- 132	- 2
Surface	10	3	6	+ 2	+ 4
Total Mines	80	210	78	- 130	+ 2
Quarries over 20 feet deep	3	6	11	- 3	- 8
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	5	2	3	+ 3	+ 2
Wool and Worsted	1	...	...	+ 2	...
Other Textiles	2	...	...	...	...
Non Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	2	10	9	- 8	- 7
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	5	1	1	+ 4	+ 4
Ship and Boat Building	9	5	8	+ 4	+ 1
Wood	1	1	4	...	- 3
Chemicals, &c.	1	2	2	- 1	- 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	20	24	31	- 4	- 11
Total Factories	49	46	62	+ 3	- 13
Workshops	...	1	...	- 1	...
Accidents reported under Factory Act, 1903-4	11	12	10	- 1	+ 1
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	1	5	1	+ 4	+ 2
Warehouses	12	8	10	- 2	+ 2
Buildings to which Act applies	...	2	...	...	...
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...
Total under Factory Act, 1903-4	24	27	21	- 3	+ 3
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	4	2	4	+ 2	...
Total, exclusive of Seamen	214	340	217	- 126	- 3
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	18	16	69	- 38	- 51
Steam	49	64	53	+ 15	- 4
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	1	...	...	+ 1	- 2
Steam	3	6	6	- 3	- 3
Total Seamen	71	126	131	- 55	- 60
Total, including Seamen	285	466	348	- 181	- 63

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for August.

IMPORTS.*

	Month ended 31st August.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£ 19,714,996	£ 19,000,932	£ 20,715,395	+ 1,714,463	+ 1,003,399
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	11,739,904	11,964,968	13,894,175	+ 1,929,207	+ 2,154,271
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	11,137,907	11,279,301	12,093,949	+ 814,648	+ 956,042
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	171,649	194,742	159,472	- 35,270	- 12,177
Total value of Imports	£2,761,456	£2,439,943	£4,862,991	+ 4,423,048	+ 4,101,533

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.†

	Month ended 31st August.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1905 as compared with	
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1904.	1903.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 1,617,861	£ 1,722,841	£ 1,934,735	+ 211,894	+ 316,874
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured‡	2,883,415	2,841,682	3,055,467	+ 213,785	+ 172,052
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	20,826,891	21,401,758	24,093,109	+ 2,696,951	+ 3,271,218
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	336,717	394,199	429,525	+ 35,326	+ 92,808
Total value of Exports of British produce	£23,664,884	£26,359,880	£29,517,836	+ 3,157,956	+ 3,852,952

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £5,854,912 in August, 1903; £5,378,489 in August, 1904, and £6,427,636 in August, 1905.

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes. The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended August 31st, 1905, amounted to 3,726,451 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,366,634 tons, as against 3,719,865 tons entered and 4,193,214 tons cleared in the month of August, 1904. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during August, 1905, amounted to 2,870,743 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,801,726 tons, as against 2,837,939 tons entered, and 2,828,510 tons cleared in August, 1904.

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES, VICTORIA, FOR 1904.

THE Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Workrooms and Shops of Victoria, for 1904, gives an account of the various provisions now in force in the State under the nine Factories and Shops Acts passed during the period 1890 to 1904.

The number of factories registered in 1904 was 4,436, employing 61,977 workpeople, as compared with 4,325 factories employing 57,767 workpeople in 1903, and 4,252 factories employing 59,440 workpeople in 1902. The number of Special Boards for the purpose of determining the lowest rates of wages which may be paid in particular trades remain the same as in 1903, viz., 38, affecting about 38,000 workpeople, and determinations made by 37 of them are now in force.

The working hours of all females and of males under 16, employed in factories, are limited to 48 per week, but the Minister of Labour has power to allow overtime, subject to certain conditions, which include payment at the rate of time and a-half, and 6d. tea-money each night; 275 applications for permission to work overtime were granted in 1904, as compared with 209 in 1903. The 275 applications involved 8,261 women, and 455 boys.

The number of accidents occurring in factories and workshops during 1904 was 189, six of which were fatal.

* 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. † 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. § The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values. ¶ Coal, wool, oil seeds, hides and skins, &c. †† Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, machinery, chemicals, &c.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twelve new disputes began in August, 1905, compared with 17 in July, and 15 in August, 1904. By the 12 disputes, 4,089 workpeople were directly and 3,505 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 17,287 workpeople involved in trade disputes during August, 1905, compared with 18,155 in July, 1905, and 12,969 in August, 1904.

New Disputes in August, 1905.—In the following Table the new disputes in August are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining	4	1,913	1,701	3,614
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	2,134	1,804	3,938
Other Trades	3	42	—	42
Total, August, 1905	12	4,089	3,505	7,594
Total, July, 1905	17	11,611	363	11,974
Total, August, 1904	15	3,628	1,179	4,807

Causes.—Of the twelve new disputes, five arose on demands for increased wages, two on objections to reductions, one on another wages question, and four from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in August in the case of eight new disputes, affecting 4,375 workpeople, and six old disputes, affecting 1,548 workpeople. Of these fourteen new and old disputes, five, involving 1,765 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; four, involving 3,624 persons, in favour of the employers; and five, involving 534 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in August of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 142,900 working days. In addition, 203,300 working days were lost during August owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in August of all disputes, new and old, was 346,200 working days, as compared with 275,900 in the previous month, and 228,000 in the corresponding month of 1904.

Summary for the Eight completed Months of 1904 and 1905†.—The number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the eight months January-August, 1904 and 1905, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January to August.					
	1904.			1905.		
	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	30	8,395	329,100	21	6,243	368,000
Mining and Quarrying	65	22,862	409,600	72	37,544	588,700
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	42	8,689	133,100	45	10,348	365,900
Textile	28	6,074	88,600	38	11,006	98,600
Clothing	15	746	8,900	24	2,816	68,100
Transport	3	830	20,850	7	1,359	45,100
Other Trades	27	2,023	48,150	22	3,506	44,000
Total	210	49,619	1,038,300	229	72,822	1,578,400

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1905.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Building—							
Bricklayers	Newcastle and District	225	...	1 May	96	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. per hour, and other alterations in working rules.	Reduction of 1d. per hour agreed to; other working rules amicably arranged.
Coal Mining—							
Colliers, Datalers, Hauliers, Surface Workers, &c.	Wigan	888	1,471	1 Aug.	...	Dispute as to tonnage rates to be paid on alteration in system of drawing coal.	No settlement reported.
Miners, &c.	Nuneaton (near)	900	...	22 June	38	Dispute as to price list	Price list agreed to.
Ship Repairing—							
Ship Painters, General Labourers, and various Trades connected with Ship Repairing	Cardiff, Penarth and Barry	1,500	1,800	1 Aug.	...	Strike on August 1st for increase of wages and reduction of hours, followed by general lock-out on August 12th	Employers succeeded in obtaining sufficient men for the work available

* 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," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

LABOUR CO-PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATION.

THE annual meeting of the Labour Co-partnership Association and exhibition of goods produced in workshops conducted on the co-partnership principle were held in connection with the Eighteenth Co-operative Festival held at the Crystal Palace on the 23rd to 26th of August.

The Exhibition was opened on the 23rd by Mr. Wm. Crooks, M.P., and the annual meeting of the Association took place on the 24th, when an address reviewing the progress of co-partnership during the year was delivered by the President, Councillor T. W. Allen, of Blaina. It was stated that in June 1905, there were 128 co-operative societies in Great Britain at work or commencing work upon co-partnership principles—e.g., sharing profit with their employees and permitting the employees to become shareholders in the societies employing them. In addition, five gas companies were stated to have adopted

the principle and distributed to their employees a total of £344,000, of which about £314,000 has been invested in the companies. In two cases the employees have representatives on the Boards of the Companies.

COAL MINES (WEIGHING OF MINERALS) ACT, 1905. THE above Act, which received the Royal sanction on August 4th, amends those provisions of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, which relate to the weighing of minerals. The principal provisions of the new Act are that the power to appoint a checkweigher, already possessed by the persons employed in a mine, and paid according to the weight of the mineral gotten by them, is extended so as to include power to appoint a deputy to act in the absence of the checkweigher from reasonable cause; and that a statutory declaration, made by the person who presided at a meeting for the purpose of appointing a checkweigher or deputy checkweigher, to the effect that he presided at the meeting and that the person named in the declaration was duly appointed by the meeting, shall be forthwith delivered to the owner, agent or manager of the mine, and shall be *prima facie* evidence of that appointment.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in August.—The net effect of all the changes reported in August was a decrease of £966 per week, as compared with an increase of £4,557 per week in July, 1905, and a decrease of £17,639 per week in August, 1904. The number of workpeople affected was 247,473, of whom 92,761 received advances amounting to £4,264 per week, and 154,712 sustained decreases amounting to £5,230 per week. The total number affected in July was 183,337, and in August, 1904, 356,596.

One change, affecting 150,000 coal miners in South Wales, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and one change, affecting 620 workpeople employed in steel mills, took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 96,853 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 950 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing a stoppage of work.

Summary for the eight completed Months of 1905.†—For the eight months, January-August, 1905, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) respecting whom wages-changes were reported was 530,028, as compared with 630,584 for the corresponding period of 1904. The changes arranged gave 247,734 workpeople a net increase amounting to £11,545 per week, and 252,483 a net decrease amounting to £17,590 per week, while the remaining 29,811 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £6,045 per week, as compared with a decrease of £30,857 per week in the corresponding period of 1904.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by the changes reported during the eight months January-August, 1904 and 1905 respectively, and the net results of the changes on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—August.			
	1904.		1905.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	7,483	- 592	4,606	- 448
Coal Mining	499,690	-23,200	198,246	-13,566
Iron Mining	10,723	- 526	7,092	+ 202
Quarrying	2,610	- 94	8,348	- 53
Pig Iron Manufacture	11,181	- 564	14,694	+ 445
Iron and Steel Manufacture	52,031	-2,784	33,842	+ 131
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	31,023	-2,619	35,044	-2,476
Other Metal Trades	545	+ 15	619	- 45
Textile Trades	2,671	- 59	218,521	+ 9,834
Glass, Chemical, &c., Trades	4,879	- 691	1,544	+ 137
Other Trades	3,537	- 61	3,634	+ 240
Employees of Local Authorities	4,211	+ 320	3,838	+ 326
Total	630,584	-30,857	530,028	- 6,045

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during August, 1905, affected 784 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was decreased by 1,642 hours per week. During the eight months, January—August, the total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour was 6,513, the net decrease in their working time being 15,443 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in August.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages and hours of labour, reported in August, are given below. The details of the other changes reported in August are not separately stated in this Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

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

Trade	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1905	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. <i>Decreases in Italics.</i>
				Increase.	Decrease.	
Building ...	Newcastle-on-Tyne	23 Aug.	Bricklayers	950	...	Decrease of 3d. per hour (tod. to 9d.).
Coal Mining ...	Northumberland	31 July and 7 Aug.	Firemen	250	...	Decrease of 1d. per day. Wages after change: Winding Enginemen, 4s. 8d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginemen, 4s. 7d.
Coal Mining ...	South Wales	28 Aug. and 4 Sept.	Miners, etc.	150,000	...	Decrease of 3/4 per cent. on standard rates, leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of December, 1879.
Steel Mills ...	Barrow-in-Furness	7 Aug.	Rail, Wire and Hoop Millmen	620	...	Advance of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 20 per cent. above the standard.
Cotton Trade... ..	Lancashire (except Bolton and Wigan); parts of Cheshire, Derbyshire, and West Riding of Yorkshire	First pay day in Sept.	Card and Blowing Room Operatives, Spinners, Piecers, Doublers, and certain Winders, Wappers and Reelers	87,000	...	Bonus of 5 per cent. granted for 12 weeks.
Cotton Trade... ..	Wigan	4 Aug. and 7 July	Card and Blowing Room Operatives, Ring Spinners and Reelers	3,400	...	Advance of 5 per cent.

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Building ...	Bolton	6 Nov.	Carpenters and Joiners	700	Average decrease of 4 1/2 hours per week in winter hours of labour.
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* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It should be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.
† Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants. 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.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during August numbered 375, an increase of 4 as compared with August, 1904. For the eight months ended August, 1905, the number was 3,202, as compared with 3,029 during the corresponding period of 1904.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.
A new handbook giving general information as to the British Central Africa Protectorate, and including a map, has been issued by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster. Copies can be obtained at sixpence each, post free, on application to the Chief Clerk.

EMIGRATION FROM UNITED KINGDOM.

During August 48,888 passengers left this country for places out of Europe. Of this number 27,874 were of British or Irish origin, and 21,014 were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not stated. As compared with August, 1904, there was a decrease of 4,311 in the number of British or Irish emigrants, and also a decrease of 10 in the number of foreign passengers or those whose nationality was not distinguished. The net result was a decrease of 4,321 in the total number of emigrants.

During the eight months ended August, 1905, the total number of passengers was 314,004, an increase of 34,369 on the figure for the corresponding period of 1904. This increase consisted of 9,136 British and Irish passengers, and 25,233 foreigners, &c.

Destinations.

The following Table shows the destination of the passengers:—

Destination. (Country in which passenger contracted to land.)	August,		Eight months ended Aug.,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.	
	1905.	1904.	1905.	1904.		
British and Irish Passengers.						
British Colonies and Possessions:						
British North America	9,244	6,930	+2,314	66,403	53,951	+12,452
Australia and New Zealand	1,564	1,316	+248	7,889	7,181	+708
British South Africa	2,184	2,326	-142	15,156	15,839	-683
India (including Ceylon) ...	200	188	+12	1,621	1,887	-266
Other British Colonies and Possessions	242	340	-98	2,320	2,313	+7
Total	13,434	11,100	+2,334	93,479	81,171	+12,308
Foreign Countries:						
United States	13,902	20,743	-6,841	81,630	85,325	-3,695
Other Foreign Countries ...	538	342	+196	3,674	3,151	+523
Total	14,440	21,085	-6,645	85,304	88,476	-3,172
Total, British and Irish ...	27,874	32,185	-4,311	178,783	169,647	+9,136
Foreigners and Nationality not stated.						
British Colonies and Possessions:						
British North America ...	2,701	1,472	+1,229	19,262	16,003	+3,259
British South Africa	460	576	-116	3,000	3,625	-625
Other British Colonies and Possessions	445	352	+93	2,690	2,490	+200
Total	3,606	2,400	+1,206	24,952	22,118	+2,834
Foreign Countries:						
United States	16,937	18,249	-1,312	105,684	85,214	+20,470
Other Foreign Countries ...	471	375	+96	4,585	2,656	+1,929
Total	17,408	18,624	-1,216	110,269	87,870	+22,399
Total, Foreigners, &c. ...	21,014	21,024	-10	135,221	109,988	+25,233
Grand Total, all Passengers	48,888	53,209	-4,321	314,004	279,635	+34,369

It will be noticed that the total increase (34,369) in emigration during the eight months of 1905 is almost entirely accounted for by the increased numbers of passengers going to the United States (16,775), and British North America (15,801). Among British and Irish passengers the increased emigration was mainly to British North America; and among foreigners &c., to the United States.

ALIEN IMMIGRATION FROM CONTINENT.

During August 17,225 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent, of whom 8,106 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 2,321 as compared with August, 1904. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 7,970 (exclusive of seamen), being 782 less than in August, 1904. In the following Table the figures for August, 1905 and 1904, and for the eight months ended August, 1905 and 1904, are compared.

	Month of Aug.,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.	Eight months ended Aug.,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1905.
	1905.	1904.		1905.	1904.	
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,140	1,051	+ 89	9,905	8,467	+ 1,038
Seamen	7,970	8,752	- 782	53,170	49,615	+ 3,555
Others	8,106	10,427	-2,321	77,322	65,910	+11,412
Total	17,225	20,230	-3,005	139,997	123,992	+16,005

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The total receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended September 2nd, 1905, amounted to £10,786,020, an increase of £325,796 (or 3.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1904. The passenger receipts showed an increase of £292,638 (or 5.1 per cent.), and the goods and mineral receipts an increase of £33,158 (or 0.7 per cent.).

During the thirty-five weeks ended September 2nd, 1905, the total receipts amounted to £63,939,379, of which £30,013,134 were derived on passenger traffic, and £33,926,245 from goods and mineral traffic. As compared with the same period of 1904, a total decrease of £155,988 is shown, the passenger traffic having declined £74,502, and the goods and mineral traffic £81,486. In the passenger receipts the decline was principally on those lines serving the Northern, Midland and Eastern Counties. The Scottish lines show an increase. In the goods and mineral receipts there were increases on the West Midland and Northern lines, but decreases on the other English groups and on the Scottish and Irish railways.

	5 weeks ended Sept. and, 1905.		35 weeks ended Sept. and, 1905.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1904.
Passenger Traffic.				
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	1,559,445	+110,818	7,766,451	- 29,738
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	834,166	+ 48,854	4,038,477	- 37,079
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	868,326	+ 30,291	3,946,024	- 17,206
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	1,234,000	+ 70,000	6,249,000	+ 4,800
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	810,685	+ 42,643	4,089,520	+ 1,914
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	541,412	- 6,851	2,948,099	+ 9,434
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland G.W., & Gt. Northern	183,528	- 3,117	975,569	- 6,627
Total	6,031,562	+292,638	30,013,134	- 74,502
Goods and Mineral Traffic.				
English Lines:—				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London.	1,676,202	+ 47,892	12,038,984	+ 108,254
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	500,953	- 18,191	3,645,098	- 159,569
Lancs. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	920,410	+ 21,800	6,502,250	+ 40,664
L. & S. W., and Gt. Western	698,200	+ 900	5,086,800	- 15,700
L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	187,547	- 1,578	1,285,621	- 20,721
Scottish Lines:—				
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	638,831	- 9,972	4,318,988	- 5,198
Irish Lines:—				
Gt. Southern & Western, Midland G.W., & Gt. Northern	132,315	- 7,693	948,504	- 29,206
Total	4,754,458	+ 33,158	33,926,245	- 81,486
Grand Total	10,786,020	+325,796	63,939,379	- 155,988

RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF LABOUR.

A REPORT has recently been issued by the Board of Trade respecting their proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act (1893) during the year ended July 27th, 1905. The number of complaints of long hours made to the Board in that year shows an increase as compared with the representations received in the two preceding years, but is still considerably less than the average annual number of complaints since the passing of the Act. In 1904-5 the number of cases inquired into was 47. In previous years the number ranged from 11 in 1903-4 to 156 in 1894-5, the total for the 12 years ending July, 1905, being 766. Of the total, 235 cases affected signalmen, 151 guards and brakemen, 141 drivers and firemen, 123 staff at stations, 68 shunters, and 48 various other grades. The number of servants, however, whose hours are dealt with upon any representation is, in the great majority of cases, considerably larger than the number referred to in the original complaint.

It is stated in the Report that the Board have no reason to think that railway companies would visit displeasure upon servants who make representations to the Department, but that the men are held to be entitled to an assurance that communications addressed to the Board will be treated as confidential, unless they are willing that the origin of their representations should be disclosed.

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.)
 THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in August corresponded to a rate of 219 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with July, 1905, the total number of persons relieved increased by 4,658 (1·2 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 3. There was an increase of 3,183 (2·0 per cent.) in the total number of indoor paupers, and of 1,475 (0·7 per cent.) in the total number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 24 districts, decreases in 10 districts, and 1 district showed no change. There was a large decrease in Galway (112 per 10,000), the July number for which included 456 persons relieved by Government works which were devised on account of the distress occasioned by the failure of the potato crop.

Compared with August, 1904, the total number of persons relieved increased by 13,884 (3·7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 6. The total number of indoor paupers increased by 4,746 (3·0 per cent.) and the total number of outdoor paupers by 9,138 (4·4 per cent.). Increases occurred in 28 districts, decreases in 6 districts, and 1 district showed no change. The most marked increase (59 per 10,000), was shown in East London.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of August, 1905.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	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.*						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	11,139	3,737	14,876	179	+ 5	+ 10
North District ...	15,795	8,932	24,727	130	+ 1	+ 4
Central District ...	6,818	2,819	9,637	492	+ 7	+ 11
East District ...	15,015	9,697	24,712	343	+ 10	+ 59
South District ...	24,177	18,970	43,147	234	+ 5	+ 6
Total Metropolis ...	72,944	44,155	117,099	281	+ 6	+ 14
West Ham ...	3,582	11,674	15,256	229	+ 6	+ 12
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	2,088	5,243	7,331	170	+ 2	+ 10
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,234	4,137	5,371	249	+ 1	+ 6
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,939	7,701	11,640	183	+ 1	- 22
Wigan District ...	2,033	6,544	8,577	216	+ 6	+ 5
Manchester District ...	9,268	8,880	18,148	193	-	- 1
Liverpool District ...	11,445	9,527	20,972	208	+ 3	+ 3
Bradford District ...	1,736	3,084	4,820	132	+ 8	+ 9
Hallifax & Huddersfield ...	1,281	3,897	5,178	142	+ 3	+ 2
Leeds District ...	2,446	6,153	8,599	181	- 1	- 4
Barnsley District ...	798	2,976	3,774	186	- 3	-
Sheffield District ...	3,154	4,010	7,164	164	+ 3	- 2
Hull District ...	1,444	5,325	6,769	249	- 3	+ 5
North Staffordshire ...	2,320	8,273	10,593	284	+ 4	+ 4
Nottingham District ...	2,022	5,933	7,955	198	+ 2	+ 5
Leicester District ...	1,465	5,079	6,544	289	+ 17	+ 22
Wolverhampton District ...	3,604	13,909	17,513	271	+ 3	+ 10
Birmingham District ...	4,871	3,665	8,536	148	+ 1	+ 4
Bristol District ...	2,694	6,973	9,667	264	- 1	+ 3
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,913	7,274	9,187	246	- 2	- 13
Total "Other Districts" ...	59,755	118,583	178,338	200	+ 2	+ 1
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	4,985	17,369	22,554	233	- 3	+ 2
Paisley & Greenock District ...	751	2,513	3,264	186	+ 2	+ 6
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,717	5,814	7,531	197	+ 2	+ 2
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	1,012	2,951	3,963	199	- 3	+ 4
Aberdeen ...	672	3,118	3,790	229	+ 3	+ 12
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	352	1,412	1,764	186	- 2	- 4
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	9,489	33,377	42,866	214	- 1	+ 4
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	6,885	5,368	12,253	313	- 1	+ 9
Belfast District ...	3,443	334	3,777	98	+ 2	+ 5
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District ...	4,134	4,942	9,076	370	+ 10	+ 13
Galway District ...	377	344	721	203	- 112	+ 23
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	14,839	10,988	25,827	241	- 1	+ 8
Total for above 35 Districts in August, 1905.	160,669	218,777	379,446	219	+ 3	+ 6

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses.
 † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

THIRTEEN Bureaux furnished returns which can be compared with similar returns for a year ago. Eight other Bureaux also furnished returns for August, 1905, but for these Bureaux figures for a year ago are not available.

(I.) Work done in August.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Workpeople found Work during	
	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.
London.						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.) ...	137	121	4	21	4	21
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd., E.) ...	1,131	1,292	322	309	583	432
St. Pancras (Crowndale Rd., N.W.) ...	291	286	40	112	51	76
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.) ...	22	42	7	2	5	2
Hammersmith (Brook Green Rd., W.) ...	61	28	17	11	17	9
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.) ...	341	232	222	118	188	72
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.) ...	188	162	84	52	43	27
Kensington (Lancaster Road, W.) ...	225	172	10	15	55	46
Provincial.						
Ipswich (Fore Street) ...	48	62	18	27	11	14
Plymouth (Basket Street) ...	90	116	53	59	52	55
Liverpool (Dale Street) ...	253	209	1	1	...	1
Glasgow (158, George Street) ...	554	675	458	557	148	165
Wigan (Library Street) ...	72	89	12	7	12	7
Total of 13 Bureaux ...	3,413	3,486	1,248	1,291	669	927
London.						
Hampstead (Finchley Road, N.W.) ...	76	...	52	...	44	...
Islington (93, St. Paul's Rd., High-bury, N.) ...	846	...	17	...	334	...
Provincial.						
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Pilgrim St.) ...	201	...	43	...	25	...
Leith (Junction Street) ...	4	...	...	...	40	...
Coventry (3, Market Hall Arcade) ...	104	...	43	...	...	...
Eastbourne (Public Library) ...	2	...	...	...	12	...
Dudley ...	22	...	15	...	...	...
Manchester (Albert St., Deansgate) ...	162	...	24	...	43	...
Total of 21 Bureaux ...	4,830	...	1,442	...	1,471	...

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during August, 1905.

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men:			
Building Trades ...	21	73	94
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	20	6	26
Porters and Messengers ...	34	20	54
Bill Distributors ...	...	292	292
General Labourers ...	...	16	16
Other Occupations ...	114	8	122
Lads and Boys ...	...	...	...
Women and Girls:			
Domestic Servants ...	72	11	83
Charwomen, daily work, &c. ...	13	67	80
Other Occupations ...	93	6	99
Total engaged by Private Employers ...	448	583	1,031
Engaged by Local Authorities:—			
Men, Lads and Boys ...	14	353	367
Women and Girls ...	1	72	73
Engaged by Salvation Army ...	...	...	...
Total of 21 Bureaux ...	463	1,008	1,471

(III.) Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 20* Bureaux at the end of August, 1905.

Name of Bureau.	Men.					Lads and Boys.	Women and Girls.
	Build-ing Trades.	Engin-eer-ing Trades.	General Labour-ers.	Porters, Messen-gers, Carmen &c.	Other Occu-pations.		
London.							
Battersea ...	2	8	37	17	27	1	14
Salvation Army ...	55	18	145	63	322	...	27
St. Pancras ...	42	40	135	170	73	106	...
Southwark ...	4	4	4	6	4	3	...
Hammersmith ...	18	4	34	12	47	3	...
Finsbury ...	88	4	68	95	47	8	353
Westminster ...	7	23	147	318	264	48	24
Kensington ...	100	35	75	52	70	27	55
Hampstead ...	67	6	12	30	29	3	6
Islington ...	168	100	898	12	65	43	35
Provincial.							
Ipswich ...	...	1	21	6	5	6	9
Plymouth ...	39	5	34	45	41	4	12
Liverpool ...	3	4	83	15	12	2	177
Glasgow ...	40	25	65	50	70	21	...
Wigan ...	71	14	211	51	62	15	90
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	7	13	134	14	17	3	...
Leith ...	13	2	12	4	1	...	...
Coventry ...	5	112	54	15	50	18	...
Eastbourne ...	74	10	80	15	42	...	...
Dudley ...	32	66	46	13	12	28	...
Total* ...	838	494	2,295	1,013	1,213	332	802

* There were also 1,142 men and 66 boys on the Register of the Manchester Bureau at the end of August. These, however, were not classified by trades.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August 682 fresh applications (348 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by eight Bureaux furnishing returns, and 452 situations (328 for domestic servants, &c.) were offered by employers; work was found for 132 persons, of whom 76 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 132 situations found for applicants, 96 were of a more or less permanent character, while 36 were temporary only.

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

WORK DONE IN AUGUST.

Name of Bureau.	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1905.	Aug., 1904.	Perma-nently.	Tem-porarily.
Summary by Bureaux.						
Central Bureau ...	94	58	60	62	16	12
9, Southampton St., W.C.	...	...	...	...	6	4
Y.W.C.A.—	...	...	...	...	...	...
25, George Street, (1) ...	351	379	249	283	38	30
Hanover Sq., W. (2) ...	60	61	36	33	8	5
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Dublin and Watford) ...	175	107	107	79	34	25
Total of 8 Bureaux ...	682	605	452	457	95	71
Summary by Occupations.						
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	74	26	16	16	9	4
Shop Assistants ...	7	9	...	...	...	...
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	59	39	24	29	3	4
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	43	36	13	8	5	2
Apprentices and Learners	6	1	12	4	4	1
Domestic Servants, etc.	348	345	328	336	61	40
Miscellaneous ...	165	149	59	62	14	20
Total ...	682	605	452	457	95	71

LONDON CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

THE Central Employment Exchange is intended to act as a "clearing house" for the local labour bureaux, its purpose being, in cases where applications cannot be met at one bureau, to endeavour to meet them by making use of the remaining affiliated bureaux.

In August six* of the London Municipal Labour Bureaux made daily reports to the Central Exchange of the whole number of fresh applications for employment, and of such situations offered by employers as they were unable to fill from among their own registered applicants. This information was at once circulated by post to all the bureaux, so that each bureau became aware of the requirements of the rest. In addition, the vacancies reported were at once notified by telephone to the particular bureaux at which applicants have recently registered under the occupations concerned.

The results week by week in August are shown in the following Table:—

Period.	Total number of Fresh Applications by Workpeople at Six Bureaux.	Total number of Situations offered which Local Bureaux were unable to fill.	Situations reported filled through Central Labour Exchange.
Week ended Aug. 5th ...	175	51	45
" " " 12th ...	194	...	3
" " " 18th ...	233	...	...
" " " 26th ...	342	13	2

From the above figures it will be seen that of the 54 situations which individual bureaux were unable to fill, the Central Exchange filled 50 with the aid of the other bureaux.

* Westminster, Chelsea, Kensington, Hampstead, Islington, St. Pancras.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Workmen.—In the case of persons employed in such classes of work as may from time to time be specified by special order of the Home Secretary, it is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that the occupier of every factory and workshop, and every contractor employed by any such occupier in the business of the factory or workshop, shall keep lists in the prescribed manner showing the names and addresses of all persons directly employed by him, either as workmen or as contractors, in the business of the factory or workshop outside the factory or workshop, and the places where they are employed. Copies of these lists must be sent to the district council of the district in which the factory or workshop is situated. The provision applies to any place from which

Sick and Dividend Soc., Camp Hill, Birmingham; Birmingham and Dist. Vocalists' Assoc., Birmingham; Crescent Sick and Dividend Soc., Hockley, Birmingham; Warrington Sick and Dividend Soc., Nechells, Birmingham; Country Girl Sick and Dividend Soc., Saltley, Birmingham; Talbot Gardeners' Friendly Soc., Cradley Heath; Elland Juvenile Foresters' Friendly Soc., Elland; Noble Tontine Benefit Soc., Pentrefelin, Wrexham; Holywell Tontine Benefit Soc., Holywell. *Scotland*.—1, viz., Palm Lodge of Ancient Free Gardeners' Friendly Soc., Auchterderran. *Ireland*—Nil.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as dissolved, or as having had registration cancelled in August, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 18; under the Friendly Societies Act, 34 (including 16 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 9; in all 62.

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.) which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING AUGUST.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Report from the Select Committee on Workmen's Trains. Report of Committee appointed to enquire into the Working and Administration of the Cheap Trains Act, 1883, with Proceedings, Evidence and Appendix [H.C. 270: pp. xxxii. + 58: price 9d.]

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour). Report by the Board of Trade respecting their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1905. [H.C. 323: pp. 14: price 2d.]

Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. Return of British and Foreign Ships provisionally detained by reason of defective condition of hulls, Equipment or Machinery, and of Overloading or Improper Loading, 1st July, 1904, to 30th June, 1905. [Cd. 2678: pp. 10: price 1½d.]

Foreign Ships (Statutory Requirements). Report of Select Committee. Load line, unseaworthy ships, grain cargoes, emigrant ships, life-saving appliances, &c. [H.C. 269: pp. vi.: price 1d.]

Cambrian Collieries Explosion. Report on the Explosion which occurred on March 10th, 1905. [Cd. 2680: pp. 14: price 8d.]

Explosion of Fireworks, Lancashire. Report to Home Office on circumstances attending an Explosion of Fireworks at a Factory near Manchester, by H.M. Inspector of Explosives. [Cd. 2720: pp. 8: price 1d.]

Explosives Factories and Testing Stations in Belgium, Germany and Holland. Report to Home Office upon visits to certain, by Captains Lloyd and Desborough, H.M. Inspectors of Explosives. [Cd. 2650: pp. 32: price 3d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1905. Abstracts showing Acreage under Crops, and number of Live Stock in each county and province, 1904-05. [Cd. 2713: pp. 19: price 1½d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland. Return of Prices of certain classes of Irish Agricultural Products and Live Stock, 1904. [Cd. 2598: pp. iv. + 51: with diagrams: price 10d.]

Journal of Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. July, 1905. Contains article on the "Linen Trade and its Raw Material."

Report of Royal Commission on Supply of Food and Raw Material in Time of War. Vol. I. The Report. [Cd. 2643: pp. xii. + 204: price 1s. 8d.] Vol. II. Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 2644: pp. xii. + 476: price 3s. 11d.] Vol. III. Appendices. [Cd. 2645: pp. xvi. + 356: price 3s. 11d.]

Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill (H.L.). Report from Select Committee of the House of Lords, with Proceedings, Evidence and Appendix. [H.C. 344: pp. xiv. + 176: price 1s. 6d.]

Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom. This deals with trade and other statistics for the years 1890 to 1904. [Cd. 2622: pp. vi. + 311: price 1s. 3d.]

Index to Volumes on British and Foreign Trade and Industry. An Index to the Two Volumes of Memoranda, Statistical Tables and Charts prepared in the Board of Trade with reference to various matters bearing on British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions. [Cd. 2669: pp. 53: price 6d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada.

Fifth Report of the Bureau of Labour of the Province of Ontario for the year ending December 31st, 1904. Trade Disputes in 1904; Conciliation in Trade Disputes; Table showing average Wages, Hours of Labour, &c. [Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer: pp. 233.]

Victoria.

Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Work-rooms and Shops for the year ended December 31st, 1904. Working of the Factories and Shops Acts; list of Special Wages Boards with proceedings

and notes upon Determinations; return of Factories registered during 1903 and 1904; wages fixed by Special Boards, &c. [Melbourne: R. S. Brain, Government Printer: pp. 89: price 2s. 9d.]

Western Australia.

Reports of Proceedings before the Boards of Conciliation and the Court of Arbitration. Vol. III.; 1904. Reports of 51 cases. [Perth, W.A.: A. Curtis, Acting Government Printer: pp. 276.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

France.

Report of Proceedings at Session of Higher Council of Labour, November, 1904. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1905: pp. xviii. + 233.]

Germany.

Miscellaneous Statistics of Munich, Vol. XVIII., Part 5. Contains articles on "The Unemployed Census in Munich of November 27th, 1904," "Insurance against Unemployment in Munich," and "Insurance against Want of Employment in the Building Trades." [Munich: J. Lindauersche Buchhandlung, 1905.]

Report for 1904 of Miners' Accident Insurance Association of Germany. [Berlin, 1905: pp. 75.]

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_____ No. 3482. *Trade of Consular District of Marseilles, 1904.* Strikes; effect of the Westphalian Strike upon the coal import trade of Marseilles, &c. [Cd. 2682-7: pp. 25: price 2d.]

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_____ Miscellaneous Series. No. 636. *German Sea-Fishing Industry and Trade.* Number of vessels, tonnage and crews; quantity and value of fish, &c. [Cd. 2683: pp. 19: price 1½d.]

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NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, New Zealand, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Italy and Spain.

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