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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

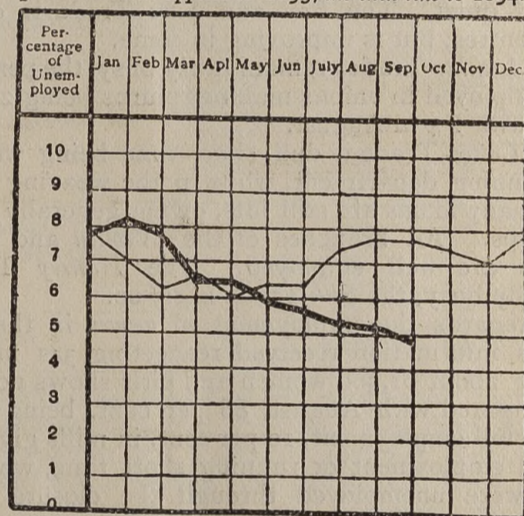
In most of the important industries the state of the labour market has continued to improve during September, and the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns is lower than at any period since 1891.

In the 87 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 393,920, making returns, 19,423 (or 4.9 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 5.2 per cent. in August, and with 7.6 per cent. in the 53 unions, with a membership of 356,845, from which returns were received for September 1894.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1894 and of each completed month of 1895.

[The thick line applies to 1895, the thin line to 1894.]



The proportions of unemployed in the 87 Unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	41	172,766
3 and under 5 per cent.	20	100,727
5 and under 7 per cent.	11	21,452
7 and under 10 per cent.	6	37,067
10 per cent. and upwards	9	61,908

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Returns received from 951 pits, at which 239,558 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked in September was 4.80 days per week, as against 4.71 days per week in August.* In the North of England the proportion of unemployed miners who were members of trade unions fell from 2.7 per cent. at the end of August to 2.3 per cent. at the end of September.

Iron Mining.—The average number of days worked at 95 iron mines and open works, employing 12,677 workpeople, was 5.59 days per week, compared with 5.54 days per week in August.

In the *Pig Iron* Industry the number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month owned by the 109 employers making returns was 308, an increase of 8 as compared with the previous month.* The number of persons employed was 20,021, compared with 19,664.

* No comparison is made with September 1894, since in that month, employment, both at collieries and furnaces, was seriously affected in Scotland by the Miners' Wages Dispute.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

As compared with August the returns give a nett increase of 8 furnaces in blast, 4 being in Cleveland, and 1 each in Cumberland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire. The increase in the number of workpeople employed was 357, work being found in England and Wales for 342 more persons, and in Scotland for 15.

The following table summarises the returns received: Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of September 1895 with the number in blast at end of September 1894, and at end of August 1895, so far as included in the returns made to the Department:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1895.	Aug. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept. 1895.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	90	95	-5	90	86	+4
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks. ...	39	37	+2	39	37	+2
Lincolnshire	14	10	+4	14	14	...
Midlands	78	77	+1	78	77	+1
Glamorgan and Mon. Other districts	17	18	-1	17	17	...
	9	7	+2	9	9	...
Total England and Wales...	255	258	-3	255	247	+8
SCOTLAND	53	3	+50	53	53	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...	308	261	+47	308	300	+8

The following particulars respecting the Pig Iron Industry in Cleveland are extracted from the monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association.

Production.—The amount of pig iron produced during September was 234,721 tons, as compared with 228,700 tons in the previous month, and 252,271 tons in September 1894.

Stocks.—On 30th September, these amounted to 279,126 tons, being 5,856 tons less than on 31st August, but 86,941 tons more than on the corresponding date of last year.

Shipments.—From Middlesbrough 95,310 tons of pig iron were shipped (foreign or coastwise) during September, a decrease of 7,610 tons as compared with the previous month, but an increase of 15,171 tons on the shipments in September 1894.

From all ports in the United Kingdom the quantity of pig iron shipped to foreign countries and British possessions was 87,758 tons in September 1895, 80,751 tons in September 1894, and 77,414 tons in September 1893.

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

RETURNS received from 166 employers show that they had 59,131 workpeople in their employment at the end of September, or 4,140 more than at the corresponding date of last year. This increase is the balance of an increase of 4,528 in the number of workpeople employed in Scotland (where in September 1894, the effects of the Scottish coal dispute were severely felt) and a decrease of 388 in the total for England and Wales.

The decrease shown in the number employed in England and Wales is due chiefly to a falling off of 1,500 (or 32.4 per cent.) in the number of steel workers so far as covered by the returns in Lancashire and Cumberland. Nearly all the other English and Welsh districts show increases.

Increases are shown in all the different classes of manufacture, the most important being one of 2,551, or 11.1 per cent., in the number employed at steel works, more than accounted for, however, by the increase in Scotland. Tinplate works are practically stationary.

Returns received from 29 tinplate manufacturers state that they had 138 mills in operation in the last week of September, as against the same number in August, and 139 in September 1894.

The number of hours per week during which the various works were in operation shows no material difference as compared with last year.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of September 1895 and 1894, respectively, by 166 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.					
	England and Wales.		Scotland.		United Kingdom.	
	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling, and Forging	21,546	22,371	4,077	701	25,623	23,072
Iron Puddling and Rolling	10,384	10,544	3,370	2,685	13,754	13,229
Tinplate Workers	9,140	8,731	—	—	9,140	8,731
Other workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above*	9,426	9,238	1,188	721	10,614	9,959
Totals	50,496	50,884	8,635	4,107	59,131	54,991

* The table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering constructive processes.

(e) SHIPBUILDING IN PROGRESS.

From the summary of shipbuilding returns issued by Lloyd's Register, it appears that on 30th September the gross tonnage of vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom was 716,575 tons. This figure exceeds the gross tonnage under construction on the corresponding date of 1894 by 63,244 tons, and is also in excess of that for the three intervening quarters, though not quite up to the level of June 1894. Warships under construction at the end of September at Government and private yards had a tonnage of 261,585 tons displacement, as compared with 286,350 tons at the end of the previous quarter and 246,465 tons on 30th September 1894.

Putting together the above figures we get the following table:—

Date of Return.	Tonnage under Construction.	
	Merchant Vessels.	All War Ships.
	Tons gross.	Tons displacement.
At 30th September 1895	716,575	261,585
At 30th September 1894	653,331	246,465
At 30th June 1895	707,079	286,350

Of the 356 vessels, other than warships, under construction, 314 were steamers with a gross tonnage of 688,999 tons, and 42 sailing vessels of 27,576 tons. These tonnages are an increase of 71,672 tons and a decrease of 8,428 tons respectively, compared with the tonnage of steam and sailing vessels under construction a year ago.

The following statement gives the gross tonnage of vessels (exclusive of warships) under construction at the principal shipbuilding centres at the end of September 1895 and 1894 respectively. Belfast and the Clyde, it will be noticed, show the principal increases:—

District.	Tonnage under Construction at Principal Shipbuilding Centres.			
	At 30th Sept. 1895.	At 30th Sept. 1894.	Increase in 1895.	Decrease in 1895.
	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons gr'ss	Tons gr'ss
Clyde	230,090	204,999	25,121	—
Tyne	108,788	121,956	—	13,168
Wear	119,895	112,025	7,870	—
Middlesbrough and Stockton	51,815	65,170	—	13,355
Hartlepool and Whitby	51,480	47,630	3,850	—
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	14,100	17,708	—	3,608
Belfast	98,438	58,680	39,808	—

The tonnage of vessels preparing (i.e., ordered but not commenced) was 158,170 tons, being 5,510 tons, or 3.4 per cent. less than at the end of the previous quarter, but 1,685 tons, or 1.1 per cent. more than twelve months ago.

Date of Return.	Tonnage of Vessels Preparing (Warships Excluded.)		
	Steam.	Sail.	Total.
	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons gross.
At 30th September 1895	146,720	11,450	158,170
At 30th September 1894	148,075	8,410	156,485
At 30th June 1895	151,880	11,800	163,680

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN SEPTEMBER.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 120 returns, referring to 233 parishes, and one from an Agricultural Labourers' Union, reports as follows: Employment was generally regular throughout the country in September. In the Northern Counties very little irregularity of work is reported. During the first part of the month hands were all engaged at harvest. The prospects for the winter are stated to be favourable. The potato and root crops are generally good, grass is plentiful, and the price of sheep and cattle at the autumn sales satisfactory.

In the Midlands employment is said to be generally satisfactory, but some irregularity of work is reported in certain districts in the Bridgnorth Union of Shropshire, in the Southwell Union of Nottinghamshire, and in the Stratford-on-Avon Union of Warwickshire.

Generally speaking, employment in the Eastern Counties is fairly regular. Slight irregularity of work is reported from districts in the Risbridge and Bosmere and Claydon Unions of Suffolk, and in Essex from the Colchester Union. Reductions in wages took place in Norfolk in certain parishes in the Forehoe Union; in Essex in the Colchester and Tendring Unions; and in Cambridgeshire in the Peterborough Union.

In the Home Counties a few men are reported to be in irregular work in districts in the Faversham, Milton and Hollingbourn Union of Kent; in the Luton Union of Bedfordshire; in the Thame Union of Berkshire, and in the neighbourhood of Buckingham.

Employment in the Western Counties is generally satisfactory. Some slight irregularity of employment is reported in the Western Counties in the neighbourhoods of Pewsey and Warminster in Wiltshire, and in some villages in the Wellington Union of Somerset.

Northern Counties.—Reports from the Carlisle, Bootle, and Penrith Unions of Cumberland, and from the Lancaster, Fylde and Garstang Unions of Lancashire state that employment is satisfactory, except at Pilling, in the latter Union, where a number of day men were in irregular work during the last week in September. In the Lancaster district extra men's wages after harvest were from 3s. to 3s. 6d. a day. Two reports from the Nantwich Union of Cheshire state that employment is regular. No men are reported out of work in Yorkshire, in certain parishes in the Unions of Easingwold, Driffild, Knaresborough, Scarborough, Malton, Whitby, and Great Ouseburn. A report from the Chester-le-Street Union of Durham states that very few men are in irregular work.

Midland Counties.—In Shropshire work is said to be regular in certain parishes in the Market Drayton and Whitchurch Unions, but a considerable number are reported to be in irregular work in a district in the neighbourhood of Bridgnorth. In Nottinghamshire a satisfactory report comes from the Bashford Union, but irregularity of employment is reported in several districts in the Southwell Union. Work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Melton Mowbray, and Blaby and Billesdon. In Warwickshire a few men are reported in irregular work at Stratford-on-Avon. In the Alcester Union, reports state that work is regular, and in some parts there has been rather a scarcity of labour for fruit picking. Employment is said to be regular in seven parishes in the Oakham Union of Rutland. In Worcestershire, in the Pershore Union, work is reported as regular. In the Martley Union, in the neighbourhood of Clifton-on-Teme, the hops are said to be better this season compared with last, and that about 25 per cent. more strangers came into the district for the hop-picking. Pole-pullers are paid 15s. a week; hop dryers £2 2s. a week and live in the farmhouse. Hop-pickers earn from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 6d. a day. Reports from five parishes in the St. Neots Union of Huntingdonshire, and from districts in the Kettering and Brixworth Unions of Northamptonshire, state that work is regular.

Eastern Counties.—Favourable reports as to regularity of employment come from districts in the Unions of Downham, Swaffham, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, and Forehoe. In the latter Union the wages of ordinary labourers were reduced from 11s. to 10s. a week in the last week of September in the parishes of Barnham Broom, Crownthorpe, Coston, Carlton,

Runhall, and Kimberley. In Suffolk work is said to be regular in the Unions of Thingoe, Ipswich, and Cosford. In the Risbridge and Bosmere and Claydon Unions slight irregularity of work is reported in certain parishes. Satisfactory reports come from the Maldon and Tendring Unions of Essex, but in the Colchester Union, in the neighbourhood of St. Botolph, between 5 and 10 per cent. are said to be in irregular work. Wages of ordinary labourers were in this district on some farms reduced from 12s. to 11s. a week at the end of September, and also in the Tendring Union at Lawford and neighbouring parishes. In Cambridgeshire work is reported to be regular in certain parishes in the Unions of Chesterton, Caxton, Ely, Linton, Royston, North Witchford, Wisbech, Whittlesey, and Thorney; wages of ordinary labourers in the latter Union decreased in some cases from 15s. to 12s. a week in September. In Lincolnshire, in the Unions of Lincoln, Stamford, Spilsby, Sleaford, Newark, and Brigg, employment is said to be regular. In the latter Union Irishmen were paid 19s. per acre for picking and putting into carts potatoes after being ploughed out. Women were paid 1s. 6d. a day picking potatoes from 8.30 to 5 p.m.

Home Counties.—In Surrey reports from the Farnham and Godstone Unions state that employment is regular. In Sussex, in the Rye Union, hop-picking gave plenty of employment, and in the Cuckfield Union work was also plentiful owing to fruit and hop-picking. Reports of four parishes in the Hollingbourn Union of Kent state that employment is regular. A few men after returning from harvest work in other districts were out of work for a day or two. In the Milton Union, at Hartlip, work is reported regular, but a few were out of work at Newington for a few days after hop-picking. A report of seven parishes in the Faversham Union states that work is regular in six, and somewhat irregular in one. In Bedfordshire work is reported to be regular at Caddington, but a few men are said to be in irregular employment in the neighbourhood of Luton. Favourable reports come from Hertfordshire, from the Buntingford and Hemel Hempstead Unions. In Berkshire employment is said to be regular at Thame and Peasmore, but some slight irregularity of work is reported in the neighbourhood of Wantage. A few men are reported to be in irregular work in the parishes in the neighbourhood of Buckingham. Favourable reports come from the Newport Pagnell and Winslow Unions.

Western Counties.—In Dorsetshire employment is reported to be satisfactory in certain parishes in the Dorchester and Wimborne Unions, and in Hampshire in the Kingsclere Union. In Wiltshire work is reported regular in districts in the Unions of Devizes and Wilton, and at Collingbourne Kingston, and Manningford Bohun in the Pewsey Union, but a few are in irregular work at Pewsey. In the Warminster Union about 10 per cent. are said to be in irregular work at Sutton Verney. Reports from five parishes in the Cirencester Union of Gloucester, and one from the Barton Regis Union, state that employment is regular. Employment is said to be satisfactory in certain districts in Herefordshire in the Unions of Bromyard, Kington, and Leominster. In Somersetshire satisfactory reports come from the Wells and Langport Unions, but in the Wellington Union, in the Milverton district, some irregularity is reported. Employment is said to be generally regular in Devonshire in the Unions of Tavistock, Barnstaple, Torrington, and Okehampton. A satisfactory report comes from the Redruth Union of Cornwall.

HARVEST WAGES IN 1895.

Returns have been received from 47 farmers in the Midland, Eastern, Home and Western Counties, giving the cash earnings, exclusive of perquisites, of their men at harvest. The average earnings of 719 men per month (i.e., in 26 working days) were £6 3s. 8d. In 1894 the average earnings of 887 men in these districts for a similar period were worked out at £6 2s. 7d., a figure showing no material difference. Though the rates paid in 1894 by piece-work were generally higher, the crops were heavy and the harvest protracted by wet weather, which was not the case in 1895.

In the Eastern Counties the harvest is generally taken by contract, and the earnings there are the highest, but as a rule less beer is given than in some other districts, and generally no food. The average cash harvest earnings of 368 men at 22 farms in the Eastern Counties in 1895 were at the rate of £7 14s. 3d. for a month. The Northern counties have been excluded, because the hiring system prevails in most counties, and the hired men receive no extra payment at harvest. Also extra men and Irishmen frequently are supplied with food.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT for dock and wharf labourers in London was, on the whole, about the same in September as in the previous month, the falling off in the number employed at the docks by shipowners being balanced by a rise in the number employed at the wharves. From the returns received the average daily number of dock labourers employed in all the docks in London, and at 104 of the principal wharves is estimated at 14,263 for the four weeks ended 28th September as against 14,215 for the five previous weeks. The first week of the month showed the largest average daily number (14,566), and the third week the lowest (13,835). The maximum number at work on any one day in September is estimated at 15,212 on the 5th, and the minimum number at 13,412 on the 17th.

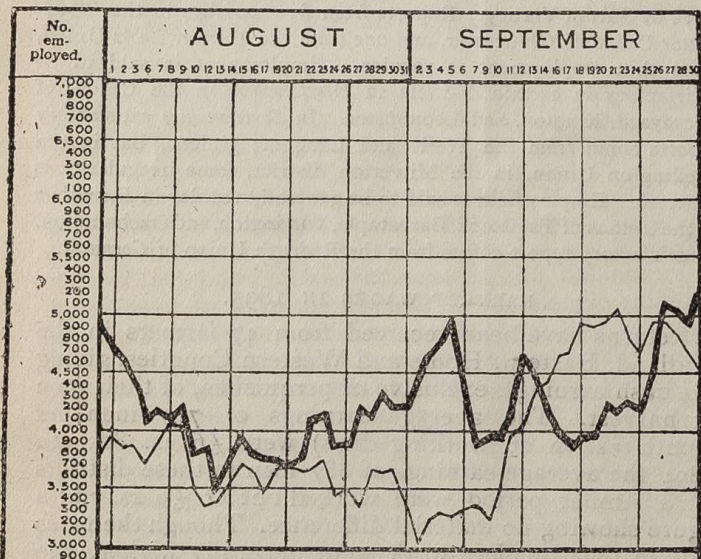
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated average daily number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month :—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 104 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of September	7,648	1,348	8,996	5,570	14,566
2nd " " "	7,287	1,252	8,539	5,822	14,361
3rd " " "	7,044	1,328	8,372	5,463	13,835
4th " " "	7,599	1,223	8,822	5,465	14,287
Average for 4 weeks ending Sept. 28th	7,395	1,288	8,683	5,580	14,263
Average for 5 weeks ending Aug. 31st	7,350	1,567	8,917	5,298	14,215

(2.) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during August and September is shown on the chart below. The numbers in September varied from 3,868 on the 17th to 5,172 on the 30th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of August and September 1895. The corresponding curve for August and September 1894 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.

[The thick curve applies to 1895, and the thin curve to 1894.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for September 1895 is based

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	4,498	18	4,507	21	4,112
2	4,665	19	4,442	22	4,233
3	4,759	20	4,134	23	4,199
4	4,973	21	3,964	24	4,598
5	4,470	22	3,888	25	5,099
6	3,891	23	3,949	26	5,021
7	3,939	24	3,970	27	4,916
8	3,991	25	4,247	28	5,172
9	4,124	26		29	
10		27		30	
11		28			

Sundays and Holidays are omitted.
 During September 1894, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 3,048 on the 3rd to 5,073 on the 22nd.
 Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during September 1895 varied from 1,153 on the 17th to 2,497 on the 26th.
 Wool sales commenced on the 21st September.

The returns received from shipowners and from the wharves do not give particulars of the number of labourers employed in September 1894, but for the Dock Companies the figures for September 1895 and 1894 are as follows :—

Period.	Labourers employed by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors.			
	1895.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
1st week of September	7,648	6,171	1,477	—
2nd " " "	7,287	6,539	748	—
3rd " " "	7,044	7,244	—	200
4th " " "	7,599	7,425	174	—
Average for 4 weeks	7,395	6,845	550	—

It will be seen from the above figures that employment was much better in September than a year ago, especially in the first week of the month.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN SEPTEMBER.

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

The number of seamen shipped during September from the principal ports of the United Kingdom, as the crews of foreign-going vessels, was 635 less than in the corresponding month of last year, the figures being 32,798 in 1895 and 33,433 in 1894.

Comparing the total number of seamen shipped during the first nine months of 1895 and 1894 a decrease of 12,030 is shown during the current year.

The supply of seamen and firemen was stated to be equal to, or in excess of the demand at all ports.

The rates of wages for seamen and firemen during September remained generally as in the previous month.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in September 1895 and 1894 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the nine months ended 30th September in each of these years :—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in September 1895.			Total in Sept. 1894.	Total number shipped in nine months ended September.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Sept. 1895.		1895.	1894.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	126	2,828	2,954	3,593	27,673	30,441
Sunderland ...	—	851	851	605	6,041	6,654
Middlesbrough ...	—	572	572	408	5,248	4,877
Hull ...	138	1,092	1,230	1,099	9,668	10,188
Grimsey ...	—	273	273	197	1,364	1,487
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	9	208	216	166	1,793	2,354
Newport, Mon. ...	85	754	839	898	9,919	10,832
Cardiff ...	830	4,123	4,953	4,870	45,585	49,675
Swansea ...	93	490	583	763	5,636	5,770
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	366	9,821	10,187	11,303	87,143	88,319
London ...	359	5,255	5,614	5,738	48,853	51,770
Southampton ...	17	1,356	1,373	1,213	13,003	12,637
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth	36	497	533	465	5,498	4,974
Glasgow ...	146	2,275	2,421	1,884	18,834	18,946
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	7	11	18	38	339	600
Belfast ...	46	125	171	193	1,198	1,381
Total Sept. 1895 ...	2,267	30,531	32,798	...	288,515	...
Ditto, Sept. 1894 ...	1,969	31,464	...	33,433	...	300,845

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

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE AND HAT TRADES IN SEPTEMBER.

JUDGING from the returns received from women correspondents, the state of employment in September for women in the Textile Trades has been about the same as in August. The Cotton Trade shows the same percentage in full employment. Full employment has again been given in the Woollen and Worsted Trades.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES AND DISTRICT REPORTS.

Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 341 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills. In the case of 249 mills the numbers employed are known approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 92 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are known, the information may be summarised as follows :—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate Estimate of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage.	Percentage for August.
Full time ...	286	52,633	86	86
Ditto, but partial employment	20	3,819	6	7
Short time ...	16	2,527	4	3
Closed for repairs ...	9	—	—	—
" on account of disputes ...	4	—	—	—
" " bad trade	4	2,543	4	4
" for reasons not specified	2	—	—	—
Total ...	341	61,522	100	100

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 48,257. Of these 82 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (showing no change as compared with August); 8 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment; 5 per cent. in mills running short time, while mills employing 5 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is estimated at 11,915. Of these 99 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 98 per cent. in August), and one per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls employed in the silk mills reported on is estimated at 1,350. Of these 89 per cent. were employed in mills working full time, and 11 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment.

Felt Hat Trade.—About 560 women and girls in Denton were reported on, 85 per cent. of whom were employed in hat works working full time, and 15 per cent. in hat works working short time.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.*

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—On the whole, the reports received from the various trade unions show a slight improvement in the condition of employment when compared with last month. Returns from 359 branches of 76 trade unions in the London district, with a membership of 64,164, show 2,873 (or 4.5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, compared with 4.7 per cent. last month and 4.2 per cent. for July.

The **Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding Trades**, particularly the latter, have again fallen off. Reports from 99 branches of 19 unions show that out of a membership of 19,433, 1,208 (or 6.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September, compared with 5.6 per cent. in August and 8.1 per cent. in September 1894.

The **Building Trades** still continue busy. Returns from 183 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit and having a membership of 12,673, show that only 98 (or 0.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September, compared with 1.0 per cent. in August, and 3.8 per cent. in September 1894. The bricklayers, mill-sawyers and stone-carvers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, masons and plasterers as fair; and the painters and plumbers as moderate.

The **Furnishing and Wood-working Trades** have improved. Reports from 38 branches of 11 unions, with an aggregate membership of 5,810, show that 85 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 2.5 per cent. last month, and 7.0 per cent. in September 1894.

* When it is stated in these reports that "the carpenters," "the plumbers," &c., make certain reports, reference is usually made to the Unions connected with these trades, unless it is otherwise specified.

Most branches of the **Printing and Bookbinding Trades** are better employed. Returns from 15 unions, with an aggregate membership of 19,129, show that 1,017 (or 5.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.5 per cent. in August, and 6.7 per cent. in September 1894.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Wholesale Clothing Trade was fairly good at the commencement, but fell off towards the close of the month; the West End Tailoring Trade remains dull; the East End Bespoke Trade has fallen off; the Hat Trade, owing to a change of fashion in ladies' hats, has slightly improved; the fur skin dressers are very quiet; the furriers are busy, a considerable percentage working overtime. Returns from 4 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 1,706, show that 234 (or 13.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 11.1 per cent. in August.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the machine branch continues bad. The high-class bespoke branch is also very slack. The wholesale Slipper Trade continues busy, with a demand for men.

Employment in most branches of the **Leather Trades** is still good. Returns from 4 unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,083, show that 19 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.4 per cent. in August.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in these trades has fallen off. Returns from 5 unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,280, show that 88 (or 6.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.7 per cent. in August.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—These trades are scarcely so well employed. Returns from 5 unions, with an aggregate membership of 908, show that 45 (or 5.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.5 per cent. in August.

The **Silver Trades** are fully employed. Reports from 4 unions, with an aggregate membership of 230, state that 2 only were unemployed.

The **Tobacco Trades** show further signs of improvement. Reports from two unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,912, show that 77 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.8 per cent. in August.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at the Docks was not quite so good as in the previous month, but the falling off was balanced by an improvement at the principal wharves, especially on the north side. The estimated average daily number of dock labourers employed in all the docks and at 104 of the principal wharves was 14,263 as compared with 14,215 in August. The comparative figures for September 1894 are not available for the labourers employed at the wharves and by shipowners direct, but for the dock companies the average number of labourers employed has increased by 550, being 7,395 in September 1895 and 6,845 in September 1894. Further details are given on page 294.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—In addition to the strikes of bricklayers and labourers referred to on page 305, only one small dispute of pianoforte polishers has been reported as occurring during the month, and this remains unsettled. A movement has been inaugurated by the Bakers' Union for a nine hour working day and a sliding scale of wages with a minimum for each grade, together with increased rates for overtime, and Sunday labour, and regulations as to meal-times. A vote of the members of the London district is being taken on the subject.

Labour Bureaux.—During September fresh applications were registered from 1,824 workpeople and 424 employers by the five Labour Bureaux furnishing returns. During the month 1,532 workpeople were engaged by private employers, and 138 by local authorities. Of the 1,670 persons who thus found work through the Bureaux, 1,253 were only temporarily employed.

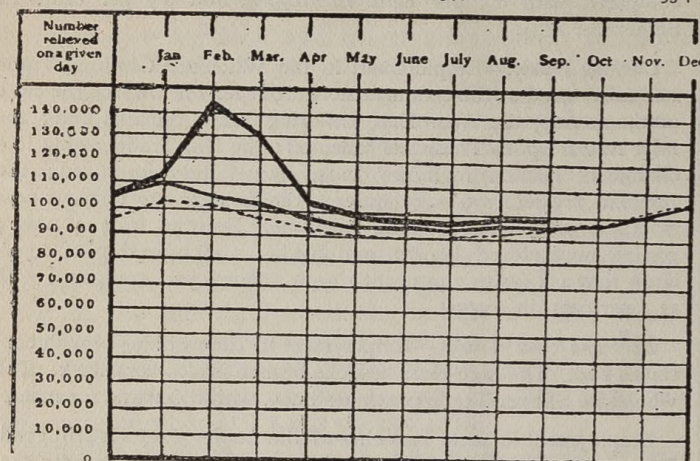
Pauperism.—On one day in the second week of September 98,278 persons were relieved, being in the proportion of 233 to 10,000 of population. These figures show a slight improvement on those for the corresponding day in August, when the number relieved was 98,694, or 234 per 10,000. The Eastern district, with a falling off of 3 per 10,000, shows the greatest change. As compared with September 1894, however, the number of paupers has increased by 3,165, or 7 per 10,000, and of these 2,249 are in the Southern district. In West Ham the rate of pauperism per 10,000 of population was 240 in the middle of September, 243 in August, and 230 in September 1894.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume...

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

of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1893, 1894 and 1895:—

[The thick curve represents 1895; the thin curve 1894; and the dotted curve 1893.]



The number of vagrants relieved in London on the last day of the second week of September was 1,027.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Durham.*—Ten collieries, employing 9,384 men and boys, have worked from 20 to 22 days during the month, while three other pits employing over 4,000 men and boys have worked full time. The number of miners in receipt of stoppage pay owing to bad trade is 1,717 (or 2.9 per cent.), as against 3.4 in August. *Northumberland.*—Employment at the steam-coal pits has slightly fallen off, the average number of days worked being 19.2, as against full time in August. Pits producing house coal have averaged 18.2 days per month. Out of 20,184 members, 55 (or 0.2 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 0.6 per cent. in August.

Metal Mining.—Three lead mines continue slack. Ironstone miners are moderately employed.

Quarrying.—The Gateshead and district quarrymen are fully employed. Employment in limestone quarries, in Weardale, has not improved.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—*On the Tyne.*—Two yards in mid-river have discharged a few men, but activity continues in the higher reaches. The Elswick Ordnance factory continues busy. Engine-building is quiet, two firms discharging outside men. Employment on repair work is slack. Of the 10,155 union members employed in these trades, included in 49 returns, 976 (or 9.5 per cent.) are out of work, as against 11.1 per cent. in August. *On the Wear.*—Marine engine-building is improving, turners and machine men being fairly well employed. Out of the 4,010 members of the Engineering and Iron Shipbuilding Trades, 857 (or 21.3 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 22.5 in August. Smelters, charge-wheelers, gas producers, and local steel-plate mills have worked full time. Angle-iron mills continue four shifts per week. Out of 393 pattern-makers on both rivers, 11.9 per cent. are unemployed.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The coal porters report employment as fair on both rivers, with 3 per cent. wholly unemployed; the trimmers and teamers have none wholly unemployed. All sections of quayside labour have been fairly busy. The Tyne wherry men have been either fully or partially employed. The demand for sea-going men has been less than the supply.

Building and Wood-working Trades.—The Building Trades continue brisk. Brewery and factory coopers are better employed; of 245 members only 5 per cent. are idle. The mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists, with a membership of 261, have 1.9 per cent. unemployed on both rivers.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The Tyne letterpress printers are still slack, 10.9 per cent. being idle, as against 9.2 in August; the bookbinders continue well employed; paper mills are on full time.

Miscellaneous.—The Durham cokemen report improvement, with less than 1 per cent. idle. Glass bottle-makers are still slack on the Wear, busy at Seaham Harbour, and improved at Blyth. Pressed glass-makers on both rivers are fairly busy; out of 340 members 6 per cent. are unemployed. Chemical-workers are better employed. Improvement is reported in the Cement and White Lead Industries. Sail-makers continue slack. The Steam-packet and Trawling Industry is fairly good, with 1.7 per cent. unemployed. Numbers of excavators are idle owing to completion of contracts, chiefly in the Weardale district.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as fair, with all steadily employed.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is good at the steel works generally throughout the district, and some report trade as brisk. The finished Iron Trade also is better; wages under the sliding scale of the North of England Conciliation Board remain unaltered for the next two months. Improvement is also shown in the pipe foundries, bridge works and other branches. The improvement amongst blast-furnacemen has been maintained.

Engineering.—Employment continues to improve, the percentage of unemployed engineers being reduced at Middlesbrough to 3.4 and at Stockton to 2.8; Hartlepool, with 6 per cent., and Darlington, with 5.7 per cent., show a slight increase in the number of unemployed. The moulders report employment as good at Stockton, with 2 per cent. unemployed; as improving at Middlesbrough; and as moderate at Hartlepool, with 10 per cent. unemployed.

Shipbuilding.—This trade continues good at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool, and some improvement is noted at Thornaby; the percentage of unemployed for the district (excluding Whitby) is 11, as compared with 12 in August. The joiners (including house-joiners) report less than 1½ per cent. idle at the Hartlepoons, and none out of work at Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Thornaby. The smiths and strikers report none out of work. The shipwrights are fairly well employed, with few out of work.

Building Trades.—These trades continue good throughout the district.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as slightly better. Dock labour has been good at Hartlepool, and quiet at Middlesbrough, but is improving. Riverside labour has been fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with the tailors is slack; with the printers fair; and with the salt-workers steady.—*A. Main.*

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.
Oldham and District.

Textile Trades.—There is no improvement in the Cotton Spinning Trade, which is reported as bad in Oldham, Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Dukinfield and Ashton. Out of 9,394 members, the spinners report 7.25 (or 7.7 per cent.) as unemployed. A number of mills are closed in Oldham and Mossley, and short time is on the increase. In Oldham the card room workers, with 11,182 members, have 870 (or 7.8 per cent.) unemployed. The Doubling Trade is reported as better, and twiners and ring-frame spinners are fully employed. Velvet weavers are moderately employed, and calico weavers have to wait for warps. Reelers and winders are only partially employed. The woollen and flannel-workers in the Rochdale district are fully employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate, with 44 out of 2,091 members (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed. The machine-makers, boiler-makers, ironfounders, brass-finishers, tinplate-workers, spindle and flyer makers, and ring-frame and throstle-makers are all fully employed.

Building Trades.—The painters, plasterers and bricklayers report employment as good; the plumbers, joiners and carpenters and masons as moderate. Out of 744 members none are unemployed.

Coal Mining.—The coal miners are only averaging about four days per week.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the spinning branch at Bolton continues irregular, several mills running only three or four days per week. Two mills in the district remain idle. There are 65 members (or 1.5 per cent.) on the out-of-work fund, as compared with 58 in August. At Chorley the spinning branch continues depressed, the weaving branch has improved. In Bury the weavers are much better employed; spinners have improved slightly, but some mills are only working four and five days per week, and one has stopped; the card-room workers have 10 members on the funds, and some are working short time; the bleachers, finishers and dyers are busy.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—In Bolton the engineers are fairly well employed, some firms being exceptionally busy. In the machine-making shops some departments are brisk, whilst others are only moderately employed. The Steel Smelting and allied Trades are slightly better employed. In Chorley all the iron works are fully employed. In Bury the machine shops are busy. In Wigan all engineering firms are reported as working full time; steel smelting and iron rolling are reported as good, and steel rolling as bad.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE (contd.).

Building Trades.—All branches are active throughout the district, and at Chorley some are making overtime.

Coal Mining.—This industry is still depressed in the Wigan district.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the Clothing, Printing and Cycle Trades at Wigan is reported as fairly good.—*R. Tootill.*

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—In the Calico Weaving Industry there is a further addition to the number of looms temporarily stopped. In the Blackburn district upwards of 3,000 are reported as stopped, in the Burnley district 2,000, and in Darwen 1,000, mostly for want of warps. The Shoddy or Hardwaste Trade continues good, with few unemployed. The Coloured Goods Trade shows a slight change for the better. There is no improvement in the Sateen Trade, and a number of looms are only engaged upon plain cloth. At Burnley, in the looming and drawing department, 40 (or 6.6 per cent.) of the members are unemployed, all of whom, with the exception of three, are receiving out-of-work benefit. Winders and beamers are still working irregular hours. The Spinning Trade continues dull in the Preston district; only 7 members are receiving out-of-work pay, but 4.7 per cent. who are unemployed have exhausted their out-of-work benefit. At Blackburn 30 (or 2.8 per cent.) are on out-of-work pay, 39 (or 3.7 per cent.) are on temporary stoppage pay, whilst a number are unemployed who have exhausted their right to benefit. At Burnley 34 (or 8 per cent.) are in receipt of unemployed benefit. At Accrington 1 per cent. are receiving out-of-work benefit, whilst 2 per cent. have received full benefit. At Darwen both spinners and card-room workers have suffered severely from stoppages.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues good, especially in the Darwen, Accrington, and Nelson districts.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment in these trades continues fair, overtime being worked in some departments by several firms. Tinplate-workers are fully employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—There is little change in the Coal Mining Industry, few men being totally unemployed. Quarrymen are in full work.

Miscellaneous.—The Letterpress Printing Trades are moderately good; tailors and cabinet-makers are still slack. The Calico Printing and Dyeing Trades are only moderate, short time being worked in some departments. The Paper-staining and Printing Trade in the Darwen district continues slack.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers show the same number unemployed. The steam engine-makers report employment as better, with 3 per cent. unemployed; other branches of the Engineering Trade as better, the machine-workers having 3.5 per cent. unemployed, with daily reductions; braziers and sheet metal-workers report employment as good, with 3.3 per cent. unemployed. In Warrington the wire-drawers are slack; wire-weavers and other branches of the Iron Trade busy; file cutting remains moderate. In Northwich the Iron Trade shows no change. In Macclesfield moulders and fitters are not busy, but are working full time.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinning in Manchester is bad, the spinners having 7½ per cent. unemployed; two mills are running half time, and one has stopped. In Stockport improvement is reported, and the thread mills are now working full time. In Macclesfield the cotton operatives are mostly working short time. The Silk Trade continues good, and hand-loom weavers are busy; power-loom weavers, silk dyers and silk finishers are busy, employment being more plentiful than for years past. Fustian cutters are fully employed; the dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as moderate, with 13.3 per cent. unemployed.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke branch of the Tailoring Trade is better, both in Manchester and Stockport; the wholesale branch is quiet; with ready-made mantle-makers, shirt-makers, and water-proof garment-makers employment is good; cap-making is moderate. The Felt Hat Trade maintains the improvement reported in last GAZETTE.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers and plasterers, and plasterers' labourers have no unemployed; the lathrenders report employment as bad; the plumbers, painters, and fret lead glaziers as moderate, with 5.3 per cent. unemployed in the latter branch; the joiners as moderate, with 1.2 per cent. unemployed. In Stockport, Macclesfield, and Warrington the Building Trades are good.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The upholsterers report employment as moderate, with 4.2 per cent. unemployed; the

cabinet-makers in Manchester and Warrington as fair. Employment is good with coach-makers, less than 1 per cent. being unemployed at the railway carriage building, and only 2.4 per cent. in the general trade.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printing shows no improvement either in Manchester or Stockport, the number unemployed remaining unchanged. The bookbinders, with 5 per cent. idle, and the lithographic printers, with 4.7 per cent. idle, report employment as moderate.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Iron Trade has been fairly good, but less so at the end than at the beginning of the month. The Steel Trade has been fairly well employed in Workington and West Cumberland district, but slack in the Furness district, owing to the stoppage of the mills at Barrow.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Marine engineering has been fairly active during the month. All other branches of engineering are slack, but there are no unemployed in the district except those coming from other parts of the country seeking employment. Pattern-makers and moulders report employment as moderate.

Building Trades.—Most branches of these trades remain well employed, but the plumbers report employment as slack.

Shipping and Railways.—There has been little done at the Barrow Docks. On the West Cumberland coast shipping has been fairly well employed, but principally in the coasting traffic. Railways, considering the stoppage of works, have been doing well owing to increased outside traffic.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades are only moderate, but there are no unemployed. The tailors are slack; the millers are well employed; the pulp and paper-workers and jute-workers moderately so. General labourers are slack.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers report repair work as moderate, and employment as fairly good upon the Mersey. The engineers show no improvement, and the pattern-makers are not so well employed. The ship-joiners are well employed upon new work in Birkenhead; repair work in Liverpool has been quiet, but the passenger companies have been busy fitting extra accommodation in outward boats. Shipwrights have been busy on the upper reaches of the Mersey, and several Liverpool men have had to be employed to meet requirements. The ship-painters have been well employed. The mast and block-makers report no change.

Furnishing and Coach-building Trades.—The cabinet-makers and French-polishers report employment as fair. Coach-builders are better employed than during the same period last year, with few idle.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, masons and plasterers are well employed; the house-joiners fairly well. The plumbers report employment as moderate. The house-painters report a slight increase in the number unemployed. The paviors and flaggers are fully employed. The Building Trades on the Cheshire side of the Mersey are good.—*C. Rouse.*

Shipping, Dock and Riverside Labour.—Sailors and firemen report an improvement. Employment amongst ship and quay men has been fair and improving, particularly in the Corn Trade. Coal heavers also report employment as better; Dock Board employees as moderate; river flatmen as unchanged.

Other Transport Trades.—Employment in the railway goods department amongst stage-men, yards-men, shunters, sheeters, van-men, carters and others is reported as better, nearly all branches being fully employed. Inland water carriers and general cross city carriers also report employment as slightly better.

Chemical Industry.—Employment in the Chemical Industry in Widnes and St. Helens shows little change, a number of men being still unemployed and others working short time.

Coal Mining.—This industry has been much disturbed, particularly in the St. Helens district, by proposals of reductions in wages. In some cases the proposals have been withdrawn, in others the men have sent in their notices and are resisting any reduction.

Metal Trades.—Tinplate and other sheet metal-workers report employment as moderate. The whitesmiths have still about 4 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Brick-makers report employment as brisk; general labourers and excavators as quiet; gas-workers as improved; mineral water and general bottlers as good; tobacco-workers as fair; brush-makers as quiet.—*J. Sexton.*

A report from Winsford states that employment in the Salt Trade has been fair, full time being worked in some cases, 5½ days per-

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

week in others. The Building Trades are busy; the fustian-cutters are only moderately so; chemical-workers have been working full time at one works at Middlewich, at another there have been stoppages for repairs.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment was slack at first, but has improved each week during September. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, the shipwrights, with from 12 to 15 per cent. unemployed, the ironfounders, with less than 3 per cent. unemployed, the brassfounders and finishers, the smiths and strikers, with 4 per cent. unemployed, one branch of the engineers, with between 6 and 7 per cent. unemployed, and another with nearly 9 per cent., report employment as moderate; the iron and steel-dressers as good; the machine-workers as declining, with between 7 and 8 per cent. unemployed; the sail-makers as bad, with 25 per cent. unemployed. The engineering and general boiler-shop and ship-yard labourers as bad, with 28·7 per cent. totally unemployed, and 23 per cent. partially employed. At Grimsby engineering is slack, and shipwrights have only moderate employment.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners, with 2 per cent. unemployed, the builders' labourers, with 2 per cent. idle, and the plumbers report employment as moderate; the bricklayers, mill-sawyers, and wood-cutting machinists and the painters as good, the latter with 6 per cent. unemployed. At Grimsby a decline is reported.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The demand for seamen has been quiet, but the total number unemployed in two societies making reports is less. The dockers report employment as fair; the coal porters, trimmers and railway servants as moderate, the latter with a greater number unemployed.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate; the steam trawling and long-line fishing engineers as good. At Grimsby employment has been unsatisfactory.

Seed Crushing, Paint, Oil, and Colour Trades.—The oil-millers and colour-workers report employment as moderate, with fewer out of work. Employment in the seed-crushing mills during the month has been moderate, and shows a decline. Employment in the Paint and Colour Trades is fair.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, but improving; the bookbinders and rulers as good.

Miscellaneous.—The flour mill workers, coopers, and gas-workers report employment as moderate; the cabinet-makers and tailors as bad; the brush-makers as bad at first, and then moderate. At Selby employment generally is good.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Metal Trades.—Engineering in Leeds continues to improve, with fewer unemployed than during the last four years. Textile machinery-makers in Leeds have been particularly busy, but not at Wakefield. Steel-workers in Leeds are well employed, with all furnaces in blast. Ironfounding is fair in Leeds, but not so busy at Stanningley, and moderate at Bramley; crane-makers at Rodley are busy. The boiler-makers, brass-workers and machine-workers report employment as moderate; the whitesmiths as improving.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Industry has been fair in Leeds and good at Bramley. The Ready-made Clothing Trade has not been so busy, and bespoke tailoring is quiet.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds the woollen spinners are busy; the wileys and fettlers are well employed; the linen trade is fully employed. Employment is good in the blanket trade, moderate in the flax trade. At Yeadon work continues brisk, overtime and night shifts being worked. At Wakefield, Morley, Stanningley, Rodley, Farsley, and Bramley employment in mills is good. Dyers in Leeds are busy; at Wakefield moderately so.

Leather Trades.—The curriers report employment as busy, with none idle; the tanners as good; the leather shavers as improved.

Building Trades.—Employment is full with the masons and bricklayers in Leeds; quiet with the joiners; moderate with the plasterers; slack with the plumbers; fair with the builders' labourers. Employment is improving at Wakefield.

Coal Mining.—The miners in Leeds show a slight improvement. At Wakefield two and three days per week is the average worked at most pits.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the lithographic printers as moderate; the cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers, and plate-glass

beveillers as fair; the millers and paper-mill workers as good; the brush-makers as quiet; the coach-makers as moderate; the glass bottle-makers as depressed at Leeds, and moderate at Wakefield.

O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsted Trade.—Worsted manufacturing is still brisk. Throughout the district the demand for labour is greater than the supply.

Woollen Trade.—In and around Huddersfield the trade continues good. Overtime and night work are still being worked in the district, although night work in one or two mills has been discontinued. The heavy Woollen Trade in the Dewsbury and Batley district is also good.

Cotton and Silk Trades.—The Cotton Trade is reported as moderate, and the Silk Trade at Brighouse is slightly declining.

Metal Trades.—Employment in the Metal Trades is good in Halifax, Huddersfield, and Keighley; in Bradford it is normal, no short time being worked; out of 1,648 members, the engineers in Bradford, Huddersfield, and Halifax have 118 (or 7·2 per cent.) unemployed; the ironfounders in Halifax and Keighley have 1 per cent. idle.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—The dyers, printers, cabinet-makers, wire-drawers, and stone-dressers report employment as fairly brisk; the tailors as slack.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The men at some of the collieries are working a little better than previously, but the collieries continue to be over crowded, and the average weekly wages of the men generally are still unsatisfactory. Some of the collieries and seams of coal are working nearly every day, others only two or three days a week. There is a better demand for coke at some collieries, and more coke ovens are being put on. The number of men on the out-of-work fund remains about the same as last month.

Glass Bottle Trade.—This industry remains depressed in Barnsley and district.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Iron-smelters continue fairly well employed, and the workmen in the merchant iron mills are better off for work. The iron-rollers report their branch as good. The Bessemer trade is quiet, but Siemens steel-workers and best crucible steel-makers are making good time. Armour plate-makers are busy, and in marine forgings, flues, and tubes a fair quantity of work is being executed. Axle and tyre-making is moderate, but the railway spring trade is bad, with 5 per cent. of the workmen unemployed and 80 per cent. on short time. Boiler-makers are busier, but still slack. The ironfounders return 11 per cent. as unemployed, as against 9 per cent. in August; the engineers 6 per cent., as against 8 per cent. in August. The wire-drawers report employment as moderate, with no skilled men unemployed; the stove grate workers and nut and bolt makers as fair; steel-rollers employed on wire rods, file, and cutlery steel as moderate. Iron palisade and gate-makers are busy on local work. At Penistone employment in the railway Bessemer department is slack; on steel forgings moderate. At Rotherham the iron and steel-workers report employment as better; the brass-workers as fair, with 1 per cent. unemployed; the stove-grate and bath-makers as moderate.

Cutlery and Tools.—There is a slight improvement in the table and butcher knife trade, but the pen and pocket branches are slack, the grinders in this branch reporting 50 per cent. on short time, although none are entirely out of work, owing to the system of sharing the work in order to secure the wheel rent. Joiners' tool-makers are fairly well employed, and the engineers' tool-makers report 3 per cent. unemployed, as against 4 per cent. in August. Scissor and razor-makers are slack; employment on metal spoons and forks and on files is fair. At Dronfield employment amongst tool-makers is fair.

Other Metal Trades.—The silversmiths report employment as improved in some sections, but quiet amongst makers of dish covers, baskets and tea-pots. Brass-workers are well employed.

Building Trades.—These trades generally continue to be well employed. The plumbers are slacker, with a few unemployed.

Furnishing and Coach-building Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as good; the coach-makers as worse, with 10 per cent. unemployed; the wagon-builders as improved.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report

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

employment as bad, with 15 per cent. unemployed, as against 12 per cent. in August. The bookbinders are better employed, with 2 per cent. out of work, as compared with 5 per cent. in August.

Miscellaneous.—The potters and glass medical bottle-makers are busy, but aerated water bottle-makers are quieter; coke-makers are busy.—*S. Uttley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Out of 1,190 union members in these trades, 35 (or 3 per cent.), are reported as unemployed. Engineers at the locomotive works are steadily employed on full time. Bridge, girder and boiler yards are fairly well employed. The boiler-makers in Derby, Burton-on-Trent and Ilkeston, report employment as moderate, with 3 per cent. idle. The ironfounders, with about 6½ per cent. idle in all districts, report employment as moderate in Derby, fair in Chesterfield and Codnor, and bad in Butterley; the stove-grate workers in Belper, and brass moulders and finishers in Derby, as moderate; the lace machine builders in Long Eaton as fair; the pattern-makers as moderate. Cycle works are busy.

Building Trades.—These trades continue fairly well employed, with few out of work.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade in Borrowash and Long Eaton continues bad, with many totally unemployed, but shows signs of improvement. The Cotton Trade is reported fair in Belper, and dull in Glossop. The wool, silk, and merino manufacturers in Lea and Holloway are busy. The surgical bandage-makers in Derby report employment as good, with none idle. The dyers in Belper district are fairly well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as dull in the Tailoring Trade, as moderate with the boot and shoe operatives, and as slack with the dress and mantle-makers.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues somewhat unsatisfactory, partly owing to the warm weather, but improved slightly towards the close of the month.

Quarrying.—Quarries in Peak Forest, Miller's Dale, and Buxton were working four to five days per week in the early part of the month, but full time prevailed afterwards. In Wirksworth and Ambergate employment is dull, all workmen being on short time.

Iron Trades.—Employment in the manufacture of pig-iron has improved, and preparations are being made in several districts to put more furnaces in blast.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the letterpress printers as dull; the bookbinders as fair, few being totally unemployed.

Wood-working and Coach-building Trades.—The coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as moderate. The railway carriage and wagon-builders in Derby are working only four days per week. Coach-builders in private shops are fairly well employed. The cabinet-makers, sawyers and wood machinists report employment as fair. In Long Eaton wagon-builders are well employed, but wagon-repairers are working only five days per week.

Miscellaneous.—The millers, brush-makers, and paper-makers report employment as moderate; the colour-mixers and paper-stainers as good; the bakers and confectioners as fair. The tanners and curriers in Chesterfield district report employment as fair, full time being worked.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—There is no material improvement in the Lace Trade. The plain net branch is fairly well employed, but unfavourable reports come from all other branches throughout the district.

Hosiery Trade.—There is an improvement in combination dress goods, with full employment; the shirt and pant branch is fairly busy; hose and half-hose workers are on short time, with 10 per cent. unemployed. Employment for women on seamless hose is good; but moderate in other branches. The rib top branch continues busy; the circular hosiery branch is only moderate; elastic bandage-makers are busy; the hand-frame branch at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Kirkby, Carlton and Arnold, is slack; the wool and Shetland shawl workers are fairly busy at Hucknall Torkard.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 26 collieries give an average of 3½ days per week. Two pits are closed through slackness of trade and other causes. Pits are making 5 days in the Worksop district, a few have made 4 days, but 13 pits have made less than 3½ days.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The blast-furnacemen report employment as fair; the engineers and iron-dressers as moderate; the machine-builders as brisk; the hosiery machine-builders as slack; the cycle-makers as declining; the kitchen-range and hot-water makers as improving; the boiler-makers as fairly brisk at

Nottingham and Newark; the ironfounders as slack at Mansfield and Nottingham; the tool machinists and stove-grate workers as bad; the carriage straighteners as improving, but bobbin and carriage-workers as moderate; the brass-workers as brisk. Trade is fairly good at Newark and Mansfield, but quiet at Beeston.

Printing Trades.—The Letterpress Printing Trade is bad at Nottingham and moderate at Retford. The lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders as dull; the lithographic artists as unchanged.

Railways.—Employment is good at Colwick, Toton Sidings, Nottingham, Mansfield, Worksop, and Newark.

Building Trades.—Most branches continue good throughout the district, but brick-makers are not fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives has been slack; with tailors moderate; with silk-dressers slack; with cotton-doublers busy; with gas-workers improving; with basket-makers, coach-makers, farriers and wheelwrights moderate; the female cigar-makers report no improvement.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—The Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade is much slacker, and many operatives, particularly in the clicking branches, are working short time. At Northampton, Wellingborough, and Rothwell, employment is generally good, but at Kettering and Rushden less regular. The Leather Currying Trades are still fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Wholesale Tailoring Trade is good; in the bespoke branch work is slack. Stay, corset, and mantle-makers are busy, and milliners and dressmakers moderately so. Work is fairly good with felt hat and cap makers, and quiet with silk hatters.

Hosiery, Yarn, and Spinning Trades.—The operatives in all departments of the Hosiery Industry are in full work. Great activity continues in the Yarn and Spinning Trades. A number of operative dyers and trimmers are working overtime. Woolsorters are also busier.

Elastic Web Trade.—In the Elastic Web Trade workpeople are more fully employed than they have been for a long time.

Engineering, Iron and Cycle Trades.—In most towns in this district the Engineering Trade is still good, but at Loughborough work is slacker among moulders, turners, and lamp-makers. Employment is good in the locomotive, electrical, boot and shoe, and hosiery machinery departments, but moderate with boiler-makers and some branches of ironfounding. The pattern-makers and smiths continue slack. Employment in the Cycle Trade is not so good.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment has improved among the colliers, and some who were working two days are now making three days per week. Work is regular with ironstone-workers; stone quarrymen are also working full time.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers are more fully employed. Trade is moderately brisk with lithographic printers, but still quiet with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, stone-masons, and builders' labourers, are in full work at Leicester and Northampton. At Rugby and Coalville carpenters are only moderately employed. Work is also fairly good with plasterers, painters, plumbers, glaziers, bell-hangers and gas-fitters throughout the district.

Furnishing and Coach-building Trades.—Operatives in all branches of the Upholstering and General Furnishing Trades have fairly regular employment. Carriage, tram-car, and wagon-builders are now in full work.

Railways.—A slight improvement is reported among those engaged on goods traffic. In some of the fitting shops full time is being resumed. Railway navvies and roadmen are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Workmen employed in the Brick, Tile, and Terra Cotta Trades are busy. Cigar-makers are in full work. Employment is better with saddlers, lace-makers, wheelwrights, confectioners and gas-workers; slacker with paper box-makers and outdoor labourers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment continues good. The hollow-ware pressers have 1 per cent. out of work; the sanitary pressers are fully employed, and this branch is growing rapidly; the flat pressers and the printers and transferrers have been well employed; the women gilders and decorators report employment as moderate, with 1 per cent. idle; the throwers and turners as improved, and the handlers as good. The mould-makers, designers, modellers, packers, crate-makers, ovenmen, kilnmen and saggars-makers all make satisfactory reports; and amongst the encaustic tile-makers full time is now general.

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

Iron and Steel Trades.—The improvement continues, and the mills and forges are now running full time, but owing to the excessive heat puddlers have only been drawing three or four heats per turn instead of six. Pig-iron workers are well employed, and the steel mills are working full time.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler-makers, iron-founders, and machinists are well employed at Stoke and Stafford, slack at Hanley and Burslem, with 5 per cent. unemployed. At Crewe, where for two years only five days per week have been worked, several departments have started full time. At Congleton employment is bad. The copper works at Froghall and Oakmoor are working full time in all departments.

Coal Mining.—A further improvement is noticeable, and at some collieries the men are working from four to five days per week, the average being about 3½ days. The colliery enginemen and stokers are moderately employed, with none idle.

Textile Trades.—At Leek the silk-trimming weavers report employment as fairly good, with 1 per cent. unemployed; the Silk Trade generally is moderate. At Congleton the trimming weavers report employment as slightly better, with none out of work; the silk dressers as moderate; the throwsters as busy. Fustian-cutting at Congleton remains good. At Cheadle and Tean the tape weavers are moderately employed.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as bad in the Potteries; as slack at Crewe, and as quiet at Stafford. The shoemakers at Stafford report employment as slowly improving. At Stone employment is slack; about 40 men are working quarter time through the introduction of machinery, and a general falling-off is reported.

Building Trades.—In the Potteries the bricklayers are fully employed, while the joiners have about 5 per cent. out of work. At Leek trade is moderate, with no unemployed. At Stafford all branches are fully employed, and at Crewe employment has been better. The brick and tile-makers throughout the district and the stone quarries around Alton and Hollington are fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the Potteries the letterpress printers remain slack, fully 14 per cent. being unemployed. At Stafford employment has been slack, but is now improving. The lithographic artists and printers and the bookbinders report no change.

Miscellaneous.—The railway servants at Crewe and at Stafford report employment as improved; at Stoke as fair, with no unemployed. The brush-makers in the Potteries are fairly busy; the bakers moderately so, with 5 per cent. idle.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Sheet mills have been busy, and more are being started. Employment has also improved in South Shropshire; puddlers are better employed, mill rollers are busy, steel smelters are fully employed, and have secured an advance at Wednesbury. Wire-rolling is depressed.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Engineers and constructive machinists have not been so well employed. There has been a slight decline amongst tool-makers and machinists. Work remains good throughout the district amongst bridge and girder constructors, boiler and tank-makers, gasometer erectors, iron-door and safe-makers. The Electrical Trades are busy. The Cycle Trade, although declining, is fair. Ironfounders are busy, and at some places are working overtime. The bulk of the men at the railway sheds at Wolverhampton are on short time.

Hardware Trades.—The vice and anvil-makers, nut and bolt-makers, lock-makers, key-stampers, and ironplate-workers are slack; hollow-ware moulders are working four and five days a week; hinge-casters two and three days; and odd work moulders, five days. Employment has improved among brass and copper-workers, tinplate-workers, fender and fire-iron makers, chain and anchor-makers, and tube-makers; wrought-nail makers are busier, partly through the absence of many of the workers who are hop-picking. Edge-tool makers, galvanizers, enamellers and japanners, and makers of malleable castings are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe-makers have been slack; a few have been discharged, and short time is being worked at some firms. The tailors have been moderately well employed.

Coal Mining.—In the Cannock Chase district there has been some improvement in the Deep Mine Trade, but work has been scarce in other seams, some miners not doing more than two days a week. In the Black Country district (manufacturing coal) the recent improvement has been fully maintained. In the South Shropshire district, collieries producing manufacturing coal are busy, but miners of household coal have only been doing about half-time.

Building Trades.—All branches have been fully employed except the painters and decorators.

Wood-working and Furnishing Trades.—The mill-sawyers and machinists have been fully employed; coach-builders, cabinet-makers, upholsterers and polishers, wheelwrights and smiths, and wet cask coopers have been well employed; dry cask coopers and case-makers moderately so.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress printers have been slack, with 7 per cent., and in West Bromwich nearly 10 per cent., idle. Railway servants, carters and carriers, and oil, colour and varnish-makers are fully employed. All branches of the Leather Trades in Walsall are fairly busy. The Flint-glass Trade in Brierley Hill, Wordsley and Stourbridge continues good. The glass bottle-makers at Brierley Hill have re-started work, but the trade continues depressed. Gas-stokers are getting busy.—*W. F. Mee.*

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—Local branches report trade moderate, improving, and good, with 46 unemployed. There is most work on machines and tools for cartridge making, and some overtime is being made. The general tool-makers report employment as fair, electrical and general work being busiest. The tool-makers have 8 per cent. unemployed. The smiths and strikers report an improvement, 20 per cent. being still on short time, but only 2 per cent. unemployed.

Brass and Copper-workers.—There is full employment on all kinds of gas fittings, and on common fittings several firms are working overtime, while new work has arisen through the introduction of penny-in-the-slot meters. Chandelier work and cabinet brass founding are improving. Plumbers' brassfounders are less busy. Art metal and church work, stamping and spinning and brass hinge-making are moderate. Cased tube makers, strip casters, tube drawers, and makers of bedstead mounts are fully employed. Coppersmiths are better employed.

Other Metal Trades.—Ironplate-workers report an improvement, the braziers being slackest; short time is being worked in some cases. Wire drawing is fair, though there is some short time. Bedstead work is good. The file-workers report employment as moderate, 4 days per week being the average time worked, and 3 per cent. being unemployed. The Steel Pen Trade is indifferent. Metal-rollers are a little busier.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—The Jewellery Trade has much improved in all branches, and silver and electro-plate workers are fairly busy. Several firms are working overtime, and none short time.

Building Trades.—The plasterers report employment as good; the carpenters as fair, but with several unemployed at Smethwick; the stone-masons as bad, with a number unemployed, and men leaving the town. Other branches are reported as good.

Other Trades in Birmingham.—The flint-glass makers again report no improvement, but bevelling and silvering are good. Printers again report employment as moderate. The coach-makers report work as fairly good, the private trade being the busiest. The gas-workers are better employed. The packing-case makers report employment as fairly good, with 8 per cent. idle. The ivory button-workers are only making three days per week. The Cycle Trade is still fairly active, the season having been prolonged by the fine weather.

Trades in South Staffordshire.—Iron and steel-workers are now all busy, none being on short time. The improvement in the Galvanized Trade has caused a great demand for black sheets. Some sheet rolling mills are running night and day, and some old mills are being re-started after being idle for five years. The locksmiths at Willenhall are busy, owing to the introduction of a new lock; less busy in other parts. Vice and anvil work are moderate, some in each branch making short time, but none being unemployed. Many nail-workers are hop picking, and there is consequently more work for those who are left. The chain-makers are involved in a dispute, but their trade is improving.—*W. J. Davis.*

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

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers are fairly well employed at Norwich and Melton Constable, but no overtime is being worked. At Thetford work is slack; fitters are working full time, but machine men are working only five days a week. At Lynn the engineers are busy; at Yarmouth employment is not brisk, but no firms are on short time. Shipwrights and sail-makers are slack, both at Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and several at Yarmouth are unemployed.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPT.—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.).—E. AND S.W. COUNTIES & WALES.

Textile Trades.—The Silk and Crape Trades at Norwich and Yarmouth are still fairly busy; full time is being worked at the factories.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Trade continues bad, especially with the riveters and finishers; the sew-round men are fairly busy; the clickers and machinists are fully employed, but no overtime is being worked. The clothing factories at Norwich are running full time. Tailors at Norwich are fairly busy; at Yarmouth slack.

Building Trades.—Throughout the district these trades have been well employed; at Cambridge and Wells several firms are working overtime. Employment in Norwich among the painters has been better, with fewer idle; at Yarmouth it has declined, several being unemployed.

Cabinet-making and Coach-building.—Cabinet-makers and coach-builders are fairly well employed at Norwich. Employment with brush-makers is fair.

Printing Trades.—Employment with the letterpress printers at Norwich and Yarmouth has been slack, with several unemployed, and dull at Fakenham. The bookbinders at Norwich are fully employed, one firm working overtime.

Wire-weavers.—This industry has improved and all are working on eight hour shifts.

Fishing.—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft the Fishing Industry, owing to the fine weather, has been dull, the boats being unable to get the fish to market in saleable condition.

Dock and General Labour.—The dock labourers at Lynn, Yarmouth and Lowestoft have been well employed. Agricultural labourers are fairly well employed, with few out of work. Many maltsters have commenced operations.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding, and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Ipswich report employment as bad; at Bury St. Edmunds and Colchester as good, and at Chelmsford as slack on heavy work, but busy on light work. The boiler-makers at Ipswich again report employment as moderate; the moulders as good. Shipbuilding shows no improvement.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Trade at Ipswich has been dull, but is improving. At Colchester employment has been fair. The Wholesale Tailoring Trade is good at Ipswich, moderate at Colchester; the bespoke branch is busy. The stay and corset-makers report employment as good at Ipswich and Sudbury.

Mat and Silk Trades.—The mat-makers at Long Melford and Lavenham report employment as good, and at Hadleigh, Sudbury, and Glemsford as moderate. Silk-weaving continues good at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—At Ipswich the bricklayers and carpenters, with none idle, report employment as fair; the plasterers as good; the stonemasons and painters as moderate. At Sudbury these trades are moderate. At Colchester the bricklayers report employment as moderate, and at Chelmsford as dull; the carpenters as fair at Colchester, busy at Chelmsford.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds and Beccles have been well employed. Trade is still moderate at Colchester.

Miscellaneous.—The Ipswich cigar-makers are busy; the Leather Trade at Colchester continues good; coach-building remains depressed; dock and general labour has not improved at Ipswich, and is dull at Colchester. At the horticultural works at Ipswich employment is good; at Chelmsford slack.—*R. W. Mather.*

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

General.—Thirty-one trade societies and branches, with a membership of 6,279, report 128 (or 2 per cent.) as totally unemployed at the end of September.

Building Trades.—Eleven branches of unions, with 1,514 members, report 41, or 2.7 per cent., as unemployed. Employment continues fair, except with house decorators and painters, who report a decline. The bricklayers at Cheltenham, and the carpenters and joiners at Gloucester, report employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made garment-makers continue busy, a few of the factories running overtime. The Bristol Boot and Shoe Industry remains dull, though a few firms are slightly busier. The Kingswood trade is steady, and most of the operatives are fully employed.

Coal Mining.—Employment with house and steam-coal miners in the Forest of Dean continues steady. In the Radstock district

trade has slightly improved, three of the largest collieries working full time. The other pits, however, are still working irregularly, with an average of about four days per week. The miners in the Bristol district report no change.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Trowbridge district is reported as steady; at Stroud as good. The cotton operatives in Bristol are busy.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The brush-makers report employment as improving; the basket-makers as slack; the cabinet-makers and upholsterers as steady; the coopers as good; the mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as moderate; the box and packing-case makers as dull.

Printing Trades.—Of 605 members of societies engaged in these trades, 20 (or 3.3 per cent.) are unemployed. The letterpress printers describe employment as dull at Bath, improving at Gloucester, and good at Bristol. Lithographic printing is reported as moderate; bookbinding as quiet.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—These trades are reported slack, with some shops working short time. Five branches, with a membership of 575, report 44 (or 5.8 per cent.) as unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners report employment as bad, with 12 per cent. idle; the glass-bevellers and cutters as good; the glass bottle-makers as dull; the gas-workers as improving; the quayside and general labourers as slack; the seagoing men and shipwrights as depressed.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—The Metal Mining Industry of Cornwall shows no improvement, and men continue to leave for South Africa; the numbers employed show a decrease. The Quarrying and Clay Industries are reported as fair generally.

Engineering and Ship-Repairing.—The engineers again report employment as fairly good throughout the district, with less than 1 per cent. unemployed in the Plymouth and Devonport branches; the ironfounders as moderate; the boiler-makers as busy; the moulders as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made department of the Tailoring Trade has been fairly well employed, but the bespoke department has been quiet. The boot and shoe operatives have again been quiet throughout the district, short time being the rule. The hand-sewn branch also continues bad.

Building Trades.—These trades are reported as fairly good, except at Torquay, with few unemployed.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—The imports for the month have decreased, and dock labourers have been slack. The seamen also report no improvement.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report full employment in Plymouth and district, overtime being the rule in several establishments. The lithographic printers report employment as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The wheelwrights, coach-builders, smiths, and saddlers report employment as fairly good; the bakers and brush-makers as slack. The Fishing Industry is moderate. The brick-makers at the yards have been busy. Many of the men engaged on the waterworks at Redruth have been discharged, and general labour is slack.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.**South Wales District.**

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good in the hill districts, but less so at Swansea and Cardiff, except with the bricklayers, with whom it is moderate. The carpenters and joiners report employment as bad, with 5 per cent. unemployed in Cardiff and Newport.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—These trades have been dull in the Bristol Channel, except at Pembroke Dock. Ship-painters and scrapers have not been so well employed; the shipwrights report over 50 per cent. idle; the engineers have 8½ per cent. unemployed at Barry Dock, 15 per cent. at Cardiff, 10 per cent. at Newport, over 19 per cent. at Swansea. At Cardiff a few yards are on short time, and the number unemployed has been increased through the Taff Vale strike. At Newport, engineering shops not dependent on shipping are busy, while at Llanelly such firms are working only three days a week, others being closed for an indefinite period. The boiler-makers report employment as dull, averaging 18 per cent. unemployed; the moulders as bad, with average of 25 per cent. out of work, including non-members. Shipyard labourers report employment as bad.

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

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen again report employment as dull, with few changes of crews. The men engaged in the iron ore, pitwood, timber, and corn-portering work are well employed.

Tinplate Trade.—This industry is more settled than it has been for some time. At Aberavon, Briton Ferry, Neath, and Morriston all the works are running well, but at Llanelly things are not quite so satisfactory.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Iron Trade is still dull, but the Steel Trade has improved. At Ebbw Vale the men in the tin bar mills are making full time, but those in the blooming and rail mills do not average half time. The Patent Steel Tube Industry is busy. Spring-makers report employment as moderate.

Coal Mining.—Employment is much the same as last month. Miners at the busiest collieries average about five days per week; at many collieries in the Western district only three days have been made. Disputes have been rather prevalent.

Miscellaneous.—The Patent Fuel Trade is good; the Copper, Silver, and Chemical Industries are still dull. Wagon-builders, steam-sawyers and lath-renders report employment as moderate.

T. Davies.

A further report from *South Wales* states that the Pig Iron Trade is slightly better, and the demand for coke is improving. The Building Trades are busy outside the large towns.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—In Mid and East Lothian this industry continues good, nearly all the miners being fully employed. In West Lothian 10 to 12 days are being worked per fortnight.

Mineral Oil Trades.—Employment continues fairly good. Of the men employed at 15 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, 56.4 per cent. were at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended 28th September. At 13 of these mines, 1,846 men were employed, as compared with 1,921 in September 1894.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The brassfounders, pattern-makers, coppersmiths, range, stove and ornamental fitters, horse-shoers, tinsmiths, and gas-metermakers, report employment as good; the blacksmiths as fair; the engineers as moderate. The iron-moulders in the Falkirk district report employment as good generally; but in the Edinburgh district the light branches are reported as good, and the heavy branches as dull. Returns from sixteen branches of Unions show 3.8 per cent. unemployed.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in the Leith shipyards continues dull, with more unemployed. The boiler-makers return 17.1 per cent. idle, and the shipwrights 19.9 per cent.; the ship-joiners continue fairly well employed. In Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth employment is reported as moderate.

Textile Trades.—In Dunfermline the Linen Industry remains much the same as during the last two months. In Hawick a general improvement has taken place in both the Woollen and Hosiery Industries, more particularly in the machine-made branch of the latter. In Selkirk employment with the weavers, spinners and dyers is good; with the framework-knitters fair. In Galashiels employment with the weavers is good, with the spinners fair. In Midlothian the carpet-weavers report employment as good. The rope-workers in Leith continue on short time.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, masons, slaters, plasterers and lath-splitters report employment as good; the joiners, glaziers and painters as fair; the plumbers as moderate.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The coopers report employment as good; the saw-mill operatives as fair; the French polishers, upholsterers, coach-makers and cabinet-makers as quiet; the carvers and brush-makers as bad. Returns from ten branches of unions show 1.3 per cent. unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as good. The dock labourers and coal porters continue to be fairly well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The compositors report employment as slightly improved; the press and machine men as dull; the stereotypers as good. The type-founders continue to work only five days per week. The lithographic printers and bookbinders report a slight increase in the number idle; the lithographic artists report employment as fair. Returns from 7 branches of unions show 3.2 per cent. idle.

Miscellaneous.—The curriers and glass-cutters report employment as good; the sett-makers and gilders as fair; the shoe-makers, bakers, tailors, saddlers, and pipe-makers as quiet. General labourers continue well employed.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—In Govan the shipwrights and ship-joiners have been well employed. At Port Glasgow the Shipbuilding Trades are all fairly employed. In Dumbarton and Greenock trade has been less busy. (For an account of the threatened dispute in the Shipbuilding Trade, see page 304.)

Iron and Steel Trades.—In the West of Scotland trade is reported as good, with the men fully employed. In Motherwell trade is good, with none idle.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report trade as fairly busy in Govan, Kilmarnock, Port Glasgow, Paisley, Dumbarton, and Motherwell. The blacksmiths report that the improvement of last month has been fully maintained; good reports also come from Motherwell, Kilmarnock, and Dumbarton. The iron-moulders report a continued improvement. The pattern-makers report employment as fair in Kilmarnock. The scale-beam makers are busy, all being fully employed. The iron-dressers and hammer men report employment as improved; the spindle and flyer-makers as busy; the engine crane-men and firemen as good; the brass-moulders as fair, with a few idle; the horse-shoers as declining the wire-weavers as still dull. The tinplate-workers have still a number unemployed.

Coal Mining.—Work has improved during the month at the collieries of the West of Scotland. Conferences of delegates representing the Scottish Miners' Federation have been held in Glasgow. Resolutions were passed advocating a rise in wages, and deputations have waited on some of the employers to urge this view, but in no case has an advance been granted.

Building Trades.—The masons, joiners, glaziers, sett-makers, plasterers, bricklayers, brick-makers and slaters all give good reports, and the painters report improvement.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers and wood-turners report a continued improvement. The saw-millers at Glasgow and Paisley report employment as good; the upholsterers with 2 per cent. idle, the coach-makers with 3 per cent. idle, and the wood carvers as dull.

Textile Trades.—Weavers in all branches of the Textile Trades are busy throughout the district. Lace weavers are busy both in Glasgow and Ayrshire; the power-loom beamers and the dyers report employment as still improving; the calendermen as fairly good, with 2 per cent. idle; the warpers as unchanged. Carpet-weavers are fairly busy on some classes of work, and slack in others; they are fully employed in Paisley. The canvas factories at Port Glasgow are fairly busy.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as fairly good; the tailoresses as improved; the clothiers' operatives as still busy; the shoe-makers as fair; the boot and shoe operatives are all fully employed, some factories working overtime. Pump and slipper-makers report favourably.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report continued improvement. Dock labourers report employment as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report trade as bad, with 10 per cent. idle; the stereotypers and electrotypers as good. The lithographic printers and bookbinders report a slight improvement, with 5 per cent. and 7 per cent. idle respectively.

Miscellaneous.—The calico engravers and the bakers report employment as dull; the cork-cutters as good, with none idle; the labourers, hackney-carriage drivers and carters as good; the glass bottle-makers and plate-glass workers as improved; the flint-glass makers as fair, but with some idle. The tobacco pipe-makers and curriers are fairly well employed.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Millspinners and manufacturers are generally busy since the recent dispute. The Linen Industry improves steadily, and the Jute Branch is brisk. The re-starting of a jute mill has given employment to about 150 hands. The Fife Linen Trade remains satisfactory in all departments. Floorcloth and linoleum-makers are well employed, and bleachfield-workers are fairly busy. Over 300 workers were thrown idle by a fire at Kirkcaldy, but many have obtained employment elsewhere.

Coal Mining.—This industry is again somewhat depressed, and many pits are not working more than three to four days per week.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Work is plentiful in engine and machine-making shops. The engineers report employment as moderately good, with 1 per cent. idle; the blacksmiths as quiet, with about 7 per cent., and the iron-moulders as fairly good, with 9 per cent. unemployed. Work at the shipyards is slack. The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders report trade as bad, with over 20 per cent. unemployed; the shipwrights as fair, with fully 11 per cent. idle.

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

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Tailoring Trade is quiet, but improving. Boot operatives are moderately well employed.

Building Trades.—These Trades still continue fairly brisk. Masons and plasterers continue fully employed. Carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate, with some idle. Plumbers and slaters are fairly well employed, and painters have improved, although a number of men remain out of work. Paviers are dull.

Fishing Industry.—The line and trawl boats have had fair catches. The sparring fishing, which commenced on the 26th September, has been moderately successful.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as good, with none idle. Lithographers and bookbinders are moderately busy.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—Employment with the cabinet-makers, French polishers and upholsterers is reported as good, all being in work; with saw-millers and wood-cutting machinemen as good.

Dock and General Labour.—Employment at the docks remains quiet. General labourers are well employed.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen report employment as good; the sett-makers as good, with none idle; the granite-hewers as still busy, but monumental yards rather unsettled; the granite-polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—The masons, plasterers, slaters, and joiners report employment as good; the plumbers and painters as fair.

Fishing.—In September the trawl boats landed 39,176 cwts., realising £20,892, and line boats 7,966 cwts., realising £4,769, the total being 47,142 cwts., realising £25,661, a decrease in quantity but an increase in value as compared with August.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as improving in the ship-yards; the boiler and bridge shops as slack, with 18 per cent. idle; the shipwrights, with 17.5 per cent. idle, as improving; the iron-moulders with 5.9 per cent. idle; the blacksmiths and the engineers as good; pattern-makers and tinplate-workers as fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Flax Trade is improving; in the Jute Trade fair; in the Cotton Trade bad. About 600 operatives have been put on half time. The rope and twine-spinners and hemp-dressers are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as quiet; the boot and shoe makers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as slightly worse, 6 per cent. being idle; the lithographic printers, the bookbinders and machine-rulers, as good; the paper-workers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The cabinet-makers, chair-makers, and wood-turners report employment as fair; the wood-carvers as dull; the saw-millers and wood-cutting machinemen, coach-makers and comb-makers as good; the saddlers and upholsterers as moderate; the dock and general labourers as fair.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

General.—In 66 societies, with a membership of 16,324, 1,032 (or 6.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September. Twenty-five trades report employment as good, 16 as fair, 3 as quiet, 4 as middling, 15 as dull, and 3 as bad.

Building Trades.—The stone-cutters, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, plasterers, and painters are fully employed. Work is dull with the plumbers and glaziers. The mill-sawyers, lath-splitters, and slaters are fairly well employed.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers and the upholsterers are fairly busy, and employment is good with the coach-builders, organ-builders, and cart and wagon-builders.

Iron Trades.—Employment is quiet with the smiths and boiler-makers; brisk with the stationary engine-drivers; fair with the tinsmiths; and dull with the engineers and shipwrights.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors, tailoresses, dressmakers, drapers, and shop assistants are fairly employed; employment is dull with the bootmakers and riveters.

Printing and allied Trades.—The Printing Trade in most of its branches is dull; the letterpress printers report employment as quiet, with 56 (or 6.2 per cent.), on out-of-work benefit; the lithographers, bookbinders, machine-rulers, and the women-workers, report employment as dull; the stereotypers, paper-cutters, book-keepers, and despatch assistants as middling.

Miscellaneous.—Employment among the quay labourers is fair, but still dull among the sailors and firemen; the tram-men, railway

servants, and hackney-car drivers are actively employed; the bottle-makers report trade as fair, but some members are still unemployed; the brush-makers report employment as improving; the cork-cutters, rope-makers, and basket-makers as dull; the dyers and electrical-workers as fairly busy; the builders' labourers and Corporation workers as good; the saddlers and horse-shoers as dull.

J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—Returns received from 55 societies, with a membership of 19,447, show that 486 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September, as against 575 (or 3 per cent.) of the membership during August.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,845 members employed in those trades from which returns have been received, 114 (or 1.3 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 195 (or 2.2 per cent.) of the membership at the end of August. The carpenters and joiners, cabinet-makers, French-polishers, and enginemen and cranemen report employment as fair; the engineers and turners, general labourers and platers' helpers as improving; the blacksmiths, strikers, boiler-makers and iron ship-builders, iron-founders, machine-workers, pattern-makers, shipwrights and brassfounders as good. (For an account of the dispute in the Shipbuilding Trade, see page 304.)

Linen Trades.—Of the 4,263 members of societies employed in these industries covered by the returns, 190 (or 4.4 per cent.) are idle, as against 196 (or 4.6 per cent.) of the membership at the end of August. The flax-roughers and yarn-dressers report employment as bad; the beetling enginemen, flax-dressers, bobbin-turners, weavers, spinners, and yarn-bundlers as fair; the spindle and flyer-makers as quiet; the power-loom tenters as improving; the hackle and gill-makers and the linen-lappers as good.

Clothing Trades.—Of 661 members in these trades, 4 are reported as unemployed, in addition to 16 who are locked out. The boot and shoe operatives and the tailors report employment as quiet.

Building Trades.—Out of the 2,581 members in these trades, 40 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September, as against 44 (or 1.8 per cent.) of the membership in August. The bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, plasterers, mill-sawyers and machinists, and house-painters report employment as fair; the plumbers as quiet, and the hodsmen as good.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—Of the 582 members in these industries 33 (or 5.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September, as against 26 (or 4.5 per cent.) of the membership during August. The upholsterers report employment as bad; brush-makers as quiet; packing-case makers as fair; cabinet-makers as improving; French-polishers, coopers, and coach-builders as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The four societies in this group, with a membership of 824, report 42 (or 5.1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as against 55 (or 6.7 per cent.) of the membership in August. The bookbinders and machine-rulers, and the lithographic artists report employment as fair; the letterpress printers as improving, and the lithographic printers as good.

Miscellaneous.—In this group of 9 societies, with a membership of 1,691, 63 (or 3.7 per cent.) were reported unemployed at the end of September, as against 59 (or 3.5 per cent.) of the membership in August. The sail-makers report employment as bad; the tinplate-workers as dull; the bakers, butchers, carters, and paviers as fair; the locomotive engine-drivers, railway servants, and hotel and club assistants as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—In Waterford, Limerick, Cork, and Passage West engineering in all its branches continues bad, and boiler-makers and iron ship-builders report a slight decline. Shipwrights, ship-joiners, block, and pump-makers, riggers, and sail-makers continue dull.

Building Trades.—These trades are reported as good at Limerick, and as slightly declining at Cork and Waterford.

Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed and feather operatives in Limerick, Cork, Blarney, Douglas, and Millfield report employment as good; boot and shoe operatives as dull; tailors as good in Limerick, dull in Cork.

Fishing.—The Fishing Industry round the south coast has declined during the month.

Miscellaneous.—The coach-makers, cabinet-makers, cork-cutters, bellows and brush-makers, gas-fitters, packing-case and cycle-makers report employment as fair; Corporation employees, brewery workmen and harness-makers as good; the coopers as bad in Limerick and Cork, and fair in Ballincollig.—P. O'Shea.

DISPUTE IN THE SHIPBUILDING TRADE.

DISPUTES have lately arisen in the Shipbuilding Trade on the Clyde and in Belfast, owing to demands for increases of wages on the part of the engineers, boiler-makers, and others employed in shipbuilding yards. In tracing the origin and history of these differences it is desirable to keep distinct the cases of the iron shipbuilders and engineers.

(a) *Iron Shipbuilders.*—Some time ago friction arose on the Clyde over a revised piece-list for rivetting which, while giving generally slightly higher rates than the old list, stipulated that the extra payment of 5 per cent. on shell work and 7½ per cent. on inside work, which had formerly been allowed on vessels of over 5,000 tons, should be discontinued. The men, dissatisfied with this arrangement, proposed the retention of the old list plus 10 per cent. This the employers declined, and proposed to enforce the revised list on August 1st. This was, however, postponed, and other conferences followed. On August 23rd, the Boiler-makers' and Iron Shipbuilders' Society gave notice for an advance of 10 per cent. on piece rates and 2s. on time rates for all classes of men in the Union working in the shipyards, the notice to expire on September 26th.

After further negotiations the Secretary of the Union on October 3rd offered, on behalf of the men, to accept an increase of 5 per cent. on piece rates and 1s. a week on time rates, to come into force on January 1st 1896. On October 10th a meeting of the Employers' Associations of the two ports decided to accept this proposal if March 2nd were substituted for January 1st, and trade in the meantime remained good. No definite answer has yet (October 14th) been returned to the proposal.

(b) *Engineers.*—The original claim of the engineers on the Clyde was for an advance of wages with a minimum of 7d. per hour. The object is stated to have been to raise the rates in the Glasgow district to the level of those paid at Greenock (see below). Up to the present there has been no minimum wage recognised by the employers, though a practical minimum of 6½d. is said to have prevailed. The demand was made early in August, and on August 28th the employers refused it, but offered an increase of ¼d. to all earning less than 7d. per hour. The employers' offer was rejected at an aggregate meeting of the men in the Glasgow district, who made the further demand for a minimum of 7½d. per hour. On a ballot of the men being taken (at which only 1,656 out of 3,600 voted), 843 were in favour of enforcing the demand and 813 against. This majority being considered insufficient to justify a strike, the employers' original offer was accepted on October 4th.

In Belfast applications were made at the end of August to all the shipbuilding firms for an increase of engineers' wages, for the purpose of recovering reduction amounting to 2s. a week, which they sustained some time back owing to depressed trade. The employers declined to give the increase, and on September 21st, at a mass meeting of the local members of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, a motion in favour of a strike was carried by 460 to 26.

On Thursday, October 10th, the ironfounders asked for an increase of wages of 2s. per week. On October 11th, after an unsuccessful attempt had been made by a deputation of clergymen to obtain a postponement of the stoppage for a week pending a conference of employers and men, the engineers ceased work to the number of about 1,400. A much larger number of operatives will be affected directly or indirectly if the dispute continues. On September 18th, at a conference between the Employers' Associations on the Clyde and at Belfast, it was agreed that the two associations should support each other in resisting the demand, by closing the yards if necessary.

It is as yet (October 14th) uncertain how far this understanding will cause a stoppage affecting the men on the Clyde.

The following figures, with regard to employment in the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades in Belfast and on the Clyde, may be of interest in connection with the present dispute.

(I.) Proportion of unemployed members of Unions connected with Engineering and Shipbuilding.

Month.	Membership of Unions covered by returns.	Number Unemployed at end of each Month.	Percentage Unemployed.
Belfast:—			
September 1895	8,845	114	1.3
" 1894	9,129	691	7.6
" 1893	7,994	389	4.9
Glasgow District:—			
September 1895	15,999	1,036	6.5
" 1894	14,650	2,273	15.5
" 1893	13,836	2,170	15.7

(II.) Tonnage of Vessels under Construction.

Table showing the tonnage of vessels under construction at Belfast and on the Clyde, on 30th September 1895, 1894, and 1893, respectively, distinguishing merchant vessels from warships:—

Date.	Belfast.		The Clyde.	
	Merchant Vessels.	Warships.	Merchant Vessels.	Warships.
	Gross Tons.	Tons Displacement.	Gross Tons.	Tons Displacement.
September 30th, 1895	98,488	—	230,030	51,500
" " 1894	58,680	—	204,999	45,900
" " 1893	82,455	—	182,567	—

(III.) Rates of Wages.

Engineers.—At the end of 1893 the rates of wages, recognised by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, for their members in some of the principal branches of the trade, were as follows. No change has been reported in these rates since that date.

Occupation.	Weekly Rate of Wages.		
	Belfast.	Glasgow.	Greenock.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Turners	33 0	30 4½	32 7½
Fitters	32 0	30 4½	32 7½
Smiths	30 0	30 4½	32 7½
Pattern-makers	33 0	33 9	33 9

The following changes were reported to the Department, to have taken place in 1893, in the wages of engineers.

BELFAST, October 1893.—A general reduction of 1s. per week.

GLASGOW, January to April 1893.—A gradual reduction of 6d. per week in the wages of pattern-makers.

Boiler-makers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders employed in shipyards are paid chiefly by piece. It is difficult, therefore, to give a recognised weekly wage. The following are the changes in the wages of these men that have been reported since the beginning of 1893.

BELFAST, July 1893.—Reduction of 5 per cent. off piece rates and 1s. per week off time rates.

BELFAST, February 1894.—Reduction of 2½ per cent. off piece rates (said to affect 1,350 workpeople).

THE CLYDE, January and February 1893.—Reduction of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and ¼d. per hour off time rates.

Shipwrights.—The standard rate of wages of Shipwrights, recognised by the Associated Shipwrights' Society, at the end of 1892, 1893 and 1894 were as follows:—

Locality.	1892.	1893.	1894.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Belfast	—	33 6	33 6
The Clyde	34 10½	33 9	33 9

Ironfounders.—The standard rate of wages recognised for ironfounders in Belfast by the Friendly Society of Ironfounders was 33s. per week at the end of 1892, and 32s. at the end of 1893 and 1894. The reduction of 1s. per week in 1893 took place in October. No change has been reported in 1895.

ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION IN 1894.

DETAILED information has been collected by the Department with regard to the settlement of disputes and other questions by arbitration and conciliation during 1894. The particulars relate both to the proceedings of Boards of Arbitration and Conciliation, and to the settlement of disputes by similar methods through the agency of individuals. Corresponding information for 1893 was included in the Report on Strikes and Lock-outs for that year. It is to be observed that for the purpose of this inquiry only those cases of conciliation are included which involved the mediation or friendly intervention of an independent body or individual. From the returns obtained it appears that the actual disputes (strikes or lock-outs) settled by arbitration or conciliation during 1894, though larger in number, were much less important in character than in 1893 or 1892. Thus, in 1892 the total number of disputes so settled was 24, involving 123,781 workpeople; in 1893 it was 25, involving 312,009 workpeople; and in 1894, 39, involving 16,938 workpeople. The large numbers involved in the two former years are, however, accounted for by the Durham miners' dispute in 1892, and the great coal dispute in the Midlands, settled at the Rosebery Conference in November 1893.

The 39 disputes settled by these methods in 1894 may be classified as follows, according to the agency and the mode of settlement:—

Agency.	Settled by Conciliation.		Settled by Arbitration.	
	Number of Disputes.	Number affected (so far as reported).	Number of Disputes.	Number affected (so far as reported).
Trade Boards...	5	1,668	4	3,505
Individuals ...	7	2,353	19	8,972
Trades Councils and Federations (demarcation disputes)	—	—	4	440
Total ...	12	4,021	27	12,917

In addition to the Trade Boards there are a number of District Boards of Arbitration and Conciliation from which reports have been received, but no actual strike or lock-out appears to have been settled by their agency in 1894. In 1893 they settled three such disputes involving 1,977 persons.

The above figures only apply to the settlement of strikes and lock-outs. The work of permanent Boards of Arbitration and Conciliation, however, is less concerned with the settlement of disputes as with their prevention by the determination of questions submitted by employers or employed.

The Department has received information as to the proceedings of 41 Trade Boards, to which during 1894 no fewer than 1,707 questions and cases were submitted, ranging in magnitude and importance from a general wage question affecting many thousands of persons to the classification of a sample. Of the 1,707 cases, 365 were withdrawn, referred back or ruled out of order, and 1,121 were settled by conciliatory means, and 221 by arbitration, making a total of 1,342 cases settled during the year.

Eight of the Boards are connected with the Mining Industry, 5 with Iron and Steel and other Metal Trades, 3 with Shipbuilding, 15 with Boot and Shoe Manufacture, 3 with Textile Trades, 3 with Building Trades, and the remaining 4 with various miscellaneous Industries.

Of District Boards, not connected with particular trades, 22 are believed to exist, but only 3 of these report the actual settlement of cases during the year. The London Board settled 3 cases, the Liverpool Board one, and the Halifax Board one. Of these 5 cases, 3 were settled by arbitration. The above figures must be regarded as preliminary only, as in many cases enquiries are still being pursued by the Department.

WAGES OF THE MANUAL LABOUR CLASSES.

A GENERAL Report on the Wages of the Manual Labour Classes in the United Kingdom* has just been issued by the Board of Trade. The Report brings to a conclusion the tabulation of the returns of average rates of wages, for a full week's work exclusive of overtime, in various trades and districts begun in connection with the census of wages in 1886. The investigation, of which this report embodies the results, is quite distinct from the continuous inquiry carried on by the Department as to current Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour. The volumes previously published dealt with Mining, Cotton, Woollen, Worsted, and other Textile Trades, and various branches of public and municipal employment.† The tables in the present Report deal in a similar detailed manner with pig iron, engineering, and iron and steel shipbuilding, and in a somewhat less elaborate way with tinplate, brass work, and metal wares, sawmills, wood shipbuilding, cooperage works, coach and carriage-building, boot and shoe factories, breweries, distilleries, brick and tile works, chemical manure works, railway-carriage building, printing and engraving, bespoke tailoring, dressmaking, millinery, mantle-making, &c.

Besides the above trades the present Report contains particulars, obtained in different ways, with regard to certain other important industries. Thus very full information is given with regard to the classification of rates of wages of railway servants, both in 1886 and 1891, based on returns from 32 companies employing over 90 per cent. of all the workpeople engaged in railway service in the country. To obtain an authentic record of seamen's wages advantage has been taken of the system of signing articles which are filed at the office of the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen. Tables compiled from various sources are also given with regard to the Building Trades, Royal Navy, Postal employees, employees in various public institutions and agricultural labour.

The Report concludes with a summary of the results as to wages of the various enquiries which have been made since 1886 in connection with the census of wages.

General Results of Wages Census.

The general effect of the summary of the Wages Census is to show an average rate of wages for men of 24s. 7d. per head, equal to £64 per annum if the weekly rate were multiplied by 52. Questions of course arise upon such a statement, as to regularity of employment, overtime and the like (which are being investigated specially in the Department), but considering that the year 1886 to which the census primarily relates was a year of depression, and that the tendency since has, on balance, been upwards, it is not considered that the figure above given is much in excess of the average weekly rate of wage of men for the average of the last few years.

The corresponding average rate for women is stated as 12s. 8d.; for lads and boys 8s. 11d., and for girls 6s. 4d. The proportion of men paid at less than 20s. per week is 24 per cent.; between 20s. and 30s., 58 per cent.; and above 30s., about 18 per cent. The great bulk of women are paid less than 20s. a week, and their average wage comes out as about half that of men. Of course, these proportions only apply to that part of the industrial mass fairly represented by the trades dealt with in the tables comprised in the summary, but these groups of trades are considered to be samples of the great mass of occupations.

The general average rate for men, women, boys, and girls, based on the actual amounts paid in wages in the previous year, by the firms returning the schedules, appear to be £47 a year. This figure is based on 8,073

* General Report on the Wages of the Manual Labour Classes. (C.—6889.) Price 4s. 3d.
† See Parliamentary Papers Nos. C. 5807, C. 6161, C. 6455, and C. 6715.

returns, relating to 816,106 persons in private employment.

The results obtained in the above manner are next compared with those obtained for particular industries (railway service, &c.) by other methods, the conclusion being arrived at that the broad results shown by the census summary would not be sensibly modified by including the great mass of other employments. The average rates for most of the trades tested are about the same as the average rate in the Census Summary, that for railway servants (men only) being £60 a year. The lower wage of agricultural labourers (estimated at £33 per annum for men) would be balanced by the more highly paid trades, such as building (£73 per annum per man).

Average Rates for Various Trades.

Turning to the particular trades dealt with in the report we have the following summary, showing the average weekly rates for men, lads and boys, women and girls, respectively:—

Average rates of wages in the undermentioned Trades, at October 1886, for a full week's work, exclusive of overtime.

Trades.	Men.	Lads and Boys.	Women.	Girls.
Pig Iron (Blast Furnaces) ...	s. d. 24 6	s. d. 10 8	s. d. —	s. d. —
Iron and Steel Shipbuilding ...	29 3	12 2	—	—
Engineering, &c. ...	25 9	9 1	—	—
Tipplate Works ...	33 5	11 3	10 4	6 11
Brass Work and Metal Wares ...	29 7	8 5	12 11	6 2
Saw Mills ...	24 3	8 10	—	—
Wood Shipbuilding ...	28 4	6 5	—	—
Cooperage Works ...	30 2	7 9	—	—
Coach and Carriage Building ...	26 6	7 8	—	—
Railway-carriage and Wagon Building ...	25 2	10 6	13 3	7 0
Boot and Shoe Factories ...	24 3	8 4	12 6	5 6
Breweries ...	24 3	9 9	—	—
Distilleries ...	20 4	9 10	9 5	—
Printing and Engraving Trades (large works) ...	33 8	8 7	11 9	5 7
Printing and Engraving Trades (small works) ...	29 2	7 0	10 7	6 2
Printing and Engraving Trades (news-paper printing works) ...	37 1	8 4	12 2	6 6
Chemical Manure Works ...	23 0	9 10	8 9	—
Brick and Tile Works ...	22 10	9 0	9 4	7 7

The average rates of wages for persons engaged in the Textile, Mining and other Industries, dealt with in previous volumes, are given here for comparison.

Average rates of wages in the undermentioned Trades, at October 1886, for a full week's work, exclusive of overtime.

Trades.	Men.	Lads and Boys.	Women.	Girls.
Cotton Manufacturer ...	s. d. 25 3	s. d. 9 4	s. d. 15 3	s. d. 6 10
Woolen ...	23 2	8 6	13 3	7 5
Worsted and Stuff ...	23 4	6 6	11 11	6 2
Linen ...	19 9	6 3	8 11	4 11
Jute ...	19 4	6 8	9 7	4 8
Hemp, Manila, Cocoa Fibre, &c., Manufacture ...	23 6	6 0	9 8	5 1
Silk Manufacture ...	23 3	7 2	10 1	5 8
Carpet Manufacture ...	26 7	8 4	11 1	6 11
Hosiery Manufacture ...	24 5	9 6	11 6	8 3
Lace Manufacture ...	27 3	9 4	12 8	6 2
Smallwares Manufacture ...	20 2	6 9	10 9	5 9
Flock and Shoddy Manufacture ...	21 2	10 5	9 9	4 6
Hair, Elastic Web and Lamp and Candle Wick Manufacture ...	25 0	7 5	9 10	5 11
Coal, Iron Ore, and Ironstone Mines ...	22 11	10 9	8 2	5 7
Metalliferous Mines ...	16 6	7 0	5 10	4 9
Shale Mines and Paraffin Oil Works ...	25 0	10 6	—	—
Slate Mines and Quarries ...	22 1	8 0	—	—
Granite Quarries and Works ...	21 11	8 3	—	—
Stone Quarries ...	23 10	9 10	—	—
China Clay and China Stone Works ...	18 8	8 9	6 9	—
Police ...	27 5	—	—	—
Roads, Pavements and Sewers ...	20 9	6 6	—	—
Gasworks ...	27 2	12 3	—	—
Waterworks ...	24 9	11 1	—	—

Railway Service.

The Railway Returns, though not uniform with the other tables, are important as covering practically the whole of the persons employed in railway service. They show that about 95 per cent. of railway workers are fairly constantly employed. Omitting minor departments, and women and boys, a number of details may be condensed in the following table, which shows the percentage number of men paid in 1891 at weekly rates falling within the under-mentioned limits, and the

* Women and Girls.

total number employed and average annual rate of wages for the principal departments of railway service.

Department.	Total Number of Men.	Percentage Number of Men Paid			Computed Rate for 52 weeks.
		Over 30s.	Over 20s. and up to 30s.	Up to 20s.	
Coaching ...	63,897	4'0	55'7	40'3	£ s. 56 12
Goods ...	48,660	4'4	55'9	39'7	56 3
Locomotive, Carriage and Wagon Engineers ...	111,772	27'4	42'7	29'9	68 1
Engineers ...	81,223	6'6	30'1	63'3	53 1

Seamen.

With regard to seamen we have the following average monthly rates of wages (in addition to food) in 1892.

	Sailing Vessels.		Steam Vessels.
	Home Trade.	Foreign Trade.	Foreign Trade.
Men—	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Petty Officers ...	80 0	94 6	107 1
Sailors—men ...	61 0	60 2	82 2
" lads and boys ...	24 8	20 3	27 4
Firemen, Trimmers, &c. ...	—	—	91 5
Stewards (except chief stewards), &c. ...	63 5	90 5	83 4
Women ...	—	—	62 4

Army and Navy.

The information with regard to the Army shows that, taking the value of all the different allowances by which the soldier's remuneration is made up, as well as the pay in money, the remuneration of the private in the infantry comes out at about £40 per annum, and in cavalry and artillery at about £45. The average remuneration of all ranks in the infantry, exclusive of officers, is about £46, and in cavalry and artillery about £52 10s.

With regard to the Royal Navy the following statement is compiled from the tables:—

Estimated number and average annual pay and allowances of each class of men in the Royal Navy.

Rank.	Estimated Number of Men.	Average Annual Pay.	Estimated Cost of Annual Allowances, including Provisions.	Total Remuneration per Year.
Seamen Class ...	20,000	£ s. 36 11	£ s. 22 4	£ s. 58 15
Stoker Class ...	10,400	40 5	22 1	62 6
Engine-room Artificers ...	1,530	113 13	20 14	134 7
Artizans ...	3,000	65 2	22 14	87 16
Other Classes ...	4,550	36 18	21 6	58 4
Grand Total and Averages ...	39,480	42 11	22 2	64 13

Other Industries.

Special returns have also been obtained of wages of persons employed in Public Institutions and Domestic Service, in the Postal Service and in the Building Trades.

With regard to nurses and probationers in hospitals and infirmaries, the details are very complete. The average payment of 1,897 nurses comes to £26 16s., in addition to board and lodging, the range of the mass being from £16 17s. to £30 5s.; the average of 813 probationers is £8 14s. only, being reduced by the large numbers, 229 out of 813, who receive no payment in money. About three-fifths of the nurses and probationers are provided with uniform.

Building Societies Act, 1894.—A copy of the form, prescribed by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, for the annual account and statement to be made by a building society to the Registrar under the Act can now be obtained through any bookseller, or direct from Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, London, E.C.; John Menzies & Co., 12 Hanover-street, Edinburgh; or Hodges, Figgis & Co., Limited, 104 Grafton-street, Dublin. Price 1d. It is a Parliamentary Paper, numbered 470, Sess. 2 (1895), and gives the forms of the receipts and payments accounts, the revenue and expenditure account, and the liabilities and assets account, together with the forms for the necessary schedules of property.

STANDARD PIECE RATES.

The Volume which deals with standard piece rates forms Part II. of the Report on Wages and Hours of Labour, recently published by the Labour Department.

It contains a selection from some of the more important lists of piece rates of wages in force in the year 1893 in the various trades in which this system of remuneration prevails, with introductions and notes designed to render the lists intelligible to persons unconnected with those industries.

The lists are preceded by a general introduction. The trades dealt with are the Textile, Clothing, Coal-mining, Metal, Iron Shipbuilding and Boiler-making, Letterpress Printing, Coopering, Basket and Chair-making, Brush-making, Glass, and Dock and Waterside labour.

Explanations are also given in each case as to peculiarities of arrangement or construction, and as to technical terms used in the various lists.

In some trades Standard Piece lists have prevailed for many years. Thus, for example, the present London Compositors' scale is the result of a series of revisions of an older scale, known to have been in force as far back as 1785. Piece rates now prevail to some extent in the great majority of groups into which trades are usually divided. In the Building Trades, however, payment is almost entirely by time, and as regards agriculture, although some processes are usually paid by the piece, nothing like standard rates can be said to exist. No exact returns exist of the numbers of workpeople paid under the two systems, but some idea of the proportion may be obtained from the fact that if a rough classification be made of the chief groups of occupations in the Census returns, some 26 per cent. of those employed are found to be engaged in industries which are chiefly piece-work, and 74 per cent. in those which are chiefly time-work. If agriculture and domestic service be excluded, it is found that 39 per cent. are engaged in trades which are chiefly piece-work, and 61 per cent. in trades chiefly time-work.

Most of the piece lists dealt with have been mutually agreed upon by organisations of employers and employed. On the other hand, some lists (e.g., that for woollen weavers in Huddersfield) are published on the sole authority of employers' associations, while several others (e.g., those for the Ashton cotton spinners and the London basket-makers) are published on the authority of the operatives' associations.

The general principle on which the majority of piece lists are compiled is to fix a standard article or process, and to regard other articles or processes in the light of deviations from this standard to be paid according to a scale of extras and deductions from the price paid for the standard. The lists in the Textile, Boot and Shoe Trades, Printing Trades, and many others are of this character. There are, however, several lists (e.g., wrought nail-makers) which are not constructed on this pattern, but are little more than classified catalogues.

A change in wages is in some trades effected merely by alterations in particular piece rates, but in many, in addition to such particular changes, some machinery exists for general changes in wages, which are usually of the nature of percentage decreases or increases on the rates prevailing in some standard year. In some cases, as in the case of the South Wales Coal Trade and the wages of puddlers in the Midlands, these changes are achieved automatically by a sliding scale. Examples of a few such scales are included in the volume. In these cases the changes are made to directly depend on variations in selling prices, as ascertained periodically by accountants.

As regards the area of operation of a given piece list, it is clear that in some industries, notably mining, the conditions of work vary so rapidly from place to place that a given piece list can only have a very limited area of applicability. A few specimen lists prevailing in various collieries are included in the volume. It may be noticed that in some districts, as, for example, in Northumberland, the prices are fixed as occasion may arise by a permanent joint committee, which thereby secures some measure of uniformity throughout

the county, in the relation of the work done to the wages paid.

In other cases, however, the piece rates in any particular industry are governed by a list which is valid over a fairly wide district. In the Iron Shipbuilding Trades, the most important section of men—the platers—are paid at rates varying from yard to yard, but the riveters are, in several districts, paid according to a local list. The differences in the lists prevailing in different districts are, of course, often due to the localisation of particular branches of the industry. Thus, in the Boot and Shoe Trade, Leeds is the principal centre for heavy work, in the Glass Bottle Trade London is the principal centre for the smaller sizes of bottles, and so on. There are trades, however, such as Composing, where the work is nearly of the same nature everywhere, and here a real and definite difference of wages can often be traced. A somewhat curious state of things prevails in the Tailoring Trade, where the form of the "log" or list is applicable over a large number of districts, but is only calculated in terms of the time allowed for each operation. The wages paid per hour are then fixed for separate districts. It must be noticed that the rate is a true piece rate, as the hours paid for are not the actual number of hours taken, but a fictitious unit representing the number allowed.

There is no trade in which any piece list can be said to have a national applicability. The uniform list for weaving is the nearest approach to such a list. This list applies, as far as plain goods are concerned, to nearly the whole industry, and has practically put an end to the smaller lists which formerly prevailed. The Oldham and Bolton lists for cotton spinning occupy between them a somewhat similar position, one or other of these lists being now partially operative in districts which formerly worked entirely to lists of their own.

COAL EXPORTS IN 1890-94.*

The following table is compiled from the annual returns made to Parliament of the quantities of coal, coke, and patent fuel† shipped at the several ports of the United Kingdom. The table includes the amounts shipped to foreign countries and British settlements abroad only. The quantities shipped coastwise are not included. The ports have been grouped for convenience into eight groups, and the quantity of coal shipped for the use of steamers engaged in the foreign trade, and the total output in each year have been added for comparison:—

Ports in under-mentioned Districts.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Northumberland and Durham	Tons. 9,397,777	Tons. 9,707,450	Tons. 8,581,308	Tons. 9,463,101	Tons. 10,689,071
Yorkshire and Eastern Counties	2,462,748	2,719,960	2,273,625	1,263,354	2,771,037
Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumberland	627,985	607,519	455,075	265,666	466,279
Other English Ports...	58,274	90,250	61,230	40,747	35,444
South Wales and Monmouthshire	13,261,631	13,432,601	14,119,725	13,367,519	15,735,236
East Scotland...	3,281,395	3,546,300	3,826,574	3,648,813	2,593,334
West Scotland ...	1,050,827	978,594	1,133,073	977,426	782,619
Ireland ...	2,202	1,382	3,363	5,329	673
Total Exported ...	30,142,839	31,084,116	30,453,973	29,031,955	33,073,698
Coal Shipped for use of Steamers	8,096,405	8,536,495	8,600,129	8,126,372	9,294,461
Total Output of Coal	181,614,288	185,479,126	181,786,871	164,325,795	188,277,525

It will be seen that the total quantity exported last year was the largest throughout the period, and is indeed the largest recorded. The exports in 1893 were exceptionally low in the case of the districts affected by the great coal dispute. The amount, however, by which the figure for 1893 fell short of that for 1892 was more than made up in 1894, the average of 1894 and 1893 nearly equalling the figures of 1891, which were higher than those for any previous year. The exports in 1894 were above those of the other years included in the table in

* Compiled from P. P. 164 of 1891, 116 of 1892, 225 of 1893, 282 of 1894, 450 (Sess. 2) of 1895, and C. 7,873 of 1895.
† In the case of coke and patent fuel, the figures used in the table are the quantities after manufacture of the coke and patent fuel exported, not the quantity of coal used in their production.

the case of Northumberland and Durham, Yorkshire and the Eastern Counties, and (most noticeably) South Wales. On the other hand, the exports both from East and West Scotland were exceptionally low last year, no doubt owing to the prolonged dispute in Scottish Coal Trade.

FLUCTUATIONS IN EMPLOYMENT IN COAL MINING.

COAL mining affords a good example of an industry in which the state of employment is best gauged, not by the proportion of workpeople entirely unemployed, but by the average number of days per week on which work is available. This results from the fact that, except in times of great depression or expansion of trade, fluctuations in demand are met rather by working more or fewer days per week, than by the engagement of more or fewer men.

With a view, therefore, to showing the change in the state of employment in coal mining from month to month, reports have appeared regularly in the LABOUR GAZETTE, showing the average number of days per week worked during the previous four weeks by a large number of collieries making returns, both for the whole of the United Kingdom and for each of the principal districts. The figures are based on returns from colliery owners employing nearly 250,000 men. The figures, as published, show the average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound at these collieries, without implying that all the colliers employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

In the following table the figures for the more important districts are brought together for a period of twelve months, August 1894-July 1895. It will be seen that for the United Kingdom generally, the average number of days worked per week for this period was 4.72, varying from 4.23 in June 1895 to 5.0 in February 1895. Of the districts represented in the table, that showing the highest average is South Wales and Monmouth (5.26), the lowest being the Midlands (including Stafford, Nottingham, Leicester, Worcester, Shropshire, Derbyshire, and Warwickshire) with only 4.17.

Statement showing the average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound during each of the months, August 1894 to July 1895, in the various mining districts of the United Kingdom:—

(Compiled from returns furnished by owners of collieries.)

Month.	United Kingdom.	Northumberland and Durham.	Yorkshire.	Lancashire and Cheshire.	Midlands.*	South Wales and Monmouth.	Scotland.
1894.							
August ...	4.63	5.34	4.20	4.43	3.84	5.53	5.63†
September ...	4.88	5.59	4.77	4.82	4.26	5.56	3.44†
October ...	4.97	5.45	4.83	4.99	4.49	5.41	4.56
November ...	4.80	5.31	4.51	4.75	4.08	5.74	5.40
December ...	4.97	5.31	4.79	4.95	4.49	5.42	5.08
1895.							
January ...	4.70	4.73	4.64	4.64	4.47	5.29	4.41
February ...	5.00	4.84	4.88	5.10	4.82	5.30	5.12
March ...	4.93	4.92	4.59	4.99	4.38	5.55	5.20
April ...	4.46	4.89	4.17	4.38	3.88	4.60	5.11
May ...	4.87	4.97	4.21	4.42	4.04	4.90	5.08
June ...	4.23	4.81	3.65	3.95	3.30	5.20	5.04
July ...	4.63	5.03	4.38	4.22	3.96	5.18	4.73
Mean for Year	4.72	5.10	4.47	4.64	4.17	5.26	4.90

THE SITUATION IN THE LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

The recent negotiations in the London Building Trades were described in previous numbers of the GAZETTE [see GAZETTE (1894): November, page 336; (1895): March, page 82; April, page 114; May, page 145; June, page 178; July, page 212]. It will be remembered that in June the agreement and working rules of 1892 lapsed, owing to the failure of the parties to agree with regard to a proposed clause in the preamble dealing with the employment of non-unionists.

Nothing further having been done to remove the deadlock, the Secretary of the Operative Society of Bricklayers on September 3rd sent a communication to the Central Association of Master Builders with a view

* Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Derbyshire, and Warwickshire.

† Most of the collieries were idle at this time owing to a wages dispute. In the figures given collieries, at which no coal was hewn and wound during the month, are excluded.

to the renewal of the former agreement of 1892. A meeting of the Council of the Association was held on September 16th, and a reply was sent to the Society that the Association "is not prepared to re-sign the 1892 agreement without some provision prohibiting strikes against non-unionists, and a more equitable arrangement for the termination of the rules."

The Bricklayers' Society thereupon resolved to take a vote of Metropolitan members on the question of an advance of wages and a code of working rules.

In the meantime, several strikes have taken place, which may have some bearing upon the negotiations. The first of these disputes took place on September 5th when 53 bricklayers and about the same number of labourers ceased work as a protest against the employment of a member of the National Free Labour Association. The firm declined to withdraw the man objected to, with the result that four other jobs of the same firm have since been struck, the total number affected, including labourers, being about 200.

THE PADIHAM STEAMING DISPUTE.

ON May 29th the cotton weavers at a shed in Padiham struck work in order to obtain the abolition of the practice of infusing steam into the weaving shed. The spinners and card-room workers employed at one of the mills of the firm with whom the dispute took place were afterwards thrown out of work by the stoppage. The total number affected was 220. On September 14th a special meeting of the Northern Counties Amalgamation of Weavers' Associations was held at Bury, at which it was decided that assistance should be rendered to the Padiham weavers, and that the Central Committee should have full power to act. On September 18th the weavers at another mill owned by the same firm tendered a week's notice. Two meetings of the joint committees of the Padiham employers and the Northern Counties Association were held during the week in Manchester, at which the employers offered to concede that when the temperature in weaving sheds should reach 70 degrees no more steam should be infused. The delegates of the Weavers' Association declined this proposal, and suggested 64 degrees as an alternative; failing this, the workpeople at a number of mills at Padiham should be asked to leave work. The Employers' Association declined to agree formally to the limit of 64 degrees; but left each individual employer free to accept the arrangement suggested. The firm at which the dispute had originated undertook that no steam should be infused into the sheds until October 1st, and that when infused it should be turned off when the dry bulb temperature should reach 64 degrees. The weavers resumed work on September 27th on this understanding, and all the Padiham employers are stated to have individually agreed to the arrangement.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—The August bulletin of the Bureau of Industries in Ontario states that "there has been a more than sufficient supply of labourers, as the short crops of hay and grain have required less help than usual." The harvest was so good in Manitoba and the North West that, had it not been for a large influx of men from Ontario, there would not have been sufficient hands to reap it. At the end of September there was still a scarcity of threshers at 1.75 dols. a day, of harvest hands, and of railway men. It is now too late in the year for emigrants to proceed to Canada. The steerage rates have been raised to £5 5s. a head.

New South Wales.—An area of about 10,000 acres of good agricultural land is being set apart near Gunnedah for homestead selections. Prospects have so improved at the Government railway workshops at Eveleigh, that all those who had been working on reduced time, namely, blacksmiths, moulders, fitters, machine men and erectors, have been put on full time. But there is still a considerable amount of unemployed labour in the Colony, so that there is no demand for more hands. Many of the collieries are working short time only.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in September.—In a large number of industries work continues plentiful. Building operations have been active, and the Textile and the Leather and Tanning Trades are still busy. In the Metal Trades, however, prices show no tendency to rise, and the output is restricted. The proportion of unemployed members of the trade unions (with 96,000 members) making returns has fallen from 5 per cent. in August to a little less than 4 per cent.

In the *Building Trades*, the stone-cutters, marble-workers, painters, and plasterers show an improvement, while the masons report a slight decline. *Metal Trades.*—The engineering operatives report somewhat fewer unemployed, while the moulders and boiler-makers show an increased percentage. The blast-furnacemen report no change. Other metal-workers have but few idle. *Mining, &c.*—Coal-miners continue slack, and quarrymen busy. *Textile Trades.*—All branches continue well employed, the Silk Industry being especially active. *Clothing Trades.*—Clothing-makers continue fully employed, and the percentage of unemployed boot and shoe-makers has fallen from 9 to 5; garment-makers and hat-makers are better employed.

Labour Disputes in September.—The number of fresh disputes reported in September was 37, as against 23 in August, and 28 in September 1894. Of these, 14 were in the Textile Trades, 4 each in the Leather and Metal Trades, 3 each in the Building and Clothing Trades, 2 each among miners and quarrymen and navvies, and 5 in unclassified industries. The total number of workpeople involved in 35 of the disputes, for which full particulars are available, was 3,532. Among the more important strikes were the following:—500 blast-furnacemen at Pamiers (Ariège), against a reduction in wages and the discharge of nine workmen; 450 navvies at Quillan, for increase of wages (see below); and 400 boot and shoe operatives at Limoges, against a re-arrangement of work resulting in reduced wages. All three disputes were settled by compromise. Twenty of the disputes arose from questions of wages; and 11 related to the discharge or re-instatement of workmen. Thirty-four disputes were settled during September, the workpeople being unsuccessful in 17, and successful in 10, while 7 were terminated by compromise. The strike of glass-workers at Carmaux, reported in the September GAZETTE, remains unsettled.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Four cases are reported in which recourse was had to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration. One was in connection with a strike of carpenters at Rennes, where the *juge de paix* had already intervened unsuccessfully, but on the second invitation the employers (who had previously declined) appointed three delegates to a conciliation board, which met on September 7th. As an agreement could not be arrived at on any of the workmen's demands, the *juge de paix* proposed arbitration, but this proposal was rejected by the employers, although agreed to by the workmen. In the second case a contractor for military accoutrements at Marseilles dismissed fifty-five saddlers without notice (on account of work which had been rejected), and was in consequence ordered by the *conseil de prud'hommes* to pay each man 50 francs compensation. A few days afterwards they were told they might resume work, but they then made certain demands which were refused; 15 operatives who had remained at work thereupon came out on strike. On the invitation of the *juge de paix*, a conciliation board was formed, and after two meetings the workmen obtained the abolition of deductions of 5 per cent., which had previously been made from their wages, the removal of a foreman to other duties, and the re-instatement, as opportunity offered, of those who had struck in preference to other workmen. The navvies employed on a railway at Quillan (Aude) having struck for an increase in wages, made application to the *juge de paix*. A conciliation

* From information supplied by the Office du Travail.

Victoria.—The report for the year ending June last on the settlement formed under the Village Settlements Act, 1893, states that there were altogether 2,318 settlers on the various settlements, of whom 1,900 were residents. Many of these settlements had done badly, either on account of the bad quality or position of the land, or on account of the inexperience or incapacity of the settlers. The recent harvest returns of Victoria for 1894-5 show that the acreage under wheat had largely decreased, as compared with that in 1892-3, but that the area under oats and barley had largely increased.

South Australia.—To meet the deficiency in the revenue, the Government propose to reduce still further the salaries of all civil servants. The supply of labour in the Colony is quite sufficient.

Queensland.—The report of the Labour Bureau for 1894, which has just been received, states that there was a gradual improvement in the demand for labour throughout that year, especially at Brisbane, Toowoomba, Townsville, &c. The registries at Ipswich and Bundaberg alone show an increase of unemployed in 1894, as compared with the numbers in 1893 at the close of the year. The number of those in the whole Colony still wanting employment at the end of 1894 was 2,278.

Western Australia.—In the estimates for 1895-6 the Government propose considerable increases in the pay of a large number of members of the Civil Service. They also propose to spend £423,000 during the current financial year on works and buildings, as compared with £70,000 in 1894-5, so that there ought to be increased work for men in the Building Trades. The production of gold in the first seven months of this year was 128,475 ounces, which was considerably larger than that in the corresponding period of 1894.

Tasmania.—The mines report for 1894-5 states that the Mining Industry made steady progress during that year; and the value of the output of minerals and metals was larger than in any previous year, in spite of the low prices ruling for tin and silver; and the numbers of miners had also increased.

New Zealand.—At the end of last July mechanical trades—such as the Building, Engineering, Boot and Clothing Trades—were for the most part dull. This was especially the case with respect to the Building Trades—as might be expected during the winter season—in large towns like Wellington, Dunedin and Invercargill. The principal exceptions were in smaller country towns, in many of which mechanics were well employed, though there was no room for more. Considerable numbers of unskilled labourers were found employment on Government works, and others were engaged in bush-felling, drainage contracts, and other country work, but the supply of hands was still greater than the demand.

Cape Colony.—A report from East London states that there is no opening there for miners, mechanics, or farm hands. A report from Queenstown states that very few country blacksmiths, carpenters, dairymen, butchers, and female servants are employed, and that when they are required they are specially engaged from England; there is no demand at Queenstown for mechanics, miners, or farm hands.

Natal.—A report from Pietermaritzburg states that there was a strong demand, which might perhaps be only temporary, for bricklayers, carpenters, and others in the Building Trades. There was also a fair demand for blacksmiths and farriers, cabinet-makers and bakers; but no demand for workers in stone, moulders, boot-makers, printers, miners, mill hands, or railway workers.

Information for Emigrants.—The usual quarterly circulars were issued on October 1st, and can be obtained free on application to the chief clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, as well as at the free libraries and public libraries of some 13 towns. Particulars are given in the circulars as to the climate, government, and general characteristics of the various colonies, together with the demand for labour, the rates of wages prevailing, the cost of living, and the best methods of reaching them.

board, consisting of two employers and five workmen's delegates, met on 19th September, but the increase desired was refused by the employers, who also declined arbitration. After 10 days, however, a slight increase was granted, and work was resumed on 27th September. The women employed at a silk-spinning factory at St. Hippolyte-du-Fort (Gard), who had struck for a minimum wage of 1½ francs a day, and the discharge of a forewoman, obtained a settlement of the first point after two meetings before the *juge de paix*, but the second was refused, and the strike consequently continues.

National Joint Committee of Employers and Employed in the Printing Trades.—In connection with the celebration of the introduction of printing, congresses were held at Marseilles in the second week of September by the employers and workmen engaged in the Printing Trade. These two congresses decided that a joint board should be constituted, consisting of nine employers and nine workpeople, which should meet annually in Paris, and be empowered to appoint a permanent sub-committee. The employers have already nominated their representatives, and the workpeople have taken some preliminary steps in the matter. This board is said to be the first of its kind in France.

Friendly Societies' Congress.—The fifth National Congress of Friendly Societies was held at St. Etienne on August 25th and following days. The delegates represented 501 societies, together with 19 unions, including 1,500 branches. The resolutions adopted referred, among other subjects, to the scales of contributions and of benefits, the inclusion of women and children in friendly societies, and the amendment of the law with regard to friendly societies.

GERMANY.

Mining in Prussia in 1894.—According to the official report* on wages and work in the principal mining districts in Prussia, the average number of persons working in the Prussian mines in 1894 was 328,740, of whom 180,564 were miners, 61,772 other underground workers, 71,733 male adult workers on the surface, 9,038 boys under 16 years of age, and 5,633 women and girls. Of the latter, nearly four-fifths were employed at the coal mines in Upper Silesia.

The working shift of the majority of the coal miners does not exceed 10 hours, inclusive of intervals for rest and of the time spent in travelling from and to the surface, but in Upper Silesia nearly half the men work 12 hour shifts. Generally speaking, the shift is one of 8 hours, exclusive of the time spent in descending and ascending; where the work is exceptionally heavy it only lasts 6 hours. In metalliferous mines the length of the working shift ranges from 8-1 to 11-7 hours. In the lignite pits the working shift averages 11-4 hours. This is attributed to the fact that the shafts worked are near enough to the surface to admit of the men going out for breakfast and dinner. The actual hours of work do not average 10.

The length of the working day in 1894 shows no appreciable change as compared with 1893. But at the coal mines in Upper Silesia the percentage of youths working in 8-hour shifts has risen from 21-2 to 35-4, the percentage working in 12-hour shifts having correspondingly diminished; the number of youths employed at pits in this district has fallen by 18-9 per cent.

In Upper Silesia the average wage of coal miners proper was 3½ marks (3s. 6d.) the shift, and 932 marks (£46 12s.) for the year, this class of workers being 28 per cent. of the total number employed at the pits. In Lower Silesia the average earned was 2-93 marks (2s. 11d.) the shift, and 874 marks (£43 14s.) for the year, this class of workers being 32 per cent. of the total number employed.

SWITZERLAND.

The following is a summary of information supplied for September by the Swiss workmen's secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, on 29th of September:—

Wage Movements.—Trimmers.—The trimmers in the town of Bâle having obtained a slight success through a strike, the movement has extended to the trimmers in the country working at their homes. They demand that parcels sent them by employers should be post-paid, and that the wages to be paid should be stated when the goods are sent, and not fixed arbitrarily later. The concessions asked for have not been generally granted.

* Die Arbeitslöhne und Arbeitsleistungen beim Bergbau Preussens in Jahre 1894.

Railway Workmen.—At Bâle, Olten, Berne, St. Gall and Lucerne petitions have been presented to the directors of the railway companies for a rise of wages. At Bâle a rise has been conceded; at the other places negotiations are still proceeding; only the railway workmen are concerned, not the travelling employees. The demands of the Berne railway workmen, which are endorsed by the railway workmen generally, are for (1) abolition of engagement by the day, and fixed engagements according to agreement after two months' probation to be substituted with one month's notice on both sides; (2) minimum wage of 100 frs. (£4) a month for workmen newly engaged, with at least 4 per cent. increase after every second year of service; (3) increase of 10 per cent. on present wages, with no deductions for days off, and overtime to be paid at a fixed rate per hour; (4) gratuitous supply of the compulsory service clothes, or pecuniary allowance for the same; (5) a ten hours day and strict observance of the service regulations approved by the Railway Department.

Stone-cutters and Millers.—In Zürich the stone-cutters are asking for a new method (the so-called "link system") of calculating wages, and for a rise in wages. The employers declare a rise impracticable, the increasing use of other building material than hard stone lessening the demand for masons. The millers in Zürich are asking for a minimum wage of 5 frs. (4s.), for warehouse work, and of 5-50 frs. (4s. 5d.) for job work.

Hours of Labour.—The lithographers at Bâle have obtained a reduction in their working hours from 10½ to 9½ per day.

Labour Disputes in Switzerland, 1860 to 1894.—The Report of the Swiss Labour Department (Arbeitssekretariat) for the year 1894 contains an account of labour disputes which have occurred in Switzerland between 1860 and the end of 1894. Owing to the nature of the sources from which the information had to be obtained (chiefly the files of the labour press), no claim is made to completeness of record. The total number of the cases enumerated, in which workpeople combined either to improve their conditions of employment, or to resist proposals regarded as hostile, is 520. These combinations led to 307 strikes and 10 lock-outs. Of these 317 disputes, 103 occurred in the Building Trades, 51 in the Clothing Trades, 48 in the Watch-making and Jewellery Trades, 39 in the Metal-working Trades, 29 in the Printing and Book-binding Trades, and 47 in various unclassified trades. The workpeople were successful in 160, partly successful in 35, and unsuccessful in 77, out of a total of 272 strikes of which the results have been ascertained; while 5 of the 10 lock-outs ended favourably, and 2 unfavourably for the workpeople, the results of the remaining 3 being unknown.

BELGIUM.

Agitation among Coal Miners.—The Coal Trade showed in September a slight improvement caused by a sensible improvement in iron and glass works. This led in the three mining districts of Hainaut (Borinage, Charleroi and Mariemont) to an agitation for an advance in wages. Various small local strikes occurred which, however, ended very quickly, work being resumed at the former rate of wages. In Mariemont, the permanent arbitration council (a private institution of the colliery) prevented a strike. It decided that wages should not yet be increased, the rates formerly paid having been higher than the state of trade warranted. The Miners' Federation Committee called a special conference for October 7th in Brussels, to decide what was to be done for a general advancement of wages.

Labour Disputes.—Besides the above-mentioned strikes, none of which were important, two others (also small) were reported in the Wool Trade (district of Verviers), another in Malines among the cabinet-makers. But the most important labour events of the month were two strikes of metal-workers and cotton-spinners in Ghent, the former of which is still unsettled.

On September 9th the spinners employed by one firm left work, claiming a rise of wages and some other alterations in the conditions of work, such as the control

of the quantities of yarn paid for. A Strike Committee was elected (the leaders of which were active members of the Socialist Co-operative Society "Vooruit"), and money was collected. Anti-Socialist and Socialist workers held distinct meetings. At the end of September the Minister of Labour had an interview with employers and workers, and induced the manager of the factory to accept the arbitration of a committee composed of three workers, three employers and the Governor of the Province as President. A division took place among the strikers, the Socialists declining to resume work until they knew the result of the arbitration. Finally, after an interview between the Strike Committee and the manager of the factory, work was resumed unconditionally. On the same day the Arbitration Committee decided that the wages of all the workers should be increased half-a-farthing per hour. The other demands of the workers were accepted by the employer before the arbitration.

At the same time, another strike began in some metal works in the town; the workers claimed higher wages, saying they were paid less than in any other similar factory in Ghent. Some days after the beginning of the strike, all other employers in the Metal Trade in Ghent threatened to lock out their own workers if the strike did not end within the week. This threat was actually enforced, the original strikers being 350, and the locked-out nearly 1,500. Socialists and trade organisations throughout the whole country are sending money every week to the support of those locked-out. On the other side, the employers seem very determined. This is stated to be the first case of a lock-out in the country.

ITALY.

Co-operative Congress.—On September 25th, 26th, and 27th, a congress of delegates from Italian Co-operative Productive Societies was held in Rome, to consider proposed alterations in the laws relating to co-operative societies, and the best means of establishing improved relations between the State and these societies.

A proposal to amend the law with a view to enabling the Società di Lavoro to compete under certain conditions for public works was approved, as was also a suggestion for the establishment of a bank to assist small credit institutions and co-operative societies. Other resolutions dealt with old age pensions.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of September 15th:—

State of Employment.—During the past four months there has been a considerable improvement in the real estate market and in the Building Trades. The City Building Department issued 3,495 building permits within the last six months, an increase of 10 per cent. on the corresponding period of last year, while the cost is one-third greater. There has also been a marked improvement in the Glass Trade. Pending a settlement of the question of wages, most of the glass manufacturing plants in the country were shut down. The dispute was recently ended at Pittsburg, and in the Pittsburg district 45,000 men will be employed in the factories next week. At Muncie (Indiana), 3,000 men have just gone to work in the glass factories; the Illinois glass works at Alton opened up a week ago, giving employment to 2,000 men; and various large glass factories at Marian (Indiana) are now opening. The Iron Trade also shows signs of steady improvement. Some dealers find it difficult to secure ships to carry the ore from the mines, and lake rates are rapidly increasing. To meet the demand for ore which has been created by the revival of the iron and steel business, all the mines in the Superior region, except those temporarily prevented by strikes or special causes, are being pushed to the limit. The Marquette County miners' strike at Ishpenning (Michigan), which has now lasted 9 weeks, will probably be settled shortly. Notwithstanding the improvement in trade, there is still much distress, and the number of unemployed in Chicago is large, although less than last year.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR SEPTEMBER.

Imports.—The total declared value of the imports for September was £30,619,000, or 1-25 per cent. in excess of the value for September 1894, although still 5-3 per cent. less than the average for September in the three years 1891-3, viz., £32,318,000. In spite of this increase, the imports for the first eight months of the year (£303,976,000) are still £662,000 below those for January to September 1894 (£304,638,000), and also £3,169,000 below the average for the corresponding periods of the three years 1891-3.

The following table shows the declared value of the imports grouped in large classes, for the months ending September 30th 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Class of Goods.	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£ 14,197,760	£ 14,342,983	—	£ 145,223
Metals ...	1,444,861	1,605,524	—	160,663
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,016,544	990,772	85,772	—
Raw Materials for Manufacture ...	6,343,104	6,510,127	—	167,023
Manufactured Articles ...	6,406,544	5,763,314	643,230	—
Miscellaneous ...	1,210,038	1,087,741	122,297	—
Totals ...	30,618,854	30,240,461	378,393	—

The large increase in the import of manufactured articles is chiefly owing to increases of £290,283 in silk manufactures, and £174,385 in woollen yarns and manufactures. Among metals there was an increase of 148,693 tons, of value £95,716, in iron ore. Most other metals showed a decrease. Raw materials for textiles showed a decrease; other raw materials on the whole an increase. The largest decreases were those of jute (£242,647), and cotton (£134,236), hemp and goats' wool increased; sheep and lambs' wool decreased slightly. The increase in Indian corn amounts to £340,339. The increase in wheat is not so great as that noticed last month, being 378,842 cwt., of value £178,497. The increase in tea noticed last month is partially balanced this month by a decrease of 5,000,000 lbs., of value £212,079.

British and Irish Exports.—The total declared value of the exports for September amounted to £19,462,000, showing again a large increase equivalent to 10-6 per cent. on the value for September 1894, or very nearly up to the average for September 1891-3 (£19,444,000). The exports for the completed months of the year (£166,620,000) are in excess of those for the corresponding period of 1894 (£161,463,000), but still £7,829,000 below the average for January-September in the three years 1891-3.

The following table shows the declared value in pounds sterling of the exports, grouped in large classes, for the months ending September 30th, 1895 and 1894, respectively:—

Class of Goods.	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£ 1,165,050	£ 1,101,923	£ 63,127	—
Raw Materials ...	1,632,281	1,566,796	65,485	—
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	8,541,531	7,933,957	907,574	—
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,480,097	2,263,814	216,283	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,224,261	1,126,001	98,260	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,418,720	3,906,829	511,891	—
Totals ...	19,461,940	17,599,320	1,862,620	—

Nearly half of the total increase is due to yarns and textiles, and almost every branch of these industries shows expansion. Cotton yarn and manufactures increased by £105,611, and woollen and worsted tissues alone by £582,055. Under metals the largest increase was that of £136,427, in iron wrought and unwrought. Steam engines still show a slight decrease. The exports of mining machinery were more than double those of last year. Textile, sewing and miscellaneous machinery increased, but agricultural machinery increased considerably. The exports of coal show a slight increase, but for the first nine months of the year they are still about a million and a half sterling less than in the corresponding period of last year.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—For the month of September the value of these was £3,907,836, an increase of £97,220 on the value in September 1894.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom during September from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 2,771,133 tons, as compared with 2,665,573 tons in September 1894, an increase of 105,560 tons. The tonnage of vessels cleared was 3,132,936 tons, as against 2,961,343 tons in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 171,593 tons. The tonnage of vessels entered *coastwise* amounted to 2,689,240 tons, as compared with 2,731,086 tons in September 1894, and of those cleared to 2,549,820 tons, as against 2,586,982 tons in September 1894.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—There was a falling off of 11,586 bales, or nearly 20 per cent., in the imports of raw cotton during September as compared with a year ago, and the number of bales exported and forwarded from ports to inland towns also fell off. The decline in imports was mainly accounted for by a drop of 10,508 bales (12,297 to 1,789) in Egyptian cotton. The total quantity of cotton imported in the first nine months of 1895 is, however, in excess of the corresponding figures for 1894. The figures for the two periods are as follows:—

	Imports. Bales.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns. Bales.	Exports. Bales.
September 1895 ...	47,414	221,427	35,901
September 1894 ...	59,000	245,677	38,905
Total, 9 months of 1895	2,561,066	2,332,697	329,307
" " 1894	2,351,071	2,367,354	363,662

Traffic Receipts.—During the four weeks ended 28th September the receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom amounted to £6,374,454, an increase of £270,317 (or over 4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1894. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,123,974 and from goods £3,250,480 being increases over a year ago of £171,280 and £99,037 respectively.

Fishery Statistics.—The total declared value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed in the United Kingdom during September was £610,831, an increase of £39,593 as compared with September 1894, when the value was declared at £571,328. England and Wales shows an increase of £10,343, on a total value of £451,937; Scotland an increase of £29,510 on £89,054; and Ireland a decrease of £350 on a total of £30,337 in September 1894.

British Corn.—The average price of British wheat was 4s. 3d. per quarter higher in the last week of September than in the corresponding week of last year, but 10d. lower than in the last week of August. Barley was 1s. 3d. per quarter dearer, both as compared with a year ago and with the previous month. The price of oats, on the other hand, has fallen, being 1s. 1d. per quarter cheaper than at the same date in 1894, and 1s. 3d. per quarter cheaper than at the end of August. The following are the average prices of the three kinds of grain in the last week of September, 1895 and 1894, respectively:—

	Average price per Quarter in—		Increase.	Decrease.
	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.		
Wheat ...	23 0	18 9	4 3	—
Barley ...	24 8	23 5	1 3	—
Oats ...	13 2	14 3	—	1 1

Bankruptcies.—During September the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 8 less than in the corresponding month of 1894, 110 less than in September 1893, and 89 less than in September 1892. The figures in the four periods referred to, and for the nine months ended September, are as follows:—

	1895	1894	1893	1892
September ...	291	299	401	380
Nine months ending September ...	3,276	3,628	3,653	3,434

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The total number of British and foreign passengers who left the United Kingdom during September for places out of Europe shows an increase of about 6½ per cent. over the number in September 1894, the figures for the two periods being 37,128 and 34,836.

British and Irish.—Of these 37,128 passengers, 24,615 were British or Irish, an increase, as compared with a year ago, of 1,042. The chief increase was in the number of passengers to South Africa. The passengers to Australasia, on the other hand, show a falling-off. The figures are as follows:—

	September 1895.	September 1894.
United States ...	17,575	17,349
British North America ...	2,545	2,193
Australasia ...	1,066	1,303
South Africa ...	2,214	1,480
Other places ...	1,215	1,248
Totals ...	24,615	23,573

Foreign.—In addition to the above, there were 12,513 foreigners and others, whose nationality was not stated, being 1,250 more than in September 1894.

Alien Immigration.—The total number of aliens who arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during September was 2,690 in excess of the number in September 1894, the figures for the two periods being 10,677 and 7,987, respectively. Of this increase, however, 1,621 was in the number of aliens stated to be

en route to America, the number last month being 6,082, compared with 4,461 so described a year ago. Aliens not stated to be en route to America numbered 4,595 (including 1,123 sailors), compared with 3,526 (including 671 sailors) in September 1894.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN SEPTEMBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Con- victions.	Total Amount of Penalties.		Total Amount of Costs.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
By Owners, Managers, &c.:						
Neglecting to Limeswash ...	11	5	8 19 0	3 12 6		
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	4	4	33 1	2 18 0		
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	22	21	10 12 6	12 14 10		
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—						
Before or after the legal hour ...	25	25	17 9 9	15 8		
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	5	5	4 10 0	6 6		
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	7	7	11 1 0	5 8 a		
At night ...	3	3	10 14 2	3 10 r		
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	7	6	1 1 0	1 11 10		
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.:						
Not keeping registers ...	16	16	7 8 0	10 4		
Not affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts	14	14	4 19 6	4 10 0		
Not sending notices required by Act ...	4	4	2 5 0	18 0		
By Workmen ...						
By Parents ...						
Total for September 1895 ...	119	113	132 0 11	65 19 9		
Total for September 1894 ...	113	107	69 3 7	71 6 2		

II.—Under the Mines Acts. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Fencing ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Shafts and Manholes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ...	3	2	—	1	11 4 0
By Workmen—					
Safety Lamps ...	4	4	—	—	4 9 6
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	3	3	—	—	2 17 0
Timbering ...	2	2	—	—	—
Lucifer Matches, &c. ...	4	4	—	—	2 12 6
Riding on Trams ...	5	5	—	—	1 15 0
Miscellaneous ...	12	12	—	—	12 15 0
Total for September 1895 ...	33	32	—	1	38 3 0
Total for September 1894 ...	36	32	—	4	41 8 6

III.—Under the Quarries Act. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					
Abstracts, Registers, Notices	1	—	—	—	0 1 0
By Workmen ...					
Total for September 1895 ...	1	1	—	—	0 1 0
Total for September 1894 ...					Act not in force.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Con- victions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:				
Carrying passengers in excess of number allowed by certificate	4	4	23 8 0	4 0 6
For not marking number of feet denoting vessel's draught of water	2	2	40 0 0	9 17 6*
Acting as skipper without certificate	2	2†	7 11 0	2 9 0
Fishing within three-mile limit ...	1	1	10 0 0	3 10 6
Obstructing Sea Fishing Officer in the execution of his duty	3	3	5 0 0	0 18 0.
By Seaman				
By Boarding-House Keepers' Run- ners:				
Illegal Boarding ...	2	2	6 0 0	†
Total for September 1895 ...	14	14	91 19 0	20 15 6
Total for September 1894 ...	14	14	144 1 6	30 14 8

* Or in default of payment one month's imprisonment each.
† One defendant, who was convicted of two offences, was sent to prison for two months' hard labour.
† One defendant was sent to prison for one month and the other for 14 days.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

The number of fresh applicants for work registered during September by the 9 bureaux was 2,215.

Of these bureaux 7 also furnished returns for the corresponding month of last year, and a comparison of the figures shows a decrease last month of 410 in the number of fresh applicants, the figures being 1,189 in 1895, and 1,599 in 1894.

During the month, private employers engaged 1,613 workpeople, but in 1,199 cases the engagement was of a temporary character only. In addition, local authorities gave employment to 166 persons, but in 54 cases it was stated to be temporary. Of the 2,508 persons remaining on the register at the end of September, 2,196 were men, 108 lads and boys, and 204 women and girls.

(1) Work Done in September.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Work-people on Register.		No. of Fresh Applicants during Sept.		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.			
	At end of Sept. 1895.	At end of Sept. 1894.	Work-people.	Em- ployers.	Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authority.	
					Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.	Sept. 1895.	Sept. 1894.
London.								
St. Pancras (Gt. College St.)	358	295	219	99	97	83	perm. temp. 54	7
Battersea (Lavender Hill)	158	101	298	23	46	40		7
Islington (Barnsbury St.)	456	539	281	231	126	121	81	73
St. Martin's (Town Hall, W.C.)	106	...	83	40	22	...		
Salvation Army* (272 Whitechpl. Rd.)	697	...	943	31	perm. temp. 1,199	...		
Provincial.								
Salford (Town Hall)	292	340	42	7	4	8	27	9
Ipswich (Tower St.)	125	159	69	53	37	25	...	...
Plymouth† (East St.)	151	231	70	35	40	59	...	...
Liverpool (Municipal Bldgs.)	165	406	210	3	—	4	1	1
Total ...	2,508	2,215	522	1,613	166	...	...	...

(2) Previous Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of September.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Men.							Total Men.
	Build- ing, Engi- neering and Metal Trades.	Carmen Stable- men, Horse- men, &c.	Clerks and Ware- house- men.	Porters and Messen- gers.	General Labour- ers.	Other Occu- pations.	Total Men.	
London.								
St. Pancras ...	32	11	3	69	78	73	266	
Battersea ...	22	6	4	7	98	7	144	
Islington ...	92	45	15	87	124	11	374	
St. Martin-in-the-Fields and Strand	5	3	2	17	5	7	39	
Salvation Army	27	32	37	42	255	304	697	
Provincial.								
Salford ...	92	24	22	8	94	52	292	
Ipswich ...	7	35	1	10	29	22	141	
Plymouth† ...	40	5	—	17	59	40	161	
Liverpool ...	12	15	15	1	70	26	139	
Total Number ...	309	176	90	258	812	542	2,196	

* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished.
† Women and Girls are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

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

The total number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of September was 322,950, or 221 per 10,000 of the population of those districts in 1891.

Compared with August these figures show very little change, the number relieved on the corresponding day of that month being 323,978, the rate per 10,000 of population remaining the same (221). Taking the districts separately, the only marked changes are an increase of 10 per 10,000 in the Stockton and Tees Districts, and decreases of 13 and 11 per 10,000 in Barnsley and Wolverhampton districts respectively.

Compared with September 1894, when the number relieved was 313,396, there has been an increase of 9,554 paupers, or 7 per 10,000 of the population. The principal increases in the selected English districts were: in Hull (31 per 10,000); Wigan and Leicester, 22 per 10,000 each; Nottingham, 16; and Barnsley and the Southern district of the metropolis, 15 each. In Scotland, Paisley and Greenock district shows an increase of 25 per 10,000, and Aberdeen of 24. The districts in which pauperism has appreciably declined are Cork, Waterford and Limerick, with a falling-off of 19 per 10,000; Halifax and Huddersfield with 13; and Bradford with 12 per 10,000.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of September 1895.			Paupers on corre- sponding date in 1894.	
	In- door.	Out- door.	TOTAL.	Total Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Popula- tion.*
ENGLAND & WALES.†					
Metropolis.					
West District ...	9,953	2,264	12,217	165	11,693
North District ...	8,441	21,724	219	21,960	220
Central District ...	6,784	3,511	10,295	416	10,103
East District ...	12,529	4,157	16,686	237	16,370
South District ...	19,453	17,993	37,346	245	35,997
Total Metropolis ...	62,012	36,266	98,278	233	85,113
West Ham ...	1,680	7,080	8,760	240	8,385
Other Districts.					
Newcastle District ...	1,454	4,495	5,949	180	5,984
Stockton & Tees District	1,062	4,593	3,843	319	5,899
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,005	7,995	11,000	161	10,786
Wigan District ...	1,631	7,395	8,996	257	8,228
Manchester District ...	7,596	6,564	14,160	177	13,073
Liverpool District ...	9,027	8,728	17,755	206	17,303
Bradford District ...	990	3,482	4,388	129	4,228
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,930	4,338	5,338	151	5,786
Leeds District ...	1,652	6,005	7,657	198	7,216
Barnsley District ...	688	3,427	4,115	223	3,891
Sheffield District ...	2,347	3,809	6,156	180	5,899
Hull District ...	1,106	5,738	6,844	320	6,175
North Staffordshire ...	1,770	6,386	8,156	260	7,796
Nottingham District ...	1,479	5,698	7,177	217	6,662
Leicester District ...	1,008	2,807	3,815	218	3,417
Wolverhampton District	2,993	14,225	17,218	329	17,376
Birmingham District	3,825	2,348	6,173		

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Trade Union periodical returns, and newspaper reports. Application for particulars is made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the time of going to press is used.)

THE number of fresh disputes occurring in September was 66, compared with 52 in August and 69 in September 1894. Particulars obtained as to numbers affected show that in 60 disputes, 9,893 workpeople were concerned. Of the 12 disputes in the Building Trades, 2 were upon wages questions, 6 upon refusal to work with non-union and Free Labour men, 1 upon demarcation of work, and the remaining 3 upon various points of working arrangements. Five of the 7 disputes in the Clothing Trades were due to wages questions, and the other 2 to changes in working arrangements. Of the 11 disputes in Metal Trades, 6 arose upon wages questions, 2 upon questions of the hours of labour, 2 upon working arrangements, and 1 was a demarcation dispute. Nine of the 14 disputes in Mining were due to wages questions, and the other 5 to various difficulties in the individual colliery arrangements. In connection with Dock Labour and Shipbuilding 2 disputes occurred, 1 upon demarcation of work, and the other upon substitution of steam for hand-worked machinery. In the Textile Trades 13 disputes arose, of which 6 were due to questions of wages, 2 to the alleged excessive infusion of steam, 3 for defence of fellow workmen (unionist and otherwise), while the remaining 2 arose on questions as to material used, fines, &c.

The 66 disputes were geographically distributed as follows:—Northern Counties, 29; Midlands, 6; Western Counties and Wales, 9; Eastern Counties, 1; London, 5; Scotland, 12; Ireland, 4.

Fourteen old disputes, affecting 2,227 workpeople, were settled during September, and 22 disputes which occurred during the month and 36 old ones, affecting altogether 6,700 workpeople, were reported as still unsettled at the end of the month.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1895.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Ter-mi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Stonemasons ...	Stirling ...	For advance in wages ...	...	70	Sept. 2	Sept. 12	Advance in wages of 3d. per hour granted (8d. to 9d.), with weekly instead of fortnightly pays.
Plasterers ...	Inverness ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	...	...	...	Advance of 3d. per hour conceded (7d. to 7 1/2d.).
Millsawyers, &c. ...	Belfast ...	Refusal to work with non-union men ...	1	7	10	...	No details of settlement.
Joiners ...	Leeds ...	Against employment of a non-union man who refused to join the union	1	39	11	30	Man in question joined the union.
Carpenters ...	Plymouth ...	Refusal to pay through employers a weekly levy of 1d. to Hospital Fund, alleging that the union performed that function	1	5	14	25	Employer agreed not to enforce the levy.
Bricklayers and Labourers	London, E.C.	Against employment of Free Labour men	1	50	5	...	Still unsettled
Ditto ...	London, E.C. and E.	Ditto ...	4	300	17 to 27	...	Ditto.
Bricklayers ...	London, W.	Ditto ...	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Bricklayers and Labourers	London, S.E.	Ditto ...	1	55	15	...	Ditto.
Stonemasons ...	Rochdale ...	Against performance of flagging by piece-work or sub-contracting	1	30	16	20	Piece-working discontinued.
Bricklayers ...	Glasgow ...	Against employment of apprentices in excess of the number settled by the trade	1	25	21	...	Still unsettled.
Plasterers ...	Sunderland ...	Against employment of lathers to fix laths, work alleged to belong to plasterers	1	16	30	...	Ditto.
Clothing Trades.							
Coat Pressers ...	Bristol ...	Objection to change from day to piece-working	1	9	19	23	Work resumed upon satisfactory terms for piece-working.
Cloggers ...	Rochdale ...	For advance in wages of about 10 per cent. ...	20	39	23	...	Still unsettled.
Linkers (Hosiery Trade)—females	Leicester ...	Objection to certain work being given to males, and to any "linking" work being done at homes of workers	1	49 dir. 100 indir.	24	26	Work resumed upon the employer's terms.
Tailors ...	Belfast ...	Refusal to work to a new list on day wages, with introduction of two women sewers to each man. Also refusal to leave their trade union	1	19	23	...	Still unsettled
Tailoresses (finishers)...	Leeds ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 7 per cent.	1	50	27	27	Notice of reduction withdrawn.
Tailors ...	Oldham ...	Refusal to pay according to "log" prices	1	5	27	...	Still unsettled.
Cloth Shrinkers (tailoring)	Bristol ...	Against a reduction in wages	1	2	30	...	Ditto.
Metal Trades.							
Steel Workers ... (Bessemer Dept.)	Blaenavon ...	For abolition of Saturday night working, desiring to cease work at 4 p.m. on that day	1	36	9	23	Work resumed without the desired alteration
Steel Workers and Millmen	Near Glasgow	For abolition of the contracting system ...	1	200	9	...	Still unsettled.
Pattern Makers ...	Aberdeen ...	Demarcation of work dispute with millwrights and joiners	1	7	11	1 Oct.	Work resumed, the employer offering to draw up a line of demarcation of work for the two trades.
Fitters, Turners, &c. ... (Railway Shops)	Liverpool ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 2s. per week	1	16	14	...	Still unsettled.
Small Chain Makers ...	Cradley Heath	For advance in wages—return to the 4s. price list	...	750	14	5 Oct. Sept.	The 4s. list conceded.
Fitters and Turners ...	Aberdeen ...	Against proposed re-arrangement of working hours	1	30	20	26	New arrangement of working hours accepted.
Pig Iron Lifters ...	Shotts ...	For advance in wages to the rate paid in other works	1	4	26	...	Some obtained an advance of 10 per cent., others were replaced.
Machinists ...	Bury ...	For advance in wages... ..	1	37	28	...	Still unsettled.
Ironplate Workers ...	The Lye ...	For advance in wages—a return to the Lye list	8	300	30	...	57 men (in two firms) have obtained the desired list.
Fender Fitters ...	Dudley ...	Against proposed alteration in the working hours	1	15 dir. 100 indir.	...	...	Still unsettled.
Anchor Smiths ...	Gateshead ...	Against proposed reduction in piece-work prices	1	24	...	...	Ditto.
Mining.							
Coal Miners ...	Merthyr ...	Dispute as to cutting prices of coal ...	1	75	3	4	No details of settlement.
Pony Boys ...	Eckington ...	For advance in wages of 4d. per day ...	1	400 dir. & indir.	3	...	New scale of payment adopted, stated to be satisfactory.
Coal Miners ...	Coalburn, Lanarkshire	Dissatisfaction with alteration by Railway Company of time of running workmen's train	1	350	4	7	Change accepted, a petition being sent to company.
Ironstone Miners ...	Dairy ...	For advance in wages... ..	1	300	9	11	Advance granted.
Ditto ...	Near Dunfermline	Against dismissal of a number of miners for observing an "idle day," the employers desiring to make selection of such day according to exigencies of their business	1	800	12	14	Work resumed, employers refraining from claiming compensation for absence, and miners conceding to them the right of nominating the "idle day" per fortnight.
Coal Hewers ...	Near South Shields	Dispute as to whether certain rough mineral should be classed as stone or coal	1	17	16	17	The question to be referred to the Standing Committee.
Coal Miners ...	Cwys, Glam...	Dispute as to filling coal ...	1	430	16	17	Full details of settlement not yet known.
Ditto ...	Whitehaven...	Against proposed reduction in wages to a section of the miners in one district of the pit	1	492	17	26	District in question closed, and work found for men in other portions of the pit.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1895—(continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Ter-mi-nation.	Result.
Coal Miners ...	Blantyre ...	Against inspection of the hutches sent out of pit before date arranged for commencement of such inspection	1	166	Sept. 20	Sept. 23	Miners accepted employers' terms, viz., 1-cwt. to be added to "tare" of hutches, no deduction for dirt to be made, and 1-cwt. to be credited.
Ditto ...	Ebbw Vale ...	Demand of topmen for improved wages on account of increased output	1	1,140 dir. and indir.	30	10 Oct.	Question referred to sliding scale board for settlement.
Ditto ...	Flint ...	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Pemberton, Lanc.	Against proposed reduction in wages of 2d. per ton	1	100	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Willington, Durham	Disagreement as to price for working a new seam of coal	1	113	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Rumworth, Lanc.	Wages dispute, full details not yet to hand	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Seafaring, Dock, &c., Labour.							
Dock Labourers ...	Limerick ...	Against employment of steam instead of hand winches	1	300	30	...	Still unsettled.
Shipbuilding.							
Shipwrights ...	Hebburn-on-Tyne	Demarcation of work dispute with joiners ...	1	180	24	1 Oct.	Work in dispute to be stopped, and its future allotment referred to the Joint Standing Committee for settlement.
Textile Trades.							
Cardroom Hands and Spinners	Wigan ...	Against discharge of a prominent trade unionist operative	1	100	8	Sept. ...	Still unsettled.
Rope Spinners and Sorters	Liverpool ...	Against infliction of certain fines ...	1	40	9	10	Employer agreed to withdraw the fines.
Cardroom and other operatives	Oldham ...	Against intended discharge of 13 card-room workers, due to proposed re-arrangement of machinery	1	332 dir. 163 indir.	9	16	Eleven of the 13 operatives under notice re-instated; the other 2, being non-unionists, were not taken back by employer.
Ring-frame and Throstle Piecers	Shaw, Oldham	For advance in wages of 9d. per week, in consequence of increased work, caused by lengthening throstle and ring frames	1	250	9	23	Advance of 6d. per week granted for the increased number of spindles.
Machine-Men (Rope Works)	Liverpool ...	Refusal to perform labourers' work at reduced wages	1	2	16	16	Replaced by other men.
Cotton Weavers	Astley, Leigh	Against proposed reduction in prices	1	134	17	...	No details of settlement.
Cardroom Operatives and Spinners	Bolton...	Alleged bad material and dissatisfaction with non-payment of certain extra wages agreed upon	1	180 dir. 520 indir.	19	26	Employers agreed to allow an extra creeler during period of bad material.
Cloth Dyers ...	Heckmondwike	Objection to employment of non-unionists while union men were unemployed, against agreement of the dyers' combination	1	200	23	24	Non-unionists withdrawn, the employer stated to have been unaware that any union men were at the time unemployed.
Worsted Weavers ...	Shipleigh ...	For advance in wages of about 6 per cent. ...	1	45	23	...	Work resumed without any advance in wages.
Cotton Weavers ...	Padiham ...	Alleged excessive steaming in weaving shed ...	1	220	26	26	Employer agreed to modify the infusion of steam (see page 308).
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	1	350	26	27	Work resumed on a promise of improved conditions of work.
Cardroom Operatives	Salford ...	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	1	...	27	...	Full details of settlement not yet to hand.
Worsted Weavers ...	Burley, Leeds	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 to 12 1/2 per cent.	1	30	30	3	Proposed reduction withdrawn for the present.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Glass Bevelers ...	Bristol...	Objection of employer to men joining a trade union	1	3	2	...	Men have obtained employment elsewhere.
Pianoforte Polishers ...	London, N.W.	Objection to foreman being made responsible for efficiency of certain men	1	3	4	...	Still unsettled.
Cabinet Makers ...	Batley ...	Against requirement to destroy their own shavings and refuse	1	4	9	...	Ditto.
Agricultural Labourers	Horsford, Norfolk	Against reduction in wages of 1s. per week ...	2	7	16	...	Ditto.
Tobacco Pipe Makers...	Dundee ...	For advance in wages of 1d. to 2d. per gross ...	2	10	21	...	Advance granted.
Printers and Transferrers (Pottery Trade)	Burslem ...	Against proposed increase in number of articles to be reckoned as dozens	1	48	26	...	Still unsettled.
Compositors ...	Tralee...	For advance in wages and reduction in hours of work	1	...	...	...	Ditto.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Ter-mi-nation.	Result.
Cotton Weavers ...	Cliviger, Burnley	Against alleged payment at less than list prices	1	135	18 April 1894	Sept. 28	Strike pay discontinued by union, all those who desired work having obtained it elsewhere.
Bricklayers ...	Colchester ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	...	70	1 April 1895	23	Work resumed without any advance in wages.
Cotton Weavers ...	Padiham ...	Alleged excessive steaming in weaving-shed ...	1	360 dir. 50 indir.	29 May	27	Employers agreed to infuse no steam at present, and when it is necessary to do so, that 64 degrees by the dry bulb shall be the maximum.
Theatre Musicians ...	Hull ...	Alleged discharge of fellow unionists ...	1	8	14 June	28	Legal proceedings withdrawn, and the strikers to be re-instated if they wish.
Railway Wagon Builders	Heywood ...	Against proposed reduction in wages on introduction of labour-saving machinery	1	30	20 June	12	Reduction accepted.
Hauliers (Coal Mining)	Maesteg ...	Dispute as to "sharing the trams" and the employment of non-unionists	1	600	1 Aug.	9	Work resumed upon previous conditions.
Roller Makers ...	Bolton ...	For advance in piece-work prices, and a minimum rate for day workers, with payment for overtime	1	56	3 Aug.	14	Slight concession to piece-workers, the desired weekly rate granted, and overtime to be paid for, commencing in April 1896.
Helpers in Steel Works	Penistone ...	Objection to deduction from wages in removing bad metal made by the steel-workers	1	24	16 Aug.	...	Boys accepted employers' terms.
Cotton Weavers ...	Blackburn ...	Alleged unfair discharge of two of their number	1	180	lasted 2 weeks 7 Aug.	19	Work resumed upon an agreement to refer the whole matter to arbitration.
Plantation Hoe Makers	Wolver-hampton	Against reduction in price alleged to be on account of faulty construction	1	8	27 Aug.	4	Demand for reduced price withdrawn.
Cardroom Operatives...	Oldham ...	Against discharge of certain operatives for refusal to clean windows of mill	1	150	28 Aug.	15	Men reinstated. Conference of employers' and operatives' associations to be held to define limits of window-cleaning.
Coal Miners ...	Ebbw Vale ...	Against proposal to work on day-to-day contracts, the colliery being stated not to pay expenses	1	300	29 Aug.	3	Day-to-day contracts accepted.
Cardroom Operatives...	Ashton-under-Lyne	For payment for alleged extra work ...	1	240	30 Aug.	23	Claim not substantiated.
Ironmoulders ...	Dundee ...	Objection to employment of labourers upon moulding machines	1	16	26 Aug.	Not stated	Men have obtained employment in other shops, but the question is still in dispute.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in August were still unsettled:—Tailors, Leeds; dyers, Leeds (only 3 men now on strike pay); weavers, Delph; shale miners, Cobbinshaw, Lanarkshire (since settled, October); coal miners, Rotherham; curriers, Johnstone; bleachers and dyers, Stalybridge; cotton spinners and cardroom operatives, Lees, Oldham; fitters, &c., Cardiff;

The following which commenced before August were also still unsettled:—Fitters, turners, &c., Hollinwood; dyers, Wyke and Greetland; bedstead-makers, Sowerby Bridge; glass-bevellers, Leeds; bobbin-makers, Barnsley; joiners, Falkirk and Grangemouth (since settled, October 2nd); bricklayers and Masons, Grimsby; coal miners, Castleford, Cliviger, East Howle (Durham), Barkip, and Rotherham; joiners, Swansea (since settled, October), lace operatives, Nottingham (two disputes); spring fitters and saw-makers, Sheffield; coopers, St. Helen's; bottle-makers, Dublin; galvanisers, Halesowen; brush-makers, Newcastle; and masons, Pontypridd.

The following disputes, commencing before September, of which information has only recently been obtained, were also still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Establishments.	Workpeople.	Commencement.
Stonemasons	Derby	Against employment of bricklayers to fix stone work	1	4	15 June
Ditto	Ditto	Against refusal to pay the current rate of wages to one man	1	2	15 June
Plumbers and Gasfitters	Hull	Alleged excessive number of apprentices and boys	1	4	20 Aug.
Engineers (Loom Making)	Burnley	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	1	...	17 Aug.
Gas Meter Makers	London	Refusal to finish meters of which certain parts had been put together by girl labour	1	5	31 Aug.

ERRATA.—The report in last month's GAZETTE of a dispute of glass-bottle makers at Hendon, Sunderland, was incorrect. It appears from later information that the stoppage of the works was not due to a labour dispute. The Chorley joiners' dispute was also stated as still unsettled. Later information shows that work was resumed on 2nd August at the old rate of wages.

RECENT ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION CASES.

Arbitration in the Coal Trade.

THE Department has recently received information with regard to the following arbitration in the Coal Mining Industry of Glamorganshire. The dispute, which in the first instance affected 77 men, was relative to the prices to be paid for cutting coal, &c., in a new pit and level. The coal was reached at the end of last year, and the prices offered by the Company were similar to those in vogue in a neighbouring pit, worked by the same Company. The men demurred and finally struck work. The strike was brought to an end at the end of April, the two parties agreeing to refer the matters in dispute to arbitration, and the men resuming work under a temporary arrangement. Two arbitrators were appointed by each side, and several meetings were held during May. They failed, however, to arrive at any agreement, and finally appointed Mr. Brynmor Jones, Q.C., M.P., as umpire. The umpire met the arbitrators and visited the seam and the workings in the level, and finally made his award on or about August 12th. The prices, though less in many instances (especially in the case of the price fixed for cutting the coal) than those asked for by the men, were somewhat higher than those paid under the temporary arrangement. The increase is estimated at about 7½ per cent. These standard prices are, of course, subject to the percentage increases or decreases determined from time to time by the Sliding Scale Committee. The umpire's award was stamped, so as to be enforceable in a court of law against any of the parties subscribing to the agreement of reference. This is believed to be the first instance in Glamorganshire of the prices to be paid for a new seam being referred to arbitration.

Durham Miners' Wages.

The Durham Miners' Conciliation Board having failed to come to an agreement with regard to the reduction of 7½ per cent. in wages proposed by the employers, the case for both sides was stated before the umpire, Lord Davey, on September 23rd. This meeting was adjourned to enable the men to produce further evidence, and the discussion before the umpire was resumed on October 4th. After hearing the evidence, the umpire decided that the wages should be reduced 2½ per cent., the reduction to take effect with the pays commencing on October 7th and October 14th.

Northumberland Miners' Wages.

At the quarterly meeting of the Conciliation Board for the Coal Trade of Northumberland on October 5th, it was agreed that wages should be reduced by 2½ per cent., the reduction to take effect with the pays on the 7th and 14th inst. The ascertainment of selling prices on which this reduction is based was for the three months ending August 31st.

CO-OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER.

England and Wales.—During September, 2 new distributive societies have been registered in England and Wales; and new branches and premises of existing societies have been opened by 7 distributive societies and by 2 co-operative boot manufacturing societies. A distributive society at Walthamstow is reported to be in liquidation.

The Co-operative Union has formed a new section for the more efficient organisation of co-operation in South Wales; and, in view of the resolution upon profit-sharing passed at the recent Congress at Huddersfield, has convened a conference of representatives from the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies, and the Co-operative Productive Federation to meet representatives of the Union, in order to consider the possibility of arriving at some basis of agreement among these various sections upon the profit-sharing question.

Scotland.—Two new branches of existing distributive societies have been opened in Scotland during the past month; and the "Old Store" at Springburn is reported in liquidation.

The recent action of the Scottish Wholesale Society in withdrawing from those of its employees who are also members the privilege of direct purchase from the society, has been referred to the legal advisers of the society, who have advised that it cannot refuse to supply goods to such of its employees as are shareholders upon the same terms as goods are supplied to shareholding societies. A deputation from the employees attended the quarterly meeting of the shareholders held last month and requested that this legal right should be recognized, and that regulations to prevent its abuse should be drawn up by the directors. A motion to this effect was moved by a shareholding employee, but rejected by 447 votes to 18.

Ireland.—The first general conference of Irish Co-operative Societies was held in Dublin on September 25th, when 54 delegates were present, representing 26 societies. Deputations from the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and the Co-operative Union were also present. A report by the Chairman of the conference stated that there were in existence in Ireland 91 co-operative societies, with a total membership of 8,200. Of these, 58 societies were producing butter with the most modern machinery. Thirteen agricultural societies had been established on the model of the Syndicats Agricoles of France, and four parish banks had been established upon the system of collective "agricultural credit" prevalent on the Continent.

STATISTICAL ABSTRACT FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.*

This volume, which has recently been issued by the Board of Trade, contains tables covering a period of 15 years, viz., from 1880 to 1894, dealing with the following subjects so far as they relate to the United Kingdom:—Imperial Revenue and Expenditure, Customs, Excise, National Debt, Loans for Public Works, Taxation, Imports and Exports, Bullion, Shipping, Agriculture, Fisheries, Textile Factories, Railways and Tramways, Mines, Joint Stock Companies, Coinage, Savings Banks, Building and Industrial and Provident Societies, Assurance, Banking, Post Office, Patents and Trade Marks, Population, the Army, Police, Emigration and Immigration, Education, Pauperism, Crime, Bankruptcy, and Wrecks. In addition to the subjects dealt with in former issues of this Abstract, there are new tables giving the rates of principal Inland Revenue duties, the quantity and value of fish landed, and the amount of gold moneys issued from branches of the Royal Mint at Sydney and Melbourne.

* Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom in each of the last fifteen years from 1880 to 1894. (C. 7875 of Session 1895.) Price 1s.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

The number of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed by accidents reported in September was as follows:—

	Railway Servants	Miners and Quarrymen	Factory and Workshop Operatives	Seamen	Others (so far as reported)	Total
September 1895	31*	83	28	129	12	283*
September 1894	33	85	29	139	...	266

Of the 1,955 non-fatal accidents reported, 205* were to railway servants by movement of railway vehicles, 604 in mines and quarries, 819 in factories and workshops, and 327 to other workpeople.

Railway Servants.*

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

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of September 1895.

[The number of servants employed by the railway companies of the United Kingdom was 381,626 on 31st December 1889.]

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total of Injuries.
		Causing Amputations.	Dislocations and Fractures.	Contusions, &c.	Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.	Total	
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	1	3	11	9	19	43	
Engine Drivers	...	...	3	...	1	9	21
Firemen	...	...	...	...	1	14	24
Guards (Passenger)	...	...	...	...	4	3	7
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	10	1	...	...	4	6	11
Porters	...	...	2	5	13	15	35
Shunters	1	...	1	7	3	10	22	
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' assistants)	14	1	3	7	8	23	42	
Total September 1895	31	7	9	32	64	93	205	
Total September 1894	33	5	109	103	217			

Miners and Quarrymen.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries, during the month of September 1895.

[The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 739,097, and in and about quarries as 84,986, in 1894.]

Cause of Accident.	MINES.		QUARRIES.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Underground:—				
Explosions of Fire-damp	1	16	Explosives or Blasting	1
Falls of ground	30	199	Falls of ground	1
In shafts	21	11	During Ascent or Descent	...
Miscellaneous	21	280	Miscellaneous	...
Surface:—				
Miscellaneous	8	61	Miscellaneous	...
Total for Sept. 1895	81	567	Total for Sept. 1895	2
Total for Sept. 1894	65	335	Total for Sept. 1894	Act not in force.

Factory and Workshop Operatives.†

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of September 1895.

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total Persons Injured.
		Causing Amputations.	Fractures.	Injuries to Head or Face.	Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes.	Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries.	Total	
Males.								
Adults (over 18)	20	84	46	31	...	262	423	
Young Persons	7	43	20	9	...	170	243	
Boys	1	1	...	...	...	7	8
Total Males	28	128	66	40	1	439	674	
Females.								
Adults (over 18)	...	15	5	4	2	50	76	
Young Persons	...	17	5	5	...	41	68	
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Total Females	...	32	10	9	2	92	145	
Total Males and Females for Sept. 1895	28	160	76	49	3	531	819	
Total for Sept. 1894	29	139	81	45	1	557	823	

* In addition to the above the companies have reported 5 servants killed and 315 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, making a total for the month of 36 killed and 520 injured from all causes. † The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July 1893, page 66. ‡ The classes of accidents reported under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, are those set forth on page 340 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for November 1894. Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament.

Seamen.

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

Table showing the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, Isle of Man and Channel Islands, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of September 1895, as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes. (Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Class of Vessels.	Number of Deaths, exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide, and unknown causes.					
	By Wreck and Casualty.		By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty.		Total.	
	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.
Vessels registered under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894:						
Trading	8	3	29	36	77	39
Fishing	2	...	3	2	5	2
Vessels not so registered:						
Trading	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fishing	2	...	4	...	6	...
Total for Sept. 1895	52	3	36	38	88	41
Total for Sept. 1894	54	7	41	37	95	44

Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.‡

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

Table showing the number of separate accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act during the month of September 1895, and the number of persons killed and injured in such accidents.

A.—DISTINGUISHING NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.

Group.	Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.			Use or Working.		
		No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.	No. of Accidents.	No. of persons killed.	No. of persons injured.
I.	Bridge...	4	1	3	...	...	...
	Canal ...	1	...	1	13	...	13
	Dock ...	24	...	24	89	...	99
	Gaswork ...	2	...	2	15	...	14
	Harbour, Pier & Quay	6	...	6	3	...	3
	Railway ...	37	4	34	...	...	...
	Tramroad ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tramway ...	1	...	1	14	...	14
	Tunnel ...	23	1	22	...	...	...
	Other Works§	15	...	15	7	...	7
	Buildings ...	11	5	10	67	...	67
III.	Traction or other steam engine or machine in the open air	Act does not apply.					
Total		124	11	118	209	1	209

B.—DISTINGUISHING NATURE OF INJURY.

(The Groups are the same as in Table A.)

Nature of Injury.	Group I.		Group II.		Group III.
	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	Construction or repair.	Use or working.	Use or working.
Fractures	15	3	1	1	...
Dislocations	...	1	...	...	...
Ruptures or other severe injuries to body	16	11	...	5	...
Injuries to eye	...	2	1	3	...
Other injuries to head or face	14	21	1	2	...
Other injuries to arms or hands	25	32	1	31	...
Other injuries to legs or feet	36	63	3	18	...
Miscellaneous injuries	2	9	3	2	...
Total	108	142	10	67	...

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers* and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trade Unions, and in some cases by the Employers concerned.)

REDUCTIONS in the wages of coal miners, to take effect from early in October, have been agreed to in South Wales and Monmouthshire, Durham, and Northumberland, affecting in the aggregate nearly a quarter of a million workpeople. The amounts of the reductions are, however, but small, amounting only to a few pence in the £ off earnings. In South Wales and Monmouthshire the decrease is 2 1/2 per cent., making wages 12 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1879; in Durham it is also 2 1/2 per cent.; and in Northumberland it is 2 1/2 per cent. for underground workers and 2 per cent. for surface workers. The only other noteworthy reduction, in addition to those in the Mining Industry, is one of 10 per cent. off the rates for "overwork" paid to 2,250 glass bottle-makers in Yorkshire.

On the other hand, there has been a pretty general rise in the rates of wages of the men employed in the manufacture of pig-iron, increases being reported from the Cumberland and Lancashire district affecting 2,000 men; from Cleveland and Durham affecting 4,000 men, and from Scotland. The other advances reported during September include particulars of 1,145 tinplate workers, who, in addition to those previously reported, are now being paid according to the revised 1874 price list; 900 ironstone miners in Scotland; 600 out-workers in the Small Chain Trade, who have succeeded in securing a return to a more favourable price list; and 347 building operatives.

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

Main table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING, IRON AND STEEL TRADE, TINPLATE TRADE, and OTHER METAL TRADES.

* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is inquired into before the information is used here

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes sections for OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, GLASS BOTTLE TRADE, EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, MISCELLANEOUS, and SEAMEN.

REDUCTIONS IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

ONLY two changes in hours of labour, both of which were reductions, affecting 164 workpeople, were reported during September. Of the total number, 130 were shop assistants employed in drapery establishments at Rochdale.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (Before change, After change, Dec. per week).

Reorganisation of Work as affecting Wages.—The hauliers in the employ of a firm of colliery proprietors at Blaina, Mon., have received an advance in wages of 6d. per day (3s. 6d. to 4s.), in consideration of performing the work of door boys in addition to their other duties. The services of the door boys, who were paid from 9s. to 12s. per week, have been dispensed with. The change came into operation during September and affects 265 hauliers.

Reduction in the Hours of Labour of Railway Servants under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893.—Consequent upon representations to the Board of Trade, under the above Act, enquiry was made into the hours of labour of the porters, ticket examiners and policemen employed by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway Company at London Road Station, Manchester. It was found that reasonable ground for complaint existed, and the Company were required to submit a revised schedule of time for the duty of the men in question, and they have agreed to reduce those periods of duty which were considered by the Board to have been too long.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in September, it will be seen that 2 Trade Unions, 2 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 5 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 29 new Friendly Societies, and 43 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Two Trade Unions have been dissolved during the month, whilst 4 Industrial and Provident Societies, and 17 Building Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry cancelled.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Manchester and District Pressers' Union, Castle and Falcon Hotel, Bradshaw Street, Manchester; Westminster Lodge of N. Wales Miners' United Association, Clayton Arms, Moss, co. Denbigh. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Bream Co-op. and Industrial Soc., Ltd., Bream, Lydney (Glos.); Croydon Self-Help Co-op. Coal Soc., 9 Northbrook Road, Croydon.—*Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Palatine, Ltd., 25 Lord Street, Liverpool; Matthew's Improved Martin Self-Canting Anchor Syndicate, Ltd., 264 City Road, E.C.; St. Crispin Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., 4a Rathbone Place, W.; Oldham Clarion Land and Builders' Soc., 164 Union Street, Oldham; Co-op. Land and House Purchase Provident Soc., Ltd., 14 and 15 Coleman Street, E.C. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 9; Dividing, 5; Specially Authorised, 6; Working Men's Clubs, 9. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Manchester Unity O.F., 6; L.O. Shepherds, A.U., 6; I.O. Rechabites, 5; Grand United O.F., 3; Various, 13. *Scotland.*—I.O. Rechabites, 6; Various, 2. *Ireland.*—B.O.A. Free Gardeners, 2.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Nat. Soc. of Glass Painters, Embossers, Fret Lead Glaziers and Cutters, Leeds; Pride of Bamfurlong Miners' Provident Benefit Soc., Wigan.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Co-op. Country House Soc., Mile End Old Town; Stevenage District Co-op. Soc., Stevenage; London Co-op. Baking Soc., Camden Town; Navigation Ind. Co-op. Soc., Navigation R.S.O., Glamorgan.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Dissolved by Instrument, 5; Have sent notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; Have sent notice of termination of dissolution or "winding up," 8.

LABOUR CASES IN SEPTEMBER.

THE following are among the legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. A general statistical account of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Regulation Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, will be found on page 312.

(1) EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN'S ACT.

South Western Police Court, London, September 9th.—A night watchman claimed wages. Magistrate held that he was not a labourer within the meaning of the Act.

South Western Police Court, London, September 9th.—A woman, an assistant in a draper's shop, made a claim for wages. She admitted that she did no sewing, but that her duty was to show rolls of cloth to customers. Magistrate held that she could not claim under the Act.

Southwark Police Court, London, September 12th.—A mechanic, employed by a company in making automatic meters, claimed £3 17s. 9d. for 88 hours, during which time work was suspended, owing to a defect in the mechanism, the defendants not having discharged him. The plaintiff was "standing by" for 11 days before he was actually discharged. It was contended by the defence that the plaintiff being paid by the hour was an hourly and not a weekly servant, and was entitled to only one hour's "grinding money" after the period during which he was actually engaged at work. The magistrate held that the evidence of the experts proved that in cases of suspension, where no notice of discharge was given, the men were entitled to be paid, though they did no work, and gave judgment for plaintiff with costs. Three other cases of a similar nature did not come on for hearing.

West Riding Police Court, Huddersfield, September 24th.—A spinning company summoned a spinner's piecer for leaving work without notice, and claimed 24s. damages. It was proved that bills were posted up in every room stating that 14 days' notice must be given. Defendant asserted that he had never seen the bill in the room in which he was working. The bench dismissed the case, holding that the bill ought to have been read over to the defendant or his attention specially called to it.

South Western Police Court, London, September 27th.—A bricklayer sued a builder for 8s. 1½d. as wages, of which 2s. 8½d. was for "walking time," for the time spent in walking from Leigh to Wandsworth to obtain his wages; defendant at the time offered 5s. 5d., and refused to pay for "walking time." The magistrate expressed the opinion that in cases where the workman lived at a distance from the place where he could obtain payment, he should make a demand by letter for a remittance. Order made for payment of 5s. 5d. without walking time, each side to pay their own costs.

Petty Sessions, Watton, Norfolk, September 25th.—A farmer claimed £2 from an agricultural labourer for leaving his employment after he had been hired for harvest. Defendant who had agreed to undertake the work for £6 10s. and had received 1s. on making the bargain, left the plaintiff's service without his consent after working for half-a-day, and did not return. Defendant was ordered to pay £1 and 11s. costs, and in default one month's imprisonment.

(2) MINES REGULATION ACT.

Police Court, Hanley, September 16th.—An overman at a colliery in charge of the ventilating apparatus was charged with neglecting his duty by falling asleep. The ventilating fan had slowed from 36 to 10 revolutions per minute owing to there being only 10 lbs. pressure of steam, when there ought to have been from 40 lbs. to 50 lbs. The men going down to work were detained an hour and a-half because of the accumulation of gas in the shaft and workings. It was stated on behalf of defendant that he had been on duty from Saturday at noon until 7 o'clock on Sunday morning. Fined 40s. and costs.

NEW ZEALAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

THE Report of this department for the year April 1st 1894 to March 31st 1895 has been received. It contains a general report by the Central Department, together with reports by local inspectors of factories and agents of the Department. The general report contains an account of the working of the Factories Act 1894 and the Shops and Shop-Assistants' Act 1894. As regards this latter Act several improvements are suggested.

The Wellington report gives an account of the farm established by the Labour Department at Levin in order to provide temporary work for the unemployed. The number of persons on the farm at present is 22 married men and their wives, 61 children, and 5 single men; 24 of the men are labourers and 3 are artizans. The day wages and contract prices are fixed at a rate slightly lower than that current outside.

Among the tables appended to the Report is an account of all the men, women, and children employed in the various classes of factories under the Act, together with the average wages earned. The total numbers are 29,879, of whom 22,324 are males and 7,555 females. The increase of 4,028 in the figures for the previous year is attributed chiefly to the wider scope of the new Act, which includes as factories all places where two or more persons are employed, instead of three as under the old Act.

The total number of unemployed persons assisted by the Labour Department during the year ending the 31st March 1895, was 3,030; of these, 2,136 were sent to Government works, and 894 to private employment. The following table gives the particulars:—

Occupations.	Number assisted April 1st 1894, to March 31st 1895.	Number sent to Private Employment.	Number sent to Government Works.
General Labourers ...	2,344	733	1,611
Bushmen ...	75	43	32
Building Trades ...	340	23	317
Miners ...	40	12	28
Other Occupations ...	231	83	148
Total ...	3,030	894	2,136

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