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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

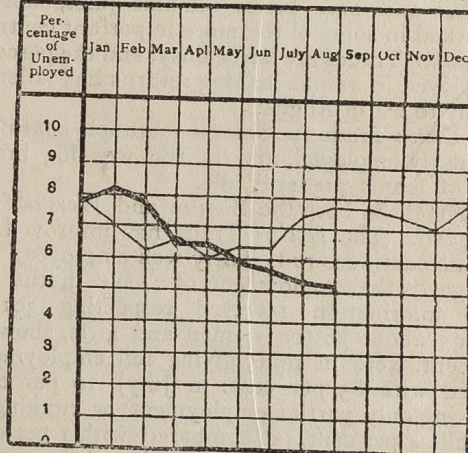
ON the whole, the state of the labour market has still further improved during the month, and the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns has slightly declined.

In the 87 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 393,001, making returns, 20,540 (or 5·2 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of August, compared with 5·3 per cent. in July, and 7·7 per cent. in the 53 unions making returns for August 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.	34	103,758
3 and under 5 per cent.	22	159,728
5 and under 7 per cent.	11	20,778
7 and under 10 per cent.	11	44,874
10 per cent. and upwards	9	63,863
Total	87	393,001

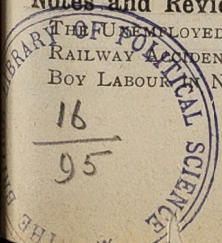
Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

The average number of days worked in August by 929 pits from which returns have been received, and at which 233,649 workpeople were employed, was 4·71 per week, as compared with 4·53 in July.* The proportion of unemployed miners who were members of trade unions in the North of England fell from 3·0 at the end of July to 2·7 at the end of August.

Iron Mining.—At 110 iron mines and open works, employing 12,927 persons, the average number of days worked in August was 5·54 per week, as against 5·61 in July.

In the *Pig Iron Industry*, the 109 employers making returns had 301 furnaces in blast at the end of August, as compared with 293 in the previous month.* The number of persons employed shows an increase of 434, the figures for the two periods being respectively 19,711 and 19,277.

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



EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—GENERAL SUMMARY.

Returns received from 164 employers show that at their *Steel and Tinplate Works, Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills* the number of workpeople employed at the end of August was 55,104, as compared with 52,565 a year ago. At 31 tinplate works 148 mills were in operation at the end of the month, as against 131 at the end of July and 156 at the end of August 1894.

The *Engineering* and kindred Trades have continued to improve during the month, the percentage of unemployed union members having fallen from 5.6 in July to 5.4 in August, compared with 9.7 in August 1894.

The *Shipbuilding* Trades show a slight improvement, the percentage of members in unions making returns having fallen from 12.0 in July to 11.8 in August, compared with 18.8 in August 1894.

The *Building* Trades continue well employed, and the percentage of unemployed members of unions making returns has fallen from 2.4 in July to 1.8 in August, compared with 3.4 in August 1894.

The *Furnishing* and *Wood-working* Trades have improved to some extent, the percentage of unemployed union members having fallen from 3.0 in July to 2.7 in August, compared with 4.8 in August 1894.

The *Printing, Bookbinding and Paper* Trades have not been so well employed, with the result that the percentage of unemployed union members has risen from 4.0 in July to 6.5 in August, compared with 7.5 in August 1894.

The *Ready-Made Clothing* Trade has, on the whole, somewhat improved, but the bespoke trade is quiet as a rule.

The *Boot and Shoe* Trade remains quiet, short time being worked in some of the more important centres.

The *Leather* Trades are fairly busy, and the percentage of unemployed in unions making returns has fallen from 3.1 in July to 2.4 in August.

In the *Cotton* Trade the spinning branch continues to be irregularly employed, and in the weaving branch a number of looms are still idle.

Employment in both the *Woolen* and *Worsted* Trades is very good. The *Hosiery* Trade has improved. The *Silk* Trade continues to be fairly well employed.

As regards the employment of *women* in the *Textile* Trades, information received respecting 301 mills employing about 56,500 women and girls, shows that 86 per cent. were in mills giving full employment (as compared with 85 per cent. in July), 10 per cent. in mills giving only partial employment or running short time, while 4 per cent. (as compared with 1 per cent. in July) were unemployed through the closure of mills during the whole or part of the month.

The number of *Seamen* shipped at the principal ports as the crews of foreign-going vessels was 2.4 per cent. more than in August 1894.

Dock and Riverside labourers have been fairly well employed in most centres. In London there has been a slight falling off, on the whole, as compared with the previous month, the average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves having declined from 14,511 in July to 14,162 in August. This falling off is confined to the docks, employment at the wharves having improved.

Agriculture.—Employment was generally continuous for regular farm hands during August, but in some districts extra men and Irishmen had a difficulty in obtaining work at harvest, chiefly owing to the light character of the crops and to the increased use of machinery. In several districts in Essex even regular men were not able to get harvest work.

Trade Disputes.—The number of fresh disputes occurring in August was 52, as compared with 49 in July and 86 in August 1894. The most important of these was the strike of textile factory operatives at Dundee and Lochee for an advance in wages, involving about 32,000 workpeople. Fifteen disputes took place in the Mining Industry, 12 in the Textile Trades, 6 in the Metal Trades, 5 in the Building Trades, 3 in the Ship-

building Trades, 2 in the Clothing Trades, and 9 in the miscellaneous group of industries. In 43 of the 52 disputes, 42,681 persons were involved, an average of 990 persons per dispute, as compared with 346 in the previous month.

Eighteen old disputes, affecting 4,802 workpeople, were settled during August, and at the end of the month it was known that 17 new and 22 old disputes, involving altogether nearly 6,700 workpeople, were still unsettled.

Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour.—The number of workpeople affected by changes in wages reported during August was only 9,750 (of which number 8,500 received increases), as compared with 114,500 in July and 18,500 in the corresponding month of last year. The increases affect 2,500 tinplate-workers in South Wales, over 3,000 jute and linen-workers at Dundee, Blairgowrie, and Alyth, and 1,800 building operatives. The only important decrease affected 1,000 operatives engaged in the Hosiery Trade at Leicester.

The hours of labour of 700 persons were reported to have been reduced, but there was one case, affecting 40 men, of reversion from the 8 to the 12 hours days.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts on one day in the second week of August was 323,978 (or 221 per 10,000 of population) as against 319,874 in July, and 313,242 in August 1894.

Emigration and Immigration.—British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom in August for places out of Europe, numbered 25,184, as compared with 20,041 in August 1894. The increase of 5,143 is principally in passengers to the United States. The number of alien passengers to this country from the Continent was 9,543, or 2,783 more than in August 1894, a difference mainly due to an increase of 2,072 in the numbers *en route* to America.

II.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a)—COAL MINING IN AUGUST.

A VERY general improvement in the number of days worked at the collieries took place in August as compared with the previous month. As compared with a year ago, however, employment in most of the English districts is not so good. In the case of Scotland the comparison is affected by the fact that in August 1894 most of the collieries were idle pending settlement of a wages dispute.

The particulars given in the returns received may be summarized as follows:—

At 929 pits, employing 233,649 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended 24th August was 4.71 days per week, against 4.53 days in July.

From the following table it will be seen that of the 233,649 workpeople included in the returns, 114,176, or 48.9 per cent., were employed at pits at which 20 days or more were worked during the four weeks; 102,992, or 44.1 per cent., at pits which worked 12 and under 20 days; and 16,481, or 7.0 per cent., at pits which worked less than 12 days.

I.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days* on which Coal was hewn and wound in the four weeks ended August 24th, 1895.	Number of Workpeople employed at the Collieries working the number of days stated in Column 1.	Percentage proportion employed at Collieries working the number of days stated in Column 1.
Under 4 days	125	0
4 and under 6 days	772	0.3
6 " " 10 " "	2,452	1.0
8 " " 12 " "	5,052	2.2
10 " " 14 " "	8,080	3.5
12 " " 16 " "	17,166	7.3
14 " " 18 " "	22,002	9.4
16 " " 20 " "	28,650	12.3
18 " " 22 " "	35,174	15.1
20 " " 24 " "	49,498	21.2
22 " " 24 " "	54,733	23.4
24 days (full time)	9,945	4.3
Total	233,649	100.0

* Allowance is made in all the calculations for short days.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

A classification of the districts according to the average number of days worked by the pits, shows that 101,751, or 43.6 per cent., of the workpeople were employed in districts in which an average of over 5 days per week was worked; 111,325, or 47.6 per cent., in districts in which the average was between 4 and 5 days; and the remaining 20,573, or 8.8 per cent., in districts where it was between 3½ and 4 days.

II.—CLASSIFICATION OF DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED PER WEEK.

District.	No. employed at the Collieries included in Table.	Average No. of days on which coal was hewn and wound per week.
(a) 5 days and upwards per week.		
Cumberland	3,025	5.55
Fife and Clackmannan	1,954	5.53
South Wales and Monmouth	38,496	5.35
Durham	37,249	5.28
West Scotland	17,346	5.22
Ireland	153	5.12
The Lothians	3,528	5.05
(b) 4 and less than 5 days per week.		
Northumberland	7,326	4.65
Derby	17,841	4.50
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick	4,223	4.42
Yorkshire	37,061	4.37
Lancashire and Cheshire	34,052	4.24
North Wales	4,093	4.24
Notts and Leicester	6,729	4.15
(c) Over 3½ but less than 4 days per week.		
Gloucester and Somerset	5,288	3.88
Staffordshire	15,285	3.61

In the majority of the districts the number of days worked in the fortnight ended 24th August was more than in the previous fortnight. The exceptions were Northumberland, Durham, Derbyshire, West of Scotland, Fife and Clackmannan, and Ireland, and in each case the time worked in the first fortnight of the month was very slightly more than in the second. The Bank Holiday in the first fortnight and the local feasts at various dates throughout the month have somewhat affected employment.

From a comparison of the average number of days worked by the pits in each district, with the average for the corresponding period of 1894, it appears that 7 districts, with 99,744 workpeople, show an increase, while 9 districts, with 133,905 workpeople, show a falling off. As compared with the four previous weeks, the only districts in which there was any noteworthy decrease were the Lothians and Staffordshire, and even in those districts it did not amount to quite a quarter of a day per week.

III.—COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN AUGUST 1895 AND 1894, AND IN JULY 1895.

District.*	No. employed in August 1895 at the Collieries included in Table.	Days worked per Week in		
		August 1895.	August 1894.	July 1895.
(a) Districts in which August 1895 exceeds August 1894.				
Derbyshire	17,841	4.50	3.93	4.26
Notts and Leicester	6,729	4.15	3.78	3.51
Yorkshire	37,061	4.37	4.20	4.38
Staffordshire	15,285	3.61	3.56	3.79
Fife and Clackmannan	1,954	5.52	+	4.46
West Scotland	17,346	5.22	+	4.66
The Lothians	3,528	5.05	+	5.29
(b) Districts in which August 1895 is less than August 1894.				
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	4,223	4.42	4.44	4.13
Gloucester and Somerset	5,288	3.88	3.92	3.64
Durham	37,249	5.28	5.34	5.09
South Wales and Monmouth	38,496	5.35	5.53	5.18
Lancashire and Cheshire	34,052	4.24	4.43	4.22
Cumberland	3,025	5.55	5.76	5.30
Ireland	153	5.12	5.61	4.93
Northumberland	7,326	4.65	5.34	4.73
Derby	17,841	4.50	5.17	5.96

* The districts are arranged according to the difference in the number of days worked in August 1895 and 1894.
† Most of the collieries in this district were idle during August 1894 owing to a wages dispute.

The number of persons employed in August 1895, so far as the information is given in the returns, was 1,074 for every 1,000 employed in August 1894, or, excluding Scotland, 1,003 to every 1,000.

The proportion of unemployed miners in unions in the North of England was at the end of the month 2.7 per cent. of the membership, as compared with 3.0 per cent. in July and 3.4 in June.

The quantity of coal exported from the United Kingdom during August amounted to 3,427,625 tons; in July to 3,362,398 tons, and in August 1894 to 2,950,258 tons.

NOTE.—The foregoing tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries at which a certain number of persons were employed on the last pay day in August. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN AUGUST.

On the whole, the number of days worked at iron mines in August was practically the same as in July, an improvement of about one-third of a day in Scotland being counter-balanced by a decline in England (exclusive of Cumberland and Lancashire district) and Ireland. At the 110 mines and open works, from which returns have been received and at which 12,927 workpeople were employed, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended the 24th August was 5.54 per week, as compared with 5.61 days per week in the four previous weeks.

The following table summarises the particulars given in the returns:—

District.	No. of Mines from which returns were received.	Total No. of workpeople employed at 24th August.	Average number of days worked per week in 4 weeks ended	
			24th August.	27th July.
Cumberland and Lancashire	46	5,935	5.86	5.86
Other places in England	52	6,063	5.27	5.40
Scotland	6	779	5.48	5.17
Ireland	5	150	3.90	5.65
Total	110	12,927	5.54	5.61

Of these 12,927 workpeople, 5,269, or 40.8 per cent., were at mines which worked 24 days, or full time, during the four weeks; 4,943, or 38.2 per cent., at mines which worked 22 and under 24 days; 1,143, or 8.8 per cent., at mines working 20 and under 22 days; and 1,572, or 12.2 per cent., at mines working less than 20 days.

So far as comparative figures are given in the returns, it appears that 1,063 workpeople were employed last month for every 1,000 a year ago.

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

FROM returns received from 164 employers, it appears that 55,104 workpeople were employed by those firms at the end of August as compared with 52,565 at the end of August 1894, a nett increase of 2,539. The nett increase of 2,539 is the balance of an increase of 5,274 workpeople employed in Scotland over the figures for August 1894 (when, however, the Scottish coal dispute was in progress), and a decrease of 2,735 in England and Wales.

Taking the various districts of England and Wales, those showing increases are Sheffield and Rotherham, and the Midlands. The principal decreases shown are one of 1,696 workpeople (or 20 per cent.) in Lancashire, Cumberland and Cheshire (mostly those engaged in steel-making), and one of 963 (or 9 per cent.) in Northumberland and Durham (entirely among iron puddlers and rollers).

If the workpeople are grouped according to the class of work, the largest increase is one of 1,742 workpeople employed in steel-making.

Returns from 31 tinplate manufacturers state that they had 148 mills in operation in the last week of August, as compared with 131 in July and 156 in August 1894.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Except in Scotland (where many works were thrown idle in 1894 by the coal dispute), the number of hours during which the works were in operation remains much the same as in August of last year.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the under-mentioned occupations at the end of August 1895 and 1894, respectively, by 164 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.					
	England and Wales.		Scotland.		United Kingdom.	
	August 1895.	August 1894.	August 1895.	August 1894.	August 1895.	August 1894.
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling, and Forging	18,912	20,282	4,248	1,186	23,160	21,418
Iron Puddling and Rolling	10,572	12,048	3,199	1,473	13,771	13,521
Tinplate Workers	8,880	8,944	...	...	8,880	8,944
Other workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above*	8,520	8,346	773	337	9,293	8,682
Totals	46,884	49,619	8,220	2,946	55,104	52,565

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

(d) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN AUGUST.

RETURNS have been received from 109 ironmasters owning about 89 per cent. of the total number of furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, and from a summary of these returns it appears that they had 301 furnaces in blast at the end of August, as compared with 268 a year ago. Scotland accounts for the whole of this increase, the manufacture of pig iron in Scotland having been almost at a standstill in August last year in consequence of the strike of coal miners there. In England and Wales the returns show a decrease of 12 in the number of furnaces in blast, and of these 8 are in Cleveland. The number of workpeople employed at the 301 furnaces at the end of August was 19,711, being a nett increase of 862. This increase is the balance of an increase of 1,493 in Scotland, against a decrease of 631 in England and Wales.

As compared with the previous month (July) the ironmasters in England and Wales making returns had 8 more furnaces in blast at the end of August, and found employment for 434 more workpeople. The returns from Scotland show no change.

The following table summarises the returns received:

Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of August 1895 with the number in blast at end of August 1894, and at end of July 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.		
	Aug. 1895.	Aug. 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug. 1895.	Aug. 1895.	July 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug. 1895.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland	86	94	-8	86	84	+2
Cumberland & Lancs	37	37	...	37	35	+2
S. and S.W. Yorks...	7	11	-4	7	6	+1
Lincolnshire	14	14	...	14	14	...
Midlands	79	79	...	79	77	+2
Glamorgan and Mon.	17	19	-2	17	16	+1
Other districts	8	6	+2	8	8	...
Total England and Wales...	248	260	-12	248	240	+8
SCOTLAND	53	8	+45	53	53	...
Total furnaces included in returns	301	268	+33	301	293	+8

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

Production.—During August 228,700 tons of pig iron were produced, a falling off as compared with 237,332 tons in July, and 244,371 tons in August 1894.

Stocks.—On August 31st, these amounted to 284,982 tons, a decrease of 11,830 tons as compared with the last day of the previous month, but 98,273 tons in excess of stocks on the corresponding date of last year.

Shipments.—From Middlesbrough 102,920 tons of pig iron were shipped foreign or coastwise, as against 98,138 tons in July, and 75,723 tons in August 1894.

The total quantity of pig iron shipped to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports in the United Kingdom was 88,012 tons in August 1895, 81,076 tons in August 1894, and 96,508 tons in August 1893.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN AUGUST. ENGLAND.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of returns received from 125 correspondents referring to 207 parishes, and two Agricultural Labourers' Unions, reports as follows:—

Taking the country generally, regular farm hands were usually in regular work during August, though broken weather, more particularly in the early part of the month, interfered with those at piece-work, who were not found work under cover. But, owing to the light crops, to the increased use of machinery, and, in some districts, to the smaller area cultivated, extra hands have frequently experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining employment. From nearly every district an abundance of extra labour is reported. It will be seen on 273 page that, notwithstanding these more unfavourable conditions for labour, the numbers of Irish labourers who came from Connaught in 1895 are rather larger than in 1894. Reports from several districts in Lancashire, Shropshire, Yorkshire, Nottingham, Lincolnshire, and North Cambridgeshire refer to the difficulty some of them have found in obtaining harvest work. Generally speaking, English hands were well employed in the Northern Counties. In the Midlands considerable irregularity of work is reported from districts in the Bridgnorth Union of Shropshire, about half of the men in irregular work being Irishmen, and also in the Southwell Union of Nottingham. In the latter district the agricultural depression is said to be the chief reason for this. In the Eastern Counties English hands were generally well employed, with the exception of Essex, where in some districts even regular men were unable to get harvest work. In the Home and Western Counties employment appears to have been fairly regular. In Kent and Sussex the hop crop is generally lighter than in 1894.

Northern Counties.—Reports from Cumberland state that employment was generally regular in August. At Wigton a few day men or "darrickers" were occasionally in irregular work. Hired men receive no additional pay at harvest. Extra hands get from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a day, and tea and bread and cheese at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Work in Westmorland is reported to have been regular. At a small harvest hiring at Milnthorpe for extra hands, wages obtained were from 18s. to 21s. a week with food and lodging. The married men attached to the staff of a farm usually get 9d. to 1s. a day in addition to their ordinary wages, also some drink, and often a mid-day meal. In Lancashire, north of Lancaster, extra hands were generally engaged at the late hay-makings or at harvest; south of Lancaster extra hands on wet days were usually found work under cover. In the Garstang district a few Irishmen were out of work until corn harvest commenced. In the Fylde district Irish hands are paid about £4 a month and given sleeping accommodation, and porridge night and morning. A report from the Durham Union states that extra hands have been scarce at harvest, and in the Chester-le-Street Union it is said that a few Irish hands, who had been engaged at turnip hoeing early in the month, did not get harvest work immediately. Irishmen get £1 a week at harvest and milk. Hinds in some cases get an extra 10s. for harvest in addition to their ordinary wage. Women get from 2s. to 2s. 6d. a day in harvest. Reports from the Nantwich Union of Cheshire state that employment has been regular. Regular farm hands get a bonus of £1 to £1 10s. for harvest, also beer several times a day and refreshments at 5 p.m. Irishmen get 14s. to 15s. a week and the money bonus, with allowances of food and drink, and frequently accommodation in outbuildings. Reports from Yorkshire from the Unions of Malton, Ripon, Easingwold and Great Ouseburn

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

state that employment was regular in August. Harvest wages for regular men in these districts are about £6 per month, and beer is frequently given in addition. Irish hands get about £5 a month, sometimes milk, and generally sleeping accommodation, or about 15s. a week, with all food and also lodging. Irish labour is reported to be very plentiful.

Midland Counties.—A report from the Basford Union of Nottinghamshire states that most men are in regular work. Harvest wages are 18s. to 20s. a week, and 6d. an hour overtime after a 10½ hours day, tea, coffee, cocoa and milk provided. Irishmen get 16s. to 18s. a week, lodging and refreshments. A report from Epperstone, in the Southwell Union, states that the greater number of labourers have great difficulty in getting continuous employment, owing to agricultural depression. Harvest wages are between 22s. and 24s. a week and beer extra. In Shropshire, in the Bridgnorth Union, it is stated that some 15 to 20 per cent. of the labourers are in irregular work, and that about half of these are Irishmen. Extra labour is very plentiful. Favourable reports of the state of employment comes from the Baschurch and Market Drayton Unions. Harvest wages are about £6 per month. At Kirk Langley, in the Belper Union of Derbyshire, work is reported regular. Regular men get at harvest 19s. a week, with two extra meals a day and beer; extra hands and Irishmen about 17s., with one or two meals a day, and overtime money after 6 p.m. Reports from Warwickshire from the Alcester, Atherstone and Stratford-on-Avon Unions state that work in August was generally regular. At Atherstone harvest wages are 2s. 6d. to 3s. a day, also extra beer money and overtime paid at 6d. a night. At Salford Prior, in the Alcester Union, harvest wages are 3s. 8d. to 4s. a day for a month; Irishmen from £3 8s. to £5 per month, with lodging. Plum picking has given a good deal of employment. In Northamptonshire, in the Brixworth Union, harvest by piece-work, on a farm where 7 men and 3 boys are employed, was paid at 13s. an acre, to include cutting, tying, carrying, stacking, and rough thatching, horses and machinery found. A report from four parishes in the Kettering Union states that employment is regular. In Leicestershire favourable reports of the state of employment come from the Melton Mowbray and the Blaby and Billesdon Unions. In the former Union harvest wages are 25s. to 30s. a week; at piece-work about 30s. can be earned. In the Oakham Union of Rutland harvest wages of regular men and Irishmen are about 25s. a week; the latter get lodging, some milk and their food cooked. In five parishes in the St. Neot's Union of Huntingdonshire employment is said to be regular; harvest wages are from £5 to £6 a month. In Oxfordshire, at Ascott, and Stadhampton, work is reported regular, also at Waterperry, in the Thame Union, while about 5 per cent. were reported to be in irregular work at Thame. At Little Comberton, in the Pershore Union of Worcestershire, work is reported regular; harvest wages are 3s. 6d. a day. At Shipton-on-Stour employment was wholly or partially stopped on some days by rain, which chiefly affected those on piece-work; 3s. 6d. a day is paid for making and carrying.

Eastern Counties.—In Lincolnshire satisfactory reports come from the Unions of Spilsby, Brigg, Lincoln, Sleaford and Louth. In the Brigg Union, harvest wages for Englishmen and Irishmen are 30s. a week, the latter getting lodging. Piece-work 10s. an acre including thatching, the employer finding a foreman and horse lads. Irishmen are very plentiful. In Norfolk work is reported to have been generally regular in districts in the Unions of Loddon and Clavering, Swaffham, Forehoe, Downham, and Mitford and Launditch. Harvest wages in Norfolk are generally between £6 and £7, and frequently malt and hops. Reports from the Risbridge and Ipswich Unions of Suffolk state that generally employment is satisfactory. In certain parishes in the Bosmere and Claydon Unions some men had to go without harvest. Harvest wages in Suffolk are generally between £6 and £7. In Essex a few men are reported to have been in irregular work in the Braintree Union. In the Maldon Union regular men earned less at harvest than usual owing to the light crops and the decreased acreage of wheat, but many strangers and extra men were unable to get a harvest. In the Colchester Union also a number of men were unable to get harvest wages, though these were not out of employment. At Lawford, in the Tendring Union, employment was regular. Harvest wages in Essex are about £6, exclusive of malt and hops or beer. Reports from Cambridgeshire from the Unions of Royston, Chesterton, Linton, Caxton, North Witchford, Wisbech, Ely, and Peterborough, state that employment in August was satisfactory, though in the latter Union some Irish hands are said to have been in irregular work. Harvest is done by piece-work; the earnings are

generally said to amount to between £6 and £7, though more is sometimes made.

Home Counties.—Reports from the Wantage Union of Berkshire state that employment is regular for the labourers of the district, but that extra hands are not much wanted owing to the light crops. Harvest wages about 18s. a week, exclusive of beer. Piece-work about 9s. an acre for cutting wheat, and 8s. for oats. A few labourers in the neighbourhood of Buckingham were reported out of work in August owing to the light crops. Reports from parishes, in the Newport Pagnell and Winslow Unions, state that employment is satisfactory. In Herts a report from the neighbourhood of Buntingford states that a few men were in irregular employment in August owing to their not being able to get harvest work. A satisfactory report comes from the Hemel Hempstead Union. Harvest wages are between 20s. and 24s. a week, exclusive of beer. Reports from the neighbourhood of Aldershot, in the Farnham Union of Surrey, and from the Hartley Wintney Union of Hampshire, state that employment is regular. Harvest wages for extra men 2s. 6d. a day when not at piece-work; regular men the ordinary wage of 15s. a week, overtime money at 3½d. an hour, and also beer. Reports from the Maidstone and West Malling Unions of Kent state the number of vagrants who came into the district at the hop-picking season is less this year than usual, owing, it is said, to the posting of notices stating that casuals who apply to the Union more than once in the month will be detained for four days, and be required to perform a task of work as prescribed by the Order of the Local Government Board. In the Faversham Union an unusual number of strangers came into the district but could not obtain harvest work owing to the light corn and pea crops; they subsequently got employment at hop-picking. Also an unusually large number came to the Hollingbourn and Milton Unions. Harvest wages in Hollingbourn Union, regular hands 2s. 6d. a day, 4d. an hour overtime, also beer. Milton Union, on better land, day wages 3s., 4d. an hour overtime, also beer. Piece-work, cutting peas, 6s. an acre; cutting corn, 10s. to 15s. Faversham Union, piece-work, binding behind reapers, 5s. to 7s. per acre; cutting corn with scythe, 10s. to 15s. per acre. Men not employed binding or reaping, 20s. a week. Old men, 16s. to 18s. Hop crop in this Union is about two-thirds of last year's crop. Price paid for picking, 2d. per bushel. A good single picker earns about 3s. a day. Pole pullers are paid 21s. to 22s. a week; head dryer, 30s. per week; second dryer, 20s.; third dryer, 18s.; also 1s. per pocket for pressing, and 3d. a pocket for making and washing. A favourable report of employment comes from the Chailey Union of Sussex. In the Battle district this year's hop crop is stated to be about three-fifths of that in 1894, and the picking is easier, as there is not so much bine. Pickers are said to average about 2s. a day.

Western Counties.—Satisfactory reports of employment come from the Dorchester and Wimborne Unions of Dorset. In the latter Union the regular men have double wages at harvest, which come to 4s. or 5s. a day. In Wiltshire satisfactory reports come from certain parishes in the Devizes and Wilton Unions, though in the former Union some men lost time on wet days. Harvest wages by piece-work, cutting and tying wheat 9s. an acre, and 4s. for tying behind a machine. In the Warminster Union some of the old and less capable men had a difficulty in getting employment in August, but able-bodied men were employed. Regular hands at harvest 11s. a week, 8d. a day overtime for six weeks, and 20s. during the harvest quarter for beer money. Regularity of work is also reported from the Cirencester district of Gloucestershire. Reports from districts in the Leominster, Kington and Bromyard Unions of Herefordshire state that employment is regular. Ordinary wages of 12s. to 15s. with cider are paid for corn harvest, together with a bonus of 20s. to 25s. In the Bromyard Union the hop season is said to be rather better than that of 1894. Pole pullers get 17s. a week and hop dryers 30s. a week with food. At hop-picking men and women earn from 6s. to 15s. per week, children from 4s. to 7s. 6d., also breakfast of milk, thickened with wheat flour, is usually given, and dinner on Sundays. Satisfactory reports of employment come from Somerset from the Unions of Taunton, Langport and Wells, but in certain parishes in the Wellington Union irregularity of work is reported. Extra hands are seldom employed at harvest in this county. Reports from the Crediton, St. Thomas, and Great Torrington Unions of Devonshire state that employment is regular. Regular men at harvest are paid ordinary wages and a bonus of 30s., also cider, and frequently overtime money. A report from several parishes in the Truro Union of Cornwall states that employment is regular. Harvest wages 14s. a week, and 6d. an hour overtime after 5 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN AUGUST.

EMPLOYMENT for dock labourers fell off during the month of August. The decrease was confined to men employed at the docks; the wharves, and especially those on the south side, employed more men than last month.

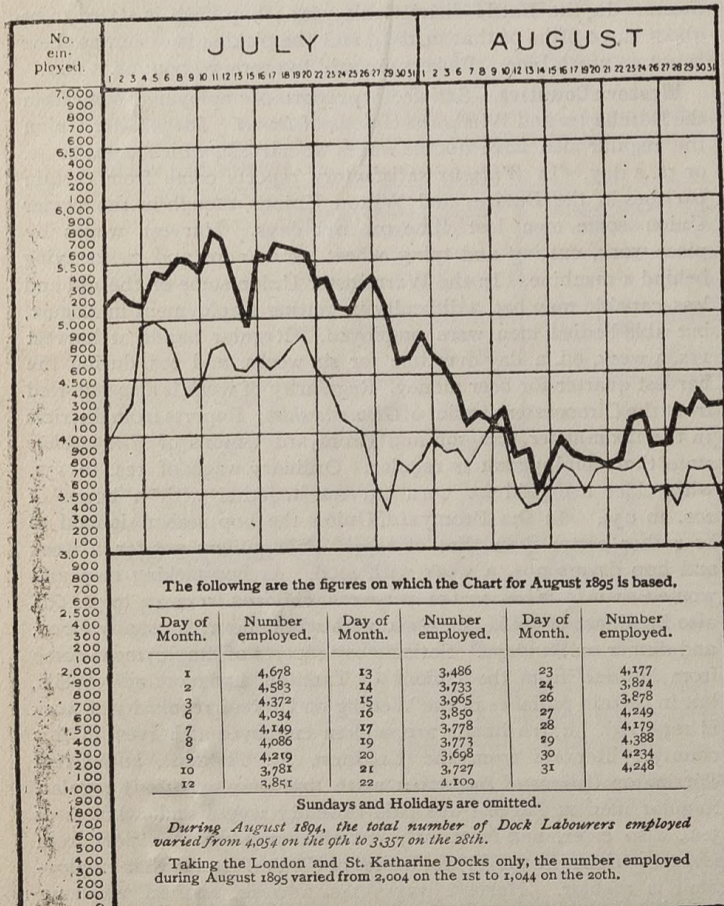
Detailed Figures.—(1) The average daily number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month is set forth in the following table:—

Table with 5 columns: Period, By Dock Companies or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, &c., Total, Laboures employed at 103 Wharves making Returns, Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.

(2) The following chart shows the daily fluctuation in the number of labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during July and August.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of July and August 1895.

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



Particulars are not given on the returns received from the wharves or from shipowners of the number of labourers employed last year, but for the Dock Companies for August 1895 and 1894 the figures are as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Period, Laboures employed by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors (1895, 1894, Increase, Decrease).

From the above figures it appears that employment for dock labour was considerably better in August than in the corresponding month last year, though the difference in the last week of the month is comparatively small.

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

JUDGING from the returns received from women correspondents, the state of employment in August for women in the Textile Trades has been better than in July, a result entirely due to the improvement in the Woollen and Worsted Trades, where practically full employment has been given.

Table with 4 columns: State of Employment, Number of Mills, Approximate Estimate of Women and Girls employed (Number, Percentage, Percentage for July).

Cotton Trade.—According to this estimate the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 44,714. Of these 82 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 83 per cent. in July); 9 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment; 4 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 10,590. Of these 98 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 95 per cent. in July), while mills employing 2 per cent. were closed during part of the month for repairs.

Silk Trade.—The number of women and girls employed in the silk mills reported on is estimated at 1,275. Of these 88 per cent. were employed in mills working full time, 6 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment, and 6 per cent. in mills running short time.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES AND DISTRICT REPORTS.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN AUGUST.

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

THE number of seamen shipped from the principal ports of the United Kingdom, during August, as the crews of foreign-going vessels, was 815 more than in the corresponding month of last year, the figures being 35,044 in 1895, and 34,229 in 1894.

The supply of seamen was reported to be equal to or in excess of the demand at all ports, except Middlesbrough, where it was stated there was a short supply of men for sailing vessels.

Slight increases were reported in the rates at which a few seamen were shipped at Liverpool and London (Dock Street). Full details of these changes will be found in the table of "Changes in Wages," on p. 287.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in August 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Men, &c., shipped in August 1895 (In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total in August 1895), Total in August 1894, Increase in 1895, Decrease in 1895.

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

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—Judged by the reports received from the various trade unions, the condition of employment has, in the aggregate, been scarcely so good as in July.

The Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding Trades, particularly the latter, have fallen off to some extent. Reports from 98 branches of 18 unions show that, out of a membership of 18,964, 1,056 (or 5.6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 5.0 per cent. in July, and 7.7 per cent. in August 1894.

The Building Trades continue well employed. Returns from 183 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit and having a membership of 12,663, show that 121 (or 1.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 2.3 per cent. in June and July, and 2.8 per cent. in August 1894.

On the whole, the Furnishing and Wood-working Trades, though busy, are scarcely so well employed as last month. Reports from 38 branches of 11 unions, with an aggregate membership of 5,788,

* 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.

show that 142 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 2.2 per cent. last month and 7.3 per cent. in August 1894.

The Printing and Bookbinding Trades have fallen off during the month. Returns from 15 unions, with an aggregate membership of 18,995, show that 1,239 (or 6.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.1 per cent. in July and 7.7 per cent. in August 1894.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the Wholesale Clothing Trade has been fairly regular; the West End Tailoring Trade remains dull; the East End Bespoke Trade is quiet; the Hat Trade is depressed. Returns from 4 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 1,726, show that 192 (or 11.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 10.4 per cent. in July.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the machine branch has fallen off still further during the month, and a larger number of hands are only partially employed. The high-class bespoke branch has been fairly busy, but there was a considerable falling off towards the close of the month. The Slipper Trade continues busy, men being in demand.

Employment in most branches of the Leather Trades is good. Returns from 4 unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,062, show that 15 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 per cent. in July.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in these trades remains about the same as in July. Returns from 5 unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,291, show 61 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—On the whole, employment in these trades has somewhat improved. Returns from 6 unions, with an aggregate membership of 939, show that 42 (or 4.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.5 per cent. in July.

The Silver Trades show no change. Reports from four unions, with an aggregate membership of 235, state that 3 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed, as in July.

The Tobacco Trades are better employed. Reports from two unions, with an aggregate membership of 1,010, show that 110 (or 5.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 9.5 per cent. in July.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks and principal wharves was not quite so good in August as in July, and the numbers employed were less at the end of the month than at the beginning. The estimated average daily number of dock labourers at work in all the docks and at 103 of the principal wharves was 14,162 in August, against 14,511 in July, a decrease of 2.4 per cent.

This falling off was in the number of labourers employed at the docks, more men being employed at the wharves, especially at those on the south side. Further particulars will be found on page 262. The total number of seamen shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels during the month was 7.1 per cent. more than in August 1894, the figures for the two periods being respectively 6,162 and 5,756.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with the bakers and confectioners is quiet, with the scientific instrument-makers dull.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Only two disputes have been reported as occurring during the month, both of which were of a comparatively trivial nature and of short duration. One arose in the Bone Brush-making Trade, owing to the dismissal of a colleague; twenty-seven men were involved, but they all resumed work on the man in question being found employment elsewhere. The other occurred in the Cab Trade in consequence of the introduction of a non-unionist; eighteen drivers and four horsekeepers ceased work pending the dismissal of the man objected to, which after two days was brought about.

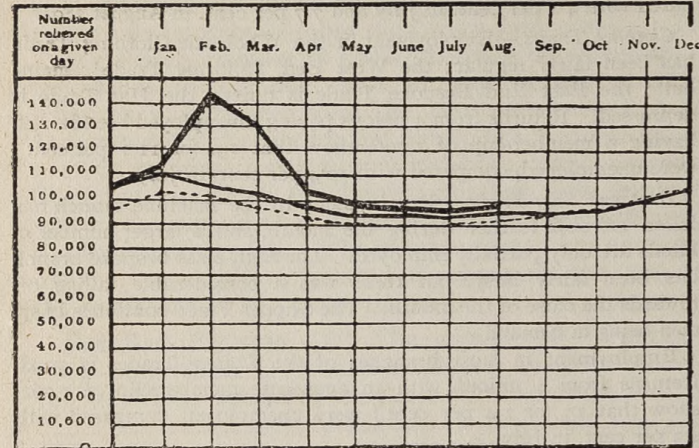
Labour Bureaux.—The four labour bureaux furnishing returns registered, during August, 780 fresh applications from workpeople, and 338 from employers. During the month 190 workpeople were engaged by private employers through the bureaux, and 147 by local authorities. Of the latter number, 60 were stated to be employed in a temporary capacity only.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the middle of August in London shows an increase of 4 per 10,000 of population, when compared with the figures for the corresponding day in July, the numbers being respectively 98,694 and 96,908. Each district shows an increase, the most marked being the Eastern district, with 8 per 10,000. As compared with August 1894, there has been an increase in pauperism of 7 per 10,000 of population, the number relieved a year ago being 95,582. In the Southern district this increase amounts to as much as 16 per 10,000 of population, mainly in out-door paupers. In West Ham the rate of pauperism in the middle of August was 2.43 per 10,000 of population; in July, 2.36; and in August 1894, 2.26.

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

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume 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 August was 1,179.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Durham.—More pits have worked full time during the month. Eight principal collieries, producing chiefly household and bunker coal, employing 10,495 men and boys, have worked from 10 to 11 days per fortnight. The pits in West Stanley and district are working the shortest time. The number of Union members totally idle is 2,022, or 3.4 per cent., as against 3.8 per cent. in July. **Northumberland.**—Pits producing best steam coal are working full time; second-class collieries, from 3½ to 5 days per week; and house coal pits from 4 days a week to full time. The number of unemployed is 130, or 0.6 per cent., as against 0.8 in July.

Metal Mining.—Ironstone mines are fairly employed; lead mines show little improvement.

Quarrying.—Most of the quarries in Gateshead and district continue well employed. Three out of seven limestone quarries in Weardale are fairly busy.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.—Shipbuilding is improving; frame turners are busy in several yards; repair work has been good. Work at Elswick continues brisk. With the exception of two or three busy firms, marine engine-builders are only moderately employed. Of the 9,401 members employed in these trades, included in 44 returns, 1,047, or 11.1 per cent., are idle, as against 10.1 in July. On the Wear.—Three shipyards are fully employed, others only moderately so. Employment in the engine shops has slightly improved. The engineers, boiler-makers, and iron-shipbuilders return 909, or 22.5 per cent., as unemployed, as against 25.1 in July. The pattern-makers on both rivers have 5.6 per cent. out of work; the joiners (including house and ship), 5.8 per cent. The steel-smelters, charge wheelers, pitmen, and local plate mills are working full time; angle and iron mills 4 days per week.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment with coal porters on both rivers is reported as fair, with 3 per cent. idle; amongst trimmers and teamers as good; quayside labourers as average. Several vessels previously laid up have gone to sea, giving employment to many sea-going men during the month. The Tyne wherry-men are badly employed.

Building and Wood-working Trades.—The Building Trades, with the exception of one or two branches, are fairly active. Factory coopers are working short time, with 15 per cent. unemployed. Mill-sawyers report improvement.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The paper mills are working full time. The Tyne letterpress printers report a falling-off, with 9.2 per cent. unemployed, as against 5.4 in July. The bookbinders have none out of work.

Miscellaneous.—The Durham coke men have about 1 per cent. idle. The chemical factories, with one exception, are still slack. The whitelead works are working full time. The Cement Trade continues dull. Glass bottle-makers are slack; eight holes of hands out of 12 at Blyth, and 12 out of 24 holes at Sunderland are stopped. The pressed-glass makers are better employed, with 6½ per cent. idle. The sailmakers on the Tyne and Wear are slack, half of them

being idle. Of the 350 members engaged in the Steam-rocket and Trawling Industry on the Tyne, 1.7 per cent. are unemployed. Trawl fishing and line boats, however, are only moderate.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as fair.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The Finished Iron Trade is still in an unsatisfactory condition. Employment at the steel works generally is good, and some branches are quite brisk. Employment continues good in pipe foundries and bridge works, and has improved among blast furnacemen.

Engineering.—The percentage of unemployed engineers has declined in Middlesbrough from 5.0 to 4.1; in Stockton from 4.5 to 3.1; in Hartlepool from 8.0 to 5.0. The moulders report employment as good at Stockton, with about 2 per cent. unemployed, as better at Hartlepool with 8 per cent. unemployed; at Middlesbrough as improving.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in this trade continues good at Stockton and Middlesbrough; at the Hartlepoons there has been a decided improvement; at Thornaby, employment remains moderate; at Whitby, it is slack, with nearly 40 per cent. unemployed, the rest of the district averaging 12 per cent. The joiners report 5 per cent. idle at the Hartlepoons, none at Stockton, 11 per cent. at Thornaby, and 1.7 per cent. at Middlesbrough. The smiths and strikers report none out of work. The shipwrights are well employed, with few out of work.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly good throughout the district, the bricklayers having no unemployed at Middlesbrough or the Hartlepoons. The mill-sawyers are busy, with only 2 per cent. unemployed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The improvement among the sailors and firemen has been maintained; dock and riverside labour has been fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors are slack. Employment with the printers is steady at the Hartlepoons, and fair elsewhere in the district.—A. Main.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Textile Trades.—The spinning branch continues depressed. Many spinning mills are closed in Oldham, Rochdale, Mossley, Stalybridge, Ashton, and Stockport, and out of 9,454 spinners making returns, 587 (or 6.2 per cent.) are unemployed. In Oldham the card-room operatives, with 11,158 members, have 772 (or 6.9 per cent.) out of work. Velvet weavers are moderately employed; but card weavers are losing much time. Winders are fairly well, but reelers only partially employed. Twiners and ring-frame spinners are fairly well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers in the Oldham district report employment as moderate, with 53 members (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed; the machine-makers as fair, both in Oldham and Stalybridge; the boiler-makers and ironfounders as good. The brass finishers and tinplate-workers are fully employed.

Building Trades.—Out of 758 union members in these trades none are unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good in skip-making; moderate in brush-making and cabinet-making, and slack in printing. The general labourers are well employed.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Owing, it is stated, to the scarcity of Egyptian cotton an unusual depression prevails in the spinning branch in Bolton, causing employment to be irregular, with three mills stopped indefinitely. The number wholly unemployed is, however, somewhat reduced. In Bury there is a slight improvement, although some firms are only working alternate weeks; the weavers are busier, with few on the funds. In Wigan employment is slack and irregular. In Chorley spinning is depressed; weaving is moderate.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The improvement in the Engineering Trade in Bolton has been well maintained, the number unemployed being unusually low; the iron machine-makers are not quite so brisk; Steel Smelting and kindred Trades report no change. In Bury engineering has improved; machine shops are busy. In Wigan engineering is good, with few unemployed; the steel smelters report employment as moderate; the steel rollers as bad. In Chorley the Iron Trade is moderately busy.

Building Trades.—These trades are on the whole well employed throughout the district.—R. Toctill.

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

Burnley, Accrington, and District.

Cotton Trade.—There is no improvement in the Calico Weaving Industry, a number of looms being stopped in the Blackburn district, and upwards of 1,000 looms in the Darwen district, through continued bad trade. The production of cloth has also been curtailed through the annual holidays. The Shoddy or Hardwaste Trade shows a slight decline, but the weavers are still fairly well employed. The coloured goods and sateen branches are worse, a number of looms working plain cloth instead. Winders and beamers are still slack. The loomers and drawers are in most districts fully employed, but in Burnley 6.6 per cent. are unemployed. There is little change in the spinning branch; in the Preston district 1 per cent. of the spinners are receiving out-of-work pay, and 45 (or 4.2 per cent.) have exhausted their benefit. At Blackburn 17 (or 1.6 per cent.) are on the out-of-work funds, 57 (or 5.4 per cent.) are on temporary stoppage pay, whilst a number have exhausted their benefit. At Accrington 2 per cent. are unemployed, all of whom have exhausted their out-of-work benefit. In the remaining districts the number of unemployed is small.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues good.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Machine-makers report employment as fairly good, with few unemployed; tinplate-workers as moderate; moulders, fitters and smiths continue fully engaged.

Coal Mining.—Miners continue fairly well occupied, though short time is being worked at some pits.

Miscellaneous.—The Calico Printing and Dyeing Trades continue fairly good; tailors are slack; the Paper Printing and Staining Trade in the Darwen district is slack, short time being worked in many departments.—W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report a diminution in the number of unemployed; in the other branches of engineering no change is reported. The braziers and sheet metal-workers report employment as good, with 2.4 per cent. unemployed; the brassfounders and finishers as moderate, with 3.3 per cent. unemployed. In Warrington, wire-drawers are not busy; wire-weavers and all iron-workers are well employed; file-cutters report employment as moderate. In Northwich no change has taken place, and in Macclesfield both engineers and moulders are moderately employed.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinning in Manchester remains moderate, but with slightly fewer unemployed. Two mills are running half time, and another has stopped. In Stockport, spinners are slack, but doublers and weavers are rather brisk. In Macclesfield, cotton workers are slack, working four days per week. The improvement in the Silk Trade is maintained; there is a demand for weavers and silk throwers; silk dressers and silk dyers are better employed. The dressers, dyers, and finishers report employment as worse, with 22 per cent. unemployed. Fustian-cutters are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke tailoring branch is bad throughout the district, especially in Stockport; in the wholesale clothing branch it is moderate; shirt-makers, waterproof garment-makers, ready-made mantle-makers, and cap-makers are busy, but the latter show a decline; umbrella making shows a slight improvement. The Felt Hat Trade is better than in July, full time being general, and on ladies' felts overtime is being worked.

Building Trades.—In Macclesfield a decline is reported, but on the whole these trades are well employed. Nineteen branches, with 1,981 members, report less than 1 per cent. unemployed.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The upholsterers report employment as moderate; the cabinet-makers and coopers as fair in both Manchester and Warrington; the coach-makers as good throughout the district.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with the letterpress printers is reported as bad, in both Manchester and Stockport; with the lithographic printers and bookbinders as still moderate.

G. D. Kelley.

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Iron-workers have been fairly well employed owing to an unexpected revival in demand. At Workington steel workers are only moderately employed. At the Barrow works a stoppage was made on August 17th for an indefinite period, about 1,200 men being thrown out, amongst whom employment had been slack for a long time previously.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Marine engineering is fairly good, and since the resumption of work on August 19th a number of extra men have been taken on. General engineering throughout the district is slack. Shipbuilding has improved.

Shipping and Railways.—Shipping at the Barrow Docks during the latter half of August has been active, owing to large importations of timber from the Baltic ports. The coasting trade has only been moderate. At Whitehaven, Workington, and other small ports of the district shipping has been fair. Railway traffic has been exceedingly dull, owing to the stoppage of the steel works; the men in the railway workshops are still working only five days per week.

Building Trades.—These trades are well employed, with no members idle.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing Trades are slack, one firm having closed. The tailors, bakers and confectioners, pulp and paper workers and jute workers report employment as moderate; the millers as fair.—J. D. Cowper.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders maintain their improved condition upon new work in Birkenhead. Repair-work in Liverpool is moderate. The engineers are busier in some branches of new work, but not in fitting. The shipwrights have been slack with repairs. Ship-joiners are busier with new work in Birkenhead, and upon repairs in Liverpool. The mast and block-makers report employment as quiet; the ship painters as fair.

Furnishing and Coach-building Trades.—The cabinet-makers and French-polishers report employment as fair; the upholsterers as good on best work; the coach-builders as moderate, but skilled men have been in demand.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as slack, owing to seasonal causes.

Building Trades.—The masons, bricklayers, and plasterers, report employment as full; the joiners as moderate, with 3 per cent. unemployed as in July; the plumbers as quiet; the painters as slack.—C. Rouse.

Shipping, Dock, and Riverside Labour.—Sailors and firemen have been fairly well employed. Employment at the Docks showed a slight decline at the beginning of the month, but improved towards the end. River flatmen, ship scrapers, and ship bottom painters report no change. Dock Board employees engaged in dock construction, &c., have been moderately employed. Coal heavers report employment as rather worse.

Other Transport Trades.—Employment in the railway goods department and amongst carters, van men, and general carriers is reported as fair. Employment amongst boat men on the inland canals is better, particularly in the salt and coal-carrying branches.

Chemical Industries.—Reports from Widnes and St. Helens show improvement, several processes previously entirely suspended having been re-started, though not yet working full time.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry remains disturbed in the St. Helens district. In North Wales an improvement is reported.

Metal Trades.—Tinplate and other sheet metal-workers report no change. The whitesmiths report 4 per cent. unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The brick-makers, and mineral water and general bottlers report employment as fairly brisk; the brush-makers as quiet.—J. Sexton.

A report from Winsford states that the Salt Trade has been normal under the Salt Union, but firms outside report a demand. The Building Trades are well employed, and brick-setters are in demand. The fustian-cutters report employment as fair, but declining.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders, the smiths and strikers, with 1 per cent. entirely, and 5 per cent. partially, unemployed, the iron and steel dressers, the engineers, with fewer unemployed, the brassfounders and finishers, with more unemployed, report employment as moderate; the shipwrights, with 12 per cent. unemployed, as slack; the machine-workers as improving, with an average of 4 per cent. unemployed during the month; the sail-makers as irregular, with 20 per cent. unemployed; the engineers and platers' helpers as bad, with 30 per cent. unemployed.

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

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues fair, but the wood machinists and mill-sawyers, with an increased number unemployed, and the plumbers and gasfitters, with 15 per cent. unemployed, report employment as moderate; the painters and decorators as fair, with over 16 per cent. unemployed, an increase of 5 per cent. as compared with July.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The dock labourers report employment as fair, with 5 per cent. fewer unemployed; the coal porters and trimmers as moderate, with more unemployed; one branch of the sailors and firemen as good, another as bad, with an increased number unemployed. At Grimsby, dock labour has improved.

Fishing Industry.—Employment is reported as moderate; catches have been large and prices low. The earnings of the men in the steam trawlers have been less; and in the sailing vessels poor, owing to fine weather or lack of wind. The steam-trawling and line-fishing engineers report employment as good, with about 2 per cent. unemployed.

Oil, Colour, Paint, and Varnish Trades.—Employment in the Seed-crushing Trades is bad, but with fewer unemployed; in the Paint and Colour Trades, fair; the engine and boiler-men report employment as moderate; the coopers also as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad; the lithographic printers as moderate; the bookbinders and machine rulers as good.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors, brush-workers, and twine spinners and dressers report employment as bad; the flour millers, farriers and shoeing smiths, and cabinet-makers as moderate; the tanners, curriers, lace cutters, and belt-makers as good. At Doncaster, the railway plant works are slack, and about 100 men have been discharged during the month, otherwise employment is fair. At Selby, agricultural labourers are well employed; oil workers are slack.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Most engineering firms continue to improve, and there are fewer unemployed; the steel-workers are busy, full time being now worked after a long period of short time; ironfounding shows a steady improvement in Leeds, and at Stanningley and Rodley is brisk; the pattern-makers report employment as fair; the boiler-makers as moderate; the whitesmiths as slack.

Building Trades.—In Leeds bricklayers have been in request; plasterers and masons have been fairly employed; joiners moderately so; plumbers are slack.

Clothing Trades.—Ready-made clothing firms are busy, the majority working overtime; the pressers have a few unemployed; bespoke tailoring is moderately good. The Boot and Shoe Trade in Leeds was quiet at first, but became fairly busy later on. At Bramley employment has been good, additional men having been put on, and overtime worked in some departments.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds the Blanket and Flax Trades are good; the Linen Trade moderate. The willeys and fettlers report employment as fair. At Yeadon work has been brisk, and several of the largest firms have been running overtime. At Wakefield work in the mills has improved, and at Bramley, Stanningley, and Morley employment continues good.

Leather Trades.—Tanning in Leeds, although not brisk, has improved; curriers continue busy; leather shavers fairly so.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers, except in the medical branch, report a decline, with several unemployed. Printing is slack; and the cabinet-makers, mill-sawyers, and plate-glass bevellers report employment as fair; the brush-makers as quiet.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in Bradford and neighbourhood has been even better than in July, the wool-combers alone showing a decline, with 3 per cent. unemployed. In the Worth Valley employment is exceptionally brisk, there being a demand for workers in every department, especially in weaving. The Worsted Trade is equally good in Halifax, Keighley and Huddersfield, and overtime is occasionally worked, but not so generally in Huddersfield as in July.

Woollen Trade.—Employment is good in Huddersfield and district. Overtime is still being worked, one large firm running night and day for the first time for years. The Heavy Woollen Trade is equally good in Dewsbury and Batley. The carpet-makers are not so well employed.

Cotton and Silk Trades.—Employment in these trades is fairly good.

Metal Trades.—Employment in the Iron Trade is fairly good. In Halifax the machine-makers are busier, and the ironfounders report improvement. In Bradford work has been slack; but improvement is now reported. The engineers in Bradford, Halifax, and Huddersfield, with 1,644 members, have 6 per cent. out of work. In Keighley the ironfounders are all employed.

Building Trades.—These trades show little change.

Miscellaneous.—The dyers, printers, basket-makers, cabinet-makers, wire-drawers, and card-setters all report employment as good; the tailors as moderate.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The pits continue to work indifferently, some working nearly full time and others short time; some of the collieries producing house and gas coal are, however, working an extra day per week. Several collieries are closed owing to disputes (see page 284); at one colliery near Rotherham about 720 men and boys have been idle since August 20th, owing to a dispute as to price lists; at another colliery near Sheffield about 875 were idle for a few days, owing to various grievances; and other stoppages affecting smaller numbers have occurred during the month. Besides members receiving dispute pay over 500 miners are receiving out-of-work pay.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Blast furnacemen are better employed, several furnaces having been put in blast. The merchant iron-rollers report no unemployed, and only 2½ per cent. on short time. The Armour Plate Trade continues brisk, and planers, drillers, slotters, and pressmen are fairly well employed. The Siemens steel smelters report employment as fair, with only 2 per cent. out of work. The makers of Purves flues for marine boilers report good orders, and in Cervés tubes there is increased activity. Steel forgers are moderately employed. The railway spring-fitters report employment as bad, with 5 per cent. unemployed, and the majority on short time. In large steel castings there is a slight improvement, and the makers of small castings for mining and agricultural machines are fairly well employed. The iron and steel-founders, with a membership of 736, report 9 per cent. unemployed, as against 11 per cent. in July. The engineers show no change, with 8 per cent. unemployed. The core-makers have improved, with 6 per cent. out of work. The boiler-makers report 3 per cent. unemployed, and 8 per cent. partially so, as against 15 per cent. unemployed in July. The wire-drawers report employment as brisk, with none out of work; the stove-grate workers as fair, only a small percentage being unemployed or on short time. In Rotherham the Steel Trade has improved; employment in stove grates and baths is moderate; the iron-workers report employment as bad.

Cutlery and Tools.—The spring-knife cutlers are quiet; the table and butchers' knife branch has improved. Out of a membership of 300 the table blade grinders have only three entirely out of work, and about 25 per cent. on short time. The engineers' tool-makers report employment as fair, with 4 per cent. unemployed; the joiners' tool-makers as moderate; the edge tool-grinders as improved, with 5 per cent. unemployed, as against 6 per cent. in July; the shear-grinders and benders as still slack, with 15 per cent. unemployed.

Other Metal Trades.—The silversmiths and silver finishers report employment as slightly improved; the stampers as unchanged. There is a slight improvement in the White Metal Trade. The brass-workers are fairly well employed. In Rotherham the Brass Trade is good; employment on railway wagons is bad.

Building Trades.—These trades, on the whole, continue well employed, but the plumbers are quieter, and the plasterers are only moderately employed.

Furnishing and Coach-building Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as fairly good; the coach-makers as slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as worse, with 12 per cent. unemployed; the bookbinders as better, with 5 per cent. unemployed, as against 6 per cent. in July.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors report employment as fair; the bottle-makers as improved. The Linen Trade at Barnsley is better in some branches. In Rotherham the potters and glass-blowers are well employed.—*S. Utley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.**Derbyshire District.**

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Out of 1,191 members in this group of trades, 2 per cent. are reported as unemployed.

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

Engineers at the locomotive works continue to improve, full time being worked. Bridge, girder, and boiler yards are busier. The boiler-makers in Derby, Burton-on-Trent, and Ilkeston, report employment as moderate, with 5 per cent. idle. The ironfounders report employment as moderate in Derby, with 7 per cent. out of work, and as dull in Chesterfield and Butterley, with nearly 16 per cent. idle; the stove grate-workers in Derby and Belper, and the brass-moulders and finishers as fair; the smiths and strikers as good; the lace machine-builders in Long Eaton as dull. Cycle works are fairly busy.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly good on the whole throughout the district, with few unemployed, except among the painters.

Textile Trades.—The Lace Trade is declining in Borrowash, and at Long Eaton is depressed, many being totally unemployed. The Cotton Trade is good in Lea, Holloway and Belper, fair in Borrowash, but dull in Glossop. Surgical bandage-makers in Derby report employment as good. The dyers in Belper are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate in the Tailoring and Boot and Shoe Trades, and declining with dress and mantle-makers.

Coal Mining.—The improvement in the Chesterfield district has been fully maintained. In Ripley hard coal seams have been worked three days a week, soft coal seams four days; at Clay Cross gas coal pits two and a half days, house coal four and a half and five days, an improvement on July; at Swanwick collieries (Alfreton) canal coal pits three and a half days, soft coal four and a half days, hard coal four and three-quarter days; Kilburn coal three days.

Quarrying.—There is no improvement in the stone quarries, the majority working short time.

Iron Trades.—The blast-furnacemen continue dull, with only two-thirds of the furnaces in full blast; in Sheepbridge three furnaces out of eight are in blast; in Wingerworth (Chesterfield), and at Stanton Gate all furnaces are standing entirely.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as dull; the bookbinders as fair. Out of 320 members in Derby 5·3 per cent. are reported as unemployed.

Wood-working and Coach-building Trades.—The coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as fair; the railway carriage and wagon-builders in Derby as slack, four days per week being worked; coach-builders in private shops are fairly busy. In Long Eaton wagon-builders are slack, five days per week being worked.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers, millers, brush-makers, and paper-makers report employment as fair; the basket-makers as moderate; the colour-mixers and paper-stainers as good.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—This industry continues depressed generally, the plain net branch, with 9·4 per cent. unemployed, alone reporting employment as fair.

Hosiery Trade.—The Hosiery Trade is quiet, with a few firms fairly well employed, but with many workers only partially employed. Employment in the rotary power frame branch is moderate; in the circular branch worse than in July; in the rib top branch fair, with no unemployed; in the hand frame branch fair on silk and best goods, but at Carlton, Sutton, Arnold, Kirkby, and Mansfield this branch is not so fully employed. Employment is fairly good on Shetland wool and webbing, but quiet on half hose. Female labour is not so well employed in finishing and factory work. The elastic and surgical bandage branch is brisk.

Coal Mining.—Employment is slightly better, a few collieries are working more time, about 3½ days per week being the average worked.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The engineers and the iron-dressers report employment as bad; the hosiery machine-builders, the carriage straighteners, and the bobbin and carriage-makers as slack, but the lace machine-builders as improved; the cycle-makers as declining; the steam-engine makers as moderate; the brass-workers as fair; the ironfounders as not improved, with 15 per cent. unemployed at Nottingham, and 12 per cent. at Mansfield; the engineers and boiler-makers at Newark as moderate, but with none out of work; the tool machinists as slack; the stove-grate workers and engineers as moderately busy at Mansfield. Twelve branches of these trades, with 1,303 members, report 10·1 per cent. as unemployed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad at Nottingham, and quiet at Retford; the lithographic printers as fair, with 4 per cent. out of work; the bookbinders as dull, with 8 per cent. unemployed.

Railways.—There is improvement at Toton Sidings and Colwick in heavy goods, and the goods traffic gives full employment at Retford, Newark, and Mansfield, leaving none unemployed.

Miscellaneous.—The farriers, cabinet-makers, and coach-makers report employment as good; the boot and shoe-makers as declining; the bakers, wheelwrights, and female cigar-makers as moderate; the tailors and silk-dressers as slack.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—At Leicester, Northampton and Kettering, trade is less satisfactory, and the operatives are not so fully engaged. At Wellingborough, Rushden, Higham Ferrers and Rothwell, the workpeople in all branches continue steadily employed. Those engaged in the Shoe Mercery and Leather Dressing Trades are in regular work.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale clothing establishments is moderate, and in the bespoke branch slack. Milliners are not so busy; stay-makers and mantle-makers remain steadily employed. The Hatting Trade in all departments is quiet.

Hosiery, Yarn, and Spinning Trades.—Since the settlement of the wages dispute in the Hosiery Trade, employment has been good, and in many branches the operatives are working overtime. In the yarn and wool spinning mills employment is full in all departments. Dyers and trimmers are in full work.

Elastic Web Trade.—In the cord, braid, and fancy goods departments, workpeople continue well employed. Work is also more regular in the shoe, belt, and bandage webbing branch.

Engineering, Iron, and Cycle Trades.—The Engineering Trades continue fairly good, giving regular employment. Electrical engineers report employment as rather quieter. The boot and shoe and hosiery machine makers are slightly busier. The ironfounders and moulders are generally in full work. The smiths and pattern-makers are slack. There is a slight decline in the Cycle Industry.

Mining and Quarrying.—In the Leicestershire coal mines employment is unsatisfactory. Stone quarrymen and ironstone-workers are generally in full work.

Printing Trades.—Employment is quieter, and less regular.

Building Trades.—The painters are slacker and the plumbing and glazing branches are rather quiet; other branches are fully employed.

Furnishing and Coach-building Trades.—The cabinet-makers and upholsterers continue in regular work. Employment has slightly improved with coach and tramcar builders.

Railways.—Railway men connected with the passenger traffic continue busy. In the goods and mineral branches employment is still quiet. The operatives in the fitting shops are in regular work, and employment is also better among railway wagon-builders and repairers. The men at work on the construction of the new railway through this district are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with cigar-makers and basket-makers; moderate with bakers, confectioners, brush-makers and box-makers; fairly good with terra cotta, brick and tile-makers, saddlers and general labourers; slack with gas-workers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—The improvement in these trades is still maintained throughout the district. The hollow-ware pressers have only 0·5 per cent. out of work, and the sanitary-pressers are fully employed. The flat-pressers report employment as improved, with 1 per cent. idle; the printers and transferrers as unsettled during the month, but now improved, with 2 per cent. unemployed; the women gilders and decorators as improved, with 1 per cent. out of work; the throwers and turners, handlers, packers and crate-makers, mould-makers, designers and modellers, oven-men, kiln-men and saggars-makers, all render satisfactory reports.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The improvement in these trades has been well maintained, and the mills and forges are now practically working full time. Pig-iron for engineering purposes is in stronger request, and the operatives are better employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, boiler-makers, ironfounders, and machinists at Stoke are well employed, with 2 per cent. out of work. The North Staffordshire railway works at Stoke have started full time, after nine months short time of five days per week. In the Hanley and Burslem districts trade has declined, 6 per cent. being unemployed. At Stafford employment remains good, with none idle. At Crewe all branches are still working five days per week, and at Congleton employment is bad.

Coal Mining.—A slight improvement is apparent, and at a few collieries the men are working from four to five days per week, the

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

average being about three and a half days. The colliery engine-men and stokers report improvement.

Textile Trades.—At Leek the silk-trimming weavers report employment as fair, but the Silk Trade generally is only moderate, with 1 per cent. out of work. At Congleton the silk-trimming weavers report employment as depressed, with a few unemployed; the silk-dressers as moderate, with three out of four factories working full time. Fustian-cutting at Congleton is good, with none out of work. At Cheadle and Tean the tape-weavers are moderately employed.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report a slight decline, and at Crewe several are on short time. The shoe-makers at Stafford report a seasonal decline, though none are wholly unemployed. At Stone employment is bad, a number being on short time.

Building Trades.—These trades throughout the Potteries and at Leek are only moderate, with a few out of work. At Stafford all branches are well employed. At Crewe no further decline is reported. The brick and tile yards throughout the district are fully employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the Potteries the letterpress printers have 20 per cent. unemployed. At Stafford there has been a decline, with 2 per cent. idle. The lithographic artists and printers and the bookbinders report no change.

Railways.—Railway servants at Stoke are not so busy, several being only partially employed. At Stafford and Crewe no change is reported.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The improvement in the Iron and Steel Trades has been fully maintained. Steel working is the busiest, but more puddling furnaces have been started, and mill rollers are busy on sheets. In South Shropshire also most firms have been busy. The steel smelters are fully occupied. Wire rolling is moderate.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Constructive machinists and engineers are better employed in Wolverhampton and in South Shropshire. Bridge and girder constructors, boiler and tank-makers, and gasometer erectors are fully employed throughout the district. The tool-makers, machinists, and iron-door and safe-makers have none idle. The ironfounders again report improvement. The seasonal decline in the Cycle Trade continues, although many firms have been making full time. The Electrical Trades are busy. At the railway sheds in Wolverhampton the men generally are only working four and three-quarter days per week.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is reported as good among galvanizers, enamellers and japanners, bedstead-makers, edge tool-makers, iron hurdle and fence-makers, odd work moulders and makers of malleable castings; as improved amongst chain-makers, tube-workers, hinge and hollow-ware casters (except in West Bromwich), ironplate and tinplate-workers, and brass and copper-workers; as moderate among vice-makers, nut and bolt-makers, and makers of wrought hinges and catches; slack among wrought-nail makers, anvil-makers, anchor smiths, lock-makers and key stampers.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe-makers are quiet, several only working three and four days per week. The Tailoring Trade was slack at the beginning of the month, but has improved.

Coal Mining.—In the Cannock Chase district (household coal) there is a slight improvement. In the Black Country district (manufacturing coal) the recent improvement has been maintained, and in South Shropshire the miners of coal for manufacturing purposes are now mostly working full time.

Building Trades.—All branches have been fully employed.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—Coach-builders, wheelwrights, and makers of saddle trees, have been fairly busy; dry cask coopers and case-makers moderately so. Cabinet-makers have improved. Mill sawyers and machinists are fully occupied. Railway carriage and wagon-makers are slack.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers have been fairly well employed. Railway men, carters and carriers, and oil, colour and varnish-makers are working full time. Bakers and confectioners are steadily employed. The Flint Glass Trade has improved at Brierley Hill, is good at Stourbridge, and fair at Wordsley. The glass bottle works at Brierley Hill have been closed, but will start again in September.—*W. F. Mee.*

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—General work is moderate, but improving the steam and gas engine branches being busiest. The smiths and strikers report work as fair, but about 20 per cent. are on short time, and 5 per cent. unemployed. Cycle work for the home trade has fallen off.

Brass and Copper-workers.—Chandelier work is fair. In plumbers' brassfounding workers are busier, and on common gas fittings some are working overtime. Electric-fitting workers have generally steady employment, but are not busy. The cabinet brass-workers report an improvement. Oil-lamp work was dull at the beginning of the month, but improved later. Carriage and ship lamp work is fairly good. The coppersmiths are busier.

Other Metal Trades.—The ironfounders report a great improvement, only two members being unemployed. Bedstead work is good, with 25 men unemployed. Tinplate working is fair; a few are making overtime on cycle-gear cases; the proportion of unemployed is about 5 per cent. Workers on tin-men's furniture have full employment. Wire-workers are fairly busy. Japanned tin workers are busier. The Safe Trade is quiet. Metal rollers are in fairly constant work.

Jewellery, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Jewellery and silversmiths' work show a slight improvement. Electro-plate work is moderately good; several firms are working overtime, and only one is on short time.

Building Trades.—All branches make good reports.

Other Trades in Birmingham.—Flint glass-makers report no improvement. Glass bevelling and silvering are good. The letterpress printers report employment as moderate. Employment in the Gun Trade on arms and ammunition is fairly brisk, but slack in the sporting branch. In saddlery and harness work short time is being worked. Employment in making perambulators and mail carts is good. Vegetable ivory button work is slack.

Trades in South Staffordshire.—Iron and steel-workers are busier, the sheet mills being the busiest. The Vice and Anvil Trades show no improvement. The chain-workers have improved; about 12 per cent. are working short time and 3 per cent. are unemployed; a few employers have conceded an increase in wages. Nail-workers are still depressed. Galvanized work of all kinds is busy, and there is still full employment in enamelled work. There is no falling off in girder, bridge, and other sectional work for constructive purposes, and workers on steam pumps have full employment. Brick and tile works are busy. The Walsall trades are again reported as better. The Harness Trade is good, and some houses are working overtime. All locksmith firms are on short time.—*W. J. Davis.*

A report on *Coventry and North Warwickshire* states that the Cycle Trade, considering the lateness of the season, is exceptionally good, full time, and in many cases overtime, being worked. The general Engineering Trade remains good. Watch-making, although slightly improved, remains depressed. The Building Trade is good. The Woollen, Hosiery, Velvet-trimming and other textile Trades are well employed. The Ribbon and Hatting Trades are brisk. The collieries of the district are making four to four and a half days per week on the average. Steam coal is in good demand. The Clay-working Trades are well employed. Quarrymen have plenty of work.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—At Norwich the engineers are fairly busy, some electrical engineers working overtime. At Theford the turners, machine men, moulders and smiths are not working on Saturdays; fitters and boiler-makers are working full time. At Beccles engineers are working full time, but no overtime. Employment is fair at Yarmouth, and good at Melton Constable. Shipwrights at both Yarmouth and Lowestoft are slack.

Textile Trades.—The silk and crape factories at Norwich and Yarmouth are fairly busy, and continue to run full time.

Clothing Trades.—The Boot and Shoe Trade at Norwich is bad especially with the rivetters and finishers; the sew-round men are fairly busy. Full time is being worked in all the clothing factories. At Norwich tailors have been busy throughout the month, but at Yarmouth and Beccles employment has fallen off considerably.

Building Trades.—These trades have been fair throughout the district, the painters alone showing a strongly marked decline.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—At Norwich the cabinet-makers are steadily employed; coach-builders are busy at Beccles, and fairly so at Norwich and Halesworth; brush-makers are fairly well employed at Norwich, Diss and Wymondham.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers at Norwich and Fakenham are slack, several having been unemployed all the month. At Beccles, owing to dull trade, the girls employed have had a month's holiday. Lithographic printers have been fairly busy.

Wire-Weaving.—Wire-weaving is slack, about 25 per cent. of the men and lads standing idle.

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

Dock and General Labour.—At Yarmouth, Lynn, and Lowestoft dock labourers are fully employed. Throughout the district agricultural labourers have been busy with the harvest, which in many places is now over. In some country districts general labourers have been scarce, 4½d. per hour having been offered for bricklayers' labourers at Melton Constable.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Ipswich report employment as dull; at Leiston and Wickham Market as fair; at Bury St. Edmunds as good, overtime prevailing. At Colchester and Chelmsford employment continues good. The moulders report an improvement at Ipswich, but employment with the boiler-makers is again reported as moderate. Shipbuilding remains depressed.

Clothing Trades.—In the Boot and Shoe Trade employment is only moderate in Ipswich, but good at Colchester. The stay and corset-makers at Ipswich report employment as fair; at Sudbury as good. The wholesale and bespoke branches of the Tailoring Trade continue good at Ipswich, Colchester, and in the surrounding district.

Mat and Silk Trades.—The mat-makers at Hadleigh and Sudbury report employment as moderate; at Glemsford as bad; at Long Melford and Lavenham as good. The Silk Industry at Sudbury continues satisfactory.

Building Trades.—At Ipswich the stone-masons are slack, and the painters dull. At Colchester the bricklayers report employment as dull. With these exceptions the reports for these trades are good throughout the district.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds and Beccles report employment as good, at Colchester as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The Leather Trade at Colchester is good; the cigar-makers maintain their improvement at Ipswich; coach-building is depressed. The gas-workers and general labourers at Ipswich and Colchester report employment as dull. At the sack, rick-cloth and tent factory at Ipswich, employment is good, and the horticultural works at Ipswich and Chelmsford are busy.

R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire Districts.

Building Trades.—The stonemasons and bricklayers report employment as brisk; the carpenters and joiners as moderate; the painters and decorators as dull; the lath-renders as fair; the plumbers as quiet. Good reports come from Gloucester, Swindon, Weston-super-Mare, and Bridgwater.

Clothing Trades.—Employment continues slack in the Bristol Boot and Shoe Industry, except with clickers, who report a slight improvement. In the Kingswood district trade is improving. The wholesale garment-makers continue busy, with a large number working overtime; the bespoke branch is depressed.

Mining and Quarrying.—The state of employment in the Bristol and Radstock coal district has not changed, 3½ days a week being the average worked. In the Forest of Dean the Coal Trade is reported as fair, the Stone Trade as good.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—Employment is reported as fair with cabinet-makers and upholsterers; moderate with mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists; slack with shop and bar-fitters; good with coopers, and box and packing-case makers; declining with basket and brush-makers, the latter branch having 6 per cent. unemployed. The wagon and coach-builders, at Gloucester, are reported as busy; at Bristol, as slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as declining, with about 6 per cent. unemployed; the lithographic printers as moderate; the bookbinders as quiet.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The boiler-makers and riveters are reported as slack, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the tool-makers and machinists and sheet iron-workers as moderate; the smiths and strikers as good; the galvanizers as fair; the moulders as dull, with some on short time.

Leather Trades.—The curriers and saddle and harness-makers are fully employed.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—There has been a fair demand for seamen. Dock labour has been dull, except in the Grain Trade, which continues brisk.

Miscellaneous.—The railway servants report employment as steady; the paper-makers as brisk; the brick and tile-makers as good; the glass bottle-makers as dull, with 14.8 per cent. unemployed; the general labourers as improving.—*J. Currie.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.—The Metal Mining Industry of Cornwall shows no change. Employment in the Quarrying and Clay Industries continues fair.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—The engineers continue well employed throughout the district, the Plymouth and Devonport branches reporting employment as good, with less than 1 per cent. unemployed. The ironfounders report employment as steady; the boiler-makers as full.

Clothing Trades.—In the Tailoring Trade, the ready-made department has been fair; the bespoke department quiet. The boot and shoe operatives have been quiet generally throughout the district, and report no improvement; the hand-sewn branch has been bad.

Building Trades.—These trades continue fairly well employed in Plymouth and district, but remain quiet in the Exeter and Torquay districts, and in most parts of Cornwall.

Dock Labour and Shipping.—Dock labourers have not been so well employed. Seamen still report that berths are difficult to obtain.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report trade as good, with full employment in Plymouth and district; the lithographic printers as fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—The brush-makers are quiet; the coach-builders, wheelwrights and smiths are fairly well employed; the bakers and the gas-workers continue slack; the Fishing Industry is quiet. General labourers have an increased number unemployed.

J. Welland.

WALES.

South Wales District.

Building Trades.—These trades are fairly good throughout the district; the plumbers, however, report employment as improved, but moderate; the paper-hangers and decorators as dull.

Ship-repairing and Engineering Trades.—The engineers have 8 per cent. unemployed, the boiler-makers 15 per cent., the shipwrights 50 per cent., and the labourers have suffered in the same proportion. A few firms are on short time. The engineering firms and foundries not depending on ship repairs have been dull, some having been stopped for two weeks, and others put on short time. The moulders report employment as bad, with 30 per cent. unemployed in Cardiff.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as dull; coal shippers as fair. General cargo shipping has improved. The Import Trade has been good, especially the Pit-wood and Timber Trade. The corn porters have not been so well employed. At all the ports dock labourers have been fairly well employed.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment has improved. Nearly all the works have now conceded the 1874 list of prices.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is gradually improving, but few works have all the plant running, and consequently the workers are not on full time.

Coal Mining.—This industry has slightly improved in the Rhondda district, but few colliers average more than 5 days a week. In the Swansea, or western district, some collieries have not averaged more than 7 days a fortnight. Disputes have been exceptionally prevalent during the month, many of which have been submitted to arbitration without stoppage of work.

Miscellaneous.—Metallurgical and Chemical Industries continue dull; the steel tube works at Llandore is busy; the Patent Fuel Trade has improved, and is reported as good; the lath-renders, steam-sawyers, spring-makers, wagon-builders and repairers report employment as fair.—*T. Davies.*

A further report from *South Wales* states that the Steam Coal Trade shows a steady improvement; three-fourths of the steam coal collieries have worked 5 days a week. About 3,000 workmen have been thrown out of employment by the stoppage of two collieries. The demand for house coal is only moderate. The masons report employment as not so good, and the painters as bad, with a number idle.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Coal Mining.—In East and Mid-Lothian the miners are nearly all working full time. In West Lothian some are working from 8 to 10 days per fortnight, while others are working full time.

Mineral Oil Trades.—Employment in the Mineral Oil Industry continues fairly good. At 20 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian the number of men employed was 2,889, compared with 2,577 in August 1894; 50.7 per cent. of the men were employed at mines which worked full time.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS.—SCOTLAND (continued).

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The brassfounders, coppersmiths, range, stove and ornamental fitters, tinsmiths, and gasmeter-makers, report employment as good; the engineers, pattern-makers, blacksmiths, and horse-shoers as fair. The iron-moulders in the Falkirk district report employment as fair; in the Edinburgh district the light branches as fair, the heavy branches as still dull but improved. Returns from 16 branches of Unions show 3·4 per cent. unemployed.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in the Leith shipyards continues dull. The shipwrights return 13·3 per cent. idle, and the boiler-makers 19·7 per cent.; the ship-joiners continue well employed. Employment has much improved in Grangemouth.

Textile Trades.—The carpet weavers report employment as improved. The slight improvement in the Linen Industry in Dunfermline has been maintained. In the Woollen Industry in Selkirk and Galashiels employment is fairly good in all branches. In Hawick employment in the Hosiery Trade is fair; the Woollen Industry continues quiet; spinners are slack. The rope-workers in Leith are still on short time.

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

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—Employment with the coopers and saw-mill operatives is good; with the cabinet-makers, coach-makers, French polishers, and upholsterers quiet; with the brush-makers bad. Returns from ten branches of Unions show 2·1 per cent. idle.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as good; the dock labourers and coal porters as fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The typesetters continue to work only 5 days per week; the press and machine men and the compositors are still dull, but with fewer unemployed; the stereotypers report employment as bad; the lithographic printers as good; the bookbinders as quiet. Returns from six branches of Unions show 3·5 per cent. idle.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors, shoe-makers and pipe-makers report employment as quiet; the glass-cutters, sett-makers, saddlers, and curriers as fair; general labourers as fair.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—On the Clyde employment in the Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Trades is good. The shipwrights are very well employed, and the ship-joiners, riggers, holders-on and shipyard-helpers send good reports. The sail-makers report employment as unsettled, with several idle. Employment is full in Dumbarton, still improving at Port Glasgow, and good in Greenock and Paisley.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In the West of Scotland the Iron and Steel Trades show steady improvement, and more men are at work. All the iron and steel works are on full time. In the Motherwell district all the iron and steel-workers are fully employed, and iron bridge building is fairly good.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report that the improvement in Glasgow is fully maintained, and employment is also fair in Paisley, Kilmarnock, and Port Glasgow. The blacksmiths in Glasgow, Dumbarton, Kilmarnock, Paisley, and Port Glasgow send good reports. The iron-moulders report improvement, and are busy in Paisley and Kilmarnock. The scale, beam and weighing machine-makers, the pattern-makers, with about 3 per cent. idle, the spindle-makers, the enginemen, the cranemen and firemen, and the range, stove and ornamental fitters report employment as good; the tinplate-workers as unchanged; the flyer-makers and wire-weavers as dull.

Mining.—An improvement has taken place in the general Coal Trade of the West of Scotland. Practically full time has been worked in every district. The Iron Trade has been busy. Both coal and iron ore miners are agitating for an advance in wages.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good except among the painters, who are dull.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as better; the coach-makers as fair; the saw-millers as good with few idle, and as full in Paisley; the cork-cutters as good with none idle; the wood-turners as improved, and as good in Paisley; the wood-carvers as irregular.

Textile Trades.—The lace-workers are busy in Glasgow; in Ayrshire, and in Newmilns, Galston and Darvel employment is reported as fair. The weavers in all branches of the Textile Trades

are busy throughout the district. The dyers, power-loom beamers and calendermen also report improvement. The warpers are still averaging 40 hours per week, with a few men idle. In Paisley the thread mill workers are busy; the carpet-weavers are fully employed. Two canvas weaving factories in Port Glasgow are giving full employment.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as quiet; the clothiers' operatives as busy; the boot and shoe operatives as dull; the "knee" shoemakers as quiet.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report a further improvement. The dock labourers have been well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, with 7 per cent. idle; the lithographic printers as worse, with 7 per cent. idle; the bookbinders as still dull, with 9 per cent. idle. The letterpress printers in Kilmarnock and Paisley are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—The hair-dressers, railway servants and carters, carriage-drivers, basket-makers and labourers, report employment as good; the flint glass-cutters as improved, but with several idle; the medical bottle-makers and bakers as slack.—*A. J. Hunter.*

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in these trades has been interrupted by the dispute in Dundee (see page 274). Floorcloth and linoleum manufacturers are generally busy. The bleachers are fairly well employed.

Coal Mining.—The improvement in the Coal Trade is maintained, and at most of the collieries the miners are in full work.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The Engineering Trades show little change; in machine-making works employment is fairly good; the engineers report employment as moderate, with about 3 per cent. unemployed; the blacksmiths as fair, with 4 per cent.; the iron-moulders as dull, with 25 per cent. idle; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as bad, with 11 per cent. idle and a considerable number leaving the district; the shipwrights as fair, but declining, with 16 per cent. unemployed.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as still bad; the boot and shoe operatives as quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues good.

Fishing Industry.—The line and trawl fishing has been moderately successful. The Broughty Ferry herring-fishing fleet has done well on the whole. The salmon fishing has been fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as fairly good, with 3 per cent. unemployed; the lithographers and bookbinders as quiet.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as quiet, one firm working short time. The saw-millers and wood-cutting machinemen are fully employed.

Dock and General Labour.—Work at the docks has been quiet; but general labourers have been fairly well employed.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen report employment as good. Sett-makers have obtained a temporary rise in wages on one class of work. Monumental masons, granite hewers and granite polishers report employment as good.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good, although painters show a slight decline.

Fishing.—In August the trawl boats landed 33,351 cwts., realising £16,786, and line boats 16,466 cwts., realising £6,728, the total being 49,817 cwts., realising £23,514, an increase both in quantity landed and value realised as compared with July.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, with 17·5 per cent. idle, and the shipwrights, with 23·8 per cent. idle, report employment as bad; the blacksmiths and iron-moulders as good; the pattern-makers, with 3 per cent. idle, as fair; the tinplate-workers as declining; the engineers as improving.

Textile Trades.—The flax and cotton workers report employment as moderate; the jute-workers as fair; the rope and twine-spinners and hemp-dressers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors report employment as quiet; the boot and shoe operatives as moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers, with 4 per cent. idle, report employment as improving; the lithographic printers, with one idle, as good; the bookbinders and machine rulers as good, with none idle; the paper-workers as moderate.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DISTRICT REPORTS.—IRELAND.

Miscellaneous.—The cabinet-makers and horse-shoers report employment as good; the comb-makers, carvers, and wood-turners, and dock and general labourers as fair; the upholsterers as moderate.—*W. Johnston.*

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

General.—Sixty societies with 16,132 members report 1,172 (or 7·3 per cent.) idle, as against 7·4 per cent. of the membership in July.

Building Trades.—Employment has been good among the bricklayers, stone-cutters, plasterers, carpenters, joiners, slaters, painters, and builders' labourers; dull with the plumbers and glaziers; fair with the lath-splitters and sawyers. Building operations at both Drogheda and the Curragh are brisk.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as improved; the upholsterers as only moderate. The improvement among the coach-makers, organ-builders, coopers, cart, wagon and packing case-makers has been maintained.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment has been dull with the engineers and the shipwrights, fair with the smiths and boiler-makers, and good with the brassfounders.

Clothing Trades.—Work has been good with the tailors and dress-makers, but dull with the shoemakers.

Provision Trades.—The bakers, confectioners, butchers, grocers' assistants, provision, hotel and club assistants have been actively employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The Letterpress Printing Trade is dull. During the month 317 members signed the unemployed roll, of whom 207 claimed out-of-work allowance. The lithographic printers are again dull, but employment has been fair with the bookbinders and machine-rulers, and good with the stereotypers, paper-cutters, book-folders and despatch assistants.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-workers, tram and railway servants, and cab and car men, dyers and fishermen report employment as fair; the harness-makers, rope-makers, cork-cutters, basket-makers, and brush-makers as bad; the seamen and firemen as dull; the electricians, hair-dressers, corn-millers, and quay labourers as busy.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

Belfast and District.

General.—Returns received from 55 societies, with a membership of 19,195, show 575 (or 3 per cent.) to be unemployed at the end of August, as against 639 (or 3·4 per cent.) of the membership in July.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Of the 8,705 members employed in those trades from which returns have been received, 195 (or 2·2 per cent.) are out of employment, as against 300 (or 3·6 per cent.) of the membership at the end of July. The carpenters and joiners report employment as dull; the Furnishing Trades as quiet; the iron-founders as moderate; the engineers and iron-turners as improving; the brassfounders, enginemen and cranemen, and general labourers and platers' helpers as fair; the blacksmiths, blacksmiths' strikers and helpers, boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders, machine-workers, pattern-makers and shipwrights as good.

Linen Trades.—Of the 4,243 members employed in these industries, covered by the returns, 196 (or 4·6 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 172 (or 4·1 per cent.) of the membership in July. The flax-roughers and yarn-dressers report employment as bad; the spindle and flyer-makers as moderate; the power-loom tenters as improving; the beetling enginemen, flax-dressers, linen lappers, female workers and yarn-dressers as fair, and the hackle and gill-makers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The returns received respecting 659 members of societies employed in these trades show that none are unemployed, though many of the tailors are working short time. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair, and the tailors as bad.

Building Trades.—Out of the 2,509 members engaged in these trades, 44 (or 1·8 per cent.) are unemployed, the same number and percentage as in July. The bricklayers, plasterers, mill-sawyers and machinists and painters report employment as fair; the plumbers as improving; and the hodsmen as good.

Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.—In this group of seven societies, with 574 members, 26 (or 4·5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, as against 27 (or 4·8 per cent.) of the membership in July. The brush-makers and upholsterers report employment as bad; the packing-case makers as dull; the cabinet-makers as quiet; the coopers and the coach-builders as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The four societies comprising this group, with a membership of 821, report 55 (or 6·7 per cent.) as out

of work, as against 45 (or 5·6 per cent.) of the membership at the end of July. The letterpress printers report employment as bad; the lithographic artists as quiet; and the bookbinders and machine-rulers as fair.

Miscellaneous.—In this group of nine societies, with a membership of 1,682, 59 (or 3·5 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 51 (or 3 per cent.) of the membership at the end of July. The butchers and sail-makers report employment as bad, the bakers and tinplate-workers as fair, the carters as quiet; the locomotive engine-drivers, railway servants, hotel and club assistants and paviors as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Engineering in all its branches is reported as bad in Waterford, Limerick, Cork, and the South of Ireland generally. The boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as fair in Waterford, Limerick, and Passage West, and although none are unemployed in Cork, short time is being worked. Shipwrights, ship-joiners, block and pump-makers, and riggers report employment as dull.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades continues good.

Clothing Trades.—The flax, tweed and feather operatives in Cork, Blarney, Millfield and Douglas report employment as exceptionally good; the boot and shoe operatives as dull; the tailors as fair in Waterford and Limerick, and bad in Cork.

Fishing.—The mackerel fishing round the South and West Coast has been successful.

Miscellaneous.—The letterpress and lithographic printers, the coach-makers and cabinet-makers report employment as good; the cork-cutters, bellows and brush-makers, tinsmiths, plumbers and gas-fitters, gas-workers, coal-porters and quay labourers and Corporation employees as fair; the coopers as fair in Limerick and Waterford, and bad in Cork.—*P. O'Shea.*

RECENT ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION CASES.

Northumberland Miners and the Conciliation Board.

In the last number of the GAZETTE (p. 241) it was explained that a second vote of the lodges of the Miners' Association would probably be taken as to the termination or otherwise of the Conciliation Board arrangement, under which wages questions have for some time past been adjusted. The second ballot has now been taken, and has resulted in a majority of 33 in favour of the continuance of the Board.

London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board.

This Board has recently settled by arbitration a dispute between a master stevedore and the Amalgamated Stevedores' Labour Protection League. The points in question have been in dispute since March 1894. An agreement as to weekly wages and hours of labour has been entered into by the proprietor of a new saloon steamer on the Thames, and the Amalgamated Society of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames, and the Amalgamated Society of Engine Drivers and Firemen, both Land and Marine. This agreement provides that notice to terminate must be given through the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board, and that "any alteration desired therein or dispute arising thereunder shall be referred to the decision of such Board, whose decision in such event shall be binding upon both parties."

A Workman Umpire.

A dispute which had lasted for some five weeks was settled on August 8th by the arbitration of an employee of the firm involved. The dispute is said to have arisen in connection with a new type of plate used in building turret ships. The platers' helpers claimed that eight men should be employed on each plate. This demand was refused, and a strike ensued which involved 16 men. The matter in dispute was referred to two arbitrators, one labour delegate and one representative of the firm. Mr. Thomas Snaith, a working blacksmith in the yard, was called in as umpire, and decided that the helpers were only entitled to six men to each plate. The workmen affected have accepted the award.

THE TRADES' UNION CONGRESS.

THE twenty-eighth annual Trades' Union Congress was held in the Park Hall, Cardiff, on Monday, September 2nd, and five following days, under the presidency of Mr. John Jenkins, J.P., of the Shipwrights' Society, and president of the Cardiff Trades' Council. The Congress was not quite so well attended as those of recent years, and there was also a slight falling off in the number of organisations and of members represented. The number of delegates was 331, compared with 372 at Norwich in 1894. They represented 154 unions with 960,931 members, compared with 192 unions with 1,080,545 members, including 27 trades' councils with 65,938 members in 1894.

The falling off is, however, chiefly due to changes made since last Congress in the Standing Orders which regulate its constitution. These changes are of so important a character that a few words of explanation are necessary. Under the Standing Orders in operation at the previous Congress the rule regulating the qualification of delegates was as follows:—

"The Congress shall consist of delegates who are or have been bona fide workers, and are legal members of trade societies, and who shall have worked or be working at the trade they represent, or trades councils, or similar bodies, by whatever name they may for the time being be known; the expenses of such delegates must be defrayed by the Association they represent."

This rule, in the opinion of many Trade Unions, was not stringent enough to prevent the appointment of delegates who were out of touch with the interests they were thought to represent. Suggestions for the amendment of Standing Orders on this and other points were therefore brought before the Congress of 1894 for consideration, but were by that body referred to the Parliamentary Committee. The Parliamentary Committee (or a majority of them) interpreted this reference to mean that they were empowered to amend the Standing Orders, such amendments to regulate the next Congress. Consequently the delegates to the present Congress were actually elected under the altered rules as to qualification, which are as follows:—

"(1) The Congress shall consist of delegates who are or have been bona fide workers at the trade which they represent, and are legal members of trade societies, but no person can be a delegate to the Trades' Union Congress unless he is actually working at his trade at the time of appointment, or is a permanent paid working official of his Trade Union."

"(2) No representation shall be accepted as bona fide other than direct representation from Trade Unions."

The effect of the new rule is to shut out from Congress all representatives who, although members of their Trade Union, are neither working at their trade nor permanent paid officials of their Union. It also prevents the direct representation of Trades' Councils at Congress in future. It may be mentioned that the right of Trades' Councils in this respect has for two years been limited to sending representatives only for such part of their members as are not already represented through their Trade Unions.

These changes, however, are not so vital as the alteration made in the mode of voting to be adopted in Congress. Under the system existing during the previous two years each Union might send to Congress one delegate for every two thousand members or fraction thereof. Many of the larger societies, however, never sent the full number of delegates to which they were entitled, and were liable to be outvoted by a combination of smaller societies. In order to obviate this difficulty without increasing the size of Congress, which was already considered unwieldy, the Parliamentary Committee made the following Standing Order:—

"(1) The method of voting shall be by card, to be issued to the delegates of trade societies according to their membership, and paid for (as per Standing Order No. 4) on the principle of one card for every 1,000 members or fractional part thereof represented."

"(2) Such cards to be issued to delegates by the Secretary to the Parliamentary Committee before the meeting of Congress."

"(It will only be necessary to resort to this method of voting in divisions that may be challenged by delegates to Congress)."

The effect of this alteration from the old method of a simple show of hands is to give to the societies represented the power of recording their votes in proportion to the number of their members, irrespective of the number of delegates they may send to Congress.

All delegates elected to the Congress contrary to the new Standing Orders were refused credentials by the Parliamentary Committee. A number of delegates from Trades' Councils were, however, in waiting in case Congress should refuse to endorse the action of the Parliamentary Committee. The constitutional right of the Committee to act upon the new orders, without first having submitted them to Congress, was contested, and a resolution censuring the Committee for their action, which was moved on the second day of Congress, gave rise to the most important discussion of the whole week.

The resolution being voted upon according to the method prescribed by the new Standing Orders, was defeated by 604 to 357.

The effect of the change of system on the composition of Congress, so far as its first year is concerned, is seen from the following comparative analysis of the constitution of Congress in 1894 and 1895:—

Groups of Trades.	1895.			1894.		
	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.
Building	14	20	137,836	18	21	123,335
Cabinet Making,	6	8	19,358	7	10	20,749
Furnishing Trades, &c.	9	19	118,680	11	18	119,219
Other Metal Trades	20	23	32,318	16	23	31,342
Engineers	8	8	12,807	9	10	11,458
Shipbuilding (including Boiler Making)	3	20	54,100	3	9	52,900
Mining	5	40	172,728	6	46	230,580
Printing and Bookbinding	12	14	37,835	13	16	37,448
Clothing	13	27	68,879	14	29	62,557
Textile Trades	19	77	149,940	24	80	151,023
Pottery	3	3	2,500	2	2	1,800
Milling and Baking	5	7	8,314	3	4	7,669
Transport (including Railway Workers, Seamen, Firemen, and Dock Labourers)	13	24	84,822	14	23	77,650
Agricultural, Chemical, Gas, and General Labourers	12	28	47,718	19	38	72,698
Miscellaneous Trades	12	13	13,087	6	6	5,139
Trades Councils ... ..	...	...	...	27	37	65,938
TOTAL	154	331	960,931	192	372	1,080,545

From these figures it appears that the reduction in the number of delegates and of persons represented is accounted for by the exclusion of Trades' Councils, and the falling off in the number of miners represented owing to the absence of delegates from Durham and Northumberland.

Apart from this subject of lengthened discussion, the agenda of the Congress contained no less than 101 resolutions, to many of which notices of amendment were sent in. These were grouped under 47 sections, according to subjects. The chief subjects dealt with were summarised in the last number of the GAZETTE (p. 255).

Of these resolutions those relating to alien immigration and to the federation of trade unions led to discussion and a strong division of opinion. In respect to the first of these the resolution and amendment moved were as follows:—

"In view of the injury done to a large number of trades and Trade Unions by the wholesale importation of foreign destitute paupers, this Congress calls upon the Government to take the necessary steps, either by Bill, official inspection, or Order in Council, to prohibit the landing of all pauper aliens who have no visible means of subsistence."

Amendment—

"That this Congress regrets the passing of the resolution of last year, stopping the Immigration of Aliens into this country, as statistics show that emigration far exceeds immigration; but it is the capitalist system that sets the workers against each other, and as Trade Unionists we think that the only remedy lies in the union of all workers in this country."

The resolution was carried by 266 to 245. In respect to the Federation of Trade Unions, an elaborate scheme was presented by the Committee

appointed at Norwich last year to consider the subject, but this was rejected by 405 against 346.

The election of the Parliamentary Committee for the year was also made by ballot, and the Trades now represented on the Committee are:—Boot and Shoe Operatives, Carpenters and Joiners, Cotton Spinners, Cotton Weavers, Engineers, Gas-workers, Iron Moulders, Miners, Railway Servants, Seamen and Firemen, Shipwrights, and Steel-workers.

The balance-sheet of the Parliamentary Committee, as presented to Congress, showed an income for the year ending August 19th 1895, of £2,695 (balance from previous year included), and an expenditure of £1,590, the balance in hand being £1,105.

GAIN-SHARING.*

A REPORT, prepared for the Labour Department by Mr. Schloss, on "gain-sharing" and certain other systems of bonus on production has now been issued, forming a supplement to that on profit-sharing issued by the Department in 1894 (C.—7,458). The methods of remuneration dealt with in this Report are distinguished from profit-sharing by the fact that the bonus is a premium on efficiency of production irrespective of the financial results of the business. Thus, if the usual time occupied in the execution of a given piece of work be 5 hours, the employees may be told that, if they get the job done in 4, they shall receive, by way of premium, in addition to their regular wages for 4 hours, the whole or part of the price of the hour saved. This offer may be made either to an employee working single-handed, in which case the premium is "individual," or to a group of workmen working together, in which case the premium (divided between the members of the group in fixed proportions, generally in proportion to the amount earned by each as time-wages on the job) is "collective."

The first of the six schemes described in the Report is that adopted in 1887 by the Yale and Towne Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of locks and cranes, of Stamford, Conn., U.S.A. Under this system, termed by the Company "gain-sharing," the employees work in groups, each consisting of about 20 persons. Certain standard costs, including wages (partly time-wages, partly piece-wages), tools, and in some cases materials, are fixed. If the cost of the work is less than the standard cost, the workmen receive, by way of premium, a specified fraction of the difference between the actual and the standard cost. The premiums paid are stated to have "varied from 2.1 per cent. to 12.3 per cent. on wages." Owing, however, partly to the character of the work done in this establishment, but mainly to the extended introduction of piece-work, the gain-sharing scheme has now been almost entirely abandoned. The second scheme has been in force for some three years in the factory of the Rand Drill Company (makers of rock drills, &c.) at Sherbrooke, Canada. This "premium plan" bears a general resemblance to the Yale and Towne "gain-sharing" system, but has been applied exclusively to the remuneration of men working single-handed. It is stated that "the average increase of output due to the system has been from 25 to 35 per cent., and the proportion of the premiums has been such as to make the increased earnings for the workman rather less than one-half the saving to the Company."

Of the remaining schemes (all adopted in English workshops) one has been in force since January 1893 in certain lead works; the bonus (consisting of the difference between actual and standard wages-cost) is paid to the 20 employees as one group, and has been 10 per cent. on wages (time-wages) in 1893, and 1.65 per cent. in 1894. Scheme No. IV. is a system of collective bonus introduced in October 1889 in a skin-dressing factory—the standard costs here including establishment charges, &c. Bonuses of from 5 to 10 per cent. on wages (mostly time-wages) were paid in the different departments in 1890; but owing, partly to depression in trade, partly to an increase in wages, it has since been

* Gain-sharing (C.—7,848 of Session 1895). Price 6d.

found impossible to get the working costs below the specified standards.

The "reference rate" plan in force since January 1891 with Messrs. Willans & Robinson, Limited, of Thames Ditton, engine builders, fixes standard costs, usually in excess of average normal costs, and allots to the employees one-half of the difference between the actual cost of the work in time-wages and these standard costs. In the firm's works (in which part only of the work is done under the bonus scheme) the bonus (mainly individual) was in 1894 at the rate of 14.93 per cent. on the total wages received (for all work, whether done under the scheme or not) by those who have worked under the scheme; in the outside department (in which all the work is done under the scheme) the bonus (mainly collective) was in 1894 equal to 5.99 per cent. on wages.

Under the "good fellowship scheme," introduced towards the end of 1891 by the Thames Iron Works and Shipbuilding Company, Limited, at Blackwall, each of the different groups divides between its members as bonus the balance left after deducting the actual cost of the work in time-wages from the standard costs. The rate of bonus has varied greatly as between the different trades. Thus, the average bonus paid in 1892-94 inclusive was, for the drillers in the shipbuilding department, 39.76 per cent. on wages; blacksmiths, in the engineering department, 16.08; in the shipbuilding department, 11.52; brass finishers in the shipbuilding department, 12.41; coppersmiths in the shipbuilding department, 12.18; while in some cases much lower rates were earned (e.g., ironfounders, 0.79 per cent.; brassfounders, 0.58; carpenters, 0.28). Taking all trades in all the departments together, the bonus paid in 1891-94 inclusive has been at the average rate of 5.68 per cent. on wages.

IRISH MIGRATORY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1895.

IN the season of 1895, ending August 31st, the number of migratory labourers, who left the province of Connaught by rail and sea, varied but little from that of 1894, the figures showing an increase of 247 in the present year. The number from the county of Mayo remained almost stationary, being 18,452 in 1895 and 18,464 in 1894, while the number of those from other counties in Connaught, namely, Galway, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim were greater in 1895 by 259. The number of those who went by rail on the Midland Great Western system from other provinces, was very small, and scarcely changed, being 119 in 1895 and 123 in 1894.

Out of the total number (24,406) booked by rail and steamer in 1895, 75.6 per cent. came from the county of Mayo, or about a third of the male population of 20 years of age and upwards in that county.

A considerable number of the migratory labourers from Connaught do not only go for the harvest to England and Scotland, as the term "harvester," which is frequently applied to them, might imply, but start in the early spring to take part in the ordinary work upon farms, remaining away from Ireland in some cases as long as eight or nine months.

The Connaught men chiefly go to the Northern and Midland counties in England, namely, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Warwickshire, while a few also go to Scotland, Northumberland, Lincolnshire, and the northern part of Cambridgeshire. Practically, all the women from Connaught go to Scotland, usually by steamer to Glasgow. They are chiefly employed there putting down potatoes, thinning turnips, weeding, harvesting, and potato lifting. It is frequently the custom for merchants in Scotland to buy the potatoes when in the ground, and to undertake the lifting and carting. For this purpose they often communicate with a man in Ireland called a "gaffer," who takes a gang of young women over to assist in this work. The "gaffer" accompanies them from farm to farm, and makes all the necessary arrangements as to travelling, &c.

Nearly all the other migratory labourers come from the province of Ulster, and by far the larger proportion

of these come from Donegal. Most of them go by steamer from the northern ports either to Scotland or Northumberland. Some start as early as January, but a good many who only go for harvest do not start until August, as it is later in those districts.

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

Place of Booking.	1894.	1895.
By Rail.		
From Stations in Mayo (Connaught)	17,014	17,750
From other Stations in Connaught on the Midland Great Western Railway in the counties of Galway, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim	5,576	5,835
From Stations on the Midland Great Western Railway in other provinces	123	119
Total Booked on the Midland Great Western Railway	23,613	23,704
By Sea.		
By Steamer from Westport (Mayo) to Glasgow and Liverpool	500	603*
By Steamer from Ballina (Mayo) to Glasgow...	50	99
Grand Total	24,163	24,406

INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE CONGRESS.

THE second International Congress of Textile Workers sat at Ghent on August 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th. The number of delegates present was 47, claiming to represent 189,460 textile workers. Great Britain was represented by 24 delegates, Belgium by 18, and Germany by 3, France and Austria sending one delegate each. America, Denmark, and Holland, which last year sent delegates, were unrepresented.

At the Congress held last year in Manchester the question of the constitution of an International Textile Federation was referred to the Ghent Congress. It was this year decided to make a small beginning. A levy of £53 is to be collected. There is to be a Central Committee in Ghent, elected by the Ghent operatives, with a secretary and treasurer appointed by the Congress from among the Ghent delegates. Each country will also appoint its own national secretary for external relations. These national secretaries will be in communication with the central secretary at Ghent, and will constitute an International Committee, meeting once a year.

Resolutions were passed by the Congress in favour of compulsory closing of mills from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morning; of the abolition of overtime, all manufacturing processes to stop at 6 o'clock in the evening; of a legal 8-hours day; of the election of working-men representatives on public bodies, and of the selection of factory inspectors from a double list of candidates, presented by the workmen and by the Government. It was decided to hold the next Congress at Roubaix in 1897, and the suggestion was discussed that the Congress should be divided into three sectional committees, representing the card-room operatives, the spinners, and the weavers respectively.

TRADE UNION STATISTICS OF 1893.

THE Report on Trade Unions in 1893, by the chief Labour Correspondent to the Board of Trade, has now been issued. The Report states that the early unwillingness of some of the unions to supply information as to their operations has now almost entirely disappeared. It deals alike with registered and non-registered unions,

* Of these about 36 went to Liverpool and the remainder to Glasgow.

† The numbers booked by steamer are approximate, as no distinction is made between migratory labourers and other passengers. The Steam Packet Company consider that the proportion of the former to the latter is nine-tenths, and the above figures are calculated on that basis. The number booked from Sligo is not given, as the company state that it is impossible to distinguish them from other passengers. It is probable that some of those starting from Ballina came from Sligo.

but distinguishes the one from the other. It shows in its appendices the number of branches in each union, the number of members, and the proportion of such members that have been on each of the various benefits provided by the union during the year. A full and comprehensive directory of trade union secretaries is also included. An analysis is also given of the causes of mortality and disablement as shown by the reports of the unions which give such details.

Returns have been obtained from 687 trade unions. Of these 513 were registered under the Trade Union Act, and 174 were not so registered. As compared with the total of unions reporting in the previous year, there is here an increase of 31 registered and 57 unregistered societies.

Of the unions dealt with, 97 have local sections or branches. In these 97 unions the number of branches was 6,879 at the end of 1893. In addition to these registered and unregistered unions the Department had, at the end of 1893, knowledge of the existence of 118 other unregistered unions, of which no information is obtainable beyond the total number of their members, this being 90,660. There are also 41 other such unions of which even the membership could not be obtained, but it is not believed that any of them are of great importance.

The total number of members of the 687 unions for which accounts have been received (exclusive of 4 which made no return on that head), was 1,270,789. The total funds in hand at the beginning of the year amounted to £1,902,397, and at the end of the year to £1,653,068, the total income for the year being £1,996,971, and the expenditure £2,246,515.

For the purpose of comparison between 1893 and 1892, the returns as to membership, income and expenditure, are available for 534 unions which have supplied details for both years:—

	1892.	1893.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1893, com- pared with 1892.
Total Membership at end of year	1,195,932	1,166,922	- 29,010
Total Annual Income	1,749,099	1,897,300	+ 148,201
Total Annual Expenditure*	1,720,983	2,157,160	+ 436,177
Total Funds at end of year	1,820,434	1,556,163	- 264,271
Amount expended on—			
Out-of-work benefits	384,789	495,046	+ 110,257
Dispute benefit... ..	447,734	704,146	+ 256,412
Sick benefit	214,457	235,798	+ 21,341
Accident benefit	17,819	25,678	+ 7,859
Superannuation benefit	105,975	116,615	+ 10,640
Funeral benefit... ..	82,929	90,611	+ 7,682
Other benefits, grants, &c.	130,186	164,157	+ 33,971
Working and other expenses... ..	334,123	324,335	- 9,788

The classes of unions mostly affected by this diminution in aggregate numbers are those representing the less skilled branches of industry. Fourteen unions of men engaged in transport and other branches of such labour show a decrease of 37,000 on the year. In the mining and quarrying group of trades eight of the unions show a loss of 8,000 members.

Although a fall in membership is thus shown, there was an increase in total income of nearly 8½ per cent. This is explained by the fact that in the class of unions to which the loss of members is chiefly due the contributions are the lowest, while in the organisations of the skilled trades in which contributions are highest there has been an increase of membership. In many unions also, when the funds begin to fall below a certain limit, the contributions of the members are increased in proportion. It is also to be remembered that, owing to the long duration of extensive labour disputes in 1893, great sums of money were in special ways contributed to certain unions for their support, and this tends further to increase the gross income of the year.

* As some unions did not report the details of their expenditure, the total annual expenditure given here slightly exceeds the total of amounts expended in the undermentioned heads.

THE DISPUTE IN THE DUNDEE TEXTILE TRADES.

A DISPUTE, involving eventually about 32,000 operatives engaged in the Jute and Linen Trades in Dundee and Lochee, began on Saturday, August 17th.

Two days previously, at a meeting convened by the Dundee and District Mill and Factory Operatives' Union, it had been decided to apply to the Trade Committee of employers in those trades for an advance of wages in the first week of September.

On the following day, before any answer had been received from the Trade Committee, the boys employed at one establishment, when receiving their pay, demanded an immediate advance, and this being refused, about 100 boys struck work the next day. The boys and younger workers at several large mills followed suit, thereby making it impossible for work to be carried on, and on Tuesday, August 20th, at the end of the day, 10,000 operatives of all kinds were idle.

The employers, at an informal meeting on Tuesday, decided that the advance in wages could not be conceded, and on the following day 4,000 more operatives left work, the strike which had at first involved the majority of workers against their will being each day more generally supported when the decision of the employers had been made known. At one firm an advance of 5 per cent. was conceded, and the stoppage only lasted for four hours.

On Thursday, August 22nd, the number idle rose to 18,000. A proposal was made to the Trade Committee, on behalf of the strikers that they would return to work immediately if an advance of 5 per cent. were conceded. The Trade Committee, however, refused this advance, and drew up an agreement binding the signatories under a penalty of £500 not to advance the present rate of wages, and, if necessary, to close their works during the continuance of the strike. The agreement was ultimately signed by 47 firms.

During the following week the dispute extended to Lochee, and by Thursday, August 29th, the number of operatives who had left work had risen to upwards of 30,000.

The great majority of the operatives belonged to no trade society, and, in view of the determined attitude of the employers, a mass meeting was held on Friday, August 30th, when it was resolved that work should be resumed, and that the workers should wait for the proper time to discuss the question of an increase of wages. About 2,000 were at work on the following day, and on Monday, September 2nd, there was a general resumption of work.

SLIDING SCALE FOR MINERS IN FIFE.

A SLIDING scale agreement has been signed for the regulation of wages at the collieries belonging to the Earl of Rosslyn, one of the principal features of which is the fixing of a minimum, below which wages shall not fall while the agreement remains in force.

The following is the text of the two most important clauses:—

First.—The minimum wages shall be those at present payable at the above collieries for hewing and shift work, viz., those payable under the rates of the year 1888, with 12½ per cent. added. Wages shall never fall below this minimum.

Second.—Subject to the above rule as to a minimum wage, it is agreed that the rate of wages shall be regulated by a sliding scale, which shall start with the rate current in the year 1888 as a basis; and the rise and fall of wages above that rate shall be 12½ per cent. of that rate for every shilling by which the realised price of steam coal, delivered free on board, from Lord Rosslyn's collieries at Dysart, Burntisland, Methil, and Charlestown Docks, shall vary over 5s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. Thus, when the realised f.o.b. price is 6s. 6d. per ton, wages will be the 1888 rates plus 12½ per cent. When the realised f.o.b. price is 7s. 6d. per ton, wages will be the 1888 rates plus 25 per cent. When the realised f.o.b. price is 8s. 6d. per ton, wages will be the 1888 rates plus 37½ per cent. And so on—advances and reductions to be made to the nearest one per cent. shown by the accountants' ascertainment.

The agreement also makes provision for the appointment of accountants for a quarterly ascertainment, for the termination of the agreement, if desired, by a three months' notice, and for the interpretation of any disputed points in the agreement by an Arbitrator.

APPRENTICESHIP IN AMERICA.

THE Fourth Biennial Report of the Minnesota Bureau of Labour (1893-4) deals, *inter alia*, with the apprenticeship system and the attitude of organisations of workmen and employers with regard to the limitation and the

instruction of apprentices, and to such substitutes for apprenticeship as trade schools. The strike statistics of New York, the United States, and Great Britain, are examined with a view to discovering the trades in which disputes as to apprenticeship questions are most frequent. The result is to show that in New York such disputes are chiefly confined to four industries (clothiers' cutters, glass-workers, plumbers, and silversmiths). In the United States generally, the mass of such disputes have been among bricklayers, glass-blowers, moulders, and weavers (35 disputes in six years, involving 5,914 strikers). With a view to ascertain the conditions of apprenticeship in various trades in the State, enquiries were addressed by the Labour Bureau in 1893 to a large number of individual members of trade unions. Altogether returns were received from 1,985 persons, of whom 58½ per cent. were born in the United States and 41½ per cent. abroad. Of the total number, 1,624 are recorded as having learned their trade in the United States and 361 abroad.

The following table, based on the statistics given in the Report, summarises briefly the information obtained as to the term of apprenticeship in various trades included in the enquiry:—

Groups of Trades.	Number who learnt Trade in		Average years of Apprenticeship.	
	U.S.A.	Foreign Countries.	Trade learnt in U.S.A.	Trade learnt Abroad.
A.—Trades with some regular system of apprenticeship:—				
Stone-cutting	79	57	2'80	4'01
Building	80	59	3'36	3'86
Metal and Engineering	169	34	3'86	4'41
Printing and Bookbinding	433	58	4'72	5'05
Furnishing and Wood-working	46	11	2'54	3'64
Miscellaneous	204	129	3'02	3'61
B.—Trades formerly at least without regular apprenticeship system:—				
Railway Service	322	4	...	...
Flour Packers	169	—	...	...
Miscellaneous	122	9	...	...
Total	1,624	361	...	...

The following summary classifies further the persons who learnt their trade in the United States according to the length of apprenticeship:—

Groups of Trades.	Number whose period of Apprenticeship was as under—						Total.
	7 years and more.	5 years and under 7.	3 years and under 5.	1 year and under 3.	Under 1 year.	Not stated.	
A.—Trades with some regular system of apprenticeship:—							
Stone-cutting	—	2	46	31	—	—	79
Building	—	8	65	6	—	—	80
Metal and Engineering	2	26	130	5	—	6	169
Printing and Bookbinding	17	228	168	6	—	14	433
Furnishing and Wood-working... ..	1	5	21	10	9	—	46
Miscellaneous	—	10	163	22	5	4	204
B.—Trades formerly at least without regular apprenticeship system:—							
Railway Service... ..	62	99	117	20	2	22	322
Flour Packers	74	23	30	25	5	12	169
Miscellaneous	36	24	35	19	5	3	122
Total	192	425	775	144	26	62	1,624

The Report gives a detailed account of the laws and regulations of American trade and labour and employers' organisations with regard to apprentices. It concludes that the regulation of apprenticeship by trade unions has, as a rule, followed as a natural corollary to the transfer of the duty of instructing apprentices from employer to journeymen, and quotes the exceptional case of a trade (horse-shoeing) possessing organisations, both of employers and employed, in which the "regulation, limitation, and instruction of apprentices comes mainly from the employers, and not from the employed." Trade schools have chiefly been confined to the Building Trades, where they appear, in some cases, to have caused disputes as to the rights of control and regulation on the part of the journeymen's unions.

EIGHT HOURS' EXPERIMENT IN A
RUSSIAN MILL.

AN experimental reduction of working hours was undertaken in May 1894 in a paper mill at Dobrush, in the province of Moghilev. The result has been described by M. Stulchinsky, the director of the mill, in a pamphlet, copy of which has been obtained for the Department by Mr. Michell, H.M. Consul-General at St. Petersburg.

M. Stulchinsky states that the working hours in his mill, prior to the change described below, were typical of those in all other Russian paper mills, and differed only slightly from the hours of paper-makers in other European countries.

The processes requiring continuous work were attended to by a day and a night-shift, each working 12 hours on 6 days of the week, while, once a week, when a change of shifts took place, each had to work continuously for 18 hours. Though holidays are fairly frequent (from 27 to 30 in the year), these men had only three free Sundays in the year. Such conditions were held to be incompatible with the health and efficiency of the men, and a change was made on May 4, 1894, from two 12-hour shifts to three 8-hour shifts, in such a way as to entail little or no extra working expense to the mill. In order to complete the third shift, 15 more men had to be engaged, bringing the total number of shift workers to 193. It was found that the 193 men engaged on three shifts worked 120 days more in a month than 178 men on the two shifts system. Assuming that the average rate of daily wage remained as before (at 1s. 3½d.), an extra charge of £7 16s. 6d. during the first four months of the experiment was anticipated. The actual amount paid in wages to the 193 men between May 1 and October 1, 1894, however, came to £1,328 10s., being £10 10s. more than was paid to the 178 men during the corresponding period of 1893, or 2s. 7d. per head less per month for the original set of men. The extra cost in wages does not amount to 1 per cent., and there has been no other additional expenditure. The difference, as compared with the estimate, arose from the fact that in re-organising the work the reductions in the number of better paid workmen were greater than in the case of the less well paid men, and also from a lowering of the average rate by the 15 new men, who were only required for the inferior kinds of work at 10d. a day.

The new arrangement, besides reducing the working hours from 12 to 8 on 6 days of the week, secures for each shift in turn a full 24 hours' rest on the seventh day, while two shifts work 12 hours each. A reduction was also made in the hours of operatives working only by day. Instead of 10½ hours from Monday to Saturday inclusive, they now work 10 hours from Monday to Friday and 5½ hours on Saturday. This change was made on the express condition that both in quantity and quality the work should be the same as before.

M. Stulchinsky states that the operatives have conscientiously fulfilled the obligations they undertook in return for the more favourable conditions of work, that the product has suffered neither in quality nor quantity, and that a great improvement is observable in the health and spirits of the men.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—It is too late in the year for ordinary emigrants, other than domestic servants, to emigrate to Canada. A report from Montreal states that hundreds of labourers went to Manitoba to assist in harvest work, and that the depression of the local labour market was thereby materially relieved. A report from Toronto states that there are still a great many mechanics and general labourers out of employment, and that it "is a cruelty to send more clerks, light porters, &c." A report from the Muskoka district of Ontario states that "wages are too high to allow a profit from farming on a large scale, but for the working man," who can rough it, there are excellent openings for making a living. At St. John, in New Brunswick, there has been a "fair demand" in the Building Trades, but no demand in other trades. A correspondent on Vancouver Island states that in his district farmers prefer Japanese to English farm labourers. A report from Winnipeg, in Manitoba, states that there is no demand for labourers or mechanics, but a fair demand for general female servants, housemaids and cooks. The harvest in the North-West appears to have been excellent, but no demand for labour is reported now.

New South Wales.—There is no demand for more labour in New South Wales. The new Information Bureau at the Lands' Office is now in full operation, and affords every facility for intending settlers on the land; the homestead selection, or perpetual leasehold system, is preferred to all other methods of taking up land, as it requires less capital. A sum of £100,000 is to be devoted to prepare some of the Crown land for settlement, and at the same time to provide local work for bush-workers; the money will be a charge upon the land so improved.

Victoria.—There is no demand for more labour at the present time. The report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1894, which has just been received, states that though the number of factories registered in 1894 was more than that in most previous years, the number of persons employed was less than in any year since 1886, which shows the continued depression in the Colony. Some of the worst trades were the Boot Trade, which suffered from a five months' strike, caused by the introduction of labour-saving machinery; the Clothing Trade; and the Furniture Trade, owing to Chinese competition.

Queensland.—A report from the district of Mitchell, in the centre of the Colony, states:—"The supply of farm and station hands exceeds the demand, except during the shearing months; the demand for married men is limited." A report from Bundaberg states that labour is abundant, and that wages tend downwards. The Building Trades at Rockhampton have been busy, and considerable quantities of timber and joinery have been sent inland from the local factories.

Western Australia.—Gold continues to be found in considerable quantities—especially at the Coolgardie and Murchison gold fields—but the production this year as compared with that of 1894 has not hitherto shown much increase. The construction of the railway to Coolgardie gives employment to many; the plate-layers recently struck for 10s. a day wages instead of the 8s. offered.

New Zealand.—A correspondent in Taranaki states that co-operative dairy factories are largely on the increase, but that the prices of milk, butter, and young cattle have fallen. A report from Auckland states that carpenters have been doing better than for a long time previously, but that other mechanics and farm hands are not wanted; general female servants are wanted, but not women outside this class. At Napier, Dunedin, and Invercargill the Building Trades were very slack in June, but were fairly busy at Wellington and Christchurch. As might be expected, during the winter months considerable numbers of general labourers were out of employment in nearly all parts of the Colony, but the return of spring is likely to make work more plentiful. Taking New Zealand as a whole the depression is certainly less than it was. The prices of Kauri gum and wheat have risen, and timber has been in better demand; land settlement is progressing, and dairy-farming is increasing, and the revival of mining has been especially noticeable.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in August.—Work was somewhat less plentiful in August than in July, in consequence of certain trades, e.g., ready-made clothing, hat-making and the preparation of foods, &c., passing through their slack season. The percentage of trade union members returned as idle was 5, compared with 4.2 in July.

In the *Building Trades*, stone-cutters, painters, and plasterers reported considerably larger percentages, and masons a slightly smaller percentage of unemployed than in July. Marble-workers continued slack. *Metal Trades*.—Blast-furnacemen and iron-moulders reported fewer idle than in July, while tin-plate workers, boiler-smiths, and engineering operatives reported larger percentages unemployed. *Mining, &c.*—Colliers continued slack, and quarrymen busy. *Textiles*.—All

* From information supplied by the Office du Travail.

branches, except lace, continued busy. In the *Clothing Trades*, glove-makers continued fully occupied, none being returned as idle; while among boot and shoe-makers 9 per cent. were reported out of work, as in the previous month. *Glass-workers*.—No improvement as compared with July, when 22 per cent. were reported idle.

Labour Disputes in August.—Twenty-three fresh disputes occurred in August, compared with 35 in July and 33 in August 1894. Eight of the fresh disputes were in the Textile Trades, 4 each among leather-workers and navvies, 3 among miners and quarrymen, and 4 in unclassified trades. The total number of workpeople engaged in 19 of the fresh disputes, for which full particulars are available, was 1,240; the largest number involved in a single strike being 238—a successful strike of iron miners of Ludres (Meurthe-et-Moselle), against a reduction of wages. Eight old disputes were outstanding at the beginning of August, the most serious being that of the glass-workers of Carmaux (referred to in last month's GAZETTE), in which 1,330 workpeople belonging to two factories are engaged. On August 6th the men decided to resume work, waiving their demand for the re-instatement of the two men whose dismissal led to the strike. The subsequent closing of the works by the manager, and the declaration of his intention to dismiss some of the men and to reduce wages, caused a renewal of the strike on the 18th of August. Twenty disputes were settled during August, the workpeople being unsuccessful in 11 and successful in 5, the remaining 4 being settled by compromise.

Conciliation and Arbitration.—Three cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported in August. One was in connection with the strike of glass-workers of Carmaux referred to above. The manager of the works has refused the mediation proposed by the *juge de paix* on the ground that the question under dispute cannot be settled by arbitration. A board of conciliation convened by the *juge de paix* has failed to settle a strike of weavers at an establishment in Vienne, and the works have been placed under interdict by the operatives. Arbitration was resorted to on August 27th, in a strike of iron-moulders at two iron works in Niort, in which conciliation had been tried without success. The award being largely in favour of the operatives, they have resumed work at one of the establishments.

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes.—Twenty-four fresh disputes, and 4 outstanding since previous months, were reported on during August, in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*. Six of the fresh disputes were in the Building Trades, an equal number in the Metal Trades, 4 in the Clothing Trades (3 being among boot and shoe operatives), 3 among leather workers, and 5 in unclassified trades. Seven of the disputes begun in August were general. The journeyman painters and varnishers of Leipzig struck on August 26th for a 9-hours day and minimum wages of 5.4d. per hour. At the end of the month 22 masters employing 200 journeymen were reported to have conceded these demands, while 500 men remained on strike. Those at work undertook to subscribe 5s. a week each if single, and 3s. if married, in support of their colleagues. The stone-setters of Leipzig struck on August 10th for a 9-hours day and 6d. per hour, in lieu of 10-hours a day at 5.4d. per hour for superior workmen only. On the 15th of August 180 men were said to be on strike and 47 to have left the town, while 12 continued to work. General strikes of iron-moulders took place in Krefeld and Greifswald, owing to differences on the question of wages, the former ending adversely for the men, and the latter remaining unsettled at the end of the month. A general strike of file-cutters in Erfurt, due to the employers' refusal to accede to a new price list, and a general strike of tanners in Arnstadt for a 10-hours day, were also in progress at the end of August, while a general strike of Berlin trunk-makers had ended adversely for the men. Of the general strikes reported on in last month's GAZETTE, that of the masons at Halle was declared at an end on August 25th, owing, it was said, to there being little prospect of further success. The strike of masons in Plauen ended adversely for the men. The workpeople were successful in 5, unsuccessful in 5, and partially successful in 4, out of a total of 14 strikes reported as terminated in August.

State Bank for Promoting Co-operative Credit.—A Prussian law, promulgated on July 31st, provides for the establishment of a central institution at Berlin for facilitating personal credit, more especially by assisting co-operative credit societies.

The institution is to be called "the 'Preussische Central-Genossenschaftskasse' (Prussian Central Co-operative Fund), and is to be conducted by Government officials. A sum of £250,000, in 3 per cent. stock, has been assigned to it as initial capital, and it has been authorised to grant loans to co-operative associations fulfilling certain conditions, to accept investments at interest from such associations and to engage in banking business generally.

For advising in business matters, a consultative committee of experts is to be appointed, on which societies and others having regular business dealings with the institution are to be represented "as far as possible."

At the annual conference of German Trade and Economic Associations, based on self-help, which met at Augsburg at the end of August, a resolution was passed declaring the acceptance of State aid, such as the new bank will offer, to be contrary to the principles of the associations.

SWITZERLAND.

Labour Disputes.—Reports of four fresh disputes appeared in *Der Grüllianer* during August. In Thun, owing to the alleged failure of the Associated Employers in the Tailoring Trade to adhere to the price list, their shops have been placed under interdict by the Swiss Federation of Journeymen Tailors. The strike of Bâle ribbon weavers, the termination of which was reported in last month's GAZETTE, broke out anew, owing to the dissatisfaction of the operatives with the mode in which the average wage was calculated. A speedy settlement was effected on terms favourable to the workpeople. A strike of brewers at an establishment in Biel, ascribed to non-observance of the factory rules on the part of the employer, was settled by compromise; while a strike of lasters at a boot and shoe factory in Winterthur, due to a reduction in piece rates, remained unsettled at the end of the month.

Wages of Factory Operatives.—The following statement of the wages of factory operatives in North-east Switzerland is based on the statistics recently compiled by Dr. F. Schuler, factory inspector for the district (see April GAZETTE, page 119).

Statement showing the number of persons whose wages were ascertained in the three chief industries of North-east Switzerland, and the proportion per cent. earning the under-mentioned daily rates of wages:—

	INDUSTRIES.		
	Cotton.	Silk.	Metal and Engineering.
Number of persons (men, women and children) whose wages were ascertained	27,356	12,088	11,017
Percentage whose daily wages were as under:—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1 franc* and under	2.3	2.4	2.0
fr. 1.01 to fr. 1.50	13.0	13.0	5.5
fr. 1.51 to fr. 2.00	31.8	22.2	4.9
fr. 2.01 to fr. 2.50	23.6	19.2	3.7
fr. 2.51 to fr. 3.00	12.1	17.2	6.6
fr. 3.01 to fr. 4.00	11.0	19.7	32.5
fr. 4.01 to fr. 5.00	2.9	6.0	24.5
Over 5 francs	1.3	0.3	20.3
	100.0	100.0	100.0

The industries dealt with in the above table include 78 per cent. of all workers in establishments in the district coming under the Federal Factory Act, while 80 per cent. of the cotton and silk operatives and 88½ per cent. of the engineering and metal operatives are included. In compiling the data on which the table is based Dr. Schuler made use of the factory pay lists. Whenever those only gave a record of fixed yearly or monthly wages the daily wage was obtained by dividing by 300 in the former, and by 25 in the latter case. The yearly value of such allowances as board, lodging, fuel, light, or the use of a plot of land, has been estimated, and divided by 300, and added to the daily money wage. Premiums, gratuities, &c. have only been included where they formed a permanent factor in the worker's income. Fines or voluntary contributions to provident funds have not been deducted in calculating the daily wage.

BELGIUM.

Activity in Building Trades.—According to *Le Peuple*, of August 9th, the Building Trades were very busy, and some difficulty was experienced in finding enough men to enable contracts to be completed in time.

Labour Disputes.—Four fresh disputes were reported in *Le Peuple* during August, viz.:—2 among textile operatives and 1

* The franc=9d.

each among colliers and gun-foundry operatives. The colliers' strike, which was the most serious, was due to a 10 per cent. reduction of wages of miners in different parts of the Borinage coalfield. After a few days the men, who were said to number 4,000, resumed work at the lower rate. The remaining strikes, none of which were settled at the end of August, were confined to single establishments, and were unimportant.

HOLLAND.

THE following is based on information furnished by Sir H. Rumbold, H.M. Minister at the Hague, under date of September 9th:—

Cigar Makers' Strike.—The workpeople belonging to a factory in Amsterdam went on strike in the end of July, owing to the employer's refusal to re-instate a workman who had been dismissed. A combination of cigar factory owners then issued a circular to the members of the "Dutch International Cigar and Tobacco Makers' Union" stating that they would close their works if the strikers in the above-named factory did not at once resume work. To this circular the Union replied by calling out their members (about 700).

In a second circular the united employers made certain concessions, which were not, however, favourably received by the Trade Union, the members of which, it appears, are in receipt of liberal strike pay. The men decline to resume work except under a contract of their own wording, the conditions of which are regarded by the employers as too stringent. The strike, therefore, continues, but the Cigar Trade, it is said, does not suffer, as cigars are made as cheaply in the smaller towns, especially Kampen. One consequence of the strike has been the formation of a Cigar Manufacturers' Federation.

Provision against Accident and Sickness in Dutch Factories.—The following particulars are based on tables given on pages 210 to 213 of the Netherlands Labour Inspectors' Reports for 1894, and relate to the second district of inspection, which comprises the provinces of Friesland, Overijssel, Groningen, Drente, and the portion of Gelderland, north of the left bank of the Rhine. The total number of factories and workshops visited in this district in 1894 was 428, employing 13,955 workpeople.

Statement showing the nature of the provision made for workpeople in factories and workshops in the 2nd District of Inspection, visited by the Inspector in 1894.

Table with columns: Nature of Provision, No. of Work-people, Pro-portion per cent. of all work-people in establishments visited. (a) Provision against Accidents.

Table with columns: Nature of Provision, No. of Work-people, Pro-portion per cent. of all work-people in establishments visited. (b) Provision against Sickness.

Workers in the Diamond Industry.—From reports presented at the International Diamond Workers' Congress, which began its sittings in Amsterdam on August 24th, being attended by Dutch, Belgian, French, German and Swiss delegates, it appears that there are from 10,000 to 11,000 diamond workers in Amsterdam, 8,000 of these belonging to the General Dutch Federation of Diamond Workers. The Antwerp diamond workers are organised in several small unions, having no connection one with the other. Geneva has 200 workers in this trade. The power of their union is said to have been somewhat shaken by a strike of 6 months' duration. The best paid workers of the trade are said to be in Saint-Claude (France), which has 450 diamond workers. Their hours are 9½ per day. At Hanau and Idar, in the Principality of Oldenburg, diamond working has only been carried on since 1873, and employs 230 men, all of whom belong to a union.—Deutscher Reichsanzeiger.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Exemptions from Provisions of Sunday Labour Law.—Under date of August 21st, Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, has reported the issue of a Ministerial Order of August 11th extending and amending the Ministerial Order of April 24th last, exempting certain trades from the provisions of the Sunday Labour Law, referred to in the GAZETTE of March last, page 87. The new order specifies the conditions under which Sunday labour is permitted in wood pulp, paper and cardboard, corn and sugar mills, waterworks, and the performance of music. Some slight changes are made in the provisions as to Sunday work in the Natural and Artificial Flower Trades and the Confectionery Trade.

Labour Disputes.—Twenty-one fresh disputes, and seven outstanding since previous months, were reported on in Austrian labour papers during August. Seven of the fresh disputes were in the Metal Trades, three each among building operatives and glass workers, two each in the Clothing, Leather, and Food-preparing Trades, and one each among miners and cardboard-makers.

Five of the fresh disputes were general, four of these being in the Province of Galicia (building operatives, tanners and bakers of Stanislau, and millers of Kolomea), and one—a strike of building operatives—in Gablonz (Bohemia).

Through the mediation of the factory inspector and the Mayor the strike in the Building Trades in Stanislau was settled after three days, the men's demands—including a 10 hours day—being conceded; the millers of Kolomea resumed work on obtaining some slight concession; while the building operatives of Gablonz—whose demands include the 10-hours day—and the tanners and bakers of Stanislau, were still out at the end of August.

About 1,400 workers employed by a firm of enamelled ware makers of Vienna were out at the end of August, the movement originating in a strike of 150 tinsmiths on August 24th against a reduction of wages.

Out of eight strikes reported during the month as terminated, four ended favourably and one unfavourably for the workers; in the remaining three they were partly successful. Among those which ended in favour of the workers were the strikes of indoor painters of Vienna and building operatives of Przemyśl, reported on in last month's GAZETTE.

Contraventions of the Accident Insurance Law.—A loss of £2,832 was sustained during the second quarter of 1895, by the Accident Insurance Institute of Lower Austria, owing to false returns of wages made during that period by employers desirous of lowering the amount of their assessment for the insurance of their workers against accidents. In 231 convictions the sum understated exceeded 500 florins (£41 13s. 4d.).

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Garment Workers' Strike.—Reporting under date of August 9th, Mr. Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, states that this strike has practically come to an end, the contractors having in almost every instance conceded the demands of the workers.

PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on information supplied by Captain R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, under date of August 27th:—

Carpet Weavers' Strike.—A strike of 3,000 ingrain weavers in Philadelphia, which was declared in the second week in July, has ended in favour of the weavers. The strike was due to the refusal of the manufacturers to return a portion of the 12½ per cent. reduction made during the business depression. The weavers made

their first demand in February last, when several firms promised to advance the wages in May following, if the weavers would remain at their looms. When the promised advance was not forthcoming in May, the weavers made another demand, and were asked to wait until June, in which month they were again requested to wait. The weavers then organised and presented a schedule of wages to the manufacturers calling for an advance of 7½ per cent. The operatives demand having been refused by the mill owners, a strike ensued, by which, it is said more than 10,000 persons were affected (see June GAZETTE, page 183). The new uniform price list insures an advance of 7½ per cent. to the best paid weavers, and at several mills the increase amounts, it is said, to 12½ per cent.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR AUGUST.

Imports.—The total declared value of the imports for August last was £34,611,000, or 9.4 per cent. in excess of the value for August 1894, when, however, the imports were £31,639,000 only, or considerably below the average for August in the three preceding years (1891-3), viz., £34,198,000. The figures for the first eight months of the year (£273,391,000) are slightly below the total (£274,430,000) for the corresponding period last year, and the average (£274,885,000) for the period 1891-3.

The following table shows the declared value of the imports, grouped in large classes, for the months ending August 31st 1895, and 1894 respectively:—

Table with columns: Class of Goods, August 1895, August 1894, Increase, Decrease.

The increase in the import of wheat still goes on, amounting this month to a million and a quarter cwts., the increase in value being £531,176. The increase in value of sugar, amounted to £176,407. But the most striking increase under the first head is that of tea, amounting to over ten million lbs., the increase in value being £418,722. Under the head of raw materials, the increase in sheep and lambs' wool, amounting to £249,538 or over 22 per cent. is the most noticeable. Cotton has decreased by 41,191 cwts., and by £143,424. Among the manufactured articles, there are increases of £207,482 in leather, and £275,384 in silk.

British and Irish Exports.—The exports (£20,481,000) during August show a great recovery on the low figures (£18,581,000) for 1894. The increase amounts to nearly two millions sterling, or over 10 per cent. As compared, however, with the average (£20,084,000) for the three preceding years (1891-93) the increase amounts to only about 2 per cent. The total (£147,158,000) for the eight months, ending August 1895, is considerably more than the figures (£143,863,000) for the corresponding period of 1894, but is still below the average (£155,006,000) for the period 1891-3.

The following table shows the declared value in pounds sterling of the exports, grouped in large classes, for the months ending August 31st 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Table with columns: Class of Goods, August 1895, August 1894, Increase, Decrease.

The increase under the third head in the above table is distributed over almost all the textile products. Woollen and worsted tissues and manufactures have increased by £675,370, and woollen and worsted yarn by £101,713. Cotton yarn by £24,953, and cotton manufactures by £176,936. Under raw materials coal shows an increase in value of £40,736, but the exports for the eight months of the year are over a million and a half sterling less than those for the corresponding period of last year. The principal increase among the metals is that of iron and steel of all kinds, amounting to £136,538. Steam engines show a decrease, but machinery of most kinds an increase, especially mining machinery, which shows an increase of nearly 82 per cent. (£28,121), the increase for the eight months being about 64 per cent.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—For the

month of August the value of these was £6,189,702 as against £5,127,380 in August 1894, an increase of £1,062,322.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom during August from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 3,023,854 tons as compared with 2,854,596 tons in 1894, an increase of 169,258 tons. The tonnage of vessels cleared was 3,528,449 tons as against 3,224,133 tons last year, an increase of 304,316 tons. The tonnage of vessels entered Coastwise amounted to 2,828,610 tons as compared with 2,716,532 tons in August 1894, and of those cleared to 2,676,178 tons as against 2,615,762 in August 1894.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The number of bales of raw cotton imported during August was about 12 per cent. less than in August 1894, but more bales were exported and sent from ports to inland towns than a year ago. The following are the figures for the two periods, respectively:—

Table with columns: Imports, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, Exports, Bales.

Traffic Receipts.—During the five weeks ended 31st August the total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom were £401,029 in excess of those in the corresponding period of last year, the figures being respectively £8,474,507 and £8,073,478. From passenger traffic the receipts amounted to £4,621,682 and from goods to £3,852,825, being increases as compared with a year ago of £173,919 and £227,110.

Fishing Statistics.—The total declared value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during August was £864,762, as compared with £721,346 in August of last year. The increase is greatest in Scotland, where it amounts to £127,602, the figures for the two periods being £392,519 and £264,917 respectively. In England and Wales there was an increase of £16,317, and in Ireland a falling off of £503.

British Corn.—The price of British wheat in the last week of August averaged 1s. 3d. per quarter more than in the corresponding week of 1894, but was 3d. lower than in the last week of July. Barley and oats were both cheaper than a year ago, but while, as compared with the previous month, oats had fallen from 15s. 11d. per quarter to 14s. 5d., barley had risen from 19s. 10d. to 23s. 5d. The average prices for the three classes of grain in the last week of August 1895 and 1894 were as follows:—

Table with columns: Average price per Quarter in August 1895, August 1894, Increase, Decrease.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankruptcies gazetted in August last was 13 less than in the corresponding month of 1894, 87 less than in August 1893, and 8 more than in August 1892. The following are the figures:—

Table with columns: August, Eight months ending August, 1895, 1894, 1893, 1892.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The total number of British and foreign passengers who left the United Kingdom during August for places out of Europe shows an increase of nearly 29 per cent. over the number in August 1894, the figures for the two periods being respectively 37,469 and 29,059.

British and Irish.—Of these 37,469 passengers, 25,184 were British or Irish, an increase, as compared with a year ago, of 5,143. This increase is mainly in passengers to the United States and South Africa; to British North America there has been a slight falling off. The figures are as follows:—

Table with columns: United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, August 1895, August 1894.

Foreign.—In addition to the above passengers, there were 12,285 foreigners and others whose nationality was not stated, being 3,267 more than in August 1894.

Alien Immigration.—As compared with August 1894, there was an increase last month in the number of aliens who arrived from the Continent at ports in the United Kingdom, the number (9,543) being 2,783 more than a year ago. A great part of the increase, however, was in the number of aliens stated to be en route to America, for while in August 1894 only 2,962 of the alien immigrants were so described, the number last month was 5,034. Aliens not stated to be en route to America numbered last month 4,509 (including 964 sailors), as against 3,798 (including 781 sailors) in August of last year.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

The first International Co-operative Congress was held in London on August 19th to 24th. It was convened by the Co-operative Union—as representing British Co-operators—and the International Co-operative Alliance, an organisation formed as a result of several informal conferences held at past Co-operative Congresses. Fifty-five British organisations had qualified for sending delegates, but no record of the number actually represented is obtainable. The following table shows the number of foreign delegates present and organisations represented:—

Countries.	No. of foreign delegates present.	No. of organisations represented.
France	9	7
Belgium	4	1
Holland	2	1
Servia	1	1
Italy	6	2
Germany	1	1
Switzerland	2	2
United States	1	1
Total	26	16

The most important subject of discussion was the proposal to found an International Co-operative Alliance for the establishment of direct trading relations between the co-operators of different countries, as well as for propagandist purposes. The constitution of the Alliance as ultimately adopted provides that the objects of the Alliance are: (a) to make known the co-operators of each country and their work to the co-operators of all other countries, (b) to elucidate true co-operative principles, (c) to establish international commercial relations among co-operators. The Alliance will act as much as possible through existing organisations. It will have a Central Committee and Sectional Councils—there being one or more sections in each country—and there will be an Executive Bureau, or Office Committee, appointed by the Central Committee, and sitting in London. Next Congress is to be held next year in Paris, when a revised constitution will be presented by the Committee, and after that at least one Congress in three years. Subscriptions until next Congress are to be at least 2s. for individuals, and £1 for an organisation. The following were appointed a Central Committee, with power to add to their number:—Earl Grey (president), Miss Tournier, Messrs. J. C. Gray, E. O. Greening, Aneurin Williams, and H. W. Wolff (Great Britain), E. de Boyve and Charles Robert (France), E. Cavalieri and L. Luzzatti (Italy), Dr. Crüger (Germany), d'Andrimont and Micha (Belgium), and N. O. Nelson (U.S.A.). A proposal that all societies joining the Alliance should declare their adherence to the principles laid down by the Congress (including approval of profit-sharing) was withdrawn, it being pointed out that the effect would be to exclude the English Co-operative Wholesale Society. Other subjects discussed were "Co-operative Production and Profit-sharing," "Co-operative or People's Banks," "Co-operative Distribution," and "Agricultural Co-operation."

LABOUR CASES IN AUGUST.

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 in another column.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Leeds County Court (reported August 16th).—Widow of gasman, who died from falling into a tank of boiling water, sued his employers for compensation. The tank was level with the ground, and had no protection. At the spot where the plaintiff was passing there was a space of about 18 inches between the edge of the tank and a travelling steam crane. After the occurrence of the accident the

tank was covered by two iron lids. The defence alleged contributory negligence, contending that the route taken by the deceased was not a proper one, and that he could have gone by two other ways, though these were more circuitous, without having to pass the tank. Verdict and judgment for plaintiff for £234, with costs.

Pontypridd County Court August 8th.—A sinker sued colliery company for damages sustained through negligence of defendants, when working at the bottom of a new shaft of a depth of between 200 and 300 yards. The sides of the shaft were walled from the top down to within about 16 yards of the bottom. During the shift previous to plaintiff commencing work there had been some blasting. The foreman of the next shift, whose duty it was to examine the sides of the pit before the next batch of workmen descended, went down in the first "bowk" in which the *débris* was brought to the surface, but it was stated that the square box and poles usually used when a proper examination was being made, with the object of detecting any loose stones, or whether the sides of the shaft were in an unsatisfactory condition, had not been used on that occasion. Afterwards, while plaintiff was in the shaft, a portion of the cleft rock about 7 yards from the bottom fell upon plaintiff, fracturing his foot and injuring his left shoulder. The defendants had not provided special rules in accordance with the Mines Act, but had put up a poster stating that "the leader of every shift of sinkers must carefully inspect the shaft before the men of the next shift commence to work." The defence contended that the usual precautions had been taken, and that a careful examination, such as testing the sides, would have occupied 3 hours, which would be impracticable during the various shifts. Judgment for plaintiff for £65 4s., with costs.

West Riding Assizes, Leeds Town Hall, August 9th.—A foreman of an engineering firm sued colliery owners for injuries sustained through the negligence of their servants. The firm had supplied, and were erecting, certain machinery in defendants' colliery. On the day of the accident the plaintiff, together with two fellow workmen, a member of the firm, and three men from the colliery, were removing machinery and shafting from the highway to the colliery along a tramway line, the goods being placed on a "bogie" wagon. There was a steep incline down to the colliery, and while the wagon, loaded with the goods and the men, was running at an accelerated pace, one of the colliery men spragged a wheel, which caused the wagon to leave the rails and resulted in the plaintiff sustaining a compound fracture of the leg. The defence urged that the man who spragged the wheel, and the other men from the colliery, were working as the servants and under the control of the firm of engineers, to whose orders they were bound to conform, and by whom they were paid their wages, as they had been lent by the colliery owners for the purpose of assisting in carrying out this work. Defendants further stated that they had warned the engineers, and also the men, of the danger of riding down the incline on loaded wagons. The judge held that plaintiff was working as the servant of the engineers, and gave judgment for defendants, but assessed the damages at £350 in the event of his decision being reversed on appeal.

Hyde County Court, August 21st.—A moulder sued firm of millwrights and engineers for damages sustained through a ladder falling upon him. The ladder in question was not fixed, and though the judge found from the evidence that it was not usual to tie the ladder, he held that, with a workman engaged below, it was quite reasonable that it should be fixed so that it could not tumble. Judgment for plaintiff. Damages £60, with costs.

Sheffield County Court, August 22nd.—A file dresser sued firm of file manufacturers for damages for injuries sustained in the drying-out shop. Plaintiff's work was to put the files which had been cut and scoured into wet quicklime to fetch the salt out of the steel, and then to put them into the drying pan. As the drying pan was out of repair, the manager of the works told plaintiff to dry the files at the lead stove. The files were placed round the lead boiler, reared up against the wall, "tang" downwards. Some of the files slipped into the boiler amongst the molten lead, and, being wet, caused an explosion, which shot some of the lead on to plaintiff's head and face, permanently injuring her eyesight. Defence contended that there was no defect in the plant within the meaning of the Act; that the plaintiff knew the danger and voluntarily ran the risk, and that her own negligence caused the accident. The judge left the following points to the jury: (1) Was there any defect in the lead pot through it not being properly covered? (2) Did the plaintiff allow a file or files to fall from her hand into the pot, or was there any other negligence on her part? (3) Did the plaintiff complain of the want of a covering to the lead pot? (4) Did she voluntarily take the risk? Verdict for plaintiff. Damages, £54 12s.

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACTS.

Neath Police Court, August 2nd.—Fifteen dockers sued contractor for £2 18s. 4d., the extra amount at 1d. per ton for 700 tons alleged to have been agreed upon for tipping ballast at a different spot to the usual one. Defendant denied the agreement. Bench allowed plaintiffs £2 10s. (with costs), the sum representing 600 tons which defendant had bought.

South Western Police Court, London (reported August 27th).—Hairdresser's assistant applied for a summons for wages. Magistrate decided that plaintiff was not a workman within the meaning of the Act, and consequently not entitled to take proceedings in that Court.

Pontypridd County Court, August 9th.—The plaintiffs, two colliers in the employ of a colliery company, sued for 8s. 10d. and 7s. 4½d. for setting six and five cogs respectively in a colliery belonging to the company. The question at issue was whether the plaintiffs were right in setting cogs within two yards of each other throughout the stalls and headway. The defendants contended that the cogs were put up without orders from the managers, but it was maintained by the plaintiffs that the collier was a better judge than the

CO-OPERATION IN AUGUST.

DURING August one new co-operative association for distribution in England and one in Scotland were registered, and two existing societies in England and one in Scotland opened new branches.

An international exhibition of goods produced by co-operative associations for production was held at the Crystal Palace on August 21st to 24th, in connection with the annual National Co-operative Festival and Flower Show.

Distributive Sales and Profits.—Reports for the quarter* ended in June, of 327 workmen's associations for distribution in England and Wales and 132 in Scotland, with a total membership of 834,990, show total sales amounting to £6,994,195, and net profits† amounting to £1,024,462. Of 271 of the associations in England and Wales, with a total membership of 661,913, for which the figures for the corresponding period of 1894 are available, the total sales amount to £5,357,062, as compared with £5,203,886 in 1894, and the net profits‡ to £760,166. One hundred and eighty-eight of the societies show an increase, and 83 a decrease in sales, the net increase being £153,176, or 2·9 per cent.

Ninety-nine of the Scottish associations, with a total membership of 106,261, show total sales amounting to £998,756, as compared with £946,459 in the corresponding period of 1894, and net profits‡ amounting to £144,150. Sixty-six of the associations show an increase, and 33 a decrease, in sales, the net increase being £52,397, or 5½ per cent.

English Wholesale Society.—The report of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society for the quarter ended June 22nd was issued in August, and shows sales in the distributive departments amounting to £2,376,955, an increase of £104,009, or 4½ per cent. over the corresponding period of 1894, and net profits † amounting to £48,593, an increase of £20,010, or 70 per cent. In the manufacturing departments the sales (i.e., transfers to distributive departments) amounted to £241,612, an increase of £45,205, or 23 per cent. over the corresponding period of 1894.

The Co-operative Society established, on a new plan, by the English Wholesale Society as a means of developing co-operation in London (see LABOUR GAZETTE, April 1895, page 127), has issued its first quarter's report. Three stores have been established, at Deptford, New Cross, and St. Pancras, and the Society has made sufficient profit on its first quarter's working to pay a dividend of 1s. in the £ on members' purchases.

Scottish Wholesale Society.—The report of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society for the quarter ended June 29th shows sales in the distributive departments amounting to £852,452, an increase of £62,265 over the corresponding period of 1894, and profits † amounting to £23,524, an increase of £950. In the manufacturing departments the sales—i.e., transfers to distributive departments—amounted to £141,359, an increase of £78,893.

A Co-operative Society has been formed in Glasgow by the employees of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society, in consequence of the withdrawal from them of the privilege of purchasing goods from the society at wholesale prices. They will now be able to make their purchases in the name of the new society.

Ireland.—An important series of conferences of delegates from Co-operative Dairies and Agricultural Societies in Ireland has been held during August under the auspices of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, for the purpose of promoting the development and organisation of co-operation in Ireland, especially in connection with agriculture. The following is a list of places at which the conferences were held, the number of delegates present, and organisations represented. At each conference a deputation from the convening body was present, in addition to the delegates stated:—

Place of Meeting.	No. of Delegates present.	No. of Societies represented.	Place of Meeting.	No. of Delegates present.	No. of Societies represented.
Urlingford	67	6	Cork	15	4
Foynes	16	4	Waterford	15	4
Listowel	29	4	Kilkenny	8	
Tralee	21	4	Mullingar	12	3
Newcastle West	30	8	Gorey	19	3
Kilmallock	13	3	Nenagh	15	4
Clonmel	18	5			
Mallow	15	5	Total	233	60

A report by the Secretary of the Agricultural Banks' Association states that three new banks have been established during August in Ireland, at Urlingford, Johnstown, and Roscrea.

* In a few cases the return is for a half year.

† After allowing for interest on capital, depreciation of property, and all other charges.

manager of what was required for safety, and that it was the custom of the colliery to put up the cogs at intervals of about two yards. The judge decided that the existence of a custom had not been proved, and that the right claimed by the men would take away the power vested in the officials. Judgment for defendants, with costs.

(3) TRUCK ACTS.

County Court, Bradford, August 1st.—A worsted spinner was fined £1 and 18s. 6d. costs, or in default one month's imprisonment, for deducting wages from an employee, contrary to the provisions of the Truck Acts, 1831 and 1887.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN AUGUST.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.
By Occupiers, Managers, &c.:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Limeswash	6	5	2 1 6	2 2 0
Allowing Factory or Workshop to be Overcrowded	3	3	10 0 0	0 6 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	7	7	62 13 0	3 18 10
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	21	19	14 0 0	11 8 4
Employing Child under 11	1	1	1 0 0	0 10 0
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—Before or after the legal hour	30	29	17 19 7	17 19 6
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals	12	12	9 10 0	13 0 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	29	26	16 18 6	16 11 8
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	2	2	15 0 0	1 0 6
At night	6	6	2 15 0	4 5 0
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	6	6	2 15 0	3 19 3
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.	26	26	16 6 6	9 18 0
Not keeping registers	14	13	5 6 1	3 14 7
Not affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts	4	4	6 10 0	2 10 0
Not sending notices required by Act	1	1	...	0 3 0
Not keeping prescribed list of Outworkers	1	1	0 1 0	1 15 6
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars	1	1	1 0 0	0 18 6
Prosecutions under the Truck Acts	1	1	1 0 0	0 18 6
By Workmen:				
Allowing children to clean machinery in motion, &c.	1	1	0 2 6	0 17 6
Employment during meal-times, or without proper intervals for meals	2	2	0 2 0	0 14 0
Employment of Children on successive Saturdays	1	1	0 2 6	0 10 6
By Parents:				
Allowing children to be illegally employed	3	3	0 2 6	1 8 3
Total for August 1895	177	168	183 11 8	97 11 5
Total for August 1894	148	141	86 16 6	89 13 0

II.—Under the Mines Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					£ s. d.
Fencing	3	3	...	...	3 0 0
Ventilation	1	1	...	...	5 0 0
Shafts and Manholes	1	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous	1	...	...	1	...
By Workmen:					£ s. d.
Safety Lamps	3*	3	...	...	1 18 0
Shot-firing and Explosives	3	3	...	1	3 18 0
Timbering	9	8	...	...	7 11 0
Lucifer Matches, &c.	9	9	...	...	9 5 0
Riding on Trams	1	1	...	...	0 15 0
Miscellaneous	4	4	...	...	5 9 2
Total for August 1895	34	32	...	2	36 16 2
Total for August 1894	40	38	...	2	52 7 2

* In one of these cases the defendant was sentenced to 7 days' imprisonment. Note.—Quarries Act, 1894.—There were no prosecutions for offences under this Act during August.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Submerging Disc	1	1	30 0 0	0 12 6
Copy of agreement not accessible to crew	1	1	5 0 0	5 5 0
Leaving seamen behind without Consular sanction	1	1	1 0 0	0 9 0
By Seamen:				
Frauds in connection with discharge note	1	1	One month's imprisonment.	
Misconduct in endangering Life or Ship	3	3	Six months' imprisonment with hard labour in each case.	
By Boarding-House Keepers ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total for August 1895	7	7	36 0 0	6 6 6
Total for August 1894	9	9	77 9 0	6 19 6

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

THE 8 bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,117 applicants for work during August.

Comparing the figures of the 7 bureaux which also furnished returns for the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 428 is shown in the number of fresh applicants, the figures being 1,056 in 1895, and 1,484 in 1894.

Work was found by the 8 bureaux during last month for 401 workpeople. Of this number, 252 were employed by private employers and 149 by local authorities.

(1) Work Done in August.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Workpeople on Register, No. of Fresh Applicants during August, No. of Workpeople found Worked by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authority.

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of August.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Enginering, etc.), Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, etc.), Grand Total.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, Others, Total Women and Girls, August 1895, August 1894.

* No return of work for August has been received from the Salvation Army Labour Bureau. † The Labour Bureau at Plymouth was closed for one week during August, the return of work is consequently for three weeks only. ‡ Women and Girls are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

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

On one day in the second week of August the total number of persons returned as relieved in 35 selected urban districts was 323,978, or 221 per 10,000 of the population of those districts in 1891.

Compared with July these figures show a slight increase, the number on the corresponding day of that month being 319,874, or 218 per 10,000 of population. The only districts in which the increases are of sufficient importance to be noted are North Staffordshire and the Eastern District of London (each with 8 per 10,000 advance) and West Ham and Dublin, where the increase was 7 per 10,000.

In the Stockton and Tees district the rate fell 8 per 10,000. Compared with August 1894, the rate is 7 per 10,000 higher than it was then, the total number relieved on one day at that time being 313,242.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of August 1895, Paupers on corresponding date in 1894, Rate per 10,000 of Population.

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolitan, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, Total in July 1895.

Table with columns: Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock Dist., Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, IRELAND, Total for the above Irish Districts.

* Based on the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas. † Exclusive of Vagrants; of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. ‡ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

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

Table with columns: August 1895, August 1894, Railway Servants, Miners and Quarrymen, Factory and Workshop Operatives, Seamen, Others (so far as reported), Total.

Of the 1,801 non-fatal accidents reported, 212* were to railway servants by movement of railway vehicles, 477 in mines and quarries, 786 in factories and workshops, and 326 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 August 1895.

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Cause of Accidents, Dislocations and Fractures, Contusions, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries.

Miners and Quarrymen.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

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

Table with columns: Cause of Accident, Number of Persons, Cause of Accident, Number of Persons, Killed, Injured.

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 August 1895.

Table with columns: Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident, Cause of Accidents, Fractures, Injuries to Head or Face, Loss of Sight, Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries, Total Persons Injured, Males, Females.

* In addition to the above the companies have reported 7 servants killed and 399 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 45 killed and 611 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 August 1895, as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

Table with columns: 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.

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 August 1895, and the number of persons killed and injured in such accidents.

Table with columns: Group, Nature of Works, &c., No. of Accidents, No. of persons killed, No. of persons injured, Use or Working, No. of persons killed, No. of persons injured.

B.—DISTINGUISHING NATURE OF INJURY.

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

Table with columns: Nature of Injury, Construction or repair, Use or working, Construction or repair, Use or working, Use or working.

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.)

FIFTY-TWO trade disputes occurred in August 1895, as compared with 49 in July and 86 in August 1894. Particulars obtained with regard to 43 of these disputes show that 42,681 workpeople were affected. Five disputes took place in the Building Trades, 2 of which were due to the employment of men on work outside their own trade, 1 was on a wages question, 1 was a refusal to work with non-unionists, and 1 was due to a demand by the men for walking time. One of the 2 disputes in the Clothing Trades was due to a wages question, the other to an alleged breach of agreement by employer. Of the 6 disputes in the Metal Trades 2 were due to wages questions and 4 to questions of working arrangements. Fifteen disputes took place in the Mining Industry, 9 were chiefly due to wages questions, 3 to questions of working arrangements, and 2 were stoppages of work in defence of colleagues, full details of the cause of the remaining dispute being not yet to hand. Two of the 3 disputes in the Shipbuilding Trade were chiefly due to wages questions, the remaining dispute being caused by alleged unfair promotion. Of the 12 disputes in the Textile Trades, 8 were due to wages questions, 2 to questions of working arrangements, 1 to an alleged grievance against overlooker, and 1 to alleged unfair discharge of colleagues. Nine disputes occurred in the miscellaneous group of industries, 6 of which were chiefly due to wages questions, 1 to the employment of a non-unionist, and 1 to the alleged unfair dismissal of a fellow-workman, full details of the cause of the remaining dispute being not yet to hand.

The geographical distribution of the 52 disputes was as follows:—Northern Counties, 25; Midland Counties, 3; Eastern Counties, 1; Western Counties and Wales, 8; London, 2; Scotland, 12; Ireland, 1.

Eighteen old disputes, involving 4,802 workpeople, were settled during August, and at the end of the month it was known that 17 new and 22 old disputes, affecting together nearly 6,700 workpeople, were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST 1895.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Masons ...	Plymouth ...	Employers refused to allow the customary walking time, offering to give an advance in wages to 8d. per hour in lieu thereof	1	13	Aug. 7	Aug. 27	Employers allowed walking time.
Painters ...	Liverpool ...	Objection to the employment of labourers on painters' work	1	19	14	28	Labourers discharged.
Joiners ...	Leeds ...	Refusal of employer to advance wages from 8d. per hour to the standard rate	1	3	24	...	No details of settlement.
Masons ...	Warrington ...	Against the employment of a quarryman on masons' work	1	...	lasted	4 1/2 days	Quarryman discharged.
Builders' Labourers ...	Hull ...	Refusal to work with non-unionists	1	2	lasted	a week	Non-unionists joined the union.
Clothing Trades.							
Cloggers ...	Farnworth, Bolton	For an advance in wages	...	30	26	...	Twenty-three men have received advances of 10 per cent. on seat-work, and 8 per cent. on sole-making. Still unsettled.
Tailors ...	Leeds ...	Alleged breach of agreement by employer in sending work out	1	16	28	...	Still unsettled.
Metal Trades.							
Tinplate Workers ...	Llansamlet, Glam.	For an advance in wages	1	170	3	10	Advance of 12 1/2 per cent. granted.
Engineers, Smiths, Pattern Makers, and Labourers	Glasgow ...	For weekly instead of fortnightly pays, and for payment of overtime rates after 54 hours had been worked	1	90	12	26	Demands as to overtime rates granted.
Steel Workers (plate-rolling mills)	Cambuslang ...	For abolition of sub-contracting	1	400	13	16	Sub-contracting abolished.
Boys (forge department)	Penistone ...	Objection to certain deductions from wages	1	...	16	...	No details of settlement.
Engineers (Fitters, &c.)	Cardiff ...	Against proposed introduction of the piece-work system	1	184	22	...	Still unsettled.
Ironmoulders ...	Dundee ...	Objection to the employment of labourers at moulding machines	1	16	26	...	Ditto.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Enginemn, Stokers and Fanmen	Cwmtyllery ...	For advance in wages to enginemn of 8d. per day, to stokers of 7 1/2d. per day, and to fanmen of 1s. per week	1	1,450 dir. & indir.	1	...	No details of settlement.
Hauliers ...	Maesteg ...	Dispute as to "sharing the turns," and the employment of non-unionists	1	57	1	...	Still unsettled.
Coal Miners ...	Slamannan ...	Dispute as to scale of deductions for "dirt," and as to the "tare" for empty hutchies	1	...	2	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Alfreton ...	In consequence of the temporary suspension of some of their number for having taken a holiday without notice	1	...	6	6	Arrangement effected.
Surfacemen ...	Sheffield ...	Against a reduction in the wages of a few men and the employment of non-unionists	1	175 dir. 700 indir.	6	9	Work resumed, the management promising that no fresh men should be engaged at less than the current rate of wages—22s. 8d. per week.
Coal Miners ...	Barnsley ...	Against having to "hole in" the dirt, alleged to involve a reduction in wages	1	100	8	14	Dirt to be "holed in" on day wages as an experiment.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Alleged unfair treatment of some of their number	1	450 dir. 50 indir.	10	16	Work resumed unconditionally
Ditto ...	Celynen ...	For increase in time allowed for descending the pit	1	780	12	17	Increased time allowed.
Ditto ...	Treharris ...	Against alteration in system of working, alleged to involve a reduction in wages	1	2,057	13	24	Referred to arbitration, which resulted in a settlement generally favourable to the men.
Datallers and Lads ...	Mosborough ...	Against deduction of a quarter of a day's wages on account of scarcity of wagons	1	...	19	...	No details of settlement.
Shale Miners ...	Tarbrax and Cobbinshaw	For advance in wages of 1s. per day	1	350	20	...	Still unsettled.
Coal Miners ...	Rotherham ...	Dispute as to prices to be paid on changing from day to tonnage rates in one of the seams	1	720	20	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Wigan ...	Against proposed change in system of working, alleged to involve a reduction in wages	1	500	22	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Tamworth ...	Objection to action of a deputy manager...	1	...	22	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Pentrefryn ...	Full details of cause not yet to hand	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Shipbuilding.							
Riveters ...	Govan ...	Misapprehension owing to delay on the part of the employers in notifying to the men the withdrawal of a proposed reduction in wages	1	200	2	4	Work resumed.
Rivet Heaters ...	Low Walker ...	Against the appointment of three youths, not selected from rivet-heaters, as apprentice riveters	1	70 dir. 210 indir.	6	10	The three youths withdrawn.
Hammer Boys ...	Dalmuir ...	For advance in wages...	1	4	28	28	Three boys resumed at old rate of wages, the other being replaced.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Textile Trades.							
Flannel and Shawl Weavers	Delph, Saddleworth	Against imposition of alleged extra work without additional pay	1	84	Aug. 3	Aug. ...	Still unsettled.
Roller-makers ...	Bolton ...	For advance in piece-work prices	1	56	4	...	Ditto.
Cotton Weavers	Blackburn ...	Against discharge of two of their number for alleged misrepresentation	1	180	7	...	Ditto.
Carpenter Weavers	Aberdeen ...	Against a reduction in wages	1	63	8	...	Ditto.
Dyers ...	Leeds ...	Alleged unfairness in sharing work	1	15	13	...	Ditto.
Woolen and Worsted Weavers (male and female)	Huddersfield ...	Dissatisfaction with wages earned, and with the stoppage of some of the men through want of work	1	99	14	20	The women obtained an advance in wages, while the men received an advance on some classes of work and submitted to a reduction on others.
Cotton Spinners and Cardroom Hands	Lees, Oldham	Refusal of the employer to reduce the speed of the mules	1	60	15	...	Still unsettled.
Factory hands (male and female)	Dundee and Lochee	For advance in wages of 5 per cent.	60	About 32,000	19	31	Work resumed at old rate of wages.
Calender Workers	Dundee ...	For an advance in wages	1	150	23	Sept. 3	Advance conceded.
Doffers ...	Facit ...	Alleged grievance against overlooker	1	...	28	Aug. 28	Work resumed.
Cotton Weavers and Winders	Heywood ...	Against a proposed reduction in wages	1	200	26	26	Work resumed at old rate of wages.
Bleachers and Dyers	Stalybridge ...	For an advance in wages	1	430 dir. 150 indir.	30	...	Still unsettled.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Agricultural Labourers	Near Halesworth	Dispute as to price per acre to be paid for harvest work	1	4	2	5	Men accepted employers' terms.
Upholsterers ...	Liverpool	Wages dispute	1	35	2	...	Hands replaced by non-unionists.
Brushmakers (bone)	London, E.	Alleged unfair dismissal of a fellow-workman	1	27	3	16	Work resumed, the workman in question finding work elsewhere.
Bakers ...	Ballymena ...	For advance in wages and reduction in working hours	3	26	12	...	Still unsettled.
Glass Bottle Hands	Wakefield ...	Against proposed deductions from wages	1	200	19	21	Proposed deductions withdrawn.
Glass Bottle Makers	Hendon, Sunderland	Full details of cause not yet to hand	1	60	12	...	Still unsettled.
Cab Drivers	London, S.E.	Against the employment of a non-unionist	1	...	26	27	Non-unionist discharged.
Carriers ...	Johnstone ...	For an advance in wages of 2s. per week, and a reduction in hours from 56 to 54	1	6	30	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto ...	Glasgow ...	Ditto	7	100	...	...	Demands conceded in 5 of the shops employing 90 men.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Tinplate Workers	Near Swansea	Dispute as to a reduction in wages	1	190	1895 1 April	Aug. 19	Work resumed at a reduction of 10 per cent.
Bricklayers	Rugby ...	For an advance in wages of 3d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.)	11	75	1 April	...	All but 9 of the men have found work elsewhere at the advanced rate of wages.
Bricklayers' Labourers	Ditto ...	For an advance in wages of 3d. per hour (4 1/2d. to 5d.)	...	70	1 April	...	Work resumed at old rate of wages.
Coal Miners	Gorseinon ...	Objection of the men to changes introduced by management	1	200	1 April	26	Amicable arrangement arrived at.
Stonemasons	Harrogate ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (8d. to 9d.)	...	230	1 May	19	Advance obtained.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Belfast ...	Objection to alleged extra labour without extra pay, and to employment of an excessive number of boys	4	100	14 June	24	Men's demands conceded.
Coal Miners	Near Barnsley	Dispute as to list of prices	1	80	20 June	3	Men accepted employer's list of prices.
Ditto	Barnsley ...	Ditto	1	80	20 June	3	Ditto.
Steel Smelters	Near Swansea	Against reduction in wages	1	12	23 June	17	Reduction of 10 per cent. accepted.
Plumbers	Greenock and Port Glasgow	Refusal of the men to accept the Glasgow code of working rules	14	100	24 June	17	An advance of 3d. per hour conceded and a modified code of working rules agreed upon.
Joiners	North Woolwich	For advance in wages from 8 1/2d. to 9 1/2d. per hour	1	14	24 June	23	Replaced by other hands at the old rate of wages, most of the strikers obtaining work elsewhere.
Fitters (Marine Engineering)	Hull ...	Dispute as to whether certain work should be done by engineers or brass finishers	1	219	24 June	28	Work resumed, certain lathes to be worked by engineers, other matters in dispute to be settled by a joint committee of enquiry.
Woolen Weavers, Spinners, &c.	Yeadon ...	Against proposed reduction upon the standard weaving list, to the extent of 20 per cent.	10	1,500	26 June	3	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Stonemasons	Cambridge ...	Refusal to work with non-unionists	2	15	1 July	19	Non-unionists joined the union.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Hinckley ...	Alleged tyranny of foreman	1	40	1 July	19	Work resumed with the foreman in question, the union to be recognised in future.
Fitters, Turners, Machinemen, &c.	Barrow-in-Furness	Against employment of caulkers upon work alleged to belong to engineers	1	797	8 July	17	Work resumed pending a conference of the affected trades.
Coal Miners	Flimby and Broughton Moor	Dispute as to the system of working and the dismissal of a number of men.	1	1,000	31 July	1	Questions in dispute referred to the Conciliation Board.
Ditto	Sirhowy ...	Disagreement as to prices to be paid on an alteration in the method of working	1	80	31 July	5	Mutual concessions.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO AUGUST, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in July were still unsettled:—Coopers, St. Helens; joiners, Swansea; tinplate-workers, Beeston, Notts.; lace operatives, Nottingham; coal miners, near Rotherham.

The following, which commenced before July, were still unsettled:—Galvanisers, Halesowen; lace operatives, Nottingham; coal miners, Cliviger and Castleford; dyers, Wyke and Greetland; cotton weavers, Padiham and Cliviger; joiners, Chorley; glass bottle-makers, Dublin; bricklayers, Colchester and Grimsby; Building Trade employees, London, E.C.; bobbin-makers, Barnsley.

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

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.
Plate-glass Bevelers	Leeds ...	For advance to the standard rate of wages	1	10	10 July
Brush Makers	Newcastle-on-Tyne	Against the employment of boys on journeymen's work	1	10	27 July
Bedstead Makers	Sowerby Bridge	For an advance in wages...	1	12	July

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST.

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.)

ONLY 9,750 persons were affected by the changes in wages reported during August, of which number 8,500 received increases and 1,250 suffered decreases.

Among the 8,500 persons whose rates of wages have been increased are 2,500 tinplate workers, to whom the 1874 list of prices has been restored; 1,600 jute workers at Dundee, and over 1,500 linen and jute operatives at Alyth and Blairgowrie, who have had a 5 per cent. advance; and 1,800 building operatives, 1,400 of whom have had their rate of wage advanced 1/2d. per hour. The wages of a small number of clickers and pressmen in certain Scottish towns have been advanced, consequent upon a minimum wage having been fixed for these men by the Boot and Shoe Arbitration Board for the East of Scotland.

The only important decrease reported relates to an average reduction of from 10 to 12 1/2 per cent. in the piece rates paid to 1,000 operatives employed in the shirts' and pants' department of the Hosiery Trade at Leicester.

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 and METAL TRADES.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change, Estimated Earnings in a full week. Includes sections for METAL TRADES and TINPLATE TRADE.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change, Estimated Earnings in a full week. Includes sections for TINPLATE TRADE and TEXTILE TRADES.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change, Estimated Earnings in a full week. Includes sections for TEXTILE TRADES and other trades.

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

† It was agreed that the 1874 list should be at once paid to the tinplate workers at Llanelly, but that they should work "2 days without pay in lieu of giving a reduction of 12 1/2 per cent. for six weeks."

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).

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change, Estimated Earnings in a full week. Includes sections for CLOTHING TRADES and EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change, Estimated Earnings in a full week. Includes sections for EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES and MISCELLANEOUS.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change, Estimated Earnings in a full week. Includes sections for MISCELLANEOUS and SEAMEN.

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, No. shipped at new Rate during August (Increase, Decrease), Increases, Decreases, Monthly Rates (July, August, Increase, Decrease). Includes sections for SEAMEN and Firemen.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN AUGUST.

THERE were three cases of reductions in hours of labour reported during August. Of the 717 workpeople affected by them, 679 also received an increase in wages from the same date. On the other hand, the owner of some ironworks at Middlesbrough has given notice of a reversion from the 8 to the 12 hours' day, and the men employed at one of the furnaces are now working at the increased hours.

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. or Inc. per week). Includes sections for DECREASES and INCREASES.

Reductions in the Hours of Labour of Railway Servants under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893.—Beckenham.—As the result of representations to the Board of Trade under the above Act, enquiry was made into the hours of labour of some of the staff employed at the joint station of the London, Chatham and Dover, and South Eastern Railway Companies at Beckenham Junction. Reasonable ground for complaint was found to exist, and the Companies were required to submit a revised schedule of time for the hours of duty of the station staff (inspectors, shunters and porters). This has now been done, and the Companies have agreed to reduce those periods of duty which were considered by the Board to have been too long.

BOY LABOUR IN NORTHUMBERLAND MINES.

THE Northumberland miners have recently had before them various proposals for the shortening of hours of boy labour in mines. Up to the present, the miners have for the most part worked two shifts of seven to seven and a half hours bank to bank, the boys doing duty for two shifts by working a ten hours' day. Three suggestions for changing this system were voted upon, viz.: (1) Three shifts of men and two of boys; (2) Boys' hours to be nine per day, the question of how to effect it being left for further discussion; (3) the promotion of an Eight Hours' Bill by Parliament. These suggestions were all negative, and finally, a resolution was carried by 161 to 55 that none of the suggestions brought forward could be adopted without introducing greater evils than benefits.

THE UNEMPLOYED.

Relief Works at Leeds.—A Report, issued by the Corporation of Leeds, gives particulars of the steps taken to provide relief work for the unemployed during the spring of the present year.

On Wednesday, March 6th, a temporary Labour Registry for the unemployed was opened at the Municipal buildings, and remained open for ten days, during which period 1,575 persons were registered. The particulars required from applicants, and the forms used by the Bureau, were the same as in the winter of 1892-3.*

The trades registered by the applicants were as follows:—Outdoor labourers, 817; indoor labourers, 236; woollen-workers, 76; iron-workers, 320; leather-workers, 53; miners, 12; painters, 17; bricklayers and masons, 4; other trades, 40; total, 1,575. Circulars were sent to the references given by applicants, asking for information to enable the applicants' statements to be verified, and answers were received in 1,283 cases. The answers as to the cause of applicants leaving last employment may be classified as follows:—Slackness, 662; left own accord, 111; own fault, irregular conduct, 87; works closed, 23; "just left gas-works," 47; illness, 20; incompetency, 15; in work, 13; not known by referee, 184; the remaining replies give no definite answer to this question. 1,121 of the applicants stated that they were married, and 454 that they were single. In selecting the men for employment the following order was adopted: (1) Married men with families and no income; (2) married men with families and small income; (3) married men and no families; (4) single men.

The manager of the Bureau considers that 767 of the men may be considered as eligible "out of works." Of this number, however, about 264 were known to be in receipt of sums varying from 2s. to 30s. per week. Up to June 21st, when the report was printed, a total of 550 men had been given employment by the Corporation at roadmaking in shifts of two days per week, at an average wage of 3s. 9d. per day, and 159 men were still being employed in shifts of 53.

The Unemployed Committee.—THE third report of the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment,† states that owing to the sudden dissolution of Parliament the Committee is unable to do more than present an incomplete report upon the evidence submitted to it. As a result of the inquiry addressed to the Mayors of towns and Chairmen of District Councils in England and Wales in February last, as to the extent of the distress from want of employment then prevailing, 1,574 replies have been received from districts representing 26,591,394 persons. Of these, replies from 920 localities, representing a population of 10,291,600, state that there was at the time no exceptional distress; in 475 localities, with a population of 11,792,527, there was exceptional distress, due solely to the severity of the winter; and in 179 localities, with a population of 4,507,267, there was, apart from the want of employment due to the weather, an exceptional want of employment owing to slackness of trade, depression of agriculture, or to particular local or industrial causes.

The Committee report that there exist statutory powers under which Boards of Guardians might set poor persons to work at wages under rules made by the Local Government Board, and they recommend that the Board should consider the application of such powers, and make rules for the use of Boards of Guardians in relation thereto. The Committee further recommends: (1) that in times of exceptional distress, deserving men receiving parish relief should be exempted from the existing law which disfranchises such persons; (2) that orders for indoor repair work and new work, where feasible, should be given out by public bodies with reference to what are now the slack months, generally January and February, in so far as this course is consistent with efficiency of execution and with reasonable economy; (3) that the Guardians of any Metropolitan Union should be empowered, with the sanction of the London County Council, to agree with any Sanitary Authority within their Union that, in consideration of the latter employing such number of persons and during such period as may be agreed upon, the Guardians will make a contribution to the Sanitary Authority of an amount not exceeding one-half of the cost incurred in the employment of such persons, such contribution to be a charge upon the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund.

The Committee have been unable to consider the special circumstances of Scotland or Ireland, or to make any recommendation affecting them.

* See Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed. (C—7,182, 1893, pages 222-223.)

† Third Report from the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment, P.P. 365, 1895. Price, 2½d.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS IN 1894.*

In all 1,115 persons were killed during 1894 and 4,120 injured by accidents connected with the movement of railway vehicles. Of those killed 459 were servants of the companies and 20 servants of contractors; of those injured 2,699 were servants of the companies and 12 servants of contractors. Taking these two classes together this represents a proportion of one killed in every 796 employed, and one injured in every 140. In this calculation the total number taken is that of 1889, so that the actual proportions should probably be somewhat lower. The greatest proportional number of injuries and deaths occurred among the shunters, of whom one in 156 was killed and one in 15 was injured. As regards those injured it must be remembered that all injuries, however slight, are included in the returns.

The figures compare favourably with those for the twenty years 1874-93 inclusive, there being only five years, during that period when the proportion killed was lower, and seven when the proportion injured was lower. They are, however, higher in both cases than the figures for 1893, when only one in 829 was killed and one in 145 injured.

In those cases in which excessive hours were called attention to, the observations of the inspecting officer were considered by the Board, and action taken, where necessary, under the Regulations of Railways Act, 1893. A separate report on the subject is made under that Act.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN AUGUST.

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

From the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in August, it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 2 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 3 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 13 new Friendly Societies, and 37 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Fourteen 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.—Amal. Telephone and Telegraph Workers, Market House, Finsbury Market, E.C.; East End Foreign House Decorators, 3 White's Row, Spitalfields, E.; Journeymen Carriers' Mutual Benefit Soc., 129 Bermondsey New Rd., S.E. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Sheffield Newsagents' Co-op. Soc., 25 Hall Lane, Armley, Leeds. Scotland.—Progress Co-op. Soc., 106 Clarence St., Glasgow. Ireland.—None.

(B) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Albion Allotment Soc., 25 Hall Lane, Armley, Leeds. Scotland.—Co-op. Bank of Scotland, Ltd., 40 Union St., Glasgow; Scottish Co-op. Newspaper Soc., 75 Jamaica St., Glasgow. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 5; Dividing, 3; Specially Authorised, 1; Female, 1; Tontine, 1. Scotland.—Working Men's Club, 1. Ireland.—Specially Authorised, 1.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 4; O. Sons of Temperance, 4; Manchester Unity O.F., 3; N.U.O. Free Gardeners, 3; Various 10. Scotland.—I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 8; L.O. Shepherds, A.U., 4; St. Andrew O.A.F.G., 1. Ireland.—None.]

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—Dissolved by Instrument, 7; Have sent notice of commencement of dissolution, 1. Have sent notice of termination of dissolution or "winding up," 6.

* Compiled from the Report to the Board of Trade on Railway Accidents during 1894 (C.—7810.) Price 2½d.

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