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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,  
 BOARD OF TRADE,  
 15th October 1893.

TRADE and labour during September have been completely overshadowed by the great dispute in the Coal Mining Industry. On p. 128 will be found an account of the various stages in the dispute itself, and of its effects on coal districts outside its area, and on the general industries of the country. In the Local Correspondents' Reports much detailed information is also given on this subject.

The Board of Trade have endeavoured to keep in touch with the principal men among the miners and coalowners, and have closely followed all the recent negotiations. At the time of going to press it would appear that the dispute would not last very much longer in a large portion of the Midlands, but events are now moving so rapidly that it is impossible to foresee what new developments may take place during the next few days.

Some statistics showing the increase in the numbers of miners employed, and the decline in the quantity of coal produced, since the great rise in wages in 1888-90, are given on p. 130.

The results of a detailed census of wages paid at coal and other mines in the United Kingdom was published by the Board of Trade in 1891.\* The rates given are for what was considered an ordinary full week's work at the time the inquiry was made, and those acquainted with local changes in rates for by-work, the number of days worked per week, and the general alterations in piece rates of wages per ton since the date of the Return (see July GAZETTE) can, with the aid of this volume, form a fairly close approximation as to the earnings of the men prior to the present dispute. Isolated instances of weekly earnings, which may be above or below the true average, are of little value.

A reprint is given of the Conciliation Bill introduced by the Government during the current Session of Parliament. The publication last month of the Employers' Liability Bill has led to some useful discussion, and the present time seems appropriate for the consideration of the subject of Conciliation in Labour Disputes.

A full notice is given on p. 135 of the report on Alien Immigration into the United States by Messrs. Burnett and Schloss, who were directed to inquire into this question on the spot.

The circular issued by the Board of Trade to railway companies respecting the Act of Parliament dealing with the hours of labour of railway servants is printed in full; and also a circular recently issued by the Local

Government Board making certain suggestions to Sanitary Authorities with regard to the unemployed.

It is expected that the memorandum prepared by the Labour Department on the agencies and methods of dealing with the unemployed, which is in the hands of the printers, will be issued very shortly.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN  
 SEPTEMBER.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE decline in the state of employment referred to in the last number of the GAZETTE has continued through September. Though it has been pretty general in its effect upon nearly every industry, the falling off has been exceedingly gradual, and but for the disturbed state of the labour market owing to the dispute in the Coal Trade a slight improvement might have been recorded.

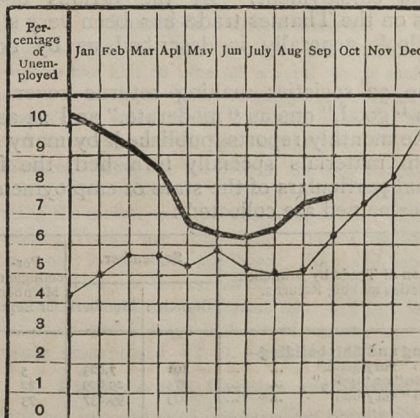
Of the 32 societies, with an aggregate membership of 335,265, making returns, 24,355 members, or 7·3 per cent., are reported as being unemployed at the end of September, compared with 7·1 per cent. shown by the same societies for August. Taking the 26 societies which have made complete returns since May, the percentage of unemployed was 7·7, compared with 7·4 for August, and 6·25 for 22 societies making returns for September 1892.

As in previous numbers, a chart is inserted, which enables the percentages of unemployed shown in the monthly returns to be compared with those for last year.

PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED IN 1892 AND 1893 COMPARED.

NOTE.—The Chart shows the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1892, and of each month yet completed of 1893. Unions which began to make returns since May 1893 are not included in this chart.

The thick line applies to 1893, the thin line to 1892.



The suspension of so large a portion of the coal supply has affected most trades and industries to some extent, and in some cases has caused actual stoppages, though as a rule these have been of but short duration. In all comparisons of the numbers of unemployed in September with the numbers for other periods, due allowance must

\* Return of Rates of Wages in the Mines and Quarries of the United Kingdom. (C. 6,455 of 1891.) Price 1s.



be made for the dislocation of trade caused by this great dispute.

The Shipbuilding Industry, which during the last two months showed some signs of revival, has reverted to its former condition, and the number of unemployed has largely increased. The Engineering, Iron and Steel Trades have also continued their downward tendency, with the result that the percentage of unemployed in these trades at the end of September had risen to 12.0 from 10.7 per cent. at the end of August.

The Building Trades, though still as a rule fully employed for the time of year, begin to show signs in some branches of the usual seasonal decline. The percentage of unemployed is, however, 2.8 only, as compared with 2.6 in the last report.

The Printing and Bookbinding Trades, especially in London, are in a very depressed condition, more so than has been known for several years past, the percentage of unemployed being 6.6. In July the percentage was 3.3, and in August 6.3. The Furnishing Trades are also very slack, upwards of 5 per cent. being unemployed, or rather more than in August. It should be noted, however, that only a small proportion of the men in these trades are organised, and the returns received do not, therefore, adequately represent the condition of all the workers.

The Clothing Trades, both in the bespoke and ready-made branches, are reported quiet, while employment in the Boot and Shoe Trade is described as very bad, and many of those in work are employed only half time.

The Cotton Trade continues busy, both spinners and weavers being fully employed. The Woollen, Worsted and Linen Trades are, however, depressed, while in the Hosiery and Lace Trades half time is the rule.

During the month a number of miners have resumed work at the old rates, pending a final settlement of the demand of the owners for a reduction of 25 off the 40 per cent. advance previously granted. The impetus given to the trade of the coalfields outside the Federation districts has been very marked, the percentage of unemployed in Northumberland, for example, having fallen from 1.1 to 0.3 only.

Among miscellaneous industries reported to be in an exceptionally bad condition are the coopers, brush-makers, glass bottle makers, and the Sheffield Cutlery and kindred Trades.

There have been increases in the number of seamen shipped at ports connected with the Northumberland, Durham, Welsh and Scotch coalfields, and decreases at Hull, Grimsby, Liverpool and London. There has been no marked change in the rates of wages for seamen.

At Liverpool and Cardiff the state of employment for dock labour is reported to be somewhat better, though in each case there are still considerable numbers unable to obtain employment. At the various docks and wharves on the Thames trade has been very slack, and the outlook generally is described as by no means hopeful.

Of the 32 societies making returns seven describe trade as "good," one as "moderate," and 24 as "bad." From the monthly reports published by many societies and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected:—

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	September.		Per-centage of Members for Sept.	Per-centage of Members for Aug.
	Branches	Members		
<b>Engineering and Shipbuilding—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	104	7,023	5	5
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	274	29,609	22	28
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	623	99,837	73	67
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,001</b>	<b>136,469</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Building Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	496	32,617	34	48
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	640	45,085	47	32
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	279	18,245	19	20
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,415</b>	<b>95,947</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	September.		Per-centage of Members for Sept.	Per-centage of Members for Aug.
	Branches	Members		
<b>Printing and Bookbinding Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	67	5,722	19	17
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	39	6,038	20	20
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	36	18,636	61	69
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>30,416</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Boot and Shoe Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	3	4,715	25	9
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	3	72	4	37
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	20	13,556	71	54
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18,991</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Furnishing Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	17	675	7	13
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	28	612	7	25
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	77	7,843	86	52
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>9,130</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

With the exception of the dispute in the Boot and Shoe Trade at Kingswood, and that between the joiners and shipwrights in the Clyde Shipbuilding Trade, the fresh disputes of the month have been comparatively unimportant as regards numbers affected. The total number of disputes reported is 54, as compared with 59 in August, and 55 in July. Of these, 3 occurred in the Building Trades, 7 in the Clothing Trades, 6 in the Metal Trades, 9 in Mining and Quarrying, 8 in Shipbuilding, 7 in the Textile Trades, and 14 in Miscellaneous Trades. Particulars obtained concerning 46 of these disputes show the number of persons affected to have been 17,269, of whom 14,149 were engaged in 20 disputes in the Clothing, Mining, and Shipbuilding Trades.

The principal changes in wages during the month have been in the Coal Mining Industry. There has been an increase of 1½ per cent. under the sliding scale to about 90,000 miners in South Wales, an increase of 12½ per cent. to 8,500 miners in Fife and Clackmannan, and of 10 per cent. to 800 miners in Mid and East Lothian.

The Forest of Dean miners resumed work at a reduction of 20 per cent. on their former rates, but at the beginning of October the old rates were restored, and under the sliding scale there has since been an advance of 15 per cent.

The number of bankruptcies gazetted during the month was 401, compared with 380 in September 1892.

Emigrants of British nationality who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during September numbered 23,998, an increase of 1,515 as compared with the corresponding month of last year.

The pauperism returns for the selected districts of the United Kingdom show a marked increase (mainly in the mining districts) in the number of paupers as compared with the previous month, the number relieved on one day in the second week of September being 310,559, or 212 per 10,000 of population, against 299,699, or 205 per 10,000 in August. For the corresponding day in September 1892 the figures were 283,634, or 194 per 10,000 of population, an increase last month of 26,925, or 18 per 10,000.

II.—REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.**—In Durham the pits, with a few exceptions, are working to the fullest capacity—many of them night and day—to meet the increasing pressure for delivery. A number of miners from other districts, it is alleged, have found employment, although many of the old hands are still idle; about 2 per cent. are out of employment. The large quantity of coal sent into the Midland and Yorkshire Districts has called into requisition every available means of transport, causing the railways to be exceedingly busy. The Northumberland pits are also fully employed—11 days per fortnight. The late "ascertainment" certifies prices for the three months ending in August at 5s. 6.95d. per ton, or an increase of 2.35d. over the preceding quarter, on an average of old contracts and recent

rates. There are 50 unemployed miners, or less than 1 per cent., throughout the county. Claims for advances in wages by the Northumberland and Durham miners are still pending.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.**—Shipbuilding on the Tyne exhibits little improvement; four or five yards are fairly well off for work, while others are indifferently employed. Two of the largest firms have been discharging numbers of men. The unemployed iron shipbuilders number 936, or 16.8 per cent. Engineering establishments show little change; engineers still out of work number 775, or 14.6 per cent. Steel-plate mills continue well employed; one or two have recently re-started, after a stoppage of some months. The number of unemployed shipbuilders in Sunderland is 658, or 25.8 per cent., indicating an increasing slackness in the Wear shipyards, although the gradually decreasing number of out-of-work engineers, from 13.7 to 10.8 per cent., shows an opposite change, due largely to activity in repairing docks and forges. The ship-joiners have 6 per cent. unemployed.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—In consequence of the increased shipments, coal porters, and waterside labourers in general, together with sea-going hands, are well employed. An agitation for an advance in wages is in progress among the latter class of men in the lower reaches of the Tyne.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Building Trade is still brisk, very few masons being out of work. Bricklayers, plasterers, and joiners, on both rivers, are well employed. The chemical and copper factories show no sign of improvement. Papermakers, ropemakers, and general labourers are badly employed. Papermakers have had a reduction in wages, with a re-arrangement of piece prices.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Oldham, Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.**—With the exception of two cotton mills, both in the Bolton district, none of the mills have been stopped for want of coal. One of the mills that stopped has re-started, and employers generally are taking whatever coal they can get rather than allow their establishments to be brought to a standstill. The Cotton Trade is otherwise fully employed, although there is reason to fear that with the exhaustion of their stocks of coal several mills will have to be stopped.

**Iron and Engineering Trades.**—One large ironworks has been closed in the Bolton district for want of coal. Business is still quiet, and the number of unemployed is greater than in a normal state of trade.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Building Trades are experiencing the falling off usual at this season, but work is still fairly plentiful and regular. More briskness is being displayed in the Bleaching and Finishing Trades than has been the case for some time past, and employment is steadier and more easily obtained.

Altogether in this district the number of persons out of employment through the coal dispute (excluding those usually employed in or about the mines), may be estimated at about 800.—*J. T. Fielding.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

**Textile Trades.**—The Weaving Trade of the district is in a far better condition than it has been for some time back. Many manufacturers have booked orders which will take them months to complete, and very few looms are idle. Disputes have arisen at Haslingden as to the prices paid for weaving dobby cloths; at Nelson as to the prices for weaving plain cloth in check looms with the circular revolving box, and at Colne as to the prices for weaving coloured splits. The question of the prices for coarse twist woven fine reeds, and also the plan of a uniform list for winding and beaming, remain unsettled.

**Miscellaneous.**—The general trade of the district is in fairly good condition, especially the Calico Printing, Dyeing, and Iron Trades. The miners in the Burnley, Harwood and Rishton Districts still remain out against the proposed reduction in wages. No stoppage of any works of importance has yet taken place through the dispute, although notices of stoppage have been posted up at several large works. The Building Trades are in fair condition for this season of the year. The plasterers' dispute at Blackburn is now in its 27th week, and the general lock-out of the workmen in the Building Trade, arising out of this dispute, is causing great anxiety in the district.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers report trade as moderate, with a slightly increased percentage of unemployed; steam-engine makers describe trade as bad, with a few more members unemployed than last month—attributed, in both cases, to the ill-effects of the coal dispute. Braziers and sheet metal-workers report trade as moderate, with an increase of 2 per cent. on the out-of-work list, and brass-founders and finishers also describe the condition of their trade as moderate with a few more unemployed than in August.

**Textile Trades.**—In the Macclesfield district the Silk Trade is fairly good for time of year; almost all the spinning mills are running full time. The weaving departments are moderately busy. Silk dyers are not very brisk. The Cotton Trade is good, and in all departments the machinery is running full time. The Fustian Cutting and Shirt Industries are fairly busy. The Building Trades are somewhat slack.

**Miscellaneous.**—Carpenters and joiners are moderately employed; bricklayers continue busy. Letterpress printers and bookbinders describe trade as bad; tailors and coachmakers are also very quiet, with a tendency in both cases to improve.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment at the docks has been slightly better, owing to the large importation of seaborne coal from Scotland. The ordinary dock labour also shows a slight improvement, probably owing to the desire of the shippers to take advantage of the few weeks remaining before the closing of the Canadian ports. Riverside employment remains much the same.

**Canal Boatmen and Railway Servants.**—There is no change in the position of the water-carrying traffic, and the distress of persons employed in coal-carrying boats is very acute. Owing to the suspension of coal traffic, the regular railway staff, in some places, have been put on three days' time, in order to give employment to men displaced by the stoppage. It is estimated that about half the railway men have been affected by the coal dispute.

**Chemical and Glass Industries.**—In the Chemical Trade in St. Helens, an additional number of 460 men were thrown out of work in September for want of fuel, and a very large number are only partially employed. The position at Widnes and Runcorn remains about the same; some firms have been closed, but others, closed in August, have started again, and employers hope to re-open those closed in September at an early date. The glass bottle and sheet glass works have also been affected; 500 men at one firm are said to be thrown out of work, and several other works have been closed.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Engineering is very quiet, although some firms working half time in August have begun to work full time in September. Ironfounding works are dull, and about 15 per cent. of the workers are unemployed. Whitesmiths, art metal workers, and general ironfitters report trade as dull, and about 15 per cent are unemployed.

**Building Trades.**—These trades still remain fairly active in nearly every department, except amongst the carpenters and joiners, who show a slight falling off, owing, it is alleged, to the delay of iron contractors in supplying orders. It is reported that nearly 200 excavators in Liverpool have been thrown out of work from the same cause. Painters report trade as quiet.

**Quarrying.**—A report from North Wales states that the sett quarries are at present working full time. There is a great demand for paving setts, and in many cases the old stocks have been quite cleared. Employers are in want of more sett-makers to supply the orders at present on hand. Sett-making prices are at present 20 per cent. over the prices paid in 1890.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Printing Trade is very quiet. It is reported that in some cases men are being displaced by the introduction of the Linotype machine worked by women. The Upholstering Trade is dull, and the Tailoring Trade is very slack.—*J. Sexton.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

**Railways and Metal Trades.**—Owing to the coal dispute the railway company has had to take off several trains and to put their workmen on four days' time. A steel company has been obliged to stop work for a week at least for want of coal. The Engineers are very dull, and 25 per cent. are unemployed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Miners in the district are only partially employed, as there is no demand for ore. There has been hardly any shipping done during the month, and the docks have been almost deserted. The Building Trades are fairly busy. The Printing and kindred Trades are only moderately employed. Pulp and paper works are in full work. The jute works, which have been closed for alterations necessitated by a fire 18 months ago, will not be open for a month to come, and a large number of women and girls are, in consequence, unemployed.—*J. D. Couper.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

**Shipbuilding, Iron and Steel Trades.**—The Shipbuilding and Steel Trades continue fairly good, and the prospects for the winter are better, but there are still a considerable number out of work, especially at Stockton. The Finished Iron Trade continues the same as last month, the ascertained selling price, under the sliding scale, showing a slight reduction for July and August, but not sufficient in amount to alter the rate of wages, which will remain the same for October and November. The number of blast furnaces in operation is the same as in August. The Engineering Trades



continue dull, the number of unemployed being still 10 per cent. for the whole district, as although it is less at Hartlepool it is higher at Stockton. The disputes at a steel works at Darlington, involving about 600 men, and of platers' helpers at Thornaby, affecting 240 men, have both been settled after a few days' stoppage.

**Building and Printing Trades.**—The Building Trade is not brisk, although the men are still fairly well employed. Considerable friction has arisen between some of the stonemasons and bricklayers as to certain work at the blast furnaces. The plumbers are out on strike at two works in the Hartlepool District, against a reduction in wages. The Printing Trade has slightly improved.—*A. Main.*

#### Leeds and District.

**Iron Trades.**—There are signs of a slight improvement amongst the engineers, but work has frequently been suspended or short time has been worked. Ironfounders are only working a couple of days a week or less at several firms. Some puddlers have not been employed since August.

**Textile Trade.**—This trade has been exceptionally bad. This is thought to be due to the scarcity of coal rather than to the condition of the trade itself.

**Glass Bottle Trade.**—Practically trade is paralysed through the coal dispute; although most of the works are kept going, this is only done to a limited extent, the works being stopped or re-started just as the coal is exhausted or comes in. The glass bottle workers have perhaps been the greatest sufferers, and have had occasional employment for a day or two only.

**Building Trades.**—All branches are fairly well employed. Painters have received six months' notice of a reduction of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour, and an alteration of rules regarding men working outside the town; an advance of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. an hour in the trade was conceded last April.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Ready-made Clothing Trade is still very dull, with a larger number unemployed, or on short time, than in August. The Boot and Shoe Trade is depressed, but prospects seemed more encouraging at the end of the month. Cabinet-making is very slack, and one society reports a larger number of unemployed than at any time in its history. Brush-making is still depressed. Coach-making is slightly improved. Employment is only partial in all branches of the Leather and Dyeing Trades.—*O. Connellan.*

#### Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

**Textile Trades.**—The effects of the coal dispute are still apparent. Many mills are either running short time every day or standing idle a day or two each week. The manufacturers have to pay considerably more for their coal, but notwithstanding this a few mills are running a portion of their machinery overtime at Huddersfield, and could coal be obtained at a lower price it is believed that more than one firm in the Woollen Trade at Huddersfield would be running two shifts of men; at the close of the month one firm was advertising for men weavers to work at night. The Worsted Coating Trade seems in a rather worse condition on the whole than in August. At Haworth, trade is very slack, and the weavers are resisting an attempt to induce them to work two looms instead of one. The trade in Bradford and Halifax is also very quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Building Trades are not affected in the same way, and the men are moderately employed. The Engineering Industry is suffering almost as much as the Textile, and this is also true of the Iron-founders. The Printing Trade is not quite so bad as last month. Railway men are suffering from the coal dispute. The Silk Trade in and around Brighouse is still very quiet.—*A. Gee.*

#### Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

**Coal.**—The miners still appear firm in resisting the proposed reduction in wages, but an important change has taken place during September in the tactics and policy adopted by the Yorkshire Miners' Association. At the commencement of the month a ballot was taken as to allowing men to go to work at the old rate of wages where possible. On this occasion, 16,029 votes were given for, and 23,639 against their being allowed to return to work on those terms. At the close of the month another ballot was taken on the same subject, and the men voted 12 to 1 for all resuming work at the old rate of wages where possible. The unemployed miners would have been able to spend their leisure to better advantage had the system of allotments been more widely adopted in the district. Apart from the miners, thousands of men are either partially or wholly idle through the want or insufficient supply of fuel. Work at many furnaces is suspended, and there is no likelihood of any resumption until there is a better supply of coal and coke. Prices for fuel are very high, being about 11s. or 12s. more per ton than before the dispute, and are expected to rule high during the winter. Coal has been sent to Sheffield, Leeds, and other Yorkshire towns from Durham, and now that collieries have commenced working in Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Notts, supplies are also being

obtained from those counties. Some of the Yorkshire collieries are now commencing to work at the old rate of wages. This will relieve the strain to some extent. It is stated that converters of best classes of crucible cast steel have large orders to hand from the United States of America, South America, South Africa and the Continent; but are unable for the present to execute them for want of a sufficient supply of Yorkshire coke. There are signs of better trade if only an amicable settlement could be arrived at. The colliery owners and manufacturers here will not suffer from foreign competition so much as might otherwise be the case, from the fact that the miners' strike on the Continent will prevent the Continental owners and manufacturers from supplying the trade of the Midlands.—*J. Wadsworth.*

#### Sheffield and District.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Owing to the high price of coal, the Armour Plate Trade has been at a standstill during September. Three firms of steel smelters have been entirely stopped for the same reason, and many others partly so; there are fully 60 per cent. out of employment and the rest are on short time. The Wire Trade is dull throughout, one-third of the workmen having been out of work for seven weeks, with no prospect of going back until the miners resume work. The iron and steel-founders report trade as bad; one-third of the iron-founders in one local branch are unemployed, or working out of the trade, and the others report a considerable increase in the number receiving out-of-work pay.

**Machine and Implement Trades.**—A large number of the engineers have been thrown out of work on alternate weeks, receiving wages one week and out-of-work pay the next. The engineers, however, fared better than other workmen, as the opportunity has been taken for executing special repairs. The spring-knife cutlers are very slack, about 10 per cent. being unemployed, and many being on short time. The only signs of improvement are in the best class of goods, chiefly for the American and Canadian markets. The File Trade has suffered severely; in many instances firms have set down their grinding wheels and refused to pay the advanced prices for the steel-rolling, so that large numbers have either been earning very small wages or receiving out-of-work pay. Engineers' tool makers are very slack, all the men being on short time, and the joiners' tool makers are in much the same condition.

**Building Trades.**—In many cases the brick-makers have been unable to obtain coal for brick burning, and the bricklayers have therefore been obliged to stop work. Many carpenters and joiners employed in the iron works and mines have no work, and the Building Trades generally are much slacker.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Silver Trade continues very depressed, nearly 7 per cent. being out of work. The Britannia-metal smiths report themselves as slack, but on the whole a little better off than in August. The men who are suffering the most acutely are the engine and crane men, firemen and general labourers, large numbers of whom are either wholly or partially unemployed, while those who belong to no society are in great distress.—*S. Utley.*

#### Hull and District.

**Shipbuilding.**—The work on hand in the various yards is rapidly being completed, but with no prospect at present of being replaced by new orders. Owing to the extreme depression in the Shipping Trade caused by the coal dispute, repairs to steam and iron sailing vessels have not afforded the employment customary under normal conditions. On the other hand, a considerable number of wooden vessels have been undergoing re-classing and repairs, probably owing to a dearth of cargoes, which has obliged them to stay longer in port. The number of unemployed in all branches dependent on the construction and repairing of ships is about 12 to 15 per cent.

**Dock Labour.**—The tonnage imported shows an improvement during the last month, attributable to the large consignments of grain and timber; but the trade with the Baltic and North European ports generally closes during the winter, and the Timber Trade cannot be brisk much longer. Exports of machinery have been fairly good, but a large number of men present themselves daily at the docks in an unsuccessful search for work. All connected in any way with the shipment or transport of coal suffer most. The percentage of unemployed seamen and firemen is also very high.

**Fishing Industry.**—The number of unemployed is still about 10 per cent. The steam fishing vessels are feeling the high price of coal, while the sailing vessels, owing to the stronger winds, are making better earnings.

**Building Trades.**—Nearly all the bricklayers, masons, plasterers and slaters, are at present fully employed; the carpenters and joiners are not so busy, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. being out of work. The painters are in a far worse position, their work having fallen off earlier than usual this summer.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Seed Crushing Trade is unusually depressed, even for this season of the year, owing to the stoppage of several

mills for want of coal. About two-thirds of the men are unemployed or compelled to seek work elsewhere. In the varnish, oil and colour works, all the firms are working as economically as possible, some are on short time, and one large firm has suspended work for one week.

By amicable arrangement, the Grimsby tram conductors have obtained an advance of 2s. a week in wages and a reduction of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  in their weekly hours.—*W. G. Millington.*

#### Wolverhampton and District.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The puddlers and mill rollers are better employed. Several firms had been obliged to close their works or to work short time, but since the re-opening of some of the collieries in the district the works have become fairly busy, and at some of them the men have been asked to work on Mondays, which is seldom done unless there is a press of work. Amongst the boiler makers, bridge and girder constructors, tank and gasometer erectors, trade is reported very good, and the men are fully employed; several good contracts have been secured for home, foreign and colonial railway work, which will keep the men in full work for some time to come. The Steel Trade is fairly active. The engineers, constructive machinists, galvanisers, enamellers, japanners and wire workers are all fairly well employed. Trade is much better with the heavy ironfounders and hollow-ware casters engaged on the best work than with those employed on lighter and inferior goods. Trade has somewhat declined amongst the edge tool and agricultural implement makers, and the Iron Safe Trade and Lock Trade are both reported very bad. Many cycle machine makers are unemployed, as the season is practically over. Many iron and tin-plate workers are out of work, and most are on short time. Work is still very scarce in the Brass and Copper Trades, and short time is the rule. There is no improvement in the Nut and Bolt Trade, and in the Nail and Chain Trade there is still much distress. The ballot in the Nail Trade for a month's cessation of work showed that 1,149 were against it and 1,026 for it. The Tube Trade has slightly improved at Walsall and Wednesbury, but it is much below its normal condition. The anvil makers in the neighbourhood of Dudley report trade as very bad.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers and masons report trade as fair, the plasterers and plumbers as good, the painters and decorators as moderate, and the carpenters and joiners as very good. The monthly report of the latter shows that out of 1,620 members in Warwickshire (excluding Birmingham), Staffordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire, only six were unemployed. In Wolverhampton the carpenters and joiners have given notice for an advance of 1d. per hour in wages and for certain alterations in the conditions of work. There has been a slight falling off among builders' labourers, and owing to the scarcity of coal they have not been able to obtain work as usual as stokers at the gas works.

**Mining.**—A large proportion of the miners in this district have resumed work at those collieries where no reduction was demanded, and as a result of the recent Chesterfield Conference, more mines will probably be opened in the Hednesford and Cannock Chase district.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is scarce in the Boot and Shoe and Tailoring Trades, but there are signs of improvement. Although there is also a slight improvement in the Printing Trades, short time is general. Employment is steady in the Electrical Trades. Dry-cask coopers are very slack. The bakers, confectioners, carters and lorrymen are well employed.—*W. F. Mee.*

#### Birmingham and District.

**Brass, Machine, and Engineering Trades.**—The Brassworkers are more active in some departments, particularly in chandeliers and gas fittings. Electric light fittings are rapidly making way. There is far from full employment in other branches, and the general state of the trade is dull. Machinists and engineers in the early part of September were fairly but not regularly employed; the greatest activity was in the gas-engine branch, but towards the end of the month trade became slack.

**Building and Coachmaking Trades.**—The painters report trade as "fair," plumbers as "slightly improved," masons as "slack," plasterers, bricklayers and labourers as "dull," and carpenters as "very bad." The Coachmakers report that the winter of 1892-3 was very dull indeed, but the summer has been very good; the outlook for the coming season is somewhat uncertain.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Jewellery Trade is slightly improving. The bedstead makers report a little improvement. The japanners in the early part of the month were fairly well employed; towards the end there was a falling off. Enamelled ware for cooking and other purposes is coming more into use, and employment is steadier. There is no change for the better in flint glass wares, but sheet glass workers are more fully employed. The Stained-glass Industry

is growing. Gun-makers are experiencing a depression. Metal rollers report trade as tolerably fair; tinplate workers report it as dull on the whole, but improved in some branches.

**Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.**—Very little pig iron is now coming in from other districts, and this greatly affects the finished Iron Industry, which relies mainly upon it. Still there has been no absolute stoppage, at least of the principal works, but the men in some places are on half time. Heavy ironwork is fairly active. Orders are in hand for bridges, girders, tanks, boilers, &c., that will keep the men employed for some time. The heavy chain and anchor makers have also plenty of work in hand. There is less employment generally in railway work on account of the stoppage of the coal traffic, but a good foreign government order for railway carriage wheels has been placed. Light iron work is reported dull. Tube working is fairly regular, and galvanized ironworkers are moderately busy.—*W. J. Davis.*

#### Nottingham and District.

**Lace Trade.**—The coal dispute has affected nearly every trade in the district. Of the union men in the Lace Trade, about 14 per cent. are receiving out-of-work benefit. Of the warp lace branch, 10 per cent. of the members are unemployed, and no establishment is making more than half-time. Female workers are only working a few hours daily.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Not a single firm is working full time, and half-time is the rule. The hand-frame branch is moderately employed; but in districts where hand-frame goods are the staple manufacture there is considerable distress.

**Metal Trades.**—Of the engineers, over 10 per cent. are unemployed. Tool machinists are very slack, 14 per cent. being out of work. The iron-moulders and foundry labourers are depressed, and return 16 per cent. as unemployed.

**Railways.**—The working staffs of the railways have been much reduced at Nottingham, and at Colwick and Netherfield over 300 men of all grades of railway service are out of work.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues steady; about 6 per cent. are reported as out of work. Bricklayers are fully employed. Brickmakers are doing badly, owing to the scarcity of coal.

**Miscellaneous.**—Gas-workers are fairly well employed. The box-makers are agitating for a uniform list of wages for the whole trade. This branch is not quite so well employed as during the summer. One firm has granted a reduction in the hours of work. Cabinet-makers and French polishers are well employed.—*W. L. Hardestaff.*

The Report from Derby is as follows:—

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—One or two engineering and machinery works are moderately employed, others are very dull, and a few men are out of work. Owing to the coal dispute one railway company has reduced the work to four days a week in the locomotive department, about 6,000 men and boys being affected. Iron and brass moulders and finishers are rather quiet; rivet makers are fairly busy. Negotiations have been opened between employers and workmen to settle the dispute in the Stove Gate Trade begun in May; all points have been arranged except the discharge of those taken on during the dispute, the men wishing them to be dismissed at once, and the employers only consenting to dispense with them gradually.

**Building Trades.**—The dispute amongst the bricklayers and labourers still continues, but many have found work elsewhere. Carpenters and joiners are very quiet; stonemasons are moderately employed; house painters and decorators are not so active; sawyers are moderately busy, and boxmakers and brushmakers fairly brisk.

**Miscellaneous.**—Elastic web and surgical bandage makers are fairly busy. The Tailoring and Silk Trades are declining. The Lace Trade is slightly improved. Letterpress and lithographic printers are very well employed. At one boot and shoe firm about 50 men and boys are on strike against a new statement involving a reduction of wages.

#### Leicester and Northampton District.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Nearly the whole of the factories are working half-time, and for a long period there has not been so large a percentage of unemployed at this time of year as now. Little improvement can be expected until the new year, when orders for spring goods are taken in hand. A new wages statement has been arranged by the Board of Arbitration for shoe clickers who work on piece; it is estimated that this new arrangement will give an advance of from 5 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to about 600 clickers.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Manufacturers are moderately busy in specialities, the cold weather creating a good demand for heavy woollen goods. There is a fair demand for woollen gloves. The local Wool and Yarn Trades are almost at a standstill, most of the large spinning houses only working their machinery about three days a week. In



yarns there is a better demand for fancy goods, lambswool, and cashimeres for immediate delivery. About 40 men, women, and girls at a hosiery firm at Barrow-on-Soar came out on strike for a new wages list, fixing the same rates as those paid in Leicester and Loughborough; a few have since returned to work.

**Miscellaneous.**—Manufacturers of elastic shoe webs report business as very dull, and the workmen are only on half-time. Makers of braids, cords and bandings are fairly busy. Several builders have had to suspend operations for want of bricks, owing to the coal dispute. Painters and plumbers are not in active demand, and a small number are out of work. Work is pretty regular in the Engineering and Iron Trades, and the makers of shoe machinery report a slight improvement. The number of unemployed in the Cigar Trade much exceeds the average. The Printing and allied Trades are only moderately busy. Some of the wholesale clothing houses are working full-time on autumn and winter contracts, but the retail clothing establishments are very slack. Cycle-makers are only partially employed. Business continues brisk at the stone quarries.—*T. Smith.*

#### Eastern Counties.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—A report from Norwich states that the Boot and Shoe Trade is in a far more depressed state than for many years past. Although comparatively few are unemployed, large numbers of hands are only earning a few shillings a week, it being customary to divide such work as there is among as many workers as possible, rather than to discharge any.

**Building Trades.**—These trades are declining, with the result that a number of bricklayers and labourers are out of work. Carpenters and joiners are fairly employed, though there are a few men idle. Plumbers, however, are busy, while painters have been better employed during the autumn than usual.

**Miscellaneous.**—Crape factories are working short time. The Engineering Trade is fairly busy. Cabinet-makers are fairly well employed. Though at this time of year the agricultural labourer does not anticipate being very fully occupied, his present condition is below the average, and the outlook in Norfolk and adjoining counties is a very bad one.

#### Bristol, Somerset and Forest of Dean District.

**Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Work with shipwrights has been practically at a standstill during September; fully 90 per cent. are out of employment. The present condition of the Engineering and Metal Trades is causing considerable anxiety. One large firm has already closed, and several others are on three-quarter time. The ironfounders report 25 per cent. unemployed, as compared with 33 per cent. last month. The boiler-makers have 15 per cent., and the engineers 9 per cent. out of work. The blacksmiths, iron and tin-plate workers, tool makers and machinists also report trade as extremely dull. At Gloucester the Engineering Trades are quiet.

**Mining.**—The Dean Forest miners have agreed upon a sliding scale for the future adjustment of wages in that district. They returned to work for two weeks under a reduction of 20 per cent., but at the expiration of that time had the old rates restored to them. On October 9th, under the operation of the sliding scale, a further advance of 15 per cent. was obtained. Since the resumption of work, trade has been abundant. All classes of coal have advanced in price, best block selling at pit's mouth for 15s. per ton. Three mines in the district have been closed. There appears no change in the Bristol and Radstock districts. Both sides are maintaining a firm attitude, and at present there is no sign of the dispute ending.

**Building and Carrying Trades.**—The masons, bricklayers and plasterers are fairly busy; but the plumbers, painters, carpenters and joiners are not so well employed. The mill sawyers, wood-cutting machinists and wood turners are also slack. At Gloucester, the Building Trades are very quiet. The coachmakers and wheelwrights are fairly busy; and there is a large order in hand for omnibuses and railway coaches.

**Miscellaneous.**—Dock labourers are now fairly well employed, and the same is true of seamen, who in a few cases have been able to ship at an advance in wages. No improvement has taken place in the Boot and Shoe Trade; the friction which existed in the Kingswood district is now disappearing. Trade is reported bad amongst the wholesale clothiers, printers, brush makers and cabinet makers, and basket makers are on short time. Farm labourers find great difficulty in getting full employment.—*J. Curle.*

#### Cardiff and District.

**Dock Labour.**—There are still hundreds vainly seeking employment at the docks. Several of the dock hobblers and the irregular hands depending very largely upon the ship repairing firms, have not earned a week's wages during the last seven weeks.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The effects of the recent strike of the hauliers and colliers of this district are still being felt in all

the industries. During the latter part of September, however, there has been a very marked improvement in trade, and a number of copper, tin and fuel works have been re-started. The Engineering Trade, although far from prosperous, is in a very much better condition; with a few exceptions all the firms that were put on short-time in August are now on full-time again. Except at Newport, the out-of-work books kept by the trade societies show a decrease of 25 to 30 per cent. in the numbers of the unemployed; and labourers will consequently have experienced a proportionate improvement. The engineering firms at Swansea Docks have agreed to the overtime regulation accepted at Cardiff and also to the Cardiff port rules.

The Building Trade is still as brisk as ever.—*T. Davies.*

#### South Wales Mining District.

**Coal Trade.**—All the collieries in this district that were idle through the month of August have now resumed work, but a large number of the men have not yet been able to re-start owing to the condition of the workings. The peculiar character of the Welsh coal, with the brittleness of its strata and the extreme weakness of its roof, in consequence of which there are so many accidents from falls of roof and sides, even when the collieries are at work, is an element which adds largely to the expense of re-opening after a month's stoppage. Great distress is still prevailing in some districts, especially in the upper part of the Rhondda Valley, where several collieries were closed before the recent strike. Owing to the closing of a mine through the failure of its proprietor, 500 workmen have been stopped, a fortnight's wages due to them being still unpaid. At one colliery in Carmarthenshire the Scotch and English miners who took the place of the original workmen are still in possession; the friction between the original workmen and these strangers is not quite so intense as it was, as the latter have refused to work on the tonnage prices previously refused by the former, and are asking to be paid day wages. The recent strike is generally considered the reason that the advance awarded by the sliding scale auditors, which is to regulate wages for the next two months, is not more than 14 per cent. This advance brings up the wages to 12½ per cent. above the standard rates of 1879.

**Tin-plate Trade.**—A decided improvement has taken place in this trade. Works that have been idle for some time have re-started; a better tone prevails throughout, and prices have advanced a little.—*W. Evans.*

#### London District.

There is no improvement to report in the state of trade in the Metropolis, nearly every industry, with the exception of the Building Trades, being still depressed, the depression in several trades being emphasized to some extent by the coal dispute.

**Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.**—In 64 branches of seven unions connected with these trades, containing 12,890 members, 1,077 (or 8·3 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, compared with 9 per cent. for July and August. Four branches containing 418 members report trade as "good," 13 containing 1,645 members as "moderate," and 58 branches with 10,827 members as "bad."

**Building Trades.**—With the exception of the plumbers and painters, whose number of unemployed has somewhat increased, the Building Trades continue fully employed. In 127 branches of four societies, containing 8,484 members, 194 (or 2·3 per cent.) are returned as unemployed, compared with 2 per cent. last month, 89 branches of eight societies describing trade as "good," 120 as "moderate," and 38 branches as "bad."

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—The condition of these trades is described in nearly every case as "very bad," it being many years since so large a percentage of unemployed were to be found on the books. This is attributed by the secretary of one of the largest societies to the fact that work hitherto done in London is now sent to Scotland, the provinces, and the Continent, but while this may be true to some extent, returns from other portions of the United Kingdom show that the condition of these trades is universally bad. Returns have been received this month from eight societies with an aggregate membership of 16,379, of whom 1,079 (or 6·6 per cent.) are unemployed. Taking, however, the four societies which made returns last month, it is found that the percentage of unemployed has increased from 6·3 to 7·5.

**Furnishing Trades.**—The returns to hand this month are not sufficiently complete to enable a fair comparison to be drawn between the figures for August and September, though such as have been received show a decided downward tendency. This is proved by the fact that after an existence of 27 years one of the unions in connection with these trades has been compelled to organise a benefit on behalf of its funds, having previously been able, by increased contributions and levies, to surmount its difficulties.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—The number of labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during the month ranged from 3,521 to 5,203, as compared with 3,736 to 5,181 in the corresponding period of 1892. Apart from the labour thus employed, the Fruit Trade is reported to have been rather brisk. The work in the London and St. Katharine's Docks has been very quiet, whilst the warehouses in the vicinity have been busy, owing to the importation of this season's teas. The wharves along the waterside, other than the green fruit wharves, have been slack, and at Wapping trade has been very bad. The same may be said for the East and West India Docks. The South Dock (Indian Group), has had a fair share of trade, whilst at the Millwall Dock it has been exceptionally brisk, especially in the grain department, and in the discharge of nitrate of soda. The Victoria and Albert Docks have been very slack, while the Surrey Commercial Dock has been busy discharging grain and timber, the wharves doing a fair trade.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—In the Boot and Shoe Industry, especially the machine-made branch, trade is described as very bad. The coopers report trade as "bad," though the percentage of unemployed has fallen from 5·1 to 3·0.

**Disputes.**—The effort made by the farriers to improve their position (referred to last month) does not appear to have been successful, the places of those who came out, to the number of 28, having been filled by provincial men. A strike of 80 compositors has taken place at a City printing-office which for the last 20 years has been run on non-union lines.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### Edinburgh and District.

**Mining.**—The Coal Trade in this district continues brisk. In Mid and East Lothian the strike for an advance of 20 per cent. terminated on September 6th and 7th, the question being referred to the Board of Conciliation, whose award is to be based on the price of coal and the wages paid in other parts of the country. About 800 miners and others have been working with an additional advance of 10 per cent. since September 4th. In West Lothian trade is brisk; the strike at Bathgate is unsettled, but all the men have found work elsewhere. The Oil Industry is still quiet.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.**—The Shipbuilding Trades are still bad, although there is a slight improvement. The shipwrights report about the same number idle as last month, while the boiler-makers show 27 per cent. on the idle roll, as against 35·5 in August. The Iron Trades continue bad, the returns from five branches of engineers and blacksmiths showing 9·7 per cent. on the out-of-work books, while moulders return 20·7 per cent. as unemployed.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers report trade as quiet; the masons, plasterers and lath-splitters as good; the joiners and other branches as fair. The lath-splitters have had their wages advanced from 7d. to 7½d. per hour.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report a decided improvement, with a weekly average of 2·3 per cent. idle. Lithographic printers show 5·2 per cent. idle, as against 2·5 in August. Bookbinders return 5 per cent. unemployed, as against 6·9 in August. Typefounders are only working four days per week.

**Miscellaneous.**—Sett makers are busy, and two firms have conceded an advance of 3d. per ton on a certain class of work. The bakers, paper makers, rubber workers, shoemakers, tailors and cabinet makers report trade as quiet; the tinsmiths as bad, with 2·8 per cent. out of work and 15·4 per cent. only working 39 hours a week. The brass-finishers show 3·2 per cent. idle, as against 2·4 in August. The coopers report 19·7 per cent. idle as against 12·5 per cent., and the saddlers return 5·8 per cent. as unemployed. Carpet weavers report trade as bad, men being restricted to five and women to four pieces a week; a reduction of 4 per cent. on a certain class of work has been made. Shipping is brisk, and dock labourers are well employed.—*J. Mallinson.*

##### Glasgow and West of Scotland.

**Mining.**—The Lanarkshire miners have been working five days a week the latter half of the month. In Ayrshire, at the beginning of the month, owing to the want of railway and harbour facilities, there was some dullness at several collieries, but now they are working well. In Stirlingshire, in consequence of an intimated advance of 1s. a day being withdrawn, the iron ore miners left work for a week, but returned by the advice of the Union officials.

**Shipbuilding.**—In the Shipbuilding Industry the number of unemployed remains the same. Trade prospects are much better than they were last month, and it is expected that trade will be fair during the winter, a considerable number of orders having been recently placed. The new strike of the joiners makes the outlook in the meantime not so good as it would otherwise be. Ship-painters report an improvement towards the end of the month.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The steel smelters report that several works have good orders on hand, but owing to the price of coal few firms are working to their full capacity. There is a difficulty between the employers and the steel smelters with regard to the sliding scale, the men claiming an advance of 5 per cent. on the basis, which the employers refuse, although offering a temporary advance for the first three months. The millmen and iron moulders report improvement. The engineers, blacksmiths, irondressers, pattern makers, horse-shoers, hammermen, general machinists and toolmakers, are much the same as in August. The file makers report trade as good.

**Building Trades.**—The masons and the bricklayers report that in Glasgow all are employed who are willing to work. The sett-makers consider their prospects unusually good, and the paviors also report favourably. The glaziers have few men out of work, and the plumbers and saw-millers report improvement.

**Textile Trades.**—The power loom beamers report little improvement in Bridgeton. In the white cotton and muslin weaving factories they are fairly well employed. The coloured weaving branch (which includes shirtings, dress goods and ginghams) is slack.

**Miscellaneous.**—The upholsterers and cabinet-makers report no change. The saddlers state that they are well employed. In the Boot and Shoe Trade prospects are not encouraging; and the dyers consider that trade is not satisfactory. The glass workers are dull. The dock labourers are fairly well employed.—*A. J. Hunter.*

##### Dundee and District.

**Jute and Linen Trades.**—No improvement has taken place in the Jute Trade since last report. Large numbers of workers are still unemployed, and the depression is extending, notices of a reduction of sixteen hours in the working week having been posted in the Forfar factories, while it is feared further stoppages of machinery will take place. The Linen Trade is also very depressed.

**Coal Mining.**—In Fife and Kinross all the collieries (with the exception of one where the men are still on strike for 12½ per cent. advance) are very busy. The colliers in this district have asked for an additional 12½ per cent. advance, and have been refused.

**Building Trades.**—All branches of these trades continue well employed. As several extensive public works are about to be carried out, the prospect of employment for out-door workers during the ensuing winter is a good one.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.**—All branches of these trades are very quiet.—*R. D. B. Ritchie.*

##### Aberdeen and District.

**Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.**—Shipbuilding shows no sign of improvement. Shipwrights are nearly all idle; about 100 are at sea, and, with the exception of a few employed at the harbour works, the rest have nothing to do on shore. Iron shipbuilders are in the same position as in August. Tin-plate workers have an average of 7·9 per cent. unemployed. Engineers, moulders, and blacksmiths are not getting any busier, but the number of unemployed shows no increase.

**Fishing.**—The white fishing has been very successful; 30,449 cwt. of fish have been landed, realising £22,937; in the corresponding month last year, 29,008 cwt. were landed, realising £20,765. The price realised for the catch by trawlers and large line boats was £20,824, that by small boats, £2,113. Coopers are fully employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Granite Trade is particularly busy for this season of the year, some very large orders having recently been placed. The Building Trades are still brisk; masons, plasterers, and plumbers are all well employed; a few joiners are idle, but there is no appearance of want of employment. Letterpress printers are very slack; the average percentage of unemployed has risen from 1·7 to 7 per cent. The cabinet-makers report trade as dull. The coach-makers are fairly busy. Rope and twine spinners and hemp dressers show an improvement, and are now fairly busy. Dock labourers are not well employed, the local strike having affected the trade of the port. Boot and shoe operatives are exceptionally busy for this time of year. The Tailoring Trade has not been so busy as usual at this season. Bakers are very quiet, and have an average of 8 per cent. unemployed. General labourers are in fair demand, especially builders' labourers.—*W. Johnston.*

#### IRELAND.

##### Dublin and District.

**Building, Iron and Woodwork Trades.**—Work is fair in nearly all departments of the Building Trades, and a large number of hands, including labourers, are employed. The builders' labourers have obtained an increase of 1s. per week in their wages, which will make their pay the same for both summer and winter. Upholsterers are fairly well employed, but the Cabinet-making Industry is dull. Trade among the basket-makers and lath-splitters is very slack.



The coopers have been busy, and the Iron and kindred Trades are fairly well employed. Trade is fair among the coachbuilders, painters, smiths and farriers. A lock-out of boiler-makers from one firm began at the end of August, and still continues.

*Clothing and Food Industries.*—In the Clothing Trades work is moderate, and the Boot and Shoe Trade is still slack. The confectioners and sugar-boilers are fully employed, and trade is better among the bakers. Butchers are fairly employed, and members of the Purveyors' Association are, with few exceptions, fully employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The Letterpress Printing Trade is still dull. The Lithographic Trade shows an improvement on last month. Some of the members of the Bookbinders' Society are unemployed, but trade is fairly good. The members of the Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Society are all employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—The bottle-makers are busy, but 30 members are unemployed. The saddlers and brushmakers are fairly well employed, and the same is true of the members of the Railway Servants and Tramwaymen's Unions. Work is still very slack among the unskilled labourers, and employment has been scarce on both sides of the quay, and also amongst the seamen plying from this port. Shop assistants have been agitating to have the provisions of the Shop Hours' Act enforced by the local authorities. The stablemen of the Tramway Company are asking for a reduction of their working hours.—*F. P. Nannetti.*

#### Belfast and District.

Of the 17,698 members of 47 societies sending in reports, 843 or 4·8 per cent. are unemployed. The details are as follows:—

*Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.*—Out of 7,994 members in the different societies of the trades, 389, or about 5 per cent., are unemployed. Although a number of carpenters, joiners and cabinet-makers have been taken on during the last week of September, in several large sections of these trades work is anything but brisk. The Electrical Trades report trade as good; the carpenters and joiners, shipwrights, machine workers, cranemen, and firemen, as fair; the brass-founders and pattern-makers as quiet; engineers as moderate; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as slack; the blacksmiths, smiths' strikers and ironfounders as declining; and the labourers as dull.

*Linen Trades.*—Out of 3,110 men, members of unions, 282 or 9 per cent. are unemployed. The hackle and gill makers report trade as fair; the linen lappers as quiet; the beetling engine men and power loom tenters as dull; the collar and apron cutters, flax dressers, roughers and yarn dressers as very dull.

*Building Trades.*—Out of 2,547 organized workmen, 53 or 2·8 per cent. are unemployed. The bricklayers and house painters report trade as dull; the plumbers as moderate; the bricklayers' assistants, carpenters, joiners, and mill sawyers as fair; the plasterers and paviors as good.

*Miscellaneous Trades.*—The reports from 18 miscellaneous trades show that of 4,047 members, 119 are unemployed.—*R. Sheldon.*

#### Cork and District.

*Building Trades.*—There is an improvement in the Building and kindred Trades in Cork, but in Limerick a very large percentage are out of work. Plumbers and gas fitters show a change for the better. The carpenters' strikes in Cork and Limerick still continue.

*Engineering and Shipping Trades.*—There is a decrease in the number of unemployed in the Engineering Trade in consequence of some Government work which is being executed. Shipping is very scarce both on the Shannon and the Lee, and therefore a large percentage of sailors and firemen are out of work in Cork and Limerick. The enginemens, however, report an improvement.

*Clothing Trades.*—The Tailoring Trade is fairly good in Limerick, but dull in Cork, and the strike still continues. Work at the Limerick Army Clothing Factory is very slack at present.

*Miscellaneous.*—The Printing Trade, which was dull in August, has since improved. Cabinet-makers and general furnishers are quiet. Tanners and leather workers are, on the whole, well employed. A condensed milk factory, employing over 300 persons, reports trade as being very fair, though not quite so good as in the summer season. Beef and pork butchers complain of a decline in their trade this month.—*P. O'Shea.*

**EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY IN RELATION TO SAILORS.\***—In the United States there is no legislation on this subject, and in Sweden and Norway there is no compensation for injuries, although the owner must provide medical treatment and maintenance. In France shipowners are equally liable with other employers, and a special provision secures to sailors medical treatment and wages till the end of the voyage. In the report a very full account is given of the provisions of the law in Germany.

\*P.P., O.—126 of 1893. Price 1d.

### THE DISPUTE IN THE COAL TRADE.

CONTINUING the record given in the two previous numbers of the GAZETTE of the chief events in connection with the great dispute in the Coal Trade, a statement may now be made covering the period from September 10th up to as nearly as possible the date of publication of the present number. During this time signs have not been wanting that the struggle is entering upon its final stages.

The Miners' Federation has made an important modification in its initial policy. The resolutions previously in force were intended to render the stoppage of coal production as general as possible, and all miners under direction of the Federation ceased work, whether affected by the proposals of the Coalowners' Federation to reduce wages or not. The earlier decisions on this point have been cancelled, and men are now advised to return to work in all cases in which they can do so at the old rates of wages. Although the number of miners who have gone back to work in this way is only considerable in the case of the Midland Counties, yet the tendency of this change of policy has been to narrow the area of the conflict, a process which frequently leads to a general settlement.

Despite these favourable symptoms, however, the effect of the stoppage upon the general industries of the Kingdom has been felt more and more seriously as the month advanced, and there has been a very large number of workers in other trades thrown out of work in consequence either of the difficulty of obtaining fuel or of the impossibility of carrying on production successfully in certain trades at the greatly enhanced prices demanded for coal. Much social suffering and misery have therefore resulted. This state of things has given rise to numerous public movements for the alleviation of the distress arising directly and indirectly from the dispute, and stronger manifestations of sympathy from that portion of the outer public not ordinarily troubling itself much about labour disputes have been made than in any other of the more recent disputes between capital and labour. There has also been observable a decrease of violence and bitterness in the conflict, and this has contributed to render easier and more hopeful of success the efforts of mediators desirous of assisting to bring the dispute to an amicable termination.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE FEDERATIONS.

The principal events of the month may be briefly summarised as follows:—A Conference of the Miners' Federation, held in London on August 31st, decided to submit the following propositions to a vote of the members taken by ballot:—

1. Will you agree to a 25 per cent. reduction of wages or any part thereof?
2. Will you accept the employers' offer of arbitration?
3. Shall all men resume work who can do so at the old rate of wages?

At the adjourned Conference, held at Nottingham on September 14th, the result of the ballot on these questions was made known. To the first question, only 226 voted affirmatively and 145,195 negatively. To the second question, 406 answered in the affirmative, but 141,566 voted against arbitration. As to the third question, opinion was more equally divided, and while 92,246 voted against a resumption of work in some cases at the old rate of wages, no less than 61,496 voted in favour of such a resumption. The conference also re-affirmed the previous declarations of the Federation that the proposed reduction of wages was unwarrantable and should not be submitted to, but an offer was made to meet the employers to discuss the necessity of their demand being withdrawn.

On September 21st, the Federation of Coalowners met and passed a resolution, regretting that the resolution of the Miners' Conference at Nottingham should have alleged the impossibility of any reduction of wages being accepted, and that, therefore, a meeting on such a basis could have no definite result.

A few days later it became evident that a change of opinion was taking place throughout the Federation districts previously opposed to a resumption of work

at pits where the old rates were offered, and at a meeting held at Chesterfield on September 29th it was resolved that, where possible, men should be allowed to do this. This meeting further decided not to meet the Federation of Coalowners to discuss the question of reduction. Men resuming work under the above resolution were called upon to pay a levy of 1s. per day in support of those still remaining on strike.

On October 2nd an important attempt at mediation was made by the Mayors of the following towns, all more or less directly concerned in the results of the dispute: Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Nottingham, Derby and Barnsley. A meeting was held in Sheffield, at which it was decided to invite the Coalowners and Miners' Federations to send representatives to a joint Conference to be held on October 9th in Sheffield. On the following day a meeting of coalowners, held in London, decided to accept the invitation of the Mayors asking them to take part in a Conference, the object of which was to be the settlement of the dispute. The meeting also regretted the resolution of the Miners' Federation at Chesterfield, and affirmed that no meeting should be arranged at which the question of reduction was not to be open to discussion. The invitation of the Mayors was also accepted by the Miners' Federation, and on October 9th the parties met at the offices of the Town Clerk in Sheffield. The Mayors of the towns already named were present, and they were met by three representatives and a secretary from the Coalowners' Federation, and four representatives and a secretary from the Miners' Federation. The Mayor of Sheffield presided. After a few preliminary remarks, the Mayors left the immediate parties to the dispute to discuss their differences, in the hope that a mutual arrangement might be agreed to. After a considerable interval the Mayors were invited to return, and were informed that the owners and miners had not been able to agree to terms. Thereupon the Mayor of Sheffield submitted the following proposals, which the six Mayors considered would form a satisfactory settlement of the dispute:—

1. Seeing that the price of coal will not at once recede (except in cases where contracts are pending) to the prices prevailing prior to the strike, the miners be allowed to commence work at the old rate of wages; and
2. That the miners submit to a reduction of 10 out of the 40 per cent. advanced since 1888, six weeks after the pits are open and free for work, say, on and after Monday, December 4th 1893.
3. That all men be allowed to return, where possible, and as far as practicable, to their former places.
4. That the representatives of the Miners' Federation be requested to ballot the men (with the least possible delay) upon the proposed suggestions.
5. That the Coalowners' Federation be requested to issue at the earliest possible moment pit head and other notices, that their pits will be opened on the suggested terms.
6. That representatives of the Miners' and Coalowners' Federations should meet at an early date to formulate a scheme for the establishment of a tribunal of conciliation, with a view of dealing with the question of wages.
7. That as soon as it is decided to open the pits for the resumption of work the coalowners be requested, in consideration of the severe distress now prevailing in the mining districts, to make advances to the men, such advances to be repaid by weekly instalments.

It was then agreed that the coalowners and miners should submit these suggestions as soon as possible to their respective associations. These proposals have already been submitted for answer to the respective constituents of the Coalowners' and Miners' Federations.

The coalowners on October 10th met at Derby, and, having considered the proposals of the Mayors, affirmed the following propositions:—

1. That the coalowners record their grateful acknowledgments to the Mayors of Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Nottingham, Derby, and Barnsley for their intervention and suggestion of terms as a basis for the settlement of the present labour dispute.
2. That whilst re-affirming their conviction that the state of trade entitles them to the reduction asked for, and regarding the present inflated prices as entirely artificial, yet with the object and desire to end the widespread distress and general dislocation of trade, and in deference to the appeal made to them as contained in the suggestions of the Mayors, they make the following offer:—
3. That the miners be allowed to commence work at a present reduction of 15 out of the 40 per cent. advanced since 1888, and that pit head notices be given on Thursday next that work can be resumed on Monday next, the 16th inst., at that reduction;
4. That all men be allowed to return where possible, and as far as practicable, to their former places;

3. The coalowners agree to meet the representatives of the miners at an early date and to use their best endeavours to formulate and agree upon a scheme for the establishment of a tribunal of conciliation, with a view of dealing with the question of future advances or reductions in wages;
4. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Mayor of Sheffield, to the secretary of the Miners' Federation, and to the Press.

From what followed during the next few days, however, it would appear that the views expressed in the above resolutions were not shared to the full by some of the coalowners. In a number of cases independent action was taken, and offers were made to at once re-open pits on the terms suggested by the Committee of Mayors. Indeed, in the Midland counties a number of pits have been thrown open to the men at the old rate of wages, without any definite condition as to the future. So strong has this movement become in the Midlands, including Notts, that, according to latest reports, arrangements have been made under which about 30,000 men will return to work in this part of the Federation district. These events mark a great change in the conditions of the dispute.

So far as the various sections of the Miners' Federation were concerned, it soon became evident that the proposal of the Committee of Mayors providing for an early reduction of 10 per cent. off the 40 per cent. advanced would not be accepted.

The representatives of the Miners' Federation met at Birmingham on the 12th inst., and, after discussion of the proposals submitted for consideration, passed the following resolution:—

"That this Conference, while recognising and appreciating the good intentions of the Mayors, at the same time are still of opinion that no reduction of wages is necessary, and none can be accepted; and, further, we call upon our men to stay away from any colliery unless and until opened at the old rate of wages."

#### LOCAL MOVEMENTS.

The above statement summarises the central points of interest in connection with the general dispute, but outside of these there are many local matters which may also be put on record as showing some of the conditions raised in other localities. The impossibility of meeting the demand for coal in some districts has necessarily caused a great increase of production in places not affected by the dispute. Thus, production in Northumberland, Durham, Scotland, South Staffordshire, and a few other localities not controlled by the Federation, has largely increased, full, and indeed, extra time being worked wherever possible. This state of things has naturally caused demands for increased wages in the districts not on strike, and this outside movement calls for some observation.

In Scotland, as recorded in the last number of the GAZETTE, considerable advances of wages had been made. It was evidently felt, however, by many of the miners' leaders that a policy of unrestricted production was injudicious under the circumstances, and in Lanarkshire a resolution was passed calling for the general adoption of a four days a week policy. A conference of Scottish miners' delegates was held at Glasgow on September 17th, Fife and the Lothians not being represented, and it was decided to postpone the final settlement of this important point until a later date, although the four days' system was recommended for the following week. Several local meetings also decided in favour of four days work only per week. On September 21st, the Lanarkshire coalowners met at Glasgow, and strongly condemned the action of the miners in restricting work to four days per week. It was resolved that steps should be taken to put an end to this system of restriction if persisted in. The Airdrie, Slamannan and Bathgate coalowners also met and resolved that, if the miners reduced their working days below five per week, wages should be reduced at once, but that if the men continued to work five days the question of reducing wages should be postponed. On September 22nd a conference of miners' delegates at Glasgow (Fife and Clackmannan not being represented) decided to recommend a five days a week policy. On September 29th, the Fife and Clackmannan coalowners refused an application for a 12½ per cent. advance made



by the Miners' Association. On October 9th the Airdrie miners struck work in consequence of the owners loading the coal on trucks direct to England.

In Northumberland, application for an advance of wages having been made, a meeting took place on September 20th, between representatives of the Coal-owners' and Miners' Associations. The advance was refused, and the executive of the Miners' Association have advised the men against entering into a strike to enforce it.

In Durham, on September 14th, the Coalowners' Association declined the request of the men's association for an advance of wages. Two days later the men employed at Hebburn Colliery refused to continue work, because, they said, they were engaged in filling coal for the Midlands. On September 30th at a meeting of delegates at Durham, a vote of censure on the heads of the Miners' Association was proposed, but was rejected, and a vote of confidence was carried. On October 9th a meeting between representatives of the Coalowners' and Miners' Associations was held at Newcastle to consider another application for an advance made by the men.

The Conference lasted about five hours, but no conclusion was arrived at, and the meeting adjourned until 12th October, when the coalowners announced that they were willing, in view of the recent heavy demand for coal and the regularity of work, to concede a special advance of 5 per cent. over a limited period of three months. This offer was refused by the Miners' Association, who demanded an unconditional advance of 5 per cent. There the matter rests for the present.

In Cumberland, a further application of the men for an advance was refused.

The dispute at Whitehaven, having lasted over six weeks, was ended by the company informing their men that they might return to work on the old terms. The books of the colliery might be submitted to an accountant, and if it was found that the company was paying less than 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888 any difference would be made up to the men.

In South Wales, since the settlement of the hauliers' dispute, as described in the last issue of the GAZETTE, matters have been tranquil, and the 200 collieries associated under a sliding scale arrangement have received an advance of 1 1/2 per cent.

The situation in Somersetshire and Dean Forest has been somewhat peculiar, and sudden changes have taken place in the attitude of the parties to the dispute. Early in September the funds of the men were exhausted, and little support was being received. On September 14th the employers and miners of Dean Forest met and arranged that work should be resumed on September 18th, but the terms of agreement were not made public until the date of resumption of work. It then appeared that the miners had accepted the following arrangement:—The pits to be re-opened at a 20 per cent. reduction for a fortnight, after which wages were to be regulated by price of best block coal at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent. per 6d. per ton, above or below 9s. 6d. per ton at the pit. A committee was to be formed consisting of the agent and five other representatives of the men, who should confer with the employers on an intimation being given of any alteration in price, the employers undertaking to give full information as to such alteration. This arrangement is to be permanent, and can only be terminated by six months' notice from January in any year. On October 2nd, under the above arrangement, the wages of the district were restored to the rate prevailing before the dispute. One week later a further advance of 15 per cent. was made owing to the continued rise in the price of coal, and work is being carried on at high pressure.

Owing to these causes there has been during the past month a considerable increase in the production of coal as compared with that of the two preceding months, but this has not been sufficient to meet the demands of merchants and manufacturers, and prices continued to rise very rapidly, but now show some tendency to fall.

The effect upon all branches of trade has been most depressing, and the continuance of the existing deadlock, even in its somewhat mitigated form, does not brighten the prospects of trade in the coming winter.

STATISTICS OF COAL PRODUCTION AND MEN EMPLOYED.

In view of the great attention at present directed to the Coal Industry, the following table has been prepared showing the number of persons employed in and about coal mines in Great Britain from 1886 to 1892 inclusive, and the production of coal during each of those years. As will be seen from the table, the number of persons employed in Great Britain rose steadily year by year from 519,106 in 1886 to 663,462 in 1892, an increase in the six years of 144,356, or 27.8 per cent. The output also largely increased from 1886 to 1891, the production in the latter year exceeding that of 1886 by 27,960,526 tons, or 17.8 per cent. In 1892, however, there was a percentage decrease of 2.0, the production falling from 185,373,445 tons in 1891 to 181,674,990 tons in 1892. At the same time the number of persons employed was 2.4 per cent. more in 1892 than in 1891.

Table showing the number of persons employed in and about coal mines in Great Britain, and tons of coal raised in each year, from 1886 to 1892 inclusive.

Table with 7 columns: Year, England and Wales (Number of persons employed, Number of tons raised), Scotland (Number of persons employed, Number of tons raised), Total—Great Britain (Number of persons employed, Number of tons raised). Rows for years 1886 to 1892.

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month, information was received of the sinking or re-opening of 38 and the closing of 5 mines. Thirty-five of the mines sunk or re-opened and 2 of the mines discontinued or abandoned are collieries. Of the new collieries 8 are in South Wales, 6 in Scotland, 6 in Lancashire, and 3 each in Durham, Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

COAL:— NEW MINES. Durham—Lady Ann Pit (Hutton Seam), and Houghton Pit (Maudlin Seam), near Fence Houses; Storey Lodge (Brockwell Seam), near Evenwood. (3) Cumberland—Crosby, Maryport. Lancashire—Winsey Pit (Cannel Seam), Plodder Lane, Bolton; Grislehurst Mine (Arley Seam), Birtle, Bury; Wood End (Forty-yards Seam); and Higher Shore (Forty-yards Seam), Littleborough; Stepback Drift (Half-yard Seam), Darwen; Birkacre, Chorley (sinking Shaft deeper). (6) Derbyshire—Westwick (Ashgate Seam), Brampton, Chesterfield; Holmesfield (sinking to Mickley Coal Seam), Dronfield; Manners (Low Main Seam), Ilkeston. (3) Staffordshire—Scottwell (Thick Seam), Rowley Regis; Mounts (Thick Seam), and Bales Hill (Thick Seam), Wednesbury. (3) Warwick—New Bedworth (Seven-foot Seam), Nuneaton. Gloucestershire—Uncertainty Colliery, Forest of Dean. Monmouth—Pentre Farm (Trial Shaft), Pontlanraith. Glamorgan—Pontwyn, Rudry; Ystrad Mynach (Mynyddysyllwyn Seam), near Cardiff; Mynachdy (Darranddu Seam), Ynysybwl; Cefn Merthyr (Brithdir Seam), Quaker's Yard; Rhondda Merthyr (Two-foot, Nine and Four-foot Seams), Treherbert; Dinas Main (sinking to Steam Coals); and Cefn Cribbwr (Cribbwr Seam), near Bridgend; Groeswen (drifting to Llantwit Coal), near Pontypridd. (8) Lanarkshire—Smithycroft, Glasgow; Skellyton No. 2 Pit (Virtuewell Seam); Fairholm No. 1 Pit (Main Seam); Dunsynton Nos. 4 and 5 Pits (Lower Drumgray Seam); Auchenheath (Leshmahagon Seam). (5) Linlithgow—Fallahill No. 4 Pit (Shaft Sinking). Leitrim Co.—Arigna No. 2 Drift (Main Coal Seam), Carrick-on-Shannon. Tipperary—Earlshill Mine (Hanley's Vein Seam), Thurles. IRONSTONE:—No. 7 Pit, Corby Craigs, Ayrshire (Extension of an existing Mine). LEAD ORE:—Hersedd, Holywell, Flintshire. ZINC ORE:—Eisteddfod, Minerva, Denbighshire.

COAL:— MINES ABANDONED. Lancashire—Bickershaw Collieries (Pemberton, Five-foot Seam; Ince Seven-foot Seam and Furnace Mine), near Wigan. Monmouth—Cwmfrwdoer, Pontypool. OIL SHALE:—Stewartfield Nos. 1 and 2, Oil Shale Mines, Linlithgow. IRON:—Kelly Shining Ore Mine, Newton Abbot, Devon. LEAD ORE:—Langley Barony Mine, Haydon Bridge, Northumberland.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Emigration.—The number of persons of British origin who left the United Kingdom during September for places out of Europe shows a decrease of 368 when compared with the previous month, and an increase of 1,515 when compared with September 1892, the figures for the three periods being 23,998, 24,366, and 22,483 respectively. Of the British emigrants during September, 15,785 were English, 2,533 Scotch, and 5,680 Irish; and 17,182 left for the United States, 2,453 for British North America, 1,662 for South Africa, 1,420 for Australasia, and 1,281 for all other places. Besides British emigrants, there were 7,183 foreigners and others whose nationalities were not stated (4,979 of whom went to the United States), making the total number of emigrants last month 31,181, against 32,148 in the previous month, and 28,874 in September 1892. The total number of emigrants during the nine months ended 30th September last was 179,019 British and 88,504 of other nationalities, the former being an increase of 8,044, and the latter a decrease of 10,488 when compared with the same period in 1892.

Immigration.—The total number of aliens recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom from the Continent last month was 7,152, of which 4,407 were stated to be en route to America, being increases of 2,704 and 2,003 respectively when compared with the figures for September, 1892. Of the 2,745 aliens not stated to be en route to America, 1,289 landed in London, 459 at the Tyne ports, 336 at Hull, and 661 at other ports, while of those stated to be en route to America, 2,789 arrived at Hull, 775 at Leith, 598 at Grimsby, and 245 at other ports. Classed according to port of embarkation, 532 of those not stated to be en route to America came from Hamburg, 350 from Christiania, Arendal and Christiansand, 218 from Gothenburg, and 1,645 from other Continental ports, while of those bound for America, 1,733 were from Gothenburg, 300 from Christiania, Arendal and Christiansand, 81 from Hamburg, and 2,293 from other Continental ports. The total immigration for the nine months ended 30th September was 100,691, against 114,278 in the corresponding period in 1892, a decrease of 13,587.

Foreign Trade.—Imports: The value of the imports in September was £31,377,936, against £31,485,305 in September 1892, a decrease of £107,369. For the nine months ended 30th September, the total value was £297,180,803, a decrease of £15,293,715 when compared with £312,474,518, the value in the corresponding period in 1892.

Exports: The value of the British and Irish produce and manufactures exported last month shows a decrease of £670,730 when compared with September 1892, the figures for the two periods being £18,434,129 and £19,104,859 respectively. The value for the nine months ended September was £165,393,621, and £170,480,788 in the same period in 1892, a decrease of £5,087,167.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankrupts gazetted during September was 401, as compared with 380 in September 1892. Of these 401, 25 were publicans, hotel keepers, &c., 24 grocers, 23 farmers, 18 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, 17 painters, plumbers, &c., and 16 butchers. For the nine months ended 30th September the number of bankruptcies was 219 more than in the same period of 1892, the numbers being 3,653 and 3,434 respectively. The principal classes in which there has been an increase of bankrupts in 1893 are farmers, whose numbers have risen from 161 to 214; tailors, from 60 to 98; painters, plumbers, &c., from 52 to 81; greengrocers, from 32 to 59; tobacconists, from 27 to 43; chemists, from 13 to 29; fishmongers and poulterers, from 24 to 34; furniture dealers, from 18 to 29; stock and share brokers, from 10 to 27; and accountants from 8 to 22. On the other hand, among the grocers the numbers have fallen from 261 to 239; among timber merchants, from 19 to 8; and among china, glass, &c., dealers, from 24 to 15.

Traffic Receipts on British Railways.—During the month ended October 1st, the receipts of 23 of the principal Railway Companies in the United Kingdom amounted to £5,497,050, against £6,196,320 in the same period in 1892, a decrease of £699,270.

Cotton Statistics.—The number of bales of cotton imported during September was 102,006, and exported 41,873, being increases of 12,855 and 6,964 bales respectively, when compared with September 1892. For the nine months ended September the imports were 1,775,495 bales, and exports 345,354 bales, against 2,325,210 imported and 345,643 bales exported in the same period in 1892.

Fisheries.—The total quantity of fish (excluding shellfish) landed on the English and Welsh Coasts from the fishing grounds last month was 727,731 cwt., an increase of 47,988 cwt. when compared with 679,743 cwt. for September 1892. The quantity for the nine months of 1893 was 4,655,497 cwt., against 4,349,709 in the corresponding period of 1892, an increase of 305,788 cwt.

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

By the courtesy of the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office, the Department is able to give particulars of the number of paupers, both indoor and outdoor, in London and the chief industrial districts of the country, on one day in the second week in September 1893, together with the total number for the corresponding date in 1892.

The main (but not the only) consideration kept in view in the grouping of the Poor Law Unions or Parishes has been the character of the staple trades of the districts.

Table with 6 columns: District, Population in 1891, In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of Population. Rows for ENGLAND & WALES (Metropolis, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea), SCOTLAND (Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie), IRELAND (Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford, & Limerick Districts, Galway District).

\* These figures represent 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. Vagrants in the Metropolis numbered 1,066 on one day in September 1893, and 788 on the corresponding date in September 1892. ‡ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

SUMMARY OF ABOVE TABLE FOR LAST THREE MONTHS. Comparative Table showing the number of Paupers per 10,000 of Population on one day in each of the months, July, August and September, in 1893 and 1892, respectively.

Table with 7 columns: District, July (1893, 1892), August (1893, 1892), September (1893, 1892). Rows for Metropolis, West Ham, Other Districts (England and Wales), Scotland, Ireland, TOTAL (Selected Districts).



CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

The following Table is 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 Trades' Unions.

Employment.	Locality.	Approximate number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Increase.	Employment.	Locality.	Approximate number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Decrease.
<b>INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.</b>				<b>DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.</b>			
<b>Building Trades.</b>				<b>Mining.</b>			
Carpenters and Joiners	Southampton	Not stated	1d. per hour (7d. to 7½d.) to good men.	Coal Miners	Forest of Dean	Not stated	Decrease of 20 per cent. from September 18th. Sliding scale introduced.*
	Peebles	30	1d. per hour (6½d. to 7d.) from September 8th.	<b>Engineering and Shipbuilding.</b>			
Masons' and Bricklayers' Labourers	Northern District of Glasgow	20 to 30	1d. per hour (5½d. to 6d.) from September 5th.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths and Pattern-makers	Middlesbro'	12	1s. per week from September 30th.
Builders' Labourers	Dublin	About 800 or 900	1s. per week, making wages 19s. throughout the year. From October 1st.	Blacksmiths	Belfast	90 piece workers 110 day workers	5 per cent. off piece rates; 1s. per week off time wages above 30s. From first week in September.
Lath Splitters	Edinburgh	28	1d. per hour (7d. to 7½d.) from October 2nd.	<b>Metal Trades.</b>			
<b>Mining &amp; Quarrying.</b>				Steel Workers	Mossend, Lanarkshire	150	1d. per ton.
Coal Miners	Monmouthshire and South Wales	90,000	Sliding scale, 1½ per cent. from October 1st, placing wages 12½ per cent. above December 1879 standard.	<b>Textile Trades.</b>			
	Flintshire	Some collieries	2½ to 10 per cent.	Carpet Weavers	Midlothian	17	4 per cent. from Sept. 1st.
	Fife and Clackmannan	8,500	12½ per cent. from September 2nd and 6th.	Handkerchief Hemmers	Glasgow	65	8d. per 100 doz. (5s. 2d. to 4s. 6d.) from Sept. 20th.
Sett Makers	Mid and East Lothian	800	10 per cent. from September 4th.	<b>Seamen, &amp;c.</b>			
	Ratho (Midlothian)	18	3d. per ton on hammered, dressed stone, from August 26th and Sept. 2nd.	Able Seamen (Sailing)	Poplar, E.	Not stated	5s. per month (£3 to £2 15s.)
<b>Engineering.</b>				Able Seamen (Steamships)	Newport	Not stated	10s. per month (£4 to £3 10s.)
Iron Polishers					Belfast	Not stated	Minimum wages reduced 5s. per month (£3 10s. to £4 in September; £3 15s. to £4 in August.)
Cutters, Screwers, Punchers and General Labourers	Bolton	60	1s. per week (15s. to 17s., raised to 16s. to 18s.) from September 19th.	Firemen	Newport	Not stated	10s. per month (£4 5s. to £3 15s.)
<b>Seamen, &amp;c.</b>					Belfast	Not stated	Minimum wages reduced 5s. per month (£3 15s. to £4 5s. in September; £4 to £4 5s. in August.)
Able Seamen and Firemen	Bristol	80	5s. per month (seamen, £4 to £4 5s.; firemen, £4 5s. to £4 10s.), on two vessels going to Rio de Janeiro and southwards. From September 28th.	Seamen & Firemen (Weekly Steamers)	Newport	Not stated	2s. per week (30s. to 28s.)
Able Seamen (Sailing Vessels)	Tower Hill, London, E.	Not stated	Minimum wages 5s. per month higher (wages £3 per month in September; £2 15s. to £3 in August.)	<b>Miscellaneous.</b>			
<b>Textile Trades.</b>				Ploughmen	East Essex	Not stated	2s. per week (12s. to 10s.)
Card Room Operatives	Stockport	One mill	Advance to Oldham list.	Ordinary Farm Labourers	Alcester	Not stated	2s. per week (11s. to 9s.)
Strippers and Grinders	Elton, Lancs.	One firm	1s. per week.	Stock-keepers, Wagoners and Shepherds	Ditto	Not stated	1s. per week.
Sheeting Weavers	Heywood	One firm	20 per cent.	<b>Paper Mill Workers.</b>			
<b>Clothing Trades.</b>				Machine Men	Hylton, near Sunderland	6	10 per cent. off piece rates from Sept. 13th. (Earnings of Machine Men before reduction were about 50s. to 55s.; of Beater Men, 40s. to 45s.; of Finishers, 30s. to 34s.; and of Back Tenders, 40s.)
Shoe Clickers	Leicester	About 600	New piece-work wages list, estimated to be an increase of from 5 to 7½ per cent.	Beater Men	Ditto	34	10 per cent. off piece rates from Sept. 13th.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Kingswood, Near Bristol	About 5,000	Improved piece-work wages list from October 1st.	Finishers	Ditto	10	10 per cent. off piece rates from Sept. 13th.
	Belfast	120	5 per cent. (2½s. to 25s. 2½d.) from September 18th.	Back Tenders	Ditto	50	10 per cent. off piece rates from Sept. 13th.
<b>Miscellaneous.</b>				Women	Ditto	About 100	5 per cent. off piece-rates from September 25th.
Bakers	Dundee	Not stated	1s. per week from September 16th.	<b>DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.</b>			
Sugar Refiners	Greenock	One company	2s. per week from September 30th.	Brass Workers	Birmingham	800	3 hours per week (56½ to 53½) from October 2nd.
Postmen	Berkhamstead	Not stated	2s. 6d. per week (8s. 6d. to 11s.)	Bedstead Makers	Ditto	600	3½ hours per week (54 to 50½)
Tramway Conductors	Grimsby	10	2s. per week (minimum 10s., raised to 12s.) from October 31st.	Box Makers and Stationery Cutters	Nottingham	33	3½ hours per week (57½ to 53½) from first week in October.
Corporation Employees: General Labourers	Nottingham	80	1d. per hour (5d. to 5½d.) from first week in October.	Tramway Drivers and Conductors	Grimsby	20	12½ hours per week (98 to 85½) from October 31st.

NOTE.—Seamen: At the beginning of September the wages of seamen at Swansea decreased 5s., and in some cases 10s. per month, but reverted to the old rates of £4 per month for A.B.'s, and £4 5s. for Firemen about the middle of the month.

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

From the answers given in schedules sent to the Labour Department, the following table has been drawn up showing the ages and conjugal condition of the daughters above school age of those members of the Women's Co-operative Guild who made returns.

Ages.	Single.	Married.	Total.
14 to 20 years	314	2	316
20 " 25 years	203	3	234
25 " 30 years	62	41	103
Over 30 years	33	40	73
Total	612	114	726

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND CONCILIATION.

At a meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, held at Plymouth, on the 26th September, under the presidency of Sir Albert K. Rollit, D.C.L., M.P., the following was one of the resolutions carried:—"That, having regard to the serious injury that is done to the interests of employers and workmen and to those of the country generally by strikes and lock-outs, it is desirable that the Board of Trade should be invested by Act of Parliament with such authority as may be necessary to promote the settlement of labour disputes by means of arbitration, conciliation, or mediation."

AGRICULTURE IN SEPTEMBER.

THE weather during the early part of the month was on the whole favourable for the completion of the corn harvest, and the rain storms which occurred benefited the root crops. During the latter portion of the month the land has been rendered more friable by showers, allowing some satisfactory progress to be made in the preparations for autumn sowings.

Reports to hand as to the results of the harvest differ considerably, but generally from all places south of Yorkshire they are stated to be below the average. From Cambridgeshire it is announced that the wheat harvest has been a complete failure, and the root crops very unsatisfactory, causing farmers to still further curtail expenses by reducing the number of labourers employed on their farms and the wages of those retained. In Essex, several farmers in the Witham District are said to have reduced the wages of their labourers by 2s. per week, i.e., to 9s. per week for ordinary labourers, and 10s. for horsemen.

From Lincolnshire harvest reports vary greatly, but in Yorkshire, Westmoreland, Cumberland and the border districts, the results are stated to be, on the whole, very satisfactory. In Scotland, particularly in the Eastern Counties, farmers are reported as having secured one of the finest as well as earliest harvests on record. Similar results are also reported from Ireland, where all crops except hay are stated to be up to or over the average. The hay crop was light and below average, but of good quality.

Several County Councils are reported to have taken action during the month with regard to small holdings and allotments, including Lincolnshire (Holland), which has resolved to hire land at Holbeach, Hurn., at 50s. per acre for allotment, and to apply for a loan of £6,500 at 3½ per cent. for 50 years, for the purpose of purchasing farms for small holdings. The Cumberland County Council has also decided to purchase land for the same purpose, and the Essex County Council has succeeded in obtaining suitable land at Dedham, and is taking steps to acquire a field at Otten Belchamp. The Worcestershire County Council has instructed its standing committee to resort to compulsory powers for the acquisition of land, if necessary, and the East Sussex County Council has also entered into negotiations for the acquisition of land. In Scotland, the Caithnesshire County Council has appointed a committee to inspect certain land with a view to arranging terms with the proprietor.

It is also reported that a landowner has granted 16 acres of land at Stoke Mandeville. Another has cut up a large farm in Huntingdonshire into small holdings, ranging from 14 to 40 acres each, and also turned about 40 acres into a cow pasture, upon which each man can run a cow from 1st April to 31st October in each year at a rent of 2s. per week, sheds for the cows being provided in the winter free of charge. It is further reported that a landowner near Chelmsford has notified to the villagers in his neighbourhood that they can hire from 1 to 4 acres of land from him for farming purposes at 25s. per acre, the usual price for land for allotment purposes in Essex being stated as ranging from £2 to £4, and in some cases to £6 per acre.

The holders of allotments in South Lincolnshire are stated to have had a very favourable harvest. Barley and potatoes are the chief crops, and numerous instances are quoted where men have secured two quarters of corn from a rood of barley, and two tons of tubers from a rood of potatoes. It is said that some of the labourers who have chiefly grown potatoes have made as much as £5 out of their surplus produce after providing for their own domestic requirements. There appears to be a growing demand in this district both for allotments and small holdings.

Other reports state that whilst the population in many villages is steadily declining, in those where allotments have been provided in a liberal spirit it has remained fairly stationary.

The total imports of corn into the United Kingdom during September 1893 and 1892 were as follows:—

	September 1893.	September 1892.
	Cwts.	Cwts.
Wheat	5,650,711	6,319,764
Barley	6,417,542	7,261,607
Oats	453,747	731,113
Maize	2,384,044	1,858,709
Beans		
Peas		
Wheatmeal and Flour		

The imports of hay during the month were 35,948 tons, as compared with 4,723 tons in September 1892. Of the amount imported during last month 9,863 tons came from the United States. In August 1893, 38,416 tons were imported.

At the end of September the average prices of British corn per quarter were as follows:—Wheat, 27s. 6d.; barley, 28s. 4d.; oats, 17s. 11d.; compared with 25s. 11d. wheat, 26s. 9d. barley, and 18s. 6d. oats at the end of August. The price of British wheat on the average of the five weeks ending 30th September was 26s. 3d. per quarter, compared with 28s. 11d. in the corresponding period of 1892.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

THE Royal Commission to enquire into "(1) the Agricultural depression prevailing in Great Britain, and (2) whether it can be alleviated by legislative or other measures," was appointed on September 14th, as follows:—The Right Hon. George Shaw Lefevre, M.P., Chairman; Viscount Cobham; Lord Vernon; The Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P.; Sir Nigel Kingscote, K.C.B., Commissioner of Woods and Forests and a Trustee of the Royal Agricultural Society; Mr. Robert Giffen, C.B., LL.D., Comptroller-General of the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Departments of the Board of Trade; Mr. C. I. Elton, Q.C., formerly M.P. for West Somerset; Captain Owen Thomas, of Brynddu Rhosgoch, Anglesey; Mr. F. A. Channing, M.P., M.A.; Mr. John Clay, of Kirchisten, near Kelso, N.B.; Mr. C. N. Dalton, Assistant Secretary Local Government Board, and formerly a Member of the Royal Commission on the Redemption of Tithe Rent Charge; Mr. R. L. Everett, M.P.; Mr. John Gilmour, of Montrave, Fife, N.B., a Director of the Highland and Agricultural Society, and formerly a Member of the Royal Commission on Horse-Breeding; Mr. George Lambert, M.P.; Mr. W. C. Little, Senior Assistant Commissioner to the Royal Commission on Labour; Mr. Walter Hume Long, M.P. and Mr. Charles Whitehead, F.L.S., Technical Adviser to the Board of Agriculture and Vice-President to the Royal Agricultural Society. Mr. Herbert Lyon will act as Secretary to the Commission, with Mr. R. F. Crawford, of the Board of Agriculture, and Mr. F. Freeman Thomas as Assistant Secretaries. The Offices are at 23 Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.

The Commission has held two meetings, and appointed Assistant Commissioners to visit selected areas and report the results of their investigations. The following are the names of the Assistant Commissioners, and the districts which they will visit:—

Dr. Fream (Editor of the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society), the Maidstone District of Kent, and the Andover District of Hants.

Mr. Wilson Fox (Assistant-Commissioner on Agriculture to the Labour Commission), the Garstang District of Lancashire, and the Glendale District of Northumberland.

Mr. Hunter Pringle (Assistant-Commissioner on Agriculture to the Labour Commission), the Ongar District of Essex, and the Isle of Axholme, Lincolnshire.

Mr. Jabez Turner (formerly a Member of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society), the Stratford-on-Avon District of Warwickshire, and the Frome District of Somersetshire.

Mr. James Hope (an Assistant-Commissioner to the Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1880-2), will investigate selected Districts of Scotland.

The Royal Commission will meet again on 9th November for the purpose of receiving evidence.



LABOUR CASES IN SEPTEMBER.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

*City of London Court, September 21st.*—Bricklayer claimed £60 compensation for injuries sustained through alleged neglect of defendants' servants. Plaintiff stated that he was employed by defendants, and whilst standing on a plank at work on a wall facing the river, he was precipitated into the water beneath owing to the plank giving way. In falling he broke his jaw, and was nearly drowned. The defence was that there was no neglect on part of defendants, or of any person for whom they were responsible. Verdict for defendants.

*Manchester County Court, September 29th.*—A machinist claimed £100, or alternatively £50, damages for injuries to right hand. He alleged that owing to the defective state and insecure position of a planing machine it was subject to excessive vibration, and whilst he was working it an unusual jerk of the machine caused his hand to be cut by the knives. In defence it was contended that plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence, and evidence was adduced that the vibration was not such as described, and that had the wood been properly placed by plaintiff against the "fence," the accident would not have occurred. Judgment for defendants, with costs.

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

*London, Bow Street Police Court, September 2nd.*—A painter claimed 2s. 2d., unpaid wages due. At the end of a week's work of 52½ hours he received 35s., being at the rate of 8d. per hour, but he contended he was entitled to 8½d. per hour, and submitted evidence to prove that this was the Trade Union rate recognised throughout the London district. For the defence, evidence was adduced that complainant was informed before he commenced work that the wages were 8d. an hour. The magistrate decided that the Union rate was not binding on employers unless it was shown that they agreed to it. The defence had proved that complainant was told the rate was 8d. Summons dismissed, with £1 1s. costs against complainant.

*South Shields Police Court, September 4th.*—A seaman claimed £1 9s. 8d. wages due, stating that as he and another seaman were returning to their vessel after a short absence, they saw the captain and pilot get on board, upon which the ladder was immediately pulled up. The captain told them he would send a boat, but the ship sailed straight away. In defence it was alleged that plaintiff had deserted the ship, and tossed his clothes on shore. The Bench held there was no evidence of desertion, and made the order asked for, with costs. A similar order was made in the case of the other seaman.

*Bradford County Court, September 5th.*—Engine tender sued for £9 16s., wages due in lieu of notice, and 7s. 6d. for fuel cleaning. The evidence showed that he entered his employment under an agreement for three months' notice on either side. He gave such notice on 29th April, but on the 5th June he was discharged. In defence it was alleged that plaintiff absented himself from work whilst the boilers were under repair, and had also made use of threats. The judge held that plaintiff had not been guilty of such conduct as would justify his dismissal, and gave judgment for £9 (wages up to 20th July) and costs. The 7s. 6d. for fuel cleaning was not allowed.

*Hatfield Police Court, September 8th.*—A driver was summoned for leaving his work without cause. Evidence was given that a circular was posted on his employer's premises requiring a week's notice from the employees, but the defendant pleaded that there was no such notice posted in the stable where he was employed. The Bench dismissed the summons, and allowed defendant his counterclaim of 4s. 3d. for wages unpaid.

At the same time and place a brick machine lad was summoned for leaving his work without notice. It was stated that defendant and three other lads left their work, and this caused 25 men to be thrown out of employment for the rest of the day. A notice requiring a week's notice from employees was posted in the machine room, but defendant asserted in defence that it was illegible. Case dismissed, and the summonses against the three other lads withdrawn.

*Framlingham Petty Sessions, September 9th.*—Six workmen summoned a farmer for breach of contract, alleging that they had entered into an agreement to take the whole harvest of about 72 acres at 11s. per acre, but defendant had taken 4½ acres from them. In defence it was stated that the plaintiffs were slow in their work, and that the 4½ acres of corn required immediate cutting, otherwise it would have been damaged. Judgment for plaintiffs for £2 9s. 6d. and 15s. costs.

*London Mansion House, September 19th.*—A waterman claimed 30s., wages due in lieu of notice. He alleged that on a recent occasion he was employed as mate on a steamboat from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m., and during the whole of that time was not provided with food or drink. On the next day, finding similar conditions of work were probable, he notified the captain and one of the pier officials previous to commencing a journey, that on the return of the steamboat, he, with others of the crew, intended to leave the vessel for half-an-hour for refreshment, there being no food obtainable on board. He and the others carried out their intention, and went on shore, and when they returned complainant was told to wait until next day, when he was discharged, and his wages paid up to the previous day, although he had an agreement entitling him to a week's notice. Judgment for plaintiff for amount claimed and £1 1s. costs. Leave to appeal refused.

*Burley Borough Court, September 20th.*—A stripper and grinder claimed for wages in lieu of notice. He pleaded that he could not go to work one morning owing to illness, and sent a boy to inform the carder, who put another man on in his place. Upon receiving his wages he was told his place had been filled up. Defendants alleged that plaintiff was absent through drink, but this they failed to prove. Judgment for plaintiff £1 2s. 6d., a week's wages.

(3) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.

*September 1st.*—A person was convicted at Cardiff for illegally boarding a vessel. Fined 20s. and 6s. 6d. court fees. M.S. Act 1880, s. 5.

*September 6th.*—The master of a vessel was convicted at Liverpool for not taking all necessary and reasonable precautions to prevent the grain cargo of said vessel from shifting. Fined £5 and £2 18s. costs. M.S. (Carriage of Grain) Act 1880, s. 3.

*September 13th.*—The master of a vessel was convicted at Greenock for allowing the centre of the disc of his vessel to be submerged. Fined £20 and £10 costs. M.S. Act 1876, s. 28.

*September 14th.*—A person was convicted at Hull for going to sea as engineer without holding a certificate. Fined 40s. and 8s. 6d. costs. M.S. Acts 1854 and 1862.

*September 22nd.*—A person was convicted at Falkirk for taking a vessel to sea without boats. Fined £5. M.S. (L.S.A.) Act 1883, s. 4.

*September 22nd.*—The owner of a vessel was convicted at Boston for employing an uncertificated engineer. Fined 20s. and 6s. 6d. costs.

And at the same time and place a person was convicted for going to sea as engineer without holding a certificate. Fined 20s. and 6s. 6d. costs. M.S. Acts 1854 and 1862, s. 5.

*September 22nd.*—The owner of a vessel was convicted at Boston for employing uncertificated master. Fined 20s. and 6s. 6d. costs.

And at the same time and place a person was convicted for proceeding to sea as master without holding certificate. Fined 20s. and 6s. 6d. costs. M.S. Act 1854, s. 136.

*September 23rd.*—The master of a vessel was convicted at Bow Street, London, for allowing the centre of the disc of his vessel to be submerged. Fined £10 10s., to include £3 3s. costs. M.S. Act 1876, s. 28.

And at the same time and place, the same person was convicted of omitting to enter in his official log the particulars from the load-line certificate. Fined 1d. and 2s. costs. Regulations of the Board of Trade under the M.S. Load-Line Act, 1890. M.S. Act, 1892, s. 2.

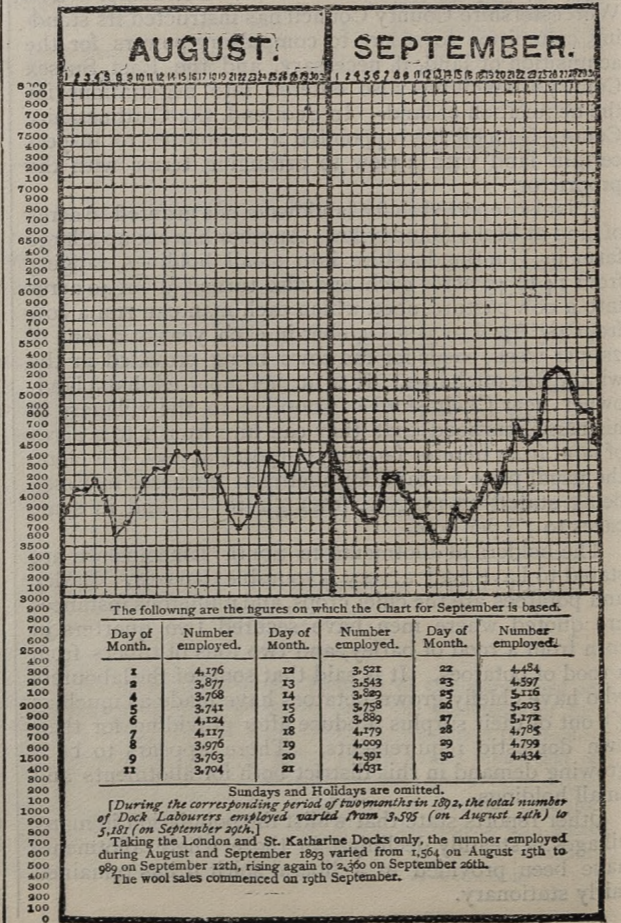
*September 27th.*—The master of a vessel was convicted at Sharpness for employing an uncertificated mate. Fined £10 and £2 3s. 6d. costs. M.S. Act 1854, s. 136.

And at the same time and place, the same person was convicted of paying of wages to seamen elsewhere than in the presence of a shipping master. Fined £4 and £1 14s. costs. M.S. Act 1854, s. 170.

*September 29th.*—A person was convicted at Cardiff for illegally supplying a seaman to a vessel. Fined £3 and £1 19s. 6d. costs. M.S. Act 1854, s. 147.

DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

NOTE.—This chart is constructed in continuation of the charts prepared by Mr. Charles Booth for the Royal Commission on Labour, from figures supplied by the courtesy of the London and India Docks Joint Committee. It shows the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the month. The corresponding diagram for the previous month is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



ALIEN IMMIGRATION.\*

THE inquiry into certain points in connection with the immigration of foreigners into the United States, which was entrusted to Mr. D. F. Schloss and Mr. John Burnett, was divided into two main sections, (1) the United States laws and their administration, and (2) the nature and economic effects of that portion of the immigration which is of the character of the recent immigration of destitute foreigners from the eastern parts of Europe into England.

Mr. Schloss, reporting on the first branch of the inquiry, gives a concise statement of the laws restricting immigration, and a detailed account of their practical administration as witnessed personally by him at Liverpool, New York, Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia. The persons against whom discrimination is levelled are classified by Mr. Schloss as being ineligible (a) on moral grounds, (b) on grounds of public health and comfort, (c) on economic grounds. The persons excluded on economic grounds are either (1) persons unlikely to be self-supporting, or (2) persons under contract to labour. With regard to persons likely to become a public charge, it appears that the mere fact that an immigrant is "destitute," i.e., possesses very small or no means, has never been considered to be of itself a sufficient reason for his exclusion under the immigration laws; an immigrant of this type is regarded as inadmissible only if his destitution will necessarily involve his being provided for out of public funds. The impression that the possession of a certain sum of money is a condition which must be fulfilled if a man is to secure admission as an immigrant is incorrect. "Thus a man is liable to be sent back as 'likely to become a public charge' even though he be possessed of means. On the other hand, a man may not have one farthing in the world, and yet may be deemed eligible and allowed to land."

The protection of the American working men from the competition of aliens induced to come to the United States by a promise of work made by employers is the object of the laws forbidding the admission of contract labourers—of "any alien or aliens, any foreigner or foreigners, under contract or agreement, parol or special, express or implied, made previous to the importation or migration of such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, to perform labour or service of any kind in the United States" (with certain specified exceptions). The aim in view is to prevent the importation of gangs of foreign workmen to perform labour at wages lower than those obtained by workmen already in the country, to prevent the American employers from filling the places of men out on strike by sending for aliens from abroad, and to prevent them from importing skilled artisans to be employed in substitution for skilled men already in the United States. But the American employer is at full liberty to employ the labour of foreigners at any wages which the men are willing to accept, provided always that these aliens did not come to the United States in consequence of a promise of work held out by him to them before they entered the States.

By placing the steamship owners under the obligation of carrying back at their own cost passengers who may be found to be inadmissible, and also those who, after having been admitted, are, within a year of their being landed, found to have become a public charge from causes existing prior to their landing, the laws of the United States practically inflict a fine upon the owner of a vessel in every case in which he is proved to have shipped an ineligible immigrant. Accordingly the discrimination between the eligibles and the ineligibles begins as soon as the intending immigrant applies for his passage ticket.

Passing to the second part of the sifting process carried out on the arrival of immigrants, Mr. Schloss gives statistics showing that out of a total of 583,962 immigrants who arrived at different ports in the United States during the year ending June 30 1892, in all 2,164 were

prevented from landing as being inadmissible under the immigration laws, of whom there were rejected as idiots, 4; as insane, 17; as paupers, 1,002; as diseased persons, 80; as convicts, 26; as "assisted immigrants," 23; as prostitutes, 80; as contract labourers, 932; while, during the same period, 637 persons who had been allowed to land, but who within one year of their arrival had been found to have become a public charge, were deported from the United States.

Mr. Schloss briefly summarises the action of the United States Government with reference to Chinese labour. In 1882 the first Chinese Exclusion Act was passed, prohibiting the entry of Chinese labourers into the United States during a period of 10 years; in 1888 it was provided that thenceforth Chinese labourers who had resided in and had left the States should not be allowed to re-enter the country. In 1892 these laws were extended for another period of 10 years, and provision was made for the compulsory deportation of all Chinese labourers who should not, before May 6th 1893, have proved their right to remain in the United States and have taken out a certificate of residence. The policy adopted has therefore been one of exclusion, involving but little discrimination, and on the whole it appears to have been attended with a large amount of success. Whereas in the year ending June 30th 1882, 39,579 Chinese entered the States, in the whole period from August 1882 to June 1892, only 9,193 are officially reported as having entered the country. It must be noted, however, that more than 7,000 of these entered during the last three years, securing admittance on their profession that they were not labourers.

Mr. Burnett, in his report on the nature and effects of European immigration into the United States, gives statistics of immigration from 1820 to 1890. From those tables it appears that of all other nations, Great Britain and Ireland taken together have been the largest contributors to the population of the United States. Until 1870 the English-speaking people supplied a majority of immigrants. In 1850 the Germans began to come in vast numbers, and in the decade ending with 1890 supplied 27.70 per cent. of the total immigration, Great Britain and Ireland supplying 27.88 per cent. The percentage from Norway in the same decade was 10.84, from Austria-Hungary 6.74, from Italy 5.86, and from Russia and Poland 5.05. The immigration from other European countries has either fallen off or not materially increased in numbers. German and Scandinavian races mixed easily with the English-speaking population, and readily became as American almost as those born in the country. The Hungarians, the Russians, and even the Italians, have maintained habits and modes of life so different from those of the other races, that assimilation, at all events in the first generation, has proved impossible. Mr. Burnett gives the evidence on these points of workmen, employers, officials, and others, and especially discusses the effect produced on wages. The objections urged against the Russian Jews in the United States are almost precisely the same as those used against them in England. But in New York "competition has been further intensified by one nationality struggling for the work with the immigrants of another nationality; Russian Jews have no longer a monopoly of the sweating trade, and there are now hundreds of Italian sweater dens in New York where a couple of years ago there was scarcely one. The Italians, with a still lower standard of living, are able to under-bid the Russian Jews." Mr. Burnett gives an account of his visit to certain foreign quarters, and also of the work of Jewish organisations, and the results of certain Jewish colonization experiments. The condition of the workshops in the Clothing Trades in New York appears to be worse than that of the East London workshops at the time of the Lords' Committee on the sweating system, and "in many respects the factory legislation of the States of Massachusetts and New York is much more drastic nominally than that of this country intended to deal with similar evils."

\* Reports to the Board of Trade on Alien Immigration, 1893. (C.—7,113.) Price 1s. 7d.



TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1893.

Trade	Locality	Alleged Cause or Object	No. of Firms or Establishments	Approximate No. of Persons affected	Date of Commencement	Date of Termination	Result
<b>Building Trades.</b> Carpenters and Joiners	Leicester	Objection to systematic overtime	1	8	Sept. 4	Sept. 10	Employer agreed to discontinue systematic overtime.
Masons	Cardiff	Objection to work with non-Union men and seceders from Union	1	30	9	15	Work resumed, the Union seceders having paid up arrears, and been readmitted to membership.
Slaters	Doncaster	For advance in wages of 1/4d. per hour	...	14	...	...	Still in progress.
<b>Clothing Trades.</b> Sewers (Fustian)	Hebden	Against proposed reduction in price on a certain garment	1	...	5	6	Reduction accepted.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Kingswood, Bristol	Failure of employers to complete the classification according to a new statement of prices arranged by a joint committee	80	5,000	11	26	Work resumed on agreement that the classification should be hastened, and that the new price list should be paid on and after 1st October.
Handkerchief Hemmers	Glasgow	Against reduction in wages of 1s. per 100 dozen handkerchiefs	1	65	12	13	Reduction of 8d. per 100 dozen accepted.
Tailoresses (Finishers and Machinists)	Leeds	Against reduction in piece prices	1	130	14	15	Finishers resumed at previous prices. Machinists accepted part of reduction in consideration of a reduction in the price paid by them for cotton.
Laundresses	Leamington	For advance in wages	1	24	27	...	No details of settlement.
Circular Hosiery Operatives	Barrow-on-Soar, Leicester	For adoption of new statement of wages, to bring prices nearer to level of those at Leicester and Loughborough	1	40	...	...	Still in progress, but a few have returned to work on the employer's terms.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Derby	Against new statement of prices involving a reduction	1	50	26	...	Still in progress.
<b>Metal Trades.</b> Casters (Harness Furniture)	Walsall	Objection to work at previous poundage rate. An increase in the number of articles to the required weight, consequent upon the manufacture of a lighter type of castings, was regarded as equivalent to a reduction in wages	1	9	8	...	Ditto.
Engineers (Weighing Machine Works)	Glasgow	Dispute as to deduction for imperfect work on a repairing job, which men alleged to be impossible without renewal of parts	1	12	9	...	Ditto.
Steelworkers	Mossend, Lanarksh.	Against a reduction in wages of 1d. per ton	1	150	10	19	Reduction of 1/2d. per ton accepted.
Ditto	Darlington	Against reduction of number of helpers at the straightening mill from four to two	1	600	13	14	Settled by mutual concessions.
Steel and Tin Workers	Near Newport	Against reduction in wages and alteration of overtime arrangements	1	1,000	15	...	Still in progress.
Polishers, Labourers, &c. (Engineering)	Bolton	For advance in wages of 1s. per week, with time-and-quarter rate for overtime	1	60	18	19	Weekly advance conceded, but not the increase in overtime rate.
<b>Mining.</b> Coal Miners	Wishaw	Dispute as to tonnage rate under a recently granted advance of 1s. per day	1	360	4	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Near Kirkcaldy	Desire that certain overmen, who had worked as miners during a recent strike, should become members of the Union	1	51	6	8	Work resumed without attainment of object.
Putters	Near Sunderland	Refusal to supply free coal to certain married putters. Remainder of putters came out in sympathy	1	100 dir. 1,900 indir.	7	9	Coal to be supplied according to custom.
Coal Miners	Hebburn-on-Tyne	Refusal to fill coal contracted for by a company in the Midlands, in whose district the miners were on strike	1	1,400	15	21	Work resumed, a number of men being summoned and adjudged to pay compensation for the loss by stoppage.
Ditto	Near South Shields	Refusal to work, owing to a mistaken impression that the coal being produced was intended for the South of England	1	1,400	18	18	Work resumed on receiving an assurance that the coal was not so intended.
Coal Miners	Rhondda Valley	Wages not having been paid since resumption of work after general strike	1	500	18	...	Many men obtained work elsewhere. (Failure of owners.)
Chalk Quarrymen	Near Hull	Against proposed conditions with regard to unionism, &c.	3	60	21	...	Still in progress.
Iron Ore Miners	Stirlingshire	Against withdrawal of the second advance in wages of 1s. per day	1	...	1 week in September	26	Work resumed on advice of Union Executive.
Firemen	Dukinfield	Objection to orders to get coal for pumping engine while miners were in dispute	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
<b>Shipbuilding.</b> Joiners and Shipwrights	River Clyde	Dispute between joiners and shipwrights as to demarcation line of work	17	Joiners 1,300, Shipwrights 1,000	11	20	Demarcation to be settled by joint committee of nine members of each trade. Another point of difference was submitted to independent arbitration, and given in favour of the shipwrights.
Platers' Helpers	Thornaby-on-Tees	For alteration in system of computing time, with view to earlier payment of wages	1	240	12	15	Settled amicably.
Boilermakers	Leith	Against deductions from price list for overlapped butts	1	47	16	...	Still in progress.
Sailmakers	Glasgow	Against employment of a rigger upon sail making.	1	12	19	19	Work resumed, the rigger having left the work.
Plumbers	Hartlepool	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1s. 6d. per week	2	20	19	...	Still in progress.
Apprentice Shipwrights	Greenock	Against employment of labourers upon the work of the shipwrights who were in dispute	...	...	19	...	No details of settlement.
Shipjoiners	Clydebank	To enforce rule that during compulsory short time to one section of men in an employ, those working full time shall be paid as overtime for the excess of hours worked	1	300	29	...	Still in progress, the joiners in the employ of the associated firms on the Clyde being now locked out in consequence.
Riveters	Greenock	For increase in prices in work alleged to have been altered from the contract terms	1	150	28	Not stated	Work resumed on a satisfactory settlement.
<b>Textile Trades.</b> Cotton Weavers	Clayton-le-Moors	Alleged excessive fining	1	100	7	8	Cause of grievance removed.
Ditto	Yeadon	Against payment at less than district price list, and for reinstatement of certain weavers discharged for making complaint thereof	1	100	8	12	Promise to pay up to price list, and to reinstate the weavers in question.
Warp Dressers	Bramley (near Leeds)	Against introduction of new price list, involving a reduction in wages	1	10	15	...	Still in progress.
Worsted Operatives	Bramley, near Leeds	Locked out for mobbing a man who had taken the place of one of the warp dressers on strike in the previous case	1	400	19	22	Mill re-opened to all the operatives, the warp dressers still remaining on strike.
Hemstitchers	Belfast	Against proposed reduction in wages to cover cost of thread which had previously been illegally deducted	1	40 girls	15	19	Wages to remain as before, girls to provide their own thread.
Woolen Weavers	Netherton, Yorks	Against reduction in wages	1	32	20	...	Still in progress.
Cotton Weavers	Westhoughton, Lanc.	Discharge of a tackler and grievance as to alleged excessive fining	1	...	1	...	No details of settlement.
<b>Miscellaneous Trades.</b> Bakers	Liverpool	Objection to extra night work, owing to a new system of machinery	1	25	4	...	Still in progress.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER 1893—(Continued).

Trade	Locality	Alleged Cause or Object	No. of Firms or Establishments	Approximate No. of Persons affected	Date of Commencement	Date of Termination	Result
Cabinet Makers	Dalry, Ayrshire	Against retention of two days' pay as "lie time," the rule permitting one day only	1	10	Sept. 5	Sept. 9	Work resumed on basis of rule.
Bakers	Stockport	For advance in wages to standard of Manchester district	...	...	8	...	No details of settlement.
Farriers	London	For advance in wages and better conditions of labour	1	28	16	30	Replaced by men from the provinces at the wages and hours desired by Union men.
White Lead Workers	Hebburn-on-Tyne	To bring into Union six members of another organisation, and also non-Unionists	1	95 men and 220 women	18 and 20	29	Question referred to arbitration, which resulted in the men in question remaining in the Union they had joined.
Bottle Blowers	Dublin	Dispute as to Union custom with respect to substitutes filling vacancies	1	20	18	29	Amicable settlement after a fortnight's stoppage.
Compositors	London, E.C.	Attempt of non-Unionists to enforce payment of rates mutually agreed to by representative employers and workmen	1	80	20	...	Still in progress.
Watermen (Flatmen)	Liverpool	Objection to employment of non-Unionists	1	3	21	22	Employer agreed to employ Union men in future.
Trawlers	Granton	Against being required to start week's work before midnight of Sunday	...	32	16	Not stated	Work resumed within a week by all but four men, whose places were filled up.
Bakers	Liverpool	Objection to employment of non-Unionists	1	3	22	...	Still in progress.
Cabinet Makers	Dundee	Against proposed reduction in wages of 1d. per hour to certain men	1	30	25	Not stated	Work resumed at recognized rate of wages.
Gas Workers	Kilmarnock	For advance in wages	1	...	29	30	Work resumed on previous terms.
Stokers (Refuse Destructor)	Edinburgh	For extra payment for Sunday shift	1	9	30	2 Oct.	Demand conceded.
Bakers	Kirriemuir	For reduction in hours of work to standard	Not stated	...	30	...	Still in progress.

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

Quarrymen	Festiniog	Dissatisfaction with dismissal of a particular man	1	500	18 May	Sept. 4	Work resumed on previous terms by all who struck, with exception of six leaders.
Spinners	Mirfield	For advance in wages	1	8	24 June	1	Three men given work in other departments at increased wages, but remainder replaced by new men at advance of 1/2d. per 6 lbs.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Belfast	For adoption of a new statement of wages involving an advance of about 7 per cent.	4	120	26 June	18	New uniform list agreed to, conceding an advance of about 5 per cent.
Cabinet Makers	Greenock	Objection to appointment of a certain official	1	70	1 July	Not stated	Work resumed on previous conditions by those whose places had not been filled up.
Platers' Helpers (Shipbuilding)	Belfast	Against proposed reduction in wages of 5 per cent. (strike against platers)	1	90	22 July	2	Employers agreed to pay the difference in wages to the helpers pending arrangement with platers.
Miners	Kirkintilloch	Dissatisfaction with having to incur heavier cost in drawing coal to face of workings than in other sections of the pit	1	120	24 July	4	Men's terms conceded, the contract system being also abolished.
Anchor Smiths	Gateshead	Alleged infringement of existing price list	1	36	4 Aug.	25	Employers agreed to pay up to the price list as before.
Flax Dressers and Preparers	Strabane	For reduction in daily amount of flax required to be prepared	1	108	8 Aug.	18	Work resumed upon a slight concession.
Bleachers	Bolton	Against retention by employers of wages earned when manufacturing for "stock"	1	100	24 Aug.	23	Work resumed upon a promise of abolition of the "stock" system.
Bricklayers and Labourers	Birmingham	Against discharge of foreman	1	70	26 Aug.	4	Work resumed under a new foreman.
Ship Joiners	Port Glasgow	Against discharge of a man who had acted as a Union delegate	1	16	29 Aug.	20	Man in question reinstated.
Cotton Weavers	Darwen	Alleged inferior material	1	280	31 Aug.	18	Compensation granted for a period of three weeks.
Mill Sawyers	Dublin	For reduction in hours of labour	1	...	August	Not stated	Settled amicably.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO SEPTEMBER, AND WERE STILL IN PROGRESS AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in August are still in progress:—Joiners, Armley, Leeds; tin plate workers, Pontardawe and Maesteg; bleachers, Elton, Bury; belting and hose-pipe weavers, Pendleton; carpet weavers, Leeds; pattern makers, Whitehaven; miners, Bathgate; one colliery in connection with the Fifeshire strike; tailors, Perth; as is also a strike of boiler-makers in Dublin, against employment of labourers upon skilled work, particulars of which were received too late for that issue. The dispute in the Cleveland Iron Mining Trade is reported to have ended, but details of the settlement effected are not yet available.

The following disputes, which began before August, were also in progress at the end of September:—Coal miners, Miners' Federation Districts (with exception of Forest of Dean, where men resumed at a reduction of 20 per cent., but have since regained their previous rate and 15 per cent. in addition, and individual collieries in Staffordshire and other districts where work was resumed at the old rate of wages); bakers, Navan and Drogheda; carpenters and tailors, Cork; joiners, Limerick, Buxton and Southampton (the last named having terminated with respect to the house joiners only); bottle makers, Scotland; tailors, Stirling; nail makers, Dudley; building trades, Blackburn; stove grate workers, brick-layers and labourers, Derby; potters, Rutherglen, Glasgow; coke burners, Tingley, Leeds; joiners and shipwrights, Renfrew.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING SEPTEMBER 1893.

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

I.—SIX TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

- Derbyshire Colliery Mechanics' Association (Staveley).
- Cradley Heath and District Chainmakers' Association.
- London Society of Goldsmiths and Jewellers.
- Sheffield Lodge No. 1 of Amalgamated Builders' Labourers.
- National Union of Shop Assistants, &c. (London).
- Glemsford Mat and Matting Weavers' Trade Union.

II.—ONE TRADE SOCIETY DISSOLVED:—

- United Mechanical Engineers' Society (Canning Town, E.).

NOTE.—The Caxton Printers' Warehousemen's Association, which was stated in the September GAZETTE to have been dissolved, has been amalgamated with the London Society, under the title of the Amalgamated Society of Printers' Warehousemen.

III.—SEVEN INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

- (a) One Manufacturing Society:—Kettering Clothing Manufact. Co-op. Soc., Ltd.

(b) Two Distributive Societies:—

- Clifton Hampden Co-operative Society, Ltd. (Abingdon).
- Bolsover Co-operative Society, Limited (Chesterfield).

(c) Four Miscellaneous Societies:—

- Sons of Temperance Mut. Guarantee, Ltd. (Miles Platting).
- Hand in Hand Freehold Land Society, Ltd. (Leicester).
- New Southgate and Friern Barnet Lib. & Rad. Club, Ltd.
- West Marylebone Progressive Club and Institute, Ltd.

IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

(a) Twenty-four New Societies:—

Ordinary Friendly Societies	13
Working Men's Clubs	6
Dividing Societies	4
Specially Authorised Societies	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

(b) Fifty-nine New Branches of Existing Societies:—

G.I.O.L. Caledonian Corks	16
I.O. Rechabites, S.U.	13
I.O. Oddfellows, M.U.	5
O.G.O.T.A. Sons of Phoenix	4
O. Sons of Temperance	4
Various others	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>



CENSUS OF SCOTLAND, 1891.\*

The total population of Scotland at the date of the 1891 Census was 4,025,647, of which 1,942,717 were males and 2,082,930 females, as compared with 1,799,475 males and 1,936,098 females in 1881. These figures show that in the ten years, 1881 to 1891, there has been an increase of 143,242 males, or 8.0 per cent., and of 146,832 females, or 7.6 per cent. In 1891 62.82 per cent. of the males are returned as occupied, and 26.72 per cent. of the females; in 1881 the percentages were 61.61 and 25.74 respectively. The professional class forms 2.76 per cent. of the total population, the domestic class 5.05 per cent., the commercial class 4.49 per cent., the agricultural class 6.19 per cent., and the industrial class 25.65 per cent. In 1881 in the domestic class there were 25,292 males and 151,273 females, or 4.73 per cent. of the population; in 1891 there were only 13,102 males, but 190,051 females. In the agricultural class in 1881 there were 215,215 males and 54,322 females, together equal to 7.21 per cent. of the population; in 1891 there were 219,042 males, but only 30,082 females. In this class there was, therefore, a decrease of 24,240 females, and in the domestic class an increase of 38,778 females. Although the number of males in the agricultural class has increased, the proportion to the whole population has diminished. In all the occupied classes except the two referred to, there has been an increase both in the numbers and proportion to population of both sexes. The increase in the number is most marked in the case of females in the commercial class, of whom in 1881 there were 5,383, and in 1891 10,276.

At the date of the Census there were 7,360 individuals of foreign nationality in Scotland—5,424 males, and 1,936 females. Of these 1,966 belonged to the industrial class, and 1,439 to the unoccupied and non-productive class. There were 2,041 Germans, 1,885 Norwegians, Swedes, or Danes, and 1,352 Russians or Poles.

CONCILIATION BILL.

The following are the clauses contained in the Bill introduced by the Government during the 1893 Session of Parliament, as it stood prior to its withdrawal:—

1.—(1) Where a difference exists or is apprehended between an employer, or any class of employers, and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, with respect to the terms or nature of their employment, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, on the application of any of the employers or workmen, appoint a person or persons to act as conciliator or as a board of conciliation.

(2) The conciliator or board of conciliation shall enquire into the causes of the difference by communication with the parties and otherwise, and shall endeavour to bring about a settlement of the difference.

2.—If it appears to the Board of Trade that in any district or trade where disputes are of frequent occurrence, adequate means do not exist for having disputes submitted to a local board of conciliation, they may appoint any person or persons to inquire into the conditions of the district or trade, and to confer with employers and employed with the view of establishing a local board of conciliation or arbitration composed of representatives of employers and employed.

3.—(1) Any board established either before or after the passing of this Act, which is constituted for the purpose of settling disputes between masters and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, by conciliation or arbitration, may apply to the Board of Trade for registration.

(2) The application must be accompanied by copies of the constitution and regulations of the board of conciliation or arbitration with such further information, if any, as the Board of Trade may require, and thereupon the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, enter in a register to be kept by them for the purpose, the name of the board of conciliation or arbitration, and its principal office, and such other particulars as the Board of Trade may think expedient.

(3) Every board of conciliation or arbitration registered in pursuance of this Act shall furnish such returns and reports of its proceedings as the Board of Trade may from time to time require.

4.—(1) All persons appointed by the Board of Trade in pursuance of this Act shall report their proceedings to the Board of Trade, and all such reports, and also all reports made to the Board of Trade by any local board of conciliation or arbitration, shall be laid before Parliament.

(2) The Board of Trade shall present to Parliament annually a report of their proceedings under this Act.

5.—This Act may be cited as the Conciliation Act, 1893.

\* Tenth Decennial Census of the Population of Scotland, 1891, with Report. Vol. II.—Part II, 1893. [C.—7,134.] Price 7s.

SEAMEN.

I.—NUMBERS SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER 1893 AND 1892. (Based on information supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

The following table gives the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in September 1893 and 1892, respectively. The total number shipped at the selected ports last month was, on the whole, slightly less than in September 1892. The supply of seamen at Hull, Liverpool, London, Swansea, and Glasgow was more than sufficient to meet the demand. The supply was stated to be good at Cardiff; slightly in excess of demand at Sunderland and Leith; and there was no scarcity of men at Southampton. At Newcastle demand and supply were about equal, at South Shields the labour market was fair.

The rates of wages paid at each port remain about the same as last month, except at Newport, Bristol, London and Belfast. For particulars of changes at these ports see "Changes in Wages" Table, page 132.

Table with columns: Principal Ports, In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total, Total in Sept. 1892, Increase, Decrease. Lists ports like Tyne Ports, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Hull, Grimsby, London, Southampton, Bristol, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Liverpool, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Grangemouth, Glasgow, Dublin, Belfast.

\* Including Barry and Penarth.

II.—LIVES LOST.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.) The following table shows the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of September 1893, and between January and September 1893, inclusive, as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Table with columns: Class of Vessels, Sail or Steam, By Wreck and Casualty, By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty, Total. Includes rows for Vessels registered under Merchant Shipping Act and Vessels not so registered.

\* Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN SEPTEMBER.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of September, 96 prosecutions were instituted and 91 convictions obtained. Of these 91 convictions, 12 were for employing children under 14 without school certificate, or young persons under 16 without surgical certificate, the average penalty and costs inflicted being £1 17s. 10d. per case. For employing persons at illegal hours or for illegal periods, 31 convictions were obtained, with an average penalty and costs of £2 4s. 0d. For neglect of rules as to registers, abstracts, notices, &c., 34 convictions were secured with an average penalty and costs of 16s. 8d.

Table with columns: PARTICULARS OF OFFENCES, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Cases Withdrawn, Cases Dismissed, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs, Total Amount of Penalties & Costs. Lists offenses like Insanitary and Uncleanly Conditions, Danger from Machinery, Employment of Classes of Persons forbidden by Law, etc.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

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

The number of fatal accidents to railway servants recorded during September was 30, as against 37 in August, while the number of accidents not resulting in death fell from 225 in August to 173 in September. The number of injuries necessitating amputations was 8.

I.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of September 1893.

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Amputations, Fractures, Crushes, Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries. Lists services like Brakemen and Goods Guards, Engine Drivers, Firemen, etc.

II.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured as above, in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, distinguishing accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents, in September 1893.

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Killed, Injured. Includes a row for Total for year ended Dec. 31st 1892.

\* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.\*

Reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons during September 1893.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

The number of fatal accidents in factories and workshops reported in September was 42, as against 36 in August, while the number of accidents not resulting in death fell from 657 in August to 631 in September. Of the 42 persons killed, 41 were males. Amputations were rendered necessary in 98 cases, as compared with 101 in August.

Table with columns: Nature or effect of Injury, Adults (over 18), Young Persons, Children, TOTAL. Includes rows for Causing death, Amputation of right hand or arm, etc.

\* The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 66.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES ACT, 1893.—On September 12th the Royal assent was given to this Act. It extends the objects for which societies may be registered to any industries, businesses, or trades specified in or authorised in the rules, the objects being previously limited to some "labour, trade, or handicraft." It also gives societies greater freedom in the disposal of their profits, and extends the power of receiving deposits under which in the past many societies have carried on small savings banks, a wider choice for investment being also given. The right of a member to inspect the books is limited to the inspection of his own account and the list of members, except the society itself remove such limitation. The date of sending in the annual return is altered from May 30th to March 31st, with a view to the earlier publication by the Registrar of the official statistics. Various amendments of the Act of 1876 and other Acts which have since been passed have been incorporated in the new Act, which also repeals all existing Acts relating to such societies.



THE UNEMPLOYED.

THE following circular has been issued by the Local Government Board. The results obtained by similar circulars issued in former years will be referred to in the memorandum on the agencies and methods for dealing with the unemployed, which has been prepared by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, WHITEHALL, S.W.  
30th September 1893.

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that, having regard to the scarcity of employment which now exists in many parts of the country, and to the great probability of this becoming more general and being intensified during the winter months, the Board deem it right to bring under the special attention of the Sanitary Authority the Board's Circular Letters of the 20th March 1886 and the 14th of November of last year, with reference to means which may be adopted for providing, in times of exceptional distress, employment for the unemployed of a class who do not ordinarily have recourse to Boards of Guardians for relief.

The Board feel assured that the Sanitary Authority will concur with them in their view as to the great importance of aiding artisans and others who make great personal sacrifices in order to avoid the stigma of pauperism, to maintain their independence. This can best be secured by the local authorities proceeding with the execution of the works which, in the interest of their district as regards its sanitary condition or local improvement, or otherwise, it is desirable should be carried out, at the time when other employment is difficult to obtain.

What is required in the endeavour to relieve artisans and others who have hitherto avoided poor law assistance, and who are temporarily deprived of employment, is—

1. Work which will not involve the stigma of pauperism;
2. Work which all can perform, whatever may have been their previous avocations;
3. Work which does not compete with that of other labourers at present in employment; and

Lastly: Work which is not likely to interfere with the resumption of regular employment in their own trades by those who seek it.

These works may be of the following kinds, among others:—

- Spade husbandry on sewage farms.
- Laying out of open spaces, recreation grounds, new cemeteries, or disused burial grounds.
- Cleansing of streets not usually undertaken by local authorities.
- Laying out and paving of new streets, &c.
- Paving of unpaved streets, and making of footpaths in country roads.
- Providing or extending sewerage works and works of water supply.

The Board strongly urge the Authority to mature any schemes for works required for their district as early as possible, so that the commencement of the works may be expedited, and assistance may thus be rendered to the unemployed of the class referred to. Some time must necessarily elapse before works which are proposed can be commenced, and the Board trust therefore that there will be no delay on the part of the Authority in determining as to any works to be executed by them.

As the Board have previously stated, they recommend that there should be co-operation between Sanitary Authorities and Boards of Guardians, and that arrangements should be made as far as practicable for the employment in connection with the works, of those who are recommended by the Guardians as persons who, owing to their previous condition and circumstances, it is desirable should not become subjects of poor law relief.

When the works undertaken are of such a character that the expense may properly be defrayed out of borrowed monies, the Sanitary Authority may rely that there will be every desire on the part of the Board to deal promptly with the applications which may be made to them for their sanction to loans.

The Board will be obliged by being informed from time to time of any means which may be adopted by the Authority of affording assistance to the unemployed, as suggested in this communication.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
The Clerk to the Sanitary Authority. HUGH OWEN.

PROSECUTIONS 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 ...	...	...	...	...	...
Shafts and Manholes ...	...	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	4	4	...	...	11 15 0
By Workmen—					
Safety Lamps ...	1	1	...	...	0 10 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	3	3	...	...	2 5 0
Lucifer Matches, &c. ...	7	5	...	...	5 0 6
Miscellaneous ...	7	4	1	2	4 18 0
Totals...	21	16	1	4	24 8 6

RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF LABOUR.

THE following circular has recently been issued by the Board of Trade in connection with the carrying out of the provisions of the Railway Regulation Act 1893. Complaints are being received by the Board of Trade, who are engaged in dealing with them in the manner prescribed by this Act.

BOARD OF TRADE (RAILWAY DEPARTMENT), LONDON, S.W.  
September 19th, 1893.

SIR,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to request that you will call the attention of the Railway Association to the provisions of the Act to amend the law with respect to the hours of labour of railway servants which has recently received the Royal assent.

Under subsection (1) of Section 1 of that Act, if it is represented to the Board of Trade by or on behalf of the servants or any class of the servants of a railway company that the hours of labour of those servants or of that class or in any special case of any particular servants engaged in working the traffic on any part of the lines of the company are excessive or do not provide sufficient intervals of uninterrupted rest between the periods of duty or sufficient relief in respect of Sunday duty, the Board shall inquire into the representation.

Under subsection (2), if it appears to the Board of Trade, either on such representation or otherwise that there is, in the case of any railway company, a reasonable ground of complaint with respect to any of the matters aforesaid, the Board shall order the company to submit to them, within a period specified by the Board, such a schedule of time for the duty of the servants, or of any class of the servants of the company, as will, in the opinion of the Board, bring the actual hours of work within reasonable limits, regard being had to all the circumstances of the traffic and the nature of the work.

Subsection (3) lays down the procedure which may be adopted by the Board in the event of failure on the part of a railway company to comply with any order made by them; subsections (4), (5), and (6) confer the necessary powers upon the Railway and Canal Commission to insure the efficiency of their jurisdiction; and subsection (7) provides that the Act shall not apply to any servant of a railway company who is, in the opinion of the Board, wholly employed either in clerical work or in the company's workshops.

The Board of Trade feel assured that the directors of railway companies will use their best endeavours to bring the actual hours of work of their servants within reasonable limits, and that the object which Parliament had in dealing with this important question will largely be met by the railway companies themselves, without the active intervention of this Department, but the Board will receive (as, indeed, it has already received), from various quarters, complaints and representations which will make it necessary for them to communicate with the companies affected, and to institute inquiries.

The Board of Trade anticipate that, in certain instances, representations will be made by or on behalf of a limited number of servants whose cases may appear to present features of hardship, and fears have been expressed that such representations may prejudicially affect these servants with their employers. The Board trust that, in order to insure the fair and equitable working of the Act, servants may be given to understand that they may openly and without fear of consequences make full use of the opportunities which the Act has afforded them of representing any instances of overwork to the Board of Trade.

I am to add that the Board will be happy to receive any observations or any statements which the Association may desire to submit as to the steps which railway companies are taking voluntarily to bring the actual hours of work of their servants within reasonable limits.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
COURTENAY BOYLE.

SIR HENRY OAKLEY,  
King's Cross Station, N.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

During the month of September 273 accidents were reported, causing 65 deaths, and injuries to 227 miners. Of these, 231 miners were killed and injured in England and Wales, 60 in Scotland, and 1 in Ireland, as compared with 216 during August in England and Wales and 48 in Scotland.

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of September 1893.

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
damp ...	41	63	2	24	...	1	...	12
Falls of ground ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Miscellaneous in shafts ...	5	5	...	3	...	...	5	8
Miscellaneous underground ...	9	74	...	17	...	...	9	91
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous ...	8	22	...	7	...	...	8	29
Totals ...	63	168	2	58	...	1	65	227

RAILWAY WORKING IN 1892.\*

FROM the point of view of the railway shareholder the final results shown by the railway returns for 1892 are scarcely satisfactory, the average rate of dividend being 3.98 per cent., or less than in any year for which particulars have been recorded. On nearly 50 millions of ordinary capital no interest at all was paid. There was an increase in the revenue earned, but that increase was small in amount, and it was also overbalanced by the increase which occurred in the working expenditure of the year. The net earnings were accordingly again reduced, and there having been a considerable addition last year to the total capital paid up, the percentage of the net earnings on capital again declined. At the close of 1892 the total amount of capital which the railway companies were authorised to raise amounted to nearly 1,053 millions, and of this sum 944 millions were returned as paid up, an amount exceeding the National Debt by 270 millions. The real increase of capital in 1892 was considerably larger than in 1891, notwithstanding that dividends had on the whole been falling since 1889.

The increase of revenue from passenger traffic in 1892 was 1.5 per cent. of the receipts in 1891. The revenue from goods traffic showed a decrease equal to 0.8 per cent. of the receipts in 1891. The total receipts showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. In spite of an undoubted depression of trade generally, and of the Durham coal strike, which injuriously affected the receipts of the North-Eastern Company, there is therefore an increase to report, although not a large one.

There was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the receipts from first-class passengers, and of 6.0 per cent. from second-class passengers. There was an increase in the receipts of 1.9 per cent. from third-class passengers, of 4.3 per cent. from season ticket holders, and of 3.7 per cent. from excess luggage, mails, &c., making a total increase from passenger traffic of 1.5.

The whole of the small increase in revenue earned in 1892 was swept away by the increase which occurred in the working expenditure; but the increase in the working expenditure was not so great as the increase which had occurred in 1891 and 1890. One of the principal causes of this slackening in the rate of increase is the reduction which occurred last year in the price of coal, while the main cause of the increase which is actually recorded is to be found in the addition to the wages bill.

CO-OPERATION IN SEPTEMBER.

THE report of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society for the quarter ending June 24 shows that the sales amounted to £2,296,148, an increase of 5.3 per cent. over the corresponding period last year, and the profits, after providing for interest on capital, depreciation, &c., to £34,765.

The Shipping Department—after allowing £2,526 for interest and depreciation—shows a loss of £1,902, and it has been decided to lay up one of the steamers.

The society's corn mill at Dunston, the total cost of which the report gives as £117,040, shows a loss for the quarter of £1,491, after allowing £2,843 for interest on capital and depreciation.

Upon the recommendation of the committee a grant of £5,000 out of the reserve fund has been made for the relief of the distress caused by the dispute in the Coal Trade.

In consequence of differences of opinion as to the proposal to allot £3,000 for the purpose of extending co-operation in London, the decision upon the subject was again deferred for three months.

At a conference, held at Leicester on September 9, of delegates from co-operative boot and shoe manufacturing societies, a federation was formed with the object of preventing undue competition, and for the purchasing of raw materials.

The Ripley Society has decided to contribute £150 per week to the relief of the distress caused by the Coal Trade dispute. The Barnsley Society has also decided to contribute £250 per week for four weeks. The latter society has paid out £40,000 of capital since the commencement of this dispute.

\* General Report to the Board of Trade in regard to the share and loan capital, traffic in passengers and goods, and the working expenditure and net profits from railway working of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for 1892. (C.—7,142 of 1893). Price 4d.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

**New South Wales.**—From February 1892 to August 1893, some 50,000 rations have been supplied by the Government Labour Bureau at Sydney, and 12,000 persons sent into employment in various parts of the Colony. The distress felt by clerks and other light workers appears to be very great. There is also stated to be great distress amongst the coal miners at Newcastle. Owing to the alleged scanty earnings of most of the gold mines the employers are considering the reduction of the standard rate for first-class miners, to 7s. 6d. per day of 8 hours.

**Victoria.**—An official report states: "There is still a great dearth of employment, especially in and around Melbourne. Some 4,000 men have been sent to work, but there are still 12,000 walking about in enforced idleness."

**South Australia.**—The demand for labour is generally slack and the supply abundant. Just lately, however, there has been an improved demand for single ploughmen and farm hands.

**Queensland.**—In Central Queensland wages on many stations have been reduced about 20 per cent., ordinary hands now receiving up to 20s. a week, with rations: rations generally consist of 8 lbs. flour, 5 ozs. tea, 3 lbs. sugar, 20 lbs. meat, 1 lb. salt, 2 oz. soda, 1 oz. acid, and 2s. for extras, per week per man. A report from a station some 200 miles west of Rockhampton states: "There is very little demand for farm or station hands; the demand for mechanics is just now very small; very many men are out of employment and willing to do any kind of work."

**Western Australia.**—There seems to be a sufficiency of ordinary labour. There has been a great rush of diggers from other parts of Australia to the new goldfields at Coolgardie, which are 310 miles, or a seven to ten days' journey by coach, east of Northam. Some very rich finds have been made and prospects are very good, but the journey there is expensive and laborious, and food and water are very scarce and dear.

**New Zealand.**—The following is a summary of the monthly report of the Department of Labour at Wellington, dated 24th July last: At Auckland the Building Trade is fairly busy; the Iron Trade is still dull; the supply of unskilled labour is in excess of demand, owing no doubt to the large number of arrivals from the other Australasian colonies. At Gisborne unskilled labour is sufficient. At Napier business is rather dull, and all trades are well supplied with labour. At Wellington the Building Trade is still fairly good, but the supply of labour is greatly in excess of the demand; iron workers and flax millers are dull; Boot Trade is fairly busy; well supplied with unskilled labour, many have been sent inland for bush-felling. At Christchurch there has been a great falling off in the Building Trade, carpenters, painters, bricklayers and stonemasons being affected; a large number of men in the Engineering and Blacksmithing Trades and of general labourers are out of employment. At Dunedin, the Building, Engineering, Flour-milling, Boot-making, Cabinet-making and Upholstering Trades are all fairly busy. At Invercargill the Building Trade is very fair and ironworks are fairly busy, but a good many unskilled labourers are out of work. At Wanganui, the Building Trade is brisk, and it is expected that bush-felling will absorb all the unskilled labourers who are out of work; there is a good demand for steady station hands. At Masterton a number of men are out of employment.

**Cape Colony.**—A report states: "A Trades Council for Cape Town and District has just been formed. Printers are fairly well employed for the time at 35s. to 50s. per week of 50 hours; carpenters and joiners are well employed at 10s. to 11s. a day of 8 1/2 hours, and bricklayers and masons at 9s. 6d. to 11s. a day; plumbers are fairly well employed at 9s. to 10s. a day. Painters at 4s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. a day find it hard to get work. Shoemakers and tailors have no chance, as the Malays have nearly all the trade in their hands. There is no demand in any trade for more workmen, and money does not go so far as in England."

**Natal.**—There is no demand for more labour. Some 150 persons recently arrived from Australia, which they left owing to the great depression there; most of them were going on to the South African Republic.



## LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad. The small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

## FRANCE.

*The French Coal Strike.*\*—In referring to the coal strike now in progress in the North of France, the *Journal des Débats* states that between 1887 and 1888 the average daily wages of hewers were 4.77 francs; between 1888 and 1889 they rose to 4.84 francs; from August 1st 1889 the benefit of the increased prices of coal was felt, and the average wages rose to 4.99 francs in September of that year. In the following October an increase of 10 per cent. was obtained, which was followed by a further increase of 10 per cent. in August 1890. It was decided by the joint committee of arbitration, appointed at the instance of the Government during the miners' strike of 1891, that the 20 per cent. increase of wages should be maintained as long as possible, and the average wage paid prior to the strike of 1889 was accepted as the basis, viz., 4.80 francs, an addition of 20 per cent. to this making 5.76 francs. The companies maintain that the average daily wages of hewers for 1891-2 were 5.78 francs, and for 1892-3, 5.75 francs, that is 4s. 7½d. and 4s. 8d. respectively. With reference, however, to these wages, it should be noted that one of the present demands of the miners is that a duplicate of the fortnightly pay note should be made out for the information of the Miners' Union, and as a check on the wages paid by the companies. They also demand a 10 per cent. increase of wages, making, according to the *Journal des Débats*, with the 20 per cent. previously obtained, a daily wage of 7½ francs, or about 5s. 10d. for getters or hewers; that fines for dirty coal should be abolished; and that men convicted of any offence should not be discharged unless such offence entailed injury to the company. The refusal of the companies to yield any of these points resulted in a general strike on the 18th September, including all the miners in the Department of Pas de Calais, and part of those in the Nord, the total number being about 42,000. The success of the strike from the miners' point of view has, up to the present, been prevented by the failure of every effort to induce the miners of Anzin (about 12,000 in number) to join the movement, Anzin alone producing about a quarter of the coal output of the North of France, and about one-ninth of the total output of the country. On the 22nd the Justices of the Peace of the Departments of Pas de Calais and Nord, in conformity with the law on arbitration of December 1892, invited the representatives of the companies and miners, by means of placards and circulars, to lay statements before them with a view to a settlement by arbitration. The invitation, however, met with no response from either side, although on the 20th the Miners' Congress at Lens voted in favour of the principle of arbitration on condition that the Press be admitted to the interviews between representatives of the conflicting parties, and on the 22nd appointed nine delegates to support their cause in any negotiations with the companies. The law, however, does not compel either party to accept arbitration. The companies have declined on the grounds that the demands of the men do not involve any definite point for arbitration. The Lens Miners' Union voted a continuation of the strike on the 7th inst., and so far there does not appear to be any prospect of its termination.

*Action against a Trade Union President.*—The President of the Trunk Makers' Trade Union having issued a circular to all the members directing them to boycott certain men who had offended against the rules of the Society to which they belonged, and to use every means to prevent their obtaining work, one of the boycotted men summoned the President of the Union, and demanded 100 francs compensation for the injury done to him by the circular. The case was decided in his favour.—*Journal des Débats*.

## GERMANY.

Mr T. R. Mulvaný, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, reports under date of September 30th, that several pitmen, who had been dismissed on account of the part they took in the last great coal strike, are said to have been taken on again.

On the 12th inst. it was reported from Zwickau coal district, that at one colliery all hands had struck in consequence of a considerable reduction in piece-work rates; the strike proved to be of a purely local character, and was concluded in a week's time, the employers having agreed to the pitmen's claims.

*Other Disputes.*—At Berlin the moulders at a foundry went out on strike, owing to wages disputes; the

\* Chiefly based on information published in the *Journal des Débats* and *Economiste Français*.

grinders at a glass works also went out, because the employers refused to agree to daily wages instead of piece rates, and the paperhangers and upholsterers of an establishment struck, because the demanded increase in piece-work rates was not agreed to.

On 26th inst., the army cap-makers of Berlin decided to strike for 20 per cent. increase on piece-work rates, or a minimum wage of 22s. 6d. per week and 6d. per hour for overtime, a ten hours working day, excluding one hour for dinner, half-an-hour for breakfast, and the usual afternoon coffee time. The strike was concluded on the following day, all these demands being conceded. The potters at Nixdorf have struck against a proposed reduction of wages. At Neu-Ronsdorf some 80 or 90 masons have gone out on strike, owing to the low wages offered, namely, 35 to 37 pfennig per hour, and have demanded an average rate of 40 pfennig (100 pfennigs = 1s.). At Elberfeld and Barmen a strong movement is said to be on foot amongst the bakers, who desire to remain off work for 24 hours each Sunday, and for 36 hours on the principal holidays. At Cologne, the decorative plasterers of one firm are out on strike, in consequence of wage disputes. The strike of basket-makers at Hamburg was ended on September 13th in favour of the men. In Haynau 500 glove-makers are said to be out of work.

*Trade Movements.*\*—At Nauen, in the province of Brandenburg, a lock-out of hosiery workers is said to have taken place, owing to their refusal to work 14 hours a day. A strike of 70 weavers in Gräfrath, province Rhine, has been undertaken against the employers' proposal to reduce the piece-work rate, in consequence of lack of orders. The weavers proposed to work short time during the slack period, and, their offer being declined, resorted to a strike. The leather workers at two factories in Burg (Prussian Saxony), have been dismissed for objecting to work 11 hours per day. Strikes of masons are in progress in Lübeck, Celle (Hanover), and Stolp (Pomerania), and of potters in Bremen and Geestemünde.

*Profit-Sharing.*—Satisfactory results are said to attend a system of profit-sharing, which has now been in operation for four years at a machine factory and iron foundry in Halle. For every unit in the percentage of dividend paid to shareholders, the workmen receive 3s., 2s., 1s. or 6d. according as they have served, three years, two years, one year, or less than a year. As the dividend for 1892 was 35 per cent., the men in each of these categories received £5 5s., £3 10s., £1 15s., and 17s. 6d. respectively. Three-fourths of the men belong to Class 1.—*Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.

*Employment Registries.*—In conformity with an order recently issued by the Governor of Liegnitz, in Prussian Silesia, 16 free municipal labour registries have been established in towns of the district with a population exceeding 10,000. The bulk of the unemployed are agricultural labourers, and for the purpose of relieving the towns, the Governor now proposes the establishment of offices in the rural districts, in constant communication with the nearest towns, and charged with the registration of applications for agricultural labourers.—*Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.

*Labour Arbitration Courts.*—The number of arbitration courts now in operation in Germany for the settlement of disputes between employers and workers is said to be 179. These were first instituted by the Law of June 1890, and are distributed as follows: Prussia, 133; Bavaria, 13; Saxony, 13; Wurtemberg, 9; Baden, 7; and Hesse, 4. Notwithstanding the industrial importance of Alsace-Lorraine, these provinces possess no courts of this kind.—*Sozialpolitisches Correspondenzblatt*.

*Advances to Workmen to Build their own Houses.*—The Sickness and Old Age Insurance Fund of the Kingdom of Saxony has followed the example set by other German States and declared its readiness to make advances to Communes for the purpose of erecting workmen's dwellings or convalescent homes. The principal would be repayable in 40 years, and interest charged at the rate of 3½ per cent.—*Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt*.

## AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

*Trade Disputes.*†—Vienna.—The strike of Vienna stonecutters, reported in last month's GAZETTE, has not yet concluded, although at the end of the month the demand for an eight-hour day had been granted at 165 Yards, 79 men being at that time still on strike.

\* The information as to trade movements is based on reports published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.  
† The information as to Trade Disputes is based on reports published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*.

The operatives, numbering 115, belonging to a cotton printing works at Ober-Meidling, near Vienna, who went on strike last month, have succeeded in obtaining payment for holidays and the reinstatement of two dismissed operatives.

Two hundred and fifty fancy leather workers went on strike on September 25th, their demands being for abolition of piece-work, minimum weekly wages of 16s. 8d., a nine-hour working day, overtime to be exceptional, and paid 25 per cent. higher than ordinary time, and an annual holiday on the 1st of May.

A strike is also in progress at a Vienna furniture works for a 20 per cent. increase in piece-work rates, and for weekly payments.

The strikes of petroleum workers and carriage-lamp makers alluded to last month have ended, the former against, and the latter in favour of the men.

*Provinces.*—The millers of Graz and the surrounding country went on strike on September 1st. They demand an eleven-hour net working day, abolition of the system of boarding and living at the mills, and an improved wage scale.

The workmen in the Building Trades in Lemberg have been on strike since September 4th for a ten-hour day, the abolition of piece work, and minimum wages of 3s. 4d. a day for carpenters and 4s. 2d. for masons.

The dispute in the Coal Trade at Kahr in the Falkenau coal basin (see August GAZETTE) has not yet been terminated. It is said that the miners in the whole of the Falkenau coal basin have resolved to go on strike unless the demands of the Kahr colliers be granted.

A lock-out of 51 porcelain turners of Fishern, near Carlsbad, for refusal to submit to reduced wages, and a strike of elastic weavers at Kremis in Lower Austria, are also reported. The latter has concluded in favour of the strikers.

## ITALY.

*Cabmen's Dispute at Naples.*—Further particulars regarding the cab strike at Naples, referred to in last month's GAZETTE, are given in a report from Lord Vivian, H.M. Ambassador at Rome, dated September 27th. It states that the men complained of the competition of the omnibus and tramway companies, the severity of the police in levying fines, the loss of time to the cabmen in attending at the police office, and the insufficiency of the stands allowed. The cabmen also protested against a further increase of public conveyances, declaring the present number, 2,500, amply sufficient. All these points were revised in favour of the strikers, excepting those connected with a reduction of working hours on the omnibus and tramway lines, the municipality being unable to alter these hours under the terms of the existing contract. Several excesses were committed by the strikers against the property of the tramcar company, and 40 men were arrested. During the strike the men had to live entirely on their own resources, their association having no available funds.

## BELGIUM.

## BRUSSELS DISTRICT.

*Coal Dispute.*—Reporting under date of September 25th, Mr. Conyngham Greene, Second Secretary of Legation at Brussels, states that the mining disputes in England and France have induced the Belgian Miners' Syndicate to agitate in favour of following the example of the miners in those countries, and a series of "referenda" have been organised in order to ascertain the real wishes of the mining community in regard to the matter.

The first of these "referenda" was held in the Borinage coal-field on the 10th September, and the result was a vote in favour of a strike. The second was held in the Charleroi district on the 17th, and was distinctly unfavourable to the strike, no less than 9,000 men out of a total mining population of 19,000 declining to vote. A vote in favour of a general strike was carried at a meeting of miners at Mons on the 24th September.

The reports received from the various mining districts during the earlier part of September represented the colliery owners as being quite unable to grant the miners' demand for a 10 per cent. increase in wages, contracts having been entered into by them in April last which

hold good until April 1894. Many pits which were re-opened in consequence of the dispute in England, and in the expectation of increased orders therefrom, had been closed again, and the working week reduced to five days.

In a despatch dated October 1st, Sir F. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, reports that the meeting of miners at Mons on the 24th September, already referred to, was only attended by 3,000 out of 30,000 miners employed in the district, and a general strike for the following day was decided on by 7 votes to 3. The number who turned out was only 6,000. In the Central district, which employs about 18,000 miners, only 2,273 voted at the "referendum" held on the 26th September. Of these 1,982 were in favour of the strike. On October 1st there were 3,000 men on strike in the Borinage district, 7,000 in the Central district, 8,000 at La Louvière, and 9,000 at Charleroi. On October 8th a perceptible falling off in the number of strikers was reported in all the mining districts except Charleroi, where the movement had assumed serious dimensions, some 23,000 men being idle, and the interference of the gendarmes being on one occasion necessary to protect the railway from being torn up. On the 10th the Miners' Federation decided to bring the strike to an end, after certain increases in wages had been granted by the employers.

The scarcity of the means of railway transport is said to have prevented the Belgian coal-owners obtaining the full benefit of the increased trade with France arising out of the dispute in the Coal Mining Industry of that country.

## GHENT DISTRICT.

*Four-loom Weavers.*—Mr. Vice-Consul Hallett reports from the Consular district of Ghent that the four-loom system of weaving is daily gaining ground in his district. Several manufacturers have already adopted it, and orders are being given by others for looms adapted to this mode of labour. All opposition from the operatives has been avoided by the general acceptance of their demand for a minimum wage of 19s. 2d. for sixty hours of labour per week.

*Minor Disputes.*—A dispute is in progress at a flax mill, owing to the employers refusing to pay for the time lost (1 hour 20 minutes) through an accident in the engine room. Some furriers at Lockerer refused to work at lower wages than those paid in Brussels, and obtained their demands after one day's stoppage.

## SWITZERLAND.

*The Unemployed.*—A report from Mr. H. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, based on notes by Herr Greulich, the Chief of the Swiss Labour Office in that town, and dated September 26th, states that the 50,000 signatures which the Swiss Socialist Party undertook to collect for the purpose of introducing a clause into the Federal Constitution, embodying the principle of the "right to have work provided," have now been handed to the Federal Council, and a referendum will have to decide as to the admission of this clause. If the demand is accepted, which is said to be unlikely, Switzerland will be the first country to guarantee work to every one of its citizens willing to accept it.

*Proposed Labour Bureau.*—The Zürich Workmen's Unions have decided to appoint a commission to study the question of establishing a labour bureau, which would act as a labour agency, and deal with statistics of wages, the movements of the labour market, the inspection of the sanitary condition of workshops, assistance to workmen when travelling, the apprenticeship question, and information about cheap and healthy dwellings. It is to be exclusively a workmen's institution, carried on without the interference of the town or State, whose action will be limited to the payment of a subvention.

*Workmen's Organisations.*—The organisation of the unskilled workmen continues to progress, owing to the active agitation of the skilled men, who are said to find themselves unable to improve their position unassisted.



A powerful inducement to join existing organisations is also said to be found in the fact that they afford some support in times of distress and want of work.

All attempts to promote organisation in the Textile Trades have hitherto failed, and the results obtained in the Silk and Cotton Industry are insignificant. The rate of wages has declined.

*Disputes.*—Some small disputes have taken place in the Watchmaking Trade. The cause was in each case a reduction of wages either announced or in force. They were all settled in favour of the men.

#### UNITED STATES.

##### PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.

*Decline in Wages.*—Mr. C. B. C. Clipperton, H.M. Acting Consul at Philadelphia, reports under date of September 28th, that that month has been a disastrous one for labour, the chief feature being the failure of organisations to prevent reductions of wages, and the employment of non-union men.

The power of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers has diminished since the Homestead strike of 1892, and the depression in the Iron Trade has contributed to its decline.

The differences between the finishers and the association are being settled, and the leaders are endeavouring to induce the subordinate lodges to accept the manufacturers' proposal of a 10 per cent. reduction in wages. All recent strikes in this industry have resulted in failure and generally in the employment of non-union men, more or less violence attending the change.

Miners have also tried the effect of striking, but with no success, being finally compelled to come to terms. On September the 9th and 10th the discharge of 100 Italian miners in Chartiers Valley, near Pittsburg, was followed by violence, and 28 Italians armed with rifles were arrested.

The Glass Trade seems likely to revive, but wages are again causing conflict. The men are endeavouring to increase the membership of the union.

The Coke Trade is reviving, and several thousand men are obtaining employment, although at a reduction of wages of about 10 per cent. in most instances.

Strikes amongst the coopers, potters, and tin-plate workers have occurred, attended with some rioting, owing to reduction of wages.

The unemployed, mostly textile workers, in Philadelphia, and unemployed workingmen of Cincinnati, Ohio, have organised committees to appeal to charity for relief.

The Steam Railroad Men's Union have organised a State Branch of the Order at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and are endeavouring to further their interests.

##### CHICAGO DISTRICT.

*Abatement of Financial Panic.*—Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reports under date of September 18th, that the sudden financial panic of July, which so largely increased the number of unemployed in this city and throughout the West, has abated, and a better feeling, with returning confidence, is apparent. The extent to which the panic prevailed is shown by the decrease in the bank clearings and in production. The bank clearings during the last six weeks decreased at all the principal cities of this district by from 25 to 80 per cent. compared with those of the corresponding period last year; at Chicago the decrease averaged more than 25 per cent., while at Denver and Milwaukee it reached 80 per cent. They are now beginning to show a better condition, and the number of industrial establishments which have resumed work compares favourably with the number of those from time to time forced to suspend operations. Many establishments which temporarily closed down six weeks ago have resumed work, and as confidence increases others may follow. One large steel company, however, has notified a cessation of work until after January, the reason being attributed to a lack of orders and no prospect of demand until the railroads and other heavy customers again begin to buy steel.

*Distress and Fall in Wages.*—The distress among the labouring classes, consequent on the panic, is still great, and it cannot be said that the army of unemployed has considerably diminished, though the daily additions to the list are much smaller than during last month. The discontent, arising from distress, among the Poles, Bohemians, and Italians, to a great extent took the form of meetings and processions through the city, which were accompanied by some rioting, but disturbance was quickly quelled, and such processions prohibited. The Jewish residents at once organised a distribution of bread and meat, irrespective of nationality, and many starving people were thus relieved. A Relief and Public Safety Committee has been formed, and registration booths established, affording an opportunity for the unemployed to apply for labour; applicants are required to register at the booths their names and addresses, number in family, and whether they are citizens of the United States. Two or three thousand have thus been sent to work on the drainage canal, and about a thousand have been put to work on the streets.

The bitter fight which has been waged for four years between the Seamen's Union and the shipowners here has come to an end, and the Union has notified captains of vessels that the men would ship for any wages they could get. The owners had combined to obtain sailors at wages less than the 2 dols. a day insisted on by the Union, and in all cases succeeded.

The labour market at the mines at Kansas is still in a disturbed condition, and much excitement exists; the market is depressed throughout this district, and the rate of wages is on the decrease.

Any description of work is eagerly sought for in this city, and the packing houses and large labour employing industries are crowded with applicants who cannot get work. The prospect for the winter is not bright, and when the number who are now engaged directly or indirectly in connection with the Exhibition are thrown out of employ, and the cold season approaches, it can scarcely be doubted that the distress which now prevails in this city and district will be accentuated.

#### LABOUR COMMISSION REPORTS.

DURING the month several important additions have been made to the list of publications of the Royal Commission on Labour. There is a third volume of the Digest of the Evidence taken before Group C of the Commission at the seventeen sittings of that section of the Commission, held from May to December of 1892. This also contains the usual glossary of technical terms, an analysis of evidence, and an index to the *precis* of evidence. The trades comprised in this portion of the inquiry are chiefly the Clothing, Gas, and Printing Trades, with subordinate branches of the Building Trades, and many miscellaneous industries.

Volume I. of Index to evidence taken before the three sections of the Commission is divided into three parts: (1) Witnesses, (2) Subjects, (3) Trades, and is on the same plan as the indexes of the Digests already published. To students of any of the special branches of inquiry entered upon by the Commission this volume will be specially useful. There have also been issued two reports by Assistant Commissioners appointed to inquire into the condition of agricultural labour in certain selected districts of Wales, and in certain of the Midland and Southern counties of England. The report of Mr. C. M. Chapman deals with districts selected in the counties of Berks, Bucks, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Devonshire, Herts, Oxfordshire and Shropshire, and presents a very complete statement of the condition of the labourers in those counties. Mr. D. Lleufer Thomas reports on selected districts in Anglesea, Carmarthen, Carnarvon, Denbigh, Glamorgan, Merioneth, Montgomery and Pembroke, and to this is added a further report by Mr. Chapman on certain districts in Brecon and Radnor.

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