

# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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A NEW feature in the present number of the LABOUR GAZETTE is the report on the state of employment for seamen, which has been supplied, through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade, by the Superintendents of Mercantile Marine at the chief ports. The Chief Registrar of Seamen also supplies a monthly report of deaths and accidents at sea. Taking the latter return, together with the reports also published of accidents in factories, workshops and mines, and among railway servants, a monthly record of industrial accidents is now supplied in the GAZETTE which it is hoped will eventually prove of considerable value.

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In view of the importance of the threatened crisis in the Coal Trade, information has been collected and is published on another page with regard to the general reductions of miners' wages which have taken place in the principal colliery districts in the United Kingdom since the beginning of 1891.

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CONSIDERING the public interest now taken in the question of old age pensions, a statement has been prepared for the GAZETTE, shewing the extent to which action is taken by trade societies in the direction of providing superannuation benefit for their aged members. In the present number this information is given so far as concerns the Building, Furnishing and Wood-working Trades. In the following numbers of the GAZETTE engineering and the other chief groups of trades will be dealt with.

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A BRIEF report is included in the present number with regard to the conditions of agriculture and agricultural labour during the month, which has been prepared in co-operation with the Board of Agriculture.

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A LARGE number of the principal employers' associations which deal with wages questions have agreed to assist the Department in the compilation of the monthly table of changes in wages and hours of labour, by supplying these particulars from time to time so far as regards their trades. Several trade societies have also promised similar information.

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OWING to the pressure on space the statistics of pauperism, emigration and immigration are presented this month in a more condensed form than in the last two numbers. It is intended in future to publish the full statistics periodically, but not every month.

## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE.

### I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

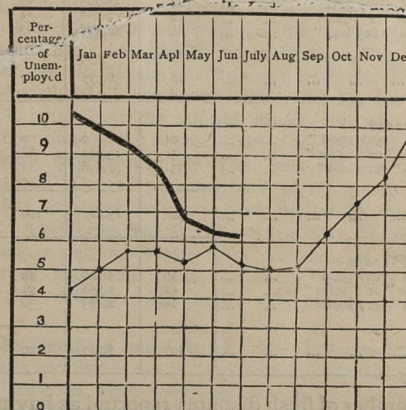
THE slight improvement in the state of employment that was noticeable in the returns for May has not been fully maintained during June, and the outlook, therefore, is scarcely so hopeful as it appeared a month ago.

The number of trade societies making returns for the month has increased to 30, the most important addition being that of the Northumberland miners, with a membership of 17,500. The aggregate membership of the societies making returns is 329,281, of whom 19,265, or 5·8 per cent., were unemployed at the end of June, compared with 19,391, or 6·2 per cent., shewn by the 26 societies making returns for May. If, however, the same 26 societies are compared, the number of unemployed for June amounts to 6·1 per cent. Of 22 societies whose figures were available for June 1892, 13,590, or 5·1 per cent., were unemployed.

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

#### PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED IN 1892 AND 1893 COMPARED.

NOTE.—The Chart shews 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.



In some districts the condition of the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades has slightly improved during the month, though there appears to be little indication of any general and substantial improvement. The percentage of unemployed for these trades is returned as 9·6. The Building Trades, which for several months past have been abnormally busy, are now scarcely so well employed, much of the work having been completed earlier than was anticipated, owing to the long spell of fine weather. The percentage of unemployed is returned as 2·4. The Furnishing Trades have fallen off somewhat, and are now less busy than for some time past. The percentage of unemployed is returned as 4·4. The Printing and Kindred Trades are described as only moderately busy; reports from some of the larger centres state that the number of unemployed is increasing. The bespoke branches of the Clothing Trades are



scarcely so busy as last month, while there is a falling off in the wholesale trade, especially in the export boot and shoe branches. The various branches of the Cotton Trade are well employed, but the Lace, Hosiery, Woollen and Worsted Trades are depressed. The Mining Industry in the Midland Counties is generally described as bad, but in parts of Scotland and South Wales some improvement is perceptible. At the end of June, only 2 per cent. of Northumberland miners were entirely out of work, and returns received with regard to 25 collieries in that county of the number of days worked during a fortnight in the middle of June shew that 6 of these collieries worked 11 days (which is regarded as full time), 14 worked 10 days, 2 worked nine days, 2 seven, and 1 six days.

Employment for seamen is reported slack, except at a few minor ports. The drought has seriously affected the employment of agricultural labourers in many districts. (Shipping and agriculture are dealt with in separate reports.)

Of the 30 societies making returns, 8 describe trade as "good," 7 as "moderate" and 15 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.	June.		Per-centage of Members for June.	Per-centage of Members for May.
	Branches	Members		
<b>Engineering and Shipbuilding—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	74	4,760	4	5
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	339	39,110	30	60
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	598	87,440	66	35
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,011</b>	<b>131,310</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Building Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	565	36,062	38	47
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	564	40,369	42	30
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	265	18,477	20	23
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>94,908</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Boot and Shoe Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	0	8,556	23	—
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	12	5,028	14	—
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	16	22,922	63	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>36,577</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Printing Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	0	0	0	—
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	5	13,681	88	—
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	25	1,936	12	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15,617</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Furnishing Trades—</b>				
"Fair" to "very good" ... ..	56	3,606	49	62
"Moderate" or "quiet" ... ..	31	1,369	21	17
"Dull" to "very bad" ... ..	20	2,173	30	21
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>7,347</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

The number of fresh disputes reported as having arisen during the month is 71, compared with 87 in May. Of these, 16 occurred in connection with Mining, 13 in the Building Trades (a falling off of 26 when compared with the previous month), 11 took place in the Textile Trades, 10 in the Clothing Trades, seven in the Metal Trades, six in the Shipbuilding Trade, and the remainder in various miscellaneous industries. Full particulars of many of these strikes have not yet come to hand, but in 39 of them 8,607 persons were engaged. None of the disputes are very important, one of the largest being in the Worsted Weaving Trade of Yorkshire, in which 500 persons were directly, and 3,000 indirectly, affected. Among the disputes settled during the month may be mentioned the prolonged dispute among the deal-runners at Bristol, in which nearly 300 men were concerned.

The notice of 25 per cent. reduction in the rates of miners' wages throughout the Federation districts, which was finally determined upon at the close of the month,

threatens to lead to a very widespread dispute. Further particulars of the crisis in the Coal Trade are given in another column.

The changes of wages during the month have not been important. Local rises of wages in the Building Trades are reported from several districts, especially among the carpenters and joiners. The principal falls reported in rates of wages have been among blast-furnace men in the Cleveland district, about 4,000 in number, whose wages are lowered 1 per cent. under the sliding scale. At Middlesbrough, various classes of workers engaged in the Shipbuilding Trades have suffered reductions in time or piece rates.

The pauperism returns for the month remain almost stationary, the total number relieved on a given day in the middle of June in the selected districts of the United Kingdom being 295,839 (or 202 per 10,000 of population), as compared with 297,176 (or 203 per 10,000 of population) in the previous month. The figures for London, Ireland, and most of the districts of England, Wales and Scotland remain remarkably constant. There has, however, been a perceptible improvement in the Tyne, Tees, Hull and Glasgow districts, and an increase of pauperism in the Dundee district. The corresponding figures for June 1892, were 297,583 (or 204 per 10,000 of population), but if the returns for the Stockton and Tees district are deducted—a locality at that time severely affected by the Durham miners' strike—the number of paupers for last month shows an increase of about 10,000 compared with a year ago.

II.—REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

**Tyne and Wear District.**—Mr. J. Ratcliffe reports that shipbuilding in Sunderland shows little change. Two establishments out of 14 are fairly well employed; other yards are preparing for work, low prices tempting owners to order new vessels. The unemployed iron ship builders have increased from 438 or 16.5 per cent. to 492 or 18.7 per cent. Shipwrights are badly employed; marine engine building is almost stationary. Repairing shops are busy, and employing an increased number of fitters. The number of unemployed engineers on the River Wear shows a decrease from 242 or 21.2 per cent. in May to 209 or 18.1 per cent. in June. Employment on the Tyne is gradually improving. Three shipbuilding and engineering firms are fully employed, others are not so busy. Work at the Gun Factory still remains quiet on the whole. The number of out-of-work Tyne engineers has been reduced to 751, or 15.9 per cent., as against 17.4 per cent. in May. Shipwrights and ironmoulders are not well employed. Shipyard carpenters and joiners on the Tyne are at present on strike against a reduction of wages, 550 men being idle. Boiler-makers and shipbuilders show some improvement, with 877 unemployed or 16.1 per cent., as against 1032 or 18.9 per cent. Nearly 1,000 shipyard labourers are out of work on the two rivers, although several have gone into the Building Trades. At Walker-on-Tyne 245 platers' helpers have struck against alleged extra work and other grievances, and their action throws 40 platers out-of-work. The Northumberland Steam Coal Trade showed much animation at the end of the month. Pits producing this class of coal are working to their fullest capacity. Prices are very firm. Miners are averaging 10 and 10½ days per fortnight. Out of the total number of county miners about 400 are unemployed. The Durham Coal Trade is still depressed, but is improving. House and gas-coal pits are working badly. Steam coal pits have better turns; 30 collieries are said to be working regularly, averaging 9½ and 10½ days per fortnight, but a large number are working 2, 4, and in some cases 8 days only. The number of men idle or under notice is officially computed at from 4000 to 5000. Durham steel plate mills are more active, and seem likely to continue so. The Building Trade is still busy. Chemical, lead and copper workers report little change. The unusually long drought has caused farmers in this locality much anxiety, though the prospects of this district are considered bright compared with some others. The recent heavy downfall of rain has much improved matters.

**Oldham, Bolton, and District.**—Mr. J. T. Fielding reports that business in the Iron Trades continues quiet, with very little overtime in any department. In the Bleaching and Finishing Trades, which have been exceptionally dull for months past, a better tone is noticeable and employment more general, but a considerable amount of irregular time is still worked in some establishments. The Cotton Trade, both in the spinning and weaving branches, is

in a more satisfactory condition. All the mills and sheds are working full time, so that, as regards the labour market, the demand for labour is at its maximum. Oldham yarns, which were unsatisfactory a month ago, have maintained the improvement noticeable at the end of May. The Building Trades are well employed, as are also the Clothing Trades. Coal mining is very unsatisfactory and much broken time is worked. The strike of carpenters and joiners at Oldham still continues, a few of the leading firms refusing to concede the increase asked for, viz., 8d. to 8½d. per hour. The men who struck work are slowly finding employment elsewhere. In reference to this dispute I find that the figures given last month were about 400, and it is reported that 230 are now working at the advanced rate. Owing to the introduction of machinery into two newspaper offices, a number of compositors are being dispensed with, and employment in this trade is just now difficult to obtain. In other respects these districts are quiet, and the relations between employers and employed amicable, although the approaching crisis in the Coal Trade threatens to disturb this feeling.

**Burnley, Acorington and District.**—Mr. W. H. Wilkinson reports that, taking the various trades of this district all round, the past month has shown some improvement over the previous one. The Weaving Industry is better now than it has been for some months back. One mill, which has been stopped for some time, has been re-opened with new looms. The number employed is about 120. The Calico Printing and Dyeing Trades are fully occupied, as are also the Machine and Iron Works. The plasterers at Blackburn have been on strike for the past 15 weeks, but the dispute is now assuming larger proportions, a general lock-out, involving upwards of 1,000 men, including masons, plumbers, bricklayers, joiners and labourers, having been declared by the employers. The dispute in the Nelson District regarding the adoption of the "uniform list" for weaving is settled, the Employers' Association having agreed to adopt the list asked for from June 28th. This means an advance of about 1½ per cent. upon the old rate of wages, and will affect nearly 2,000 workpeople. In the Coal-mining Industry a large proportion of the men are only working 5 days per week, stocks on hand being fairly heavy.

**Manchester and District.**—Mr. G. D. Kelley states that the Engineering and Kindred Trades are reported as moderately busy. The number unemployed in the Steam Engine Makers' Society is the same as at the end of last month, reaching about 3 per cent. of their local members. Other trades connected with, and who work in conjunction with the engineers, are in practically the same condition as when last reported. The sheet metal workers of the district report trade as "moderate but improving"—in fact the Sheet Metal Trade may be stated as "good," and much smaller numbers are unemployed at the present time than at the end of May. The Tin Packing Case Makers' Trade, previously reported as "bad," is slightly improving. The state of trade in regard to boiler makers in this district is reported as "moderate," but a decided tendency towards improvement is manifest, although over fifty members of the Union are still without employment in the district. The Building Trades are in a good state. The Cotton Spinning Trade of the district is but moderate, and the number unemployed is about the same as last month. The proportion of unemployed in Printing and Kindred Trades is, if anything, higher than when last reported. The bookbinders have been fairly well employed, but employment has fallen off during the past fortnight. The smaller and less important trades, as a whole, are in a better position at the present time than they have been for some time previous.

**Liverpool and District.**—Mr. J. Sexton reports that the employment of dock labour in discharging and loading shows no improvement, a large percentage of the men being unemployed. On the other hand, there is a slight improvement in the employment of seamen and firemen, particularly in the north end of the port, which may be due to the increased passenger traffic. The same rate of wages as in the previous month prevails. Amongst the ships' painters and ships' bottom scrapers the number of unemployed is less than 5 per cent. The Building Trades continue to be exceptionally brisk in almost every department. The carpenters and joiners have been successful in securing concessions in Liverpool, but have failed to obtain advanced rates for St. Helens men and for employes of the Mersey Dock and Harbour Board. In the Engineering Trade the percentage of unemployed is less than last month, although considerably above that of the corresponding period in 1892. A similar improvement is perceptible in the Boiler-making, Plating and other branches of the Shipbuilding Trades. The Coal-mining Industry is much disturbed by the proposed reduction of 25 per cent. The trade has been exceptionally quiet during the past month, from 3½ to 4 days per week only being worked. The reports as yet received from the mining and quarrying districts

in North Wales show a marked depression. The Quarrying Industry is much disturbed, particularly in Festiniog, where a dispute of long standing is still pending. There is a slight improvement in the employment of unskilled labour, such as excavating, etc. The Tailoring Trade is brisk, but owing to the absence of organisation amongst the men, the percentage of unemployed cannot be estimated. Business is good in the Mineral Water Trade. A union has been formed among the mineral water van drivers. The Printing, Book-binding and other Publishing Trades are moderately fair, and Tobacco manufacturing is brisk.

**Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.**—Mr. A. Main reports that the improvement in trade during May, particularly in the Shipbuilding and Steel Industries, continued during the greater part of June, and the prices of plates are said to have increased owing to the additional shipbuilding orders which have been booked. In the last week of June, however, a slight reaction was reported. In the Finished Iron Trade there is no improvement on last month to be reported; the employers have given the requisite 3 months' notice for terminating the sliding scale which has regulated wages at their works for more than 4 years, in order that they may be able to make certain re-adjustments in wages that have become necessary in consequence of the introduction of improved machinery. The reductions of wages accepted in the Shipbuilding yards at Stockton and Hartlepool in May, have since been generally agreed to at Middlesbrough, except in the case of the joiners, who have declined to accept them unless they have the same concessions granted to them. One or two slight disputes have also occurred at Stockton, Thornaby and Middlesbrough, in connection with the smiths' strikers and labourers. The strike of moulders at Hartlepool is still unsettled. Employment in the Engineering Trades is rather scarcer than last month, the number of unemployed being over 10 per cent. There is no material change in work at the Cleveland Blast Furnaces and Iron Stone Mines.

**Leeds and District.**—Mr. O. Connellan reports that the expected improvement in the general trade of this district has not yet taken place. It is difficult to decide whether the depression in the Iron Trade has "touched bottom," but it is no worse than last month. The boilermaking and ironfounding branches also continue slack. The Boot and Shoe Trade remains very quiet, and the number of unemployed is said to be increasing. The Bespoke Tailoring Trade continued busy up to the last week in the month, when it fell off a little. The Tailors' Union is agitating against out-work. The Ready-made Clothing Trade is very quiet, with a large number unemployed or working short time. The Building Trades are all reported good. The Weaving and Textile Industries are moderately employed. Only one department of dyeing has been well employed—blue goods, stuffs being very slack. Glass Bottle-making is still reported brisk, specially for the aerated water trade, but the flint glass branch is dull, with a few unemployed. The Leather Trade has been slack, particularly the calf kid branch, and the tanners have had a larger number out of work than at any previous period this year; some improvement, however, was indicated at the end of the month. Out of 700 members of the Leeds Typographical Society, 22 signed the vacant book during the last week of the month. A correspondent at Otley writes that the Printing Machine-making is only moderately busy, but none of the firms have been working short time. The Leather Trade is rather dull, but work in the weaving mills keeps very steady, full time being worked.

**Bradford, Huddersfield and District.**—Mr. A. Gee reports that trade in woollens is rather worse in Huddersfield itself this month. One or two of the mills, which were working night and day in May, are content with overtime or regular hours. In Dewsbury and Batley trade is still quiet, many of the workpeople being badly employed, and others out of work entirely. The Worsted Cloth Trade is also somewhat quieter in Huddersfield and district, but in the Bradford district looms are said to be still standing idle for want of weavers, and weavers who have been in the habit of leaving at almost any moment are now obliged to finish their contracts before leaving. The Blanket and Rug Trade is said to be in a rather depressed condition, both in Dewsbury and other places where it is carried on. The Iron Trade is still very quiet all over the district. Work in the Building Trades is still moderately brisk in Bradford, Huddersfield, and Halifax. The painters in the whole district are still moderately busy. The Cotton Trade of the district continues brisk, but the Silk Trade in Brighouse and district is bad, three of the largest firms working short time. Work is still fairly good in the Tailoring Trade. A strike began at Haworth, on the last day of the month, which threatens to be of a serious nature, although only between 400 to 500 weavers are directly affected by the proposed reduction of about 10 to 15 per cent.; about 900 other weavers and a very large number of other operatives are thrown out by the dispute.



**Barnsley and the Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleve-land).**—Mr. J. Wadsworth reports that there are few signs of improvement in trade. The heavy trades are working little more than half-time, and several men are out of work. The Iron Trade has been a little better than it was in May, and the price is said to have gone up in some instances as much as 2s. 6d. per ton for local pigs. The reduction in the wages of colliers proposed by the coal-owners meets with strong opposition, and a serious dispute appears to be imminent. The owners say they cannot pay the existing wages any longer, as other districts are out-selling them and taking a part of their trade. The men are only working two, three, or four days per week. The men at a colliery near Leeds are still resisting a reduction of 2d. per ton. The dispute as to a new system of "holing" coal at a colliery near Wakefield is still going on. The 90 colliers on strike at Birstal near Leeds remain idle. The difficulty as to a new price-list at a colliery near Rotherham has been amicably settled. All the men thrown out of employment by the closing of the Church Lane Collieries at Dodworth are still out of work. About 26 men were on strike for three weeks at a colliery near Castleford against a new method of working. They have now gone back, and the relative merits of the two methods are to be carefully tested. The Yorkshire Miners' Association have granted £10,000 from the general fund towards helping the contingent fund, from which, during June, about £2,000 has been paid to members out of work through the closing of collieries, breakage of machinery, inundations of water, falling of roofs, etc., apart from what has been paid out in dispute allowances. About 1,000 men at some collieries near Barnsley have passed a vote in favour of a strike on account of various grievances.

**Sheffield and District.**—Mr. S. Uttley reports that the Building Trades in the district are active, and in some branches there is a difficulty in obtaining skilled workmen, especially amongst the stone-masons. But although there are a few trades or branches of trades which can report a slight improvement upon last month, trade generally continues bad. In regard to the Silver and Metal Trades there are only a few of the leading houses moderately employed. The improvement recently expected has not been realised, and the only section where any marked activity has been displayed is the spoon and fork department. The Cutlery Trades as a rule are very slack; large numbers of workmen have not more than two to four days' work per week, in many cases at reduced prices. The makers of picks, shovels, and mining tools are also sharing in the depression in consequence of the slackness in the Coal Trade, the demand made by the coal owners for a 25 per cent. reduction in the miners' wages, and the probability of a severe conflict between the two bodies, exercising a very deterrent influence upon trade. In the heavy industries there is little change to report. The Armour Plate Trade is in a state of transition. The Railway Spring Trade is quiet, as also is that in buffers and railway material generally. There have been, however, some fair orders placed with one of our leading engineering firms, and there has been a better demand for the best qualities of steel for America and Canada. The ironfounders report a slight improvement. The trade with the West Indies and Brazil is said to have improved, and a more hopeful tone generally prevails.

**Hull and District.**—Mr. W. G. Millington reports that the trade of the Port is rapidly resuming its normal condition, though the friction consequent on the recent dispute has not yet subsided. There are, however, a great number of men unemployed who depend upon the docks and ships, for their labour. The number of vessels laid-up is comparatively small. The opening of the Baltic Ports and the commencement of the imported fish and fruit season always bring with them, for a time, increased employment at the docks. The importation of foreign fruit and fish (especially salmon) has been very large so far this season. Lightermen and seamen are wanting employment very much, especially lightermen, the present being the worst time of the year for them. The shipyards and engineering works have been fairly busy. No large orders have been received, but the construction of steam fishing vessels is causing a briskness in certain works, besides which a large number of men have been employed during the month on repair work. The number of unemployed boiler-makers, platers, riveters, and shipwrights on the books is on this account comparatively small at the end of June, but the prospect is very uncertain. On account of the recent stoppage, and the exceptionally dry spring, the Seed Crushing Trade continued brisk further into the summer months than usual, but the slack season has begun. The Building Trade is not so active as three months ago, and there is an increase in the number of men unemployed. Many of the younger men are getting employment in other towns. The Fishing Industry is one of the most important carried on from

the ports of the Humber. The principal part of the fishing vessels are at present away fleeting. About 10 per cent. of the fishermen are said to be unemployed. The excessively dry season has been detrimental to crops, vegetation and fruit in the surrounding districts, though the recent rains have done much good. Dairy farmers have suffered for want of pasture food for their animals, the grass in many cases being scorched, causing milk and butter to be scarce and dearer than usual.

**Wolverhampton and District.**—Mr. W. F. Mee reports that the severe depression in the Iron Trade still exists. Very few firms are fully employed and many of the men are idle. The crisis in the Coal Trade will accentuate the difficulties of the position. The long depression in the Iron Trade has had a most marked influence upon the Coal Trade in the North Staffordshire and Cannock Chase districts, where short time has been worked, and applications are being made for allotments to enable the men to use their spare time in growing market produce. In North Staffordshire there are 2,000 men under notice, and in the Cannock Chase district the miners are paying £1,250 to £1,500 a week in out-of-work benefit. Work in the Chain Trade is very scarce, and there are over 300 men unemployed. The strike in the Nail Trade at Dudley continues. A resolution has been passed by the nail-makers in the Bromsgrove district in favour of a month's stoppage of work in the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Nail Trade in order to prevent a reduction in wages. The improvement in the Steel Trade continues, and large orders have been secured at improved prices. The makers of materials for Railway Rolling Stock have also received several large orders. There are signs of improvement in the Wheel Trade and in the Wrought Iron Tube Trade. The Galvanized Iron Manufacturers report heavier shipping orders and a steadier demand for home work, but the brass and copper workers have not improved, several firms being on short time, although there is some demand for plumbers' requisites. Orders in the Bicycle Trade are fewer. The Iron and Tin-plate Trade is very quiet, and short time is being worked by several firms. The Boot and Shoe and Tailoring Trades are declining. The improvement in the Trades of Boiler-makers, Bridge-builders, Hollow-ware Casters, Galvanizers and makers of Engineers' Iron-work has been fairly sustained, and a better tendency is discernible in the Heavy Iron Foundry, Edge Tool, Iron Hurdle and Wire-fencing Trades. There is room for improvement in the Hardware Trade, and the dry cask coopers are short of employment. In Japanning, Harness, Saddlery, and Electrical Trades work is steady. The engineers are fairly busy with a small percentage of unemployed. The Building Trades are generally busy, over-time being worked in some instances.

**Birmingham and District.**—Mr. W. J. Davis reports that brass-working has fluctuated during the month, cabinet brassfoundry being exceptionally dull. The Tinplate Trade continues good. The Building Trades are not so active. The season for cycles and fittings is nearly over, although on good work there is still full employment. The Jewellery Trade is still in a very low condition, and is the most depressed of all trades in Birmingham. Bedstead-makers are fairly well employed, and there is a still further improvement in the export trade for cheap qualities of sporting guns. The best (home) trade is quiet but improving. Tube-drawing in brass and copper is quiet. The Wrought Iron Tube Trade is fairly busy. Metal rolling and wire mills are going on full time; wire-working is fairly active. In the General Hardware Trade a gradual improvement has been perceptible. Plumbers' work is in constantly increasing demand owing to sanitary improvements. The Electro-plate Trade is reported to be rather under the season's average; the leading houses are, however, at work on good orders, and the medallists are also busy. Engineers and machinists are generally in full employment, although some works have hardly enough business to keep them going. The Flint Glass Trade shows no improvement. Perambulators and children's mail-carts are in good demand, and light cabinet-making is generally good. The demand for japanned and iron plate wares is fairly steady in general work, and busy in trunks, baths, etc. In Railway Wagon and Rolling-stock works there is full employment. Many new tramway-cars are being made for Glasgow. The Button and Steel-pen Trades are normal; the Printing Trades are still inactive. In the South Staffordshire district the Iron Trade shows a marked improvement, orders having even been refused owing to pressure of business. Most of the miscellaneous trades are reported better, with one or two exceptions. The Nut and Bolt Trade is still depressed. There is also much distress among the nail and chain workers. On the other hand, there is good employment at the foundries for heavy castings and also in the Wrought-iron Tube Trade, and boiler and tank yards. Iron plate working is good, especially in enamelled sign plates. The galvanizing establishments are in full work. The Coal-mining Industry

is regarded as bad. Those in work have been paying levies of from 2d. to 6d. per week to support fellow-members out of work. It was reported on June 9th that 2,000 men were under notice. There is much excitement at present over the proposal of the Coal Owners' Association to impose a reduction of 25 per cent. in wages on the miners of the Midland district.

**Nottingham, Derby and District.**—Mr. W. L. Hardstaff reports that there are very few workmen in the Lace Trade working full time. The leavers, the curtain, and plain net branches are all slack. The warp lace branch is not fully employed, although few men are out of work. Swiss lace girls are very short of work, and lace menders and winders, with few exceptions, are working three-quarter or half time. In the Hosiery Trade a languid tone prevails, the frame-work knitters and the circular hosiery branches being slack. In the hand-frame branch trade is in a depressed state, especially in the outside districts, comprising Arnold, Hucknall Torkard, and Carlton. Engineers and lace machine builders, boiler makers, tool machinists, iron dressers, and fettlers are working full time. Hosiery machine builders, and iron moulders and cycle makers are slack. There is hardly a colliery in Nottinghamshire working full time, and the failure of the hay crop has deprived colliers of the employment usually gained at this time of year. The Building Trades are busy. Tailors are not so busy, except in the ready-made department. Letterpress printers are quiet, and lithographic printers busy. Leather workers and cabinet-makers are well employed, but box makers are not so active.

A report received from Derby states that employment at most of the collieries is very slack indeed, a considerable number being unemployed in the Chesterfield district in particular. One thousand men are under notice at one company's collieries, and at Morton only half a day per week has been worked. At several pits men have been asked to accept a reduction in wages of 25 per cent. A dispute appears imminent. Many iron-workers are idle, and one ironworks has been closed altogether. At many boiler, bridge and girder works overtime is being worked. Bolt and nut makers are fairly well employed, rivet makers are improving, iron and brass moulders are very busy. The Engineering Trade is somewhat improving: some few men are unemployed. Stove-grate works are very busy. Bricklayers are busy, plasterers are fairly well employed, carpenters and joiners are very busy, house painters and decorators are fully employed, sawyers and wood workers' machinists are very quiet, box makers are rather busy. The Silk Trade in all its branches is very good, elastic and surgical bandage making is active. Bookbinders and cabinet-makers are fairly well employed. Tailoring and outfitting establishments are very busy. Electric-lighting engineers are exceedingly brisk, as the Corporation are fitting up the town with lighting apparatus.

**Leicester and Northampton District.**—Mr. T. Smith reports that spring and summer contracts having been completed, the Leicester Boot and Shoe Manufacturers are now only engaged in the making up of small assortment orders and the preparation of new samples for the autumn trade, with the result that a large proportion of the operatives are working short time. In Northampton and district trade is quiet, and workpeople are but moderately well engaged. At Kettering, some of the boot and shoe factories are working short time, while in the Higham Ferrers and Raunds district, the manufacture of machine-sewn goods for the army continues fairly brisk. Taken generally, there is a lack of tone and firmness in the Hosiery Trade, and the percentage of unemployed workpeople is greater than it should be at this time of the year. In the Yarn and Spinning Trades, machinery is still fairly well engaged on the completion of old orders, but new contracts are difficult to obtain at late rates. The Elastic-web Industry is moderately good, and the workpeople in some branches are well employed. Bricklayers and painters are still working full time, and this applies generally to all hands engaged in outdoor work. The Leicestershire Coal Industry is in an exceptionally depressed condition, the miners only working an average of two days per week. The output, though so much restricted, is far in excess of the actual demand at the present moment. On the other hand, the stone-quarrying firms are very busy, the men being worked in constant relays in order to keep pace with the large contracts for stone which have been secured. The question of fixing a minimum rate of wages for the operatives engaged in the Kettering Boot and Shoe Trade has been referred for settlement to the referee appointed by the Board of Arbitration. A circular has been sent to the Northampton Shoe Manufacturers by the local branch of the Operatives' Union, requesting that a minimum wage of 28s. per week should be paid to all employed on day-work, and fixing the months of January and July as the dates when notices as to changes in wages on working conditions shall take

effect. The negotiations for the establishment of a uniform wages' list for "Cotton's Patent Rib Hose," by the Leicester Frame-work Knitters' Union, reported last month, are still in progress.

**Eastern Counties.**—Mr. J. Robinson reports from Ipswich that the largest engineering works in the Eastern counties are very busy just now, and many of their workmen are making overtime. On the other hand, a firm of large contractors for railway plant are only working four days per week, and a number of their men have recently been discharged. Bricklayers are fully employed, and in a few places extra men are being enquired for. General labourers are not so well employed as usual at this time of the year, and there are many out of work. For years past there has not been known a time when so many agricultural labourers have been stated to be out of work in June as at present. The want of rain and low prices of produce are stated to be causing the farmers to reduce expenditure on labour. The Clothing Trades are fairly well employed.

It is reported from Norwich that after joint meetings held on June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, the Norwich Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association and the Norwich branch of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives have arrived at a settlement with reference to the disputed questions, chiefly relating to the paring of special classes of work and of boy labour. Employment in Norwich is stated to be very fair in the Building Trades, and fair for engineers, cabinet makers, and tailors. The Painting Trade is falling off early this year, doubtless owing to the early spring.

**Bristol and South-Western District.**—Mr. J. Curle reports that the Printing and Allied Trades, also the Wholesale and Bespoke Clothing Trades, have declined slightly during the past month. Brush-makers, cabinet-makers, boiler-makers and iron and tin-plate workers are moderately busy, while the engineers and ironfounders continue depressed. All branches of the Building Trade are fair, excepting the carpenters and joiners, who are at present slack. Business in the Bristol Boot and Shoe Industry is exceptionally bad. At Kingswood trade is improving; most of the firms are working full time, and in some cases overtime. The state of the unskilled labour market is very congested. The lock-out of deal runners, which commenced at this port in November last, has ended. Piecework has been substituted for day work, contractors taking the work having to pay the men they engage not less than the rate of wages which prevailed prior to the commencement of the lock-out. A few permanent men have been engaged direct by the timber merchants at 27s. a week. The Radstock miners have also effected a settlement of the "bag coal" question. The state of agriculture in the surrounding counties is very critical, owing to the continued drought. Wheat is short in straw and turning off ripe. There is little or no haymaking in the district, farmers having been obliged to put stock on meadow grass owing to the shortness of keep. Anxiety prevails among agriculturists with reference to the supply of food for stock, and large numbers of unfattened beasts and sheep are being disposed of at low prices.

**Cardiff and District.**—Mr. T. Davies reports that there has been little change in trade during the past month. There is a slight increase in the numbers on the out-of-work books of the various trade societies, with the exception of those in the Building Trades, and the number of unemployed of the unskilled class of workmen is probably rather larger than last month. In the Building Trades the demand for good workmen in some of the branches is greater than the supply, and trade is very good all over the district. The Amalgamated Society of Engineers has taken an important step this month in the direction of minimising overtime. It is said that hitherto, in times of rather brisk trade, especially in the ship-repairing yards, it has been no rare occurrence for certain men to work from 90 to over 100 hours in a week, while others failed to get a day's work. The "regulation of overtime" rules, which were issued a fortnight ago, will come into operation on the 7th of July. They prohibit any member "making" more than 74 hours in a week, and stipulate that any member having worked all night, must not work after 5 p.m. the following day. The wages of the port for seamen and firemen have fluctuated during the month, but now are about the same as in May.

**South Wales and Forest of Dean Mining Districts.**—Mr. W. Evans reports that trade during the past month has fully maintained the improvement that had previously set in. The selling price of coal is reported to be at present from 9d. to 1s. a ton higher than in March and April. The probable effect, however, of this advance on miners' wages after the next audit under the sliding scale arrangement is rendered uncertain by the fact that the contracts for the preceding twelve months are taken into account, in arriving at the average selling price, which will regulate wages for June and July. Notices have been posted at the pit heads in the Forest of Dean,



to the effect that contracts will cease on July 8th. Trade in this district during the year is reported to have gone from bad to worse, and at the present time, whilst nearly 1,500 men are discharged, and many collieries stopped for want of trade, the 3,000 men still working do not average half-time. The strike at a colliery near Swansea, which has lasted for 12 weeks, and has affected from 400 to 500 men, has now been settled, the men accepting a reduction of 1½d. per ton, instead of 3d., as originally proposed. All efforts to arrange matters peaceably at the colliery at Clydach Vale, Glamorganshire, where notice of reduction had been given, proved futile, and the owners have resolved upon sinking to the lower measures, thus throwing about 900 men out of employment.

**London District.**—Mr. C. J. Drummond, one of the Labour Correspondents to the Department, reports as follows: In 69 branches of unions connected with the Iron Trades, containing 12,556 members, 1,075 (or 8.5 per cent.) are unemployed, as compared with 6.4 per cent. last month, 2 of the branches of these industries reporting trade as "good," 12 "moderate," and 55 "bad." In the Building Trades, 124 branches, containing 8,079 members, report 247 members (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, 64 of these branches describing trade as "good," 37 as "moderate," and 23 "bad." A further 116 branches of societies connected with the Building Trades, in which no out-of-work benefit is paid, make returns, 44 describing trade as "good," 66 as "moderate," and 6 as "bad." The London Printing Trades are not divided into branches, but 4 unions, containing 12,537 members report that 293 (or 2.4 per cent.) are unemployed. In the Furnishing Trades a considerable falling off in employment is reported, 19 branches, containing 2,459 members, having 119 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, against 2.4 per cent. last month. The boot and shoe operatives are also slack, 2 branches containing 1,005 members describing trade as "moderate," while 2 others, with 4,291 members, describe it as "bad." Very few fresh disputes have taken place during the month. Three are reported in the Building Trades and two in the Clothing Trades, all being comparatively unimportant. Dock labour has been only moderately employed, but without extreme fluctuations, the numbers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee ranging from 4,087 to 4,949 compared with a range of 4,394 to 6,039 in June 1892. The Kensington Vestry is stated to have recently resolved to appoint two women inspectors of workshops in the district. An important event of the month has been the opening, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, of a National Workmen's Exhibition, which has been promoted by the London Trades' Council. The exhibition is essentially a collection of workmen's products, all amateur work being rigorously excluded.

## SCOTLAND.

**Edinburgh and District.**—Mr. J. Mallinson reports that there has been an improvement in the Mid and East Lothian Coal Trade during June; 5 per cent. of the miners have been working three days per week as against 11 per cent. last month, and 15 per cent. have been working four days per week as against 32 last month, while the remainder have been working full time, viz., five days per week. There is not much change in the position of the Oil Trade of Mid and West Lothian. The agitation amongst the shale workers against the recent reduction continues; the majority of the miners are still pursuing the four days a week policy. One company offered to return half of the last reduction to a section of the miners on condition that they worked full time; the offer, however, was not accepted. The strike of coal miners at Benhar, begun on 20th May, is still in progress. The Paper-making Industry of Mid and West Lothian is good at present, two of the mills that were lately running short-time are now running full time. The sett makers report trade to be busy. The Shipping Trade of Leith is still keeping up, and wages show a tendency to rise. In the Southern Trade, wages for firemen have risen from £3 15s. to £4, and for seamen from £3 10s. to £3 15s. The Shipbuilding Trades continue very bad, with no sign of immediate improvement. Returns from five branches show no less than 47.6 per cent. on the idle roll at the end of the month. There is no improvement in the Iron Trades, but from the orders placed the moulders look for more employment next month. The five branches making returns show 16 per cent. idle at the end of the month. In the Building Trades, masons and joiners are busy, the other branches report trade as fair. The Printing Trades continue quiet; the average weekly percentage of men out of work amongst the letter-press printers is 2 per cent., and amongst lithographic printers 3.8 per cent. The Cabinet-making Trades are quiet generally, though carvers are at present busy. A month's experiment of an eight hours' day and set wages tried by one firm has not proved satisfactory to either the employers or the workmen, and a return has therefore been

made to the old system of working. Tailors and shoemakers report trade to be dull; the season's trade has been below the usual standard, and the slackness has set in a few weeks earlier than usual. The coopers report trade to be very bad, 22.5 per cent. of their members being on the idle roll at the end of the month, besides a considerable number working short time. The Bookbinders report trade to be worse than it has been for a considerable time, a weekly average of 5.4 per cent. being out of work. Tinplate workers have been better employed during June, there being fewer on short time. Bakers, brass finishers and saddlers report trade to be quiet, and carpet weavers return it as being fair. The slaters' strike against labourers being employed in boring slates, which has lasted over seven weeks, is still unsettled. The Rubber Industry is on the whole quiet, though the shoe and cycle tyre departments are busy. At present there are close upon 3,000 hands employed in this industry in Edinburgh and Leith.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**—Mr. A. J. Hunter reports that the tone in connection with the Shipbuilding Industry on the Clyde, from Glasgow to Greenock, is more hopeful. The Steel Smelters' Trade is in much the same condition as in May. The engineers, iron-moulders, blacksmiths, iron-dressers, tinplate workers and hammermen report no change. The pattern-makers have hardly been so well employed. The Cabinet-makers' Trade is good. The millmen report a slight improvement in the Steel and Iron Trades; labourers of all classes have been rather better employed during the month. The Printing Trade is less active. The Machine Boot and Shoe Trade in Glasgow is very fair, and wages are being fully maintained. The hand shoemakers are still fairly busy, but are getting quiet, as the summer season is nearly over. The Coopers' Trade is not good, but wages have been maintained. The societies connected with the Textile Trades, as well as the sewing machine and cycle makers, report as favourably as last month. The sett makers state that trade is even better than last month, and the quarriers are extremely busy. Work is stated to have improved at the collieries in Stirlingshire. At one colliery in the county there has been a stoppage of work by the miners owing to a partial reduction, and the dispute is still pending. A weighing dispute at another colliery has been satisfactorily settled after a fortnight's strike. The five days a week system rules all over the country. At a colliery at Hamilton the miners successfully resisted a proposed reduction of 1d. per ton in wages. In the Larkhall district some hundreds of miners are still idle, resisting a partial reduction of wages, and several minor stoppages of a similar kind are reported. In Ayrshire also the four days a week policy has been inaugurated, but the Annbank miners, who work eight hours a day for five days a week, refuse to change until other places reduce their daily hours to eight.

**Dundee and District.**—Mr. R. D. B. Ritchie reports that the Jute Trade of Dundee is suffering considerably from, it is alleged, the unsettled condition of financial affairs in America. One firm has already discharged 500 workers, chiefly women, while another has elected to reduce the working hours to 40 per week. Another branch is about to be added to the Textile Industry of this district, a woollen company having just been formed to carry on business at Carnoustie. The Iron Trades, with the exception of one or two firms having pressing orders on hand, continue very dull, and large numbers of workpeople are still unemployed. Iron Shipbuilding has experienced a long spell of dull trade, and few orders in this department of industry are announced. The Building Trades continue very busy, masons being especially in demand. Considerable extension of school accommodation is being carried out in Dundee just now, which contributes to the briskness of the Building Trades. Salmon fishers are fully employed on the Tay, but the "takes" are reported to be far short of the tacksmen's expectations. The season has been specially favourable for deep-sea fishing, and the herring fishing is being prosecuted with considerable success, herrings being sold on the streets of Dundee at present at four for a penny. Bakers, printers, and shoemakers are "quiet," while the cabinet makers and upholsterers are well employed.

**Aberdeen and District.**—Mr. W. Johnston reports that the Shipbuilding Industry is in a worse condition than in the previous month. An important firm has put its men on short time—6½ hours per day. Of the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders 39 per cent. are unemployed, and of the shipwrights 27 per cent. Moulders, engineers and blacksmiths all give unfavourable reports, and there seems no prospect of any improvement. Several ship joiners have been thrown idle on account of the depression in shipbuilding, but they are gradually finding employment at housebuilding work. Rope and twine spinners and hemp dressers are exceptionally dull at this season of the year, and a considerable number are unemployed. The Printing Trade shows considerable improvement since last month, and it is

expected that by the end of July all those out of work will be fully employed. Bookbinding is dull. Masons, plasterers and painters are fully employed. Trade in monumental granite work shows signs of improvement: an export trade is carried on, especially with the United States. Textile Industry shows a little improvement generally. Unskilled labourers are not in demand. Many of them are only getting a day now and again discharging timber-laden ships, or doing odd jobs at the docks. Bakers, tinplate workers and coopers are getting busy. The herring fishing which commences on the north-east coast in the month of July gives an impetus to these three industries. Coopers are always well employed at this season. Fishing is the largest industry carried on in Aberdeen. Altogether, about 2,000 are employed in white fishing at the port, of whom 880 are women, engaged in cleaning fish, gathering bait, and baiting lines. During the time of the herring fishing, which has practically begun, about 5,000 persons are employed. The Fishing Industry at the Port of Aberdeen is in a very prosperous condition, and there are few unemployed.

## IRELAND.

**Dublin and District.**—Mr. J. P. Nannetti reports that trade has not been so good for the past month, with the exception of the Building and kindred Industries, which are very prosperous. The Engineering and Iron Trades have been slack during the early period of the month, but a better state was apparent at the close, and very few members of the Engineers' Society are now idle. Work in the Boot and Shoe Trade is middling, but in the Clothing Trade fair. In the Brush-making and Basket-making Industry employment is very precarious, and of the members of the Lath-splitters Society, a large proportion are idle. The Upholstering Trade has been fair, but Cabinet-making slack. The Printing and Allied Trades were slack during the month, but not exceptionally so for the time of year. Glass Bottle-makers have been fairly busy. Bakers are not so fully employed as last month, but they have been experiencing an exceptionally busy season. Work for labourers along the quays has been very slack. A new brick-making works was opened at the beginning of the month at Athy, County Kildare, which it is expected will give considerable employment in the district.

**Belfast and District.**—Mr. R. Sheldon reports that the state of employment during the greater part of the month has been good. The Building Trades are fully employed, and the same may be said of the Linen Trades, with the exception of the flax roughers, who still show a considerable percentage of unemployed, though less than in May. The bakers, butchers, cabinet-makers, polishers, upholsterers, carters, locomotive engine-drivers, and railway servants report trade as good; the lithographic and typographic printers, coopers, coach-builders, bookbinders and tinplate workers report trade as fair, while the tailors state that a great number of their members are only partially employed at present. In the Shipbuilding and Engineering Industries employment has been fairly well maintained, though the number of unemployed has materially increased owing to a partial stoppage in a shipbuilding yard and the completion of several large vessels. Particulars have been obtained from 44 trade societies, with a membership of 17,602, of whom 643 (3.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month. The Linen Trades showed 248 unemployed out of 3,259 members, or 7.6 per cent.; the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades had 302 unemployed out of 8,243, or 3.7 per cent.; the Building Trades 22 out of 2,393, or less than 1 per cent.; and the Miscellaneous Trades, 71 out of 3,707, or 1.9 per cent. The members of the following societies have received notice of a reduction of 1/- a week from 12th July:—Associated Blacksmiths, Amalgamated Engineers, National Engineers, U. K. Patternmakers, Associated Shipwrights, United Machine Workers, Iron Founders and Brass Founders. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders have also received notice of a reduction of wages from the same date to the rates on the Clyde. The mill-sawyers and wood-working machinists in the town shops have asked for a reduction of working hours from 57 to 54 per week, but no reply had been received up to the end of June.

**Cork and District.**—Mr. P. O'Shea reports that the trades in general of the district are in a very depressed condition, particularly in the Engineering, Boiler-making and Shipwrights' branches; those connected with building are, however, in a very fair state. The tailors' dispute is still stated to continue, but a few of the employers have taken back several of the operatives affected, leaving only twelve at present unemployed, out of a total of forty last month. With regard to the Fishing Industry in the south of Ireland, those concerned complain very much of the destruction of salmon spawn in the rivers, especially in the Blackwater; in the town of Youghal, which is at the mouth of that river, the take of fish has been very poor indeed.

**Emigration and Immigration in June.**—The number of persons who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during the past month shows a marked decrease when compared with the month of May, having fallen from 42,218 to 33,899. Compared with 1892, however, the falling off was not great, the numbers for the months of May and June in that year being 43,471 and 35,518 respectively. Comparing the figures for June 1892 and June 1893, according to destination of emigrants, we find that the number going to the United States fell from 26,861 to 23,096, while those going to British North America rose from 5,835 to 7,953. To all other places the number rose from 2,822 to 2,850. Classified according to nationality, the number of English emigrants in June 1893 was 12,282; Scotch, 2,677; Irish, 4,684; and Foreigners, 14,084; the figures for June 1892 being—English, 12,147; Scotch, 2,244; Irish, 5,556; and Foreigners, 15,413. The total number of emigrants during 1893 up to 30th June has been 179,088, an increase of 2,274 over the corresponding period of 1892. During June 1893, the total number of aliens that are recorded in the alien list as arriving from the Continent at ports in the United Kingdom was 14,876, of whom 11,236 were stated to be *en route* to America. These figures are less than those for the same month of 1892, by 1,672 and 1,927 respectively. Of those *en route* to America, 6,742 arrived at Hull, 2,454 at Grimsby, 1,690 at Leith, and 350 at other ports, while of the 3,640 not stated to be *en route* to America, London received nearly one-half, viz., 1,679. Grouped according to port of embarkation, 3,789 came from Gothenburg, 1,539 from Hamburg, 939 from Christiana, Arendal and Christiansand, and 8,609 from other Continental ports. For the six months ending 30th June, the total immigration was 9,882 less than in the corresponding period of 1892, the total number being 73,553.

**Foreign Trade.**—The value of the imports for June 1893 was £31,868,792, against £32,777,479 for June 1892, a decrease of £908,687. The exports of British and Irish produce for the same months were valued at £18,785,271 and £18,070,318 respectively, being an increase in June 1893 of £714,953. For the half-year ended 30th June 1893, the imports were £197,676,219 or £15,039,504 less than for the same period in 1892; and the exports of British and Irish produce for the first half of 1893 were £107,777,940 or £4,083,062 less than for 1892.

**Traffic Receipts on British Railways.**—The receipts of 23 of the principal British railways for the five weeks ending July 2nd show a slight decrease when compared with the corresponding weeks of 1892, the figures being respectively £7,087,597 and £7,377,731. The difference of £290,134 is probably caused to some extent by the increased traffic at Whitsuntide, which appears in the figures for 1892 but not in those for 1893.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The number of bales of cotton imported during June 1893 was 158,983, and exported 50,123, the former being a decrease of 36,167 bales, and the latter an increase of 7,957 bales, as compared with June 1892. For the half-year the imports and exports were 1,403,079 and 232,769 bales respectively, the decrease in imports compared with the same period of 1892 being 604,537 bales, and the increase in exports 442 bales.

## COAL.

## PRODUCTION OF COAL DURING 1892 IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(Compiled from the Mineral Statistics issued by the Home Office).

District.	Total Quantity.	Value at the Mines.
	Tons.	£
ENGLAND AND WALES.		
Durham ... ..	23,844,027	7,398,480
Yorkshire ... ..	23,189,915	8,985,926
Lancashire ... ..	22,356,171	8,256,120
Staffordshire ... ..	14,132,827	5,136,655
Glamorganshire ... ..	21,808,314	10,474,123
Derbyshire ... ..	11,141,152	4,363,618
Northumberland ... ..	9,528,834	3,116,723
Other Districts ... ..	27,491,827	10,473,900
Total ... ..	154,483,067	58,205,845
SCOTLAND.		
Lanarkshire ... ..	15,252,977	4,182,051
Other Districts ... ..	11,938,946	3,612,562
Total ... ..	27,191,923	7,794,613
IRELAND ... ..	111,881	49,993



CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN JUNE.

The following Table is based on information obtained from Local Correspondents and from Newspapers and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trades' Unions.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Approximate number of workpeople affected, Particulars of Increase, Particulars of Decrease. Includes sections for Increases in Rates of Wages and Decreases in Rates of Wages.

NOTE.—In addition to the above changes, it was reported that engineers' rates on steam trawlers from Hull were reduced from July 1st by 2s. 6d. per week...

\* The average advance was as stated, but the change was owing to the adoption at Nelson of the uniform list of prices for weaving Cotton Goods...

PAUPERISM IN JUNE.

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...

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.

The figures are presented in a more condensed form than in previous numbers of the GAZETTE, but their basis remains precisely the same as before.

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of June 1893. Columns: District, Population in 1891, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000 of Population, Total No. of Paupers on corresponding date in 1892.

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of June 1893 for Scotland and Ireland, including Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and Galway districts.

\* 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.

REPORT ON CO-OPERATION FOR JUNE.

THE Women's Co-operative Guild, which held its second annual meeting at Leicester on June 13th and 14th, now includes 157 branches with a membership of nearly 7,000...

The principal business of the meeting was the passing of the rules proposed for the Guild on its registration as an industrial and provident society.

PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES. A new boot manufacturing society, formed at Bramley (near Leeds), as the outcome of a strike, was registered during June...

DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES. At the quarterly meetings of the Co-operative Wholesale Society held on the 10th June, the proposal of the Committee that £3,000 should be devoted to a new experiment...

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.

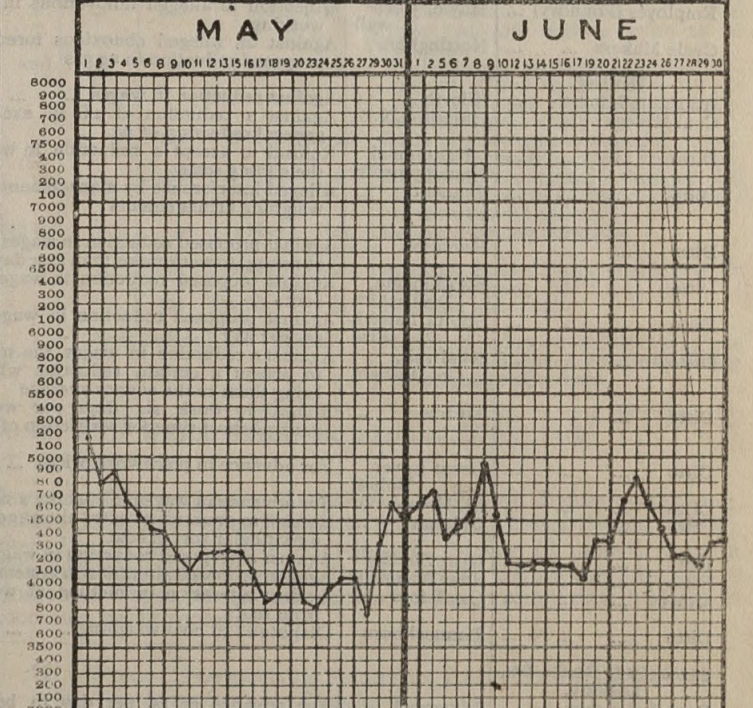


Table showing the figures on which the Chart for June is based. Columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed.



TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE 1893.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result. Includes categories like Building Trades, Clothing Trades, Metal Trades, Mining, etc.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE—(Continued).

Continuation of Table I from page 58, listing trade disputes in June 1893. Columns include Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result.

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

Table listing trade disputes that began before June and were settled in that month. Columns include Trade, Locality, Alleged Cause or Object, No. of Firms or Establishments, Approximate No. of Persons affected, Date of Commencement, Date of Termination, Result.

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

The following strikes reported in the last issue as commencing in May are still in progress:—Carpenters and joiners, Brighton, Oldham, Barnet and Finchley; builders' labourers Wakefield, slaters Edinburgh, tailors Cork, quarrymen Festiniog, miners Clay Cross, Birstal (Leeds), and Benhar (Lanarkshire); woollsorters near Bradford, stove-grate workers Derby, and moulders Huddleley. Strikes of joiners, Buxton and the Potteries, patternmakers Sunderland, bakers Navan, tailors Leeds, and wrought nail makers Dudley, which commenced previous to May, are also in progress, as is a strike of plasterers at Blackburn for increased wages, which has resulted in the present month (July) in a lock-out in the other sections of the Building Trades, upwards of 1,000 men being reported out.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING JUNE 1893.

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

I.—FOUR TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

- (a) Building Trades:— Fibrous Plasterers' Association (London, W.C.).
(b) Enginemen and Firemen:— Derbyshire Enginemen and Firemen's (Chesterfield).
(c) Miscellaneous:— Ipswich Mutual Working Men's Independent Federation.
(d) Papermaking:— National Union of Paper Mill Workers (Manchester).

II.—ONE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION DISSOLVED:—

- Liverpool Traders' Assur. and Arbit. Assoc.

III.—FOUR CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

- (a) Two Manufacturing Societies:— 1. Bramley Co-op. Boot and Shoe Manufact. Socy. Ltd. 2. Bristol Pianoforte Productive Socy. Ltd.
(b) Two Distributive Societies:— 1. Paignton Co-operative Socy. Ltd. 2. Trimsaran Industrial Co-op. Socy. Ltd.

IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

- 1. Twelve New Societies Registered:— (a) Ordinary Friendly Societies ... 5 (b) Working Men's Clubs ... 1 (c) Specially Authorised Societies ... 3 (d) Dividing Societies ... 3 = 12
2. Forty-four New Branches of Existing Societies:— (a) I.O. Rechabites ... 13 (b) Merthyr Unity P.I. ... 6 (c) I.O. Odd Fellows M.U. ... 5 (d) Various ... 20 = 44



## THE CRISIS IN THE COAL TRADE.

THE unsatisfactory state of the Coal Trade has culminated in a proposal for the reduction of miners' wages throughout many districts, which appears likely to lead to a widespread contest.

On June 30th, after a conference between representatives of the Associated Coal Owners and the Miners' Federation, the Coal Owners passed a resolution demanding a 25 per cent. reduction in the rates of miners' wages throughout the districts covered by the Federation. It was decided to give notice to the men to terminate contracts to expire not later than July 28th.

In view of the magnitude of the interests involved, the following statement has been prepared for the GAZETTE, dealing chiefly with the general changes of wages which have taken place in the principal mining districts since the beginning of 1891.

The area covered by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain includes Lancashire, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Cumberland, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, the Forest of Dean, North Wales, Somerset, Stirling, and Monmouth. Durham and Northumberland have recently joined, but the course of action likely to be adopted by these counties in the event of a general strike is at present doubtful, since by joining the Federation they did not abrogate their existing rules, which require a plébiscite of the members, and a two-thirds majority in favour of a strike before it can be entered upon. On the other hand, the 20th rule of the Federation requires all districts to strike, if directed, in order to assist in resisting a reduction. Under these circumstances it will be simpler to omit these counties when speaking of the Federation districts, and to deal separately with them, and with Scotland, South Wales and other districts, which are outside the Federation.

The total number of miners in unions included in the Federation (including Northumberland and Durham) is about 250,000, or (excluding these counties) about 190,000, but the numbers employed in districts embraced by the Federation, and who might be affected by a general strike, are considerably larger.

The National Amalgamated Coal Porters' Union is also included in the Federation, and the National Amalgamated Sailors' and Firemen's Union is affiliated for certain purposes.

Speaking broadly, the general rate of wages in the Federation districts has not varied since the beginning of 1891, except in Cumberland. By successive advances obtained between July 1888 and August 1890, it was raised to its present height of 40 per cent. above the rate prevailing in 1888, when the Federation was formed. Since then only local and indirect reductions have taken place.

Turning to the non-federation districts, the Department has received information of the following general changes of wages since January 1891:—

## (1) NORTHUMBERLAND:—

Date of change.	Amount of reduction.	Average price of coal per ton at pit's mouth for 3 previous months.
	Per cent.	s. d.
February 1891 ...	1½ ...	7 9.64
January 1892 ...	5 ...	7 1.79
November 1892 ...	5 ...	6 5.86
March 1893 ...	5 ...	6 1.96

All the percentages are calculated on the standard rates of 1879 and apply to hewers. Lesser reductions apply to other classes of workers.

## (2) DURHAM:—

Date of change.	Amount of reduction.	Average price of coal per ton at pit's mouth.
	Per cent.	s. d.
June 1892 ...	10 ...	6 2.2
May 1893 ...	5 ...	—

The reduction in 1892 followed a prolonged strike. The percentages are calculated on 1879 rates.

## (3) SOUTH WALES:—

Changes of wages take place under a sliding scale. Percentage changes of wages refer to the standard rate of 1879.

Date of Change.	Amount of rise.	Amount of reduction.	Height of Wages above 1879 standard after change.	Average price of coal per ton. "f.o.b." shown by previous audit.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	s. d.
February 1891 ...	2½ ...	...	55	13 5
May 1891 ...	2½ ...	...	57½	13 8½
November 1891 ...	...	...	53½	13 4
January 1892 ...	...	7½	49½	...
February 1892 ...	...	2½	43½	12 11
April 1892 ...	...	3½	40	12 5½
June 1892 ...	...	3½	36½	12 0
August 1892 ...	...	2½	33½	11 8½
October 1892 ...	...	5	28½	11 1½
December 1892 ...	...	6½	22½	10 6½
March 1893 ...	...	2½	20	...
April 1893 ...	...	6½	13½	9 6
June 1893 ...	...	3½	10	9 1½

\* New sliding scale.

## (4) LANARK:—

Date of Reduction.	Amount of Reduction.
May 1892 ...	6d. per day
October 1892 ...	6d. " "
February 1893 ...	6d. " "
May 1893 ...	6d. " "

## (5) FIFE AND KINROSS:—

January 1892 ...	...	7½ per cent.
May 1892 ...	...	7½ " "
December 1892 ...	...	10 " "
April 1893 ...	...	12½ " "

The following reductions have also taken place in Cumberland, which is included in the Federation:—

## (4) CUMBERLAND:—

Date of reduction.	Amount of reduction.	Height of Wages above standard after reduction.	Average price of coal per ton at pit's mouth, shown by previous audit.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	s. d.
July 1892 ...	about 10*	40*	6 3.76
March 1893 ...	10 ...	30	6 1.41

\* The reduction in 1892, after a strike of several weeks, took the form of an alteration of the standard basis of 1879 by 7½ per cent. Wages were thus reduced by about 10 per cent., but remained 40 per cent. in advance of the (altered) standard.

The percentages of reduction are calculated on the standard rate of 1879. Reductions have also taken place for other classes of workers.

Thus, since the beginning of 1891, the prevailing rates have fallen by 16½ per cent. on the standard in Northumberland, 15 per cent. in Durham, 20 in Cumberland, 37½ in Fife and Kinross, and 42½ in South Wales, the fall in the last-mentioned case being the difference between a total decrease of 47½ per cent. and a total rise of 5 per cent., which have both taken place since the beginning of 1891.

It must be remembered that the rise and fall are calculated, not on current rates, but on the standard which prevailed in a particular year; or, as it is sometimes put, reductions are taken off the advance, not off gross wages.

Thus the fall of 42½ per cent. in South Wales on the standard of 1879 is equivalent to a fall of about 28 per cent. on the total wages current in January 1891.

Similarly the proposed reduction of 25 per cent. (at least in the principal Federation districts), means not a loss of one quarter of present wages, but a lowering of the rate from 40 per cent. to 15 per cent. advance on the rate of 1888,† which is equivalent to a fall of about 18 per cent. in the actual rates of wages now being received.

It appears from the above figures that the Miners' Federation has succeeded of late in exercising a powerful influence on wages in its districts, having maintained throughout most of them the general rates

† In Yorkshire and elsewhere the rate of 1879 is the standard, but no change took place between that date and 1888. In some districts where rises had taken place in the interval, the 40 per cent. advance is on the rates of 1888, not 1879.

current in 1891, while reductions have been almost universal elsewhere. In many Federation districts, however, the real rate of earnings has been lowered locally by the abolition or reduction of special payments or allowances.

It is contended by the Federation that the present rate should be regarded as forming a standard rate, below which, whatever be the changes in the selling price of coal, wages should not be permitted to fall. The Federation seeks to justify this position on the ground that the present rates of earnings are the lowest on which it is possible for a miner to maintain a reasonable standard of comfort. In endeavouring to give effect to this policy the Federation has largely relied upon a restriction of production. It has also been indirectly assisted in keeping up its standard rate by the great strike of Durham miners, which lasted nearly 12 weeks, and which by the withdrawal of so large a production from the field of competition tended to keep up prices elsewhere. On the other hand, some of the districts where falls of wages have taken place, claim, that in spite of the reductions, the real net weekly earnings of miners are as high or higher than in the Federation districts.

Coal owners in the Federation districts declare that the fall in price of coal more than justifies the proposed reduction, and that they cannot compete otherwise with districts where the above reductions have taken place. There appears to be no reason to doubt that the Federation miners as a body are resolved to resist the coal owners' proposals, and so far all references to compromise or arbitration have received but little consideration.

## AGRICULTURE IN JUNE.

THE state of employment for agricultural labourers has been prejudicially affected in various districts during the past month by the continuance, with only slight interruptions, of the great drought, which has lasted since the beginning of March. The effects have been most marked in the Eastern, Southern and Midland Counties, where the rainfall has been smallest, and where the bulk of the corn crops are grown. The hay harvest has practically failed over a considerable part of England, and this has caused some anxiety as to the future of fodder supplies, as the hay crops of 1891 and 1892 were relatively small ones, estimated at 12½ and 11½ million tons respectively.

Farm labourers in ordinary years get extra work at this period, and other classes of casual labourers, who in some districts usually gain a certain amount of employment as extra helps in the hayfield, have this year been to a greater or less extent deprived of this resource. In the Northern Counties and in Scotland the case is not so bad, the drought not having been so severe, while in the districts such as Northumberland, in which the yearly hiring system prevails, the diminution of employment does not press so directly on the labourers as in counties where shorter engagements are the rule. Meanwhile the prices of hay have, especially in the larger towns, and where contracts have to be carried out, in many instances advanced very considerably, and the importation of hay has risen from 26,000 tons, in the first half of 1892, to nearly 63,000 tons in the past six months. The greatest increase is in the imports from the United States. These, in the contrasted periods, have risen from 6,422 tons to 36,351 tons. Canada and Holland are also important exporters. The price of British corn has not advanced, the Gazette average being 26s. 9d. for wheat, 20s. 9d. for barley, and 21s. 5d. for oats, at the end of June, compared with 27s. 5d. for wheat, 20s. 9d. for barley, and 21s. 5d. for oats, at the beginning of the month.

No important labour disputes among agricultural labourers are reported during the month. At Gayton and Oxnead, Norfolk, two strikes that had been in progress for several weeks for an advance of wages of 1s. a

week ended on June 29th and June 16th respectively without the advance being obtained. The strike at Gayton is said to have been in progress for 16 weeks.

Since the beginning of 1892, the following six new unions, wholly or partly consisting of agricultural labourers, have been registered:—

	Nominal Membership.
Herefordshire Agricultural and General Labourers' Union ...	500
Lancashire and adjacent Counties Labour Amalgamation ...	3500
Berkshire Agricultural and General Workers' Union ...	600
Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Land and Labour League ...	1000
Warwickshire Agricultural and General Workers' Union ...	420
Wiltshire General and Agricultural ...	1600

This list brings up the number of such Unions of which the Department has information to 14, claiming an aggregate nominal membership of over 45,000. The number, however, of fully paid up members, is probably much lower than this, and several of the unions include a considerable proportion of general labourers not engaged on farms. The main strength of these labourers' unions lies in the Eastern and South-Eastern Counties, which account for over 38,000 out of the 45,000 nominal members.

## EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOLS.

THE new code for Evening Continuation Schools, which has lately been issued by the Education Department, gives greater freedom to managers in the organisation of evening schools.

Among the chief changes in the regulations are the recognition for the first time of attendances of persons over 21 years of age, the removal of all rules compelling scholars to take the elementary subjects, the abolition of payments on individual passes and average attendance, and the substitution of grants for the school as a whole calculated on the aggregate number of hours' instruction received by the scholars. By these changes it is hoped to encourage the prolongation of evening school sessions and the adoption of more elastic methods of teaching.

The new regulations are designed generally to meet the requirements of scholars who desire to prolong their education either in the ordinary school subjects or in some special subjects, in order to fit themselves for some industrial career, the evening schools having to meet the needs both of those who want to remedy defects in their early education, and those who desire to carry it further in the direction of secondary or technical instruction.

The code includes a great variety of syllabuses, both brief and detailed, of subjects which may be taken in evening schools, and gives great freedom in the use of the suggested schemes. Among the detailed syllabuses is an outline course of instruction on the "Life and Duties of the Citizen." The course comprises three main sections: (1) Representative Government; (2) The Empire; (3) Industrial and Social Life and Duties. This last section deals, among other subjects, with associations of workers, including the history and work of trades unions, co-operative societies and friendly societies, and with the relations of the State and labour. It refers to "the importance to the nation of effective, honest and intelligent management of all forms of business and industry, the disasters which result from mis-management or fraud, the duty of the community to sympathise with every reasonable effort of the workers to improve their condition and develop their intelligence;" pointing out that while "that which injures their efficiency or lessens their hopefulness leads to national loss, and to the maintenance or increase of poverty and ignorance," a "healthy and skilful body of workers, upright and self-reliant, is a source of strength to the country."

The other detailed syllabuses include an elementary course in practical science, elementary agriculture, domestic economy, elementary physiography, and vocal music.



RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD SOLD BY CERTAIN WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

THE Retail Prices of articles of food given in the following table are published as an experiment, and with a view to criticism and extension. They are based on returns for May supplied to the Department by various workmen's co-operative societies.

Tables of comparative Retail Prices may be compiled on two different principles. They may aim either at comparing the current prices charged at different times or places for precisely similar articles, or at giving the true average price at each time or place of certain articles (regardless of variations of quality).

The Department has to acknowledge the receipt of a large number of returns applying to the month of June, which are held over until next number.

Table with columns for Town, Dividend per £ paid by the Society to purchasers in 1892, and various food items (Flour, Bread, Fresh Meat, Bacon, Sugar, Tea, Butter, Margarine, Cheese, Milk, Potatoes, Jams and Marmalades) with prices in s. d. format.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN JUNE.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with columns for Particulars of Offences, No. of Prosecutions, No. of Convictions, Cases Withdrawn, Cases Dismissed, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs, and Total Amount of Costs & Penalties.

\* Cannot be stated.

LABOUR CASES FOR JUNE.

THE following are among the more important legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

London, Marylebone County Court.—Labourer claimed £100 damages for injuries received by falling into a hole. Jury awarded £30. Dunfermline Sheriff Court.—Labourer injured by explosion of gelignite, which destroyed his eyesight. Defenders alleged carelessness. Settled by agreement, pursuer receiving one year's wages (£61 13s. 4d.), and full expenses.

Blackburn County Court, 12th June.—A father claimed £312 for the loss of his son, who died from inhaling fumes, caused by alleged defective plant, whilst making chloride of zinc. Jury awarded £104. Greenock Second Divisional Court (Appeal).—A labourer brought an action for £300 damages for injuries to son, aged 11. Defender averred that the boy was playing when accident occurred. The case was dismissed with expenses. Decision confirmed on two appeals.

Cupar Fife Sheriff Court.—Miner killed by fall of stone loosened by blasting. Action by widow, who claimed £500. Defender averred negligence on part of deceased. Judgment for defendant. London.—Plaintiff was working in a barge, which was being loaded in the docks by goods being run down a "shoot," which was negligently fixed, and struck the plaintiff and injured him. The case turned on the question whether the man who fixed the "shoot" was employed by the defendant company or by an independent contractor. At the trial a verdict for the plaintiff for £40 was given. Confirmed on appeal.

London.—Painter died from injuries sustained by scaffolding giving way. Action by widow, who claimed £250 damages. Defence that the scaffolding was safe, but that its defective manipulation by men for whom defendant was not responsible was cause of accident. Judgment for defendant.

Stockport County Court.—A journeyman painter claimed £50 damages for injuries received owing to fall of ladder. Jury awarded amount claimed.

Glasgow.—Miner injured by capsizing of cage. Claimed £500. Defence, that occurrence was a pure accident. Verdict for defendants.

Halifax.—Coal miner claimed £150 for loss of hand, amputated owing to injuries received by fall of a stone while plaintiff was replacing a beam loosened by blasting operations. Defence, contributory negligence. Judgment for defendants. (Notice of appeal.)

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Castle Eden.—Nine putter lads were sued for unlawfully absenting themselves from work. An accident happened in the pit in which they were employed, but, when the mishap was put right defendants refused to re-start. Judgment for amount claimed and costs.

London.—A furrier claimed wages in lieu of notice. Defence was that an intimation was exhibited on the premises that notice was neither given nor required. Judgment for defendants.

Tunstall, 9th June.—Potter's dipper claimed £9 12s. for wrongful dismissal after 5 days' service, on the ground that he was not quick enough, although he had had 17 years' experience. Defence was that plaintiff was incompetent. Judgment for amount claimed with costs.

London (Southwark), 9th June.—Tailoress received 3½d. a pair for making trousers, and claimed 8d. per pair, stating that this was the lowest price for best work. She averred that she had received verbal instructions that this was "best work," but after it was done it was classed as "slop price." Judge ruled, in absence of further evidence, that the work must be paid for at the "slop" rate of 4½d. per pair.

Birkenhead, 15th June.—174 dock labourers claimed 2s. each damages for waiting to be paid, and 2s. for working during meal times, according to the rules of the Union. The Deputy Stipendiary dismissed the claim, holding that there was no proof of a contract, or that the Union rules had been adopted. The claim for working during meal hours was then withdrawn.

Brierley Hill, 15th June.—Colliery engine driver was summoned for £1 for neglecting his work, whereby his fellow workman was compelled to do the night shift. Having already done the day shift, the latter went to sleep and damage was done, for which the plaintiffs also claimed £10 from defendant. Case withdrawn at suggestion of Stipendiary. On 22nd June the engine driver summoned his employers for £3 1s. 4d., wages in lieu of notice, but the summons was dismissed with costs.

Rotherham, 16th June.—A miner claimed 10s. 6d. for wages due for laying 60 yards of temporary road. It appeared that plaintiff had worked 60 yards of "top soft," using an existing road by placing metals upon it which he moved as required, and it was contended that this was a temporary road within the meaning of the price list. Evidence was adduced, however, that this operation was not considered to be laying a road, and it was proved that by a well understood custom in South Yorkshire a collier was entitled to charge for making a temporary road to the face of the coal. Judgment for defendant company with costs on the higher scale.

Tredgar.—Coal contractor was summoned for £6 16s. 8d., wages claimed according to the terms of sliding scale. Defence was that claimant was engaged under a special contract. Dismissed.

London (North), 24th June.—A builder was sued by a number of carpenters for one hour's wages. It was admitted by both sides that about two years ago, after a trade dispute, the arbitrators drew up a set of rules to which both employers and workmen agreed. One rule stated that where a man worked more than two hours he should be entitled to an hour's notice and one hour's pay, the latter as compensation for grinding tools. The Magistrate said that had the men ground their tools they would have been entitled to the hour's pay as well as the hour's notice, but as they did not do so, he should dismiss the summonses. Leave to appeal was asked for and refused.

London.—Foremanshipwright sued for £12, a month's wages due. He had received a month's notice to leave, but this notice had been allowed to run out, and plaintiff stayed on for several days, when he gave a month's notice to leave. A day or two after he was told to leave at once. The defence was that plaintiff had much longer notice than he was entitled to, and a counter-claim for five guineas was raised for three weeks' possession of the house provided. Judgment for plaintiff for 10 guineas and costs.

(3) TRUCK ACTS.

Queen's Bench Divisional Court, 9th June.—Superintendent of Police appealed against a decision of County Justices. Appellant had preferred a charge against respondent for unlawfully making a payment to his servant in husbandry by delivery of a quantity of cider. The case had been dismissed. The Court held that this was a free gift, and dismissed the appeal with costs.

London (South Western Police Court) 19th June.—An artisan summoned his employers for 14s. 1d., deducted from his wages as fines for alleged defect in work. Defence was that printed notices were posted in the works that fines for spoiled work were imposed. The Magistrate was satisfied that the system of fines was acquiesced in by the workmen, and he thought the case did not come within the Truck Act. The summons was dismissed.

(4) TRADE UNION ACTS.

London (Old Bailey), 1st June.—A compositor was indicted for unlawfully obtaining from his Union 11s. 3d. by means of false pretences. While the accused was in receipt of out-of-work benefit another member visited the premises where his father carried on a printing business, and there gave accused an order, for which he paid him. For defence it was proved that the work was executed by defendant's mother. Verdict, not guilty.

Wellingborough, 16th June.—A local branch of Builders Labourers' Association had been dissolved and the funds illegally divided. The Bench ordered trustees to refund the money within two months, on pain of distress or 14 days' hard labour.

Queen's Bench Division, 28th June.—A member of a Labour Protection League sued for an order calling upon the Council of the League (stated to be an unregistered trade society), to make a levy on his behalf. The defence was that the plaintiff was not eligible, as, when the accident occurred he was not working as a stevedore, within the meaning of the rule, but as a master. The judge was of opinion that plaintiff was entitled to the levy, and therefore he gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR.

THE Royal Commission on Labour has published a volume prepared by the secretary on the rules of trades unions and employers' associations, trades councils, chambers of commerce, boards of arbitration and conciliation and joint committees.

The date of establishment of the trades union is given, and the rules are tabulated under the following heads:—Objects, form of government, entrance fee and conditions of membership, rate of contribution and mode of payment, benefit funds, special regulations or provisions for disputes with employers, regulations for the attitude of members towards employers and towards non-unionists, provisions as to a minimum wage and for work for the unemployed and regulations as to the investment of funds.

The rules of employers' associations, of trades councils and chambers of commerce are tabulated under similar heads. With regard to the rules of boards of arbitration and conciliation and joint committees, details are given as to the date of establishment, objects and powers, composition, meetings and procedure, regulations for reference to arbitration, subscriptions, expenses and payments of members.

There are also introductory memoranda and an appendix containing the rules in full of certain associations.

The Commission has also published two final volumes of the digests of the minutes of evidence laid before Groups B and C of the Commission.

Group B was charged with the enquiry into transport by water and transport by land. Group C was charged with the enquiry into the textile, clothing, gas, chemical and miscellaneous trades. The volumes now published contain a précis of the evidence given by the witnesses on all subjects, abstracts from the evidence on strikes and lock-outs, the eight hours' day, arbitration and conciliation and Acts of Parliament, a glossary of technical terms, and an analysis of the evidence of individual witnesses.

In Group B digest is appended a summary of the evidence laid before Sir Michael Hicks Beach's Committee on the hours of railway servants, in so far as that evidence comes within the terms of the warrant appointing the Royal Commission on Labour.

There has also just been issued a Digest of the Evidence taken by the Commission sitting as a whole, containing a précis and abstract of the evidence, to which is added an index under the three heads of witnesses, subjects and trades.



PROVISION FOR OLD AGE BY TRADE SOCIETIES.

The following statement has been prepared to show the extent to which Trade Societies make provision for superannuation, the conditions under which such superannuation is granted, its amount, the numbers in receipt of it during last year, and other particulars. The Societies are grouped by trades, and the present number includes the Building, Furnishing, and Woodworking Trades, in which it appears that, in 1892, 14 Societies of which full particulars have been received, made payments amounting in the aggregate to £17,269 to their aged members, who numbered 1,146 at the end of the year.

NAME OF TRADE SOCIETY.	Number of Members at end of 1892.	Date of Establishment of the Superannuation Benefit at the close of 1892.	Numbr of Members receiving Superannuation Benefit during 1892.	Superannuation paid during 1892.		Weekly Contributions to Union.		Qualifications and Conditions for Receipt of Superannuation Benefit.			Weekly Rate of Superannuation.
				£	s. d.	Ordinary Members.	Superannuated Members.	Minimum Age.	Conditions as regards incapacity.	Conditions as regards employment, income or number.	
<b>Building Trades:—</b> Operative Bricklayers' Society	22,270	1882	26	£ 324	s. d. 0 8	0	3	55	Incapacity to earn more than two-thirds standard wages	No restriction as to private means or earning capacity in any other employment	15 to 20 years' members 5s.; 20 to 30 years, 7s.; 30 and upwards, 9s.
Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners	37,588	1860	363	6,861	1 0	Nil.	50	50	Incapacity to earn standard wages	Ditto	18 years' members, 7s.; 25 years, 8s.
Associated Carpenters and Joiners' Society	6,270	1872	44	752	0 10	...	55	55	Incapacity to earn more than one-half standard wages	...	20 years' members, 5s.; 25 years, 7s. 6d.
General Union of Operative Carpenters and Joiners	3,645	1865	25	263	0 11½	0 6	60	60	Incapacity to earn more than two-thirds standard wages	...	25 years' members, 4s.; 30 years, 5s.
National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators	5,151	1886	16	218	0 8	...	60	60	Incapacity to earn more than half wages of district	No restriction. Must have been under 40 years of age at time of entrance	20 years' members, 5s.
National Association of Operative Plasterers	6,925	1864	34	256	0 7	...	60	60	Incapacity to earn standard wages	...	20 years' members, 5s.; 1s. for every additional year
United Operative Plumbers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland	6,177	1891	4	67	0 9	...	45	45	Incapacity to follow employment, if of 10 years' membership	...	20 to 25 years' members 7s.; 25 to 30 years, 8s.; 30 to 35 years, 9s.; 35 to 40 years, 10s.; 40 to 45 years, 12s.
United Operative Plumbers' Association, Scotland	393	1875	2	26	0 6	...	50	50	Incapacity to work at trade, or to earn 15s. per week at any other occupation	...	15 years' members, 5s.
Operative Stonemasons' Friendly Society	16,238	1868	362	4,379	0 10	...	...	...	Incapacity to follow the trade	May engage in light work outside the trade	20 years' members, 4s.; 25 years, 5s.; 30 years, 6s.; 35 years, 7s.
<b>Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers:—</b> Amalgamated Union of Cabinet Makers	1,386	1874	...	47	1 0	Nil.	60	60	Incapacity to earn more than half standard wages	...	25 years' members, 5s.; 30 years, 7s.
London Amalgamated Society of Upholsterers	210	1886	4	48	0 9	0 2	60	60	Incapacity to follow trade	Elected by ballot at Annual General Meeting	20 years' members, £12 per annum.
<b>Coach Builders:—</b> United Kingdom Society of Coachmakers	5,477	1855	246	3,902	1 0	0 6	60	60	Ditto	...	30 years' members, 6s.; 35 years, 7s.; 40 years, 8s.
London Coachmakers' Trade Union	182	...	6	34	0 10	Nil.	...	...	Incapacity to follow ordinary employment	...	10 years' members, 2s. 6d.
<b>Coopers:—</b> Philanthropic Society of Journeyman Coopers	900	1888	12	127	0 10	...	60	60	Incapacity to earn 15s. per week	Superannuated members, not exceeding 20, elected by Committee	20 years' members, 4s.; 30 years, 5s.; if totally incapable, 6s.
Belfast Coopers' Society	101	1886	2	12	0 6	Nil.	...	...	Incapacity to earn 10s. per week	...	20 years' members, 4s.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(I.) LONG AND SHORT PERIOD ENGAGEMENTS.

The four reports already published by the Royal Commission on Labour on the conditions of agricultural labour in selected districts contain information with regard to conditions of engagement, earnings, hours of labour, wages, allotments and other matters affecting the welfare of agricultural labour in various parts of the United Kingdom. The reports cannot be adequately reviewed until the remainder and the general summary have appeared, but meanwhile it is of interest to refer from time to time to a few of the more important matters dealt with. Variations in the length of engagements of agricultural labourers in different districts are discussed in the reports as follows:

Mr. Fox, reporting on districts Suffolk, Norfolk, Northumberland, Cumberland and Lancashire, states:

"In Suffolk and Norfolk the engagement of ordinary labourers is in practice a daily one. In Cumberland it is a half-yearly one for the hired men who live in the farmhouses, and a weekly one for the married men. In Lancashire the engagement of hired men is a yearly one, and that of married men a weekly one. In Northumberland all the men, whether married or single, are engaged by the

year. In the three Northern counties there is a small proportion of odd men who obtain employment wherever they can get it, and these are liable to be out of work when times are slack and in wet weather. I was therefore able to observe in the North the systems of long and short engagements working side by side, and the practical result was that the odd men who lose time earned one-third, and sometimes one-half less than the married men in regular employment.

"The Eastern counties labourer is consequently in a very poor position as regards the terms of his engagement compared with the labourer in the North. On some farms his engagement is not even a daily one, for he is liable to be sent back in the middle of a day if it comes on to rain, and to be paid only a proportion of the daily wage. The hiring system in the North seems to be responsible for a constant changing of the labourers from one employer to another. In the first place, it is said that the fact of there being a definite period of engagement, at the end of which the employer has to ask his men if they intend to remain for a further time, unsettles them and puts the possibility of change into their heads. Certainly it is remarkable that in the Eastern counties, where the term of service is in practice indefinite, though it may be terminated at any moment, the men frequently stay for years with the same employer."

Mr. Richards, who deals with districts in Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Monmouth, Gloucestershire, Hereford, Cheshire and Derbyshire, states:—

"Where there is the greatest volume of demand for labour there is naturally the greatest continuity in employment—using the term continuity as associated with the idea of permanency of engagement. In every district carters, horse-keepers, stockmen, and those in charge of animals, are engaged for a definite and comparatively lengthened period, varying from a month to a year.

Occasionally such men are engaged by the week. A slightly modifying circumstance in this respect is contiguity to means of communication, and I noticed in the Cirencester Union that there was a tendency to longer terms of engagement somewhat proportionate to the distance from the railway terminus at Fairford. In those districts where cottages are in the farm take, such men are placed in them; where no such cottages are included, provision is made as far as possible to have the men in the farm house, in which case they are generally styled farm servants. Under these circumstances it is generally found that those taking employment as farm servants are young unmarried men. It will probably be sufficiently accurate for a general statement to say that the proportion of arable land is a safe index of the comparative length of the periods of engagement of the ordinary labourer. Where a large portion of such land is contiguous to large towns, this may be taken as modified by the circumstance that there is a percentage of town labourers prepared to come on the land to assist in haymaking and harvest, especially in fine seasons. In Nantwich (Cheshire) and Belper (Derbyshire), it has been pointed out that there is comparatively little ordinary labour required, all labourers being expected either to take charge of horses, or to assist in milking and looking after the cattle. In these districts accordingly, notwithstanding the immediate proximity of railway communication and large town populations, the terms of engagement are as long as are found in any part. But here those operations which elsewhere are so largely entrusted to the ordinary labourer have to be done by either Irish labour, or a temporary transfer from surrounding mineral industries."

Mr. Wilkinson, dealing with parts of Lincolnshire, the three Ridings of Yorkshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire, reports as follows:

"In Lincolnshire and the East Riding, foremen (usually called 'hinds' in the East Riding), shepherds, horsemen, and gathmen or stockmen, are usually hired by the year, becoming what is called in Lincolnshire 'confined men.' If single (as the horsemen, at least, pretty well always are in the East Riding), they are lodged and boarded in the farmer's or foreman's house. In Wetherby (West Riding) and Uttoxeter (Stafford and Derbyshire), too, any of the same classes of men may, if single, be similarly lodged and boarded, and these as also married men filling the same posts and receiving a cottage rent free as part of their wages, will equally be hired usually by the year. As regards Wetherby, the arrangement that a man having a cottage found for him should be engaged for the year is understood rather than definitely expressed in an agreement. There is less yearly hiring in Easingwold (North Riding) than in the other districts. . . . Casual men, that is, men taken on for any special extra work, such as threshing or to fill a gap, are, of course, hired by the day. As regards the regular ordinary labourers, it is difficult to say whether they should generally be called weekly or day men. They seem more often to think of themselves as weekly men, and to estimate their wages as so much a week rather than as so much a day (it was the other way in Louth); yet the value of each day lost is taken as the exact sixth part of the weekly wages as though the wages accrued, as in fact they do, *de die in diem*. I think on the whole they are best described as weekly men, for the reasons that they are usually paid weekly, and would usually receive a week's notice if their engagement was to cease, or at least would only be paid off at the end of a week."

The question is not discussed in Mr. Bear's summary report, but the following extracts are taken from his detailed reports:—

"Farm labourers in the Woburn district (Bedfordshire) are engaged by the week. . . . At St. Neot's (Huntingdon and Bedfordshire), excepting farm bailiffs, in some instances men employed on the land in the district are engaged by the week. . . . At Thakeham (Sussex), excepting farm bailiffs and possibly shepherds in a few instances, the agricultural labourers of the district are engaged by the week. . . . At Basingstoke (Hampshire), carters, stockmen, and shepherds are almost invariably hired by the year, receiving a specified amount in weekly wages and a lump sum at Michaelmas as payment for harvest work. . . . They are not boarded by their employers as yearly farm servants are in some counties. . . . Ordinary labourers or day labourers as they are usually styled in the district, are engaged by the week, or by the fortnight when payments are fortnightly, as they are in many instances. . . . At Southwell (Nottinghamshire), married wagoners are usually engaged by the week, getting a cottage rent free as a rule, though this depends on the amount of their wages. Other ploughmen are commonly engaged by the year. . . . Most of them live in the farm houses, while the rest live in the houses of married labourers, usually wagoners or bailiffs, who are paid for their board and lodging by the farmers. Shepherds and stockmen are usually engaged by the week. . . . Day labourers are engaged by the day or week." At Melton Mowbray (Leicestershire), "excepting the farm servants who live in the farm houses or are boarded by the farmers in cottages, the agricultural labourers in the district are usually engaged by the week or day. An engagement for a longer period, however, is frequently implied in the case of men attending to horses or other stock. . . . The system of hiring farm servants by the year and boarding them appears to be gradually dying out in the district. Very few adults are now hired under the system."

In future numbers it is hoped, similarly, to give information as to other matters (earnings, hours of labour, &c.) affecting agricultural labour in different districts.

MINES.

(The following information has been supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month 355 accidents, causing 58 deaths and injuries to 310 miners, were reported. Of these, 310 miners were killed and injured in England and Wales, 58 in Scotland, and none in Ireland. Fifty-one convictions have been obtained under the Mines Acts, viz., 6 against owners and managers, and 45 against miners. During the month of June, information was received of the opening or re-opening of 21 and the closing of 16 mines. Nineteen of the mines opened or re-opened and 13 of the mines discontinued or abandoned are collieries.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

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

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire-damp	...	9	...	11	...	...	...	20
Falls of ground	23	116	4	22	...	...	27	138
Miscellaneous in shafts	4	10	1	2	...	...	5	12
Miscellaneous Underground	15	106	4	11	...	...	19	117
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous	7	20	...	5	...	...	7	23
Totals	49	261	9	49	...	...	58	310

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE MINES ACTS IN JUNE.

Cause of Prosecution.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.	
					£	s. d.
Prosecutions of Owners, Managers, &c.	8	6	1	1	£	9 0 0
Prosecutions of Workmen	45	*45	...	...		28 7 0
Totals	53	*51	1	1		37 7 0

\* 12 of these convictions were for interfering with ventilation, and 11 for riding on ponies' backs (underground) in contravention of special Rules.

MINES OPENED IN JUNE.

The following 21 mines have been reported during the month of June as having been opened or re-opened:—

- COAL:—  
Banknock (Bonnyfield Pit), Denny.  
Lylestone, Kilwinning.  
Hepworth (Low Hard Seam), near Huddersfield.  
Arley Mine, Tyldesley.  
Gwerndyfollog, Leeswood, Flintshire.  
Lingard Lane Pit (Five-foot Seam), Stockport.  
Ocker Hill (Heathen Seam), Tipton.  
Lower Delph (Bottom Rock Clay), Stourbridge.  
Abberley, Stourport.  
Gellydeg, Maesycwmmer.  
Edenwall, Coleford, Gloucestershire.  
Birch Hill, Coleford, Gloucestershire.  
Universal, Aber Valley, near Caerphilly.  
Talyfrawe, Forest Fach, near Swansea.  
New Forest, near Neath.  
Shielhill, near Carlisle, Lanarkshire.  
No. 11 Pit (Coxroad Seam), Roughrigg, Longriggend, Lanarkshire.  
No. 1 Pit, Foulshields, Addiewell, Midlothian.  
Hedley Hill (Ballarat Seam), Tow Law.  
SHALE:—The Wilderness Brick Works, Mitcheldean, Gloucester.  
FREESTONE:—Hazelhurst, near Halifax.

MINES ABANDONED IN JUNE.

The following 16 mines have been reported during the month of June as having been discontinued or abandoned:—

- COAL:—  
Kilgrammie (Main and Ell Seams), Maybole.  
Midgeholme (Four Seams), Haltwhistle.  
Gidlow Mine, near Wigan.  
Renishaw Park, No. 4 Pit (Deep Hard Seam), Eckington.  
Hucknall Torkard, No. 1 Pit (Clowne Seam), Nottinghamshire.  
Holmewood (Three Quarter Seam), Chesterfield. (Temporarily.)  
Bents Lane Pit (Peacock Seam), Stockport.  
Calderhead, No. 4 Pit (Shotts Gas Coal Seam), Shotts.  
No. 3 Pit (Johnstone Seam), Drumbowie, Longriggend.  
No. 2 Pit (Lower Five Feet and Splint Seams), Holton, Alloa.  
Lady Ann Pit, Fence Houses. (Temporarily.)  
Houghton Pit (Maudlin Seam), Fence Houses.  
Durham Main, Durham. (Stopped during Sinking operations).  
IRONSTONE:—  
Apedale Pits, Chesterton.  
Craghill, Cleveland.  
LIMESTONE:—No. 2 Pit, Leavenseat, Midlothian.



ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

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

Table with columns: Class of Service, Killed, Amputations, Fractures, Crushes, Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c., Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries, Total of Injuries. Rows include 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 June 1893.

Table with columns: England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, United Kingdom. Rows include Killed, Injured, From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, etc.

\* 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 June 1893.

- The only Accidents to be reported are the following: (a) Any accident which causes loss of life to any person employed in the factory or the workshop; and (b) Any accident which causes bodily injury to a person employed in the factory...

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

Total for 6 months ended 30th June 1893 ... 2108 327 1025 342 103 89 3236 708 3944

SEAMEN.

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

The following table gives the numbers of men, &c., shipped as the crews of vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in June 1893 and 1892, respectively. The figures for June of this year show a decrease of about 6 per cent. on those of June 1892.

Wages, on the whole, have remained stationary for some months, except in the few cases noted under 'Changes in Wages' in this and previous issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE.

Table with columns: Principal Ports, Number of Men, &c., shipped in June 1893 (In Sailing Vessels, In Steam Vessels, Total), In-crease, De-crease. Rows include Newcastle-on-Tyne, North Shields, South Shields, etc.

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 June 1893...

Table with columns: Class of Vessels, Number of Deaths. Rows include Sail, By Wreck and Casualty, By Drowning and Accidents other than (r), Total. Sub-rows include (i) June, (a) June, June, June.

\* Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes. † Small vessels under 5 tons.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

EXPLANATION OF THE REGULATIONS AFFECTING HOURS OF LABOUR, MEAL TIMES AND OVERTIME IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following memorandum has been prepared for the GAZETTE by one of the Labour Correspondents of the Board of Trade, assisted and advised by the Chief Inspector of Factories:—

One of the rules strictly observed in the Factory Department of the Home Office is that every complaint made to a factory inspector shall be investigated. The incredulity with which this statement is frequently received has its origin in so far as it springs from experience, in most cases, in ignorance of the provisions of the Acts. H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories states that a very considerable proportion of the communications received deal with conditions of employment which are either permitted by the Acts or do not come within their scope.

TEXTILE FACTORIES.—The hours of work permitted in textile factories are shorter than those allowed in non-textile factories. Women and young persons in textile factories may work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., or from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on ordinary days, with at least two hours' interval for meals...

NON-TEXTILE FACTORIES.—In non-textile factories the hours of work may be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (in a great number of cases), and in a few exceptional cases from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., with only 1½ hours allowed for meals.

WORKSHOPS.—Young persons in workshops are subject to the same regulations as young persons and women in non-textile factories. Women employed in workshops in which children or young persons are employed are subject to the same regulations as young persons.

There were 10 fresh strikes in the Mining and Metal Trades, the number of persons affected by 8 of which was 1,885. None of these disputes were of much importance. In the Clothing Industries only two new strikes are recorded, viz., among the shoemakers and the galosh makers of Bordeaux and Paris respectively.

DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS.—Even in domestic workshops, in which only members of the family are employed, the hours of young persons are subject to regulation. Such young persons may be employed from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on ordinary days, with intervals of at least 4½ hours for meals and absence...

employed from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on ordinary days, with intervals of at least 4½ hours for meals and absence, and from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays, with at least 2½ hours for meals and absence. Overtime is not permitted.

WHEN OVERTIME IS PERMITTED.—Overtime is permitted for 48 days in the year in some factories and workshops (1) where the material worked upon is liable to be spoiled by weather; (2) where press of work arises at certain recurring seasons of the year; (3) where the business is liable to sudden press of orders arising from unforeseen events.

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 statistics of strikes supplied by the French Office du Travail, and forwarded by Sir J. C. Crowe, H.M. Commercial Attaché at Paris, show that there were 87 fresh strikes in France in the month of May, as compared with 80 in the previous month. In addition there were 40 strikes which, beginning before the 1st of May, continued during part or all of that month.

WORKSHOPS.—Young persons in workshops are subject to the same regulations as young persons and women in non-textile factories. Women employed in workshops in which children or young persons are employed are subject to the same regulations as young persons.

There were 10 fresh strikes in the Mining and Metal Trades, the number of persons affected by 8 of which was 1,885. None of these disputes were of much importance. In the Clothing Industries only two new strikes are recorded, viz., among the shoemakers and the galosh makers of Bordeaux and Paris respectively.

DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS.—Even in domestic workshops, in which only members of the family are employed, the hours of young persons are subject to regulation. Such young persons may be employed from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on ordinary days, with intervals of at least 4½ hours for meals and absence...



connected with the new Labour Exchange which has been built and endowed with an annual subsidy of £2,000 by the municipality of Paris. The syndicates exist and hold a legal status under a statute of 1884, which enacts that persons engaged in a common trade may form themselves into associations for the purpose of developing their business interests, and combine with other syndicates to form a union. The most important of the conditions to which these syndicates are subject are contained in clause 4 of the law, which is as follows:—

The founders of every professional syndicate must deposit its bye-laws, together with the names of those who are in any way charged with its administration or direction, at the office of the Mayor of the locality in which the syndicate is established, or, if in Paris, at the Prefecture of the Seine, and this action must be repeated on the occasion of each change in the directorship or in the bye-laws.

The bye-laws are to be forwarded to the Procureur de la République by the Mayor or the Prefect of the Seine.

The members charged with the administration or direction of any syndicate must be of French nationality and in the enjoyment of civil rights.

The law, however, does not assign any fixed time for the performance by the syndicates of the acts above enumerated, and there are, in consequence, numbers of associations established in a permanent way at the Bourse du Travail in Paris which have not complied with the statute. It appears that a syndicate is illegal if composed of members of different trades. The bye-laws to which such a syndicate might agree would probably not meet with approval from the legal authorities. Hence the issue of an order in the first days of June under which the Prefect of the Seine proclaimed that syndicates which did not comply with the provisions of the 4th clause of the Act of 1884 should on the 5th of July cease to hold their offices in the Bourse du Travail.

The Bourse has a central hall, which holds 3,000 people, and large rooms in which workers on strike can meet, committee rooms where syndicates deliberate, offices where business is transacted, a library with books of reference and many newspapers. The number of associations privileged to use the building is now about 270. The grant of the municipality in aid of the syndicates varies with the number of associations; at first it amounted to 500 fr., now it is 184 fr. per syndicate. The municipality recently passed a resolution increasing the annual grant to 75,000 fr. (£3,000). But the Government have not yet sanctioned this resolution, which is subject to their approval, as indeed is the distribution of funds, which they may suspend if they think fit. The right to control the grants is one of those to which the syndicates object. The Government has threatened to stop the distribution of funds to such syndicates as neglect to comply with the rules laid down by the statute of 1884. Great indignation has been displayed in consequence of this intervention. Meetings have been held and proclamations have been placarded by the syndicates, and a general strike is threatened for the 10th July. One of the chief occupations of the syndicates should be to find employment for men out of work, but it appears that in 1891 there were only 70 syndicates attached to the Bourse du Travail which attended to this business; and the number of operatives engaged either permanently or temporarily was only about 32,000. The syndicates occupy themselves with promoting other special objects, such as the formation of a federation of labour exchanges, which claims to include 800 syndicates representing 900,000 workers.

[NOTE.—The Government has since taken action in the matter, and the Central Labour Exchange, as well as its branch establishment, in the Rue Jean Jacques Rousseau, were on the afternoon of the 6th July occupied, and remain closed for the present.]

#### GERMANY.\*

*Strikes.*—The agitation amongst the Berlin masons for a minimum wage of 6½d. per hour, referred to in the June number of the GAZETTE, resulted in a partial strike, which began on the 7th of June, and included 432 journeymen. It effected a slight increase

\* The information as to strikes is based on reports published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.

of wages. Fresh strikes which occurred in the capital during June were: A strike of two days' duration in a shoe factory, arising out of a question of wages, and a strike affecting 1,500 persons in the fur trade, chiefly for the abolition of piece-work and the substitution of a minimum wage of 25s. per week for journeymen and 18s. for quilters (female), and a reduction of working hours from 10 to 9½; the demands were acceded to by most of the establishments at the end of the month. Disputes are also reported from different parts of Prussia. The house-painters of Swinemünde have struck on a question of wages, and 800 brickmakers in Damm-Hast are striking in opposition to an alleged 25 per cent. reduction of piece-work wages. A wages dispute is also reported among the glove-makers in Brandenburg. The strike of "strap turners" in Barmen, reported in last month's GAZETTE, has concluded unfavourably for the workers. A revised fare-list drawn up by the authorities of Aix-la-Chapelle, and embodying considerable reductions of charges, has caused the cab-owners to declare a strike for July 1st, unless the revised list be withdrawn. At Frankenhausen (Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt) a strike of button-makers is in progress, owing, as alleged, to a 20 per cent. reduction in wages.

*Workmen's Dwellings.*—The proprietor of a large locomotive works in Cassel (Herr Oscar Henschel), employing 2,000 workpeople, has just completed 36 more dwellings for those engaged in his service. This makes altogether 172 such dwellings belonging to the firm, while 30 more are in course of construction. Most of these dwellings are occupied by the workmen employed by the firm. The rents received from the occupiers yield a net dividend of 2½ per cent. on the capital sunk in the buildings, and are more than one-third lower than the rents paid in the neighbourhood.

#### AUSTRIA.

Sir E. J. Monson, H.M. Minister at Vienna, reports under date of 5th July the conclusion of the Vienna carpenters' strike on the 31st of May after lasting nearly six weeks. No real compromise was effected, but the remaining strikers resolved to resume work, as they were diminishing in number, and as the employers were ready to grant an increase of 20 per cent. for a day of 11 hours. The total number of strikers was at first about 1,500, but had latterly fallen to 600. There has been some agitation among the masons. The Lower Austrian and the Viennese Masons' Unions have dissolved, their members joining the Austrian Working Builders' Union, which extends over the whole of the Austrian half of the monarchy. A partial strike has occurred at a jute factory, where 116 out of 146 men left work. It ended on 6th June on an increase of from 5 to 10 per cent. in wages being conceded. A strike broke out on the 10th of June in two of the most important coal mining districts of Bohemia, viz., Prague and Schlan, which include the coal mine of the Austro-Hungarian State Railway Company at Kladno and Winaric, those of the Prague Ironworks Company at those two places and at Libuschin, and those of the Buschtiehrad Railway at Duby and Csorcowitz, their annual output amounting to some 2,000,000 tons. Nearly 9,000 miners occupied in these pits struck, and as out of the coal raised a proportion of only about 125,000 tons represents the amount destined for foreign consumption, the reaction on home industries, such as railways and ironworks, drawing their coal supply from this region, threatened to be serious. The miners demanded a minimum of 1fl. 50kr. (2s. 6d.) and 1fl. 20kr. (2s.) for assistant hands and reform of the benefit system (an association peculiar to miners, to which both employers and men contribute in a ratio dependent on the scale of wages). The strike was accompanied by a good deal of disturbance, and troops were called up in aid of the police. Several collisions occurred and injuries were inflicted, one man being killed. There were some signs of an agreement on June 24th. Meanwhile, however, the movement extended to other mines, the property of the North Bohemian Coal Mining Company. On the 26th there was a partial resumption of work, but on the 27th about 400 men went out in the Karbitz district, and a miners' meeting was convened at Dux to discuss the promotion of a general strike towards the end of August. Eventually (June 28th) the bulk of the men returned to work without having been able to gain their point.

*Strikes.*—The strike of Vienna photographic cabinet-makers has ended. Working hours are said to have been reduced from 10 to 9½, and a minimum wage of 12 gulden (£1) has been granted both for time and piece-workers, to be paid in the latter case on account.

Several fresh strikes are reported from Vienna and neighbourhood affecting coopers, leather workers, tin workers, and hat-makers.

A serious strike in the Hungarian Coal Industry began at Fünfkirchen on the 6th June. The men ask for an 8-hour day, and complain of low wages, deductions, and inconsiderate treatment. On the 8th the strikers are said to have numbered 2,400, but many are reported to have resumed work since that date.

A strike of silk weavers of Trübau, in Moravia, about 1,000 in number, began on the 29th May, in consequence of the dismissal of certain workers. The strikers demand their re-instatement, and ask for a reduction of hours, an increase in wages, and certain allowances and regulations. The *Arbeiter Zeitung* of the 30th June reported that the strike had concluded in favour of the employés.

The gilders of Prague are said to have succeeded in obtaining a 10-hour day in 17 out of 18 gilders' workshops in the town.

Strikes are also reported from Agram in Croatia, where the journeymen joiners demand a 10-hour day and increased wages, and from Innsbruck in the Tyrol, where the painters and varnishers are asking for a reduction of hours.

#### ITALY.

In a despatch dated 24th June, Mr. A. S. Raikes, one of the secretaries of H.M. Embassy at Rome, reports that a strike of lightermen and porters, lasting three days, has lately taken place at Messina, owing to a claim of the lightermen to the sole privilege of loading or unloading cargo in their lighters or barges. The porters followed the lead of the lightermen though they had no direct interest in the matter. The Government, to avoid ships being obliged to leave without having discharged their cargo, allowed them to discharge foreign goods whilst moored outside the Custom House limits, and punished any strikers interfering with non-strikers who wished to work. A strike for increased wages occurred among the carters at Civita Vecchia. The Prefect's secretary succeeded in arranging an agreement which was accepted by both sides.

The Bill\* for the establishment of *probi viri*, or Conciliation Boards, mentioned in previous reports, having been passed by both Chambers, was signed on 15th June, and will shortly be promulgated as a law.

#### BELGIUM.

Councils of Labour and Industry have recently been established at Antwerp and at Turnhout, the former consisting of 14 sections and the latter of 7.

The Brussels Shoemakers' Union has established a workshop for assisting members and others when out of work.

Movements in favour of restricting work on Sundays are reported from various districts. The employés of the clothing establishments of Ghent have united in petitioning their employers to close their shops at noon on Sundays and public holidays. A league is being formed at Morlanwelz, in Hainaut, to induce the large merchants in the Centre district to close their establishments on Sundays. The movement is also said to be progressing in Antwerp, where the hat and cap establishments have followed the clothiers in deciding to close their shops at 2 o'clock on Sundays.—*Le Peuple*.

*Strike of Factory Operatives in Verviers.*—A strike affecting about 1,600 weavers and 250 spinners has been in progress during June at Verviers. It originated with the employees of the pattern weavers (*tisseurs à façon*) who work by contract for the manufacturers. These pattern weavers, who own their looms, are paid by the manufacturers at a fixed rate, supposed to allow them a profit over the standard rate; they, however, reduced their operatives' wages to a considerable extent, and the strike which ensued soon extended to the factory operatives. A list drawn up by the employers has at last been accepted by the operatives, subject to certain conditions, which 7 factory owners still refuse to grant, although the other manufacturers and all the pattern weavers have yielded. At the end of the month 630 persons were still on strike.

\* A précis of this Bill was published in the *Board of Trade Journal* for June.

#### HOLLAND.

Under date of 27th June, Sir H. Rumbold, H.M. Minister at the Hague, transmits a report from Sir George Bonham, Secretary of Legation, stating that the Central Committee of Statistics is inquiring into the workmen's societies, and has directed the burgomasters throughout the country to collect information as to trade unions, co-operative workmen's societies, friendly societies, societies of a general character, and those for utility and pleasure. A sub-committee has been formed to further investigate special points. In a report lately issued by the State *Commission de Labour*, the belief is expressed that the question of the hours of labour is one which could be satisfactorily dealt with by Labour Bureaux.

Mr. H. Turing, H.M. Consul at Rotterdam, has transmitted an account of labour unions in that town, under date of 21st June. The oldest of these, a branch of the General Netherland Labourers' Union, has about 650 members, and grants sick-pay benefits at the weekly rate of 8s. 4d. for the first six months, and 4s. 2d. for another six months; it has also funds for the assistance of members' widows and of members permanently incapacitated. The Rotterdam branch, about 10 years ago, established a medical aid society which numbers 12,000 members. The "Nederlandische Vlag," established in 1889 with a membership of 300, is recognised by the Government. Its rules prohibit all strikes; all complaints against shipbrokers, stevedores, &c., and wages questions are investigated by the committee, and if necessary are referred by them for settlement to the "Association of Shipbrokers" formed in 1889 after the dock strike in the town. The leaders of Labourers' Trade Clubs have established the "Rotterdam Union of Leaders," in which industrial questions are fully discussed, but no resolutions passed are binding on the members. Twelve different trades have each their local non-political club, the funds of the bakers and printers being applied for sick benefit and pensions. The Labourers' Union, the Printers' Union, and the local branch of the Social Democratic Federation are socialistic in tendency, but their numbers are extremely small.

#### SWEDEN.

In the report on labour in Sweden published in the last number of the LABOUR GAZETTE, attention was called to the resolution of the Cabinet-makers' Union to send representatives or agitators (*agitatoren*) to the Province of Småland. As a further illustration of the practice of sending "agitators" from the capital to the smaller towns, Sir F. R. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Stockholm, reports under date of 29th June, that the General Shoemakers' Union has just decided to send zealous workmen to any places where the Union has no section to create or revive, as the case may be, a local trade union affiliated to the general body.

#### SPAIN.

In a despatch dated June 20th, Mr. Gosselin, the Secretary of the Embassy at Madrid, reports that no labour disputes of national importance have recently occurred in Spain, though there have been several strikes of a local character. The labourers employed on one of the sections of the Saragossa Direct Railway struck work in the beginning of May, demanding an 8-hour day, and that the contractors should pay the wages at least every fortnight. The Civil Guard of Caspe, on the River Ebro, took steps to prevent the movement extending to other sections of the line, and arrested some of the leaders. The journeymen bakers of Madrid have had this month a dispute which threatened at one moment to assume serious proportions. The workers demanded good beds, sanitary bakeries, better food, and a reduction in the hours of labour. The master bakers' answer was not considered satisfactory, and the men threatened to go out on strike. The civil governor after hearing both sides of the question, stated



that if he failed in mediating, he would, if necessary, apply for assistance to the military bakehouses and other sources to provide the capital with bread. The Governor's prompt action was successful; the employers undertook to give better food and accommodation to their men within six days' time, and the latter promised to return at once to work. This arrangement has, it is believed, been generally carried out.

The Catalan masons and bakers, and the dock labourers and cabmen have each their own trade organisations. The masons lately organised a strike, which lasted for over a couple of months for an 8-hours day. Outside labour was introduced, and certain disturbances took place, but in the end the men gave in without gaining their point. The trades most affected by labour disputes are the Textile and Kindred Industries which are the most important and flourishing in Catalonia. These workpeople are enrolled in an association called "Sociedad de las 3 clases de Vapor," embracing spinning and weaving and the preparatory industries. The association is organised somewhat on the same lines as the British Trade Unions, though not so completely. Its principal object is to reserve employment exclusively for its associates. With regard to legislative or administrative changes affecting labour, very little has yet been done in Spain. A commission of economic reform has drafted several bills for presentation to the Cortes; amongst others, bills for creating boards of arbitration, for establishing mixed juries, and for regulating the employment of women; but the only Act which has been passed is one regulating the employment of minors in workshops, which in default of any strict inspection is practically a dead letter.

#### PORTUGAL.

A memorandum dated 20th June, from Sir H. G. MacDonell, H.M. Minister at Lisbon, states that with the exception of a strike of coopers at Oporto in April and May last, no disputes of any importance have occurred. During the last two years applications for employment from bodies of workmen have frequently been received by the Department of Public Works, especially at Lisbon and Oporto, and employment has been provided for a good many people by the assistance of the municipalities of these two cities. In February 1891 regulations were issued regarding friendly societies, followed in March by three decrees relating to arbitration and conciliation boards. By a decree issued in May 1893 a court or board of arbitration of 12 members was established for the municipal district of Lisbon to adjudicate on all questions affecting industries carried on within its area. By this decree both employers and operatives are directed to form special councils for the election of the members of the court. By a decree issued in April 1891 night work was forbidden for women and girls and for boys under 12 years. A subsequent decree approved in March 1893 laid down the conditions on which children between 10 and 12 years of age and those over 12 years may be permitted to work in certain industries, and enumerated the unforeseen circumstances under which the industrial inspector may allow boys to work at night subject to certain regulations. Underground employment of minors is limited to the selecting of mineral ore, loading and rolling tubs, or attending to ventilators and trapdoors.

#### SWITZERLAND.

Mr. H. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated June 28th, transmits a report on labour in Switzerland. The report is a translation of the notes of Herr Greulich, the chief of the Swiss Labour Office at Zürich, with some modifications and additions by Mr. Angst. A Federal Bill for the establishment of insurance against sickness and accidents has been referred by the Federal Council to a commission of experts. The Bill, which will come before the Federal Chamber in the autumn, is said to be opposed by the leaders of the Swiss workmen.

The Embroidery Union at St. Gall, the decline of which was noted in last month's report, has taken a general vote on the question of dissolution. Although this step was approved of by a small majority (2,380 to 2,360), the numbers do not give a clear majority of members as required by the statutes, and consequently the Union still lingers on, though many members are said to be leaving. On the other hand, the Union of male and female workers of the Embroidery Industry is slowly growing, and a professional secretary is to be engaged for the Textile Industry in connection with the Swiss Labour Office.

The number of unemployed in Zürich on the 17th of June was returned as about 150. At Berne also there were a good many unemployed, casual workers and unskilled hands having been partly thrown out of employment in the agricultural districts in consequence of the drought. A few days ago the town of Berne was the scene of an attack of about 50 to 60 of these unemployed on the Italian workmen engaged in the Building Trade. Some of the ringleaders were arrested, but the mob attempted to liberate them during the night, and the soldiers had to be called out. The number of Italian workmen in all Swiss towns is large, and the feeling against them on the part of many of the Swiss and German workmen is one of great jealousy.

#### UNITED STATES.

Mr. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports, under date of June 27th, that the annual conference between representatives of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers and the manufacturers has been the most important event in labour circles during the past months. No result has as yet been obtained. Serious consequences may result, though with the memory of last year's experience at Homestead, hasty action will probably be delayed. In this connection may be noted the sudden termination of the indictments for murder, riot, and conspiracy arising out of the Homestead strike. The proceedings have been quashed, and all those indicted for offences growing out of the strike have been released from bail.

In Pennsylvania there have been strikes of more or less extent, including plasterers, winders in a carpet factory, and vest makers, and a complication has arisen in the Window-glass Trade.

In Ohio the furniture manufacturers of Cincinnati have locked out some 2,000 workmen who had threatened to strike unless their demands for a 9-hours' day without diminution of wages, the limitation of apprentices, and the refusal of the manufacturers to sell goods to persons employing non-union labour, were granted. In Indiana the Standard Oil employees are asking for a reduction of hours, as also the Teamsters and Shovelers' Union in Indianapolis. The street car strike, which has been serious in Fort Wayne, has been settled by a compromise.

The Governor of Pennsylvania has vetoed a Bill passed by both Houses of the Legislature, which secured to mechanics, journeymen, and labourers the right to file liens against real estate for the amount of wages due for work or labour done in and about the erection or construction thereof. The Governor has also vetoed the Bill repealing the special penalty imposed in Alleghany County alone for violation of the General Sunday Act.

Mr. Booker, H.M. Consul-General for New York, reports the passing of three laws by the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York, approved by the Governor on the 17th May. The first provides for the examination of scaffolding, rope, blocks, pulleys, and tackle used in the construction, repairing, or painting of buildings. The second is an act to prevent monopolies in articles of general necessity. The third is an amendment of an existing Act, and provides for the weekly payment of wages by corporations.

Under date of 19th June a report has been received from Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, in which he states that a strike of quarrymen on the Drainage Canal at Lemont, Illinois, commenced on

1st June against a reduction of wages from 1d. 75c. to 1d. 50c. per day, proposed on account of the bad state of business, and lasted about a fortnight. The men, who were mostly Poles, thought the reduction was the result of the importation further down the Canal of coloured labour from the South, and attempted to induce the imported labourers, who were insignificant in numbers compared with themselves, to join the strike. Their attempts were rejected, and some riots ensued. In the end the strikers returned to their work at the reduced wage of 1d. 50c. per day. The Grant locomotive works, which was one of the largest enterprises in the West, made an assignment on the 6th June. The cause of failure is attributed to the strike ordered by the International Association of Machinists, which has been in progress for the last four months. At one time 1,800 men were employed at the works, but lately only 600 could be secured.

#### CO-OPERATION IN GERMANY.

The Annual Report issued by the agent of the General Union of German Industrial and Economic Co-operative Associations records the existence of 8,418 co-operative societies of all kinds in Germany on 31st May 1892, shewing an increase of 810 during the year. They are classified as follows:—

Societies.	Year ended 31st May.	
	1892.	1891.
Loan and credit societies ... ..	No.	No.
Co-operative societies in various branches of industry ... ..	4,401	3,910
Co-operative supply associations ... ..	2,840	2,664
Building societies ... ..	1,122	984
	55	50
Total ... ..	8,418	7,608

The principle of unlimited liability obtained in 7,581 societies in 1892, as compared with 6,931 in 1891.

(a) LOAN AND CREDIT SOCIETIES.—Financial statements are published for 1,076 out of the 4,401 societies; shewing that in 1891 the sums advanced, including extensions of loans previously granted, amounted to 1,561,610,000 marks (£78,080,000) as compared with 1,641,574,191 marks (£82,079,000) in 1890, representing an average of 3,035 marks (£152) per member in 1891, as compared with 3,111 marks (£156) in 1890.

(b) CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN VARIOUS BRANCHES OF INDUSTRY numbered 2,840 on May 31st 1892. These are divided into agricultural and industrial associations, each head being further sub-divided into the following 4 classes:—

- (1) *Raw Material Societies*, the members of which combine for the purchase, at wholesale prices, of the raw materials necessary for their trades. The report mentions 1,130 societies of this kind, the great majority (1,020) being agricultural. The number of these societies is constantly increasing in all parts of Germany.
- (2) *Work Associations*, the special object of which is the purchase, with capital subscribed by the members, of tools, machinery, &c., which is then hired by members at a fixed rate, the moneys so received being divided among the members in proportion to their shares; a certain sum having first been put aside for a reserve fund. The great majority of these associations (299 out of 312) are agricultural.
- (3) *Depôt Associations*, which provide a general store or shop in which members may sell the produce of their trade. The loan societies very often carry on business with these by advancing money to members on the security of their goods. They also, under certain circumstances, have something of the nature of raw material and productive societies. There are said to have been 71 of these associations in operation on May 31st last (64 industrial and 7 agricultural).
- (4) *Productive Associations*, of which the report mentions altogether 1,238—1,014 being dairy societies, while 73 exist for other purposes, including cattle-rearing, forestry and fishing, and 151 are industrial. The report deprecates the still increasing tendency towards exclusiveness which characterises the latter when once they are securely established, and business begins to pay. They are unwilling to enlist new members, and thus increase the number of those among whom the profits would have to be divided.

(c) CO-OPERATIVE SUPPLY ASSOCIATIONS, of which there were 984 on May 31st 1891, had risen in number to 1,122 on the same date in 1892. The report contains financial statements, referring to the year 1891, for 302 of these societies, as compared with 263 which furnished statements for 1890. The average

membership per association in 1891 was 758, and the average sales amounted to 209,579 marks (£10,479).

(d) BUILDING SOCIETIES.—Financial statements are published for 8 building societies, the 3 most important of which are those of Berlin, Cassel and Munich, numbering respectively 803, 417 and 128 members.

#### THE NEW FRENCH FACTORY ACT.

The *Journal Officiel* of June 13th publishes the text of a law promulgated on the previous day dealing with the health and safety of persons employed in industry. The law extends to manufactories, works, yards, or workshops, except those where only members of the same family are engaged under the superintendence of a parent or guardian, and in which no steam or other mechanical power is used, or dangerous occupations are carried on. The law provides for the fencing of dangerous parts of machinery and the closing of bridges, trap doors, and openings, and for the issue of administrative regulations framed with the advice of the Consultative Committee of Arts and Manufactures (1) dealing with sanitation, light, ventilation, dust and vapours, &c. (2) prescribing, where necessary, special rules for particular industries or processes. The Consultative Committee of Public Health is to be consulted as to the general nature of these rules.

Provision is made for the compulsory notification of all accidents to workers in the establishments included under the law. The fines for contravention of the law range from 5 to 15 francs for each offence, the total not to exceed 200 francs. Increased penalties are prescribed for repeated offences, and in case of continued neglect to comply with the law the establishment may in the last resort be closed.

#### THE FRENCH LABOUR DEPARTMENT ON CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.\*

The French Labour Department has issued a Report on Arbitration and Conciliation in England and the English Colonies, United States, Belgium, France, and other European countries. One-third of the volume deals with the establishment and working of Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration, initiated voluntarily by workmen and employers in England, and includes an account of the sliding scale system in different parts of the country, and a summary of the constitution and rules of certain English Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration. The chapter on the United States deals chiefly with the Boards of Arbitration established by law in various States. Belgium, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland necessarily occupy but little space in the Report, which concludes with a survey of the progress of the movement for conciliation in France.

#### STRIKES IN FRANCE, 1891.†

THIS report issued by the French Labour Department gives in Tabular form the information as to strikes in 1890 and 1891. The causes and the results of each strike are given, together with the numbers of firms and of workpeople engaged in the dispute, and its date and duration. Classifying according to causes of disputes, we obtain the following final results as to numbers of workpeople affected in 1891:—

Cause of Strike.	Number of Strikes.	Number of Strikers.	Percentage of Strikers engaged in Strikes resulting in		
			Success.	Compromise.	Failure.
For Advance in Wages ... ..	117	30,184	32.4	27.4	40.2
Against Reduction in Wages ... ..	45	7,150	24.4	18.1	57.5
For Shorter Hours without reduction in Wages; and for Shorter Hours	21	11,902	16.8	7.1	76.1
Wages Disputes ... ..	25	49,349	10.7	80.5	8.8
For Changes in Sick Club Management, &c.	3	37,290	...	100.0	...
Dismissal or Engagement of Foremen, &c.	43	11,295	37.6	7	54.7
Disputes as to Rules ... ..	22	11,358	10.4	27.6	62.0

The important question of the duration of strikes is carefully considered. In short strikes lasting less than one week, over 32,000 were implicated, 39.5 per cent. unsuccessfully; 44,500 in strikes lasting from 8 to 15 days, 11 per cent. unsuccessfully; of the 13,500 engaged in strikes lasting from 16 to 30 days, 69 per cent. were unsuccessful. Altogether 108,947 persons were affected by the strikes, of whom 20.6 per cent. were successful, 49.8 per cent. were partially successful, and 29.6 per cent. were unsuccessful.

\*De la Conciliation et de l'Arbitrage dans les conflits collectifs entre Patrons et Ouvriers en France et à l'Etranger. Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, 1893.  
†Statistique des Grèves. Imprimerie Nationale, Paris, 1892.



## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES AND BRAZIL.

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

**Canada.**—A bulletin, dated June 9, of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, states:—"The most noticeable feature of the reports concerning farm labour in Ontario, is the frequent mention of the departure of young Canadians from the homestead for the United States and the North-West, and their replacement by inferior help from the Old Country, many coming from the 'Homes.' There appears to be a sufficiency of labourers of a certain sort, but men of skill are scarce. Wages for the working season range from 14 dols. to 20 dols. (57s. 9d. to 82s. 6d.) a month with board, the average being 17 dols. 17 cents (70s.) or 38 cents (1s. 7d.) more than last year."

**New South Wales.**—There is no demand for clerks, book-keepers, retail tradesmen, or shop assistants. There is no demand in Sydney, and not much in country districts for professional men or mechanics. There is no demand for miners, both the Newcastle and the Southern Collieries being now much depressed, while there are a great many out of work at the Broken Hill Silver Mines. Several saw-mills also have been closed.

**Victoria.**—The great depression in Melbourne continues, and no one should go there now on the chance of getting work. The Government Labour Bureau at Melbourne has been closed, on the ground that it did harm by attracting men there from the country districts. Outside the towns there is work to be had on vineyards, stations and farms. Many shop assistants and clerks are without employment. The Government are assisting the formation of Labour Colonies with the object of settling men on the land.

**South Australia.**—The demand for labour is very small, and has been badly affected by the depression in the Mining Industry, and the low price of wheat and wool. There is a large supply of labour on the spot, and no opening for fresh hands. The Building Trade has been especially slack, and hands have been reduced in mechanical establishments at Gawler. The Government are providing employment for many by improving the Adelaide Water-works, and increasing the orders in Government workshops.

**Queensland.**—Recent reports state:—From Brisbane: "There has been a great and prolonged depression and scarcity of work in the Building Trade in Brisbane, and, indeed, there is no demand in any part of Queensland for any kind of labour, either male or female." From Rockhampton: "Supply equal to demand, except in the case of female servants, who are in request, especially general servants, at 12s. to 20s. a week." From the pastoral district of Mitchell, in the centre of the Colony: "The labour market is fully supplied here; employment is seldom permanent, depending on shearing operations. The demand for mechanics is nominal. There is always a demand for female servants." Work at Georgetown, Ipswich, Townsville, and in most other parts of the Colony, appears to be equally scarce. The free passages hitherto granted to female domestic servants have just been discontinued.

**Western Australia.**—It should be remembered that the population of the Colony is still very small, and that, therefore, the demand for all kinds of labour is necessarily limited. There is a good demand for cooks, general female servants, and laundresses, and to a less extent for dressmakers. There is a good opening for market gardeners, fruit growers, and farmers, with £150 and upwards, as fruits and vegetables sell at high prices, but they should get experience of colonial farming before taking up land. In agricultural parts in the south-west of the Colony there is a good demand for farm hands at £3 to £4 a month, with rations, and especially for ploughmen. Several new railways are under construction which will provide work for navvies and general labourers. Employers at Perth are proposing to reduce the wages of bricklayers to 1s. 3d. an hour, of carpenters to 1s. 2d., and of labourers to 10½d. The nomination system of immigration has just been abolished, except in regard to single females.

**Tasmania.**—A recent report from Evandale, 14 miles south of Launceston, states:—"Times are bad and labour is plentiful." There is a fair demand in most districts for women and girls as domestic servants, sempstresses, dressmakers, machinists, &c., but not for shop assistants, or those unaccustomed to work at a trade. With the object of settling people upon the land, and increasing production, the Government now insist that purchasers of Crown lands should strictly improve their holdings as required by the Land Act.

**New Zealand.**—There is a fair demand for farm and station hands in the districts of Wellington, Otago and Auckland, at a wage of 10s. to 15s. a week, with board, in Auckland, and 15s. to 25s. in other Provinces. There is a good demand in nearly all parts for female servants, especially those able to do general house-work. During last April the Building Trade at the town of Auckland was reviving, but the Iron Trade was very dull. At Wellington, the Building, Iron and Boot Trades were very busy, and at Dunedin, in the south, the rope works and flour mills were full of orders.

**Cape Colony.**—There is little or no opening for shepherds or farm labourers, coloured labour being almost entirely employed at less wages for this kind of work. Nor is there much demand for mechanics unless they are really skilled workmen. At Cape Town, carpenters, engineers, practical slaters and tin workers have been in increased demand. It should be remembered that large numbers of Malays and other coloured men, in all parts of Cape Colony, now compete with whites as skilled mechanics, at lower wages. Locusts have done more or less damage in nearly every part of the Colony.

**Natal.**—A report from Pietermaritzburg states: "Trade being dull, many mechanics are receiving less than the average wage, and a good many are out of employment, and constant work is not easily had." In order to promote the emigration of Scotch farmers to Natal, steerage passages are granted to them at half rates, on condition of their buying land there, residing on it, and cultivating it.

**British Bechuanaland.**—Recent reports state that there is no demand for farm hands or mechanics. The construction of the railway from Vryburg to Mafeking is now begun, and will provide work for navvies.

**BRAZIL.**—An Agent has been sent from Brazil with the object of introducing Scotch Settlers into the Province of San Paulo. Seeing that all parts of Brazil are, both in climate and in other respects, unsuited to British Emigrants, and that great suffering has already followed British emigration to that country, intending Emigrants are again most strongly warned not to go to Brazil. They should disregard any inducements which may be held out to them of obtaining cheap passages, grants of land, or high wages, and should apply for further information to the Chief Clerk at the Emigrants' Information Office.

**SEAMEN AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY IN NEW SOUTH WALES.**—The Royal Assent has been given to an Act passed by the Legislature of New South Wales, by which seamen are brought under the "Employers' Liability Act of 1886." It is enacted that when a seaman employed on a vessel moored or at anchor, receiving or discharging cargo or coals within the Colony's jurisdiction sustains personal injury through defects in tackle, or through the negligence of—or through obeying orders given by—a duly authorised superior, he shall have the same remedy against the employer as is allowed by the Employers' Liability Act to a workman. In regard to defective tackle, however, an action will not lie unless the defect arose or existed through the negligence of the employer or other person charged with the supervision of the same.

**EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN MINES IN EAST INDIA.\***—The return to the House of Commons of H.M. Secretary of State for India on the employment of women and children in the underground working of Indian mines, shows that of 18,818 persons working underground, 28 per cent. are women, and 11 per cent. are young persons or children. The Government of India give as their general conclusion respecting the matter, "that on the whole it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that it would be impossible either to restrict the employment of women or children, or to regulate the hours of labour, without destroying the family system of working, and that this could not be done without very serious injury to a rising and important industry, and great hardship to the classes which at present find employment in the mines."

\* East India (Employment of Women and Children in Mines) 1893. Pp. 150. Price 11½d.

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