

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

Vol. XVI.—No. 9.]

SEPTEMBER, 1908.

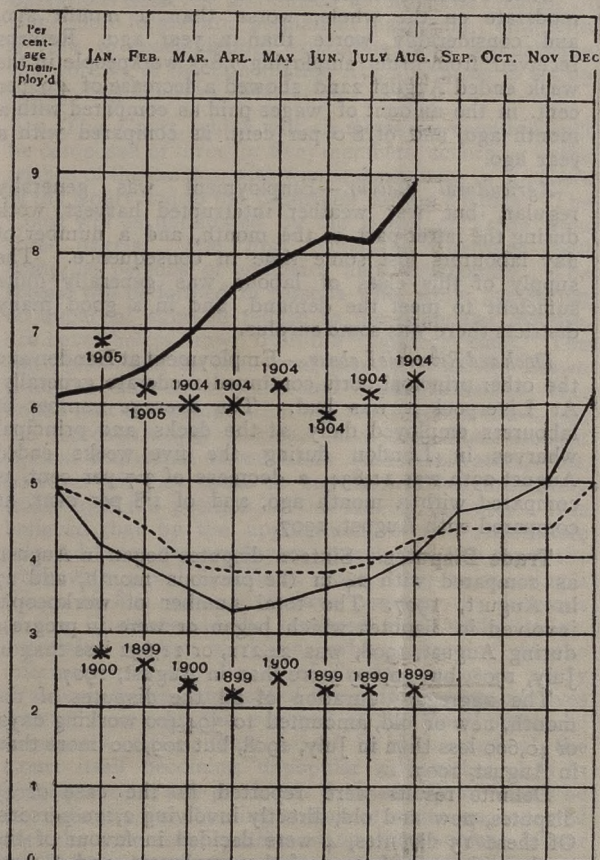
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF  
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1908.      —— Thin Curve=1907.  
----- Dotted Curve=Mean of 1898-1907.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1898-1907 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For August, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 648,585, members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 63,620	Printing & Bookbinding 55,483
Coal Mining ... .. 128,753	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering ... .. 153,303	nishing ... .. 35,185
Shipbuilding ... .. 60,631	Miscellaneous ... .. 21,005
Other Metal Trades ... 32,378	Total ... .. 648,585
Textiles ... .. 98,167	

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN AUGUST.

[In addition to the 2,676 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,725 were received from employers relating to 1,179,361 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,401 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in August was, on the whole, not so good as in July.

As compared with a year ago employment in all the principal industries, excepting boot and shoe manufacture, showed some decline.

In the 268 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 648,585, making Returns, 57,912 (or 8.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, 1908, compared with 8.2 per cent. at the end of July, 1908, and 4.0 per cent. at the end of August, 1907.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment during August continued fairly good, but was not so good as a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment was good, and showed little change on the whole compared with a month ago and a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry during August continued moderate. It was considerably worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 21,000 workpeople showed 270 furnaces in blast at the end of August, as compared with 267 in July, 1908, and 346 in August, 1907.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works showed little change as compared with the previous month, and was worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended August 22nd, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 0.6 per cent. more than in the week ended July 25th, 1908, but 13.3 per cent. less than a year ago.

**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment during August continued very good. It was not quite so good as a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 437 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of August as compared with 444 a month ago and 448 a year ago.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment continued slack, with much short time. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. The dispute on the North-East Coast remained unsettled. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 12.0,\* as compared with 11.1\* a month ago and 3.8 in August, 1907.

\* Members on strike are not included in these figures.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment continued bad. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 25·2, as compared with 22·2† in July, 1908, and 9·3 in August, 1907.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment was worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. At many spinning mills there was organised short time, and in the weaving sheds many looms were stopped. Returns from firms employing 124,975 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed a decrease of 3·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 14·9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 30,988 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd, showed an increase of 1·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 7·1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,222 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 8·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment during August continued dull, and was much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,290 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 15·1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment was fair on the whole, but showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,310 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed a decrease of 2·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 3·6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,480 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd, showed a decrease of 1·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7·6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment continued bad. It was about the same as a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,535 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed an increase of 2·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 20·0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment continued moderate, and was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,663 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed the usual seasonal decline, but was rather better than a year ago; in the provinces it was quiet. In the *ready-made* branch it was moderate, and slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

**Hat Trade.**—Employment in the *Silk Hat* trade was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* trade it was quiet, about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment on the whole was moderate, slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 63,373 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed a decrease of 1·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4·5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

† Revised figure

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment was bad, but showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago. It was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,418 had 7·5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 8·7 per cent. in July, and 5·0 per cent. a year ago.

**Paper Making Trades.**—Employment in these trades was only moderate. It was rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. Some short time was reported.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment was bad generally, and worse than a year ago. With letterpress printers, as is usual in August, it was much worse than in July. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of August was 7·1, as compared with 4·6 a month ago and 5·8 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 7·8, 8·3, and 6·3 respectively.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in August continued slack. It was slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8·4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 8·7 per cent. a month ago, and 4·3 per cent. a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment in the Pottery trade continued bad, and was considerably worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Much short time was worked.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment in the glass trades was moderate on the whole, worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,855 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd showed a decrease of 4·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 8·0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Agricultural Labour.**—Employment was generally regular, but wet weather interrupted harvest work during the latter part of the month, and a number of day labourers lost some time in consequence. The supply of this class of labour was generally quite sufficient to meet the demand, and in a good many districts there was some surplus.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment at London and the other principal ports continued moderate generally. At Liverpool it was bad. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended August 29th was 11,834, a decrease of 3·7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 1·8 per cent. as compared with August, 1907.

**Trade Disputes.**—Sixteen disputes began in August, as compared with 24 in the previous month, and 27 in August, 1907. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during August, 1908, was 24,211, or 11,692 less than in July, 1908, but 10,299 more than in August, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new or old, amounted to 394,400 working days, or 40,600 less than in July, 1908, but 209,000 more than in August, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 15 disputes, new and old, directly involving 2,170 persons. Of these 15 disputes, 4 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 5 in favour of the employers, and 6 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes taking effect in August affected 160,300 workpeople, of whom 400 received advances and 159,900 sustained reductions. The number whose wages were reduced included 123,500 coal miners in Northumberland and Durham, 20,000 puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, and 5,500 steel millmen, &c., in Scotland. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of slightly over £3,100 per week.

## COURT OF ARBITRATION.

THE President of the Board of Trade is causing the following memorandum to be communicated to Chambers of Commerce and Employers' and Workmen's Associations:—

### Memorandum.

1. Under the Conciliation Act of 1896 the Board of Trade has power to appoint a Conciliator in trade disputes and an Arbitrator at the request of both parties. These slender means of intervention have been employed in cases where opportunity has offered, and the work of the Department in this sphere has considerably increased of recent years. In 1905 the Board of Trade intervened in 14 disputes and settled them all; in 1906 they intervened in 20 cases and settled 16; in 1907 they intervened in 39 cases and settled 32; while during the first eight months of the present year no fewer than 47 cases of intervention have occurred, of which 35 have been already settled, while some of the remainder are still being dealt with.

2. It is not proposed to curtail or replace any of the existing functions or practices under the Conciliation Act, nor in any respect to depart from its voluntary and permissive character. The good offices of the Department will still be available to all in industrial circles for the settlement of disputes whenever opportunity offers; single Arbitrators and Conciliators will still be appointed whenever desired; special interventions will still be undertaken in special cases, and no element of compulsion will enter into any of these proceedings. But the time has now arrived when the scale of these operations deserves, and indeed requires, the creation of some more formal and permanent machinery; and, with a view to consolidating, expanding, and popularising the working of the Conciliation Act, I propose to set up a Standing Court of Arbitration.

3. The Court, which will sit wherever required, will be composed of three (or five) members, according to the wishes of the parties, with fees and expenses to members of the Court and to the Chairmen during sittings. The Court will be nominated by the Board of Trade from three panels. The first panel—of Chairmen—will comprise persons of eminence and impartiality. The second will be formed of persons who, while preserving an impartial mind in regard to the particular dispute, are nevertheless drawn from the "employer class." The third panel will be formed of persons similarly drawn from the class of workmen and Trade Unionists. It is hoped that this composition will remove from the Court the reproach which workmen have sometimes brought against individual Conciliators and Arbitrators, that, however fair they mean to be, they do not intimately understand the position of the manual labourer. It is believed that by the appointment of two Arbitrators selected from the employers' panel and two from the workmen's panel in difficult cases, thus constituting a Court of five instead of three persons, the decisions of the Court would be rendered more authoritative, especially to the workmen, who, according to the information of the Board of Trade, are more ready to submit to the judgment of two of their representatives than of one. As the personnel of the Court would be constantly varied, there would be no danger of the Court itself becoming unpopular with either class in consequence of any particular decision; there would be no difficulty in choosing members quite unconnected with the case in dispute, and no inconvenient labour would be imposed upon anyone who consented to serve on the panels. Lastly, in order that the peculiar conditions of any trade may be fully explained to the Court, technical assessors may be appointed by the Board of Trade at the request of the Court or of the parties to assist in the deliberations, but without any right to vote.

4. The state of public opinion upon the general question of arbitration in trade disputes may be very conveniently tested by such a voluntary arrangement. Careful inquiry through various channels open to the

Board of Trade justifies the expectation that the plan would not be unwelcome in industrial circles. The Court will only be called into being if, and in proportion as, it is actually wanted. No fresh legislation is necessary.

5. Steps will now be taken to form the respective panels.  
1st Sept., 1908. W. S. C.

## RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

### Wagon and Carriage Works, Wednesbury.

On July 29th, 1908, the workpeople at the Old Park Works, Wednesbury, to the number of about 1,050, struck work as a protest against the dismissal of a fellow-workman. They also alleged other grievances, including reductions in the rates of payment for piece-work. On August 10th, the employers received a deputation of the workpeople, but no settlement was arrived at.

On August 16th, Mr. C. J. Drummond, an officer of the Labour Department, proceeded to Wednesbury, and interviewed the parties.

On August 19th the employers again received a deputation from the workpeople, at which they undertook to investigate each of the grievances complained of, as soon as the men resumed work, and, at a mass meeting of the workpeople the same day, the workmen's committee recommended the acceptance of the terms, which were agreed to by a large majority. Work was resumed on the following Monday, August 24th.

### Silk Power Loom Weavers, Macclesfield.

Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G., the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for August, p. 249), issued his award on August 24th.

The dispute in this case had reference to a new price list, which the Trade Union had compiled, but which Messrs. Josiah Smale and Sons, the firm affected by the dispute, had declined to adopt. Sir Alfred Bateman decided as follows:—

- (1) That Messrs. Josiah Smale and Sons are not obliged to adopt forthwith the new Power Loom price list which was compiled by the Macclesfield Power Loom Silk Weavers' Association.
- (2) That it is desirable that a uniform Power Loom price list be paid to by all silk manufacturers at Macclesfield.
- (3) That, as offered by Messrs. Josiah Smale and Sons, that firm shall forthwith use their best endeavours to persuade the manufacturers at Macclesfield to adopt such a price list.
- (4) For the purpose of fixing such a list, it is desirable that a small number of manufacturers, say from 6 to 10, shall meet an equal number of representatives of the Macclesfield Power Loom Silk Weavers' Association, and discuss as a basis the list compiled by the latter with a view to adopt it, either as a whole or in part, making such modifications therein as may be found desirable by both parties.
- (5) In the event of both parties being unable to agree it is desirable that all questions in dispute shall be referred to an arbitrator, who shall previously have been mutually agreed upon, or failing agreement, to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade; and the decision of the said arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties.

### Iron Moulders, South Wales.

Mr. W. B. Yates, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for August, p. 240), issued his award on August 27th.

The iron moulders in the Neath and Briton Ferry district had struck for an advance in the minimum rate of wages from 36s. to 38s. a week, which rate was already being paid by employers in the Swansea district. The employers at Swansea then locked-out their moulders in support of a counter-demand for a reduction to a uniform minimum of 36s. Mr. Yates decided that the minimum rate for the Swansea, Neath, and Briton Ferry districts should be 37s. a week.

### Tinplate Workers, South Wales.

Mr. W. B. Yates, the umpire appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for August, p. 241), issued his award on September 3rd, deciding that the rate of



### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS, 1907.

ACCORDING to the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for 1907\* the total number of factories under inspection at the end of the year 1907 was 107,321, and of workshops 142,622, increases of 984 and 750 respectively as compared with the previous year. In addition there were 7,210 laundries, of which 2,955 had power machinery and 4,255 had no power.

The number of children and young persons medically examined during 1907 for certificates of fitness to work in factories and workshops was 427,075; and of these 419,422 were certified. Of those rejected, 4,407 were rejected on medical grounds, and 2,878 on account of insufficient age or want of evidence of age. The number of children and young persons applying for certificates of fitness has increased in every year since 1904, but in 1907 it was greater owing to the operation of a new Home Office Order requiring such certificates in the case of certain workshops as well as factories. The following Table shows the number certified in 1897, 1906, and 1907:—

	1897.	1906.	1907.
Children under 14 (half-timers)	Males, 20,790 Females, 45,250	21,259 22,864	21,948 22,864
Young Persons between 13 and 14 (full-timers)	Males, 40,631 Females, 38,670	40,631 38,527	42,679 40,859
Young Persons between 14 and 16	Males, 159,689 Females, 118,903	139,722 124,466	146,600 144,472

Of the half-timers certified in 1907, 26,695 were in Lancashire and Cheshire, and 11,520 in Yorkshire; and of the young persons between 13 and 14 certified as full-timers, 36,602 were in Lancashire and Cheshire, and 19,594 in Yorkshire. Several of the lady inspectors call attention to the increased employment of girls of 13 or 14, particularly in Yorkshire; they are being increasingly employed, not only in wrapping up, packing, and similar processes, but also in the tending of machinery.

The total number of accidents reported in 1907 was 124,325. Fatal accidents reported have increased from 658 in 1897 to 1,116 in 1906 and 1,179 in 1907—an increase of 80 per cent. in ten years. Accidents reported to certifying surgeons (including the fatal accidents) have increased from 15,985 in 1897 to 35,696 in 1906 and to 43,478 in 1907—an increase of 172 per cent. in the ten years. Other accidents increased from 24,489 in 1897 to 80,847 in 1907—an increase of 230 per cent. Much of this increase, however, is stated to be due to better reporting, partly owing to the requirements of insurance companies under the Compensation Acts, and partly to the increased vigilance of the inspectors. Much is also due to changes in the basis of reportability, new classes of accidents being constantly added by legislation, to the list of those required to be reported. Most of the accidents are sustained by males over 18, especially by those engaged in metal and engineering works; but in proportion to the numbers employed, young persons and children also suffer heavily.

There were 653 cases of poisoning or anthrax during the year, resulting in 40 deaths; the corresponding figures for 1906 were 708 and 55. The deaths from anthrax fell from 22 to 11.

The Report also deals with employment in china and earthenware works, and other dangerous trades; with employment in laundries, &c.; and contains special reports on the fish-curing industry, shuttle making, lace dressing, shipbuilding accidents, and match factories. It also summarises certain reports from H.M. Consuls in foreign countries as to the incidence of anthrax in certain districts (China, Persia, Asia Minor, South America, &c.); and contains an account of the regulations enforced in German grinding-works (at Solingen, Düsseldorf, &c.) with a view to reduce disease and mortality among metal grinders.

\* Cd. 4166, 1908. Price 3s. 11d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

### EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.\*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, etc.)

#### Canada.

The only classes of emigrants wanted in Canada at the present time are farmers financially able to take homesteads or purchase lands, and female domestic servants; there is an excellent demand for these. The demand for farm labourers is over till next spring, and neither these nor mechanics nor general labourers should emigrate to Canada till then on the chance of work. The regulation now in operation in Canada requiring every emigrant 18 years of age or over to have in his possession at least 25 dollars (£5) in cash at the time of landing, beside a ticket to his destination, is enforced strictly and impartially in the case of all emigrants, other than farmers, farm labourers and female servants. All emigrants sent out by British charitable societies or public funds must be certified as suitable by the Canadian authorities in London. In view of several recent cases of deportation it is necessary to bear in mind that any immigrant who within two years of his landing in Canada becomes a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison or hospital, or other charitable institution may—after investigation of the facts—be deported together with those dependent on him. The manufacturing industries have been much less busy than in 1907, but there have been exceptions, as at Sydney, Nova Scotia, where the steel works have been active. In many places there has been a surplus both of skilled and unskilled labour, more especially at Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver. In the province of Quebec the cotton mills have been in partial operation only. The Nova Scotia collieries and the asbestos mines in Quebec have been busy. Railway construction has employed thousands of men throughout Canada, but no more workers are wanted now. No settlement is reported of the mechanics' strike on the Canadian Pacific Railway, which affects boilermakers, car makers, electricians, machinists, moulders, blacksmiths, fitters and helpers. It should be borne in mind that anyone going out now on a temporary engagement will run the risk of losing his employment in the winter months when all kinds of work in Canada are specially difficult to obtain.

#### Australia.

There is an excellent demand for farmers, farm labourers and female servants, and New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia offer cheap passages to these classes. Application must be made to the respective Agents-General in London. Settlers in Queensland or Western Australia may obtain free grants of 160 acres on easy conditions of residence and improvement. There is little demand for miners, mechanics, or general labourers; but in Victoria skilled men and female apprentices and workers have been wanted in some of the manufactories.

#### New Zealand.

Reduced passages to New Zealand may be granted on certain conditions to farmers, farm labourers and domestic servants, for whom there is an excellent demand. Application must be made to the High Commissioner, 13, Victoria Street, London, S.W. There is not much demand for more mechanics, but competent men can get work. The Report of the Department of Labour for the year ending March, 1908, states:—"Throughout the Dominion skilled labour generally has had a successful year. The building trades especially have been in full swing of employment in the larger cities, whilst in the country towns there was even a shortage of the necessary hands. The boot trade, which a few years ago seemed destined to die out almost entirely, has regained its old footing of security, and promises exceedingly well in the near future. Engineering has not been buoyant, but in most places trade was fairly steady. Cabinet making, tailoring, dress-making, coachbuilding, agricultural implement making,

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

confectionery and jam making—all these trades have been busy, and some of them have had a record year. Woollen mills have been running full time, and complain of shortage of workers. In many occupations this shortage has been reported by employers, who state that the expansion of trade and business is impossible if some means cannot be found to promote immigration. Sawmilling generally has been brisk, but differs greatly with locality. For example, in Westland the industry is growing fast, whilst in the Forty Mile Bush (Dannevirke) it has almost disappeared, the bushman being replaced by the farmer. Flax mills, owing to the high price of flax, ran at full speed for the first part of the year, but the sudden fall in value of the staple has made only too many of the mills close down for a time.

"Unskilled labour has very fully and generally found employment. In spite of the large numbers of immigrants, . . . milking hands and farm labourers are scarce, and town labourers have had almost continuous employment. The extensive building operations in the first and second class towns, and drainage works at places like Timaru and Nelson, account for the ease with which surplus labour has been provided with employment." The above statement is generally applicable to the present time.

#### South Africa.

Emigrants should not go to any part of South Africa at the present time in search of work. The supply of persons in all trades is equal to, or more often exceeds, the demand. In the Transvaal considerable distress exists at Pretoria and Johannesburg, though the Johannesburg Municipality has absorbed a large number of the unemployed by giving white men preference over blacks in the construction of sewage works. The supply of female servants is sufficient.

### LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 269 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

#### FRANCE.

*Employment in July.*\*—Employment in the building and accessory trades was good, except at Paris. In the metal trades it showed no appreciable change; the unemployment among tin-box makers on the coasts of Brittany was less severe owing to good catches of sardines. The depression in the textile trades continued: in many centres in the Nord department and in Normandy a good deal of short time was worked, and in the Vosges there was a decline in employment; in the Ardennes, however, employment continued satisfactory. There was still considerable unemployment among silk workers in the Lyons and St. Etienne districts. In the garment-making trades there was a decline in employment. In the printing trades employment was satisfactory, although not so good as in June. There was still much unemployment among leather dressers and diamond workers, and among coopers in the vineyard districts and watch-makers in the Franche-Comté. Vineyard workers in the South of France were well employed in most centres, while woodcutters found abundant employment in field work, especially harvesting. Employment continued good for gardeners in the Paris district and for agricultural labourers in the Seine-et-Marne department.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in July were received by the French Labour Department from 980 Trade Unions, with an aggregate

membership of 237,466. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais, 8.0 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 7.8 in the previous month, and 6.0 per cent. in July, 1907.

*Coal Mining in July.*\*—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during July was 5.92, as compared with 5.68 in June, and 5.91 in July, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 78.61 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 21.32 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 57.04 and 42.31, and in July, 1907, 57.77 and 42.23.

*Labour Disputes in July.*\*—Seventy-five disputes (73 strikes and 2 lock-outs) were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in July, compared with 96 in the previous month and 125 in July, 1907. In 67 of the new disputes 6,223 workpeople took part, as compared with 7,216 workpeople who took part in 83 of the June disputes, and 16,207 who took part in 114 disputes in July, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (34), transport and warehousing (9), metal (7), mining and quarrying, textile, and pottery (5 each). Of 76 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 8 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 33 in favour of the employers, while 35 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in July.*\*—Seven instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in July. In four cases committees of conciliation met, and these succeeded in settling two of the disputes, while in one case the dispute terminated before the committee met. In the sixth and seventh cases the employers declined to take part in the conciliation proceedings.

*Consultative Labour Councils: New Law.*†—A law dated July 17th authorises the Council of State, wherever it may be considered useful, to establish bodies, under the name of "consultative labour councils," consisting of employers and workpeople in equal numbers. The duties of these councils will be to further the material and moral interests of their constituents, to express opinions on all questions affecting these interests, either of their own accord or at the request of the Government, and to reply to questions in connection with inquiries ordered by the Government. Each council will have two sections, one consisting of employers and one of workpeople, and each section will elect its own president. The sections may deliberate separately. At meetings of the council the two presidents will preside alternately. In general there will be one council to each occupation, but in certain cases similar occupations may be grouped. The number of members in each section will be fixed by the decree establishing the council, and will vary from six to twelve, and the term of office will be four years.

Persons whose names appear on the political voting lists may take part in the election of members. For the employers' section such voters must be employers, or managers who have been engaged in the occupation for two years; for the workpeople's section, workpeople or foremen who have been engaged in the occupation for two years. Electors of twenty-five and upwards are eligible as members of the councils. Women who have been engaged in a particular occupation for two years have a right to vote in the elections and are eligible for membership upon the councils under certain conditions.

*Reduction in Hours of Labour at Government Workshops.*‡—By a decree of February 26th, 1897, the hours of labour of persons employed in workshops under the French Military Authorities were fixed at 10 per day. This has now been amended by a decree of August 7th, 1908, which fixes the effective duration of work in these establishments at 8½ hours per day.

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

† Revised figure.

‡ Despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Paris, dated July 22nd.

§ Journal Officiel de la République Française, August 12th, 1908.

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















Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was bad, most factories being on short time. It was also bad at Bristol and in Scotland. It was fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne, at Swadlincote, and in Devonshire. With earthenware makers in South Yorkshire employment was bad, and worse than a month ago, a good deal of short time being worked during the month. With insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries employment was dull, but showed some improvement on the previous month. With clay tobacco-pipe makers employment was fair at Manchester, dull at Gateshead, and bad at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades. — Employment was good in South Wales and Monmouthshire. It was fair at Sudbury and Chelmsford, and moderate at Ipswich and in the Tees and Hartlepoons district. Employment was very slack at Peterborough. It was also slack at Stourbridge and in Leicestershire. It was dull in Devonshire and Shropshire, and quiet at Birmingham and in North Wales. Employment in South Staffordshire, Scotland and Bedfordshire, and at Nottingham, was bad.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in August, 1908, were valued at £67,497, as compared with £72,796 in July, 1908, and £85,734 in August, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £191,317, £211,828 and £243,184, respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 94 Returns—59 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 23 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the glass trades was moderate on the whole, worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,855 workpeople in the week ended August 22nd, and paying £9,481 in wages, showed a decrease of 5·0 per cent. in number employed, and of 4·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The decline was principally in the glass bottle branch.

As compared with a year ago there were decreases of 9·5 per cent. in number employed and of 8·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the decline being general, and most marked in Lancashire.

Table with columns: Branches, Districts, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with, etc.

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol, and fairly good at Castleford; fair at Leeds, Barnsley and Dublin; moderate in the North of England and Scotland; bad in Lancashire. With medical glass bottle makers at Leeds employment was fair. With flint glass makers employment was fairly good on the whole. At Stourbridge and Wordsley, however, it was quiet. With flint glass cutters it was bad, much short time being worked. Employment with plate glass bevellers and

silverers at Birmingham was bad. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it was moderate, and slightly better than in the previous month. Employment with London glass blowers showed a decline. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was moderate, and showed some improvement as compared with a month ago; a considerable amount of short time, however, was worked during the month. Employment with decorative glass workers was good at Liverpool and moderate at Manchester.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the months stated:—

Table with columns: Description, August, 1908, July, 1908, August, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1908, as compared with, A Month ago, A Year ago.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 218 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

EMPLOYMENT was generally regular in August, but wet weather interrupted harvest work during the latter part of the month, and a number of day labourers lost some time in consequence. The supply of this class of labour was generally quite sufficient to meet the demand, and in a good many districts there was some surplus.

Northern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire, though rain somewhat interfered with work at the end of the month. Finishing the hay harvest at the beginning of the month caused a good demand for extra labour, which was, however, amply met by the supply. The supply of day labourers in Yorkshire was generally somewhat in excess of the demand, especially during the first part of the month. Before the corn harvest had begun, a number of these men, including many Irish migratory labourers, were unable to obtain regular work.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Leicestershire some time was lost by day labourers at the end of August, when wet weather interrupted the corn harvest; the supply of this class of labour was generally equal to the demand. Potato lifting and the corn harvest caused a fairly good demand for extra labourers in Staffordshire, but in most districts the supply was more than sufficient. There was generally regular employment in Shropshire, after the corn harvest had begun. In Worcestershire there was a fairly constant demand for labour on account of fruit picking and the corn harvest, but the supply was ample. A demand for carters and cowmen was reported from the Pershore Union. The supply of labour for the corn harvest was more than sufficient in Warwickshire. Turnip hoeing and the corn harvest generally afforded full and regular employment in Northamptonshire. Day labourers were in excess of the demand in Oxfordshire, and rain at the end of the month caused some irregularity of employment for this class of men. The supply of and demand for labour were generally about equal in Buckinghamshire. Rain caused some interruption to men at harvest work in this county. Employment was

reported as regular in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, with the supply of labour generally about equal to the demand; in the Buntingford Union, in Hertfordshire, however, some scarcity of extra men was reported.

Eastern Counties.—Wet weather somewhat interrupted harvest work at the end of the month in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, where, otherwise, there was regularity of employment, the supply of and demand for labour being about equal. Similar reports come from Lincolnshire. Turnip hoeing at the beginning of the month, and afterwards the corn harvest generally provided regular employment in Norfolk. There was also fairly regular employment in Suffolk and Essex; rain, however, causing some interruption to harvest work at the end of the month. In each of the three last-named counties there was an ample supply of harvestmen.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Correspondents in Kent report that the supply of day labourers was generally in excess of the demand, and that a number of men were unable to get regular work, particularly during the wet weather towards the end of the month. Hoeing and harvesting provided fairly regular employment in Surrey, where the supply of and demand for labour were about equal. Rain interrupted the employment of day labourers in Sussex during the last week of the month. In this county and in Hampshire, where some interruption of work from rain was also reported, the supply of labour was generally about equal to the demand. Similar reports come from Berkshire and Wiltshire. Correspondents in Dorsetshire state that the backward condition of the root crops somewhat affected the demand for day labourers, but this improved when the corn harvest began; there was, however, an ample supply of such men. Employment was fairly regular in Somerset, with a sufficient supply of labour. Wet weather caused some interruption to the employment of day labourers in Herefordshire, and there was not much demand for extra labour. Employment was generally regular in Gloucestershire, but there was some excess of day labourers, and rain interrupted the employment of this class of labour at the end of the month. Hoeing and the corn harvest generally provided full employment in Devonshire and Cornwall.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 140 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 10 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at London and the other principal ports continued moderate generally. At Liverpool it was bad.

London.\*—Employment generally was moderate, a decline being reported during the latter part of the month, owing to a decrease in the deliveries of wool and in the imports of timber. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended August 29th was 11,834, a decrease of 3·7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 1·8 per cent. as compared with August, 1907. The daily numbers in August, 1908, ranged from 10,277 on the 22nd to 12,693 on the 1st. During August, 1907, the numbers ranged from 11,294† on the 14th to 13,071† on the 22nd.

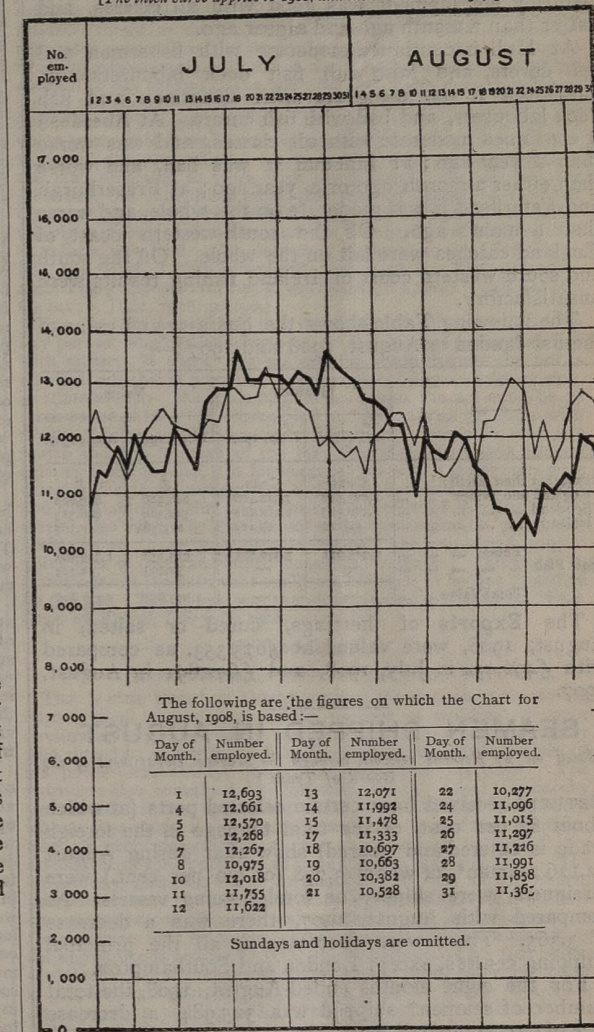
Table with columns: Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London, By Dock Companies or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, &c., Total, At 110 Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of July and August, 1908. The corresponding curve for July and August, 1907, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1908, and the thin curve to 1907.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for August, 1908, is based:—

Table with columns: Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed, Day of Month, Number employed.

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,029 during August, 1908, as compared with 988 during July, and 1,104 during August, 1907.

At Liverpool employment was very dull with dock labourers, and bad with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports.—Employment with dock labourers was moderate at Newcastle, and bad at Sunderland and South Shields. It was worse than a month ago. Employment was slack at Hartlepool. It was moderate, and worse than a month ago, at Middlesbrough. It was moderate with dock labourers at Hull and Grimsby, and bad at Goole. Coal workers at these ports were fairly well employed. Employment was good at King's Lynn, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft, and slack at Harwich. It was moderate at Southampton, Plymouth, and Bristol. At the South Wales ports employment was slack, and worse than a month ago. It was moderate at Manchester. Employment declined with dock labourers at Leith and Dundee, and was bad at Glasgow and dull at Aberdeen. At Dublin employment was fair, and at Belfast bad.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 16 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in August, 1908, showed a decrease in both quantity and value as compared with August, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports during August was fair generally.





DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during August was 61, consisting of 58 cases of lead poisoning, 2 of mercurial poisoning, and 1 of phosphorus poisoning.

During the eight months ended August, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 515, as compared with 376 in 1907.

During the eight months ended August, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 1,963, as compared with 1,916 in the corresponding period of 1907.

Analysis by Industries.

Table with columns: Industry, Month of Aug., 1908, 1907, and 1908, 1907. It is divided into sections for Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning (Mercurial, Phosphorus, Arsenic), and Anthrax.

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during August, 1908, was 274, an increase of 73 as compared with a month ago, and of 28 as compared with August, 1907.

The mean number for August in the years 1903-1907 was 232, the maximum year being 1907 with 246 deaths, and the minimum year 1905 with 214 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in August, 1908, was 172, as compared with 88 in July, and 86 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during August, 1908, was 81, as compared with 72 in the previous month, and 113 a year ago.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during August, 1908, was 80, as compared with 89 in July, 1908, and 158 in August, 1907.

During the eight months ended August, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 1,963, as compared with 1,916 in the corresponding period of 1907.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Aug., 1908, July, 1908, Aug., 1907), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1908, as compared with a Month ago, Year ago.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.\*

Number and Magnitude.—Sixteen disputes began in August 1908, as compared with 24 in July, 1908, and 27 in July, 1907. By the 16 disputes, 1,836 workpeople were directly and 761 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 24,211 workpeople involved in trade disputes during August 1908, compared with 35,903 in July, 1908, and 13,912 in August, 1907.

New Disputes in August, 1908.—In the following Table the new disputes in August are summarised by trades affected:—

Table with columns: Trades, No. of Disputes, and No. of Workpeople involved (Directly, Indirectly, Total).

Causes.—Of the 16 new disputes, 1 arose on a demand for increased wages, 4 on objections to reduction in wages, 5 on other wages questions, 1 on details of working arrangements, 3 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 2 on questions of Trade Union principles.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 8 new disputes, directly involving 634 persons, and 7 old disputes, directly involving 1,536 persons.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with columns: Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople Involved, Date when Dispute began, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND.

Information respecting rates of wages agreed upon at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland in the spring and summer months of this year has been received from a correspondent who made special inquiries on behalf of this Department.

The report shows that, on the whole, men's wages showed little or no change compared with a year ago.

people, were compromised. In the case of 3 other disputes, work has been resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in August of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 98,100 working days.

Summary for the First Eight Months of 1907 and 1908.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the eight months January—August, 1907 and 1908, respectively, were as follows:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, Jan.-Aug., 1907, Jan.-Aug., 1908. Sub-headers: No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople involved, Aggregate Duration in Working Days.

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

Slackness in other industries, particularly in the building industry, caused a slight decrease in wages in some districts, but generally men were able to hold out for previous rates, owing to the backward condition into which the severe weather of the early spring had thrown field work.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in August.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in August, 1908, was a decrease of £3,140 per week, as compared with a decrease of £17,144 per week in July, 1908, and an increase of £24,819 per week in August, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 160,290, of whom 394 received advances amounting to £38 per week, and 159,896 sustained decreases amounting to £3,178 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 191,232, and in August, 1907, 265,328.

Two changes, affecting 24 workpeople, were settled by arbitration; two changes, affecting 124,500 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and six changes, affecting 26,058 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 9,708 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for the eight completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the eight months ended August 31st, 1908, was 871,352, as compared with 1,189,866 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 420,928 workpeople a net increase of £21,980 per week, and 444,424 workpeople a net decrease of £58,563 per week, whilst the remaining 6,000 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes

was thus a decrease of £36,583 per week, as compared with an increase of £152,674 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result in their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table showing changes in wages by groups of trades for January-August 1907 and 1908. Columns include Groups of Trades, No., £, and Total.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in August, 1908, affected 4,404 workpeople, of whom 2,500 had their aggregate working hours increased by 12,500 per week, and 1,904 had reductions amounting to 4,717 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the eight months ended August 31st, 1908, was 15,905. Of these, 3,099 had their aggregate working time increased by 13,186 hours per week, and 12,806 had reductions amounting to 21,934 hours per week.

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

Table detailing principal changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in August, organized into sections for Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour, listing trades, localities, occupations, and specific changes.

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in September it was arranged that the rates of wages of miners in the Federated Districts (Yorkshire, Lancashire, Midlands, &c.) should be reduced by 5 per cent., leaving them 55 per cent. above the standard. Full particulars will appear in the October GAZETTE.

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in August, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 215 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with July, 1908, the total number of paupers increased by 3,088 (0·8 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers showed an increase of 2,063 (1·2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers 1,025 (0·5 per cent.). Increases occurred in 22 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (18 per 10,000), and in the Leicester district (14 per 10,000); in six districts there were slight decreases, and in seven there was no change.

Compared with August, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 7. The number of indoor paupers increased by 9,543 (5·9 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 7,660 (3·7 per cent.). In twenty-six districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (114 per 10,000); in the remaining nine districts there were decreases.

Table showing pauperism in August, including paupers on one day in second week of August 1908, and rate per 10,000 of population. Includes sub-tables for England & Wales, Other Districts, and Scotland.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN AUGUST.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 298.

THE following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of August, by those Committees whose registers were still open at that date. The Edmonton Distress Committee closed its register for the receipt of fresh applications during August.

The Committees were requested, in making up their returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work, or to have left the neighbourhood, since registration; and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified.

Table showing the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of August, 1908, categorized by District Committees.

The following Table shows the amount of employment-relief provided by all Committees, including those whose registers were not open for the receipt of new applications:—

Table showing the amount of employment-relief provided by all Committees, including those whose registers were not open for the receipt of new applications, with columns for Days, £, and Total.

It will be seen that the average number of days' employment-relief given was between 15 and 16, and the average amount of wages paid was about 39s. per man, or 2s. 6d. a day.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

THE Local Government Board have issued a memorandum for the information of persons desiring to make claims for pensions under the Old Age Pensions Act, 1908. The memorandum deals with the conditions attaching to the pension, as regards age, length of residence, limits of income, &c.; disqualifications, such as receipt of poor relief, convictions for offences, &c.; and procedure for making claims and for making appeals against decisions of the Pensions Committees.

Copies of the memorandum may be obtained, gratis, from the Local Government Board, Parliament Street, London, S.W. Forms for claiming pensions will be obtainable at any post office about the end of September. Claims must be made on these forms only, and should be handed in to the post master of the post office where the pension is to be paid, or to the pension officer.

\* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number on the "unemployed register" was 1,384. † Including some not registered by the Distress Committees. ‡ The number given employment-relief includes 13 on piecework, the aggregate duration of whose employment cannot be stated.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.\*

NOTE.—Labour bureaux whose registers are identical with those of Distress Committees are excluded from this Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in August, see page 297.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 48 Labour Bureaux during August; of these Bureaux 29 were in London (including West Ham), and 19 in the Provinces. Of the 29 London Bureaux, 26 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 19,219, of which 15,183 were in London, and 4,036 in the Provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 4,011, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 3,075, or 16.0 per cent. of the applications received, and 76.7 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 1,968 (or 64.0 per cent.), and temporary 1,107 (or 36.0 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades, as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 273; wood-working trades, 34;

metal and engineering trades, 94; other skilled trades, 74; "transport and general," 242; other trades, men and boys, 546; women and girls, 615. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 127; metal and engineering trades, 39; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 192; general labourers, 78; bill distributors, 134; employees of local authorities, 113; charwomen and domestic servants, 132; other occupations, 193. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 189 men.

At 44 of the Bureaux mentioned below, figures for 1907 are available. The number of applicants registered at these Bureaux was 18,803 in August, 1908, as compared with 13,117 in August, 1907. Employers offered 3,822 situations during August, 1908, of which 2,901 were filled. In August, 1907, 3,671 situations were offered, and 2,715 filled. The number of workpeople on the registers at the end of August, 1908, was 16,483, as compared with 10,992 in August, 1907.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING AUGUST, 1908.

Table showing work done by each bureau during August, 1908. Columns include Name of Bureau, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations, Perma-nent, Temporary, Total), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

\* The figures for the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange relate to the 4 weeks ended August 28th, 1908; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August 652 fresh applications (372 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 9 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 539 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 134 persons, of whom 86 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 134 situations found for applicants, 98 were of a more or less permanent character, while 36 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was greatly in excess of the supply; the supply of housekeepers, ladies' maids, and companions was greatly in excess of the demand; in the case of children's nurses and housemaids demand and supply were fairly well balanced.

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

Table showing work done by women's employment bureaux during August. Columns include Applications by Work-people during (Aug., 1908, Aug., 1907), Situations offered by Employers during (Aug., 1908, Aug., 1907), Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Perma-nent, Temporary) for Aug., 1908 and Aug., 1907. Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations are also included.

In addition to the above registered applications, the Returns show that 34 persons in London and 11 in Edinburgh were referred to other Agencies; 151 persons in London and 54 in Dublin were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended August 29th, 1908, amounted to £3,988,527, a decrease of £263,947 (or 6.2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the thirty-five weeks ended August 29th, 1908, the receipts amounted to £36,208,075, a decrease of £1,573,233 (or 4.2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

Table comparing railway goods and mineral traffic receipts for 4 weeks ended August 29th, 1908 and 35 weeks ended August 29th, 1907. Columns include Amount and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING AUGUST.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.) Report from the Select Committee on Home Work, with Proceedings, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. Appendix contains London County Council schedule of minimum prices to be paid by contractors to workpeople in clothing contracts, memorandum on legislative regulation of Home Industry in certain Foreign Countries, &c. [H.C. 246: pp. 1 + 216: price 2s. 1½d.] Agricultural Statistics, 1907. Vol. XLII. Part III. Prices and Supplies of Corn, Live Stock, and other Agricultural Produce. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 4264: pp. 173: price 8½d.] Annual Report of Proceedings under Acts relating to Sea Fisheries for the year 1906. Quantity and value of fish landed; number and tonnage of fishing vessels in certain foreign countries, and persons engaged. [Cd. 4064: pp. xcvi. + 123: price 1s. 1½d.] Interim Report of Proceedings under the Small Holdings and Allotment Acts for the six months ending June 30th, 1908. Administration of the Act of 1907. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 4245: pp. 92: price 5d.] Departmental Committee on Agricultural Education in England and Wales. Minutes of Evidence, with Index. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 4207: pp. xiii. + 645: price 5s. 3d.] Report from the Select Committee on the Hop Industry, with Proceedings, Evidence and Index. [H.C. 213: pp. liv. + 591: price 5s. 4d.] Report to Home Office on the causes of and circumstances attending an Underground Fire which occurred at Hamstead Colliery on March 4th, 1908. By R. A. S. Redmayne. [Cd. 4231: pp. 19: price 1s. 6d.] Report to Home Office on the circumstances attending an Explosion at Washington "Globe" Colliery, in the County of Durham, on February 20th, 1908. By J. B. Atkinson. [Cd. 4183: pp. 22: price 7d.] Thirty-second Annual Report of H.M. Inspector of Explosives, 1907. Explosives in coal mines, accidents, list of explosives authorised for manufacture or importation, &c. Home Office. [Cd. 4224: pp. 147: price 1s. 2d.] Aliens Act, 1905. Return of Alien Passenger Traffic between the United Kingdom and Ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea, with Expulsion Orders made during three months ended June 30th, 1908. Home Office. [Cd. 4223: pp. 8: price 1½d.] Paupers and Dependents (Scotland). Return for the year ended May 15th, 1907, showing number of all ordinary poor and their dependants chargeable to Parish Councils in Scotland. Scottish Office. [H.C. 284: pp. xii. + 57: price 7d.] Forty-fourth Detailed Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Ireland. General Abstract of the numbers of marriages, births and deaths registered in Ireland during the year 1907. [Cd. 4233: pp. xlix. + 179: price 2s. 7d.] Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for period April 1st, 1907, to March 31st, 1908. Proceedings under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1906, fair rents fixed, &c. [Cd. 4242: pp. iv. + 151: price 1s. 3d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Victoria. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Work-rooms and Shops for the year ended December 31st, 1907. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Government Printer: pp. 125: price 3s. 3d.] Victoria. Determinations of Wages Boards. Cycle Trade Board, dated May 26th, 1908, cancelling Determination of August 6th, 1907. Coopers' Board, dated March 20th, 1908, cancelling Determination of October 11th, 1907. Shirt, &c., Board, dated May 30th, 1908, cancelling all previous Determinations. State Regulation of Labour and Labour Disputes in New Zealand. A description and a criticism. Henry Broadhead. [Whitcombe & Tombs, Ltd.: price 7s. 6d.] Canada. The Labour Gazette, July, 1908. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during June; Nova Scotia legislation affecting labour, 1908, &c. New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, July, 1908. Condition of employment and trade; cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States. United States Department of Commerce and Labour. Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour. No. 75. March, 1908. Wholesale prices, 1890 to 1907; industrial hygiene, by G. M. Kober, M.D.; decisions of Courts affecting labour, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 380.] New York Department of Labour Bulletin. No. 37. June, 1908. Unemployment and wages in first quarter of 1908; trade unions, March, 1908; labour laws of 1908; children's wages in New York factories, 1908, &c. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., State Printers.] Quarterly Publications of the American Statistical Association. Vol. XI. June, 1908. Contains "Problems of Social Statistics and Social Research," by Frederick L. Hoffman; "Strike Statistics," by Ira Cross. France. Journal of the French Labour Department, July, 1908. "Conseils de Prud'hommes" in 1905; employment and labour disputes in June. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie.: price 2d.] Higher Council of Labour. Proceedings of the 17th Session, November, 1907. [Paris: pp. xvi. + 220.] Germany. Journal of the German Labour Department, July, 1908. Unemployment in the second quarter of 1908; strikes and lock-outs in 1907,



**Germany—(continued.)**

August, 1908. Social-Democratic and Christian Trade Unions in 1907; employment in July. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d. each.]

*Journal of the Statistical Office of Saxony.* Part II., 1907. Housing statistics (Inquiry of December 1st, 1905), sickness insurance in Saxony up to 1906. [Dresden: Von Zahn & Jaensch.]

*Strikes and Lock-outs in Germany in 1907.* Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: pp. 92: price 2s.]

*Sickness Insurance in Germany in 1906.* Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: pp. xxxiii. + 81: price 2s. 6d.]

(1) *Employers' Associations: their history, organisation and activity.*  
(2) *The history and statistics of the Christian Trade Unions.* The Workmen's Library. Parts 11 and 2. 1908. [München-Gladbach: Verlag der Westdeutschen Arbeiterzeitung: pp. 30 and 112 respectively: prices 2d. and 4d.]

*Statistical Yearbook of Wiesbaden, 1907 (first year).* Municipal Statistical Office. [Wiesbaden: J. F. Bergmann: pp. 65.]

*Report of the Miners' Insurance Association for 1907.* Supplement to *Der Kompass*, No. 16, 1908. [Berlin N.W. 23: pp. 81.]

*Statistics of Magdeburg, 1907.* Statistics of employment, population and housing. Municipal Statistical Office. [Magdeburg: pp. 59.]

*Statistical Handbook of Wurtemberg, 1906 and 1907.* Statistics of employment registries, labour disputes, trade unions, co-operation, savings banks, workmen's insurance, prices, &c. Statistical Office of Wurtemberg, 1908. [Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer: pp. 286.]

**Austria.**

*Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, June, 1908.* Labour disputes in Austria in May, and in Hungary in 1906. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d.]

*Labour Agreements in Austria in 1906.* Austrian Labour Department 1908. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. vi. + 145.]

*Overtime worked in Austrian Factories in 1907.* Austrian Labour Department. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. 31.]

**Italy.**

*Higher Council of Labour.* Proceedings at Session XI., February, 1908. Italian Labour Department. [Rome: pp. 204.]

*Journal of the Italian Labour Department, July, 1908.* Statistics of chambers of labour (beginning of 1908). [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

**Belgium.**

*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, July 31st, 1908.* Labour disputes in June. August 15th, 1908. Employment in July; prices of commodities on July 31st. [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price 1d. each.]

*Report for 1906 on Railway, Post, Telegraph, Telephone and Marine Services.* Statistics of savings banks and accidents to railway servants. [Brussels: J. Goemaere, 21, rue de la Limite.]

*Statistical Yearbook of Belgium.* Statistics of industrial accidents, trade unions, friendly societies, workmen's dwellings, prices of meat, cereals, &c. Ministry of the Interior, 1908. [Brussels: pp. 455.]

**Holland.**

*Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, July, 1908.* Factory inspection in 1905 and 1906, employment and labour disputes in June. [The Hague: Gebrueders Belinfante: price 2d.]

**Switzerland.**

*Census of Occupations of August 9th, 1905.* Vol. I. Number of establishments and persons occupied. Part 8 (last). Summary for whole of Switzerland. Federal Statistical Office, 1908. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. 172 + 626: price 4s.]

**Sweden.**

*Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 5, 1908.* Prices of articles of food in March, 1908. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

*Labour Agreements in Sweden: (1) List of Agreements in force; (2) Selection of Texts of Agreements in Various Trades.* [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. 479.]

**Spain.**

*Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, July, 1908.* Industrial accidents in 1907; employment registries and prices in March, 1908. [Madrid: Calle Mayor 93: price 2½d.]

**Portugal.**

*Journal of the Portuguese Labour Department, No. 14, 1908.* [Lisbon: Imprensa Nacional.]

**Chile.**

*Labour Statistics: their history, nature and scope.* Ministry of Public Works, 1908. [Santiago de Chile: pp. 66 + 14.]

**Argentine Republic.**

*Journal of the Labour Department of the Argentine Republic, June 30th, 1908.* Cost of living and wages in Buenos Aires in 1908 and 1903. [Buenos Aires: price 1s. 9d.]

**CONSULAR REPORTS.**

(The Consular Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct or through any bookseller.)

*Consular Reports. Annual Series.* No. 4084. *Trade of the Consular District of Frankfurt for the year 1907.* Cost of living, industrial census of June 12th, 1907, strikes, trade unions, syndicates, state of labour market, &c. [Cd. 3727-167: pp. 130: price 6½d.]

No. 4093. *Trade, Commerce and Agriculture of the Consular District of Chicago, 1907.* Statistics of industries, agricultural and industrial education, immigration, &c. [Cd. 3727-176: pp. 74: price 4d.]

No. 4079. *Trade of Finland for the year 1907.* Emigration, rents, &c. [Cd. 3727-162: pp. 25: price 2d.]

**Consular Reports—(continued.)**

*Consular Reports. Annual Series.* No. 4089. *Trade and Commerce of Denmark, 1907.* Industries of towns, co-operative production and distribution, &c. [Cd. 3727-172: pp. 38: price 2½d.]

No. 4095. *Trade and Commerce of Pomerania, 1907.* Increased cost of living, old age and accident insurance, contributory pension scheme at Vulcan Works, Stettin, &c. [Cd. 3727-178: pp. 53: price 3d.]

No. 4097. *Trade of South Italy (Supplementary), 1907.* New law regulating work of women and children, workmen's compensation law, &c. [Cd. 3727-180: pp. 32: price 2d.]

**INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES****REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING AUGUST.**

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

**(1) REGISTERED.**

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in August was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 12; under the Friendly Societies Act, 40 (including 20 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 1; in all, 56.

Among the new Societies registered in August were the following:—

**Trade Unions.**—*England.*—2, viz., Street Traders' Brotherhood Trade Union, 36, Beresford Street, Woolwich; National Iron Ore Miners' Assoc., 22, High Street, Cleator Moor, S.O. Cumb. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Scottish Trades Union of Steam, Hydraulic and Electric Workers, 11, Stewart Street, Mossena. *Ireland.*—Nil.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England.*—11, viz., *Co-operative Productive Societies:* (2) Tymeinwr Builders' Soc., Ltd., 1, Ffaldau Villas, Victoria Street, Pontycymmer, Bridgend, Glamorgan; Portsmouth Printers, Ltd., 38, Middle Street, Southsea, Portsmouth. *Co-operative Agricultural Society:* (1) Pumpsaint and Dist. Agricultural Co.-op. Soc., Ltd., Taulan, Llansawel, Llandilo, S.O. Carm. *Working Men's Clubs:* (5) Sunderland East End Workmen's Social Club and Inst., Ltd., 166, High Street East, Sunderland; Catchgate Excelsior Club and Inst., Ltd., Club House, Front Street, Catchgate, Annfield Plain, S.O., Durham; Burnhope and Holmside Workmen's Club and Inst., Ltd., Club House, Peartree Cottage, Holmside Lane, Burnhope, Durham; Medomsley Pretoria Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., Pretoria Club House, Medomsley, S.O., co. Durham; Tantobie and Dist. Union Club and Inst., Ltd., Club House, Tantobie, S.O., co. Durham. *Miscellaneous:* (3) including 2 Small Holdings Societies. *Scotland.*—1, Miscellaneous. *Ireland.*—Nil.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—20, viz., Cleator Moor Working Men's Independent Club and Inst., Cleator Moor, S.O., Cumberland; Norman Workmen's Social Club, Old South Moor, Chester-le-Street; West Humberstone Working Men's Constitutional Club, Leicester; Mile End Reform Club and Inst., London, E.; Triers Cricket Working Men's Club, King's Norton, Birmingham; Adwick-le-Street and Carcroft Working Men's Club and Inst., Adwick-le-Street, Doncaster; Four Lane Ends Working Men's Club, Gillington, Bradford; Leicester Perseverance Allotments Soc., Leicester; Aspatria and Dist. Friendly Soc., Aspatria, S.O., Cumb.; Weardale Lead Company, Ltd., Miners' Union and Benefit Soc., St. John's Chapel, S.O. co. Durham; Basingstoke and Dist. Medical Aid Soc., Basingstoke; Musicians' General Sick Provident and Burial Soc., Rusholme, Manchester; Baltic Mercantile and Shipping Exchange Friendly Soc., London, E.C.; London and Suburban Mutual Benefit Assoc., London, W.C.; Pride and Peasedown Independent Friendly Soc., Peasedown, Camerton, Bath; Old Stone Cross Sick and Dividend Soc., Dale End, Birmingham; Porchester Musicians' Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Forge Tavern Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Cinder Bank Sick and Funeral Soc., Netherton, Dudley; Rose of Airedale Peaceful Dove Friendly Soc., Bingley. *Scotland.*—Nil. *Ireland.*—Nil.

**(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.**

	Notices Received in August of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions ... ..	...	...	1
Industrial and Provident Societies ... ..	...	4	1
Friendly Societies... ..	...	13	...
Building " " Branches ... ..	...	27	...
Building " " ... ..	2	8	...

Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & Co., LTD, 31-37, Cursitor Street, London, E.C.; and to be purchased, either directly or through any Newsagent, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C., or OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.—Price 1d.—September, 1908.