

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

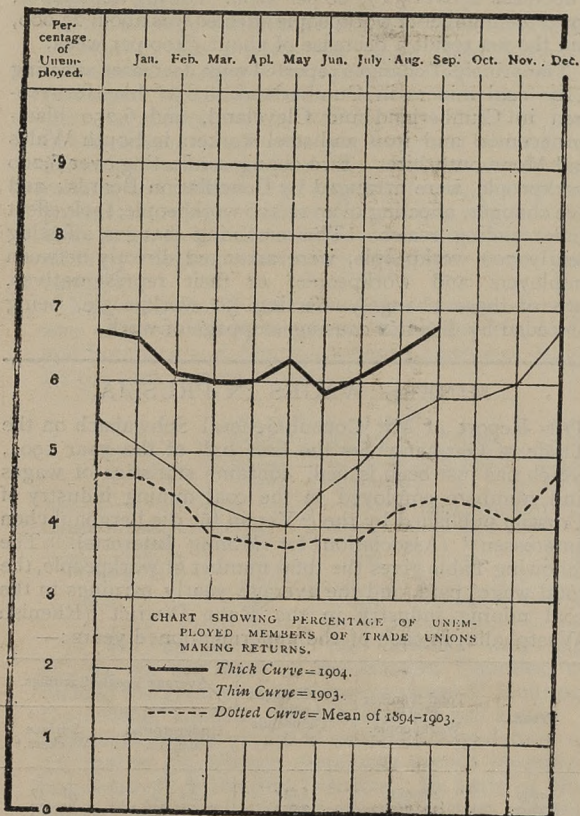
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PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN SEPTEMBER.

[Based on 4,577 returns, viz.: 3,080 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,409 from Trade Unions, and 88 from other sources.]

Generally speaking, employment in September was dull, and showed on the whole a slight decline as compared with August, especially in the shipbuilding trade. In the cotton trade employment showed an improvement, owing to the resumption of full time in mills using American cotton.

As compared with a year ago employment showed a decline, except in the cotton and tinsplate industries.

In the 273 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 575,575 making returns, 39,005 (or 6.8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 6.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1904, and 5.8 per cent. at the end of September, 1903.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry showed some seasonal improvement during September, and was nearly as good as a year ago. At collieries employing 546,670 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 5.16 days per week in September, as compared with 5.22 in the corresponding month of 1903. At the pits for which returns were received the number of workpeople employed in September was slightly greater than in August, and 1.3 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good. At the 129 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 24th September was 5.82, as compared with 5.78 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed was 1.7 per cent. more than a month ago, and 0.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry was slightly better than in August, but continued worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters showed that 299 furnaces, employing about 21,200 workpeople, were in blast at the end of September, as compared with 297 at the end of August and 315 in September, 1903.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment in this industry showed a slight decrease as compared with a month ago, and a somewhat greater decrease as compared with September, 1903. Returns relating to 194 works, employing 73,433 workpeople, showed a decrease in the total volume of employment during the week ended September 24th of 0.2 per cent. as compared with August, and of 4.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Tinsplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry was slightly better than in the previous month and considerably better than a year ago. At the end of September 382 mills were working, as compared with 379 at the end of August and 345 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed in September, 1904, was 19,100.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in this industry continued dull generally, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of September was 7.4, compared with 6.8 at the end of August, and 4.8 at the end of September, 1903.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment in this industry continued bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of September was 15.3, as compared with 12.7 at the end of August, and 13.4 at the end of September, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continued dull, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 7.0 at the end of September, compared with 5.9 in August, and 4.0 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 9.5 at the end of September, compared with 8.9 at the end of August, and 6.4 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was slack, about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of September was 7.1, as compared with 6.8 per cent. in August, and 4.5 per cent. a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment in September remained slack. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 6.3, as compared with the same percentage in August, and 5.2 in September, 1903.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade remained fair. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of September was 3.0, as compared with 3.2 in August and 2.8 per cent. in September, 1903.

Employment in the *Glass* trade was moderate in the bottle-making branch, and slack in the flint-glass branch, in the *Pottery* trades it was quiet; in the *Brick* and *Tile* trades slack.

Cotton Trade.—Employment on the whole showed an improvement. Organised short time was worked by spinners of Egyptian cotton, but most spinners of American cotton worked full time. Returns from firms employing 55,500 workpeople in preparing and spinning show that 26.9 per cent. were in mills working short time during the last week in September, compared with 43.1 per cent. during the last working week in August, and 48.5 per cent. during the last week of September, 1903. Of the 103,800 workpeople in weaving and other departments, 10.2 per cent. were in factories working short time during the last week in September, compared with 13.9 per cent. in August, and 30.9 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the *Woollen* trade was good, and better than a month ago; it was much the same as a year ago. In the *Worsted* trade it continued bad, and was worse than a year ago.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade continued bad in England, but improved in Scotland. In the *Jute* and *Flax* trades it continued moderate, and was worse than year ago.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade showed some seasonal improvement in London, but was worse than a year ago; in the provinces it was bad. In the ready-made branch it continued bad, and was worse than a year ago.

Employment in the silk and felt *Hat-making* trades showed an improvement, but was worse than a year ago. In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 13.1, compared with 14.2 per cent. at the end of August, and 13.3 per cent. a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade the corresponding percentages were 1.3, 2.1, and 0.8.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued bad and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from 378 firms, employing 52,736 workpeople, and paying £48,271 in wages during the last week in September, showed a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the last week in August, and of 2.3 per cent. compared with the last week in September, 1903.

Other Leather Trades.—In these trades the percentage of unemployed fell off, but there was still a considerable amount of short time, and employment was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of September was 9.8, as compared with 11.2 in August, and 7.4 in September, 1903.

Agricultural Labourers continued well employed on the whole during September, the weather having been favourable for outdoor work. The supply of day labourers was, generally speaking, somewhat in excess of the demand, and some of them were consequently in irregular employment.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during September remained moderate, showing a slight decline on the whole as compared with a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended September 24th was 12,487, an increase of 1.8 per cent. on the average for August, and a decrease of 9.5 per cent. on the average for September, 1903. The average number employed in September during the seven years 1897-1903 was 15,212.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during September, 1904, was 13,916, compared with 12,969 in August and 11,577 in September, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 130,000 working days, as compared with 228,000 in the previous month, and 120,000 in September, 1903.

Twenty-one disputes began in September, involving 8,141 workpeople, compared with 15 in August, and 24 in September, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 25 disputes, new and old, affecting 9,610 workpeople. Of these disputes, three, involving 2,302 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; seventeen, involving 5,256 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and five, involving 2,052 persons, were compromised. In the case of seven other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 2,295 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during September affected over 21,000 workpeople, of whom over 1,500 received advances, while nearly 19,500 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of over £200 per week. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 356,600 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of over £17,600 per week. During September, 1903, the number of workpeople affected was about 23,000, and the net result a decrease of about £400 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 6,200 coal miners in Cumberland, 6,850 blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and Cleveland, and 6,250 blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire. Two changes, affecting over 6,200 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and five changes, affecting over 14,100 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting nearly 700 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, two of these changes, affecting 50 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

MINERS' WAGES IN PRUSSIA.

THE Report of Mr. Consul-General Schwabach on the Trade of Germany* for the first half of the year 1904, which has just been issued, contains statistics of wages and numbers employed in the coal mining industry of Prussia, published by the "Verein für die bergbäulichen Interessen" (Association for Mining Interests). The following Table gives the total number of workpeople, the total wages paid, and the average yearly earnings in the coal mining industry in the Ruhr District (Rhenish Westphalia) in each of the undermentioned years:—

Year.	Total Number of Workpeople.	Total Wages paid (Thousands of £).	Average Yearly Earnings.	
			Underground Miners.	Surface Workers.†
1890	123,984	6,617	£ s.	£ s.
1895	150,212	7,273	59 3	46 17
1899	199,138	12,498	55 14	44 13
1900	220,031	14,650	74 11	53 16
1901	236,769	14,490	79 12	56 5
1902	236,543	13,380	72 7	54 0
1903	248,120	14,948	65 4	52 7
			70 11	54 14

The average yearly earnings of both miners and surface workers were greatest in 1900 and least in 1895, those in the latter year being 30 per cent. below the level of the former for miners, and nearly 21 per cent. for surface workers. In 1903 the earnings of miners and surface workers were 11 per cent. and 2½ per cent. respectively below the level of 1900.

The following Table gives the number of employees in the coal mining industry of Prussia in 1902 and 1903, together with the net earnings for the same period after deduction of insurance contributions:—

District.	1902.		1903.	
	Numbers employed.	Net Annual Earnings.	Numbers employed.	Net Annual Earnings.
Upper Silesia	79,179	£ s.	82,213	£ s.
Lower Silesia	34,061	41 0	41 12	41 7
Dortmund	236,543	39 19	248,120	41 7
Saarbrücken	42,036	56 11	43,811	60 5
Aix-la-Chapelle	12,361	52 13	13,178	53 8
		55 19		57 11

* Diplomatic and Consular Reports (Annual Series). Report for the First Half Year 1904 on the Trade of Germany. Cd. 2236-31. 1904. Price 2½d.

† Exclusive of youths and female workers.

HARVEST WAGES IN 1904.

RETURNS have been furnished to the Department relating to 97 farms in the Eastern, Midland and Southern Counties of England showing the cash earnings for the corn harvest of 1904 of 1,233 agricultural labourers, exclusive of the value of food and drink which may have been provided for them in addition to their money wages.

The corn ripened quickly this year and harvesting was commenced earlier than usual. Self-binding machines were very extensively used, as the corn stood up well, and consequently there was not much demand for extra men and most of the harvest work was done by the regular staffs of the farms in a number of localities. In some districts of the Eastern Counties several men failed to secure harvest engagements, and had to content themselves with turnip hoeing and other work at ordinary rates of wages.

The average duration of the harvest on the 97 farms covered by the returns was 24 working days. The corresponding figure for 1902, when the harvest was prolonged by unfavourable weather, was 33 days. In 1901 the average was 24 working days. In that year, as in the present one, the weather was most favourable and the crops were secured quickly. Returns were received relating to the harvest of 1903, but as the harvest was so protracted owing to bad weather, during which labourers were in many instances employed at other farm work on ordinary wages, satisfactory averages could not be compiled.

The following Table shows the average earnings of men employed on certain farms in the Eastern, Midland, and Southern and South-Western Counties of England, for the corn harvest of 1904:—

District.	No. of Farms to which Returns relate.	No. of Men employed at Harvest on the Farms reported on.	Average Duration of Harvest.	Average Cash Earnings for Harvest per Man.	
				Working Days.	£ s. d.
Eastern Counties ...	43	619	22	7	5 7
Midland Counties ...	23	222	25	5	13 6
Southern and South-Western Counties	31	392	25	4	17 2
Total	97	1,233	24	6	4 5

It will be seen that the earnings were highest (£7 5s. 7d. per man) in the Eastern Counties, which include the great corn-growing counties of Huntingdon, Cambridge, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. The payments in this group of counties ranged from about £6 10s. to £8, though more was earned by some men on piecework in the Fen Districts. In parts of Norfolk and in Suffolk and Essex the usual system of payment is for the labourer to contract with the farmer to perform the harvest work for a fixed sum, irrespective of the number of days occupied. A short harvest, as in 1901 and this year, is thus a profitable one for the labourer, as he gets back to ordinary farm work at weekly wages sooner than in years such as 1902 and 1903, when harvest was lengthened by unfavourable weather.

In the Midland Counties the average harvest earnings, according to the returns received, were £5 13s. 6d. per man, or £1 12s. 1d. less than in the Eastern Counties, while 392 farm labourers in the Southern and South-Western Counties earned, on an average, £4 17s. 2d. each only. In the Midland and Southern groups of counties the systems of payment are frequently on a time-work basis, and harvest earnings fluctuate from year to year according to the duration of the harvest. In 1902, when the harvest was long, the average earnings for the Midland labourers were £6 14s. 11d., and for those in the Southern Counties £5 17s., or £1 4s. 5d. and 10s. 10d. more respectively than in 1904.

The various methods of payment are as follows (apart from the Eastern Counties, for which the general method of payment has already been described):—To give the work in separate portions as piecework; to give the ordinary weekly wages and, in addition, a bonus of a pound or two at the end of harvest; to give extra time wages for a month certain, and then to pay the ordinary weekly wages; to pay double the ordinary weekly wages during harvest; to pay a certain rate per day as long as

harvest lasts. Occasionally the ordinary weekly wage is paid and overtime money given.

In addition to cash payments beer or cider is frequently given, and in some cases light refreshments, such as tea, bread, butter and cheese.

The Northern Counties have been excluded from the above Table, as the majority of the farm servants in the North are hired by the year or half-year, and paid a regular wage with free board and lodging during the whole of the period for which they are hired, and are given no extra money for harvest, though they are often given extra food and drink. Except in Northumberland and Durham, where the system of engagement closely resembles that in the Border Counties of Scotland, the married men attached to the staff of a farm generally get from about £4 to £6 for a month at harvest, some food and drink being frequently given in addition. Extra hands, both English and Irish, in these districts sometimes get rather higher money payments than the regular men, and often more food. The Irishmen are usually provided with lodging in barns or outhouses on the farms.

RECENT STRIKES IN ITALY.*

A STRIKE of miners, having for its object a reduction of the hours of labour as well as modifications in the scale of pay, broke out early in September at Buggerru, in Sardinia, and led to a collision between the strikers and some troops, with the result that a number of the former were killed or wounded. On September 11th a mass meeting, organised by the Chamber of Labour (Trades Council) of Milan, was held at that city, and a resolution passed protesting against the action of the military and inviting the working classes of Italy to proclaim a general strike within eight days. The meeting further invited the Milan Chamber of Labour to act as its interpreter, and to signify to all the various labour organisations the decision arrived at regarding a general protest.

As a result of this resolution, general strikes were begun in Milan, Rome and Genoa on September 17th. On September 19th similar strikes began in Florence, Naples and a number of other towns, but at Palermo the workmen ignored the invitation to strike.

At Milan the strike affected all classes of the population, and the city was without gas at night. The Municipal Council issued a declaration of solidarity with the working classes, and despatched the Mayor with two councillors to Rome to lay the protest of the working classes before the Government. A group of Municipal Councillors at Turin also addressed a request to the Government not to allow the military forces to intervene in this "pacific conflict between capital and labour." Signor Giolitti, the Premier, issued a reply containing a statement of his policy and views corresponding to a statement which he had already made to the deputation from Milan. As a result, the Chamber of Labour at Milan pronounced in favour of a resumption of work, and their example was followed by Rome, Turin, Bologna, and many smaller cities, so that on September 20th H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Rome was able to report that the general strike was practically over.

At Rome the strike had only been partial; tramways and cabs ceased to ply, and bakers, scavengers and gasmen refused to work. Military bakers were, however, at once put in charge of the bakeries, and the lighting of the city was taken in hand by soldiers from the corps of engineers, so that little practical inconvenience was occasioned by the two days' strike.

WATER GAS AND OTHER GASES IN FACTORIES.
A MEMORANDUM as to the use of Water Gas and other Gases in Factories has recently been issued by the Home Office. The particular danger associated with the gases referred to is that of poisoning by carbonic oxide (CO), the symptoms of which are described in the Memorandum. Certain precautionary measures of general application are enumerated, one of these being that notices should be posted up stating the deadly nature of the gas, the symptoms produced by its inhalation, and the best means of rendering aid to those who are "gassed." A form of such notice is included in the Memorandum.

* Based on a series of despatches dated September 14th to 22nd, and addressed to the Foreign Office by Sir Rennell Rodd H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Rome.

CHILD LABOUR IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

A RECENTLY issued bulletin* of the United States Bureau of Labour contains a report on the employment of children under 16 in the United States. The information given relates to thirteen States selected as employing the largest numbers of children. Particulars were obtained from 215 establishments employing 15,857 children under 16 (8,503 males and 7,354 females).

The regulations as to minimum age and other matters in connection with the employment of children vary in different States. In Massachusetts, where the minimum age in manufacturing and mercantile establishments is 14, and no child can be employed without an age and schooling certificate, it is stated that children employed without certificates were rarely found. In Pennsylvania (the State in which the largest number of children are employed) the minimum age is 13, and the law requires age certificates for all under 16 to be kept on file. It was found that these files were not carefully kept. About a fourth of the children reported on in this State were between 12 and 14 years of age and the remaining three-fourths between 14 and 16. In North Carolina there was at the time of the inquiry no legal restriction on the ages at which children could be employed. About 18 per cent. of the working children whose ages were investigated in this State were under 12, about 36 per cent. between 12 and 14, and about 46 per cent. between 14 and 16. Manufacturers in this State declared that personally they had no desire to employ young children, that there was no profit in it for themselves, and that so far as possible they had excluded those under 12; but the demand of parents for work for their children was so great that it could not be withstood without the loss of good operatives, since the latter would not hesitate to leave employers who refused to employ their children, and would seek less scrupulous employers. Against this should be set the remark of a manufacturer in South Carolina who, after stating that about one-fifth of his spinning frames were idle, said that this was not due so much to the high price of cotton as to the fact that spinning frames could be made faster than spinners could be found to run them. In North Carolina there is much night work among the yarn mills. Of 66 children working at night in four mills, 8 (5 boys and 3 girls) were under 12, 24 were between 12 and 14, and 34 between 14 and 16.

Textile industries use much child labour but the proportion varies in different States. It is largest in the Southern States and least in the Eastern States. In Massachusetts and Rhode Island the proportion of children under 16 was about 6 per cent. of the total numbers employed, while in South Carolina it was 21 per cent. and in North Carolina 24 per cent. The children found in the cotton factories in the Southern States were white children, except a very few in two establishments, but coloured children were found employed in tobacco factories.

Information relating to 15,111 children under 16 employed in various industries showed that 30.5 per cent. were earning under 12s. 6d. a week, 38.5 per cent. were earning between 12s. 6d. and 16s. 8d., and 31 per cent. were earning over 16s. 8d. a week.

With respect to hours of labour it is stated that the facts which appear most prominent are the lack of uniformity in regard both to working time and intermissions, and the greater number of hours in the Southern textile factories as compared with factories of any kind in the Northern and Western States. The usual hours per week in textile establishments in Massachusetts were 58, while in the Southern States they were 66. Southern manufacturers claim that in a warm climate more hours are required to accomplish the same production than in a colder climate. Much broken time appeared in the time records of children in many Southern factories, but children seldom lost by broken time enough to reduce their hours below 60 per week; rarely so much as that, except for actual sickness.

* Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour. No. 52—May, 1904. Department of Commerce and Labour, Washington.

The Saturday half-holiday, which generally prevails in textile factories is usually earned by longer hours the rest of the week. Thus children earned their half-holiday on Saturday by working 10½ hours on each of the other five days in Massachusetts, and 12 hours in South Carolina.

Regular night work was found to occur only in certain industries. Those reported are glass, steel, silk, and cotton yarns. In the last two, night work was not general except in certain localities. In silk and cotton yarn factories the method of employing the same persons exclusively at night was adopted. The hours of night work in three cotton factories in North Carolina and one in Georgia were 12 each night and none on Saturday, making 60 per week; in a South Carolina factory they were 11 for 6 nights, making 66 per week, but Saturday's work began after the noon interval and ended at midnight. The glass factories and steel mills reporting night work followed the method of alternating day and night shifts of a week each. In the steel works and rolling mills at three establishments reported on, the hours of night work were 60 per week, but the work of the boys was not continuous.

It was found that members of the families over 16 were earning on the average more per week in those States in which child labour was restricted than in those in which there was practically no restriction on the employment of children. In the latter States not only were fathers idle who might have found employment, but many children over 16 were content with small earnings. In many instances, had the older members of the family worked with greater energy, the labour of many young children, at least of those under 12, might have been spared, without any diminution in the family income. Roughly, taking together all the States considered, families were receiving amounts averaging from 20 to 40 per cent. of their total incomes from children under 16. Thus these children were of considerable economic importance to their parents. With very few exceptions those reported on gave up all their earnings to their parents.

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES, VICTORIA.

THE Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Workrooms and Shops of Victoria for 1903 gives a short statement of the various provisions of the eight Factories and Shops Acts now in force in the State. By the Factories and Shops Act, 1903, the Act of 1896, which instituted the Special Board System of fixing wages, and six subsequent Acts are continued in force till December 31st, 1905. Among amendments made by the Act of 1903 are the following: The principle of compulsory arbitration, which had been abolished so far as several Boards were concerned, is restored. Provision is made for the establishment of a Court of Appeal to hear appeals by either employers or employees against the determination of a Special Board. The power which Special Boards formerly had of limiting the number of apprentices in any trade or business is abolished. The Chief Inspector is given power to issue a license to "slow" workers to work at less than the minimum wage fixed by any Board.

In 1903 there were 4,325 registered factories employing 57,767 persons, as compared with 4,252 factories and 59,440 persons in 1902, and with 4,238 factories and 56,945 persons in 1901. For the first time since 1894 the number of persons employed in the factories showed a slight decrease, which is stated to be the effect of the severe drought from which the country suffered.

The Special Boards appointed under the laws of the State to determine the lowest rates of wages which may be paid in particular trades now number 38, and affect over 38,000 operatives. Determinations made by 34 of the Boards are now in force, and it is stated that they "appear to be well observed considering the numbers affected." An exception is, however, made so far as the Chinese employed in making furniture are concerned. With regard to the latter the Chief Inspector repeats a statement which appeared in his preceding

report, that "the European is admittedly the better and generally is also the quicker worker. The working hours of the Chinese are limited by law, and are the same as those of European workers. The only way now open to the Chinese to cut prices is to work at less than legal rates. . . . From the Chinese point of view it means either giving up the manufacture of furniture or evading the minimum wage. Under these circumstances I am unable to get any reliable information from the Chinese workmen as to the wages they receive, and I have once more to admit I know of no way of compelling the employers to pay the legal rates." Numerous prosecutions have been instituted to prevent the sale of unstamped furniture.

The number of applications for permission to work overtime increased from 113 in 1902 to 209 in 1903. The conditions include payment of time and a-half and 6d. tea-money.

There were 175 accidents in factories and workshops due to machinery, burning by molten metal, &c., as compared with 164 in 1902.

Tables given as appendices to the Report show the average weekly wages paid in various trades, the minimum wages and maximum hours of work fixed by Special Boards, the classes of shops affected by half-holiday regulations in various towns, and the prosecutions during the year for various breaches of the Acts.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN DENMARK IN 1902.

THE Statistical Yearbook for 1902,* issued by the Government Statistical Bureau of Denmark, contains the official figures relative to strikes and lock-outs in that country in 1902. The following Table shows how these compare, in the aggregate, with the figures for each of the two years immediately preceding.

Year.	Number of Disputes.	Number of Work-people who took part in Disputes.†	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.‡
1900	82	7,545	235,877
1901	56	4,108	56,829
1902	65	3,785	133,150

The average loss in working days caused by a dispute in 1902 (so far as could be ascertained) was 3,026, as compared with 1,420 in 1901, and 4,289 in 1900.

Of the 133,150 working days known to have been lost in 44 disputes in 1902, 72,084 were accounted for by 1 dispute affecting marine stokers and firemen, 30,702 by 2 disputes among stonemasons, and 21,111 by 8 disputes of unskilled workpeople in various trades.

The principal causes or objects of disputes in Denmark in 1902 were as shown below, the corresponding information for 1901 and 1900 being also given for comparison:—

Year.	No. of Disputes, the principal causes or objects of which were as shown below.						Total No. of Disputes.
	Wages.	Hours of Labour.	Working Arrangements (Rules, &c.)	Personal Relations.	Trade Unionism.	Other Causes, or Causes unknown.	
1900	47	3	5	3	11	13	82
1901	32	2	6	2	2	12	56
1902	36	2	3	12	1	11	65

In the three years covered by the Table, 61 disputes were settled by conciliation (21 in 1902, 22 in 1901, and 18 in 1900) and 11 by arbitration (5 in 1902, 2 in 1901, and 4 in 1900).

* Statistisk Aarbog, 8de Aargang, 1903. Published by the Gyldendal Bookselling Establishment, Copenhagen.

† The figures as to the number of workpeople who took part in disputes relate to 67 of the disputes of 1902, 48 of 1901, and 55 of 1900; information as to the remaining disputes is not furnished in the source.

‡ The figures as to the number of working days lost relate to 55 of the disputes of 1900, 40 of 1901, and 44 of 1902; information as to the remaining disputes is not furnished in the source.

PROFIT-SHARING IN 1903-4.

IN continuation of the Report on Profit-sharing published by the Department in 1894 (C.—7458 of 1894) and of the statements on this subject contained in previous numbers of the LABOUR GAZETTE*, the following details, obtained by correspondence with the firms concerned, are submitted, bringing the information previously published up to date.

Returns have been received from 60 out of the 69 firms with which profit-sharing was, according to the information available at the date of the statements made in the GAZETTE of October, 1903, in force (56 in the United Kingdom, 4 in British Colonies). In regard to 4 cases (all in the United Kingdom) it has been ascertained that profit-sharing has ceased to be in operation:—

Profit-sharing Schemes that have ceased to exist.

Duration of Profit-sharing.	Name.	Business.	No. of Em- ployees.	Cause of cessation of Profit-sharing.
1890—1903	Osborne & Young, Ltd.	Corn Merchants, Flour Factors, and Forage Merchants	94	Dissatisfaction of employers with results.
1890—1904	Marquis of Hertford	Farming...	25	Farms let.
1892—1903	Unwin Brothers, Ltd.	Steam Printers and Stationers	456	"Lapsed."
1901—1904	Willey & Co., Ltd.	Engineers	500—750	Dissatisfaction of employers with results.

Particulars have been received as to 2 firms not previously known to practise profit-sharing, and as to 2 cases in which profit-sharing has been adopted within the present year.

Additional Cases of Profit-sharing.

Date of Adoption of Profit-sharing.	Name.	Business.	No. of Em- ployees.	How Bonus Treated.
1900	Spillers & Bakers, Ltd., Cardiff, Bristol and Newcastle	Millers, Corn Merchants, Biscuit Manufacturers, &c.	960	Cash.
1903	Metallic & Co. (G. Q. Cooper), London	Printers, Lithographers and Stationers	65-80	Part cash, part Provident Fund.
1904	Joseph Rank, Ltd., Hull	Flour Millers	284	Provident Fund.
1904	Douglas Cockerell, Ewell, Surrey	Bookbinder	4-6	Cash.

The total number of persons employed by the 68 firms known to practise profit-sharing at June 30th, 1904, (varying according to seasons, &c.), is minimum 47,691, maximum 49,600 (46,596—48,455 employed by 64 firms in the United Kingdom, 1,095—1,145 by 4 firms in British Colonies). According to the latest available information the number of profit-sharing firms a year ago was 70, with 45,120—47,331 employees (44,111—46,247 employed by 66 firms in the United Kingdom, 1,009—1,084 by 4 firms in British Colonies).†

With respect to the addition made to the wages of the participating employees by the bonus allotted in 1903, details in regard to 52‡ cases (50 with 20,789 employees in the United Kingdom, 2 with 927 employees in British Colonies) are available, and are as shown below:—

Ratio of Bonus to Wages in 1903.

Ratio of Bonus allotted in 1903 to Wages.	No. of cases‡ in which the Bonus in Col. I. was paid.	No. of Em- ployees (mean between minimum and maximum) in 1903.	Number of participants in 1903.
Nil	13	3,294	—
1 and under 2 per cent.	2	334	334
2 " 3 "	6	799	602
3 " 5 "	11	2,445	1,829
5 " 7 "	11	5,231	3,448
7 " 9 "	3	6,915	5,257
9 " 11 "	3	165	165
14 " 15 "	1	381	28
21 " 22 "	1	2,050	1,394
52 " 53 "	1	102	48

* See July, 1895, p. 207; July, 1896, p. 208; September, 1896, p. 275; July, 1897, p. 195; August, 1898, p. 228; August, 1899, p. 227; August, 1900, p. 227; August, 1901, p. 231; March, 1902, p. 70; July, 1902, p. 183; and October, 1903, p. 272.

† In addition to the firms referred to above there are at present 16 firms (as compared with 15 in 1903), which are known to have adopted profit-sharing, but as to which it has not been found possible to obtain information.

‡ In 1 case (in the United Kingdom), in which the bonus is stated separately for distinct branches of a business, the ratios are stated separately for each branch. The 52 cases includes 3 (all in the United Kingdom) in which profit-sharing ceased to be in force after the date in 1903 for the distribution of bonus.

The figures show a mean bonus of 5.1 per cent. on wages paid in 1903 in the above 52 cases (compared with 5.1 per cent. paid in 1902 in the 60 cases, as to which information is available). Excluding 13 cases in which no bonus was earned, the bonus allotted in 1903 in the remaining 39 cases was (taking into account the number of participants in each case) at the mean rate of 7.8 per cent. (compared with 7.3 per cent. in 1902).

SHIPS UNDER CONSTRUCTION.*

(Compiled from the quarterly returns issued by Lloyd's Register.)

COMPARED with three months ago the most recent returns show an increase in merchant vessels and a decrease in war vessels under construction. Compared with a year ago there is an increase in both classes of vessels.

The following Table summarises the statistics:—

Description of Vessels.	Tonnage under construction on			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Sept., 1904, as compared with	
	Sept. 30th, 1904.	June 30th, 1904.	Sept. 30th, 1903.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Merchant Vessels—					
Tons gross...	1,046,308	993,088	906,608	+ 53,220	+ 139,700
War Vessels—					
Tons displacement ...	342,930	361,335	327,570	- 18,405	+ 15,360

Of the 393 merchant vessels under construction at the end of September, 353 were steamships with a gross tonnage of 1,029,842 tons, and 40 were sailing vessels with a gross tonnage of 16,466 tons. As compared with the preceding quarter the tonnage of steam vessels under construction has increased by 46,184 tons, and compared with a year ago by 140,587 tons. The tonnage of sailing vessels under construction was 7,036 tons more than at the end of June, 1904, and compared with a year ago 887 tons less.

The following Table shows the gross tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include nearly 97 per cent. of the total mercantile tonnage under construction:—

District.	Tonnage under construction on			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) at end of Sept., 1904, as compared with	
	Sept. 30th, 1904.	June 30th, 1904.	Sept. 30th, 1903.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Clyde ...	362,281	304,208	287,497	+ 58,073	+ 74,784
Belfast...	163,010	168,660	163,095	- 5,650	- 85
Tyne ...	212,779	174,266	158,499	+ 38,513	+ 56,280
Wear ...	155,158	157,865	116,364	- 2,707	+ 38,794
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	45,047	54,135	53,200	- 9,088	- 8,243
Middlesbro' and Stockton ...	58,510	84,535	69,798	- 26,025	- 11,288
Barrow, Maryport, and Workington	15,842	18,650	24,930	- 2,808	- 9,088

Compared with three months ago it will be seen that there was a considerable improvement on the Clyde and Tyne, and a decline in other districts. As compared with a year ago a considerable improvement is shown on the Clyde, Tyne, and Wear, but in other districts a decline is shown.

AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

A CONFERENCE of delegates from co-operative agricultural societies in England and Wales, affiliated to the Agricultural Organisation Society was held in Westminster on October 7th, when about 50 delegates were present.

Mr. H. C. Fairfax-Cholmeley (Brandsby Dairy Society) presided and reported that there were now 62 co-operative agricultural societies at work, and that favourable progress was being made.

In Yorkshire arrangements had been made with the North Eastern Railway Company to establish a regular motor service for the collection and delivery of goods between York and the depôts of the co-operative societies in that district.

* By "tonnage under construction" is meant the aggregate tonnage of the vessels when completed. As at any given time the ships are at various stages of completion, the "tonnage under construction" is not an exact measure of the work done or remaining to be done.

It was reported that the Agricultural Organisation Society had established in London an Advisory Business Department with an expert manager whose business it would be to ascertain the requirements of the various local societies and to advise them as to the best sources of wholesale supply and as to markets for their produce. Resolutions were adopted by the conference approving of this step and expressing a hope that it may lead to the formation of a separate society for wholesale purchase.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN HOLLAND IN 1903.*

THE third annual report on Strikes and Lock-outs in Holland issued by the Central Bureau of Statistics at the Hague relates to the year 1903, and shows that, besides being more frequent, labour disputes were far more important in that year than in 1902, as may be seen from the following Table:—

	1902.	1903.
Number of Strikes ...	119†	136†
Number of Strikers:—		
Total ...	14,652	33,487
Average per Strike ...	106	246

It is to be noted, however, that as regards the numbers involved in strikes, the year 1903 was rendered quite exceptional by the general strikes in the transport trades (see Gazette, April, 1903, p. 99), three of which alone involved a total of no less than 27,201 workpeople, i.e., 81 per cent. of all who took part in strikes in 1903.

The groups of trades most frequently involved in strikes in 1903 were: building (including construction and repair of roads), 45 strikes; food, drink, and tobacco trades, 18 strikes; transportation, 15 strikes, and the clothing and allied trades, 14 strikes.

The results of strikes in 1903 are shown in the following Table:—

Result.	Workpeople, who took part in strikes, of which the results were as shown in col. (1).	
	Number.	Per cent.
In favour of workpeople ...	3,334	9.96
" " employers ...	27,821	83.08
Compromise ...	2,107	6.29
Indeterminate ...	152	0.45
Not known ...	73	0.22
Total ...	33,487	100.00

The fact that so large a proportion as 83 per cent. of all workpeople who took part in strikes in 1903 failed to enforce any of their demands is due to the general strikes in the transport trades having resulted unfavourably for the workpeople.

In addition to the strikes there were, in 1903, 14 disputes classed as lock-outs. The number of workpeople locked out is given as 1,021, but is stated to be incomplete, owing to the absence of information regarding the number of dock and riverside labourers locked out in connection with one of the strikes of railway workers.

FACTORY WORKERS IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1903-4.

THE Annual Report of the New Zealand Department of Labour for 1903-4 has been received.

The Report states that there were in 1904 8,373 registered factories employing 63,968 workers, as compared with 7,675 factories employing 59,047 workers in 1903, and 7,203 factories with 55,395 workers in 1902. Of the 63,968 workers, 15,786 or nearly one-fourth were females. The industries employing the greatest numbers of workpeople were:—Clothing trades, 14,730 workpeople (3,229 males and 11,501 females); iron, &c., trades, 9,978 workpeople (9,962 males and 16 females); food, &c., trades, 10,247 workpeople (9,440 males and 807 females); and woodworking trades, 8,847 workpeople (8,773 males and 74 females).

* Werkstakingen en Uitsluitingen in Nederland Gedurende 1903. The Hague, Gebr. DeLinfante, 1904.
† A few more strikes were reported of which particulars were not obtained.

RECENT PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Bricklayers at Bridgnorth.

ON April 14th about 30 bricklayers at Bridgnorth struck work for an advance in wages from 6½d. to 7½d. per hour and a revised code of working rules. About 60 carpenters, labourers, &c., were thrown out of work in consequence.

On September 23rd application for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the questions at issue was made to the Board of Trade on behalf of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers (Midland Centre) and the Local Branch of the Operative Bricklayers' Society.

The Board appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act as arbitrator.

Mr. Hudson heard the parties on October 7th, and issued his award on October 11th, deciding that the working rules should be those annexed to his award.

By the new rules the rate of wages is fixed at 7d. per hour (an advance of ½d.), while the employers gain certain points in regard to starting time, working shorter hours in winter and walking time.

Registration of a Conciliation Board.

The Nottingham Lace Trades General Purposes Committee was, on the application of the secretaries, registered by the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act, 1896, on October 8th, 1904.

EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE American Department of Commerce and Labour has recently published a volume* containing Reports on Emigration to the United States, prepared by the United States Consuls in European and other foreign countries. The reports were made in answer to a series of questions prepared by the Department with the view of ascertaining both the character of immigration at the present time, and of comparing present conditions with those of 1890, the year in which a similar series of consular reports on emigration were published. The reports contain particulars as to the amount and causes of emigration from each country to the United States; the occupations, moral, intellectual, and physical status of the emigrants, their capacity as producers and wage-earners, and their prospective competition with the labour of the United States. Some statistics are also given in the volume as to the amount of immigration into the United States from 1821 to 1903.

The following Table gives the total number of immigrants† from each of the important European and other foreign countries for the period 1821-1903, and for the year 1903:—

Country of last Permanent Residence.	Total Number, 1821 to 1903.		1903.	
	Number.	Percentage.	Total Number.	Percentage.
England and Wales ...	2,766,156	13.0	26,219	3.1
Ireland ...	3,979,559	18.7	35,300	4.1
Germany ...	5,138,921	24.2	40,686	4.7
Austria-Hungary ...	1,522,925	7.2	2,0611	2.4
Italy ...	1,589,219	7.5	230,622	26.9
Norway and Sweden ...	1,405,420	6.6	70,489	8.2
Russia and Poland ...	1,242,455	5.8	136,993	15.9
All Other Countries ...	3,621,888	17.0	112,226	13.1
Total ...	21,265,723	100.0	857,046	100.0

Of the total immigration into the United States since 1821 32 per cent. came from the United Kingdom and 24 per cent. from Germany, 44 per cent. coming from other countries. Of those who arrived in 1903 nearly 51 per cent. came from Italy and Austria-Hungary, nearly 16 per cent. from Russia and Poland, 8½ per cent. from Norway and Sweden, 4½ per cent. from Germany, 4 per cent. from Ireland, and 3 per cent. from England and Wales. Taking the period 1868-1903, the number of immigrants was greatest in 1903, when it was 857,046, and least in 1878, when it was only 138,469. Other years in which the immigration was very considerable were 1882 (788,992), 1881 (669,432), 1902 (648,743), 1892 (623,084), and 1883 (603,322).

* Special Consular Reports. Vol. XXX. Emigration to the United States. Washington. Government Printing Office, 1904.
† Alien passengers are included prior to 1868.

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.

It is too late in the year for the ordinary emigrant to go to Canada, unless he goes to friends, or has money to keep him during the winter. The fare is now as low as £2 10s. to £3.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Recent reports from New South Wales warn persons—other than farmers or others with capital—from going there: owing to the effects of the long drought which ended last year, and the numbers of the unemployed, there is no demand for more labour either in towns or country districts. A report from Sale in Victoria states that there is a good demand for farm labourers and female servants; one from Castlemaine states that the only demand is for female servants; one from Prahran (Melbourne) states that the supply of masons, carpenters, bricklayers, and labourers is in excess of the demand; one from Bendigo states that the only demand is for female servants and genuine farm labourers.

A report from Port Augusta in South Australia states that there is no opening for emigrants, other than female servants, unless they can afford to take up very large areas of grazing land. A report from Mackay in the north of Queensland states that there is no demand for anyone except female servants at 10s. to 25s. a week: cane cutters can earn 5s. to 7s. a day and rations, but the demand only lasts from 4 to 6 months a year.

In Western Australia several of the timber mills have closed down owing to slackness of trade.

New Zealand.

A report from Napier states that there is a good demand for female servants, and a fair demand for mechanics and farm labourers, but none for miners or general labourers. At Auckland the only strong demand is for female servants; indifferent mechanics and labourers have few openings. At Wellington mechanics are abundant enough, but there is great demand for female servants. Good hands have been difficult to get in the hosiery factories at Dunedin.

Owing to the approach of the busy summer season, November is a good month for emigrants to arrive in New Zealand.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one may enter the Colony, unless he has secured employment and has £20 on arrival. Owing to the bad times and the general depression there are a great many unemployed persons, and a good deal of distress exists at Cape Town, Kimberley, King William's Town, and Port Elizabeth, and relief works have been started. At East London the master builders propose to reduce wages 3d. an hour owing to the slackness of trade. Farmers in many country districts are suffering from the bad seasons. Deductions are being made in the salaries of employees in the Railway Department and the Civil Service generally.

Natal.—Many persons in Natal are out of employment, and no one is advised to go there now in search of work.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. There is no improvement in the demand for labour, though many new buildings are in progress, and a great deal of distress exists both in Pretoria and Johannesburg, and throughout the Transvaal generally. More men have been discharged from the railways owing to the depression. A Commission is now considering the best means of dealing with the distress in the Colony, and some relief work has already been given. There is a demand for house parlourmaids, cooks and cook-generals, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. There is no demand for more labour, except for a few female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society mentioned above.

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

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in August.**—Employment in the building trades showed a slight decline during August. Fewer workpeople were employed in many districts in the metal and engineering trades, without, however, materially increasing the proportion out of work in those trades as a whole. Many continued to work short time to the extent of one or two days per week in the cotton centres of Normandy and the Roanne district; but there was a slight improvement in some of the cotton centres in the Nord, while in the Vosges 60 hours per week were again being worked. The woollen industry of Reims was reported as less active. The silk industry at St. Etienne was quiet, and many of the looms in the smaller workshops about Lyons ceased work. Except in Paris scarcely any revival was reported in the garment-making trades, whereas employment for hatmakers was everywhere good, except at Paris. Coachbuilders were fully employed, and the furniture trade showed an improvement. Printers and bookbinders were in their slack season. The leather dressing and tanning trades were visited by severe depression. Employment for agricultural labourers was less plentiful in the north, owing to the harvest having terminated early, and only part of the available labour being utilised in threshing. In the south many labourers were unemployed while waiting for the vintage, which had begun in a few places only.

Of the 189,390 members of 1,011 Trade Unions which made reports to be French Labour Department as to the state of employment in August, 21,150, or 11.1 per cent. were out of work on the 15th of the month, as compared with 8.9 per cent. in the previous month, and 9.4 per cent. in August, 1903. The foregoing figures do not include the Miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments.

The following statement shows the percentages of members of Trade Unions reported unemployed in certain trades, for which the figures are shown separately:—

Trade Union.	Percentage reported unemployed in the middle of		
	August, 1904.	July, 1904.	August, 1903.
Building Trades:—			
Carpenters and Joiners ...	6.5	6.6	8.0
Other Branches ...	10.5	7.5	11.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	7.1	6.4	7.0
Textile Trades ...	10.9	8.4	13.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking)	9.0	13.0	8.0
Printing Trades:—			
Paris ...	6.5	5.9	8.0
Provinces ...	6.5	4.1	4.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	51.0	27.0	9.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	14.0	18.0	16.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades	13.0	17.0	9.0
Food Preparation Trades ...	15.4	16.0	9.0

*Coal Mining in August.**—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in August was 5.77, as compared with 5.57 in the preceding month and 5.80 in August, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 56 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 41 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 41.60 and 50.67 respectively. The foregoing figures were furnished to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners and relate to over 147,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in August.**—Eighty disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in August, as compared with 74 in the previous month, and 47 in August, 1903. The number of persons taking part in 72 of the new disputes was 21,791, as compared with 11,626 participants in 57 disputes in the previous month, and with 6,946 who took part in the disputes of August, 1903. Nine of the fresh disputes occurred in the building trades, 2 in quarrying, 5 in the

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

metal trades, 8 in the textile trades, 19 in transport, &c., 7 in agriculture and fishing, 3 in the woodworking trades, 13 in the chemical and glass trades, 3 in the food preparation trades, 3 in the leather trades, and 8 in trades not included in the foregoing groups. Of the 67 disputes which came to an end in August, 18 terminated in favour of the employers, 20 in favour of the workpeople, and 29 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in August.**—Eleven cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in August, the initiative being taken in 3 cases by the workpeople, in 2 by the employers, and in 6 by the Justices of the Peace. Committees of Conciliation were formed in 6 cases, and brought about the settlement of 3 disputes. In another case an agreement was arrived at before the committee had time to meet. In 4 cases it was not possible to form Conciliation Committees, owing to the refusal of mediation (in 3 cases by the employers and in 1 case by the workpeople).

Strikes in Shipping Trade at Marseilles.†—With regard to these strikes, of which some account was given in last month's GAZETTE (p. 263), further information has been received as follows:—

Seamen.—As regards the seamen it appears that on September 13th the situation was substantially the same as when the movement first began. The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique had entered into negotiations with the seamen of the Company's ships in order to draw up regulations with regard to working hours and extra pay. These negotiations were, however, without result, as were also the attempts at conciliation made by the President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Dockers.—With reference to the dockers' strike it was reported on September 22nd that both the employers and dockers had accepted the principle of arbitration, and elected to submit their differences to M. Léon Magnan, a former Deputy and member of the Chamber of Commerce.

On September 25th, Mr. Magnan delivered his award, the terms of which were as follows:—

- (1) That masters should have full liberty in the selection of their men, and should not be confined to men belonging to the Union.
- (2) That there was no reason to exclude the workmen's delegates from the different yards, but that their function was simply to report, and under no circumstances to interfere with the work.
- (3) That interference on the part of the workmen in the organisation and conduct of the work is unwarranted.
- (4) That the boycotting of different companies or firms is strictly forbidden and must be discontinued.
- (5) That the right to make individual contracts is recognised by the law, and as such is indefeasible.

This award was rejected by the Dockers' Union on the ground that it contained a menace to their organisation, and would lead to continual trouble in the future. The Strike Committee thereupon resigned, and a new committee was elected in its stead.

On October 5th, H.M. Consul-General reported that an attempt had been made to work with non-Union men under military and police protection, some 1,800 men having been employed on the 4th and an increased number on the following day. The Dockers' and Coal-heavers' Unions still refused to resume work, except on the terms of the 1903 Convention as interpreted by themselves.

Carters.—By September 24th the carters had resumed work generally, abandoning for the time being, and at the request of the dockers, their demand for a readjustment of their contract.

[According to press notices, the seamen on October 7th agreed to return to work, and the Messageries Maritimes Company and the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique resumed their services on October 10th. On October 11th the dockers also resolved to return to work, and on October 12th, upon the coal-heavers deciding to resume work, the strike was considered as ended.]

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

† Based on a series of despatches addressed to the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade by H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles under various dates from September 16th to October 5th.

BELGIUM.*

Employment: May-July.—The proportion of their total membership reported as unemployed by the Trade Unions which made returns to the Belgian Labour Department for July was 2.5 per cent., as compared with 2.4 per cent. in June and 2.2 per cent. in May. The Unions reporting numbered 146 (with 26,932 members) in July, 149 (with 29,225 members) in June, and 133 (with 25,812 members) in May. The returns do not include any figures as to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers.

Labour Disputes: May-July.—Twenty-six disputes, affecting 4,755 workpeople (3,740 directly and 1,015 indirectly) were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in the period May-July. Of these 7 occurred in coal mining, 13 in the textile trades, 2 in the brick and glass trades, and 1 each in the metal, hat making, leather dressing, and tobacco trades. Twenty of the above disputes came to an end during this period, and of these 14 (with 2,678 participants) terminated in favour of the employers, and 4 (with 334 participants) in favour of the workpeople, while 2 (with 65 participants) were compromised.

The foregoing figures are exclusive of an extensive stoppage of work in the glass industry of Charleroi, which has not been treated by the Belgian Labour Department as a dispute in the strict sense of the word. It appears that on May 1st, upon the recommendation of their Union, 7,500 glass workers engaged in the 18 establishments at Charleroi agreed to abandon their work voluntarily in order to restrict the production of glass, as an alternative to opposing the application of new conditions of labour put in force by the associated employers.

GERMANY.

Employment in August.†—Employment in August was, on the whole, in the same condition as in July, and presented the characteristics common to that time of the year. The unusual dryness seriously affected inland navigation, and thereby other industries, such as the building and paper trades. Coal mining and pig iron manufacture showed no animation, but the metal and engineering trades and most branches of the chemical trades were satisfactorily employed. In some branches of the textile trades employment was again unfavourable, and the whole of the cotton industry was adversely affected by the extensive fluctuations in the price of the raw material.

Labour Disputes in September.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, 50 disputes occurred in Germany during September, as compared with 77 in the previous month. Of these 6 occurred in the building trades, 3 in mining and smelting, 8 in the metal and engineering trades, 2 in the textile trades, 2 in the clothing and cleaning trades, 3 in the transport trades, 5 in the pottery and earthenware trades, 3 in the printing and paper trades, 9 in the woodworking trades, 5 in the food and tobacco trades, 3 among commercial employees, and 1 among domestic servants.

AUSTRIA.‡

Employment in August.—According to reports made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, relief stations and other agencies for procuring employment, the number of applications for employment per 100 situations offered was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
August, 1904 ...	173	98	142
July, 1904 ...	175	103	146
August, 1903 ...	201	95	163

Labour Disputes in August.—Thirty-five disputes (exclusive of any which may have occurred in mining, the returns for which are quarterly) were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in August, the number of workpeople taking part in 29 of these being 7,828. Nine of the disputes occurred in the building trades, 5 in the metal and engineering trades, 3 in the textile trades, 5 in the clothing trades, 3 in the

* Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
 † Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).
 ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

glass and pottery trades, 7 in the woodworking trades, 2 among commercial employees, and 1 in the transport trades. The results of the disputes were reported in 33 cases; of these 13 terminated in favour of the employers, 6 in favour of the workpeople, and 14 were compromised.

HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM CONSULAR DISTRICT.*

Amsterdam Dock Labourers' Demands.—At a meeting of the Dock Labourers' Union held at Amsterdam in September, a number of demands were formulated, including one for the abolition of the system of labour books. This system was introduced by the Associated Employers after the strike in the transport trades in 1903, and requires the registration of all men who are not in regular employment in the lists of the Employers' Association, each man being then furnished with a labour book containing certain regulations to which he must subscribe. This book gives the workman the right of preference to employment before any unregistered workman, and ensures him an allowance in case of sickness, except where the sickness is caused by an accident which gives the workman a claim for compensation. He is bound to give 14 days' notice of leaving his work for any reason whatsoever. Those engaged by contract, on the other hand, agree to the deduction of 10d. per week from their wages, until a sum of £4 3s. 4d. is reached, which sum remains as a guarantee in the hands of the employer, by whom it is deposited in the workman's name in the Savings Bank of Amsterdam, the employer holding the bank-book. Other demands formulated at the meeting were for the appointment of controllers of the work by the workmen themselves, and for the recognition of the Union.

The Committee of the Associated Employers contend that the question of a control of the quantities of cargo discharged has remained an open one, owing to the refusal of the workmen's organisation to co-operate in an amicable settlement of the same. A Joint Committee of Arbitration, composed of employers and workmen, had recommended the establishment of a permanent Arbitration Committee, composed in like manner, but owing to the almost total abstention of the workmen from the meetings called for the election of their representatives, the appointment of this Committee has been indefinitely postponed.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike in the Meat-Packing Industry.†—According to the New York press, the strike in the meat-packing industry has terminated. For the future all packing houses in that city belonging to the Meat Trust will be worked on the "open shop" basis. It was stated that large numbers of the strikers had applied for re-admission to the packing-houses on those terms. (See last month's GAZETTE, p. 265.)

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.‡

State of Employment.—The building trades are reported as very brisk, but even in those trades the supply of labour exceeds the demand.

It has been decided to re-open the Pullman works, which have been closed for some weeks. Ten hours per day, instead of nine, are to be worked, and employment is not to be confined to members of Trade Unions. The Harvesting Machine Works are to be re-opened under the same conditions.

Strike in the Meat Packing Industry.—This strike has now been reported as finally settled. About 9,000 of the former workpeople are without employment. This is stated to be due to the fact that about 6,000 of the strikers' substitutes have been permanently retained, while a reduction of the working staff has been rendered possible by a better distribution of the arrival of stock for slaughter. (See last month's GAZETTE, p. 265.)

* Based on information contained in a report from H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, transmitted through the Foreign Office by Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, in a despatch dated October 1st.

† Based on information supplied through the Foreign Office by the Acting British Consul-General at New York, under date of September 7th.

‡ Based on information supplied through the Foreign Office by Mr. Alexander Finn, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of October 1st.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns supplied by 82 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 90,000 building operatives of all classes, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 185,000, employment in the building trades continued dull during September, and on the whole was rather worse than in August. It was also worse than a year ago.

With bricklayers employment was dull, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. With masons it was moderate in England, but dull in Scotland.

Employment with carpenters and joiners was bad generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 7.0 at the end of September, compared with 5.9 at the end of August, and 4.0 at the end of September, 1903.

With painters employment was bad, and rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. With plasterers and plumbers employment was dull, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 9.5 at the end of September, compared with 8.9 at the end of August, and 6.4 a year ago.

With slaters and tilers employment was dull, and about the same as a month ago; it was rather worse than a year ago.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Sept., 1904, as compared with a	
		Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	6,094	6.2	4.2	4.6	+ 2.0	+ 1.6
Northern Counties and Middlebrough	6,204	9.8	9.9	10.7	- 0.1	- 0.9
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,342	6.4	6.2	3.3	+ 0.2	+ 3.1
Yorkshire	4,994	6.9	7.3	3.5	- 0.4	+ 3.4
East Midlands	2,935	6.2	3.7	2.7	+ 2.5	+ 3.5
West Midlands	4,694	4.6	3.4	2.7	+ 1.2	+ 1.9
Eastern Counties	1,122	6.6	5.1	3.7	+ 1.5	+ 2.9
S. and S.W. Counties	5,827	4.8	3.8	2.4	+ 1.0	+ 2.4
Wales and Monmouth	1,843	3.4	3.3	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Other Districts	642	2.6	1.1	3.1	+ 1.5	- 0.5
SCOTLAND	5,591	9.6	9.0	3.4	+ 0.6	+ 7.2
IRELAND	4,896	10.4	6.2	2.8	+ 4.2	+ 7.6
UNITED KINGDOM	56,085	7.0	5.9	4.0	+ 1.1	+ 3.0
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	979	11.8	7.5	6.4	+ 4.3	+ 5.4
Northern Counties and Middlebrough	1,603	8.7	9.1	8.6	- 0.4	+ 0.1
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,684	9.1	8.3	6.4	+ 0.8	+ 2.7
Yorkshire	1,059	6.6	8.1	5.9	- 1.5	+ 0.7
East Midlands	670	6.3	6.2	3.3	+ 0.1	+ 3.0
West Midlands	511	7.4	4.8	4.0	+ 2.6	+ 3.4
Eastern Counties	111	4.5	7.2	1.7	- 2.7	+ 2.8
S. and S.W. Counties	393	3.3	6.1	6.9	- 2.8	- 3.6
Wales and Monmouth	286	5.2	5.2	5.8	- 0.6	- 0.6
Other Districts	28	7.1	3.6	11.1	+ 3.5	+ 4.0
SCOTLAND	1,906	12.9	13.5	4.4	- 0.6	+ 8.5
IRELAND	634	16.9	11.2	15.9	+ 5.7	+ 1.0
UNITED KINGDOM	10,864	9.5	8.9	6.4	+ 0.6	+ 3.1

The returns received from Employers' Associations show that employment generally was dull, and rather worse than a year ago.

London.—Employment in London was slack, and was worse than a year ago. Returns received by the Trade

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Correspondent from 76 employers show that in the last week of September they paid wages to 19,111 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 19,592 in the last week of August, and 19,357 in the last week of September, 1903.

Northern Counties.—The general condition of employment continued dull. It was rather worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment continued slack generally, and was rather worse than a year ago. In Manchester many men were on short time. With painters at Burnley, however, and slaters at Bolton employment was reported as fair.

Yorkshire.—In this district a general slackness prevailed in all branches, and employment was worse than a month ago or a year ago.

East Midland Counties.—Employment continued dull generally, and was rather worse than a year ago. At Rugby, however, the bricklayers report an improvement. The painters at Burton-on-Trent report employment as fair, and the masons at Rugby as good.

West Midland Counties.—No improvement took place in this district, and employment continued bad generally, and worse than a year ago.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was slack generally. With masons at Norwich, however, bricklayers at Yarmouth, and bricklayers and carpenters at Colchester, it was reported as fair.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In this district employment continued quiet generally. It was reported as fair in some branches at Canterbury, Portsmouth and Exeter.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In North Wales employment was reported as slack. In South Wales and Monmouthshire it was about the same as in the previous month, but rather better than a year ago.

Scotland.—Employment generally continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. The masons at Glasgow and Aberdeen, however, reported it as fair.

Ireland.—In Dublin and Belfast employment showed no improvement. In Cork it was fair in most branches.

COAL MINING.

[Note.—The following figures only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

The returns received show that employment in this industry during September was somewhat better than in the preceding month, even after due allowance has been made for the holidays in August, and was nearly up to the level of a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for the three periods was slightly larger than in August, and about 1.3 per cent. greater than in September, 1903.

Returns received relating to 1,293 pits, employing 546,670 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries during the four weeks ended September 24th was 5.16, as compared with 4.76 in August, and 5.22 in September, 1903. In comparing these figures, it should be noted that the average for August was reduced a quarter of a day by holidays.

Of the 546,670 workpeople included in the returns, 380,298 or 69.6 per cent. were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ending September 24th, and of these 118,369 were employed at pits working 23½ days or more. The percentage of workpeople employed at pits working 20 or more days was 58.5 in the four weeks ended 20th August, and 74.8 in the four weeks ended 26th September, 1903.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—COAL AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

In the Table below the average time worked by the pits in the various districts is shown for the three periods specified:—

District.	No. of Workpeople employed in Sept., 1904, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1904, as compared with	
		Sept. 24th, 1904.	Aug.* 20th, 1904.	Sept. 26th, 1903.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	41,749	5.33	5.20	5.37	+ .13	- .04
Durham	100,736	5.40	5.20	5.47	+ .20	- .07
Cumberland	6,458	4.59	4.36	5.22	+ .23	- .63
Yorkshire	78,000	4.97	4.38	5.19	+ .59	- .22
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	49,921	4.52	4.18	4.71	+ .34	- .19
Derbyshire	39,722	4.71	4.11	4.71	+ .60	- .09
Nottingham and Leicester	26,261	4.49	3.68	4.79	+ .81	- .30
Staffordshire	27,436	4.82	3.89	4.90	+ .93	- .08
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick	9,448	5.36	4.48	5.27	+ .88	+ .09
Gloucester and Somerset	5,161	4.89	4.45	5.43	+ .44	- .54
North Wales	10,044	5.09	4.49	5.15	+ .60	- .06
South Wales and Mon. ...	109,084	5.64	5.27	5.62	+ .37	+ .02
ENGLAND & WALES	807,020	5.14	4.73	5.21	+ .41	- .07
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	18,703	5.33	5.13	5.35	+ .20	- .02
The Lothians	4,680	5.73	5.42	5.55	+ .31	+ .18
Fife	15,643	5.47	5.16	5.52	+ .31	- .05
SCOTLAND	39,026	5.43	5.18	5.44	+ .25	- .01
IRELAND.	624	4.76	4.68	4.82	+ .08	- .06
United Kingdom	848,670	5.16	4.76	5.22	+ .40	- .06

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland house and steam coal pits worked an average of rather more than 5½ days. In Durham employment was slack. With cokemeng employment continued bad.

Employment in the house coal seams in the Leeds pits improved towards the end of the month. At Morley 5 days per week were worked, and at South Kirkby, in the Barnsley seam, full time, but in the Haigh Moor house coal seam employment was slack. In the Bradford and Huddersfield districts employment was bad. In the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham districts an average of about 5 days a week was worked.

In Lancashire employment was, on the whole, moderate, 4 to 4½ days being worked generally.

Employment in Nottingham showed some improvement as compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. In Leicester the average time worked per week was nearly 4½ days. On Cannock Chase employment was a little better, but there was no improvement at Tamworth. An average of from 3½ to 4 days was worked in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire. In Shropshire a great improvement took place towards the end of the month.

Employment in the Bristol coalfield was fairly good. In the Forest of Dean there was some improvement, with an average of 4 days worked per week.

In North Wales employment was fair.

In Scotland employment in Lanarkshire was fairly brisk, in Ayrshire and Dumbartonshire fair, and in Stirlingshire and Fifeshire good. In West Lothian employment was not so good as a month ago, but in Mid and East Lothian it was better, fully 80 per cent. of the miners being on full time.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during September amounted to 4,190,681 tons, as compared with 4,081,192 tons in August, and 3,976,744 tons in September, 1903.

* This period includes August Bank Holiday.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 73 firms employing over 18,000 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations, from a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in September continued good with iron, shale and lead miners; dull with tin miners; fair generally with quarrymen.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good, the average time worked showing a slight increase as compared with a month and a year ago. During the four weeks ended 24th September, the average number of days worked per week by the 129 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.82, as compared with 5.70 in August, and 5.78 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed was 1.7 per cent. more than a month ago, and 0.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Sept., 1904, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1904, as compared with	
		Sept. 24th, 1904.	Aug. 20th, 1904.	Sept. 26th, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,656	5.92	5.79	5.77	+ 0.13	+ 0.15
Cleveland... ..	7,143	5.95	5.93	5.85	+ 0.02	+ 0.10
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire... ..	831	5.57	5.47	5.90	+ 0.10	- 0.33
Northamptonshire	567	5.69	5.50	5.61	+ 0.19	+ 0.08
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,004	5.25	4.28	5.17	+ 0.97	+ 0.08
Other places in England	138	5.94	5.71	5.91	+ 0.23	+ 0.03
Total, England	14,339	5.86	5.72	5.77	+ 0.14	+ 0.09
SCOTLAND	1,019	5.46	5.33	6.00	+ 0.13	- 0.54
IRELAND	118	3.86	5.94	6.00	- 2.08	- 2.14
Total and Averages	15,476	5.82	5.70	5.78	+ 0.12	+ 0.04

Of the 15,476 workpeople covered by the returns, 13,904, or 89.8 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended 24th September, 1904, as compared with 82.8 per cent. a month ago, and 86.5 per cent. in September, 1903.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners continued good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in September 2,793 men were employed, as compared with 2,809 a month ago, and 2,722 in September, 1903. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended 24th September was 5.72, as compared with 5.57, a month ago, and 5.76 in September, 1903.

Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.—Employment in the tin and copper mines in Cornwall and Devon is reported as dull in the Calstock and Marazion districts, and moderate in the Camborne district. In the lead mines of Flintshire and Denbighshire employment continued good, and in the Weardale district of Durham it was fair.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued good in North Wales, moderate in Cornwall, and fair in Argyllshire.

Granite.—In Leicestershire employment remained fairly good. In Devon and Cornwall it was dull. It continued good in North Wales. In Aberdeenshire employment was moderate.

Limestone.—Employment in the Weardale district continued fair. In Cumberland it was slack, and worse than a month ago. Employment in Derbyshire showed a slight improvement in the Buxton district. In North Wales it continued good. In the neighbourhood of Plymouth it was moderate.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

Other Stone.—Employment in the Gateshead district was slack. In the Haslingden district it continued fair. At Barnsley it was moderate, and at Normanton fairly good. Employment with chert quarrymen in Derbyshire continued dull. It was dull generally with stone quarrymen in Devon and Cornwall. At the grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment was moderate. In the Cleve Hill (road material) quarries it continued good. In Forfarshire it remained bad.

Settling.—Employment is reported as good in Leicestershire; as fairly good in the Sheffield district; and as good generally in North Wales. In Scotland employment continued fair at Airdrie; bad in the Edinburgh district; and good at Aberdeen. It was fair at Belfast.

China Clay.—Employment was steady in the Lee Moor (Devon) and St. Austell districts.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

RETURNS have been received from Employers, from a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in this industry showed a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but continued much below the level of a year ago.

The falling off as compared with a year ago was chiefly in the Cumberland and Lancashire and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire districts.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that in September two furnaces in Cumberland, one in Derbyshire and one in Lincolnshire were re-lit, while two in Lancashire were blown out. At the end of September 299 furnaces were in blast as compared with 297 in August and 315 in September, 1903. The number of workpeople employed at works included in the returns is estimated at about 21,200.

The following Table shows by districts the number of furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1904, as compared with	
	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	77	77	77	...	...
Cumberland & Lancs.	30	30	39	...	- 9
S. and S.W. Yorks.	13	13	15	...	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	37	36	37	+ 1	...
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	25	24	26	+ 1	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	28	28	32	...	- 4
S. Wales & Monmouth	13	13	14	...	- 1
Other districts ...	6	6	6	...	...
Returned from England & Wales }	229	227	246	+ 2	- 17
Returned from Scotland ... }	70	70	69	...	+ 1
Total furnaces included in returns }	299	297	315	+ 2	- 16

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT in this industry showed a slight decrease in September as compared with a month ago, and a somewhat greater decrease as compared with a year ago. Returns furnished by employers, relating to 194 works, show that 73,433 workpeople were employed during the week ended September 24th, a decrease of 737 as compared with a month ago, and of 1,813 as compared with September, 1903. Taking the total number of shifts worked by all workpeople as a basis, the volume of employment was 0.2 per cent. less than in the previous month, and 4.1 per cent. less than a year ago.

* Includes iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1904, as compared with	
	Sept. 24th 1904.	Aug. 27th 1904.	Sept. 26th 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ...	61,560	62,165	63,223	- 605	- 1,663
Scotland ...	11,873	12,005	12,023	- 132	- 150
Total ...	73,433	74,170	75,246	- 737	- 1,813

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The following Table relates to the number of shifts worked by 89 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the Table above. The average number of shifts worked by such workpeople in the week ended September 24th was 5.32, as compared with 5.28 in the preceding month, and with 5.42 in the week ended September 26th, 1903.

Number of Shifts worked.	Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended		
	Sept. 24th, 1904.	Aug. 27th, 1904.	Sept. 26th, 1903.
Under 5 per week ...	14.9	16.2	9.4
5 per week ...	31.1	31.0	35.4
5½ per week ...	1.8	2.7	1.3
6 per week ...	51.2	49.5	51.6
Over 6 per week ...	1.0	0.6	1.3
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the basis of the foregoing Table the total number of shifts worked by all workpeople included in the returns was approximately 390,970 in the last week of September, 1904, 391,830 in the last week of the previous month, and 407,520 in the last week of September, 1903.

The following reports relating to the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Steel smelters on the whole were fairly well employed during September, with the same number of furnaces going as in the previous month. Steel plate mills at Consett and Newburn worked full time, but big bar and angle mills only 7 shifts out of a possible 11. All mills at Jarrow worked less than full time, and employment was worse than in August. Employment at forges on the Wear was moderate, on the Tyne it was slack. At finished iron and steel works employment was moderate.

Tees and Hartlepool.—Employment at Hartlepool iron and steel works was good. At metal expansion works and chair and pipe foundries in the district it was fair; at rail mills and in other branches moderate.

South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.—Employment in the Sheffield district was slack for steel workers, but rather better than a month ago. At Parkgate it was slack for ironworkers, fair for steel workers. At Rotherham and Iccles it was quiet for ironworkers, but there was a slight improvement for steel workers. Ironworkers at Masbro' were fairly well employed. Steel smelters at Scunthorpe reported employment as fair.

Midlands.—Employment was rather better than in August with steel smelters in South Staffordshire, and was good in Shropshire and at Hanley. The improvement reported last month at the steel mills and forges of Staffordshire was maintained. In Shropshire some short time was worked. Ironworkers and steelworkers at Smethwick and West Bromwich reported employment as quiet, with no improvement over last month. Employment in all branches of iron and steel manufacture continued slack in Derbyshire.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

South Wales.—Employment for steel smelters was good at most works. With iron and steel workers it was slack, and some short time was worked.

Scotland.—Employment with steel smelters was good on the whole; with iron and steel workers fair.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry in September was good; it was slightly better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. The supply of and demand for labour were fairly equal.

At the end of September 382 mills were working, as compared with 379 at the end of August, and 345 a year ago. At the 76 works open, 62 had all their mills in operation, while the remaining 14 works had 53 mills working out of a total of 85. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 382 mills was 19,100.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 372 mills were in operation at the end of September, as compared with 369 a month ago, and 333 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,* at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	62	329	...	329
Works giving partial employment ...	14	53	32	85
Total at end of September, 1904* ...	76	382	32	414
<i>Corresponding Total for Aug., 1904*†</i>	75	379	33	412
<i>Corresponding Total for Sept., 1903*†</i>	70	345	43	388

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.
To United States ...	6,747	6,913	1,433	15	13	46
Other Countries ...	21,523	25,685	17,952	5,017	4,904	4,921
Total ...	28,270	32,598	19,385	5,032	4,917	4,967

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 8 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in September was very bad, and worse than a month and a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,716 members had 8,699 (or 15.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 12.7 per cent. at the end of August, and 13.4 per cent. at the end of September, 1903. The districts in which the percentage of unemployed was greatest were the East of Scotland and the Bristol Channel Ports, while it was lowest in the South Coast

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate.
† Revised figures.

and Thames and Medway districts, which include the Government Dockyards at Portsmouth, Devonport, Chatham and Sheerness.

As compared with a month ago, the decline in employment was general, the Tees and Hartlepool, Mersey, and Humber districts showing the greatest increases in the percentages of unemployed. As compared with a year ago the falling off was greatest at Belfast and on the Humber and Mersey, while on the Wear and Tyne the figures show a considerable improvement.

The following Table shows the percentages of unemployed Trade Union members in the various districts:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Sept., 1904, as compared with	
		Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,251	13.8	11.3	18.6	+ 2.5	- 4.8
Wear ...	4,879	10.2	8.6	17.9	+ 1.6	- 7.7
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,877	19.7	12.6	13.1	+ 7.1	+ 6.6
Humber ...	2,440	15.6	10.5	6.1	+ 5.1	+ 9.5
Thames and Medway ...	4,514	9.9	7.7	7.6	+ 2.2	+ 2.3
South Coast ...	3,378	6.9	5.6	7.5	+ 1.3	- 0.6
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,691	23.5	20.7	23.4	+ 2.8	+ 0.1
Mersey ...	4,022	19.3	13.7	10.7	+ 5.6	+ 8.6
Clyde ...	12,188	16.9	16.0	13.3	+ 0.9	+ 3.6
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,199	29.1	26.0	22.2	+ 3.1	+ 6.9
Belfast ...	2,523	19.0	15.1	4.6	+ 3.9	+ 14.4
Other Districts ...	3,086	7.3	7.8	9.9	- 0.5	- 2.6
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	56,716	15.3	12.7	13.4	+ 2.6	+ 1.9

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

Employment generally on the Tyne continued dull. It was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago.

On the Wear employment remained dull with shipwrights, but was fair with platers, frame benders, caulkers, drillers and hole cutters.

In the Tees and Hartlepool and Humber districts employment was bad, and considerably worse than a month and a year ago.

On the Thames and Medway employment was fairly good in the Royal Dockyards, but slack in the London district.

On the South Coast employment was good at Portsmouth; fairly good but declining at Devonport; dull at Southampton and Plymouth.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment continued bad. With shipwrights at Pembroke Dock, however, it remained good.

On the Mersey employment was dull, and much worse than a month and year ago. Some improvement, however, was reported at Garston, while shipwrights at Runcorn reported employment as good.

Employment on the Clyde continued slack, showing little change on the whole as compared with a month ago, and a decline as compared with a year ago. It remained fair at Clydebank and Dumbarton.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment remained bad at Dundee and Leith, and was worse than a month ago and year ago. At Aberdeen and Fraserburgh shipwrights reported it as fair.

At Belfast employment again declined, and the percentage of Trade Union members out of work was much greater than a year ago.

Other Districts.—Employment at Barrow continued moderate, but was not so good as a month and a year ago. At Dublin, Queenstown, and Ipswich it was fair; at Cork it was dull; at Lowestoft and Yarmouth it was bad.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—ENGINEERING TRADES.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally was dull. It was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 144,101 members show that 10,621 (or 7·4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 6·8 in August, and 4·8 in September, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed was greatest in the East of Scotland, Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn, Notts, Derby and Leicester, and Belfast and Dublin districts. The South Coast, London, and the South Wales and Bristol districts, in all of which employment is less subject to fluctuation, continued to show the lowest percentages of unemployed.

As compared with a month ago every district showed an increase in the percentage of unemployed except the Oldham district, in which employment remained about the same, the districts which showed the greatest decline in employment being the Belfast and Dublin and the Notts, Derby and Leicester districts.

Compared with a year ago a slight improvement was shown in the Belfast and Dublin district, but every other district showed a decline, which, in the cases of Oldham and Bolton and the Notts and Derby districts, amounted to 6·3 per cent. A considerable falling off was also shown in the West Riding towns, in Scotland, and in the Manchester and Liverpool district.

The percentages for the various districts are shown in detail in the following Table:—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept., 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed for Sept., 1904, as compared with a	
		Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	14,097	7·6	7·4	7·0	+ 0·2	+ 0·6
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,870	8·4	8·2	4·9	+ 0·2	+ 3·5
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,423	11·1	11·1	4·8	—	+ 6·3
West Riding Towns ...	11,647	9·7	8·7	5·6	+ 1·0	+ 4·1
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,431	7·1	6·4	4·6	+ 0·7	+ 2·5
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	5,943	5·6	5·5	3·4	+ 0·1	+ 2·2
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	3,953	10·5	8·1	4·2	+ 2·4	+ 6·3
London and Neighbouring District	12,403	5·2	4·3	3·8	+ 0·9	+ 1·4
South Coast ...	4,024	2·9	2·5	2·5	+ 0·4	+ 0·4
South Wales and Bristol District	6,070	5·3	5·1	3·1	+ 0·2	+ 2·2
Glasgow and District ...	13,844	8·9	8·7	4·7	+ 0·2	+ 4·2
East of Scotland ...	3,693	11·5	10·6	8·0	+ 0·9	+ 3·5
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,498	9·9	7·2	10·5	+ 2·7	- 0·6
Other Districts ...	5,501	6·1	5·2	3·9	+ 0·9	+ 2·2
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	144,101	7·4	6·8	4·8	+ 0·6	+ 2·6

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the various districts:—

North-East Coast.—Employment generally continued dull, and was slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was bad with ironfounders. Employment was fair generally in Newcastle and Gateshead, but dull with pattern makers. On the north side of the Tyne employment was fair; on the south side it was bad, and worse than a month ago. On the Wear employment was only moderate. At Darlington it was bad with fitters and slack with boiler makers. On the Tees employment declined during the month, and was bad generally. With pattern makers at Stockton it was fair. With bridge builders employment continued good.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment generally was bad. It was slightly worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Machine workers and smiths and strikers at Manchester reported employment as fair, but generally it was bad; a few brass-

founders at the same place were on overtime, but many were working short time. At Liverpool there was a scarcity of employment both on new and repair work, with a good deal of short time. At Crewe it was slack generally, and some short time was worked.

Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District.—Employment in this district continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. A considerable amount of short time was worked. Employment was reported as fair with brass-founders at Oldham and pattern makers at Preston, and good with ironfounders at Burnley. It was also fair in coachbuilding works at Preston. With textile machine makers employment showed slight signs of improvement.

West Riding Towns.—Employment in this district was bad, and declined somewhat during the month. A report from Leeds states that the unemployed list was larger than at any time during the last ten years, and a large amount of short time was worked, all branches being affected. Employment at Keighley was good with ironfounders and fair with pattern-makers.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment was dull and much worse than a year ago. With patternmakers it declined somewhat. At Hull some short time was worked, and a small amount of overtime on repairs. At Doncaster employment was slack, at Grimsby declining.

West Midlands.—Employment generally was quiet, and showed little change as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago some decline was shown. Electrical engineers reported employment as fair at Birmingham, slack at Wolverhampton. In the cycle trade employment was quiet, and many men were on short time. In the motor industry at Birmingham employment was moderate, but in the Wolverhampton district there was some overtime.

East Midlands.—Employment in this district was bad, and worse than a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago. At Derby some short time was worked. Electrical engineers were busy at Loughborough, and makers of shoe and hosiery machinery in the Leicester district were fairly well employed. In the cycle industry at Nottingham a considerable amount of short time was worked. With makers of hosiery and lace machinery at the same place employment was slack. At Hanley a considerable number of engineers were on short time.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment was dull and showed some decline as compared with a month and a year ago. With fitters at Sheerness it was good, and with smiths and hammermen it had slightly improved. With brass finishers employment was dull but improving, with coppermiths it was fair, with instrument makers it was slack, and with electrical workers it was dull.

South Coast.—Employment was moderate generally, and a slight decline was shown both as compared with a month and a year ago; but in the dockyard towns employment generally was steady. It was bad at Plymouth in private works.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. At Bristol, Pembroke and Cardiff it was bad; at Swindon fair. With ironfounders it was bad at Swansea, and some short time was worked.

Glasgow District.—Employment remained much about the same as in the previous month, but was much worse than a year ago. It was fair with pattern makers on the lower reaches of the Clyde. At Dumbarton employment was good; at Paisley, Greenock and Clydebank it was moderate. With ironmoulders it was bad generally, and some short time was worked. With coppermiths also there was some short time.

East of Scotland.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. At Falkirk many ironmoulders and pattern makers were on short time.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment at Belfast was dull generally, with brassfounders it was fair, with ironfounders it was bad. At Dublin employment was bad.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continued moderate with some short time among ironmoulders. In the Eastern Counties employment was dull generally. At Lancaster, Stoke, and Hanley it was bad.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 20 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment in the undermentioned trades was, on the whole, not so good in September as in August and a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—Employment continued bad in the brass trade generally; it was worse than a year ago, and there was much short time. Employment was reported as fair at Exeter, and moderate at Rotherham, and there was an improvement in the fender and fire brass branches in Birmingham.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment with nut and bolt makers was fair in the Wolverhampton district and in South Wales, and moderate in Birmingham and Smethwick. In Birmingham employment was moderate with nail makers, and it was quiet with machine made rivet makers. In the Blackheath district it was bad with makers of wrought nails and rivets, and also of malleable nails and protectors in Oakengates.

Tubes.—Employment was bad in South Staffordshire, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Birmingham employment in the copper and brazed sections was improving. In South Wales it was slack.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—With cable chain makers and strikers, and anchorsmiths, employment was bad at Cradley, and slack with makers of block chains, side-welded and dollied chains. In the Tyne district the chain makers were fully employed, but employment with anchorsmiths was scarcely so good. At Pontypridd employment was fair in the chain trade, and was slack in the anchor trade. With the anvil and vice makers in the Dudley district employment was slack, and some half time was worked. In Birmingham and West Bromwich employment was fairly good with axle makers, and at the latter place the spring makers were fully employed. In South Wales employment with the spring makers was good. At Wednesbury employment was slack with makers of road axles, springs and iron and steel forgings, but good with makers of railway axles and tyres. Employment was bad with makers of bit, stirrup, chain and cart gear at Walsall.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—In the lock and latch trade employment continued bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago; and there was a good deal of short time in both the Wolverhampton and Willenhall districts. With the hollow-ware makers at Birmingham employment slightly improved, at Wednesbury it was fair, and at West Bromwich quiet. At Sheffield the hollow-ware stampers were quiet, and the hollow-ware buffers slack. With makers of Brazil and plantation hoes at Wednesbury employment was good, and quiet with makers of spades and forks and vermin traps at Stourbridge. There was fair employment for makers of iron fences and hurdles at Wednesbury. Employment for the makers of electrical and cycle fittings at Oakengates was bad.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—In the Wolverhampton district employment with file smiths was fair, while at Sheffield the file trade generally was slack, and employment with the file cutters at Birmingham was bad. Edge tool makers were slack at Sheffield, but there was fair employment at Birmingham.

Cutlery, etc.—In Sheffield employment for pocket knife grinders and cutlers was moderate, for jobbing grinders and sheep shear makers it was quiet, and slack in other branches. Employment in the needle trade at Redditch was quiet; at Nottingham it was bad, and worse than a year ago. The hosiery needle makers were slack at Leicester and Northampton, only working about half time. In the fish hook trade in Redditch employment was improving.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment in this trade was moderate in the Tyne district, and it had improved in Birmingham, but in most of the other districts it was bad. At Falkirk there was much short time.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London the zinc workers were slack, and employment in other branches of the trade was bad. At Birmingham it was moderate in the tin plate branch and quiet on iron plate; it was fair at Edinburgh, and in the Tyne district. In other centres employment generally was described as either quiet or bad.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London the small silver workers were quiet, and employment was slack with the spoon and fork finishers, and bad with the silver spoon and fork makers. Employment was moderate with electro-platers, slack with gold beaters, diamond workers, goldsmiths and jewellers, and quiet with silversmiths. In Birmingham there was an improvement in the Britannia metal trade and in the jewellery trade dealing with the cheaper qualities; but the silversmiths and electroplaters were reported as quiet. At Coventry the watch trade was quiet. In Sheffield employment amongst platers and gilders was good; bad with other sections.

Wirework.—In Glasgow employment with wire workers and wire weavers was good. The wire drawers at Ambergate had fairly good employment; those at Halifax had fair employment, whilst at Warrington it was not very good. Employment with the wire workers and weavers in London, with the wire weavers in Birmingham, and with the wire drawers in Sheffield was bad; with the wire drawers in Birmingham it was bad; in other centres it was slack.

Farriers.—Employment generally was quiet, and was not quite so good as a month ago and a year ago. It was reported as moderate in Suffolk, Essex, Hanley, and the Tyne district.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade during the last week in September has been received through the Trade Correspondent to the Department from 523 firms employing 159,320 workpeople. Information has also been received from the Local Correspondents and from Trade Unions.

With the return of full time working by users of both American and Egyptian cotton employment in this industry is better than for a considerable time past.

The spinners of American cotton discontinued short time on August 29th.

In accordance with the agreement made in August (see LABOUR GAZETTE, September, 1904, page 271) most spinners of Egyptian cotton only worked 40 hours per week during the month of September. Short time ceased in all districts outside Bolton on September 26th. In the Bolton district it continued until October 3rd.

In the spinning mills covered by the employers' returns 97·2 per cent. of the total spindles were working in the last week of September, compared with 96·8 per cent. at the end of August, and 89·0 per cent. in the corresponding week in September, 1903. Of these spindles some were running short time. The percentage of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in mills in which short time was worked in the last week of September was 26·9, compared with 43·1 per cent. a month ago, and 48·5 per cent. a year ago.

In the weaving branch employment showed a further slight improvement, a smaller percentage of workpeople working short time, a smaller percentage of looms standing, and less slackness prevailing. Of the total looms covered by the employers' returns 95·2 per cent. were working in the last week of September, compared with 94·8 per cent. a month ago, and 88·0 per cent. a year ago. The proportion of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in weaving sheds in which short time was worked in the last week of September was 10·2

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—COTTON TRADE.

per cent., compared with 13.9 per cent. a month ago, and 30.9 per cent. a year ago.

It will be seen from the following Table that the number of persons employed by the firms sending returns showed a slight increase in every department compared with a month ago, and a considerable increase compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed in last week of			Percentage Increase in number employed in last week of Sept., 1904, compared with	
	September, 1904.	August, 1904.	September, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
	Preparing	22,402	22,271	20,791	+ 0.6	+ 7.7
Spinning	33,084	32,518	29,638	+ 1.7	+ 10.9
Weaving	88,167	87,228	81,940	+ 1.1	+ 7.6
Others	15,667	15,557	14,800	+ 0.7	+ 5.4
Total	159,320	157,574	147,419	+ 1.1	+ 8.1

SPINNING.

The following Table shows the percentage of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns who were employed in mills working short time during the last week of the months of September and August, 1904, and September, 1903. It also shows the percentage of spindles working during the last week of these months:—

District.	Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Preparing and Spinning Departments.			Spindles Working per cent. of Total Number of Spindles.		
	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.
	Ashton District	21.9	44.9	55.0	95.7	96.7	92.6
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	10.6	56.4	37.5	97.4	93.1	61.9
Oldham District	12.1	63.0	57.6	97.7	97.4	92.4
Bolton District	59.8	20.0	23.1	97.0	96.0	92.9
Wigan and Leigh District	48.9	15.8	22.1	96.6	95.0	91.4
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden	34.3	57.6	66.9	96.0	98.6	97.5
Preston, Chorley, and Lancaster	33.7	8.3	47.8	96.0	98.4	76.4
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen	6.9	28.7	41.6	98.6	97.1	74.9
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, and Nelson	24.3	28.2	60.0	99.8	99.9	87.2
Manchester District	39.6	23.2	56.3	98.1	94.8	95.1
Total	26.9	43.1	48.5	97.2	96.8	89.0

From the above Table it appears that employment was decidedly better than a month ago and a year ago. Compared with a month ago, owing mainly to organised short time in mills spinning Egyptian cotton, employment was worse in the Bolton, Leigh, Preston, and Manchester districts; except in the Preston district, where there was a decline, the number of spindles running showed an increase in these districts. The improvement was greatest in the Stockport and Oldham districts.

Compared with a year ago every district showed an improvement in time worked, except the Bolton and Leigh districts. The percentage of spindles working showed an increase in these two districts, the Bury and Heywood district being the only one which showed a decline.

WEAVING.

The following Table shows the percentage of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns who were employed in factories working short time during the last week of September and August, 1904, and September, 1903; it also shows the percentage of looms working during the last week of these months.

Compared with a month ago there was a slight decline both in the percentage of operatives affected by short time and in the percentage of looms standing idle. In several districts there was a slight increase in the percentage affected by short time, and in Manchester a

considerable increase took place; the percentage decline was greatest in the Oldham and Stockport districts. Although on the whole more looms were working a marked decline was shown in the Ashton district, and a slight one in the Stockport and Manchester districts.

Compared with a year ago a decline in the percentage affected by short time was apparent in every district except the Bolton district. More looms were running in most districts, but in the Ashton, Oldham and Manchester districts a smaller percentage were at work.

District.	Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Weaving Departments.			Looms Working per cent. of Total Number of Looms.		
	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.
	Ashton District	7.1	10.0	20.9	74.0	80.4	80.0
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	9.2	49.2	26.5	98.0	99.0	70.2
Oldham District	7.0	40.8	46.6	79.2	78.4	86.9
Bolton District	30.3	32.2	26.4	90.8	90.8	90.6
Wigan and Leigh District	18.1	18.0	60.7	85.2	81.5	83.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden	17.5	16.1	60.8	93.1	91.7	90.9
Preston, Chorley, and Lancaster	1.2	...	24.5	93.5	92.3	86.6
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen ... ..	...	5.7	21.1	99.9	97.9	85.6
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, and Nelson	3.4	1.2	24.9	98.3	98.1	94.0
Manchester District	52.9	44.8	55.0	88.2	88.4	90.0
Total	10.2	13.9	30.9	95.2	94.8	88.0

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of September the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.58d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.88d. and the lowest 5.80d. The price for August was 6.21d. and for September, 1903, 6.40d. For the period from 1st to 11th October, the average price of "middling American" was 5.66d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during September averaged 7.39d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.8d. and the lowest 7.5d. The price for August was 7.17d., and for September, 1903, 9.47d. For the period from 1st to 11th October the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.49d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported:—

	Month of September.			Nine months ended September.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Imported	Bales. 113,131	Bales. 82,300	Bales. 182,131	Bales. 2,257,693	Bales. 2,181,616	Bales. 2,025,687
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	216,594	155,596	225,397	2,285,939	2,146,816	1,989,966
Exported	30,509	34,729	20,917	350,591	393,950	298,327

The quantity of all kinds of American cotton forwarded from English ports to inland towns during the first nine months of 1904, was 1,602,895 bales, or 174,765 bales less than in the same period in 1903. The corresponding figures for Egyptian cotton are 219,394 in 1904, and 183,051 in 1903.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns are given below:—

Description of Cotton.	Month of September.			Nine Months ended September.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	American	Bales. 179,813	Bales. 125,024	Bales. 184,071	Bales. 1,862,464	Bales. 1,777,660	Bales. 1,602,895
Brazilian	18,329	10,400	9,140	132,078	102,667	57,833
East Indian	3,072	3,382	6,839	13,109	40,979	75,196
Egyptian	9,832	7,182	18,701	211,467	183,051	219,394
Miscellaneous	6,548	5,608	6,676	66,821	43,059	34,648
Total	216,594	155,596	225,397	2,285,939	2,146,816	1,989,966

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—COTTON TRADE; WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 7th October was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 475,240 bales, compared with 193,820 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in September, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during September averaged 12.84d. per lb., as compared with 12.65d. per lb. in September, 1903, an increase of about 1.5 per cent. The corresponding value for August, 1904, was 12.97d. per lb. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to nearly 6 per cent., the value being 2.78d. per yard in September, 1904, as compared with 2.63d. in September, 1903. The declared value in August, 1904, was 2.85d. per yard:—

	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Sept., 1902.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Sept., 1902.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.
	Cotton Yarn & Twist—	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.
Grey	11,190,500	7,361,800	11,190,000	9.93	12.68	12.89
Bleached and Dyed	3,280,600	2,169,000	2,621,000	11.30	12.57	12.67
Total	14,471,100	9,530,800	13,811,000	10.24	12.65	12.84
	yds.	yds.	yds.	per yd.	per yd.	per yd.
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	173,124,700	119,427,400	180,510,700	2.01	2.08	2.23
Bleached	96,200,500	92,899,500	121,797,000	2.47	2.50	2.70
Printed	82,932,500	84,028,100	85,587,400	2.63	2.69	2.93
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	70,327,100	76,074,800	85,452,500	3.48	3.60	3.90
Total	422,584,800	372,429,800	471,347,900	2.48	2.63	2.78

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 226 firms employing 68,480 workpeople, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The number paid wages by the firms making returns at the end of September was 68,480, compared with 68,081 at the end of August, and 68,513 at the end of September, 1903, an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and practically the same number as a year ago.

From the following Table it will be seen that little change took place in the number employed in the worsted trade compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the woollen trade the number employed in Yorkshire increased compared with both periods; in Scotland it showed a slight increase compared with a month ago, but a decrease compared with a year ago. The increase in the number employed in firms manufacturing woollen and worsted goods took place in Huddersfield.

Trade and District.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on		
	Sept., 1904.	August, 1904.	Sept., 1903.	August, 1904.	Sept., 1903.	
	<i>Worsted—</i>					
Bradford	22,042	22,909	22,092	+ 0.1	- 0.2	
Other Yorkshire Districts	18,467	18,449	18,443	+ 0.1	+ 0.1	
Other Districts	2,340	2,347	2,420	- 0.3	- 3.3	
Total	43,749	43,705	43,955	+ 0.1	- 0.2	
<i>Woollen—</i>						
Yorkshire	9,839	9,720	9,747	+ 1.2	+ 0.9	
Scotland	7,183	7,122	7,507	+ 0.9	- 4.3	
Other Districts	3,929	3,952	3,940	- 0.6	- 0.3	
Total	20,951	20,794	21,194	+ 0.8	- 1.1	
<i>Woollen and Worsted (not separated)</i>	3,780	3,582	3,464	+ 5.5	+ 9.1	
Total Woollen and Worsted	68,480	68,081	68,513	+ 0.6	...	

In the following Table, compared with a month ago, a decline is apparent in the sorting and combing branch in

Yorkshire; in the other branches there was a net improvement. Compared with a year ago there was a general decline in the wool sorting and wool combing branch; in the spinning branch there was an improvement in Yorkshire and a decline in Scotland; in the weaving branch there was a general decline.

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on		
	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	
	<i>Sorting and Combing—</i>					
Yorkshire	6,230	6,365	6,369	- 2.1	- 2.2	
Scotland	348	344	370	+ 1.2	- 3.4	
Other Districts	353	358	368	- 1.4	- 4.1	
Total	6,931	7,068	7,107	- 1.9	- 2.5	
<i>Spinning—</i>						
Yorkshire	24,235	23,947	23,621	+ 1.2	+ 2.6	
Scotland	2,073	2,078	2,145	- 0.2	- 3.4	
Other Districts	1,917	1,922	1,945	- 0.3	- 1.4	
Total	28,225	27,947	27,711	+ 1.0	+ 1.9	
<i>Weaving—</i>						
Yorkshire	15,312	15,174	15,747	+ 0.9	- 2.8	
Scotland	3,027	2,987	3,128	+ 1.3	- 3.4	
Other Districts	1,620	1,627	1,614	- 0.4	- 0.6	
Total	19,959	19,788	20,489	+ 0.9	+ 2.4	
<i>Other Departments—</i>						
Yorkshire	8,409	8,317	8,093	+ 1.1	+ 3.9	
Scotland	3,385	3,380	3,527	+ 0.1	- 4.0	
Other Districts	1,571	1,581	1,586	- 0.6	- 0.9	
Total	13,365	13,278	13,206	+ 0.7	+ 1.2	
<i>TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—</i>						
Yorkshire	54,186	53,804	53,830	+ 0.7	+ 0.7	
Scotland	8,833	8,789	9,170	+ 0.5	- 3.7	
Other Districts	5,461	5,488	5,513	+ 0.5	- 0.9	
Total, Woollen and Worsted	68,480	68,081	68,513	+ 0.6	...	

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

Bradford District.—Employment with wool sorters and with wool combers continued bad, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago; there was much short time amongst male wool combers, and some short time amongst female wool combers. The numbers employed in spinning and in weaving increased, but much short time and slackness was reported.

Keighley District.—The number returned as employed showed an increase compared with a month ago, but slackness and short time were reported.

Halifax District.—Employment continued dull, with much short time and slackness.

Huddersfield District.—Employment in the woollen trade was good, and better than a month ago; nearly all the firms in the Colne Valley worked overtime or double shifts, and night workers were difficult to obtain. In the worsted trade, although employment was dull, there was an improvement on the previous month. Employment generally was about the same as a year ago.

Leeds and Wakefield District.—Employment in Leeds was fair on the whole. Some overtime was reported in Wakefield.

Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, &c.).—Employment was good, and better than a year ago. Many firms worked overtime or night shifts.

Scotland.—Employment showed an improvement compared with a month ago, but was not so good as a year ago. In Hawick work was much more regular than in August. In Selkirk employment improved, and was very fair, but worse than a year ago. In Galashiels employment showed a slight decline, but was still fair, and much the same as a year ago.

Other Districts.—Employment at Wellington (Somerset) was dull. At Trowbridge it showed a decline. In Wales, at Newtown and Llanidloes the mills were not quite so busy. Employment at Rochdale, Milnrow, and Stockport was slack.

Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and woollen and worsted piece goods in September, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—OTHER TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING.

	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	Sept., 1902.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Sept., 1902.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Yarn:—						
Woolen	99,400	187,300	214,600	17.89	17.55	19.66
Worsted	4,101,400	4,893,300	4,345,700	16.24	17.07	18.85
Alpaca and Mohair	1,059,400	974,500	1,131,000	28.43	28.55	27.23
Total	5,260,200	6,055,100	5,691,300	18.73	18.94	20.54
Piece Goods:—						
Woolen	4,415,500	4,404,800	5,872,100	27.69	26.63	27.49
Worsted	8,337,900	7,645,700	8,108,500	14.75	14.02	14.22
Total	12,753,400	12,050,500	13,980,600	19.23	18.63	19.79

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from two Employers' Associations, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades in Scotland continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. In the flax spinning mills in Ulster it was good; in the linen-weaving factories it improved, but was dull and worse than a year ago.

In Dundee employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Information received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys, and 21,000 women and girls, shows that out of 37 spinning mills, 5 gave only partial employment during the month; out of 33 weaving factories, 7 gave only partial employment. In Forfar employment was only moderate, but better than a year ago. At Arbroath and Brechin it continued quiet. Flax dressers at Johnstone reported employment as dull; mill workers at Kilbirnie as fair.

In Ulster the Employers' Association reported employment in the flax spinning mills as good. In Belfast the Trade Unions reported employment as bad with beetlers, moderate with flax dressers and flax roughers, bad with power loom yarn dressers and power loom tenters, and quiet with women workers. On the whole it was better than a month ago but worse than a year ago.

At Barnsley employment in linen factories was bad.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from Correspondents of the Department, from one Employers' Association, and from one Trade Union, employment continued bad in England and improved in Scotland.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 10,710 workpeople in their factories at the end of September show an increase of 0.1 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, and practically no change compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 54 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 64 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in August. The slight improvement in Leicester reported last month was hardly maintained, and employment was bad. In Hinckley it was bad with shirt, pant, and ribbed hose workers, fairly good with those engaged on seamless and cotton hose. In Loughborough it was fair in the seamless hose branch, slack on fashioned hose, bad with shirt and pant makers.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment at Nottingham continued bad, and short time was prevalent. With hand frame workers it was bad at Carlton, Lowdham and Arnold, moderate at Ruddington and Woodborough; it was irregular with shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard. Employment at Belper and Ilkeston continued bad.

Scotland.—In Hawick employment improved during the month; nearly all the factories were running full time at the end of the month, and in some overtime was being worked. In Selkirk employment continued good.

Lace Trade.

According to information received from one Employers' Association, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents employment in the lace trade continued bad. In Nottingham it was very bad in the levers

section and bad in the curtain section, and was worse than a year ago; in the plain net section it continued fair, and was much the same as a year ago. A little improvement was reported at Beeston. Employment was moderate at Stapleford and Bulwell; at Kimberley it was quiet; at Long Eaton and Ilkeston it was bad, the majority working short time. At Glasgow employment was fair; at Newmilns it was reported as dull.

Carpet Trade.

According to information received from employers through the Trade Correspondent of the Department, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the woollen carpet trade was only moderate in England, good in Scotland.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of September was 2,091, an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment at Kidderminster was again reported as bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Bridgnorth it was slack. In Halifax it was moderate, and not so good as a month ago. In the Heckmondwyke district it was good. In Midlothian employment continued good, and was decidedly better than a year ago. In the Glasgow district it was fairly good.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from four Employers' Associations, from three Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in the West Riding continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; about four-fifths of the Trade Union members worked short time and about one-fifth worked overtime. With cotton dyers generally employment was decidedly better than a month ago and a year ago; in Bolton it continued bad. Employment was fair with calico printers at Manchester, New Mills, and Glasgow; it was good with calico printers' engravers at Dinting and fair at Glasgow. Employment with hosiery dyers and trimmers continued bad in Leicestershire, and was worse than a year ago; it was very slack at Bulwell, Basford, and Nottingham, and worse than a year ago and a month ago. In Glasgow employment with calendermen continued dull. In Dundee employment with bleachfield workers was fair; with calender workers it was good; dyers were busy.

TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions.

Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed some seasonal improvement, but was slightly worse than a year ago; in the provinces it was bad. In the *ready-made* branch employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 1,011 workpeople on their premises and 1,515 outworkers.* According to these returns employment with inworkers was good during the month in firms employing 16 per cent. of the total number, moderate in firms employing 49 per cent., and bad in firms employing 35 per cent. With outworkers* employment was good with firms employing 23 per cent., moderate with firms employing 54 per cent., and bad with firms employing 23 per cent. Compared with a month ago a seasonal improvement was apparent. Compared with a year ago employment was slightly worse with both indoor and outdoor workers. In Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dublin and Belfast employment was bad.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment during September, although slightly better than a month ago, was only moderate and about the same as a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported employment as bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

* The numbers may include the same outworkers more than once, and do not include persons employed by outworkers.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—TAILORING TRADES; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

In Leeds employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. According to returns received from "ready-made" tailoring manufacturers, employing about 9,000 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during September was good or fair with firms employing 19 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 37 per cent., and bad with firms employing 44 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 31 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 37 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 32 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 38 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 10 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 52 per cent. as worse. Short time was worked in many factories. Employment with Jewish operatives showed a slight improvement. In Manchester employment was dull but improving; with Jewish out-workers it was bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Bristol employment was bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. In Staffordshire a slight improvement was reported. Employment in Norwich was moderate, and worse than a year ago; it was slack in Ipswich, Bury, and Colchester. In Glasgow employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Other Leather Trades, see p. 308.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 592 firms employing 71,908 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.

The number (71,908) employed by all firms making returns at the end of September showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. on the number (72,151) employed by these firms at the end of August, and of 1.9 per cent. on the number (73,284) employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives 56 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments during the last week of September.

A large number of firms (378) employing 52,736 workpeople, have also been good enough to supply returns of the amount of wages paid on the last pay day in September, in addition to particulars of the number employed. The returns from these firms are analysed in the following Table:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both number employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
		No. employed at end of Sept., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last pay day in Sept., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) as compared with			
			A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
ENGLAND & WALES.									
London	30	1,834	+ 4.4	+ 2.7	2,370	+ 5.8	+ 9.0		
Leicester	66	11,824	– 1.9	– 4.6	10,819	– 6.8	– 7.0		
Leicester Country District	21	2,186	...	+ 8.4	1,836	– 3.5	+ 6.9		
Northampton ...	44	7,007	– 0.4	– 0.5	6,625	– 1.1	– 0.1		
Kettering	19	2,453	– 1.1	– 3.0	2,421	– 1.0	– 6.2		
Northampton Country District	66	7,741	+ 1.3	– 1.5	6,719	– 2.7	+ 1.1		
Stafford and District	11	1,890	– 0.6	+ 4.7	1,520	– 4.0	+ 4.4		
Norwich & District	17	3,206	– 0.4	+ 1.6	2,574	+ 0.3	+ 6.5		
Bristol	8	1,415	– 1.9	– 8.4	1,216	– 6.2	– 12.5		
Kingswood	17	1,823	+ 1.1	+ 7.1	1,764	+ 0.5	+ 1.7		
Leeds and District	27	2,562	+ 0.6	– 8.8	2,432	– 14.2	– 14.2		
Manchester & District	9	1,710	+ 2.7	+ 6.2	1,599	– 2.6	+ 6.7		
Birmingham & District	5	605	– 0.8	– 0.2	554	– 2.3	+ 6.5		
Other parts of England and Wales	17	2,279	+ 1.0	– 4.4	2,013	+ 2.0	+ 0.3		
Total, England and Wales	357	48,535	– 0.1	– 1.4	44,462	– 2.5	– 1.7		
SCOTLAND	19	3,911	+ 0.4	– 3.8	3,585	– 5.6	– 9.1		
IRELAND	2	290	– 0.3	– 3.0	224	+ 0.9	– 9.3		
Total, UNITED KINGDOM ...	378	52,736	– 0.1	– 1.6	48,271	– 2.7	– 2.3		

Compared with a month ago, 5 districts showed an increase, from £9,424 to £9,613 in the amount of

wages paid by 93 firms making returns, and 10 showed a decrease, from £38,443 to £36,894, in the amount paid by 268 firms making returns. The increase took place in London (5.8 per cent.), the miscellaneous group of districts (2.0 per cent.), Ireland (0.9 per cent.), the Leeds district (0.5 per cent.), and the Norwich district (0.3 per cent.). The percentage decrease was greatest in Leicester (6.8 per cent.), Bristol (6.2 per cent.), Scotland (5.6 per cent.), Stafford and district (4.0 per cent.), and the Leicester country district (3.5 per cent.).

The net result was a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the last week of September compared with the last week of August, while the number of workpeople employed by these 378 firms at the end of September showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. as compared with a month ago.

Compared with a year ago, 9 districts showed an increase, from £20,168 to £20,949, in the amount of wages paid by 193 firms making returns, and 7 showed a decrease, from £29,255 to £27,322, in the amount paid by 185 firms making returns. The percentage increase was greatest in London (9.0 per cent.), the Leicester country district (6.9 per cent.), the Manchester district (6.7 per cent.), and the Norwich and Birmingham districts (6.5 per cent.). The percentage decrease was greatest in the Leeds district (14.2 per cent.), Bristol (12.5 per cent.), Ireland (9.3 per cent.), Scotland (9.1 per cent.), and Leicester (7.0 per cent.). The net result was a decrease of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the last week of September, and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month.

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Employment was quiet, but firms reporting wages showed an improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago. The operatives' Trade Union reported it as quiet, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union clickers, pressmen, and machinists reported it as very dull. One branch of hand-sewn boot makers reported an improvement, another branch a decline.

Leicester and District.—Employment in Leicester was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Short time was reported to be on the increase. In the Leicester country district employment was worse than a month ago, but a considerable increase was shown both in the number employed and the amount of wages paid during the last week of September compared with a year ago.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—Returns received from firms in Northampton showed a further decline in the number employed and the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the Northampton country district there was a slight increase in the numbers employed, but a decline in the amount of wages paid compared with last month. Compared with a year ago, the case was reversed. At Kettering there was a decline in the numbers employed and the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a marked decline in both compared with a year ago. The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as quiet at Northampton; as very bad at Kettering; and as slightly improved at Higham and Rushden. The improvement with army boot makers was maintained.

Stafford and District.—Employment showed a further decline, but an increase was shown both in the numbers employed and the amount of wages paid compared with a year ago.

Eastern Counties.—Employment at Norwich was reported as fair, except with hand finishers. It was bad at Ipswich.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Employment was reported as still slack at Bristol. Returns received from firms in Bristol showed a decline in the numbers employed, and a marked decline in the amount of wages paid, compared with both a month and a year ago. In Kingswood there was a slight improvement compared with a month ago and a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—BOOT AND SHOE TRADE; HAT TRADE; OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

Leeds and District.—Employment showed little change, and was decidedly worse than a year ago.

Other Districts in England.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as very bad at Birmingham; as bad at Newcastle and Derby; as slack at Nottingham; as very quiet at Wolverhampton; as moderate at Chesterfield; and as brisk at Bishop Auckland.

Scotland.—Employment was slack at Glasgow, except with hand-sewn shoemakers. The improvement at Maybole was maintained. Trade Union lasters and finishers reported employment as slightly improved at Edinburgh, and as fair at Kilmarnock. Returns received from employers showed a decline in the number employed and the amount of wages paid, compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and the values of the boots and shoes imported and exported during the undermentioned periods:—

	Month of September.			Nine months ended September.			
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.	
Imports	Dozen pairs...	16,913	19,837	16,777	186,173	180,867	160,157
	Value £ ...	63,950	75,942	65,782	666,630	720,989	591,847
Re-Exports	Dozen pairs...	1,703	1,897	1,252	14,750	16,228	13,843
	Value £ ...	5,256	5,465	4,353	40,556	44,093	38,260
Exports (British and Irish)	Dozen pairs...	70,360	62,237	65,649	529,956	598,542	479,632
	Value £ ...	162,387	147,308	152,334	1,275,727	1,427,064	1,125,881

HAT TRADE.

ACCORDING to information received from three Employers' Associations and two Trade Unions, employment in the hat trade showed an improvement. Trade Unions with 5,432 members had 171 (or 3.1 per cent.) unemployed compared with 3.8 per cent. at the end of August, and 2.6 per cent. a year ago. The percentage unemployed was much higher in the silk than in the felt hat trade.

With *silk* hatters employment in London continued bad but improved towards the end of the month; about two hours a day short time was worked. In Denton employment was quiet and short time was worked. The Trade Union silk hatters had 13.1 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 14.2 per cent. a month ago, and 13.3 per cent. a year ago.

With *felt* hatters employment in Denton was fairly good, and better than a month ago; on ladies' hats it was better than a year ago. At Stockport employment was better than a month ago, but short time was still general. Employment was good at Hyde, worse at Failsworth. At Bury it continued fairly good. In Warwickshire it continued good. The Trade Union felt hatters had 1.5 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 2.1 per cent. at the end of August, and 0.8 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

Employment in the dressmaking trade showed the usual seasonal improvement, but was worse than a year ago. In the mantle trade employment was fair and better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade, although better than a month ago, it was quiet and worse than a year ago. In the corset trade it showed little change.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London returns received from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,456 dressmakers at the end of September, showed an increase of 65.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a slight decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment at the end of the month was only moderate. Court dressmakers employing 1,656 workpeople at the end of September showed an increase of 87.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; dressmakers

employing one-third of the total number reported employment as quiet or bad, with the remaining two-thirds it was reported as fair or good. In the wholesale mantle and costume trades employment was reported as good in some firms, moderate in others, and as better than a month ago, but it was worse than a year ago. With mantle makers in retail firms at the end of the month employment, although better than a month ago, was worse than a year ago. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons, and underclothing reported employment as moderate during the month, and better than in August, and as much the same as a year ago. The number of milliners employed in retail firms making returns was considerably greater than a year ago, and employment was reported as fair; in the wholesale millinery branch employment at the end of the month was fair.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux showed an increased demand for dressmakers during the month compared with August, but a decline compared with a year ago; the number requiring situations was greater than a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment was slack; firms employing 1,819 workpeople at the end of September showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed at the end of August, and of 2.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fair, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 8,551 workpeople in their factories at the end of September showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed a month ago, but a decrease of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 40 per cent. of the total number reported employment as good or fair at the end of September, and firms employing 60 per cent. as quiet or bad, to be compared with 34 per cent. and 66 per cent. respectively at the end of August.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,164 workpeople in their factories at the end of September, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 70 per cent. of the total number included in the returns reported employment as good or fair, and firms employing 30 per cent. as quiet or bad, to be compared with 55 per cent. and 45 per cent. respectively at the end of August.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 307.)

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show that the state of employment continued bad generally in September, and was worse than a year ago. There was a considerable amount of short time. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of September was 9.8, as compared with 11.2 in August and 7.4 in September, 1903.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—Employment generally continued bad, and worse than a year ago in these branches. There was some improvement compared with the previous month at Leeds and Birmingham, but employment at these places was still quiet. At Bristol, Bolton, Wigan, and Bury it was reported as fair.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—At Walsall employment was bad generally, and worse than a year ago, with a considerable amount of short time, but horse collar makers were fairly employed, and better than a year ago. In London employment was bad in the saddle and harness trade, quiet with collar makers. In Birmingham it was bad with saddle and harness and whip thong makers, fair with collar makers. Employment was

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

reported as bad at Glasgow, Manchester, Sheffield and Bristol; fair at Edinburgh and Dublin; good at Aberdeen.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London employment was bad with pocket-book and leather case makers and fancy leather workers. In Birmingham the fancy leather trades were better employed. In the portmanteau and trunk trade employment was dull in London and Manchester; in Sheffield it was reported as bad in the bag trade. In these branches short time continued in London.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been furnished by 20 Employers' Associations, by 32 Employers in Scotland, by Trade Unions with 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents.

These returns show that the state of employment in the letterpress and lithographic printing trades remained slack and worse than a year ago. Bookbinders were slack, better employed than a month ago, but not so busy as a year ago. The paper trades continued fair on the whole.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment remained slack generally. In *letterpress printing* Trade Unions with 39,204 members had 6.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 6.1 per cent. in August, and 5.2 per cent. in September, 1903. In *lithographic printing* there was a decline; Trade Unions with 6,483 members had 6.4 per cent. unemployed, against 5.8 per cent. a month ago and 4.5 per cent. a year ago. With *bookbinders* there was an improvement (principally in London), the percentage unemployed of 7,001 Trade Union bookbinders at the end of September being 6.4, compared with 7.8 per cent. in August, and 5.5 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table are shown the percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* in the principal districts, compared with those for a month ago and a year ago:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Sept. 1904, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	22,897	6.7	6.7	5.7	...	+ 1.0
Northern Counties ...	1,456	3.8	6.0	3.8	− 2.2	...
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,806	7.5	8.4	7.0	− 0.9	+ 0.5
Yorkshire ...	4,133	5.7	5.6	4.4	+ 0.1	+ 1.3
East Midlands ...	2,175	5.2	6.4	4.1	− 1.2	+ 1.1
West Midlands ...	2,448	7.6	8.2	5.1	− 0.6	+ 2.5
Eastern Counties ...	379	4.2	4.0	3.0	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
S. & S. W. Counties...	2,670	3.8	3.2	2.3	+ 0.6	+ 1.5
Wales and Mon. ...	810	3.2	1.5	1.9	+ 1.7	+ 1.3
Scotland ...	6,306	3.6	2.6	2.5	+ 1.0	+ 1.1
Ireland ...	2,608	11.5	10.5	9.0	+ 1.0	+ 2.5
United Kingdom ...	52,688	6.3	6.3	5.2	...	+ 1.1

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Employment declined during the month, except with bookbinders. With letterpress printers it was dull, Trade Unions with 17,144 members having 6.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 6.3 a month ago and 5.7 per cent. a year ago. In the lithographic trade employment was much worse than a year ago, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 7.6 at the end of September, against 6.3 in August and 5.5 a year ago; lithographic artists, however, continued well employed. With bookbinders there was a considerable improvement, though short time was still being worked, and employment was not up to the level of a year ago. Of 3,761 Trade Union members in this section, 6.3 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 8.7 per cent. in August, and 5.8 in September, 1903.

Northern Counties.—Employment at Newcastle was reported as improving, but short time was still being worked. At other towns employment was fair generally.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Manchester and Liverpool employment remained bad, except with lithographic artists and electrotypers and stereotypers, who were fairly well employed. At Bolton and Burnley employment was good; at Blackburn, Oldham, Ashton-under-Lyne and Barrow it was slack.

Yorkshire.—Employment remained slack on the whole. It improved, however, with letterpress printers at Sheffield and Huddersfield. Lithographic printers at Leeds were moderately employed.

East Midland Counties.—Employment remained slack at Leicester. At Nottingham it continued dull except with bookbinders, who were fairly well employed. At Derby employment was fairly good with letterpress printers and bookbinders; with lithographic printers short time was worked. Letterpress printers at Northampton and Lincoln were fairly well employed.

West Midland Counties.—Employment with letterpress printers continued slack as a rule, but was fairly good at Coventry, Warwick, Stafford, and Walsall. Lithographic printers were fairly well employed on the whole. Bookbinders remained slack.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties, and Wales.—Employment with letterpress printers was reported as good at Ipswich, Aylesbury, Guildford, Reading, Redhill and Carnarvon; as fair at Brighton, Tonbridge, Hertford, Portsmouth, Cardiff, and Newport; as declining at Oxford; as slack at St. Albans, Watford, Norwich, Plymouth, Bristol, Bath, Gloucester, and Swansea. With lithographic printers at Bristol employment was reported as good.

Scotland.—Employment in Edinburgh was fairly good with compositors and stereotypers; dull with press and machinemen; bad with typefounders. Letterpress printers reported employment as quiet at Glasgow; moderate at Dundee; dull at Aberdeen. Employment with lithographic printers remained moderate; with bookbinders it was bad.

Ireland.—Employment remained bad generally.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades remained fair on the whole. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,394 members had 3.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, as against 3.2 per cent. in August, and 2.8 per cent. in September, 1903. Returns received from 32 employers in Scotland show that 4,957 workpeople were employed by them at the end of September, as compared with 4,985 at the end of August, and 4,942 at the end of September, 1903.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, from Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents.

Employment during September was slack, about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of September was 7.1, as compared with 6.8 per cent. in August, and 4.5 per cent. a year ago.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodworking machinists was bad generally, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,832 show 3.0 (or 6.4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 5.8 per cent. at the end of August, and 4.3 per cent. a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment continued bad generally, and worse than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 14,744, show 1,224 (or 8.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 8.4 per cent. at the end of August, and 4.5 per cent. a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES; GLASS, &c., TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was dull on the whole, and rather worse than a month ago. It is reported as bad at Burton-on-Trent, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Belfast; fair at Hull and Bristol; moderate at Manchester and Cork; and good at Peterhead.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment generally was slack, and rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,819, report 380 (or 4.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 4.0 per cent. a month ago, and 4.4 per cent. a year ago. Employment was bad at Birmingham, Liverpool and Dublin; and fair at Swindon and Glasgow.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers remained bad, and worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,679 report 173 (or 10.3 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 9.7 per cent. at the end of August, and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Lathrenders report employment as bad in London, quiet in Glasgow, and good at Edinburgh; packing case makers as dull in London, quiet in Glasgow, and fair at Bolton and Bury. With basketmakers it was bad in London, and moderate at Leicester. With stick-makers and mounters it was bad in London. Bobbin and shuttle makers at Dundee report it as fair.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

Information has been received from 12 Employers' Associations, 11 Trade Unions in the Glass Trade with 4,752 members, 1 Trade Union in the Brick Trade, Local Correspondents, and 1 firm of employers.

Employment in the Glass trade improved somewhat during the month in the glass bottle making branch; it continued slack in the flint glass branch. It continued quiet in the Pottery trades, and slack in the Brick and Tile trades.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers is reported as bad at Bristol, Barnsley, Mexboro', and Leeds, and generally in the Yorkshire district; moderate at St. Helens and Wakefield; fair in the Wear district and at Dublin; and good at Glasgow and Portobello. Makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham report a slight improvement. Employment with flint glass makers was bad in the Tyne district, in the Manchester district, and at Edinburgh; moderate at Stourbridge; fair at Birmingham, and quiet at Glasgow. Flint-glass cutters report it as bad at Birmingham, Wordsley, Glasgow, and Edinburgh. With flint-glass makers at Barnsley employment was moderate. With pressed-glass workers it was slack at Gateshead, and dull at Glasgow. Employment continued good with sheet-glass makers at St. Helens, and fair with sheet-glass flatteners. With glass bevellers at Birmingham it was fair. It was also fair with glass blowers in London.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment with hollow-ware and sanitary pressers showed a slight improvement. With printers, transferrers, ovenmen, and china and earthenware decorators it was bad. It was fairly good with engravers, and slack with encaustic and other decorated tile workers. Cratemakers worked three days per week. Employment with china potters at Longton was bad. At Swadincote (Derbyshire) hollow-ware and sanitary pressers worked four days per week. At Newcastle-on-Tyne employment with hollow-ware pressers continued fair. With potters at Rotherham employment was quiet. In the Woodville district it was good with conduit pipe makers, and bad with drain pipe and sanitary ware makers. At Barnstaple it was fair with potters, and at Bideford quiet.

In Scotland employment generally was good. In Glasgow it was good with stoneware throwers, dull

with tobacco-pipe makers and finishers, and bad with white hollow-ware potters.

Brickmaking.—Employment was bad at Peterborough, Nottingham, Birmingham and Glasgow; slack in the Shropshire district, quiet at Plymouth, Stourbridge and in North Wales; moderate in South Staffordshire and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; fair at Gunnislake, Calstock, Exeter, Ipswich, Sudbury, Chelmsford, Oldham and in South Wales; and fairly good at Market Harboro' and Woodville.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Information as to the condition of employment in agriculture was received from 167 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that the weather during September continued favourable for work in the fields, although in some districts there were a few showery or stormy days, which did not, however, materially interfere with outdoor work. Corn harvest was completed in most districts early in the month, and although there was a good deal of work afterwards, such as ploughing, threshing, hoeing, potato lifting, &c., the demand for extra men fell off considerably in a number of counties, and in some districts several day labourers were in irregular employment.

Northern Counties.—According to reports from Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland, agricultural employment was regular in September. The supply of extra labour was plentiful. Where ordinary reaping machines were used for harvesting a few extra men were required, but with the self-binding machines the ordinary staff was generally able to do the necessary work. In Lancashire the supply of day labourers was generally equal to the demand. A correspondent states that as the harvest was finished early in the month and potatoes were not ready for lifting, a number of Irish migratory labourers found themselves without work, and consequently returned to their homes. Employment was regular with farm labourers in Yorkshire. The supply of day labourers was equal to the demand. In certain districts some men were not in full work after the harvest was ended, but, generally speaking, threshing, potato-lifting and thatching provided a good deal of employment.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents in Cheshire and Derbyshire report that employment was regular during September. The supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand. In the Nantwich and Tarvin Unions it is stated that some of the Irish migratory labourers were at a loss for work after the harvest, as it was too soon for potato-lifting. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire day labourers were in some demand for threshing, but there was a plentiful supply, though the quality was said to be inferior. Capable men for permanent situations were in demand in some districts. In Staffordshire and Shropshire farm labourers were fairly well employed during September. The supply of extra men was rather in excess of the demand, owing partly to the short harvest and partly to slackness of work in the towns. Regularity of employment is reported in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, the fruit picking in certain districts having provided a certain amount of work. Day labourers were rather more plentiful, and the supply was about equal to the demand. Men for permanent situations are not quite so difficult to obtain as was the case a year ago. In Northamptonshire most of the farm labourers were in full employment. There was, however, but a small demand for extra men. Men for permanent situations were in some demand, particularly waggoners, shepherds, and men for milking. In Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire the supply of extra labour for clearing land, threshing, and other work was equal to the demand. A correspondent in the Thames Union states that there are many advertisements in the local newspapers for farm hands. Agricultural labourers in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire were generally in regular work during September. Extra men were not in much demand. A correspondent in

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

the Hitchin Union (Herts), writing on September 30th, states that in consequence of the harvest being so poor, farmers are employing as little labour as possible.

Eastern Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire were, generally speaking, fully employed. Threshing, cleaning stubble, &c., furnished work when the harvest was over. The supply of day labourers was sufficient, and in some districts more than sufficient. Men for permanent situations are said to be rather less difficult to obtain than of late. In Lincolnshire, owing to light crops, extra men were not in much demand. In the Brigg Union many Irish labourers are reported to have been out of work for a time after the harvest, the potato crop being late and not ready for lifting. There is said to be a better supply of men for permanent situations. In Norfolk and Suffolk farm work was well forward, and employment regular with the great majority of labourers. Some day labourers in certain districts, however, were not in constant work, and the supply of this class of men was in excess of the demand. Some of the reports refer to a scarcity of team-men and milkers, but the supply of labour is, on the whole, better than a year ago. Similar reports come from Essex.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Correspondents in Kent state that the supply of casual or day labourers for hop-picking and other work was in excess of the demand, owing partly to the small yield of hops. The supply of men for permanent situations was generally sufficient, but a scarcity of men to work with horses is mentioned in the West Ashford Union. In Surrey and Sussex farm labourers were steadily employed during September. Except in the hop gardens the demand for extra men was small, and several were unable to find constant employment. Reports from Hampshire and Berkshire show that farm labourers were, for the most part, in full employment during September. There was a fairly good demand for day labourers, but the supply was more than required. Potato-lifting furnished employment for a certain number after the harvest. Similar reports come from Wiltshire.

In Dorsetshire agricultural labourers are stated to have been fairly regularly employed, and extra men for hoeing, &c., were readily obtained. Men for permanent situations are less difficult to find. Regularity of employment is reported in Somersetshire. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand, but a scarcity of men for permanent situations, particularly carters, is mentioned in some districts. In Herefordshire and Gloucestershire extra men were in some demand for threshing, fruit picking, cleaning the land, and manure carting. A scarcity of carters and of men for milking is reported in certain districts. In Devon and Cornwall farm labourers were for the most part in full employment. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, and better than a year ago. In a few districts, however, there was a scarcity of men for potato-lifting.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Returns as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation, and from Trade Unions. Information respecting other principal ports has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, by Trade Unions, and by Local Correspondents of the Department.

Employment during September remained moderate, showing a slight decline on the whole as compared with year ago.

London.

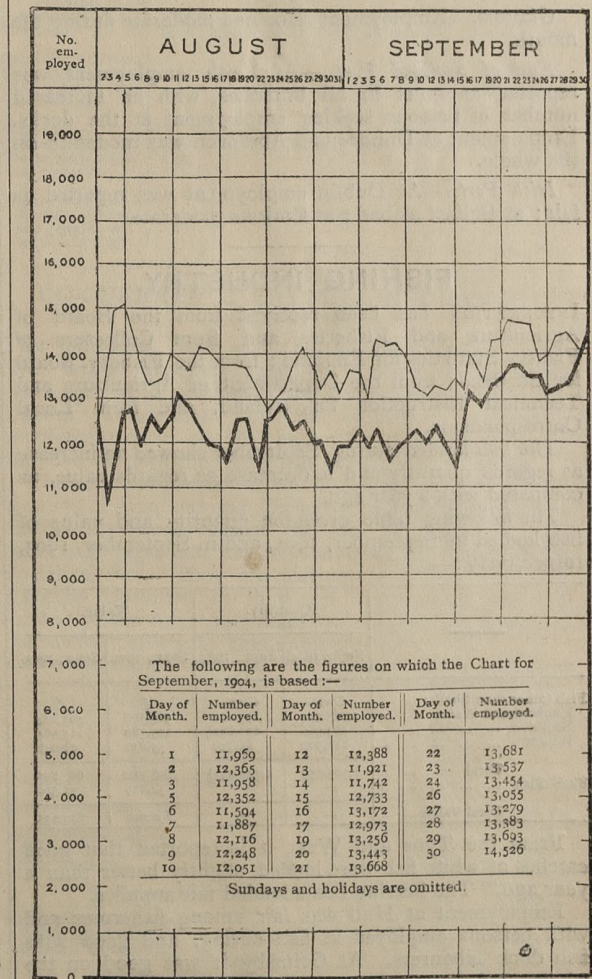
The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended September 24th was 12,487, an increase of 1.8 per cent. on the average for August, and a decrease of 9.5 per cent. as compared with September, 1903. The average daily number employed in September during the seven years, 1897-1903, was 15,212.

(1) Weekly Averages.—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended September 24th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Sep. 3rd	4,672	1,762	6,434	5,478	11,912
" " 10th	4,669	1,602	6,271	5,770	12,041
" " 17th	4,907	1,901	6,808	5,680	12,488
" " 24th	5,720	1,922	7,642	5,865	13,507
Average for 4 weeks ended Sept. 24th	4,992	1,797	6,789	5,698	12,487
Average for Aug., 1904	4,903	2,011	6,914	5,349	12,263
Average for Sept., 1903	5,787	2,037	7,824	5,970	13,794

(2) Daily Fluctuations.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown in the following Chart. The numbers in September ranged from 11,594 on the 6th to 14,526 on the 30th. During September, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 13,045 on the 5th to 14,791 on the 23rd.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of August and September, 1904. The corresponding curve for August and September, 1903, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1904, and the thin curve to 1903.]



Employment was moderate with workers in mid-stream, coal porters, winchmen, and corn porters; fair with lightermen, stevedores, lumpers, and deal porters. With fruit porters in Thames Street it was also fair, the

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING; SEAMEN.

average daily number employed being 280, as compared with 273 in August, and 295 a year ago.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during September, 1904, 81 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 71 per cent. in the previous month, and 56 per cent. in September, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—Employment was moderate on the whole, that at Middlesbrough having improved.

Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.—At Hull and Goole employment was slack; at Grimsby it was fairly good.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Employment was fairly good at Harwich, Parkeston, Yarmouth, and Lynn; not so good at Lowestoft and Ipswich.

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment at both ports was moderate on the whole.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment was reported as slack at Cardiff and Newport, and especially at Cardiff with those engaged in loading patent fuel. At Bristol, Avonmouth, and Gloucester it was reported as good. At Swansea coal trimmers were well employed.

Liverpool and Manchester.—At Liverpool employment for dock labourers was worse than in the previous month; in the other branches it remained dull. With dock labourers at Manchester employment was good.

Glasgow.—Employment remained moderate during the month.

East of Scotland Ports.—At Leith employment was reported as quiet in all branches, with an increased number of persons seeking employment at the docks. Employment at Dundee and Aberdeen was moderate on the whole.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin employment was reported as fair; at Belfast as bad; at Cork as moderate.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

INFORMATION has been received from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and from Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and from Local Correspondents.

The fish landed during September showed an increase as regards quantity and a decrease as regards value, as compared with a year ago.

The following table gives the quantity and value of fish landed in September, 1904, and in September, 1903, respectively:—

Table showing quantity and value of fish landed in Sept. 1904 and Sept. 1903. Columns include Quantity (Sept. 1904, Sept. 1903) and Value (£, Sept. 1904, Sept. 1903). Rows include Fish (other than Shell), Shell Fish, and Total Value.

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that good catches of white fish were landed, slightly better than a year ago. The herring boats landed fair supplies.

Employment at Hull was fair among fishermen and with persons employed in fish curing, and good with fish dock labourers. At Grimsby it was good on the whole, and better than a month and a year ago. At Yarmouth it was good among fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and persons employed in fish curing. On the whole it was better than a month ago and worse than a year ago. The herring fishery at Yarmouth and

Lowestoft commenced towards the end of the month, and gave promise of full employment for a few weeks.

Employment in all branches was slack at Harwich. Off the South-western coast steam trawlers and whiting boats had good catches, sailing trawlers, hookers and mackerel boats had fair catches, and some of the drifters engaged in the pilchard fishery had exceptionally large catches. Fish curers and packers were well employed.

At Cardiff, Swansea and Milford fair catches were landed during the month.

Employment at Aberdeen is reported as good in all branches, and about the same as a month and a year ago. At Peterhead it was moderate, and worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. At Fraserburgh and Macduff it was fair among fishermen and persons employed in fish curing. At Arbroath the catches were fair, and at Montrose the trawlers landed good supplies, and the line boats fair supplies.

Off the South and South-Western coast of Ireland mackerel and hake fishing is reported as very good.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during September, 38,825* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, a decrease of 725 on the number shipped during September, 1903.

The supply of labour is stated to have been in excess of, or equal to, the demand at the ports included in the returns.

At Dublin there has been a decrease of 108 in the monthly wages for A.B.'s and firemen on steamships.

During the completed nine months of 1904, 331,441* seamen were shipped, of whom 49,763 (or 15.0 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of 1903, 323,038* seamen were shipped, of whom 50,289 (or 15.6 per cent.) were foreigners.

Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in September, 1904 and 1903 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the nine months ended September in each of these years:—

Table showing the number of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in September, 1904 and 1903 respectively, together with the number shipped in the nine months ended September in each of these years.

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals. † Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

THE returns as to the price of bread, furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of October, and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table below. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

Table showing prices of bread in various places (London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Derby, Gatheshead, Hull, Ipswich, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbro', Newcastle-on-Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Potteries, Wolver'pton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin) for 1903 and 1904, and Present Price (1st Oct., 1904).

Compared with a month ago, the price per 4 lbs. was advanced 1/4d. at Plymouth, Edinburgh, Belfast and Dublin. In London 44 per cent. of the shops visited at the beginning of October were selling at 5d., and 44 per cent. at 5 1/2d. per 4 lbs. At the beginning of September 54 per cent. of the shops visited were selling at 5d., 21 per cent. at 5 1/2d. and 21 per cent. at 4 1/2d. There has thus been a stiffening of prices in London.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each month from October, 1903:—

Table showing the mean London Gazette price of British wheat and the average declared value of wheat and flour imports for each month from October, 1903.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies during September, 1904, amounted to 8,521,700

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at and November, 1903, or at 1st January, 1st February, 1st April, and 2nd May, 1904, except at Wolverhampton, where the price per 4 lbs. was reduced 1/4d. (5 1/2d. to 5d.) at 2nd November, 1903, and at Dublin, where the price was reduced 1/4d. at 1st April, 1904.

cwts. (1,988,397 quarters), compared with 8,205,800 cwts. (1,914,687 quarters), in the corresponding month of 1903. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 898,850 cwts., compared with 1,843,640 cwts. in September, 1903.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron are given in the Table below. Compared with the previous ascertainment it will be seen that little change has taken place. In Cumberland and Cleveland, however, the decline in prices of pig-iron was sufficient to bring about, under the sliding scales which regulate wages in those two districts, a reduction in blastfurnacemen's wages of 1 1/4 per cent. and 3/4 per cent. respectively. Compared with a year ago a general decline is shown. The price of Northumberland coal has fallen about 10 per cent.; pig-iron in Cumberland 6.6 per cent., in Cleveland 8.7 per cent.; and manufactured iron 5.4 per cent. in the North of England, 8.1 per cent. in the Midlands, and 7.6 per cent. in West Scotland.

Table showing prices of coal and iron in various districts (Northumberland, Cumberland, Cleveland, Manufact'rd Iron, Midlands, West Scotland) for different periods (June-Aug., July-Sept.) and compared with previous audits.

CO-OPERATIVE CATTLE INSURANCE SOCIETIES.

THE following Table showing the position of co-operative cattle insurance societies in each of the three years 1901-3, is compiled from returns furnished to the Labour Department by the societies concerned, supplemented in a few cases by particulars kindly supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The societies consist of small holders in agricultural districts of England and Wales† who have combined for mutual insurance against the loss by death of their cattle and pigs, and are registered under the Friendly Societies' Act. They are distinguished from ordinary Friendly Societies in that their insurances are not limited by the Act to any amount. In practice, however, the insurances are for small amounts only.

Table showing the Membership, Receipts, Expenditure, and Total Funds of Co-operative Cattle Insurance Societies for the years 1901, 1902 and 1903.

Table showing Membership, Receipts, Expenditure, and Total Funds of Co-operative Cattle Insurance Societies for the years 1901, 1902 and 1903.

* Under the various sliding scale agreements, changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place in the pig iron industry immediately after the period to which the audit relates, while in the manufactured iron trades they follow one month later. † In Northumberland there is no sliding scale, but the ascertainment are taken into consideration by the Coal Trade Conciliation Board when determining the rate of wages of the miners. ‡ There were no registered societies of this class at work in Scotland and Ireland.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING September 74 cases of lead poisoning and 2 cases of anthrax were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No cases of phosphorus, mercurial, or arsenic poisoning were reported. The number of deaths was three, two of which were due to lead poisoning.

During the nine months ended September the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 459 as compared with 494 in the corresponding period of 1903. The number of deaths was 27, being 5 more than in 1903.

Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	9 months ended September, 1904.		9 months ended September, 1903.	
	Sept., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Sept., 1903.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals	3	21	19	—
Brass Works	2	7	11	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	3	7	9	—
Plumbing and Soldering	2	17	14	—
Printing	—	11	10	—
File Cutting	2	18	20	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	—	—	—	—
Hollow-ware	—	7	10	—
White Lead Works	—	17	78	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	—	8	—
China and Earthenware*	—	12	75	—
Litho-transfer Works	—	1	3	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	—	4	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	—	1	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	—	12	24	—
Paint and Colour Works	—	4	20	—
Coach Making	—	2	31	—
Shoemaking	—	2	33	—
Shipbuilding	—	5	20	—
Paint used in other Industries	—	7	34	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	74	418	446	20
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	1	2	—
Furriers' processes	—	—	1	—
Other Industries	—	2	4	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	—	3	7	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	1	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	—	3	3	—
Other Industries	—	2	2	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	—	5	5	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting	—	2	4	—
Wool Combing	—	1	8	—
Handing of Horsehair	—	—	8	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	9	9	—
Other Industries	—	1	8	—
Total Anthrax	2	35	36	1
Grand Total	76	450	494	27

* Of the twelve persons affected in the china earthenware industry and in September, 1904, 8 were females.
† House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table 27 cases of lead poisoning (including 7 deaths) were reported during September, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the nine months ended September, 1904, was 156 (including 30 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1903, 149 (including 32 deaths).

RAILWAY TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The following Table shows for 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom the receipts from Passenger and Goods and Mineral traffic and the total traffic receipts for the four weeks ended 1st October, 1904, together with the increase or decrease as compared with the corresponding period a year ago:—

	Four Weeks ended 1st Oct., 1904.		Four Weeks ended 1st Oct., 1903.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of Sept., 1904, as compared with Sept., 1903.
	£	Amount.	£	Per cent.	
Goods and Mineral Traffic (Total)	4,111,496	4,185,305	—	73,809	+ 1.8
Northern Lines of England	2,690,473	2,755,237	—	65,064	+ 2.4
Southern and Western Lines, and Scotland and Ireland	1,421,023	1,430,068	—	8,745	+ 0.6
Passenger Traffic	3,796,795	3,758,435	—	38,360	+ 1.0
Total Traffic	7,908,291	7,943,740	—	35,449	+ 0.4

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

(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 September, 1904, was 216, or 1 less than in August, and 14 more than in September, 1903. The mean number for September in the years 1899-1903, was 227, the maximum year in this period being 1900, with 255 deaths, and the minimum year 1899, with 197 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen in September, 1904, was 82. The number reported in September of the years 1899-1903 varied from 71 to 123, the mean for the five years being 96.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 264, as compared with 260 in the corresponding period of 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

In the following Table the accidents reported in September are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year.

SUMMARY.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1904, as compared with	
	Sept., 1904.	Aug., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	1	2	+ 1	—
Engine Drivers	1	1	2	—	—
Firemen	1	3	1	— 2	—
Guards (Passenger)	1	—	1	+ 1	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	8	10	8	— 2	—
Porters	3	5	2	— 2	+ 1
Shunters	1	3	1	— 2	—
Miscellaneous	12	16	15	— 4	— 3
Contractors' Servants	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Total Railway Service	32	41	34	— 9	— 2
Mines—					
Underground	79	72	59	+ 7	+ 20
Surface	8	6	12	+ 2	— 4
Total Mines	87	78	71	+ 9	+ 16
Quarries over 20 feet deep	7	11	9	— 4	— 2
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	2	3	—	— 1	+ 2
Wool and Worsted	1	—	2	+ 1	— 1
Other Textiles	—	2	1	— 2	— 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	5	2	6	+ 3	— 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	7	9	5	— 2	+ 2
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	4	1	3	+ 3	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building	5	8	9	— 3	— 4
Wood	—	—	—	—	—
Chemicals, &c.	—	4	4	—	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	34	31	26	+ 3	+ 8
Total Factories	59	62	56	— 3	+ 3
Workshops	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	10	10	20	—	— 10
Warehouses	5	1	—	+ 4	+ 5
Buildings to which Act applies	11	10	7	+ 1	+ 4
Laundries	—	—	—	—	—
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	26	21	27	+ 5	— 1
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	5	4	5	+ 1	—
Total, exclusive of Seamen	216	217	202	— 1	+ 14
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	18	69	41	— 51	— 23
Steam	48	53	45	— 5	+ 3
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	6	3	3	+ 3	+ 3
Steam	10	6	3	+ 4	+ 7
Total Seamen	82	131	92	— 49	— 10
Total, including Seamen	298	348	294	— 50	+ 4

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-one new disputes began in September, 1904, compared with 15 in August, and 24 in September, 1903. By the 21 disputes 3,981 workpeople were directly and 4,160 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before September, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 13,916 workpeople involved in trade disputes during September, 1904, compared with 12,969 in August, 1904, and 11,577 in September, 1903.

New Disputes in September, 1904.—In the following Table the new disputes in September are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coa Mining	7	2,469	3,601	6,070
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	4	418	150	568
Textile	5	128	246	374
Clothing	3	77	63	140
Other Trades	2	89	100	189
Total, September, 1904	21	3,981	4,160	8,141
Total, August, 1904	15	3,628	1,779	4,807
Total, September, 1903	24	3,360	2,492	5,852

Causes.—Of the twenty-one new disputes, two arose on demands for increased wages, seven on objection to reduction, three on other wages questions, four on questions of employment of particular classes or persons, three on questions of trade unionism, and two from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in September in the case of fifteen new disputes, affecting 6,502 workpeople, and ten old disputes, affecting 3,108 workpeople. Of these twenty-five new and old disputes, three, involving 2,302 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; seventeen, involving 5,256 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and five, involving 2,052 persons, were compromised.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation. †	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object. ‡	Result. ‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly. †				
Bricklayers, Plasterers and Labourers	Tees District ...	700	—	1904 2 May	125	Against proposed reduction in wages	Compromise effected.
Coal Miners	Aberdare ...	350	—	1903 1 Oct.	295	Men having refused to work with non-unionists, the employers declined to reopen the colliery after the non-unionists had joined the union, without compensation	Men agreed to give one day's work every fortnight for three months as a contribution towards cost of re-opening the workings.
Pit Lads, Miners, &c.	Ruabon ...	100	1,000	1904 29 Aug.	9	Against reduction in wages awarded by Lord James	Work resumed after strikers had been summoned for breach of contract and ordered to pay costs.
Enginemen, Colliers, Trammern, Surface-men, &c.	Wakefield ...	5	921	1 Sept.	2	Against proposed reduction in wages of 3d. per day	Men replaced.
Enginemen, Miners, &c.	Wakefield (near)	9	1,500	8 Sept.	11	Against proposed reduction in wages of 3d. per day	Men replaced.
Coal Miners	Aberdare ...	2,000	—	1 Sept.	1	Refusal to work with non-unionists	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Boilermakers, Fitters, Machinemen, Labourers, &c.	Jarrow ...	278	—	18 May	92	On account of introduction of mechanical time recorders	Amicable arrangement arrived at.
Card and Blowing Room Operatives and Spinners	Ashton-under-Lyne	90	160	17 Aug.	37	Dispute as to cleaning frames in cardroom	Amicable arrangement arrived at.
Cigar Makers, and Tobacco Strippers	London, Nottingham and Ipswich	709	100	9 Sept.	—	As to payment for re-making rejected cigars ...	No settlement reported.

* 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.
† In making up the totals for the several months of 1904 the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during September numbered 366, being 62 more than in September, 1903. During the nine months ended September, 1904, the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 3,395 as against 3,110 in the first nine months of 1903.

In the case of seven other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 2,295 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in September of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 118,000 working days. In addition, 12,000 working days were lost in September, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in September of all disputes, new and old, was 130,000 working days, which compares with 228,000 in the previous month, and 120,000 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Summary for the First Nine Months of 1903 and 1904.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the nine months January-September, 1903 and 1904, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January to September.					
	1903.			1904.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	37	3,340	103,800	32	8,528	343,500
Mining and Quarrying	88	41,947	1,125,600	78	36,241	509,000
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	53	28,361	408,000	48	9,825	141,800
Textile	38	6,200	81,100	35	9,460	103,100
Clothing	21	2,234	128,700	18	886	9,550
Transport	12	1,867	19,800	4	1,010	22,650
Other Trades	23	1,492	44,500	30	3,247	71,600
Total	272	85,461	1,908,500	245	69,197	1,201,200

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

WAGES.

Changes Reported in September.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in September was a decrease of £245 per week, as compared with a decrease of £17,639 in August, and a decrease of £403 in September, 1903.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 6,200 coal miners in Cumberland, 6,850 blastfurnacemen in Cumberland and Cleveland, and 6,250 blastfurnacemen and iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Two changes, affecting 6,230 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and five changes, affecting 14,125 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales.

Summary for the first Nine Months of 1904.—For the nine months, January—September, 1904, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) respecting whom wages changes have been reported was 638,356, as compared with 394,879 in the corresponding period of 1903.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change.

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1904.

Table showing wage changes by trade: BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, METAL TRADES, OTHER TRADES, EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

*Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.

as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £31,148 per week, compared with a decrease of £14,258 in the corresponding period of 1903.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by the changes reported during the nine months, January—September, 1903 and 1904 respectively, and the net results of the changes on their weekly wages were as follows:—

Table comparing workpeople affected and wage changes for 1903 and 1904 across various trades.

HOURS.

The changes in hours of labour reported during September, 1904, affected 1,550 workpeople, whose working time was reduced by 805 hours per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change.

II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1904.

Table showing changes in hours of labour for specific trades like Building Trade Operatives, Carpenters and Joiners, Plumbers.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left for places out of Europe during September was 66,168, as compared with 55,211 in September, 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 66,168 passengers in September, 1904, 43,314 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 9,242 compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in the different periods:—

Table showing emigration and immigration statistics by destination and origin for September 1904 and 1903.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 66,168 passengers in September, viz., 22,854, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished.

Alien Immigration.—During September, 19,311 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent.

The figures for September, 1904 and 1903, and also for the nine months ended September, 1904 and 1903, are as follows:—

Table showing alien immigration statistics for September 1904 and 1903, and for nine months ended.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from the four Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom for the second quarter of 1904 show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,526,490, as compared with £6,395,361 in the corresponding period of 1903.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,369,078, as compared with £1,239,620 in the second quarter of 1903.

The following Table shows separately the particulars returned for each Federation for the second quarter of 1904, together with the figures for the corresponding quarters of 1903 and 1899:—

Table showing sales and transfers for co-operative wholesale societies in the 2nd quarter of 1904, 1903, and 1899.

NOTE.—The English and Scottish Wholesale Societies are federations of co-operative societies engaged mainly in retail distribution.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS. THE free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on October 1st.

A circular on the Emigration of Women giving information useful for women emigrants, and a United States circular containing information as to the various American States have also been issued.

H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES. New Appointment.—The Secretary of State has appointed Mr. D. R. Wilson, M.A., to be an Inspector under the Factory and Workshop Act.

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments. † Figures for butter-making not available. ‡ Decrease.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

The following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade:—

Summary for September.

The trade returns for September, 1904, show a decrease in the value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1903, of the Imports into the United Kingdom, and of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise, but an increase in the value of the Exports of British produce.

The value of the Imports in September, 1904, was £43,074,006, a decrease of £2,377,178, or 5.2 per cent., as compared with those in September, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £30,700,655, showing a net increase of £2,403,331. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £2,612,908, or 11.2 per cent., as compared with September, 1903, whilst there is a decrease of £209,577, or 4.2 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for September, 1904, as compared with the corresponding months of 1903 and 1902, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month of September.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	19,320,079	21,853,454	19,236,015	-2,617,439	-84,064
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	11,031,105	11,876,410	12,285,394	+408,984	+1,254,289
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	11,237,103	11,579,769	11,357,387	-222,382	+120,284
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	176,204	141,551	195,218	+53,667	+19,006
Total value of Imports	41,764,491	45,451,184	43,074,006	-2,377,178	+1,309,515

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of September, 1904, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1903 and 1902, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month of September.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	1,751,251	1,673,216	1,821,953	+148,737	+70,702
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	2,942,093	2,978,337	3,026,404	+48,067	+83,501
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	18,782,695	18,281,627	20,699,007	+2,417,380	+1,916,312
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	319,252	384,571	384,295	-26	-62,043
Total value of Exports of British produce	23,796,101	23,318,751	25,928,659	+2,612,908	+2,132,558

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of September, 1904, amounted to 3,514,217 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,164,019 tons, as against 3,688,217 tons entered, and 4,160,004 tons cleared in the month of September, 1903. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during September, 1904, amounted to 2,723,398 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,695,163 tons, as against 2,711,148 tons entered, and 2,671,747 tons cleared in September, 1903.

* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.
† The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

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

The number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in September was 369,006 (viz., 157,509 indoor and 211,497 outdoor paupers), corresponding to a rate of 215 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1904.

Compared with August the number of persons relieved has increased by 3,504, and the rate per 10,000 by 2. This rise is due to an increase of 1,646 in the number of indoor paupers, and of 1,858 in the number of outdoor paupers. Increases are shown in twenty-eight districts, the rate of increase being greatest in the Leicester district (11 per 10,000). Slight decreases occurred in three districts, and in four districts no change is indicated.

Compared with September, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 23,703 and the rate per 10,000 by 11. The number of indoor paupers shows an increase of 9,777 (or 6.6 per cent.), and outdoor paupers of 13,916 (or 7.0 per cent.). Increases are shown in thirty-two districts, the rate of increase being greatest in the Leicester district (59 per 10,000), West Ham (32), North Staffordshire (31), and East London (24). The only decreases occurred in three Irish districts.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of September, 1904.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
	1903.	1904.	1903.		1904.	1903.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	10,937	3,316	14,253	173	+ 4	+ 5
North District	15,384	8,963	24,347	228	+ 2	+ 15
Central District	6,753	2,832	9,585	481	...	+ 20
East District	14,169	6,287	20,456	285	+ 1	+ 24
South District	23,388	18,135	41,523	228	...	+ 5
Total Metropolis	70,631	39,533	110,164	238	+ 1	+ 11
West Ham						
West Ham	3,734	10,362	14,096	219	+ 2	+ 32
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	1,973	4,862	6,835	161	+ 1	+ 8
Stockton & Tees District	1,223	4,075	5,298	249	+ 6	+ 17
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,124	9,380	13,504	179	+ 4	+ 15
Wigan District	2,021	6,329	8,350	212	+ 1	+ 1
Manchester District	9,410	9,163	18,573	199	+ 5	+ 16
Liverpool District	11,553	9,192	20,745	205	+ 3	+ 14
Bradford District	1,645	2,999	4,644	128	+ 5	+ 12
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,266	3,924	5,190	143	+ 3	+ 10
Leeds District	2,259	6,679	8,938	190	+ 5	+ 19
Barnsley District	736	2,956	3,702	186	...	+ 10
Sheffield District	3,162	3,946	7,108	166	...	+ 13
Hull District	1,446	5,213	6,659	248	+ 4	+ 2
North Staffordshire	2,292	8,160	10,452	283	+ 3	+ 31
Nottingham District	1,983	5,719	7,702	191	+ 1	+ 20
Leicester District	1,323	4,859	6,182	278	+ 11	+ 59
Wolverhampton District	3,517	12,808	16,325	256	- 5	+ 3
Birmingham District	4,820	3,536	8,356	146	+ 2	+ 9
Bristol District	2,775	6,986	9,761	285	+ 4	+ 8
Cardiff & Swansea	1,789	7,610	9,399	256	- 3	+ 2
Total "Other Districts"	59,317	118,406	177,723	202	+ 3	+ 14
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	4,955	17,227	22,182	232	+ 1	+ 10
Paisley & Greenock District	663	2,523	3,186	184	+ 4	+ 9
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,725	5,711	7,436	187	+ 2	+ 9
Dundee & Dundee Marine	1,042	2,896	3,938	199	+ 4	+ 5
Aberdeen	627	2,918	3,545	218	+ 1	+ 6
Coatbridge & Airdrie	339	1,425	1,764	189	- 1	+ 12
Total for the above Scottish Districts	9,351	32,700	42,051	212	+ 2	+ 9
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	6,753	5,126	11,879	306	+ 2	- 2
Belfast District	3,317	286	3,603	93	+ 3	+ 2
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,037	4,776	8,813	358	+ 1	- 13
Galway District	339	308	647	181	+ 1	- 9
Total for the above Irish Districts	14,476	10,496	24,972	235	+ 2	- 4
Total for above 38 Districts in September, 1904.	157,509	211,497	369,006	215	+ 2	+ 11

* 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.
† Including Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

At eleven Bureaux which furnished returns for both September, 1904 and 1903, 3,186 fresh applications for work were registered during September, 1904, as compared with 2,791 a year ago. During September these Bureaux found work for 1,032 persons, of whom 922 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 3,157, as compared with 3,305 a year ago.

Returns were also received from two other Bureaux not in operation a year ago. At the thirteen Bureaux included in the Table below 3,486 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 1,066 persons. The work procured for 346 of these persons was stated to be of a more or less permanent character, while, in the case of 720, temporary employment only was found. Of the 1,066 persons, 953 were engaged by private employers, 15 by Local Authorities, and 98 by the Salvation Army. At the end of September, the total number of persons remaining on the registers was 3,925, viz., 3,309 men and boys, and 616 women and girls.

Weekly returns which have been received from the Fulham Municipal Labour Bureau show that, during the four weeks ended October 1st, 158 fresh applications for work were registered and 35 persons found work through the agency of the Bureau.

(I.) Work done in September.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau during	
	Sept., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Sept., 1903.	Sept., 1904.	Sept., 1903.
London.						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	189	133	23	29	23	29
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd. E.)	1,233	1,046	427	403*	519	403
St. Pancras (Crowndale Rd., N.W.)	232	193	66	29	74	31
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	24	140	3	2	3	...
Hammersmith (St. Church Lane, W)	27	50	9	9	7	5
Pinsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	264	192	146	65	111	16
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	216	105	95	102	66	47
Provincial.						
Ipswich (Fore Street)	54	36	16	31	11	74
Plymouth (Basket Street)	130	151	68	9	65	85
Liverpool (Dale Street)	206	264	1	1	5	...
Glasgow (158, George Street)	611	481	543	605	148	183
Total of 11 Bureaux	3,186	2,791	1,402	1,365	1,032	813
London.						
Kensington (Lancaster Road, W.)†	132	...	6	...	24	...
Provincial.						
Wigan (Library Street)†	168	...	10	...	10	...
Total of 13 Bureaux	3,486	2,791	1,418	1,365	1,066	813

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during September, 1904.

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men—			
Building Trades	14	26	40
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	17	12	29
Porters and Messengers	46	54	100
Bill Distributors	...	412	412
General Labourers	13	...	13
Other Occupations	26	17	43
Lads and Boys	75	17	92
Women and Girls—			
Domestic Servants	73	10	83
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	6	61	67
Other Occupations	74	...	74
Total engaged by Private Employers	344	609	953
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads, and Boys	2	13	15
Women and Girls	...	...	...
Engaged by Salvation Army.			
Men	...	98	98
Grand Total of Bureaux	346	720	1,066

* Revised figure.
† Bureau not in operation in September, 1904.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING September 915 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 624 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 183 persons, of whom 104 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 183 situations found for applicants, 143 were of a more or less permanent character, while 40 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 314 to 443, and the number of servants applying rose from 330 to 457; the number permanently engaged rose from 35 to 80. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 30 to 46, and the number requiring such situations rose from 38 to 121; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 27, compared with 12 in August.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the Bureaux during September compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN SEPTEMBER.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau—9, Southampton-street, W.C. ...	51	87	24	2
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—22, Berners-street, W. ...	31	50	13	10
Y.W.C.A.—26, George-street (1) ...	413	517	60	18
Hanover-square, W. (2) ...	76	175	28	5
Other Bureaux ...	53	86	18	5
Total of 6 Bureaux	624	915	143	40
Watford Bureau* ...	18	26	5	1
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	14	57	6	1
Shop Assistants	2	33	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	46	121	22	5
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	17	62	6	9
Apprentices and Learners	27	8	9	—
Domestic Servants	443	457	80	24
Miscellaneous	75	177	20	1
Total Number in September, 1904	624	915	143	40
Total Number in August, 1904	437	684	65	44
Total Number in September, 1903	678	772	140	39

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN SEPTEMBER.

(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 September was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 7; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 45 (including 21 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, none; in all, 55.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—3, viz., Newcastle and Dist. Tramway Workers' Union, 1, Greystoke Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Accrington and Dist. and Rossendale Hairdressers' Assoc., 11, Edgar Street, Accrington; South Wales and Monmouthshire Hairdressers' Federation, High Street, Penydarren, Merthyr Tydfil. **Scotland.**—None. **Ireland.**—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Co-operative Societies mainly for Production.—1, viz., Tonna Builders' Soc., (Ltd.), 10, Bridge Street, Maesteg, Glam. Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—2, viz., Western Counties Dairy Farmers' Co-op. Assoc., (Ltd.), 32, High Street, Swindon; Wincombe, Toddington and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Assoc., (Ltd.), The Store, Wincombe.

* Opened July 1st 1904.

Glos. *Miscellaneous Societies*.—Working Men's Clubs, 1; others, 2. Scotland.—*Miscellaneous Societies*.—1. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—21, viz., Sunderland Trades Union Club and Inst., Sunderland; Central Bethnal Green Working Men's Club and Inst., London, N.E.; Isle of Dogs Constitutional Club, Cubitt Town, E.; Northampton Vocal and Instrumental Working Men's Club and Inst., Northampton; York Street Working Men's Club and Inst., Wakefield; Fulford Road Working Men's Club, York; Mid Rhondda National Democratic Working Men's Club, Llwynypia, Glam.; Borough of Crewe and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Crewe; Stockton-on-Tees, Thornaby and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Stockton-on-Tees; Lancashire Mutual Money Soc., Manchester; Civil Service Provident Soc., London, E.C.; Amalgated Workmen's National Protection and Provident Assoc., London, S.E.; Red Lion, Handsworth, Permanent Money Soc., Handsworth, Birmingham; Cymru Co-op. Money Soc., Cardiff; Carlisle Benevolent Friendly Soc., Carlisle; Workman's Yearly Dividing Friendly Soc., Derby; West London Hebrew Benefit and Divisional Soc., London, W.; Hawthorn Blossom Friendly Soc. of Ancient Free Gardeners, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Prince of Wales Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Birmingham and Dist. Amalgamated Sons of the Phoenix Sick Soc., Birmingham; Leatherhead Working Men's Liberal and Social Club, Leatherhead. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—3, viz., Glengal Agric. Bank, Aganish, co. Leitrim; Grange Credit Soc., Grange, co. Sligo; Radium Loan Fund and Investment Soc., Dublin.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as having had registration cancelled in September, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 8; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 12; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 27 (including 11 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 16; in all 63.

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.), which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING SEPTEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Thirty-third Annual Report of the Local Government Board (England), 1903-1904. Pauperism reports and statistics, action under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 and 1903, housing schemes under Local Acts, &c., &c. [Cd. 2214: pp. ccxix. + 836: price 4s. 11d.]

Index and Digest of Evidence to Reports from Select Committee on Workmen's Trains. Sessions 1903-04. [H.C. 305: pp. 25: price 3d.]

Railway Returns. Returns of the capital, traffic, receipts and working expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1903. Contains table of expenditure on wages in their principal departments by certain railway companies in the years 1898 to 1903. [Cd. 2193: pp. liii. + 98: price 1s. 4d.]

Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888. Eighth Report by the Board of Trade of Proceedings under, and upon Complaints made under Section I. of the Act of 1894. [H.C. 346: pp. 41: price 4½d.]

Merchant Shipping, 1903. Tables showing the Progress of Merchant Shipping in the United Kingdom and the Principal Maritime Countries, 1903. Include wages, numbers employed, and conditions of employment in the Merchant Shipping Trade of the United Kingdom. [H.C. 294: pp. 87: price 9d.]

Trustee Savings Banks. Return 1903, for each Savings Bank in England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and the Channel Islands. [H.C. 224: pp. 88: price 10d.]

Statistical Abstract for the Principal and Other Foreign Countries in each year from 1892 to 1901-02. Thirtieth Number. [Cd. 2202: pp. 360: price 1s. 6d.]

Supplement to the Thirty-Second Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1902-03, containing the Report of the Medical Officer for 1902-03. [Cd. 2213: pp. li. + 709: price 8s. 3d.]

INDIA AND BRITISH COLONIES.

Administration Report on the Railways in India, 1903. Statistics of accidents, numbers employed, railway provident funds, &c. [Cd. 2225: pp. iii. + 330, with maps: price 3s. 8d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any bookseller.)

Victoria.

Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Work-rooms and Shops, 1904. Statistics of factory legislation, factories registered and numbers employed, wages fixed by special boards, &c. [Melbourne: R. S. Brain, Government Printer: pp. 72.]

New South Wales.

The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records. Vol. III., Part 3, 1904, Report of 16 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. viii. + 77 + viii.: price 5s.]

New Zealand.

Return showing the number of Members in each Industrial Union registered under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900, to December 31st, 1903. 103 industrial unions of employers with 3,080 members, and 258 unions of workers with 27,640 members. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 7: price 6d.]

Old Age Pensions Department. Sixth Annual Report for year ended March 31st, 1904. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 14: price 6d.]

Canada.

Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture of the North-West Territories, 1903. [Regina, North-West Territories: John A. Reid, Government Printer: pp. 213, with plates.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Special Consular Report. Vol. XXX, *Emigration to the United States.* Result of an inquiry for the Department of Commerce and Labour. [Washington: pp. iv. + 210.]

France.

Strikes and Lock-outs, and Conciliation and Arbitration in France in 1903. Report by French Labour Department. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1904: pp. xvi. + 575: price 2s. 10d.]

Germany.

Industrial Conditions of Workpeople in 17 Rural Districts near Karlsruhe. Report by Dr. Fuchs, published by Baden Factory Inspection Department. Contains statistics of earnings. [Karlsruhe: Verlag der G. Braunschen Hofbuchdruckerei, 1904: pp. 272.]

Report by Municipal Statistical Office of Munich for 1903. [Munich: J. Lindauersche Buchhandlung, 1904: pp. x. + 96: price 2s.]

Population of Berlin in 1900. Report by Berlin Municipal Statistical Office. [Berlin: Verlag von Leonhard Simion, 1904: pp. 137.]

Report of Proceedings of Council for Labour Statistics, June 20th-22nd, 1904. Evidence of Witnesses as to Hours of Labour of Butchers' Assistants and Apprentices. [Berlin: 1904: pp. 135.]

Austria.

Conditions of Workpeople in the Ostrau-Karwin Coalfield, Part I. Report by Austrian Labour Department. Part I. deals with hours of labour, production, wages and earnings. [Vienna: Verlag von A. Hölder, 1904: pp. lii. + 128 + 583.]

Holland.

Report on the Railway Service of Holland for 1903, to the Minister of Dykes, Commerce and Industry. [The Hague: De Gebroeders van Cleef: 1904: pp. 369.]

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3279. Trade of the United States of America, 1903-04. Condition of the working classes, tables showing relative prices of commodities for a series of years. [Cd. 2236 23: pp. 34: price 2½d.]

No. 3277. Trade of Odessa and District, 1903. Table of prices of grain at Odessa during each month of 1903, principal industries, number of establishments and persons employed, &c. [Cd. 2236-21: pp. 36: price 2½d.]

No. 3265. Trade and Agriculture of Lombardy, 1903. Contains statistics of the silk industry in Lombardy—mills, machinery working and idle in the various centres of the Province, compared with totals for all Italy; also of the cotton industry—number of mills, employees, machinery, motive power, &c. [Cd. 2236-9: pp. 46: price 2½d.]

No. 3268. Trade of Sardinia, 1903. Table showing production and number of persons employed in mineral and salt works during 1903. [Cd. 2236-12: pp. 12: price 1d.]

No. 3275. Trade of Belgium, 1903. Statistics of the principal Belgian industries, numbers employed in the gun trade of Liège, miners' diseases, &c. [Cd. 2236-19: pp. 38: price 2½d.]

Miscellaneous Series. No. 619, Commercial Instruction in Germany. Report by H.M. Consul at Stuttgart. [Cd. 2237: pp. 109: price 5½d.]

(The Consular Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any bookseller.)

NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, New Zealand, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, and Belgium.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Manchester District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-Manager of a mine will be held at Manchester on 22nd December next. Candidates must, on or before 17th December, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside the district are eligible for examination.

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