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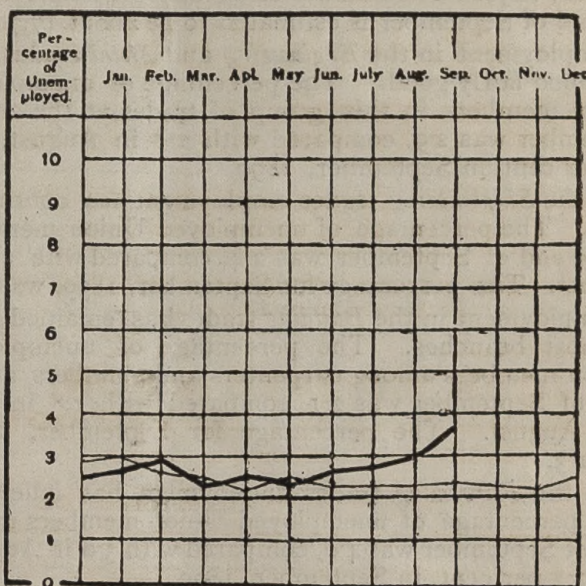
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EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1899-1900.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the Trade Unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1899 and 1900.

[The thick line applies to 1900, the thin line to 1899.]



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN SEPTEMBER.

[Based on 2,395 returns, viz.: 1,678 from Employers, 582 from Trade Unions, and 135 from other sources.]

THE state of employment during September continued to show a slight tendency to decline in many important industries, and the cotton trade has been specially affected by the short supply of raw material. Wages, however, continue to rise in coal, metal, and some other trades, and trade disputes have been few and unimportant.

In the 138 Trade Unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 536,242, 19,520 (or 3.6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 3.0 per cent. in August, and with 2.4 per cent. in the 123 Unions with a membership of 502,915, from which returns were received for September, 1899.

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Employment continues good in this industry, and the number of days worked per week during September at collieries covered by the returns shows an increase as compared with August, 1900, and September, 1899. At collieries at which 463,382 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5.65 days per week during the four weeks ended September 22nd, as compared with 5.43 days in August, and 5.46 a year ago. The increase as compared with August is largely attributable to the August holidays.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, and shows an improvement as compared with August. It is practically the same as a year ago. The average number of days worked by 128 iron mines and open works, at which 17,046 workpeople were employed in the 4 weeks ended September 22nd, was 5.80 per week, as compared with 5.55 in the previous month, and 5.83 days per week in September, 1899.

Fig Iron Industry.—Employment shows a further decline both as compared with August and with September, 1899. At the works of 117 ironmasters 360 furnaces were in blast at the end of September, employing about 24,800 workpeople, as compared with 372 furnaces at the end of August, and 380 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—The figures relating to employment show some decline as compared with a year ago. At 207 works covered by the returns, employing 80,833 workpeople at the end of September, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) had decreased by 2.1 per cent. as compared with September, 1899.

Template Trade.—Employment shows a slight improvement as compared with August, but remains considerably worse than a year ago. At the end of September 354 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), compared with 349 mills at the end of August and 406 mills at the end of September, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the end of September is estimated to be about 17,700.

Employment in the *Engineering* and *Metal* trades has remained fairly good. The percentage of unemployed Union members in this group of trades at the end of September was 2.9, compared with 2.8 in August, and 2.6 per cent. in September, 1899.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades employment has continued good. The percentage of unemployed Union members at the end of September was 2.4, compared with 2.1 in August. The percentage for September, 1899, was 1.6.

Employment in the *Building* trades has remained good in most branches. The percentage of unemployed Union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of September was 2.1, compared with 1.8 in July and August. The percentage for September, 1899, was 1.3.

In the *Furnishing* trades employment has fallen off. The percentage of unemployed Union members at the end of September was 4.0, compared with 3.0 in August, and 2.1 per cent. in September, 1899.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has improved owing to some extent to the increase of work arising out of the General Election. The percentage of unemployed Union members at the end of September was 4.2, compared with 5.6 in August, and 5.1 per cent. in September of last year.

Employment in the *Paper* trades has improved, the percentage of unemployed Union members at the end of September being 2.1, compared with 3.0 in August, and 3.6 per cent. in September, 1899.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed Union members at the end of September was 9.6, compared with 9.1 in August, and 6.1 per cent. in September of last year.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed Union members at the end of September was 2.0, compared with 2.1 in August. The percentage for September, 1899, was 3.2.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trades continues slack in most centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade continues dull; in the ready-made branch it shows a further decline.

Employment in the *Spinning* branches of the *Cotton* trade shows a decline; in the *Weaving* branch it is slack; in both branches some factories have been closed, and many have only run short time. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 70,000 women and girls shows that 59 per cent. of those in spinning mills and 41 per cent. of those in weaving factories were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 70 and 67 per cent. respectively in August, and with 96 and 98 per cent. respectively a year ago.

Employment in the *Woollen* trade has improved and is moderate; in the *Worsted* trade it remains slack. In the *Hosiery* trade employment shows a further decline.

Agricultural Labourers were generally well employed during the month of September. Although employers in some districts complain that the supply of labour was short, on the whole there appears to have been just sufficient in most counties.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the five weeks ended September 29th an average number of 15,804 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with averages of 14,993 in the preceding four weeks and 15,431 in September, 1899.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-nine fresh disputes occurred in September, 1900, involving 6,032 workpeople, of whom 5,004 were directly, and 1,028 indirectly, affected. The corresponding number of disputes in August was 32, involving 9,334 workpeople, and in September, 1899, 54, involving 8,858 workpeople. Of the 29 fresh disputes, 5 occurred in the building trades, 6 in the mining and quarrying industries, 6 in metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 3 in clothing trades, and 9 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 38 new and old disputes, involving 10,697 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 9, involving 3,222 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 16, involving 3,921 persons, in favour of the employers; and 9, involving 2,604 persons, were compromised. With regard to the remaining 4 disputes, involving 950 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of 164,199 workpeople were reported during September, of which number 161,655 obtained advances averaging 2s. 2½d. weekly per head, and 2,544 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 0½d. weekly per head. The net result was an increase of about 2s. 1½d. per head in the weekly wages of the 164,199 workpeople affected. The principal increases were in the coal mining, and iron and steel industries. The principal decreases affected 2,530 stonemasons in Scotland. Changes affecting 3,330 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 142,803 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and 1 change affecting 10,000 workpeople was arranged by a Conciliation Board. The remaining changes, affecting 8,066 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

By Part III of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, provisions were made enabling Local Authorities to provide accommodation for the housing of the working classes in their districts. These provisions have been amended in certain particulars by an Act recently passed, the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1900. Under the new Act any Council, other than a Rural District Council, will, for the purpose of supplying accommodation for the working classes of their own district, have power, where they have adopted Part III of the Act of 1890, to establish or acquire houses outside that district. With respect to the Councils of Rural Districts, the new Act simplifies the conditions under which these Authorities may adopt Part III. At the same time provision is made that, if a Parish Council resolves that a Rural District Council ought to have exercised its power of providing such accommodation and has failed to do so, then the County Council, if satisfied that this is the case, may itself take action instead of the Rural Council.

Power is given to Local Authorities to lease any land acquired by them under their powers of purchasing land for workmen's houses to any person who will undertake to build and maintain such houses on the land, but this power can be exercised only with the consent of the Local Government Board (except in the case of a Council in London, which is required to obtain the consent of a Secretary of State, or in that of a Rural District Council, which must obtain the consent of the County Council). The Act does not apply to Scotland or Ireland.

REPORT ON STANDARD TIME RATES OF WAGES IN 1900.*

THE Labour Department of the Board of Trade has just issued a Report on standard rates of wages and hours of labour in force in the United Kingdom at the beginning of 1900* which has been prepared in continuation of the volume on standard time rates which formed Part III of the first report of the Labour Department on wages and hours of labour published in 1894. The Report deals with the rates of time-wages and the hours of labour (exclusive of overtime) recognised in a large number of important industries in the principal towns of the country, and gives the wages and hours recognised at January 1st, 1900, and also at the beginning of each of a long series of years, while in another section are included Tables showing the percentage variations which have been made in the course of a lengthy period in the wages of coal hewers, iron-workers and cotton operatives, and returns of the cash wages and earnings of agricultural labourers. A list of working rules and other documents regulating wages, hours of labour, and other working conditions in industries in which time-wages prevail in operation on January 1st, 1900, is given in an Appendix to the volume.

All changes in wages and in hours of labour which have taken place subsequently to the publication of the Report of 1894, have been published from time to time so far as the information could be obtained by the Department, first in the monthly LABOUR GAZETTE, and subsequently in annual Reports issued by the Department. The present volume represents the net result of these changes in many of the more important trades and districts up to the beginning of 1900, and thus forms a fresh starting-point in the investigation of these important subjects, which it is intended to continue, and of which the results will in like manner be published periodically.

The standard rates of time-wage, with which the Report deals, are those rates, which are recognised as applicable (usually as *minimum* rates of pay) to the remuneration of a considerable number of workpeople engaged in a given industry at a given place.

In certain trades, more especially in the different branches of the building trades, the weekly wages of the workpeople fluctuate according to the season. In the Tables, which deal with the building trades, the rates of wages and hours of labour stated are those which obtain in the summer months. The conditions of employment prevailing throughout the winter months are not uniform, distinct arrangements being made with respect to different parts of the winter season, during all of which, however, the standard hours of labour are shorter than in summer.

In the Tables contained in the Report the standard rates of time-wage for each trade dealt with are set forth separately for different industrial centres; and the wide variations between the rates current in different localities cannot fail to arrest attention.

The Report explains that the causes of local variations in wage-rates are at once numerous and complex. As a rule, wages in the same trade are higher in London and other large towns than in the smaller centres of industry. In part, this fact is attributable to the higher cost of living incurred by the workmen, especially in regard to house rent; in part, no doubt, to the fact that on the average a somewhat higher standard of skill is expected in large centres, and that a higher rate of pay once established has a tendency to perpetuate itself by attracting the more highly skilled workmen.

But although the general rule, that wages are higher in large centres than in small, is of wide application, it is clear from the Tables that this rule has not a few exceptions, which could only be explained by a full knowledge of the local circumstances. Thus, in many cases, it will doubtless be found on close examination that the differences of wages are to be partly explained by differences in the character of the work principally done in the districts in question.

Lastly, it is necessary to observe that the difference in the market rates quoted for different districts must not be taken to represent with any approach to accuracy the true difference in the average wages level of those localities. For this difference of level is influenced by variations in the proportions of the various classes of highly-paid and low-paid operatives as well as by variations in the market rates of wages for each class.

While, however, the figures given in the Report showing the standard rates of wages in each locality can be used only with a considerable degree of caution as tests of the average wages earned by the general body of workpeople in each industry, the Tables showing the rates of wages recognised in different trades in each of a series of years cannot fail to throw much light upon the movement of wages in the important industries with which these Tables deal.

RECENT LABOUR NEGOTIATIONS ON THE GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY.

IN the summer of 1899, an agitation for the improvement of the conditions of service was commenced among various classes of railway servants in the employment of the Great Eastern Railway Company.

The movement was not, for a time, persisted in, and the proposals of the men were first communicated to the management on April 25th of the present year. The principal request put forward was for a general advance of 3s. per week for all the principal grades of men employed in the London and suburban district. In addition, special applications were made affecting separate grades. Thus, signalmen, goods and passenger guards, shunters, foremen porters, ticket collectors, porters and passenger staff, and carmen, alike asked to be paid "time and a half" for Sunday duty, and "time and a quarter" for overtime, each day to stand by itself. Beyond this, goods and passenger guards requested that men should not be called out for less than one day's pay. Shunters asked for an eight hours' day all the year round, porters that the minimum rate for fogging duty should be 6d. per hour, and that six days should constitute a week. Carmen applied for the provision of knee cloths, and for better arrangements as to the cleaning of horses and unloading of goods. Platelayers requested double pay for Sunday labour and other changes.

The letter embodying these proposals also notified to the directors the names of seventeen delegates appointed by the men, representing nine grades, to discuss the proposals with them. These delegates were intended to act as one body, but the directors insisted:—(1) That the delegates representing different grades should not be received together, and (2) that the delegates representing each grade should be accompanied by other men in that grade selected by the Company. The method of selection is explained by the Company to have been that all the employees of each grade having been placed in a list according to seniority of service in four classes, each class was then divided by 4 or 8, and the last man in each division was asked to attend. After some correspondence two signalmen's delegates and a man representing the shunters were on June 7th called upon to meet the directors, but finding that the whole of the deputation appointed by the men was not present, these representatives, in accordance with instructions from the men, declined to discuss the questions at issue. Other attempts to discuss the matters in dispute between the parties failed for the same reason; and on June 24th a meeting of the men decided to hand the matter over to the executive of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants. The general secretary of this society addressed several letters to the Company, in one of which an offer was made to refer the dispute to arbitration. To these communications no reply was received. A ballot of the men was then taken, as to whether they were prepared to hand in their notices to leave the service of the Company. The voting papers, which were returnable on July 23rd, showed that the men were practically unanimous in favour of such a

* Cd. 317. Price 11d. The Report can be obtained from any bookseller, or direct from the publishers, Messrs Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, E.C.

course, and notice papers were prepared terminating engagements on August 3rd.

On July 24th the General Secretary of the men's Union made application to the Board of Trade for intervention under the Conciliation Act. In reply, the President of the Board of Trade pointed out the great inconvenience, which would be caused to the travelling public by a strike at that season of the year, and advised that arrangements should be made for a discussion of the questions in dispute between the directors of the Company and deputations from each grade of the men appointed by the whole of the men, irrespective of whether they belonged to the Amalgamated Society or not, such deputations to be received by the directors separately by grades. Thereupon the secretary of the Amalgamated Society wrote to the President of the Board of Trade that he would withhold the strike notices. At a meeting of the men held on July 29th, 111 delegates were appointed to meet the directors, these delegates representing 11 different grades of employees, drivers and firemen being included in the list. It was also proposed that a signalman, who had acted as secretary, should accompany the deputation from each grade. The directors agreed to meet these deputations, but objected to meet the secretary except as a member of his own grade. The men did not insist on the point objected to by the directors; and on August 8th and 9th the interviews duly took place, the directors deciding to take time to consider their reply. In the interval, which elapsed before the directors gave their reply, meetings of the men were held, at which dissatisfaction with the delay was expressed, but the men resolved to await an answer until the second week in September before issuing strike notices.

On September 12th the decision of the directors was made known in a document which stated at length the general history of recent concessions to the workmen of the Company, and indicated the cases in which further changes were offered. To platelayers' labourers "on the lengths," in the London district and in the country, an increase of 1s. 6d. and 1s. per week respectively is to be made from October 1st. In traffic departments, all men working seven days for a weekly wage are to be paid overtime at the ordinary rate of pay for any time beyond six days a week. As to signalmen (who are classified as to service and boxes), changes are made, which enable the lower paid men to reach their maximum rates more quickly than hitherto. On fogging duty men are to be allowed 6d. per hour in the London and suburban district and 5d. per hour in the country districts, provided they would not receive more at their ordinary rate of pay. A minimum allowance of 1s. is fixed for men going on fogging when off duty, and arrangements as to refreshments are to be made adequate. Pointsmen doing under-shunters' duty as part of their daily work are to be rated as under-shunters; the minimum rates hitherto in force for under-shunters are to be abolished and the maximum paid on appointment. The fourth class for ticket collectors is abolished, and the men of this class are raised to corresponding rank in the third class. Ticket collectors and takers are to arrive at the maximum rate of their class more quickly than heretofore. Knee cloths and leggings are to be issued to parcels carmen; the directors are considering a scheme under which an additional payment will be made to London goods carmen bringing in more than a certain quantity of goods per day.

A meeting of the men, held on September 16th, referred the question of any further action to the executive committee of their society, which on the 18th, passed a resolution congratulating the men on having achieved the abolition of seven days' work for six days' pay, and urging upon the men in the country district the necessity of organising themselves with a view to approaching the Company at some future time for the balance of their claims. Some further correspondence took place between the Company and the men as to the clearing up of certain details, and the dispute terminated without any cessation of work.

INDUSTRIAL COMBINATIONS AND WAGES IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE Bulletin of the United States Department of Labour for July, 1900, contains a Report giving the results of an investigation made by the Department in relation to Trusts and Industrial Combinations, in which the Department has sought to collect such facts as would show "the general course of wages and prices, the employment of labour, and general economic conditions under combinations and private concerns." It is observed that "not all Industrial Combinations are Trusts in the popular sense. In fact, there are but very few real Trusts in the country. The combination sometimes does not differ from an enlarged corporation."

The Report embodies the results of Returns made by 41 combinations; but not all of these undertakings furnished information on all points. Thus, as to the date of their organisation 40 combinations supplied information; of these, 24 were formed in 1898 and 1899, while of those formed before 1898, five were organised in 1891. One was formed as early as 1865.

The 39 combinations reporting as to the amount of capital invested in these concerns "included many of the larger ones"; their aggregate paid-up capital (stock and bonds) was £290,739,651.

The following Table shows the average annual wages paid before and after their formation, and the per cent. of increase or decrease in the average annual wages and in the number of employees of such of the combinations investigated as furnished information on these points (the number of the combinations which supplied information as to superintendents and foremen and as to travelling salesmen being 12, and as to the remaining classes of employees, 9):—

Class of Employees.	Average annual wages paid.			Per cent. of increase or decrease.	Number employed.
	Under uniting companies.	Under combination.	Per cent. of increase or decrease.		
Superintendents and foremen	£ s. d. 260 15 4	£ s. d. 255 12 6	- 2.77	+ 11.79	
Travelling salesmen	280 8 4	259 11 8	- 7.43	+ 4.17	
Skilled labourers	129 3 4	146 17 6	+ 13.71	+ 23.34	
Unskilled labourers	61 5 0	73 2 6	+ 19.39	+ 20.06	
Clerks	157 14 2	166 5 0	+ 5.42	+ 36.45	
Other employees	157 1 8	137 18 4	- 12.20	+ 29.06	
All employees	95 16 8	107 18 4	+ 12.61	+ 21.56	

Contrasting the wages paid by the companies in any one year before the combination was made with those paid by the combinations (into which these companies were absorbed) in the year 1899, the figures show an increase in the average annual wages paid to skilled labourers, to unskilled labourers and to clerks, and a decrease in the average annual wages paid to superintendents and foremen, travelling salesmen, and the unclassified employees. Taking all the employees together (these figures relate to 9 combinations), the percentage of increase of average annual wages has been 12.61. The greatest increase has taken place in the case of the unskilled labourers.

In order that wages paid by the combinations may be compared with those paid by large private companies, several Tables are given in the Report dealing with the wages paid by three large private companies engaged in business similar to some of the combinations there referred to. Comparing the average annual wages paid by the three companies in question in 1897 and in 1899, it is found that, while the wages of skilled labourers rose 7.25 per cent., those of the unskilled labourers advanced 16.97 per cent. These proportions of increase compare with 13.71 per cent., and 19.39 per cent. respectively in the case of the combinations. It is, however, pointed out that the periods covered by the two sets of figures are not identical, and it is stated that "the only conclusion that can fairly be reached under the circumstances is that the combinations on the whole show the same tendency as the large private companies, and that so far as the figures go, one cannot say that they have treated the labourers any less generously."

The Report also contains a Table showing the average daily compensation of all railway employees in the

United States for the years ending June 30th, 1892, to 1899; and it is stated that, "if one compares the wages shown for the combinations and the three private companies with the average figures shown in this Table, it will appear that the increase in average annual wages has been decidedly greater among both these private manufacturing companies and the combinations."

A statement is given showing the wages of farm labourers in various years from 1866 to 1899; these wages "differ in their course but little from those of railway labour."

The Report includes a Table showing the rates of wages in occupations of various kinds in the building trades, and in various manufacturing industries in different sections of the United States, from the first year for which they were obtainable up to April, 1900. "As no summary of this great mass of wage data has been made, no exact comparison can be drawn between wages in general, as there shown, and as given in the previous Tables, for the combinations and the large private manufacturing corporations. But it would appear that the per cent. of increase shown for the combinations has not been exceeded in wages in general."

REPORT ON CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1899.

THE Seventh Annual Report on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom,* dealing with the changes which took place in 1899, has been issued by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade.

Employment was still more active in 1899 than in 1898, the percentage of unemployed members of Trade Unions making Returns to the Board of Trade being lower than in any year since 1890. The number of workpeople whose wages were reported to have been changed during the year surpassed even the high total of 1898, amounting to no less than 1,175,576 individuals. This total is exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and railway servants, with regard to whom the numbers cannot be precisely stated, though the statistics given in the Report show that these classes of workpeople shared to a greater or less extent in the general advance of the year.

The net result of the changes of wages of all classes of workpeople in 1899, was an aggregate rise of wages of no less than £115,000 per week, compared with £95,000 in 1898 and £45,000 in 1897. It will thus be seen that the rate of increase in 1898 was more than maintained in 1899.

Great, however, as was the rise of wages in 1899, it has been considerably exceeded in the eight months of 1900 which have already elapsed. The changes recorded during this period have affected nearly a million individuals, and have resulted in a net increase of more than £150,000 a week, by far the greatest rise yet recorded in any similar period.

As in the previous year the most prominent feature of the change of wages in 1899 was the rise of miners' wages, which accounted for nearly half the total increase of the year. The next most important changes were those affecting the iron and steel trades. The rise of coal-miners' wages during 1900 has been still more striking than in 1899, the total rise in weekly wages in the first eight months being more than twice as great as in the whole of the previous year. This abnormal rise is, of course, closely connected with the rapid rise in the price of coal, which though taking place partly in 1899, did not exercise its full effect on wages until the present year, owing to the practice of basing changes of wages on the average prices ascertained over a previous period of months. Generally speaking, it may be said that changes in prices and employment precede changes in wages, and while the

* Cd. 309, price 1s. 6d. The Report can be obtained through any bookseller, or direct from the publishers, Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, E.C.

statistics for the present year appear to show some diminution in the activity of employment, there is as yet little sign of any check to the upward movement of wages, except perhaps in the Scottish building trades.

In the case of nearly half the workpeople affected in 1899, the changes were arranged by Wages Boards, Sliding Scales, Conciliation or Arbitration—a great increase compared with the previous year—and in most of the remainder by direct negotiation between the parties and their representatives.

It is satisfactory to find that while the number of persons who had their wages raised in 1899 was greater than that returned in any previous year, the number in whose case the changes of wages followed strikes was the smallest on record, viz., only 34,273, or 3 per cent. of the whole. Even this proportion would have been lower but for the prevalence of strikes for higher wages in the building trades.

It is safe to say that of the total rise of wages which has taken place since the beginning of the revival of trade less than 5 per cent. has been in any way connected with strikes.

The changes in hours of labour in 1899 were still more insignificant than in 1898 as regards the number of persons affected, though the aggregate reduction was somewhat greater.

HARVEST WAGES IN 1900.

RETURNS have been received from 126 farms in the Eastern, Midland, and Southern and South-Western Counties, giving the cash earnings for the corn harvest of 1900, of 1,945 agricultural labourers, exclusive of the value of food or drink which may have been given in addition.

Generally speaking, the returns show that the rates of harvest wages were frequently slightly higher than last year.

The Northern Counties have been excluded from the returns, as the majority of the men there are hired by the year or half-year, and paid a regular wage during the whole of the period for which they are hired, and given no extra money for harvest, though they are often given food and drink. Except in Northumberland and Durham, where the system of engagement closely resembles that in the Border Counties and the Lothians in Scotland, the married men attached to the staff of a farm generally get from about £4 10s. to £6 a month, and some food and drink is frequently given in addition. Extra hands in these districts, both English and Irish, sometimes get rather higher money payments than the regular men, and often more food.

The average duration of harvest on the farms reported on was 25 days. The weather during harvest was generally favourable, and as much of the corn was light and stood well, self-binding machines were largely used. In some districts, however, particularly in the North, harvest operations were interrupted by rain, and a good deal of corn was laid and twisted owing to storms early in August.

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

	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.
Eastern Counties	45	813	25	£ s. d. 7 10 8
Midland Counties	42	602	25	6 0 7
Southern and South-Western Counties	39	530	23	4 11 0
Total	126	1,945	25	6 5 1

It will be observed that the harvest earnings are highest in the great corn growing counties on the Eastern side of England (Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Lincolnshire), the average cash earnings per man being £7 10s. 8d. The payments in these counties, generally, varied from about £6 10s.

to £8, though some men at piecework in the fen districts earned more.

In the Midlands the harvest earnings came to 30s. less than in the Eastern Counties, and in the Southern and South-Western Counties to about £3 less.

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

The method of payment at harvest varies in different districts, and all of the following systems are to be found. To give the work in separate portions as piecework; to contract for a certain sum for the harvest, as a whole; 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.

It is, however, in the chief corn-growing centres where the harvest is mainly undertaken by piecework, or for a lump sum for the whole harvest based upon the piecework system, that the largest amounts are earned. The countries where harvest is largely done by piecework are Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and parts of Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Nottinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Dorsetshire.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE average selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following Table, in which are also included, for purposes of comparison, the results of the previous audits:—

Table with columns: Product and District, Number of work-people, Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit, Date from which last audit affects wages, Average ascertained selling price per ton (According to last audit, According to previous audit, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton).

From the above Table it will be seen that the advance in the ascertained prices of coal and iron still continues. The increases however (except in the case of South Wales and Monmouthshire coal) are not so marked as in any of the previous ascertainment in 1900, but they have been sufficient to bring about advances on the standard wages, under the sliding scales in operation in various districts, viz., in South Wales and Monmouth of 12½ per cent. to miners, in Cleveland of 1¼ per cent. to the blastfurnacemen, and in West Scotland of 3d. per ton (11s. 3d. to 11s. 6d.) to puddlers, and 2½ per cent. to millmen. In Northumberland the coal trade Conciliation Board has granted an advance of 8¾ per cent. No

* The exact amount of the difference cannot be stated.

change occurred in the wages of blastfurnacemen in Cumberland or of iron workers in the North of England, while in the Midlands, although the increase in the selling price was sufficient to give an advance of 3d. per ton to puddlers and 2½ per cent. to millmen, it was resolved by the standing committee of the Wages Board:—

"that in view of the fact that a further advance of wages would make the difference between the Northern and Midland districts wider than in any time past, it is considered to be in the interest of the iron trade of this district to waive any advance on the present occasion, especially as on nine former occasions the employers have made similar concessions."

Comparing the prices ascertained at the last audits with those for the corresponding periods of last year, it is found that the selling price of coal has advanced 50 per cent. and 43 per cent. in Northumberland and South Wales respectively, while pig iron in Cumberland has gone up 10 per cent. and in Cleveland 26 per cent.

The figures for manufactured iron show an increase of 28 per cent. in the North of England, of 38 per cent. in the Midlands, and of 37 per cent. in the West of Scotland.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Hull Lightermen: Arbitration.

THE arbitrators, to whom certain matters in dispute between the Hull lightermen and their employers had been referred (see August GAZETTE, p. 253), delivered their award on September 1st. The terms of this decision are as follows:—

- 1. Weekly lightermen to receive £1 7s. per week; the week to finish at one o'clock on Saturday; the men to leave the lighters properly secured and covered up, after which they are to call for their wages and to receive orders for Monday morning at their employers' offices. If required to work on Saturday afternoon the men shall do so at the rate of 9d. per hour from one o'clock until six, after which ordinary overtime pay commences.
2. Overtime to be paid at the rate of 10½d. per hour; to be paid 12 hours per night, the lighter-owners to guarantee the overtime payment.
3. Shifting between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. for all loaded craft up to 40 tons carrying capacity and light craft, the rate to be 2s. 6d. per shift. In all other cases the rate to be 3s. For slipping on the flood from above Sculcoates Bridge, the rate to be 3s. 6d.
4. If lightermen ordered at 5 a.m. to 6 a.m., or from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., the rate to be 1s. 3d.
5. In all cases of discharging bulk grain or seed, an allowance is to be paid to the men so discharging, whether lightermen or otherwise, at the rate of 3d. per last between two men.
6. (a) Sunday pumping to be paid at the rate of 3s. for any number of lighters up to twelve. For every additional lighter above twelve 3d. to be paid, this to be for lighters listed for pumping or shepherding by the owner. (b) Night pumping to be paid for at the rate of 1s. 6d. for any number of lighters up to twelve, and 1½d. per lighter for each additional lighter above twelve that may be listed for pumping and shepherding by the employers. Having to attend more than twice in one night to be paid 6s. for the night. For the purpose of night pumping each of the following districts to count one pump:—

- 1. Albert Dock and Sir William Wright Dock.
2. All town docks and Victoria Dock.
3. The river Hull.
4. Alexandra Dock.

- 7. Going to mills at night to berth lighters one man to be paid 2s. 6d. for each loaded lighter up to 40 tons carrying power, or for light craft, except where owner regards two men as necessary. In this case, and in the case of all loaded craft above 40 tons carrying capacity, the rate to be 3s. 6d. between two men.
8. Casual men to receive 5s. 9d. per day, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays to Fridays inclusive. On Saturday the half-day to count from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. for which the rate is to be 2s. 10½d. If required to work Saturday afternoon, casual men shall do so, and shall be paid 9d. per hour as from one o'clock to 6 p.m.

9. Saturday afternoon to be recognised half holiday, subject to the conditions laid down in Clause 1 and Clause 8 as above. And further, if either regular or casual men are employed on the Saturday afternoon, they are to be allowed the usual dinner hour. No man employed on Saturday afternoon to be discharged with less than 3s. 9d.

10. For casual men the full day shall count from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Three-quarters of a day shall count from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Half-day shall count from 6 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 to 6. No man to be set on for less than half a day.

11. Piece men to be paid 4d. per last for cargoes of 300 qrs. and under; for cargoes upwards of 300 qrs. 3d. per last. For all overtime, piece workers to be paid 6d. per hour extra. The piece rate shall include shifting loaded craft from dock to place of discharge and back (light) to any berth in the river Hull, or to the town docks, if possible, in one tide; it being understood that one tide shall be allowed to take any vessel up and another tide for bringing her down. If the light craft is to be taken from tier to dock on a subsequent tide, such shifting to count and to be paid for at the ordinary shift rate.

12. Piece-work discharging grain to be at the option of the employer.

Note.—The representatives of the lighter-owners and the lighter-men having strongly expressed themselves in favour of strictly adhering to any award that we might make, we regard this undertaking as being morally binding on both sides, and therefore, do not deem it necessary to state any specific period for the operation of this award; but we set forth that no variation shall take place at any time in the future without the party desiring to vary giving three months' notice to the other side. We further place on record that the association of the employers on the one side and the union of the men on the other side make themselves responsible for the strict adherence to this award on the part of their respective individual members.

Arbitration in the Glasgow Boot and Shoe Trade.

The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration in the Glasgow boot and shoe trade has had before it a list of minimum wages submitted to it by a section of the operatives, and, not being able to agree on the matter, referred it to two arbitrators, who subsequently appointed as umpire Sir J. Neilson Cuthbertson. On July 14th the umpire fixed the minimum wages of clickers at 29s., and of pressmen at 26s. per week—this decision to continue in force for three years. (The minimum wages, prior to this decision, were 27s. for clickers, and 24s. for pressmen.) The arbitrators decided that overtime be paid time and a quarter after the recognised number of working hours is worked, except during three weeks before Glasgow Fair.

Arbitration in the Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade.

Certain questions having been submitted to the Arbitration Board in the Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade, and having been referred to two arbitrators, these gentlemen on September 29th awarded as follows:—

- (1) Revision of clickers' piecework statement.—The arbitrators find that no serious attempt has been made to go through the list in detail, and direct that this shall be done without delay. They point out that it is not within their province to frame a new list, but only to decide upon points which cannot be mutually agreed.
(2) Classification of material.—The arbitrators decided that the skins submitted to them were glacé goats, not kids.
(3) Work given out in small lots.—The arbitrators award that, when giving out to (machine) lasters (under the piece-work statement) work consisting of two sizes, all of each size in uppers should be placed together, so as to obviate the necessity of sorting.

Northumberland Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

The Conciliation Board in the Northumberland coal trade met on October 6th, and passed the following resolution:—

"That with pays commencing 8th and 15th October the wages of underground workmen and banksmen be advanced 8½ per cent. (surface labourers in the usual proportion), making the wages of underground workmen and banksmen 61¼ per cent. above the basis of 1879, other classes of surface labour 49 per cent. above the basis of 1879."

South Staffordshire Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

At a meeting of the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Coal Trade Wages and Conciliation Board on September 21st the following resolution was adopted:—

"That 5 per cent. advance on the 1888 standard be made on October 1st to colliers and surface labourers engaged on the pit banks and screens in manipulating coal, a further advance of 5 per cent. on January 1st, 1901, and a third advance of 5 per cent. on February 1st, 1901."

About 10,000 coal and ironstone miners are affected.

Manchester Slipper Makers' Price List.

A revised uniform list for slipper making in Manchester, Salford and District, drawn up by the Operatives' Union, became partially operative on July 2nd, and at those firms which refused to accept it, the workpeople came out on strike. The strike terminated on September 10th—nearly all the firms having agreed to pay to the list.

The total number affected, 230 in all, are stated to have received advances varying from 1s. 6d. to 3s. per week as a result of the adoption of the list.

Walsall Harness Stitchers' Price List.

A new price list for harness stitchers at Walsall has been agreed upon between the employers and the workpeople, and came into operation on September 21st. Its adoption is stated to have resulted in an average advance of about 2s. 6d. per week in the earnings of about 500 female operatives working under it. The list makes special provision for stitching military harness.

RECENT LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR IN THE UNITED STATES.

LEGALITY OF PEACEFUL PICKETING AND OF PICKET AND STRIKE PAY.

The following particulars with respect to recent decisions in regard to the legality of peaceful picketing, of the payment of pickets and of dispute pay are compiled from the Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the State of New York for June last.

A labour dispute, affecting nearly 5,000 workpeople engaged in the cigar-making industry, commenced in New York City at the beginning of March last, and at the date of the issue of the publication just referred to had not yet terminated. A firm of employers involved in this dispute brought an action for damages, pending the trial of which they applied to a judge of the Supreme Court of New York County for an injunction against the Cigar-Makers' International Union, Local Union No. 144, the Advisory Board, their attorneys, agents and servants. The judge accordingly made an order, by way of temporary injunction, enjoining and restraining the defendants until the final determination of the action "from interfering with, annoying, accosting, threatening, waylaying, and following the plaintiffs and their employees, hands and workers, and from loitering around, about, picketing, patrolling and standing in and about the street and sidewalk in front of the premises . . . and the streets and avenues adjacent thereto and from loitering at and near, picketing, patrolling, waylaying the plaintiffs and their and any of their employees, and persons seeking employment of the plaintiffs on the streets and sidewalks in front of, adjacent to and at the houses of the plaintiffs, their employees, and workers, and from doing any act or thing the commission of which has the tendency or effect of molesting the plaintiffs and their employees in the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of their business and their coming to and going therefrom." The order further temporarily enjoined and restrained the defendants' local Union above mentioned and the Joint Advisory Board of that Union and the Executive Board of the Cigar Makers' International Union, and the president of the Local Union and chairman of its Advisory Board, individually and as such president and chairman, and three persons named, individually and as members of that Board, and the agents of the persons so enjoined and restrained "from ordering, directing, planning, and knowingly permitting picketing, patrolling, and loitering about the plaintiffs' aforesaid premises, and from paying any persons any sum of money for picketing, patrolling and loitering about the plaintiffs' premises, and from any interference with, annoyance, threats and insults to the plaintiffs and their employees and workers and persons seeking work in the plaintiffs' factory whether in the streets or on the side-walks adjacent to the said factory or in any other place, and from paying or offering, or promising to pay to any former employee of the plaintiffs any sum of money for the purpose of

inducing such person or persons to refuse to enter to plaintiffs' employment, and from paying and promising to pay to any former employee of the plaintiffs any sum of money for the purpose of continuing organised, concerted and combined action on the part of said former employees of the plaintiffs, with the object and purpose of interfering with, and preventing the plaintiffs from carrying on their business."

On May 7th the defendants appeared before another judge of the same court, and showed cause why the order above set forth should not be made permanent.

On June 6th the judge in question refused the application to continue the injunction, with costs. The judge held that the charge of "insulting, annoying, accosting, threatening, waylaying and following the plaintiffs and their employees, hands and workers and persons seeking employment of the plaintiffs" was disproved by the evidence now before the Court, and that, even if the charge of "loitering around, about, or standing in and upon the street and side-walk in front of the premises" in question, and of "picketing and patrolling about the plaintiffs' premises" were true, they would not be unlawful acts, or ground for an injunction, unless such loitering, patrolling and picketing were accompanied by some of the unlawful acts just specified (insulting, annoying, etc.), or other acts of a similar nature. As to the payments made by the defendants, the judge was of opinion that the evidence showed that the object of making such payments was not to interfere with the plaintiffs' business, but to assist the strikers by helping to support them during the strike, and he held that such payments for that purpose were not unlawful.

In another case arising out of the same dispute the same Court refused to continue a temporary injunction, which had been granted restraining the International Union and others from picketing and patrolling, alleged to have been accompanied by assaults and acts of disorderly conduct, the Court not considering these allegations proved, and holding that mere patrolling of a neighbourhood by a few persons, without threats, coercion, or violence, was not unlawful.

PICKETING: INCITEMENT NOT TO WORK.

The *American Federationist* for August gives a report of a case heard in the Lucas County (Ohio) Court of Common Pleas, in December, 1899, in which, in granting a motion to dissolve a temporary injunction restraining certain workmen, who had gone out on strike, from interfering with the business of their employers by resorting to intimidation against their employees, the judge made the following observations:—

"They [the strikers] practically concede that having left the factory, they agreed among themselves to return at such time as they could conveniently do so, on the days immediately succeeding the strike, to observe what was going on about the factory. On the next two or three days six or eight of them returned and stood around in the vicinity of the factory during the greater part of the days, and their conduct clearly shows—even if it is not admitted by all of them—that their chief purpose, though quiet and orderly in so doing, was to intercept persons who might be going there to take their places, and to persuade them to also refrain from working for the plaintiff. This was their chief purpose, whatever construction some of them may now seek to put upon their conduct. They were there for the purpose of using such influence as they might be able to exert to prevent other men from taking the places they had abandoned. Now from what has been conceded to be the law applicable to this case, it is perfectly clear that if this was done in a proper way, the plaintiff can have no relief in a court of equity. If the influences which they sought to bring to bear and were about to exert were merely appeals to the judgment and understanding of the men they were desirous of influencing, and if such appeals were made in a reasonable manner and their conduct in assembling there or in speaking to these men was such as reasonable men would approve under the circumstances, then it was not unlawful. If they were there in such numbers or were using such means as were reasonably calculated to frighten, or intimidate, or overawe men seeking employment such as they had left, then they were there in the exercise of influences which they had no right to bring to bear. They could not use threats. Under the law they could not assemble there in such numbers as to overawe and terrify or bear down the judgment of the men going there to get work—they had no right to do that. They had a perfect right, however, to speak, in a proper way, to men who were seeking employment such as they had abandoned, to explain to them their view of the matter, to reason with them and make such appeals to the judgment and sense of propriety of brother workmen as was reasonable and proper. The moment, however, they should attempt to interfere with the free will of anybody and to compel or coerce them into doing what they did not wish to do, they would exceed the bounds of reasonable interference."

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—It is too late in the year for the ordinary emigrant to go to Canada. In Ontario last season the supply of farm labour was quite sufficient, except at haying and harvest time. The tendency to dispense with hired help seems to be on the increase. There was a decided rise in farm wages. The strike of machinists on the Canadian Pacific Railway has been settled, and the men have returned to work.

New South Wales.—The long-continued dispute in the coal trade at Newcastle is now settled. The men will receive for four months, from September 1st last, a hewing rate of 3s. 4d. a ton, for the following four months 3s. 8d. a ton, and finally 3s. 10d. a ton, so long as the selling price remains at 10s.

Victoria.—There is no general demand for more labour, and a certain number of persons in Melbourne complain of inability to obtain employment.

Queensland.—Some of the miners at the large coal mines at Ipswich have demanded an increase of 4d. a ton in the hewing rate. This has been refused, and a strike has occurred. There is a considerable demand for farm hands in some districts, for general labourers, miners, and female servants.

Western Australia.—A report from Pingelly in the South-west states that the only demand is for farm and general labourers and female servants. At Bunbury there is a demand for carpenters at 10s. to 12s. a day, and for female servants.

New Zealand.—The last reports show that the demand for out-door labour was, as is usual in winter, affected by the bad weather. Other trades, however, were doing well in most districts. The building trades were busy in Auckland, Gisborne, Napier, New Plymouth, Nelson, and several other places. At Dunedin carpenters, bricklayers, and stone masons were busy, but plasterers were slack, and a number of painters were out of employment. At Invercargill it was difficult to get carpenters, even at an advanced rate of wages. The engineering trades have been busy at Christchurch, Napier, Invercargill, Wellington where engineers and machinists were in demand, and in Dunedin where engineering shops were working double shifts. Boot manufacturers at Dunedin complain of the scarcity of good hands.

South Africa.—The High Commissioner has sent the following telegram from Capetown as to the return of refugees from the Transvaal:—"Arrangements are being made for commencement of return during week beginning October 15th. Return will be slow at first, about 1,000 per week, but hope pace may increase after the first few weeks. It will take at least three months to repatriate those at the present time waiting in South Africa. I strongly deprecate anyone coming out from England in the mere hope of getting employment for another three months at least; business will only gradually regain its former activity, and it takes a long time to restart even the old numbers. On the other hand, I see no reason why people having property in the new Colonies, or assured of employment immediately on arrival there, or able to support themselves without it, should not now return at any time, though it is impossible to promise that they will be allowed to go up at once on their arrival in South Africa."

Information for Intending Emigrants.

The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on October 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants, as to the demand for labour, rates of wages and cost of living. Particulars are also given as to the cost of reaching the various colonies, the arrangements at each for receiving emigrants, and as to various other matters of interest to emigrants. Copies of the circulars can be obtained free on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

The office has also issued a new edition of its handbook on the West Indies, containing general information as to the climate, post, railway steamers, fares, customs, money, religion, education, openings for emigrants, and the cost of living. The price of the handbook is sixpence, post free.

* 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 continued active during August in the building trades, in mines and quarries, in metal smelting and manufacture (except for a slight slackening in steel-smelting), in engineering, in flax and cotton-spinning and weaving, glove-making, boot, shoe and hat-making, carpentry, joinery and cabinet making, coach building, coopering, and food preparation. Employment was plentiful in the glass and pottery trades, and in lime burning. The disputes which occurred in certain districts in the transport and warehousing trades, have checked the improvement which had been going on for some months in those industries. Woolspinning and weaving, silk and ribbon manufacture, garment making, printing and bookbinding, and hide and skin preparation, continued slack. In consequence of the increased use of reaping and threshing machines, the abundant harvest has failed to cause such an increase of employment as was hoped for in agriculture.

Just over 8 per cent. of the 145,000 members of 855 Trade Unions (excluding those of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts) which made returns as to the state of employment on August 15th, were out of work on that date. The corresponding proportion for the previous month was slightly over 7 per cent.; and that for August, 1899, rather less than 6 per cent.

Employment in September.†—Employment continued good in mining, in the metal, engineering and accessory trades (except for steel smelters, who continued somewhat slack), in cotton and flax spinning and weaving, glove and hatmaking, joinery and cabinet making, coachbuilding, coopering and in the food preparation trades. Employment was plentiful in scientific instrument-making, in the tin box trade, in electric light and power supplying establishments, and in the glass and pottery trades. It has improved in the garment-making industry, also in the transport and warehousing trades (since the termination of the strikes in those trades); while in quarrying, in the building and dependent trades, in boot and shoe making, in carpentry and among sawyers, the tendency has been towards diminished activity. Wool spinning and weaving, silk and ribbon manufacture, printing and bookbinding, agriculture, and hide and skin preparing, continued quiet.

Just over 8 per cent. of the 151,000 members of 830 Trade Unions (exclusive of the coal miners' unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts), which made reports to the French Labour Department, were returned as unemployed on September 15th. This was also the proportion for August, while for September, 1899, it was slightly more than 6 per cent.

Coal Mining in August.*—The average number of days worked per week by those employed underground in coal mines in August was 5.94, as compared with 5.91 in July, 1900, and 5.84 in August, 1899. During the month, full time (six days and over per week) was worked by 76 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 24 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines, the percentages in the previous month being 74 and 26 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines).

Labour Disputes in August.*—Ninety-five fresh disputes were reported to the French Labour Department in August, the number of workpeople known to have taken part in 90 of these disputes being 34,536. (Out of these, 47 disputes, involving 26,442 workpeople, either took place in the maritime trades, or were in sympathy with the disputes in those trades.) The number of disputes reported in July was 74, in 70 of which 13,243 workpeople were known to have taken part, while in August, 1899, there were 61 disputes, in 53 of which 11,165

workpeople took part. Of the 95 new disputes in August last, 15 occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining, 15 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 12 in the textile trades, 3 in the clothing trades, 28 in dock labour and other transport trades, 3 in the woodworking trades, and 8 in the chemical, glass, pottery, &c., trades, the others being in occupations not included in any of the foregoing groups. Of 82 disputes, of which the termination was reported, 21 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 22 in favour of the employers, while 39 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in August.*—Twenty-two cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in August, the workpeople having taken the initiative in six cases, the employers in one, the justice of the peace in five, and the employers and workpeople jointly in one. In the other nine cases it was not stated by whom the initiative was taken. Meetings of conciliation committees were brought about in sixteen cases, and resulted in the settlement of eight disputes (exclusive of two which were afterwards settled by arbitration). In another case the dispute was settled before the committee was formed, while in five cases the employers refused to accept the proffered intervention.

Strike of Dock Labourers at Calais.—In despatches to the Foreign Office, dated September 12th, 14th and 21st, Mr. C. A. Payton, H.M. Consul at Calais, reports concerning a strike of dock labourers at that port, the men's demands being as follows:—(1) Suppression of work by the hour; (2) every half-day commenced to be paid in full; (3) the day's work to be 10 hours from April 1st to September 30th, and 8 hours from October 1st to March 31st; (4) the pay for the 10 hours' day to be 5s. 7d. for carriers of wood, coals, and sacks, and for deck hands, stowers, and floaters; 4s. 9d. for loaders of trucks, hauliers, etc.; the 8 hours' day, 9½d. less; (5) overtime to be paid as follows: *Summer season*, up to 8 p.m., 7½d. per hour, from 8 p.m. till midnight, 9½d. per hour, after midnight, 9s. 7d. for the night whatever the number of hours worked; *Winter season*, until 8 p.m., 9½d. per hour, from 8 p.m. till midnight, 1s. 2½d. per hour, after midnight, 12s. for the night, whatever the number of hours worked; (6) Sundays and holidays, first half-day, 3s. 2½d.; whole day, 8s.; (7) no deductions for gear and insurance; (8) pay-day every Saturday, or twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday; (9) night work, if stopped from 8.30 p.m. to 9 p.m., or from midnight to 1.30 a.m., to be paid all the same; (10) for working ores, 10 hours, 5s. 7d.; 8 hours, 4s. 9½d.; pig iron, etc., 9½d. more; (11) patent fuel, summer, 9s. 7d.; winter, 6s. 5d.

The strikers were subsequently joined by the sugar dischargers, who submitted a list of piece-wage rates, of which they demanded the adoption. A number of carters and street-sweepers struck for an increase in their wages, and the workmen employed at a large biscuit factory also struck.

Work was resumed by the dock labourers on September 21st, on terms which are regarded as constituting a partial victory for the men, certain augmentations of pay being granted, and the principle of full pay for every commenced quarter of a day admitted, instead of the full half-day at first demanded by the men.

Strike of Dock Labourers at Bordeaux and Pauillac.—In despatches to the Foreign Office dated September 26th to October 12th, Mr. W. R. Hearn, H.M. Consul at Bordeaux, reports concerning a strike of the stevedore and coal labourers at Bordeaux and Pauillac. The strike was begun on September 26th by the stevedore labourers, numbering about 800, their demands being as follows:—

Day Work.—The hours to be from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Night Work.—This to begin at 7 p.m. If work continues after midnight, half an hour's rest, and work to continue until 5 a.m.

* *Bulletin de l'Office du Travail* (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

Day Pay.—Minimum rate to be 6 francs (about 4s. 9½d.) per day, but those who are actually receiving more to continue to do so.

Night Pay.—Every labourer without distinction to be paid a franc (about 9½d.) per hour up to midnight. After midnight the pay to be 2 francs per hour until day work commences.

Other demands were:—The suppression of job work or hour work during day work; every half-day begun to be paid in full. Sunday day work to be 50 per cent. more. Freedom to go to the *buvettes* (for liquid refreshments), as hitherto, during day and night work. No labourer to be refused work under the simple pretext of having been a member of the Union. Ships' crews not to be employed at the winches. The tariff to be the same for loading or discharging.

Up to now the day hours have been from 6 a.m. to 12, and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., and the men have been earning from 6 francs to 8 or 9 francs (say 4s. 9½d.—7s. 2½d.) according to grade. Night work began at 7 p.m., and continued until 6 a.m., and the pay was from 60 to 75 centimes (say 5½d. to 7d.) per hour, according to grade. The custom of going to the *buvettes* is, it is stated, tacitly allowed, but the stevedores will not concede the right to do so, as by doing so their accident insurance policies would be prejudiced. The pay on Sundays was the same on other days. Job and time-work men are now paid by the hour, whereas the men demand that they shall be paid for half a day even if they work a shorter time.

The coal labourers, who joined the strikers on September 28th, demanded shorter hours for all work, and increased pay for handling mineral. On October 12th the strike of coal labourers was reported ended.

GERMANY.

Employment in August.—According to the Berlin journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, there were, on an average, 1073 applications for work in August (as compared with 1112 in July) to every 100 offers of situations at public employment registries throughout the empire. Taking the sexes separately, we find the average number of applications per 100 situations offered to have been 120.0 for men and 73.8 for women, the corresponding percentages for the previous month having been 123.2 and 75.8 respectively.

Dispute in the Hamburg Shipbuilding Trade.—With reference to the dispute in the Hamburg Shipbuilding trade referred to in the September GAZETTE (p. 267), *Soziale Praxis* reports that at a joint conference on September 19th, at which the employers declared their inability to advance wages or otherwise improve the conditions of work, but offered to re-instate the strikers on the old conditions, the men's representatives consented to a resumption of work, which, however, did not take place on an appreciable scale until September 24th.

BELGIUM.

Employment in August.*—Employment continued good in coal mining, in spite of some decline in orders for industrial coal. Iron and steel production continued restricted, practically all establishments working short time to the extent of at least one day per week. In the construction of the heavier kinds of metal goods a large number of orders still remained to be executed, so that the activity in that trade scarcely corresponded to the present slackened demand for such goods. The glass trade was considerably disorganised by the strike, which caused most of the furnaces in the Charleroi district to be shut down; elsewhere employment was normal in this trade. The slack season has set in for the arms manufacturing industry, but so far only certain classes of workpeople are affected by it. Garment-makers generally, printers and rabbit-skin dressers were also generally slack. Employment was fairly good in the various branches of the building trades, in brick making, in brewing, in the spinning and weaving of cotton and flax, and in the paper trades. No improvement in employment was reported in lace manufacture, or in the woollen industry.

Labour Disputes in August.*—Nine new disputes were reported to the Belgian Labour Department in August, involving in all about 8,500 workpeople, but 3 other

vue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

disputes, begun before August 1st, still continued through part of that month, and involved 166 workpeople. The number of fresh disputes in July, 1900, was 8, 7 of which involved 350 workpeople, while in August, 1899, there were 6 disputes, involving about 600 workpeople. Of the 9 new disputes in August of the present year, the most important was the strike of glassworkers in the Charleroi district, referred to in the September GAZETTE (p. 267), which lasted throughout the whole month, and involved about 8,000 workpeople. Two of the remaining disputes were in the metal trades, the others being among coal miners, clog makers, printers, cigar makers, skin trimmers and navvies. Of 7 disputes, involving 581 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 2, involving 232 workpeople, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 4, involving 338 workpeople, in favour of the employers; while 1, involving 11 workpeople, was compromised.

HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM CONSULAR DISTRICT.

A Report, dated October 1st, 1900, and transmitted through the Foreign Office by Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, states that in the Consular District of Amsterdam the preceding three months have been one continuous history of strikes and disputes, while the whole period has been characterised by the great difficulty experienced by the employers in bringing any of these disputes to a definite conclusion, even when the demands of the workmen had been partially or even fully granted. Renewed demands have continually arisen, and, at the date of reporting, the labour market was still in a condition of unrest.

A series of strikes among the various classes of dockers in Amsterdam continued to disturb all the shipping trades during July and August. In several instances, single employers gave way to the pressure, and the general result has been that the men have obtained both higher rates per hour and shorter hours of labour, together with considerably increased rates for overtime and Sunday work, which latter has, however, now become of very rare occurrence in Amsterdam. The uncertainty and annoyance caused to all shipping branches by the continually varying demands of the men, and by the desultory and irregular way in which these demands were met and dealt with by the separate employers, owing in a great measure to the absence of any means for concentration of this description of work, and to the extent and variety of the dock arrangements, has brought about an effort on the part of some of the larger shipping companies and employers of labour to constitute a counter Federation of employers. This Federation now practically exists among a number of the shipping companies.

A combination of lightermen for the attainment of higher wages was also the cause of a series of disputes. The labourers employed in discharging vessels made common cause with the lightermen, and refused to discharge cargoes into such lighters as had not joined the lightermen's combination. The consequent delays to shipping were most serious, the important timber trade being especially injuriously affected.

In the case of a strike of the dockers at Zaandam, where the rate of wages has always been somewhat lower than in Amsterdam, the employers have agreed to a marked increase of rates, and to similar demands as to overtime, shorter hours, and Sunday labour to those which have been granted at Amsterdam.

There has further been a movement among the Dutch sailors residing at and frequenting the port of Amsterdam for a general advance in wages. The monthly rates paid to Dutch sailors have up to now been 20 to 25 per cent. below those obtaining in English shipping ports, and a general advance of about 16s. 8d. per month has been practically conceded by the shipping companies, while the foreign vessels engaging crews have had to follow suit. This dispute, which scarcely attained the nature of a strike, was promptly and quietly arranged by the intervention of the Dutch Shipping Superintendent at Amsterdam.

AUSTRIA.

Employment in August.*—The Returns of the labour Registries (public and private) furnishing Reports to the Austrian Labour Department for August show that the proportion of applications for work to offers of situations has fallen since the previous month from 136 applications for every 100 offers to 119. In August the average number of applications for each situation, taking the sexes separately, was 1.6 in the case of male (1.7 in July), and 0.7 in the case of female workpeople (as compared with 0.8 in July, the number of situations offered to females having in both these months exceeded that of their applications).

Labour Disputes in August.†—Fifteen disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in August, the number of workpeople involved being stated approximately at 1,400. The number of disputes reported as having begun in July was 24, involving approximately 3,700 workpeople. Of the 15 disputes reported in August, 1 occurred in the building trade, 3 in the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 3 in the textile trades, 2 in the printing, paper, and allied trades, 3 in the glass, pottery, etc., trades, 1 in the food, tobacco, etc., group, and 2 in the leather, bristle, and hair, etc., working trades. Of 13 disputes, of which the results were reported, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople (4 of these involved about 98 workpeople), 5 (involving about 1,206 workpeople) were decided in favour of the employers, and 3 (of which 2 involved about 48 workpeople) were compromised.

Central Reserve Fund for Accidents in the Mining Industry.*—Besides contributing to their Miners' Provident Fund, or *Brüderlade* (see GAZETTE, February, 1898, p. 39), all mineowners in Austria are obliged to contribute annually to a central reserve fund for helping the *Brüderladen* to bear extra burdens resulting from accidents through which more than 5 persons have been killed or disabled. This Fund is administered by a Commission of 10 members (4 representatives of Government Departments, 4 mine-owners, and 2 miners, the last 6 members being nominated by the Government).

The Commission fixes the annual contribution to the central reserve fund at a rate which must not exceed 0.1 per cent. of the wages-bill of an employer for the preceding year.

The sum contributed on this basis by employers in 1899 was £5,199 18s. 5d. The amount of the Fund at the end of that year was £27,177 5s. 8d. Two accidents of the kind contemplated by the Fund occurred in 1899 (in coal mines). In one of these accidents 6 workmen were fatally injured, and left 4 widows and 4 orphans; in the other, 6 workmen sustained severe injuries.

RUSSIA.

The Marie Seamen's Institute, St. Petersburg.—Under date of September 6th, 1900, Mr. J. Michell, H.M. Consul-General at St. Petersburg, has transmitted to the Foreign Office copies of the annual reports for the last three years of the above-named institute, established in St. Petersburg under the patronage of the Empress Marie Feodorovna for the benefit of seamen visiting this port. Although founded on an international basis, the British element of its visitors (who numbered 2,137 in 1898, and 3,181 in 1899) largely predominates. The site was granted by the late Emperor Alexander III. for a period of not less than 30 years, and the institution is maintained by voluntary donations of shipowners, the local mercantile body, and private individuals.

The immediate object of this institute is to afford rational amusement on shore to the crews of vessels visiting the port, its attractions consisting of a liberal supply of books and newspapers, a billiard table, piano, etc. It is conducted on temperance and strictly secular principles.

* The figures for August in the first paragraph and for 1899 in the last have been supplied by the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

† The figures for August are provisional, those for July are revised according to information supplied by the Austrian Labour Department.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike in Chicago Building Trades.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated September 13th, 1900, Mr. W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, states that since the last report, dated August 6th, 1900 (see September GAZETTE, p. 268), the labour situation cannot be said to have improved. The conflict between the Contractors' Unions and the Building Trades Association still continues, although work has been carried on at the large buildings in the city, and smaller works in the suburbs, and union men have been working with non-union, the Trades Council shutting their eyes to the fact. The Unions have offered to supply workmen to anyone who will build without employing a contractor, but with a supervising architect over the work, who will also arrange about the material. In order to benefit anyone who will take advantage of this offer, the men will be allowed to work for 15 per cent. less per day than the usual Union wage. Union carpenters are working for all contractors that pay the union wages, the Saturday half-holiday being enforced where possible. Bricklayers and stonemasons are being offered 2s. 3½d. per hour (an advance of 2½d. per hour) by some of the contractors.

A strike of woodworkers at Chicago began early in September, involving at one time 1,350 workmen, but at the date of the Consul's despatch a settlement had been arrived at between the strikers and a large number of the employers concerned, thus reducing the number of men then out to less than 400.

PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Anthracite Coal Miners.—In continuation of his cablegram dated September 13th, 1900, stating that a strike of anthracite coal miners was impending (see September GAZETTE, p. 268), Mr. W. Powell, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated September 18th, 1900, reports that the region affected, is almost, if not entirely, within the State of Pennsylvania, there being but three other anthracite coal mines in the United States outside of that State, and these three mines producing an aggregate output of only about 60,000 tons per annum; whereas the anthracite output of the hard coal regions of Pennsylvania amounts to about 75,000,000 tons.

The demands of the miners were as follows:—(1) Recognition of the Union; (2) Abolition of Company's Stores; (3) Bi-monthly payment of wages; (4) Advance of 20 per cent. on the pay of men now receiving from 4s. 2d. to 7s. 3½d. per day.

These may be sub-divided into the detailed points of demand, the more important of which are as follows:—Reduction in the price of powder for blasting from 11s. 5½d. to 6s. 3d. per keg; abolition of the sliding scale; wages to be paid in cash; 2,240 lbs. to go to the ton of coal instead of 3,360 lbs.; all day labour now receiving 7s. 3½d. wage, to be advanced 10 per cent.; no miner to have at any time more than one breast, gang, or other class of work, and only to get his legal share of trucks; the assessment of 4s. 2d. per month for doctors to be abolished.

By September 28th, the date of a further despatch from the same source, practically the whole of the anthracite mines, with the exception of 19 mines belonging to the Reading Coal and Iron Company, were shut down, and the number of men on strike was stated to amount to about 140,000.

[According to newspaper reports, the strike was still in progress on October 13th, on which date it was stated that the Miners' Convention had adopted a resolution to accept the offer made by the employers of a 10 per cent. advance in wages, provided the employers agreed to continue the payment until April 1st, 1901, and to abolish the sliding scale in the Lehigh and Schuylkill regions, wages in those districts to remain stationary at 10 per cent. above the present basis. Failing the acceptance of those conditions, the Convention proposes that all the questions at issue be submitted to a board of arbitration.]

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER - COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG-IRON INDUSTRY.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN SEPTEMBER.

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

EMPLOYMENT shows a further improvement, and the average number of days worked at collieries during September is higher than in August or in September 1899. The increase in the number of days worked, as compared with August, is largely attributable to the August holidays.

Returns relating to 1,333 pits at which 463,382 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5·65 days per week was worked by these pits during the four weeks ended September 22nd, as compared with 5·43 days per week in August and 5·46 days in September, 1899.

The following Table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified:—

District.	No. employed in Sept., 1900, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		22nd Sept., 1900.	23rd Sept., 1899.	25th Aug., 1900.
England and Wales ...	422,452	5·66	5·47	5·42
Scotland ...	40,190	5·57	5·32	5·51
Ireland ...	740	5·26	5·62	5·45
United Kingdom ...	463,382	5·65	5·46	5·43

The number of workpeople employed at the pits from which Returns have been received for both periods was about 4·6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

In the following Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 92·2 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in September, as compared with 85·0 per cent. a year ago, and with 86·8 per cent. in August, 1900.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	September, 1900.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	September, 1899.	August, 1900.
24 days (full time) ...	167,850	36·2	26·3	19·6
20 and under 24 days ...	259,420	56·0	58·7	73·2
16 " " 20 " " ...	34,218	7·4	11·3	11·7
12 " " 16 " " ...	1,844	0·4	3·1	1·9
8 " " 12 " " ...	...	...	0·6	0·0
Under 8 days " " ...	50	0·0	...	0·2
Total ...	463,382	100·0	100·0	100·0

The Table below, which gives detailed particulars for the different mining districts, shows that in nearly every district the average number of days worked in September was greater than in the corresponding period a year ago, Cumberland, South Wales and Monmouth, the Lothians and Ireland being the exceptions. In the Nottingham and Leicester district the increase in the number of days worked amounted to three-quarters of a day per week; in Derbyshire, and Gloucester and Somerset to more than half a day per week; in Staffordshire and Fife to more than one-third of a day per week.

The highest averages during the month were worked in Gloucester and Somerset (6 days per week), Cumberland, Derbyshire, and North Wales (5·81 days), Staffordshire (5·70 days), Durham (5·69 days), Salop, Worcester and Warwick (5·68 days), and Yorkshire (5·67 days). The only districts in which the average was less than 5½ days were Nottingham and Leicester (5·47 days), and Ireland (5·26 days).

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN SEPTEMBER, 1900 AND 1899, AND IN AUGUST, 1900.

District.	No. employed in Sept., 1900, 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., 1900 as compared with	
		22nd Sept., 1900.	23rd Sept., 1899.	25th Aug., 1900.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	35,419	5·54	5·30	5·22	+·24	+·32
Durham ...	89,101	5·69	5·64	5·62	+·05	+·07
Cumberland ...	6,477	5·81	5·83	5·36	+·02	+·45
Yorkshire ...	70,033	5·67	5·46	5·70	+·21	+·03
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	47,707	5·59	5·43	5·27	+·16	+·32
Derbyshire ...	36,085	5·81	5·28	5·61	+·53	+·20
Nottingham and Leicester ...	26,898	5·47	4·71	5·06	+·76	+·41
Staffordshire ...	25,132	5·70	5·32	4·94	+·38	+·76
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	7,431	5·68	5·41	5·32	+·27	+·36
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,631	6·00	5·48	5·74	+·52	+·26
North Wales ...	11,589	5·81	5·50	5·44	+·31	+·37
South Wales & Mon. ...	57,951	5·59	5·83	5·27	+·24	+·32
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	21,807	5·56	5·32	5·46	+·24	+·10
The Lothians ...	4,112	5·63	5·73	5·65	+·10	+·03
Fife ...	14,271	5·57	5·21	5·56	+·36	+·01
IRELAND.						
...	740	5·26	5·62	5·45	+·36	+·19
Grand Total & Averages	463,382	5·65	5·46	5·43	+·19	+·22

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during September amounted to 4,115,197 tons, as compared with 4,173,499 tons in August, and 3,763,206 tons in September, 1899.

(b) IRON MINING IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT continues good and shows an improvement compared with a month ago, and is practically the same as a year ago.

Returns relating to 128 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked by these mines in the four weeks ended September 22nd was 5·80 per week, as compared with 5·55 days per week in the four weeks ended August 25th, and 5·83 days in September, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mines covered by the Returns was 17,046 (or 53 less than a year ago), of whom 89·1 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:

District.	No. employed in Sept., 1900, 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., 1900, as compared with	
		22nd Sept., 1900.	23rd Sept., 1899.	25th Aug., 1900.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	5,841	5·80	5·89	5·60	+·09	+·20
Cleveland ...	6,798	5·81	5·78	5·72	+·03	+·09
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	718	5·56	5·96	5·94	+·40	+·38
Northamptonshire Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	669	5·76	5·87	5·61	+·11	+·15
Other places in England ...	1,653	5·95	5·64	4·62	+·31	+·33
Scotland ...	744	5·65	5·57	5·34	+·08	+·31
Ireland ...	1,138	5·75	5·98	5·42	+·23	+·33
...	85	6·00	6·00	5·02	...	+·98
Total ...	17,046	5·80	5·83	5·55	+·03	+·25

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT shows a decline in every district in England and Wales, except Cleveland, as compared with September, 1899; there is also a decline as compared with the previous month. In Scotland two more furnaces were in blast than in September, 1899, and one more than in the previous month.

At the works of 117 ironmasters covered by the Returns, thirteen furnaces were damped down or blown out in England and Wales during the month, while in Scotland two furnaces were re-lit and one blown out. Thus at the end of September there were twelve furnaces less in blast than at the end of August. As

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

compared with September, 1899, there is a decrease of twenty furnaces in blast.

The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 360 furnaces in blast at the end of September was 24,800.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast in the different districts of the United Kingdom at the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Sept., 1900.	Sept., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Sept., 1900.	Sept., 1900.	Aug., 1900.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Sept., 1900.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	97	97	...	97	97	...
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	46	53	— 7	46	49	— 3
S. and S.W. Yorks. ...	16	18	— 2	16	16	...
Lincolnshire ...	15	16	— 1	15	15	...
Midlands ...	93	102	— 9	93	99	— 6
Glamorgan and Mon. ...	20	22	— 2	20	24	— 4
Other districts ...	8	9	— 1	8	8	...
Total England and Wales...	298	317	— 22	298	308	— 13
SCOTLAND ...	65	63	+ 2	65	64	+ 1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	360	380	— 20	360	372	— 12

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS* IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries shows a slight decline as compared with a year ago, the aggregate volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by shifts worked) having fallen off by 2·1 per cent., as compared with September, 1899. No exact comparison can be made with August last, owing to holidays in that month, and this fact must be borne in mind when reading the tables which follow.

Numbers Employed.

At 207 works covered by the returns, 80,833 workpeople were employed in the week ended September 29th, as compared with 75,378 in the week ended August 25th, and 80,413 a year ago.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ending			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Sept., 1900, as compared with	
	Sept. 29th, 1900.	Sept. 30th, 1899.	Aug. 25th, 1900.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales ...	68,137	67,029	62,201	+1,108	+5,936
Scotland ...	12,696	13,384	13,177	— 688	— 481
Total ...	80,833	80,413	75,378	+ 420	+5,455

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 89 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5·45 per man in the week ended September 29th, as compared with 5·34 in the week ended August 25th, and 5·60 in the corresponding week a year ago.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Sept., 1900, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Sept., 1899.	Aug., 1900.
Under 5 per week ...	6,467	9·0	1·9	13·2
5 per week ...	22,179	30·8	35·6	34·1
5½ per week ...	1,221	1·7	2·0	1·7
6 per week ...	41,453	59·5	59·5	49·9
Above 6 per week ...	623	0·9	1·0	1·1
Total ...	71,943	100·0	100·0	100·0

* Including iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this Table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the people included in the first Table may be estimated at 440,788 in the week ended September 29th, and 450,440 in the corresponding week a year ago. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was 2·1 per cent. less than a year ago.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the end of September showed a slight improvement as compared with August, but was considerably worse than a year ago.

At the end of September 43 works with 229 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 29 others with 197 mills were giving partial employment, 125 of their mills being at work. Thus, in all, 354 mills were working, compared with 349 mills at the end of August and 406 mills a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of September is estimated to be about 17,700.

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 ...	43	229	—	229
Works giving partial employment ...	29	125	72	197
Total at end of September, 1900† ...	72	354	72	426
Corresponding Total for August, 1900† ...	71	349	66	415
Corresponding Total for September, 1899†† ...	83	406	63	469

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

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Sept., 1900.	August, 1900.	Sept., 1899.	Sept., 1900.	August, 1900.	Sept., 1899.
To United States ...	6,925	4,166	6,909	...	22	500
Other Countries ...	12,429	14,791	15,412	5,211	6,800	5,829
Total ...	19,354	18,957	22,321	5,211	6,822	6,329

(f) SHIPBUILDING.

Tonnage under Construction.‡

ACCORDING to the quarterly returns compiled by Lloyd's Register there were 452 vessels (excluding warships) under construction in the United Kingdom at the end of September, with a gross tonnage of 1,204,008 tons, a reduction of over 61,000 tons as compared with the figures for the previous quarter, and of 143,541 tons compared with a year ago. At the Royal Dockyards 15 warships of 165,840 tons displacement were under construction, and 54 at private yards with a displacement tonnage of 262,045, a total of 69 warships and 427,885 tons, a decrease of 4,190 tons as compared with

* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates.

† 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, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

‡ Revised figures.

§ By "tonnage under construction" is meant the gross 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 remaining to be done.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—SHIPBUILDING; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

the previous quarter, and an increase of 14,905 tons as compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the above figures:—

Description of Vessels.	Tonnage under construction on			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	Sep. 30th, 1900.	June 30th, 1900.	Sep. 30th, 1899.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Merchant Vessels— Tons gross	1,204,003	1,265,313	1,347,549	- 61,305	- 143,541
War Vessels— Tons displacement ...	427,885	432,075	412,980	- 4,190	+ 14,905

Of the 452 merchant vessels, 423 were steam vessels with a gross tonnage of 1,192,412 tons, and 29 sailing vessels of 11,596 tons gross. As compared with a year ago the number of steam vessels has fallen off by 110, and their tonnage by 149,973 tons. On the other hand, 4 more sailing vessels are under construction than in the corresponding quarter of 1899, and the gross tonnage has increased from 5,164 to 11,596 tons.

The following Table shows the gross tonnage of vessels, other than warships, under construction in each of the principal shipbuilding districts. The figures include 96 per cent. of the total tonnage under construction:—

District.	At			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
	Sep. 30th, 1900.	June 30th, 1900.	Sep. 30th, 1899.	Three months ago.	A year ago.
Clyde	383,573	407,884	465,656	- 24,311	- 83,083
Belfast	194,144	193,804	185,367	+ 340	+ 7,777
Wear	162,683	163,057	196,925	- 5,374	- 4,222
Tyne	223,210	242,038	242,613	- 13,828	- 14,403
Middlesbro' and Stockton	94,778	107,114	110,630	- 13,336	- 15,912
Hartlepool and Whitby ...	94,795	94,160	95,204	+ 515	- 1,689
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	2,990	2,490	11,310	+ 500	- 8,320

As compared with the previous quarter there are marked decreases on the Clyde and Tyne, and in the Middlesbro' and Stockton district, and as compared with a year ago there is a decrease in every district except Belfast, the decrease on the Clyde amounting to nearly 18 per cent.

(g) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN SEPTEMBER.

THE Agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 203 returns from various parts of England, reports as follows:—Agricultural labourers were generally well employed during the month of September at harvest, ploughing, taking up potatoes, thatching ricks, and, in some of the southern counties, threshing. Although employers in some districts complain that the supply of labour was short, on the whole there appears to have been just sufficient in most counties. All farming operations were much accelerated by the fine weather.

A report on Harvest Wages will be found on p. 293.

Northern Counties.—In *Northumberland* employment is stated to have been generally regular during the month of September. Reports from *Cumberland* from the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, Whitehaven, and Wigton state that farm hands were all regularly employed at harvest, lifting potatoes, cutting bracken, &c. In parts of *Cumberland*, chiefly in the hill districts, there was corn still uncut at the end of the month. Writing on October 2nd, a correspondent in the *Cockermouth* Union says: "Labourers have been difficult to get for harvest work, and the weather has been very indifferent. Harvest began near here at the end of July, and within a few miles of where I am writing, there is a quantity of grain standing in the fields." Reports from the Unions of Carlisle, and Penrith also refer to a scarcity of extra labour for harvest work. A large employer in the Carlisle Union writes as follows:—"Crops having become so much entangled with the storms, a great deal of extra labour was entailed, and consequently the supply of labour was not equal to the demand."

Reports from *Westmorland* and from *Lancashire* from the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Luneside, and Ulverston state that

employment is quite regular, and that a number of the best men are absent at the war. Regularity of employment is also reported from *Durham* from the Unions of Chester-le-Street, and Durham; and from *Yorkshire* from the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Knaresborough, Malton, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk.

Midland Counties.—In *Cheshire* employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Chester, Hayfield (*Cheshire* and *Derby*), Macclesfield, Nantwich, Northwich, and Tarvin and in *Derbyshire* in the *Derbyshire* portions of the Worksop Union (*Notts, Derby, and Yorks, W.R.*), of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*) and of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*). Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (*Salop* and *Staffs*), Oswestry (*Salop* and *Denbigh*), Wellington, and Wem, and in the *Shropshire* portion of the Whitchurch Union (*Salop* and *Cheshire*), and in *Staffordshire* in the Unions of Lichfield, and Tamworth (*Staffs* and *Warwick*). Several reports from *Shropshire* and *Staffordshire* refer to a scarcity of labour. In *Warwickshire* agricultural employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Alcester, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon (*Warwick* and *Gloucester*), and in the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants, and Warwick*). The reports generally state that the supply of labour was sufficient. An employer in the Foleshill Union writes as follows:—"In some parishes difficulty was experienced in getting extra hands, but nothing suffered from lack of help, binders being now generally used at harvest."

Reports from *Leicestershire* state that agricultural employment is regular in the Unions of Biaby, Loughborough (*Leicester* and *Notts*), Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*), Market Harborough (*Leicester* and *Northants*), Market Bosworth, and Melton Mowbray. An employer in the Lutterworth Union writes as follows:—"Weather being so remarkably good, and binders working so well, labour was considerably lessened. Otherwise a great difficulty would have been experienced." A report from the Market Bosworth Union says:—"All fully employed. No extra men to be had, the coal trade being so good. In *Nottinghamshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bingham, Southwell, and Retford. An employer in the Southwell Union states that "the supply of labour was better in September than it had been for one or two months past, but good and efficient men are hard to get." A report from the Bingham Union says that there was a very short supply of labour in September, and an employer in the Retford Union writes that the supply of adult labour was about equal to the demand, but that children were very scarce, and that the demand for potato-gatherers could not be met.

Agricultural employment in *Worcestershire* is said to be regular in the Unions of Evesham (*Worcester* and *Gloucester*), Martley, Pershore, Tenbury (*Worcester* and *Salop*), and Upton-on-Severn. A large employer of labour in the Evesham and Pershore Unions writes as follows:—"By using self-binders we did not need extra hands, but do not think we could have procured extra men had we needed them. We had eight good young Irishmen, but these had been with us during most of the summer, and are men who always come to us." Another employer in the Evesham Union writes:—"All hands fully employed. Extra hands difficult to find. Market-gardening and fruit picking take a great number." A report from the Upton-on-Severn Union states that the supply of labour was fairly good, and that hop-pickers were more abundant this year in consequence of a short crop.

Reports from *Oxfordshire* state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Thame (*Oxon* and *Bucks*), and Witney, and in the Wallingford Union (*Oxon* and *Berks*). Agricultural employment in *Northamptonshire* is reported as regular in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Towcester, and Wellingborough, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon, Northants, and Warwick*). Several reports from this county refer to a scarcity of labour. A report from the Banbury Union says "Labour short and only machinery makes farmers to do with shorter numbers." A report from the Towcester Union states that "in some parishes there was great difficulty in gathering in the harvest on account of the scarcity of labourers." Agricultural labourers are reported to be well employed in *Huntingdonshire* in the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots (*Hunts* and *Beds*), in *Buckinghamshire* in the Unions of Aylesbury, and Buckingham, in *Hertfordshire* in the Unions of Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Hitchin, St. Alban's, and Watford, and in *Bedfordshire* in the Unions of Biggleswade, and Luton.

Eastern Counties.—Regularity of employment is reported in *Essex* in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Lenden and Winstree, Maldon, Orsett, Tending, and

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; SEAMEN; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

Saffron Walden. Most of the reports state that the supply of labour was just about sufficient. An employer in the Tending Union writes of the supply of labour in September that there was "less difficulty in obtaining hands than at any time during the past twelve months." Reports from *Suffolk* state that agricultural labourers were well employed in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Harismere, Hoxne, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge (*Suffolk* and *Essex*), Samford, and Thingoe. A correspondent in the Mutford and Lothingland Union writes as follows:—"There is generally a scarcity of labour which is increasing. A greater anxiety is shown on the part of tenant farmers to have cottages to put labourers in." This correspondent forwards the copy of a local paper which contains 145 advertisements for farm hands, including horsemen, cattlemen, shepherds, and ordinary labourers.

Reports from *Norfolk* state that agricultural employment is regular in the Unions of Blofeld, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Foreho, Freebridge Lynn, Giltcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford (*Norfolk* and *Suffolk*), Walsingham, and Wayland. Generally speaking, reports state that the supply of labour was just sufficient though there was none to spare. In *Cambridgeshire* regularity of employment is reported in the Unions of Chesterton, Royston (*Cambs* and *Herts*), Wisbech (*Cambs* and *Norfolk*) and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln*). Reports from *Lincolnshire* state that agricultural labourers were generally well employed in the Unions of Boston, Brigg (*Notts* and *Lincoln*), Lincoln, Louth, and Sleaford and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Notts* and *Lincoln*).

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Regularity of employment is reported in *Kent* in the Unions of Bleas, Bridge, Eastry, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. Some scarcity of labour is reported in the Unions of Bleas, Elham, Faversham, and Tenterden. Regularity of employment is reported in *Surry* in the Union of Hambleton and in the *Surry* portion of the Farnham Union (*Surry* and *Hants*). A scarcity of labour is reported in the Hambleton Union, but in the Farnham Union the report states that the supply of labour has been augmented to some extent by some hop pickers who have stayed for a few weeks' work after the hop picking. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Sussex* in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. The reports from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Horsham, Newhaven, and Petworth, refer to a scarcity of men, especially stockmen and carters. Employment is stated to be regular in Hampshire in the Unions of Basingstoke, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surry*). A scarcity of extra men is reported in the Basingstoke Union, and a correspondent in the Petersfield Union states that labourers are scarce and are asking higher wages, and that the great difficulty is to get stockmen, as men object to Sunday work. In *Berkshire* employment has been regular in the Unions of Bradfield (*Berks* and *Oxon*), and Wantage. Labour continues to be scarce in these Unions.

Agricultural labourers are reported to be fully employed in *Dorsetshire* in the Unions of Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne; and in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, and Warminster. The supply of labour continues to be somewhat short in these counties, but a correspondent in the Amesbury Union writes that "owing to the fine weather during September, the autumnal work is well up, which somewhat lessens the demand." In the Warminster Union, however, the supply is stated to be very short, and great difficulty is experienced in getting shepherds, cattlemen, and horsemen. In *Gloucestershire* there is said to be no lack of employment in the Unions of Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, and Thornbury. In the Northleach and Thornbury Unions labour is reported as scarce. Agricultural employment is stated to be generally regular in *Herefordshire* in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (*Hereford* and *Monmouth*), Ledbury, and Ross. In the Dore Union, however, it is reported that some casual labourers have been out of employment during the last fortnight of the month. The supply of labour is said to be short of the demand in the Bromyard, Ledbury, and Ross Unions. Agricultural labourers are fully employed in *Somersetshire* in the Unions of Bridgwater, Chard, Clutton, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wells, Wincanton, and Yeovil. A correspondent in the Wellington Union writes that threshing is now in full swing, with all hands fully employed. Reports of scarcity of labour come from the

Unions of Langport, Taunton, Wellington, and Wells. The report from the Taunton Union states that "labour is getting more scarce, of worse quality, and is better paid than ever before."

Employment is said to be regular in *Devonshire* in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Kingsbridge, and Torrington; and in *Cornwall* in the Unions of Bodmin, and Camelford. The reports from the Kingsbridge, Torrington, and Bodmin Unions refer to a scarcity of labour.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN SEPTEMBER.

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

The number of seamen shipped during September as the crews of foreign-going vessels, from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), was 33,395, or 1,394 less than the number shipped in September, 1899. At most of the ports the supply of seamen has been equal to or in excess of the demand, but a scarcity of men is reported at Sunderland, and at Barry (for A.B.'s) and Dublin (for firemen and trimmers).

During the nine months ended September 30th, the number of men shipped was 299,026, as compared with 310,529 in the corresponding period of 1899. The falling off is chiefly accounted for by decreases at the East Coast and Bristol Channel ports and at Liverpool, partly balanced by increases at London and Southampton.

Of the total number shipped during the nine completed months of 1900, 44,370 (or 14·8 per cent.) were foreigners, the percentage for the corresponding period of 1899 being 14·7. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Particulars of changes which have taken place during September in the wages of seamen at London (Victoria Docks), and Newport, Monmouth, will be found in the Table on p. 313.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in September, 1900 and 1899 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the nine months ended September in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in September, 1900.*			Total in Sept., 1899.*	Total number shipped in 9 months ended September.*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in 1900.		1900.	1899.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	37	3,354	3,391	2,855	25,218	28,154
Sunderland	—	497	497	624	4,015	4,570
Middlesbrough	—	107	107	268	2,185	3,019
Hull	73	1,119	1,192	1,239	10,722	11,811
Grimsby	2	36	38	63	732	814
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	—	550	550	671	3,752	4,388
Newport, Mon.	32	665	697	884	7,435	9,457
Cardiff	320	3,593	3,913	4,389	38,636	45,078
Swansea	44	410	454	566	5,112	5,540
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	249	11,228	11,477	12,226	91,769	98,307
London	176	5,450	5,626	6,476	56,989	64,632
Southampton	—	1,759	1,759	1,607	20,580	23,140
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth	42	568	610	682	5,956	5,714
Glasgow	88	2,600	2,688	2,624	22,099	21,853
IRELAND.						
Dublin	—	226	226	105	1,225	1,082
Belfast	28	190	218	301	2,555	2,495
Total, Sept., 1900	1,091	32,304	33,395	—	299,026	—
Ditto, Sept., 1899	1,486	33,303	—	34,759	—	310,529

(i) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN SEPTEMBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves again shows an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves during the five weeks ended September 29th was 15,804, as compared

* 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.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES; LONDON.

with averages of 14,993 in the preceding four weeks, and 15,431 in the corresponding period of 1899.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

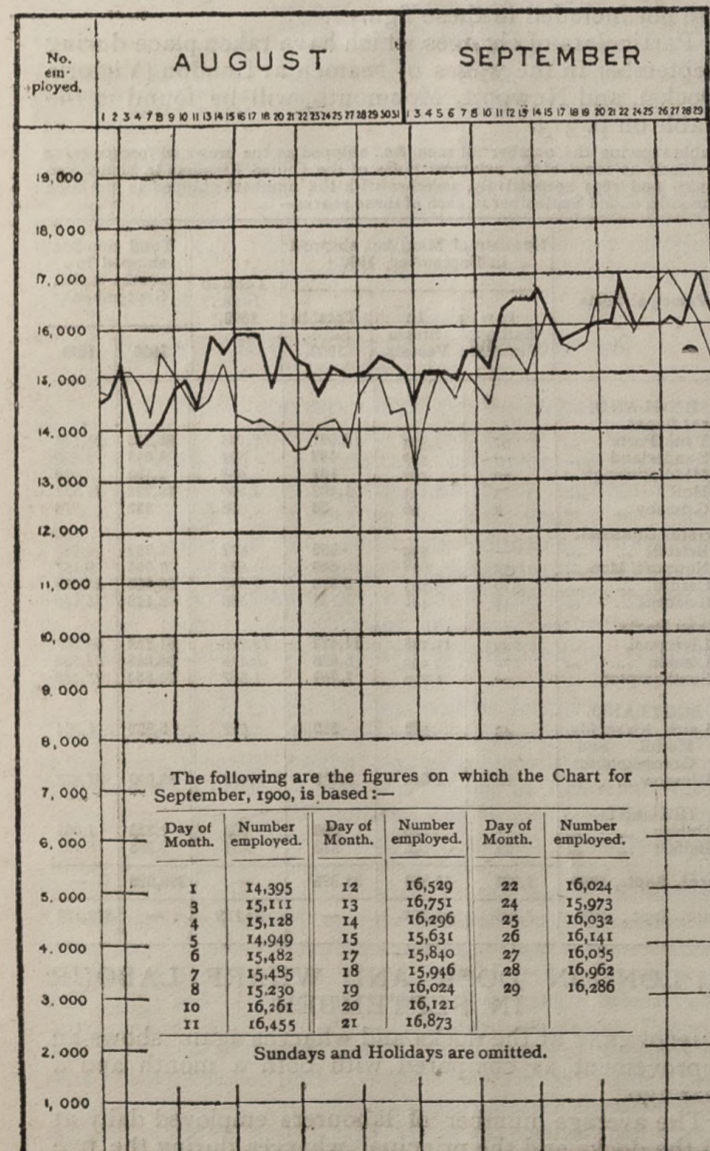
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Sept. 1	6,970	2,359	9,329	5,753	15,082
" " " 8	6,967	2,292	9,259	5,971	15,230
" " " 15	7,146	2,581	9,727	6,494	16,221
" " " 22	7,668	1,994	9,662	6,536	16,198
" " " 29	7,359	2,183	9,542	6,665	16,207
Average for 5 weeks ending Sept. 29th, 1900	7,218	2,302	9,520	6,284	15,804
Average for Sept., 1899	6,786	2,648	9,434	6,047	15,481
Average for Aug., 1900	6,921	2,369	9,290	6,708	14,993

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during August and September is shown on the chart below. The numbers in September ranged from 14,395 on the 1st to 16,962 on the 28th.

During September, 1899, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,194 on the 2nd to 17,051 on the 27th.

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, 1900. The corresponding curve for August and September, 1899, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1900, and the thin curve to 1899.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 305.

(j) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN SEPTEMBER.

According to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during September showed a decline in the spinning branch of the cotton trade, owing to the closure during the whole or part of the month of mills employing 17 per cent. of the women usually employed in the mills reported on; there was a still greater decline in the number receiving full employment in the weaving branch, although a smaller proportion were in factories which closed some time during the month. In the woollen trade employment improved. Information has been received with regard to 510 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 90,300 women and girls, and is summarised in the following Table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month, and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.	Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
September, 1900	59	5	16	17
August, 1900	70	9	20	1
September, 1899	96	4	—	—
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
September, 1900	41	24	23	13
August, 1900	67	18	12	4
September, 1899	98	2	—	—
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
September, 1900	67	20	13	—
August, 1900	33	51	16	—
September, 1899	97	3	—	—
Total of above Trades—				
September, 1900	52	18	16	11
August, 1900	61	22	15	—
September, 1899	97	3	—	—

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton spinning mills reported on is 24,400; of these 59 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 70 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in August, and with 96 per cent. in September, 1899. The average number of working days lost by 3,874 out of the 4,025 women and girls usually employed in the mills which were closed during the whole or part of the month was 12½.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton weaving factories reported on is 45,300; of these 41 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 67 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in August, and with 98 per cent. in September, 1899. The average number of working days lost by 5,348 of the 5,634 usually employed in the factories which were closed during the whole or part of the month was 13.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,600; of these 67 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 33 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in August, and with 97 per cent. in September, 1899.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—On the whole the state of employment during September has remained good. Returns from 472 branches of 126 unions, having an aggregate membership of 80,733, show that 2,966 (or 3.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.8 per cent. in August, and 3.6 per cent. in September, 1899.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades has remained good. Reports from 157 branches of 30 unions with an aggregate membership of 23,709, show that 389 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.7 in August and 2.9 per cent.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

in September of last year. With sailmakers employment has remained slack.

The *Building* trades continue well employed in most branches. Returns from 184 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 13,604, show that 217 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.3 in August, and 0.5 per cent. in September, 1899. The carpenters and joiners, stonemasons and stone carvers describe employment as fair; the bricklayers, painters and decorators and plumbers as moderate; the plasterers as bad.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has continued to fall off, and is now quiet. Returns from 47 branches of 14 unions, with a membership of 6,352, show that 409 (or 6.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.7 in August, and 2.4 per cent. in September, 1899.

The *Woodworking* trades continue well employed. Reports from 3 unions, with a membership of 886, show that 12 (or 1.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.3 per cent. in July and August.

Coopers are less busy. Reports from 2 societies, with a membership of 1,070, show that 18 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed. The percentage for August and also for September, 1899, was less than 1.

Employment with *Coachbuilders* and *Wheelerwrights* has remained good. Reports from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,440, show that 19 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.5 in August, and 0.6 per cent. in September, 1899.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades have been rather better employed. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,632, show that 1,152 (or 4.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.8 in August. The percentage for September, 1899, was 5.9.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades remains slack. The West End bespoke tailors report the gentlemen's trade as dull, the ladies' as moderate; the East End stock trade has been quiet; the bespoke, contract and shipping trades are improving; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been employed four days a week; with ladies' tailors and mantle makers employment has been slack, improving towards the end of the month. Employment with hatters has remained bad; fur skin dressers are slack.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End hand sewn boot and shoe makers has remained quiet; the East End sewn trade is brisk; with boot and shoeclickers employment has continued to improve slightly; with boot and shoe operatives it remains bad.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained fairly steady. Returns from 7 unions with a membership of 1,754, show that 49 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.2 in July and August, and also in September, 1899.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades, returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,395 show that 59 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed, as in August. The percentage in September, 1899, was 4.4.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 936, show that 40 (or 4.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 in August and 2.3 per cent. in September of last year.

Gold and Silver Workers are slack. Returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,133, show that 50 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 per cent. in July and August. The percentage for September, 1899, was 0.3. Diamond workers are slack.

In the *Tobacco* trades employment, though still bad, has somewhat improved. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,370, show that 227 (or 9.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 13.2 in August. The percentage for September, 1899, was 3.8.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves was 15,804 in the five weeks ended September 29th, as compared with 14,993 in the preceding four weeks, and 15,431 in September, 1899. Employment in mid-stream has been fairly good. With deal porters, stevedores, lumpers and lightermen, it has been good; with coal porters and winchmen fair; with corn-porters, generally, fair and steady. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been fairly well employed, the average daily number of men employed being 307, compared with 304 in August and 320 in September, 1899.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—The pits are still working well, steam and house coal collieries having each averaged 5.41 and 5.37 days per week, as compared with 5.21 and 5.37 days a year ago.

There are practically no unemployed. **Durham.**—The coking, manufacturing, house, and gas coal pits have averaged respectively 5.81, 5.75, 5.55, and 5.48 days per week for the four weeks ending September 22nd. Returns from 135 pits employing about 63,000 workpeople show an average working week of 5.64 days, as against 5.56 days at 128 collieries in September last year. In some coke yards employment is not so brisk.

Metal Mining.—Iron stone miners have worked 6 days per week, and lead ore miners 5 days.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarries at Stanhope and Haswell have averaged 5 days per week; in Weardale two quarries have worked 6 days; in the Blyth and Gateshead districts employment remains good.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Outside fitters on new work in marine yards, and machine men generally, have been in good demand. Repair work in most of the shops on the lower reaches of the river has not, however, been quite so good as a month ago. Caulkers and angle smiths are fairly employed. All yards and shops in mid-river districts are busy. Branches with 12,814 members have 277 (or 1.8 per cent.) idle, as against 144 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. **On the Wear.**—Employment of ship smiths continues steady. Turners are in good demand; platers and riveters have not been quite so busy. Branches with 4,954 members have 68 (or 1.4 per cent.) idle, as against 43 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. A number of shipwrights on the Wear are unemployed, on the Tyne they are busier. The 2,343 union patternmakers, brass finishers and iron and steel moulders on both rivers have 52 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed. Sailmakers report employment as moderate; ship-joiners as quiet; the drillers and hole cutters as good. Steel smelting shops, except at Newburn, have worked 6 shifts per week, steel plate and angle mills full time, forges 5 shifts, and chain and anchor smiths 6 shifts per week.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The union coal porters and shippers are all employed. Tyne watermen have been busier. Employment with trimmers and teamers is good, with dock and quayside labourers moderate, with riggers and lumpers fair. The demand for sailors and firemen has been good.

Building Trades.—Stonemasons on the Tyne have averaged 4½ days per week. On the Wear they are busy. Slaters and tilers on both rivers are well employed. On the Tyne other branches are more or less affected by the bricklayers' dispute.

Printing and allied Trades.—The bookbinders report employment as fair, the letterpress printers as improving. Two paper mills have worked 36 shifts out of a possible 90, three others full time. Two more mills report employment as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet makers continue quiet. Coopers in the Newcastle district are dull, elsewhere on the Tyne and Wear employment is moderate. Lathrenders, mill-sawyers and woodcutters are less busy.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Bottle-makers remain steadily employed. Pressed glass workers continue to improve. Chemical factories generally have worked better. One or two manure works are, however, slack. Employment in the white lead and cement works has declined. Copper works remain brisk.

Fishing.—The herring fishing season is nearly closed. Trawl and lineboats have, however, landed good supplies of white fish.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Employment continues fairly good with the Cleveland miners; three or four mines have been working a day short per week. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines furnishing returns was 5.81 days per week during the 4 weeks ending September 22nd, as compared with 5.72 during the 4 weeks ending August 25th, and 5.78 per week in September, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,798, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,660.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is reported as good at the finished ironworks, steel works and bridge works. Under the sliding scale wages remain unchanged for October and November. Employment is good at blast furnaces, metal expansion works and general foundries; brisk at pipe foundries; moderate at chair foundries.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with the engineers is reported as good at Middlesbrough, Stockton, South Bank and Bishop Auckland, fair at Hartlepool, and moderate at Darlington. Ironfounders, smiths and strikers report employment as good; patternmakers as fairly good throughout the district. Branches of

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

these trades with 4,409 members have 61 (or 1.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 44 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is reported as good generally throughout the district.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderate with plumbers at Middlesbrough, and joiners at Darlington; in other branches it is fairly good throughout the district.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fair at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool; dock labourers as good at Hartlepool, bad at Middlesbrough; riverside labour as good all along the river.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as good at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, fair at Stockton, moderate at Darlington; mill-sawyers and machinists as good; cabinet makers as quiet; cement and concrete workers and pulp workers as fair; tailors as slack; salt workers as steady.—A. Main.

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the Returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good in this industry. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended September 22nd, at 21 pits covered by the returns, was 5.81 per week, as compared with 5.36 days in August (when, however, employment was interrupted by holidays), and 5.83 days a year ago. The number employed at these pits in September was 6,477, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,381.

Iron Mining.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended September 22nd, at the 44 mines from which returns have been received was 5.80 per week as against 5.60 in August, and 5.89 in September 1899. The work-people employed at these mines in September 1900 and 1899 numbered 5,841 and 6,015 respectively.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and Lancashire blast furnaces has continued to decline. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of September was 46, employing an estimated number of 3,893 workpeople, compared with 49 furnaces in August and 53 a year ago.

Shipbuilding.—According to the returns compiled by Lloyd's Register, there were 11 vessels other than warships under construction (see Note, page 301) in the Barrow, Maryport, and Workington district at the end of September, with a gross tonnage of 2,990 tons, as compared with 6 vessels with a gross tonnage of 2,490 tons at the end of June, and 9 vessels and 11,310 tons a year ago. The tonnage of warships under construction at Barrow at the end of September was 66,250 tons displacement, against 66,571 tons at the end of the previous quarter, and 52,150 tons a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—Employment in Oldham and surrounding districts is still affected by the shortage of cotton, and is reported as moderate generally. Employment is reported as moderate in Stalybridge, as slack in Stockport and Mossley, as bad in Ashton-under-Lyne and Rochdale. In all the districts named, short time is being worked to some extent. In the twinning branch employment is still slack; in reeling it has slightly improved. Card-room workers report employment as moderate; winders as slack. Ring frame spinners and throstle frame tenters are fairly well employed. Weaving.—Employment in velvet weaving is reported as moderate, in fustian weaving as still bad. Calico weavers are waiting for warps. With ball warpers and beam and sectional warpers employment is reported as moderate.

Woollen and Silk Trades.—Employment in the woollen trade in Stockport is reported as bad, in the Rochdale and Milnrow districts as good. Employment in the silk dressing trade of Rochdale has declined, and is reported as bad.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment at engineering and machine making firms shows no improvement. Plate and machine moulders, gas meter makers and tinplate workers report employment as moderate; toolmakers and irongrinders as dull; pattern-makers, brassfounders, ironfounders, and boiler-makers as good.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate.

Coal Mining.—The mines continue to work full time.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—In Bolton and neighbourhood little change is reported except in Farnworth, where employment is slack. Most firms continue fairly busy. In Leigh and Bedford, Tyldesley, Atherton, Hindley and Westhoughton, employment is not quite so

regular. In Chorley, Bury, Wigan, Heywood and Ramsbottom a slight slackness is reported. Card-room operatives are reported as moderately employed in Bolton, as slack in Wigan, Chorley and Bury. Weaving.—Employment is not so good; at some firms in Farnworth, Walkden, Radcliffe and Moses Gate it is irregular.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers and pattern makers are fairly well employed in Bolton. Steam engine makers, roller turners, and iron moulders are also moderately well employed. Machine fitters are still irregularly employed. In Wigan, Chorley, and Bury employment is rather slack.

Building Trades.—Employment in most branches is fairly good; at Bury, Chorley, Horwich and Hindley employment is less active.

Coal Mining.—Coal miners are reported as well employed throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Printers, leather workers, tailors and carters are fairly well employed.—R. Toottill.

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment is bad at Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Darwen, Nelson and Colne; short time is being extensively worked, and in many cases looms are being allowed to stop for a week at a time. Employment in the coloured goods trade in the Colne district is slack. Hard waste weavers are moderately employed. Twistlers and drawers at Blackburn report employment as bad, in Burnley as unsettled. Winders, warpers and warp-dressers are slack throughout the district. Spinning.—Spinners report employment as bad at Blackburn, Burnley and Darwen, moderate at Accrington. Card room workers and ring spinners are moderately employed. Branches of spinners, twistlers and drawers, and warp dressers, with 3,449 members, have 167 (or 4.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 131 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Building Trades.—Painters continue slack at Blackburn, otherwise employment is moderate throughout the district.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers report employment as moderate at Todmorden and Colne; ironfounders as fair at Blackburn and Todmorden. Employment at machine shops is fair.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners at Burnley and Accrington report employment as good. Stone quarrymen continue fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Tailors, boot, shoe and slipper makers and woollen block printers report employment as slack, cabinet makers as quiet, letterpress printers as busy; calico printers as fair; brick-makers as moderate.—W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 23,249 members have 670 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 661 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and boiler makers in Manchester report employment as moderate; in Northwich as good. Ironfounders, machine workers, smiths and strikers throughout the district are fully employed. Brassfounders and finishers and sheet metal workers are quiet.

Textile Trades.—Cotton operatives report a decline throughout, except in Macclesfield. Silk dressers are fairly well employed, and silk throwers moderately so; other branches of the silk trade, including silk dyers, are slack. Fustian cutters and dressers and dyers report employment as moderate; bleachers and dyers as fairly good.

Clothing Trades.—Shirt makers and cap makers report employment as moderate; other branches of the clothing trades as bad.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners, bricklayers and plasterers in Manchester, Warrington, Stockport and Northwich report employment as moderate; stonemasons as fair; plumbers in Manchester as slack, in other towns as moderate; bricklayers' labourers and concreters as fair; painters as slack; decorative glass workers as good. Employment in Macclesfield is moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers report employment as good in railway shops; moderate in private ones; cabinet makers, upholsterers, French polishers and wheelwrights as moderate; coopers as dull.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers have been busier owing to the elections. Stereotypers report employment as fair; pattern card makers as good; lithographic artists and lithographic printers as bad; bookbinders as moderate.

Transport Trades.—Employment continues fairly plentiful throughout the district.—G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, fitters, turners and pattern makers, ironfounders, drillers, ship joiners and painters report employment as moderate; brassfounders and iron and steel dressers as good.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen report employment as good; dock labourers, railway and quay carters, flatmen and coal heavers as moderate; salt heavers as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers and cabinet-makers report employment as moderate; French polishers and upholsterers as fair; coopers and mill sawyers as good.

Building Trades.—Plumbers, painters, carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; gasfitters as good; other branches as fair.

Clothing Trades.—All branches of the tailoring trade report employment as dull; boot and shoemakers as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as moderate; letterpress printers as having improved; stereotypers as fair.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as good, with an average of five days per week. Quarrymen continue busy.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—All branches of glass workers report employment as good; chemical workers as dull.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has declined. Chemical workers at Middlesbrough report employment as normal; moulders at Winsford as good; branches of the building trade in both towns as moderate. Fustian cutters in both towns have worked four days per week, and report employment as bad.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is slack in the shipbuilding yards, moderate in the engineering works and boiler shops and on general repairs. The engineers alone report employment as good; machine workers, pattern-makers, brassfounders and finishers, smiths and strikers, drillers and hole-cutters and general labourers as moderate; shipwrights as slack; ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, boiler-makers and sailmakers as bad. Shipwrights at Goole and Grimsby report employment as good; at Selby as moderate; at Beverley as bad; engineers, smiths and boiler-makers at Goole as good; at Grimsby, Doncaster and Selby as moderate.

Building Trades.—At Hull slaters and builders' labourers report employment as good; carpenters and joiners as fair; bricklayers, stonemasons, plasterers and plumbers as moderate. At Selby employment is good; at Beverley and Driffield moderate; at Goole joiners and plumbers report it as good; bricklayers, painters and labourers as moderate.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen at Grimsby report employment as good at Hull as moderate; the dock labourers and railway workers as good.

Fishing Industry.—At Grimsby the trawl fishermen, curing-house workers, and fish pontoon labourers report employment as good; the line fishermen as fair; the steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen as moderate. At Hull steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen report employment as fair; trawl fishermen and other labour as moderate.

Seed-crushing, Oil-cake, Oil-refining, Paint and Colour Trades.—The seed-crushing mill workers report employment as moderate; workers in the other trades as good.

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

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coachbuilders at Doncaster report employment as good; coachbuilders at Hull, coopers and cabinet makers as moderate; millsawyers and wood-cutting machinists as quiet.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners report employment as good; the tanners as fair; the Jewish tailors as moderate; brushmakers as bad.—W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches with 8,379 members have 207 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of August.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Leeds employment in engineering is quieter, particularly in the textile machinery department. Ironmoulders, boiler-makers, steel workers and tinplate workers continue well employed; pattern makers are quiet. Brass founders, copper-smiths and wool comb, hackle, and gill makers are slack. At Wakefield the engineering and iron trades are busy; at Stanningley boiler-makers are moderately employed.

Clothing Trades.—In the ready-made tailoring trade employment has fallen off, and is reported as quiet; bespoke tailors are slack.

In the boot factories in Leeds and Pudsey employment has been fairly good.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Leeds mills is moderate; warpdressers and twisters report a slight improvement. Blanket raisers are well employed; linen workers fairly so.

Building Trades.—With bricklayers, masons, and plasterers employment is good; with joiners, plumbers, and painters moderate. At Harrogate employment is fair.

Mining.—Employment continues good, full time being generally worked at the pits.

Leather Trades.—Tanners, saddlers and harness makers report employment as fair; curriers as busier.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment in the letterpress printing trade has been quiet, but has improved owing to election work. Lithographers are slack; bookbinders and machine rulers and paper mill workers quiet.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle makers in Leeds and Wakefield report employment as good; flint glass makers as steady.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Brushmakers report employment as quiet; cabinet makers and coachmakers as moderate; wheelwrights and blacksmiths as good.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment is still quiet in Bradford. There is a slight improvement in the Keighley and Huddersfield districts.

Woollen Trade.—The improvement in and around Huddersfield has continued, and several firms have begun working overtime; there are not many firms now working short time. Employment in the heavy woollen trade both in Dewsbury and Batley and all over the district is fairly good.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade continues quiet at Manningham; in Brighouse it is a little better. Dyers at Bradford report employment as slack, at Huddersfield as bad. In the cotton trade employment is quiet.

Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as good in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, moderate in Bradford and Halifax; bad in Keighley. The ironfounders in Keighley report employment as good; in Huddersfield and Bradford as declining; in Halifax as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment is still fairly good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing trades improved at the end of the month. Miners and glassworkers report employment as good; tailors as quiet.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 16,461 members have 180 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 159 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Branches with 6,728 members have 98 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 67 (or 1.0 per cent.) of their membership at the end of August. Engineers, boiler and girder makers, wire-drawers, engine and crane men, and iron and steel dressers report employment as good. Iron and steel foundries, core-makers and locomotive engine drivers are moderately employed. Siemens steel smelters and machine workers are fairly busy. Stove-grate workers and railway spring-makers are slack, and Bessemer steel workers report a number on short time. At Parkgate and Rotherham both iron and steel workers are fairly busy. At Masbro' ironworkers are busy. Bath makers and stove-grate workers are slack. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders report employment as good.

Cutlery and Tools.—Engineers' toolmakers are fairly well employed; joiners and edge tool makers, saw-handle-makers and file hardeners report employment as quiet; makers of table knives, saws and files, and handle and scale cutters as fair; razor makers, pen and pocket-knife cutters, and haft and scale pressers as good.

Other Metal Trades.—Silversmiths, hollow-ware buffers, plate, spoon, and fork filers, Britannia metal workers and brass workers report employment as slack; silver and metal stampers, and silver and electro plate finishers as improved. Platers and gilders, and braziers and sheet metal workers are busy. At Rotherham brass workers are slack.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 73 of the principal collieries employing upwards of 52,000 men and boys show an average of 5.76 days per week worked, as compared with 5.80 during August.

Building Trades.—In Sheffield employment, although quieter, is still fair. At Barnsley, Rotherham and Normanton, all branches are fairly well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, bookbinders, and lithographers report employment as fairly good.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE; MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Railway wagon and carriage builders, coachmakers, and box and bobbin makers are well employed; cabinet makers are fairly so.

Linen Trades.—Employment is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as bad with bespoke tailors in Sheffield, moderate elsewhere; with ready-made tailoring operatives and boot and shoe workers as fair.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass workers and bottle makers continue fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants, saddlers, farriers, down quilt makers, chemical workers, papermakers, paviors, gasworkers, brickmakers, quarrymen and general labourers throughout the district are fairly well employed.—S. Utley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 6,770 members have 153 (or 2·3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 98 (or 1·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 76 collieries, employing upwards of 28,700 men and boys, show an average of 5½ days per week worked during September.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen are rather slack; chert quarrymen are busy.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers is reported as moderate to bad; with boiler makers, brass moulders and finishers, smiths and strikers, iron and steel dressers, ironfounders, lace machine builders and farriers as good generally; with wire drawers as moderate; with cycle workers as bad.

Building Trades.—Employment in all branches is fair generally.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders, and with repairs and lifters. Most timber yards continue well employed. Coopers report employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as slightly improved; factory tailoring operatives and dress and mantle makers as fairly good; boot and shoe operatives in Derby as fair; in Chesterfield as good.

Textile Trades.—Employment is reported as unsettled with cotton weavers and card and blowing room operatives, the mills in Glossop standing 14 days in September. Calico printers in Hayfield report employment as moderate; engravers as fair. With elastic web weavers it is bad; good with surgical bandage makers, hard silk winders, drawers and doublers, wool workers and makers of under-clothing. Hosiery workers in Belper report employment as dull; in Ilkeston as fair; lace workers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—All branches report employment as good.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment on the whole shows a decline. It is reported as bad in the levers, curtain, plain net, and warp lace branches; as fair with warpers and card punchers; as slack with curtain readers and auxiliary lace workers; as declining with female operatives. Dyers are quiet; bleachers are moderately employed. Employment is moderate at Kimberley, Stapleford and Beeston.

Hosiery Trade.—Framework knitters and the circular hosiery and rib top branches report employment as bad. The hand-frame branches, elastic bandage makers, and the wool shawl knitters at Hucknall are busy. Hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Basford report employment as moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment has declined with fitters, smiths, and general mechanics. Employment is reported as good with ironfounders, machine workers, wheelwrights and blacksmiths, farriers, smiths and strikers, and with blast-furnace men at Bulwell; as moderate with boiler makers and carriage straighteners, and with tool machinists at Nottingham and Beeston. It is fair with brassfounders, lace and hosiery machine builders, electrical workers, and bobbin and carriage makers, and with tool machinists at Grantham; slack with cycle makers, needle makers, and brassworkers. Branches with 2,887 members have 84 (or 2·9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 73 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as declining in Nottingham. It has improved in the county districts.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coach-makers, cabinet-makers, upholsterers, packing-case makers, coopers, millsaawyers and machinists report employment as good; basketmakers, brush-makers and boxmakers as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; lithographic printers as moderate at Nottingham, good at Mansfield; bookbinders, and lithographic artists as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as slack; mantle-makers and ready-made tailoring operatives as good; boot and shoe operatives as moderate at Nottingham, fair at Hucknall and Mansfield.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 29 collieries employing about 17,000 men show an average of 5½ days worked per week.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as improving with gas workers; as good with colliery engine men; stationary engine drivers, engine and crane men, and general labourers; as slack with bakers and confectioners, and silk dressers; as moderate with female cigar makers. Saddlers report employment as fair; leather dressers as quiet. Cab and hackney drivers are not so well employed.—W. L. Hardstaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—In most branches employment continues slack. The operatives engaged on Army work are less fully employed.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is moderate in the wholesale and bespoke tailoring trades; it is quiet with capmakers and felt and silk hatters; good with corset-makers and dressmakers.

Hosiery and Woolspinning Trades.—Employment in the hosiery trade is slack at Leicester and Loughborough. Dyers and trimmers at Leicester and Hinckley report employment as good; woolspinners as fair.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment in the narrow web branch is improving; it is slack with braid, cord and boot web weavers.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—General engineers report employment as moderate; ironfounders as good; shoe machinery makers, smiths, fitters and pattern makers at Leicester as fair; needle-makers and cycle-makers as slack; pattern-makers at Loughborough as good.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment is good with coal miners, stone quarrymen, and limestone workers; quiet with ironstone workers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is good with letterpress printers, moderate with lithographic printers, fair with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Employment is slack, except with stonemasons at Leicester, who report employment as good.

Leather Trades.—Employment is good with tanners and curriers at Leicester and Northampton; moderate at Market Harborough.

Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment is good with coachmakers, cabinet makers, tram and road car builders; fair with millsaawyers.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with railway workers, farriers, bakers, and brick and tile makers; it is improving with gas stokers and saddlers; bad with cigar-makers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers have averaged 5½ days per week. Sanitary pressers in many instances are working 3 days per week. Printers and transferers are fairly busy; pressers, throwers, turners and handlers are busy. Employment is steady in other branches.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment continues moderately good.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues fairly brisk, except at Burslem, where suspensions are frequent.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners continue busy. Stone quarrymen are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Leek is good. At Congleton dressers and dyers are fully employed; fustian cutters are working 4 days per week. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are well employed. At Rocester with cotton operatives short time is the rule.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors in the Potteries and at Stafford report employment as scarce, at Crewe as fair. Boot and shoe operatives at Stafford and Stone are slack, two-thirds of the operatives working short time.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good in most branches.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report employment as quiet, at Stafford as good. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately busy. Bookbinders and machine rulers are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers and gas workers are busy. Brushmakers report a decline.—I. S. Harvey.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MID.; E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment is fair with steel smelters; quieter in the iron bar, angle, hoop and sheet trades. Employment in the steel trade is still quiet. Many of the iron and sheet mills are working half time. In Shropshire the wire mills and forges are fairly well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment continues moderate with engineers, bad with cycle and motor makers. Machinists, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers and moulders, and the malleable iron workers at Walsall are busy. At Madeley and Coalbrookdale employment is good in the engineering departments, and is slowly improving in the foundries.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good on nuts and bolts, Brazil hoes, malleable nails and protectors, steel traps, electrical and gas fittings and heating apparatus; it is moderate on tubes, plantation hoes, edge tools, horseshoes, gunlocks, stamped and light hollow-ware, black castings, builders' ironmongery, iron fences and hurdles, and with stampers and piercers, tinplate workers, file-smiths, japanners and galvanizers; quiet with makers of locks, keys, latches, spectacle frames, steel toys, tacks, tips and cut nails, and with hollow-ware tanners and brassworkers. The chain-makers and strikers at Old Hill, and the vice makers at Dudley continue quiet. The block chain makers and anchor-smiths at Cradley Heath, and the spike and rivet-makers at Blackheath are moderately employed. The wrought nail makers at Halesowen are dull. The iron-plate workers report employment as moderate at Bilston and the Lye, as fair at Wolverhampton. At Wednesbury the railway axle, tyre and carriage workers and steel forgers continue busy.

Coal Mining.—On Cannock Chase employment is good. At Oldbury, Tipton, Dudley, and Old Hill the pits average 5 days per week. The Shropshire pits continue on full time.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, builders' labourers, plasterers and plumbers report employment as moderate; carpenters and painters as declining.

Glass Trades.—At Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge the glass makers, cutters, engravers and etchers report employment as quiet; bevellers as fairly good.

Leather Trades.—At Walsall employment is good in all branches.

Carpet Trades.—The mills at Bridgnorth and Kidderminster are running full time, but employment is quieter at Kidderminster.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments is quiet; in the boot and shoe trade it is fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—Printers report employment as bad, but improving; bookbinders as moderate.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 21,722 members have 886 (or 4·1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 1,126 (or 5·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Seven branches of engineers report employment as moderate, three as good; smiths and strikers as good; patternmakers, ironfounders, and tool makers as moderate. At Redditch employment is reported as moderate; at West Bromwich and Coventry as good. Cycle makers throughout the district continue quiet; motor makers and electrical engineers are reported as fully employed.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment in the various branches of the brass trade is again reported as moderate. Brass and copper metal workers and tube workers are reported as fully employed; brass and copper wire drawers as slack; fender and fire brass makers as quiet in Birmingham, busier at Dudley.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Employment among the workers in gold is improving; in silver work it is reported as good. Britannia metal workers return employment as good; electroplaters and silversmiths as moderate.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of machine-made nuts and bolts, light and heavy steel toys, wrought iron and steel tubes for gas and water, stove grates, shovels, spades and picks, and tinplate workers are fully employed. Makers of scale beams and weighing machines, machine-made rivets, and cut and wire nails, and ironplate workers report employment as fair; file cutters as moderate; nail and oddside casters and edge toolmakers as quiet; bedstead makers as bad. At West Bromwich employment in the hollow-ware and spring trade continues fair, in the iron trade good. At Redditch the fishing tackle makers are fairly busy, the fish hook and needle trades are improving.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as quiet.

Glass Trades.—Flint glassmakers and flint glass cutters again return employment as quiet; plate glass bevellers and silverers as fair; glassworkers at West Bromwich as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as bad, Jewish tailors as quiet, boot and shoe makers as moderate.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and woodworking machinists coachbuilders and coopers report employment as good, cabinet makers as fair, wood carvers as bad. Employment in the railway and wagon shops continues good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the saddlery trade, except with cycle saddlers, is reported as good; with general labourers, gasworkers and gasfitters as fairly good; with gun workers in the military section as good, in the sporting section as bad; with letterpress printers as improving; with brickmakers as bad. At Coventry employment with watchmakers is reported as fair; with weavers as quiet.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers, shipwrights and boat builders are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is dull; ready-made tailoring factories are on full time; bespoke tailors are well employed; dress and corset makers are fairly busy.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape factories are running full time; mat and matting weavers are well employed.

Building Trades.—At Norwich the bricklayers' dispute is still unsettled; plasterers are slack; other sections of the trade are fairly well employed. Elsewhere all branches are well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Lithographic printers and bookbinders are fairly well employed; letterpress printers are fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Horticultural builders, organ builders, steam saw, flour, and oil cake mill workers, navvies and general labourers are busy. The herring fishing has commenced at Yarmouth and Lowestoft, and many hands are actively employed on the fish wharves.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as good with engineers, boiler makers and moulders; as fair with shipwrights.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate. Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade is good at Ipswich, slack at Colchester. Corset makers are fairly employed.

Textile Trades.—Mat weavers report employment as moderate at Glensford, good elsewhere; silk operatives are fairly well employed; silk hand-loom workers are quiet.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers report employment as good generally; carpenters as good at Colchester and Chelmsford, quiet at Ipswich and Felixstowe; plasterers as fair at Ipswich, declining at Felixstowe; painters as moderate.

Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers and upholsterers are well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers, bookbinders and lithographers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with brickmakers, horticultural builders, farriers and general labourers; shipping and dock labour is reported as fair.—R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 10,053 members have 123 (or 1·2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 136 (or 1·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Clothing Trades.—The wholesale garment-makers and gloves continue busy. Bespoke tailors and silk hatters are quiet. In the boot and shoe industry a general improvement is reported.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is reported as good with pattern-makers, smiths, ironfounders and brassworkers; as fair with fitters, toolmakers, strikers and coachmakers; boiler makers are busy at Swindon, slack at Bristol. Tinplate workers and shipwrights report work as unsteady.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Building Trades.—At Bristol bricklayers report employment as good, plasterers as slack; otherwise employment is fair or moderate throughout the district.

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES; WALES; SCOTLAND.

Transport Trades.—Dock employment is reported as slack in the grain trade, fair in the Continental and timber trades. Work is plentiful with sea-going men, carters and railroad men.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The French polishers, cabinet makers, brush and basket makers, coopers and wood-cutting machinists report employment as good; upholsterers as moderate; glass bevelers as fair.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers and cardboard box makers report employment as good; lithographic printers, engravers, and artists as moderate; bookbinders as improving.

Miscellaneous.—The saddle and harness makers report employment as good; the bakers and confectioners as fair; the chocolate-workers, butchers and provision hands as brisk; the lathrenders as moderate.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Tin and copper miners, and granite and limestone quarrymen are well employed; slate workers moderately so. Amongst china clay workers employment is good.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment with engineers is good in Plymouth and Devonport, fair at Exeter, good at Newton, but still a little quiet in Cornish towns. Boiler-makers, ironfounders, iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, and tinplate workers report employment as good; brassworkers as fair.

Building Trades.—In Plymouth and Devonport stonemasons and carpenters report employment as fair, but declining; bricklayers, plumbers, plasterers and painters as dull. In Exeter, Barnstaple and Tavistock employment is moderate; in Falmouth, Truro, and Penzance it is quiet. Branches with 3,894 members have 78 (or 2·0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 64 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printing has been quiet till the last week of the month. Lithographers have improved and report employment as fair. Bookbinders are quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as quiet; boot and shoe makers as fair; lace makers report a slight decline, and in some woollen factories short time is being worked.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Mill-sawyers and wood working machinists report work as quiet; French polishers and upholsterers as improved.

Dock and Quayside Work.—On the quayside general work has been fairly good; in the docks grain carriers have been well employed, timber carriers fairly so, coal lumpers quiet.

Fishing Industry.—Employment with trawlers and hookers was slack the first fortnight, good afterwards.

Miscellaneous.—Builders' labourers, excavators and navvies continue well employed; brickyard workers are dull. Bakers report employment as moderate, brushmakers as bad. In market and fruit gardens employment is above the average for the season.

*W. Hedge.***WALES.****North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment continues good at the coal, lead and blende mines.

Quarrying.—Employment continues good at the slate, granite sett, freestone, limestone and road stone quarries.

Building Trades.—At Wrexham employment is reported as fair; at Oswestry as fair with bricklayers and moderate with carpenters and joiners; at Llandudno as slack.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers at Oswestry report employment as moderate; at Ruabon as quiet; coachmakers at Rhyl and blastfurnacemen at Mostyn as moderate; other branches of these trades as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment has been brisk in the flannel, tweed, and shawl manufactures. Bespoke tailors at Bangor report employment as moderate; at Rhyl as improving.

Printing Trades.—Employment is fairly good with letterpress printers.

Chemical and Brick and Terra-Cotta Trades.—Employment in the brick and terra-cotta industry is reported as good. Employment at chemical works is reported as slack in one district, good in another.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Most districts have been working fairly regularly; there is a general demand for coalcutters.

Iron and Steel Trades.—With few exceptions, the various centres report a demand for iron workers.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment has shown little improvement. The pitwood, timber, and iron ore imports have been fair. Coal shipments have been moderate. The shipment of crews has been ordinary.

Ship Repairing and Engineering.—Most branches report employment as moderate or bad. Engineering works and foundries in the inland and colliery districts are well employed. Branches of the engineers and ironfounders with 3,247 members have 123 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 131 (or 4·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Building Trades.—Nearly all branches in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea report employment as bad; in the inland districts as moderate or good. Branches of carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,781 members have 106 (or 6·0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 63 (or 3·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Miscellaneous.—Lithographers, letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; metallurgical and chemical workers as quiet. Wagon builders and repairers are well employed.—*T. Davies.*

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—Employment has slightly improved as compared with August, but remains much worse than a year ago. At the end of September, 342 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), compared with 337 at the end of August, and 394 at the end of September 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the end of September is estimated to be about 17,100.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 13,201 members have 456 (or 3·5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 521 (or 3·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 30 mines, employing 3,216 workpeople, show that 2,749 were employed in mines working full time, and 347 in mines working 22 and under 24 days during the four weeks ended September 22nd.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,227 members have 84 (or 3·8 per cent.) idle, as against 91 (or 4·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. Branches in Falkirk with 3,621 members have 70 (or 1·9 per cent.) idle, as against 64 (or 1·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 600 members have 72 (or 12·0 per cent.) idle, as against 74 (or 12·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the woollen industry in Hawick and Galashiels continues slack. The hosiery workers are fairly well employed. The carpet weavers report employment as quiet.

Building Trades.—Although the dispute among the masons is now settled, the building trades have not had time to recover from its effects; most of the branches have a number of unemployed members.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,167 members have 50 (or 4·3 per cent.) idle, as against 33 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen, dock labourers and coal porters report employment as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,290 members have 33 (or 1·4 per cent.) idle, as against 53 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Miscellaneous.—The sett makers and saddlers report employment as good; the glass makers and glass cutters as fair; the curriers, bakers, shoemakers and tailors as quiet.—*J. Mallinson.*

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues fairly good. Branches with 15,365 members return 450 (or 2·9 per cent.) as idle, as against 373 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is fairly good. Branches with 31,924 members return 996 (or 3·1 per cent.) as idle, as against 1,202 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with slaters and glaziers fair with joiners; dull in other branches.

Mining.—Employment in coal and ironstone mining continues good throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report employment as improved; ready-made tailoring operatives and mantle makers as good; tailors

EMPLOYMENT IN SEPTEMBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND; IRELAND.

IRELAND.**Dublin and District.**

The following is a summary of the Returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Building Trades.—Employment has continued fair generally.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as good with the boiler-makers and electrical workers; moderate with the engineers; fair with the gasfitters, brass finishers and tinsmiths.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is reported as fairly good with the coach-makers and cart and wagon builders; as moderate with the cabinet makers; as slack with the upholsterers.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as bad; other branches as fair. Branches with 1,458 members have 180 (or 12·3 per cent.) unemployed as compared with 138 (or 9·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle makers, stationary engine drivers, and labourers report employment as good; paviors and bakers and confectioners as fair; boot-makers as dull.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies with 8,600 members have 217 (or 2·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 233 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The brassfounders and coppersmiths report employment as bad; blacksmiths, blacksmiths' strikers and helpers, carpenters and joiners, ironfounders and engineers as moderate; general labourers and platers' helpers as slack; steam engine makers, furnishing trades, machine workers and shipwrights as fair; boiler makers and iron shipbuilders, pattern makers, sheet metal workers, enginemen, cranemen and firemen as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 3,864 members have 109 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 93 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The mills and factories are still running only 4 days per week.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies (excluding the carpenters and joiners, who are still affected by a dispute) with 1,630 members have 98 (or 6·0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 89 (or 5·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The plumbers report employment as bad; hodsmen, house painters, and plasterers as dull; bricklayers as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of societies with 896 members have 79 (or 8·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 31 (or 3·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The French polishers report employment as bad; upholsterers and mill-sawyers as dull; coachbuilders and packing-case makers as moderate; coopers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches of societies with 888 members have 39 (or 4·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 57 (or 6·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; letterpress printers as dull; bookbinders and lithographic artists, designers and engravers as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment continues quiet.

Miscellaneous.—Branches of societies with 2,045 members have 46 (or 2·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 52 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The butchers, bakers, carters, and municipal employees report employment as fair; railway workers, locomotive engine drivers and paviors as good.

*R. Sheldon.***Cork and District.**

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders report employment as good in Haulbowline, fair in Cork, bad in Passage West and Limerick; engineering in all its branches shows a decline in Cork and Passage West; shipwrights, ship joiners, riggers and sail makers are dull.

Building Trades.—Carpenters, masons, stone cutters, plasterers and painters report employment as moderate in Cork and Waterford, fair in Limerick and Tralee, dull in Bandon, Bantry and Skibbereen.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers, wood-working machinists, packing-case makers, cork cutters, coach makers, cabinet makers, and wagon and cart makers, report employment as fair; coopers in Cork, Limerick, and Ballincallig as steady.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Flax, tweed, and feather operatives in Millfield, Blarney, Douglas, and Cork report employment as good; ready-made tailoring and boot and shoe operatives as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as fair with bakers, beef and pork butchers, locomotive and stationary enginemen; as good with railway and tramway employees; as moderate with general quay and coal porters; as dull in the printing and allied trades.—*P. O'Shea.*

machinists and pressers as quiet. Employment with slipper makers and boot and shoe operatives is better; with knee shoe-makers fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is fair at Glasgow, but dull with carpet weavers. Elsewhere it is good, except with lace workers at New Milns.

Printing and allied Trades.—Printers are a little busier owing to election work. In other branches employment continues dull.

Glass Trades.—With decorative glass workers and flint glass cutters employment continues dull; flint glass makers and bottle makers are busy.

Transport Trades.—Tramway men, railway men, and hackney carriage drivers are well employed; carters report employment as improved; dock labourers and seamen as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Tobacco pipe makers and finishers, curriers, gilders, spindle and flyer makers, saddlers, scale and beam makers, musicians, rope spinners, basket makers, sett makers, bakers, paviors and labourers, are busy. Potters, dyers, calico engravers, mattress makers, brush makers and cigarette makers are dull.

*A. J. Hunter.***Dundee and District.**

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry remains good. In the linen trade it is fair.

Coal Mining.—At the Fifeshire collieries employment has continued steady. Returns from collieries employing 12,735 workpeople show an average of 5·5 days per week during the four weeks ending September 22nd, as compared with 5·7 days per week in August.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering industry continues moderate on the whole. An improvement is observable at the shipbuilding yards. Branches of societies with 2,197 members return 127 (or 5·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 132 (or 6·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—Employment in the building trades is slack in some branches, moderate in others. Dulness prevails in the furnishing trade. Societies (excluding carpenters and joiners, affected by a dispute in August), with 1,244 members report 73 (or 5·9 per cent.) as idle, as compared with 84 (or 6·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks and jetties has been moderately good.

Fishing Industry.—The haddock fishing has been regularly prosecuted with rather poor results. Most of the boats have been engaged at the herring fishing at Scarborough. The sardine fishing opened successfully.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades has been brisk. In the tailoring trade it continues quiet; in the boot and shoe trade fairly good; with bleachfield and floorcloth and linoleum workers good.—*P. Reid.*

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 5,928 members have 175 (or 3·0 per cent.) idle, as against 138 (or 2·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August.

Quarrying.—The masons and quarrymen report employment as good; sett makers as brisk; granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners report employment as dull; masons as bad; plumbers as moderate; plasterers and painters as fair; slaters as good.

Transport Trades.—The railway servants and carters report employment as good; dock labourers as moderate.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,404 members have 35 (or 2·5 per cent.) idle, as against 26 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of August. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders report employment as moderate; tinplate workers, engineers and brass finishers as good; shipwrights, blacksmiths, horseshoers, and drillers and hole cutters as fair; ironmoulders and patternmakers as dull.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The tailors report employment as quiet; boot and shoe operatives as fair; boot and shoe makers, and mill and factory workers as good; carpet weavers as bad.

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

Fishing.—In September at the Port of Aberdeen trawl and line boats landed 80,315 cwt., with a value of £47,785, a decrease both in quantity and value as compared with August.

Miscellaneous.—The comb makers and bakers report employment as bad; upholsterers as quiet; sawmillers and saddlers as good; hackney carriage drivers, general labourers and cabinet makers as fair; gasworkers as improving.—*W. Johnston.*

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1900.

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

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during September affected 164,199 workpeople, by, on balance, an advance of 2s. 1½d. per head, 161,655 receiving advances averaging 2s. 2¼d. weekly per head, and 2,544 sustaining decreases averaging 2s. 0¾d. weekly per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 135,000 colliery workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, and to 16,350 pig iron and iron and steel workers in Durham, Cleveland, South Wales and Scotland.

Decreases.—The only considerable decrease in rates of wages reported affected 2,530 stonemasons in Scotland.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 3,330 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting 142,803 workpeople in the coal mining and metal trades took effect under sliding scales, and one change affecting 10,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board. The remaining changes, affecting 8,066 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary for First Nine Months of 1900.—For the nine months, January to September, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is 1,043,649. Of these 1,024,463 obtained a net average increase of 3s. 6½d. weekly per head, and 19,186 sustained a net average decrease of 2s. 2¼d. weekly per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 3s. 5½d. weekly per head on the wages of the 1,043,649 workpeople affected.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which change takes effect in 1900.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of wages in a full week.*†		Increase or Decrease in a full week.*	
					Inc.	Dec.	Before change.	After change.

3 Increases—474 Workpeople.		BUILDING TRADES.		2 Decreases—2,530 Workpeople.	
Blackburn ...	Plasterers' Labourers ...	1 July	45	Advance of 1d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.) ...	23 9½ | 24 9½ | 1 0
Bridgwater ...	Bricklayers ...	1 Oct.	79	Further advance of 1d. per hour (6½d. to 6¼d.) ...	24 9½ | 25 9½ | 1 0
Edinburgh & Leith ...	Stonemasons ...	June and Aug.	2,500	Advance of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.) ...	38 9½ | 41 1 | 2 3½
Peterhead ...	Stonemasons ...	24 Sept.	30	Decrease of 1d. per hour (9½d. to 9d.) ...	38 11½ | 36 10½ | 2 0½
Cork ...	Builders' Labourers ...	12 Sept.	30	Decrease of 1d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.) ...	30 9½ | 28 9 | 2 0½
		10 Sept.	350	Advance of 2d. per day (2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d.) ...	16 0 | 17 0 | 1 0

9 Increase—140,375 Workpeople.		MINING.‡		Decreases—Nil.	
Dalton-in-Furness ...	Iron Ore Miners ...	8 Oct.	503	Advance of 1d. per day (6s. 6d. to 6s. 7d.) under sliding scale ...	39 0 | 39 6 | 0 6
Stainton-in-Furness ...	Limestone Quarrymen ...	1 Oct.	73	Advance of 1½d. per ton under sliding scale ...	39 0 | 39 6 | 0 6
Wakefield (near) ...	Coal Miners ...	1 Oct.	380	Increase in tonnage rates ...	— | — | —
South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire ...	Coal and Ironstone Miners ...	1 Oct.	10,000	Advance of 5 per cent. under Wages and Conciliation Board ...	— | — | —
Mansfield (near) ...	Colliery Enginemmen ...	1 Jan. & 1 Feb.	10	Further advances of 5 per cent. ...	— | — | —
South Wales and Mon. ...	Coal Miners ...	20 Sept.	125,000	Advance of 2d. per day (4s. 8d. to 4s. 10d.) ...	— | — | —
	Underground Workers—Shale Miners, Drawers and Oncostr Men ...	1 Oct.	2,928	Advance of 12½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 71½ per cent. above standard of December, 1899 ...	— | — | —
The Lothians ...	Boys ...	9 Aug.	138	Advance of 1s. per day ...	— | — | —
	Surface Workers—Oncostr Men ...		303	Advance of from 4d. to 6d. per day ...	— | — | —
	Enginemmen ...		83	Advance of 4d. per day ...	— | — | —
	Boys ...		57	Advance of 6d. per day ...	— | — | —
Ayrshire, Stirling, Clackmannan, Dumbarton and Lothians ...	Colliery Engine Keepers ...	1 & 15 Aug.	865	Advance of from 2d. to 4d. per day ...	— | — | —
Mid-Lothian ...	Colliery Enginemmen (1 firm) ...	23 Aug.	35	Advances ranging from 2d. to 1s. per day ...	— | — | —

11 Increases—17,464 Workpeople.		IRON AND STEEL TRADES.		Decreases—Nil.	
Cleveland and Durham ...	Blastfurnacemen ...	6 Oct.	5,500	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 46½ per cent. above standard ...	— | — | —
Consett and Jarro	Steel Mill Men ...	1 Oct.	1,100	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 25 per cent. above standard ...	— | — | —
Barrow-in-Furness ...	Blastfurnacemen ...	1 Oct.	520	Advance of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 47 per cent. above standard ...	— | — | —
	Steelworkers (Plate Mill Men) ...	10 Sept.	230	Advance of 9 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 44 per cent. above standard ...	— | — | —
Darwen ...	Blastfurnacemen ...	6 Oct.	69	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 46½ per cent. above standard ...	— | — | —
Mostyn ...	Blastfurnacemen ...	6 Oct.	58	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 46½ per cent. above standard ...	— | — | —
Melton Mowbray (near) ...	Hoist Engine Drivers and Labourer ...	Sept.	7	Advance of 2d. per day to 6 enginemmen and of 4d. per day to 1 labourer ...	— | — | —
Oakengates ...	Blastfurnacemen ...	1 Sept.	140	Advance of 5 per cent. ...	— | — | —
Ebbw Vale ...	Fitters, Turners, Smiths and Patternmakers (at Iron and Steel Works) ...	19 Aug.	90	Minimum rates of wages fixed, and an advance of 31½ per cent. granted thereon, upon the adoption of the South Wales Iron and Steel Workers' Sliding Scale ...	— | — | —

* Exclusive of overtime.
 † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the Table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.
 ‡ 1901.
 † An advance of 8½ per cent. to Miners was agreed upon at a meeting of the Board of Conciliation for the Northumberland Coal Trade, held October 6th, 1901.
 † These men also participated in the general advance reported above.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER—(continued).

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1900.	Approximate Number of workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)	Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week.*		Increase or Decrease in full week.*	
					Inc.	Dec.	Before change.	After change.	Increase.	Decrease.
IRON AND STEEL TRADES—(continued).								
South Wales and Mon.	Blastfurnacemen Iron and Steel Workers Ironworkers—	1 Oct.	1,250 5,000	Advance of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 34½ per cent. above standard	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
West of Scotland	Puddlers ...	1 Oct.	3,500	Advance of 3d. per ton (11s. 3d. to 11s. 6d.) under sliding scale	—	—	—	—
	Millmen ...			Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale	—	—	—	—
9 Increases—1,858 Workpeople. METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. Decreases—Nil.								
Gateshead ...	Smiths' Strikers ...	12 Sept.	33	Advance of 1s. 6d. per week to 20 men, and 1s. per week to 13 men	—	—	1 3d	—
Sheffield ...	Pen and Pocket Blade Grinders ...	7 Sept.	12	Advance of 15 per cent. on piece rates ...	—	—	—	—
Alfreton (near) ...	Spring Knife Cutlers ...	17 Sept.	34	Advance of 10 per cent. on piece rates ...	—	—	—	—
	Pipe Moulders ...	1 Sept.	160	Advance of 5 per cent. ...	—	—	—	—
	Pattern Makers ...		13	Advance of 2s. per week ...	—	—	—	—
Donnington	Fitters and Turners ...	Aug. and Sept.	40	Advance of 2s. per week ...	33 0	35 0	2 0	—
	Sawyers & Carpenters ...		8	Advance of 2s. per week ...	25 0	27 0	2 0	—
	Labourers ...		39	Advance of 3s. per week to 29 men, 2s. to 8, and 1s. to 2	—	—	—	2 8½
	Ironmoulders ...		41	Advance of 2s. per week ...	31 0	33 0	2 0	—
Oakengates ...	Fitters and Turners ...	1 Sept.	24	Advance of 2s. per week ...	31 0	33 0	2 0	—
	Smiths and Strikers ...		52	Advance of 2s. per week ...	—	—	—	2 0
	Labourers ...		65	Advance of 3s. per week to 26 men, and 2s. per week to 39	—	—	—	2 4½
South Staffs. and East Worcs.	Filesmiths ...	1 Oct.	80	Advance of 5 per cent. ...	—	—	—	—
Maidstone ...	Engineers ...	1 Sept.	30	Advance of 1s. per week ...	34 0	35 0	1 0	—
South Wales	Engineers and Pattern Makers (ship repairing yards) ...	8 Sept. 8 Sept. 1901	1,227	Advance of 1s. per week ... Further advance of 1s. per week ...	39 0 40 0	40 0 41 0	1 0 1 0	—

5 Increases—156 Workpeople.		EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.		Decreases—Nil.	
Blaydon ...	Labourers ...	6 Sept.	20	Advance of ¼d. per hour ...	— | — | 2 0
Sunderland ...	Scavengers ...	10 & 12 Sept.	55	Advance of 2s. per week ...	20 0 | 22 0 | 2 0
Stockton-on-Tees ...	Labourers in Gasworks ...	6 Sept.	55	Advance to a uniform rate of 4s. 2d. per day; wages before change, 3s. 10d. and 4s. per day	— | 25 0 | —
Doncaster ...	Gas Stokers ...	1 Sept.	20	Advance of 5 per cent. ...	— | — | —
Leeds ...	Stokers (Waterworks) ...	6 Sept.	6	Advance of 1s. per week ...	24 0 | 25 0 | 1 0

10 Increases—1,519 Workpeople.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		Decreases—Nil.	
Bolton ...	Cabinet Makers ...	1 Sept.	50	Advance of ¼d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.) ...	36 0 | 38 3 | 2 3
Manchester and Salford ...	Brewers' Coopers ...	20 Aug.	250	Revised price list adopted, stated to have resulted in an advance of 7½ per cent. on previous earnings. Rate for time work also advanced 1d. per hour (8d. to 9d.)	— | — | —
Manchester ...	Slipper Makers ...	July-Sept.	230	Adoption of revised price list, stated to have resulted in an increase of from 1s. 6d. to 10s. per week (see also p. 295)	— | — | —
Rochdale ...	Cabinet Makers ...	29 Sept.	26	Advance of 1s. per week ...	35 0 | 36 0 | 1 0
Rowley Regis ...	Kiln Carriers ...	17 Sept.	28	Advance of 1s. per week ...	— | — | 1 0
Walsall ...	Harness Stitchers ...	21 Sept.	504	New price list adopted, stated to have resulted in an increase in earnings of about 2s. 6d. per week (see also p. 295)	— | — | 2 6
Arbroath ...	Letterpress Printers ...	1 Sept.	30	Advance of 6d. per week ...	26 6 | 27 0 | 0 6
Greenock ...	Timber Pliers ...	6 Sept.	60	Advance of 1d. per hour (6d. and 7d. to 7d. and 8d.) ...	— | — | —
Cork ...	Sulphuric Acid Workers, Labourers, Carters, &c. (Manure and Chemical Works)	25 Sept.	65	Advance of 1s. per week ...	— | — | 1 0
Midleton (co. Cork) ...	Carters and Labourers (Flour Mills)	17 Sept.	46	Advance of 1s. per week ...	13 0 | 14 0 | 1 0

SEAMEN.		Decreases—Nil.			
London, Victoria Docks ...	A. B.'s and Firemen, (Running Agreements)	Sept.	14	Decrease of 2s. 8d. per week (32s. 8d. to 30s.) ...	32 8 | 30 0 | —
Newport, Mon. ...	A. B.'s on Sailing Vessels (West Indian Voyage)	Sept.	9	Advance of 5s. per month (60s. to 65s.) ...	— | — | —

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour (p. 314).

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of September, and the nine completed months of the year 1900, with comparative figures for 1899:—

	Month of Sept.		Nine months ended September—	
	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.
Imported	95,241	105,628	2,043,323	2,263,574
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	142,451	215,689	2,167,521	2,250,939
Exported	22,127	33,593	1,624,852	439,831

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended October 6th, amounted to £9,546,886, an increase of £445,566 (or 4.9 per cent.) over the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £4,556,119 an increase of £293,956, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,990,767, an increase of £151,610.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during September was £818,056, a decrease of £119,351 as compared with September, 1899. In England and Wales there was a decrease of £10,508, in Scotland of £73,371, and in Ireland of £35,472.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during September numbered 289, being 9 less than in September, 1899, 55 less than in September, 1898, and 1 less than in September, 1897.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1900.

THE only changes in hours of labour reported in September affected 93 workpeople, whose hours were reduced on an average by 24 per week.

Table showing changes in hours of labour reported in September 1900. Columns include Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week (Before and After change), and Extent of Reduction per week.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING September 626 fresh applications for work were registered by eight Bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing Returns, and 677 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 184 persons, of whom 84 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The Returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the eight Bureaux during September. A Return from the Dundee Labour Bureau is appended, but not included in the Summaries.

WORK DONE IN SEPTEMBER.

Summary by Bureaux table with columns for Bureau Name, No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications for Workpeople seeking Situations, and No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanent and Temporary).

The number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 400 to 502, and the number of servants applying from 235 to 325, the number permanently engaged rising from 48 to 58. The number of fresh applications from employers for dressmakers and milliners rose from 28 to 82, and the number requiring such situations from 46 to 66; 41 were engaged through the Bureaux compared with 6 in August.

Of the 26 situations offered at the Dundee Labour Bureaux 13 were for mill and factory operatives, 7 for charwomen, and 5 for domestic servants; of the 58 wanting situations 22 were mill and factory operatives, and 21 were charwomen; of the 13 who obtained situations 4 were mill and factory operatives, 5 were domestic servants, and 3 were charwomen.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 1,188 Co-operative retail distributive Societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,576,945, show total sales for the second quarter of 1900 amounting to £11,892,974, as compared with £10,752,753 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Of these Societies 974 show an increase, 213 a decrease, and 1 the same amount as in the previous year. The largest increases are as usual in Wales and Monmouth, and in Ireland, and the net increase for the United Kingdom is £1,140,221, or 10.6 per cent.

Returns from the four wholesale Federations for the same period show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £5,337,161, as compared with £4,710,676 in the corresponding period of 1899, an increase of £626,485, or 13.3 per cent. The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale Societies amounted to £942,818, compared with £804,506 in the second quarter of 1899, an increase of £138,312, or 17.2 per cent.

The following Table, based on reports and balance-sheets supplied direct to the Department, shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and distributive Societies grouped by districts:—

Table showing retail distributive societies grouped by districts. Columns include Description of Societies and Districts, No. Societies making Returns, Membership, Sales (In 2nd quarter of 1900 and 1899, Amount, Increase in 1900 compared with 1899), and Total Retail Distributive Societies.

Table showing wholesale societies grouped by districts. Columns include Description of Societies and Districts, No. Societies making Returns, Membership, Sales (Increase in 1900 compared with 1899), and Total Wholesale Societies.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND.

A RETURN to an Order of the Legislative Council of New Zealand, dated June 21st, 1900, gives the names of the associations and unions registered under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1894. These comprise 8 Industrial Associations, to which are affiliated 76 trade unions or branches of trade unions, and 173 Industrial Unions, of which 33 represent employers and 140 workmen. The aggregate membership of these 140 trade unions or branches of trade unions is 14,481.

* Number and membership of federated societies. † Transfers from manufacturing to distributive departments.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during September was 378, or 55 more than in August, and 84 more than in September, 1899.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary Table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,448,552 persons (according to the latest available figures), 350 were reported killed, and 7,780 injured by accidents in September, as compared with 271 reported killed and 7,157 injured in September, 1899. These figures give one death in September, 1900, for every 15,567 persons employed in those industries. During the nine completed months of 1900, 3,408 persons were reported killed and 67,054 injured, as against 3,114 reported killed and 61,865 injured in the corresponding period of 1899.

In the remaining occupations included in the Tables, 28 persons were reported killed, and 1,000 injured in September, as compared with 23 killed and 1,052 injured in September, 1899.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary Table of Industrial Accidents. Columns include Industry (Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, Under Factory Act, 1895, Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1891), Killed (Sept. 1900, Sept. 1899), Injured (Sept. 1900, Sept. 1899), and Number Employed according to latest Returns.

DETAILED TABLE.

Detailed Table of Industrial Accidents. Columns include Industry, Killed (By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises), Injured (By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises), and Total.

Shipping Accidents Table. Columns include Shipping (On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels), Killed, Injured, and Total.

Factories Accidents Table. Columns include Factories (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, (b) Other Accidents, Males, Females, Total.

Workshops Accidents Table. Columns include Workshops (Adults, Young Persons, Children), Total Workshops.

Factories & Workshops (classified by trades). Columns include Textiles, Non-Textiles, Total.

Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23 Table. Columns include Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, Laundries, Total.

Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 Table. Columns include Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramway, Tunnel, Other Works, Traction Engines, Construction or Repair, Use or Working, Total.

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1899, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year. † Accidents during the working of railways, being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. ‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. § Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.)

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-nine fresh disputes were reported as having begun in September, 1900, compared with 32 in August, 1900, and 54 in September, 1899. In these 29 disputes 5,004 workpeople were directly and 1,028 indirectly affected, a total of 6,032, which compares with 9,334 in August, 1900, and 8,858 in September, 1899.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 5 disputes took place, involving 290 workpeople; in the mining and quarrying industries 6 disputes, involving 3,184 workpeople; in the metal engineering and shipbuilding trades 6 disputes, involving 1,235 workpeople; in the clothing trades 3 disputes, involving 102 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 9 disputes, involving 1,221 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 29 disputes, 9 arose on demands for advances in wages-rates, 5 on other wages questions, 9 on the employment of particular classes of workpeople, and 6 on miscellaneous questions.

Results.—Twenty-nine new disputes, involving 4,792 workpeople, and 18 old disputes, involving 5,905 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 38 new and old disputes terminated, 9, involving 3,222 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 16, involving 3,921 persons, in favour of the employers; and 9, involving 2,604 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 4 disputes, involving 950 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of September, 8 old disputes, involving altogether about 850 workpeople, were reported to be still unsettled.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in September of all the disputes, new and old, was about 96,000 days, compared with 108,000 days in August, 1900, and 454,000 in September, 1899.

Summary for the First Nine Months of 1900.—For the nine completed months of 1900 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 449 disputes which commenced in these months was 139,054, as compared with 149,367 in the 574 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1899. The aggregate duration in 1900 of trade disputes was about 2,366,000 working days, as compared with 2,167,000 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Table with 5 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER, 1900.

Table for Building Trades (290 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Coal Mining (3,184 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (1,235 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Clothing Trades (102 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (1,221 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* 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.

† About 300 workpeople were put on short time in consequence of this dispute.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE SEPTEMBER, 1900, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Building Trades (2,605 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (1,995 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (292 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

Table for Miscellaneous Trades (1,013 Workpeople affected) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

* 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.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during September, 1900, was 41,311, or 6,041 more than in September, 1899. Comparing the nine completed months of 1900 with the corresponding period of 1899, there is an increase of 45,391, viz., from 192,398 in 1899 to 237,789 in 1900, the increase being chiefly due to the larger number of foreigners bound for the United States and British North America.

British and Irish.—Of the 41,311 passengers in September, 24,499 were of British or Irish origin, being 2,380 more than in September, 1899. During the nine months ended September, 1900, the number of passengers of British or Irish origin was 132,039, an increase of 12,779 as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Table showing emigration figures by destination for September 1900 and September 1899, with columns for Destination, September 1900, September 1899, and Total for nine months ended.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 41,311 passengers in September, viz., 16,812, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 3,661 as compared with a year ago. The total number of foreigners, etc., who left the United Kingdom during the nine completed months of the year was 105,750 in 1900, and 73,138 in 1899.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during September was 14,009. Of these 7,250 were stated on the Alien Lists to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 5,984 so stated in September, 1899. Those not stated on the Alien Lists to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 6,759 (including 1,047 sailors), the corresponding number for September, 1899, being 5,619 (including 1,067 sailors). The figures for September, 1900 and 1899, and also for the nine months ended September in each year, are as follows:—

Table showing alien immigration figures for September 1900 and September 1899, with columns for September 1900, September 1899, and Total for nine months ended.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

West Scotland District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will be held for this district on 23rd and 24th November, 1900. Intending candidates should communicate on or before 13th November, 1900, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Stuart Foulis, 140, Hope Street, Glasgow.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,047 in September, 1900; 1,067 in September, 1899; and 11,251 and 9,963 respectively for the nine months ended September in each year.

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 the second week of September was 314,479, corresponding to a rate of 194 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1900.

Compared with August, 1900, there is an increase of 442 in the number relieved, the rate per 10,000 of population remaining the same. In eighteen districts the rate has increased slightly, in four it remains unchanged, and the remaining thirteen districts show small decreases.

Compared with September, 1899, the number of persons relieved has fallen off by 1,800, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 3. Of the 35 districts 22 show decreases, the largest decreases being in the Belfast district (24 per 10,000), Wolverhampton (16), Central London (14), and the Wigan, Barnsley, and Leicester districts (13 each). The remaining 13 districts show increased rates, the most marked increases occurring in the Galway district (20 per 10,000), Coatbridge and Airdrie (15), and Dublin (14).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of September, 1900.			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.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	10,058	2,562	12,620	156	+ 2	- 3
North District ...	13,751	7,930	21,681	201	- 1	- 2
Central District ...	6,372	2,696	9,068	408	- 3	- 14
East District ...	12,003	4,084	16,087	222	- 1	- 3
South District ...	19,166	17,427	36,593	212	- 1	- 9
Total Metropolis ...	61,650	34,699	96,349	211	-	- 5
West Ham ...						
	2,220	8,060	10,280	218	+ 2	+ 5
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	1,514	3,862	5,376	198	- 2	- 3
Stockton & Tees District ...	957	3,760	4,717	214	- 1	- 9
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	3,174	7,365	10,539	140	+ 3	- 5
Wigan District ...	1,645	6,582	8,227	203	-	- 13
Manchester District ...	7,910	7,533	15,443	176	+ 4	+ 8
Liverpool District ...	9,121	7,083	16,204	175	+ 2	- 1
Bradford District ...	1,229	2,879	4,108	112	+ 2	+ 1
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,021	3,429	4,450	118	+ 1	+ 1
Leeds District ...	1,723	5,230	6,953	193	+ 2	- 10
Barnsley District ...	545	2,852	3,397	199	-	- 13
Sheffield District ...	2,504	2,872	5,376	133	- 1	- 7
Hull District ...	1,120	4,917	6,037	246	- 3	- 4
North Staffordshire ...	1,650	6,064	7,714	223	+ 1	+ 2
Nottingham District ...	1,610	5,014	6,624	174	+ 1	- 9
Leicester District ...	1,020	2,736	3,756	180	+ 3	- 13
Wolverhampton District ...	2,817	11,996	14,813	263	- 6	- 16
Birmingham District ...	4,063	4,672	8,735	123	-	+ 6
Bristol District ...	2,472	6,671	9,143	255	+ 2	- 9
Cardiff & Swansea ...	1,624	6,842	8,466	232	+ 5	+ 3
Total "Other Districts" ...	47,499	100,410	147,909	177	+ 1	- 3
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	3,361	15,274	18,635	215	- 2	+ 7
Paisley & Greenock District ...	571	2,399	2,970	188	+ 3	- 9
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,372	5,325	6,697	184	+ 2	+ 7
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	872	2,756	3,628	181	-	- 8
Aberdeen ...	474	2,610	3,084	223	- 2	+ 3
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	285	1,253	1,539	170	- 8	+ 15
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	6,936	29,618	36,554	201	- 1	+ 4
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	6,152	4,449	10,601	300	+ 1	+ 14
Belfast District ...	3,066	281	3,347	100	- 3	- 24
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ...	4,035	4,999	9,034	378	+ 4	- 12
Galway District ...	312	393	705	203	+ 2	+ 20
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	13,565	9,822	23,387	245	-	- 6
Total for above 35 districts in September, 1900	131,870	182,609	314,479	191	-	- 3

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.
† Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING September the 10 Bureaux furnishing Returns registered 2,101 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,889 in September, 1899, an increase of 212. Work was found by these Bureaux for 1,093 persons, of whom 664 (496 males and 168 females) were engaged by private employers, 125 by Local Authorities, and 304 males by the Salvation Army.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of September was 1,210, as against 1,363 a year ago.

(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 by Bureaux.			
	Sept., 1899.		Sept., 1900.		Sept., 1899.		Sept., 1900.		Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
	Sept. 1900.	Sept. 1899.	Sept. 1900.	Sept. 1899.	Sept. 1900.	Sept. 1899.	Sept. 1900.	Sept. 1899.	Sept. 1900.	Sept. 1899.	Sept. 1900.	Sept. 1899.
London.												
St. Pancras ...	207	177	126	182	98	84	3	8	8	2	...	...
Battersea ...	170	117	38	30	38	33	...	...	...	...	...	...
Islington ...	250	315	93	99	88	85	31	39	...	...	...	...
St. Martin ...	130	220	156	158	67	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hackney ...	84	121	29	26	12	12	72	97	...	...	...	...
Salvation Army ...	306	189	6	13	304*	195*	...	...	...	...	...	...
Provincial.												
Ipswich ...	50	19	53	50	17	18	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plymouth ...	285	210	214	184	202	148	...	...	...	...	...	...
Liverpool ...	170	174	8	27	...	22	7	3	...	...	...	...
Glasgow ...	448	317	435	357	142	140	12	4	...	...	...	...
Total of 10 Bureaux	2,101	1,889	1,158	906	664	690*	123	183	664	690*	123	183

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during September, 1900.

Engaged by Private Employers.	Men.	No. permanently engaged.		No. temporarily engaged.		Total.
		1899.	1900.	1899.	1900.	
Men:-						
Building Trades	112	48	...	160	...
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	41	21	...	62	...
Porters and Messengers	72	42	...	114	...
General Labourers	9	5	...	14	...
Other Occupations	29	12	...	41	...
Lads and Boys	81	24	...	105	...
Total Males	344	151	...	495	...
Women and Girls:-						
Dressmakers and Sewstresses	2	...	2	...
Domestic Servants	59	24	...	83	...
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	17	60	...	77	...
Other Occupations	6	...	...	6	...
Total Females	82	86	...	168	...
Total engaged by Private Employers	426	238	...	664	...
Engaged by Local Authorities.	Men, Lads and Boys:-					
Roadmen	41	...	41	...
Dustmen	1	...	1	...
Stone Breaking	15	...	15	...
Other Occupations	4	...	4	...
Women and Girls	1	...	1	...
Total engaged by Local Authorities	10	115	...	125	...
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.	Men ...	...	304	...	304	...
Grand Total for 10 Bureaux	436	657	...	1,093	...

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Occupation.	No. on Register at end of	
	Sept., 1900.	Sept., 1899.
	Men.	
Building, Engineering and Metal Trades ...	161	90
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c. ...	114	105
Clerks and Warehousemen ...	31	51
Porters and Messengers ...	106	108
General Labourers ...	333	417
Other Occupations ...	75	196
Total Men ...	820	967
Lads and Boys ...	167	147
Women and Girls.		
Charwomen, Daily Work, &c. ...	121	166
Servants ...	65	40
Others ...	37	43
Total Women and Girls ...	223	249
Grand Total for 10 Bureaux ...	1,210	1,363

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

ESTABLISHMENT OF LABOUR COUNCILS IN FRANCE.

A DECREE, dated September 17th, 1900, provides for the establishment of Labour Councils in all industrial districts in France, where the need for such institutions shall be found to exist.

The principal functions to be performed by the Labour Councils will be as follows:-

- To express their opinion, at the request of the parties concerned or of the Government, on all labour questions.
- To assist in the investigations ordered by the Government at the request of the Higher Council of Labour (See GAZETTE, September, 1899, p. 266).
- To draw up a list of current wages and hours for each district, endeavouring, where no agreement between employers' associations and trade unions exists, to secure such an agreement.
- To report to the public authorities on the best means of dealing with want of employment.
- To make an annual report on the administration of the factory acts, etc., with recommendations as to any amendments required.

The Councils will be divided into sections, each section dealing with one trade or group of allied trades, and being formed of representatives of the employers and the employed respectively in equal numbers. The selection of these representatives is to be made by the associations of employers, on the one hand, and by the trade unions concerned on the other.

Every section must meet at least once a quarter, and may be called together at any time if a dispute is brought to its notice, or if one half of its members request that a meeting shall be summoned.

In every case, in which a section meets for the purposes mentioned above under (c), or if, in the exercise of its functions specified under (a), the section is called upon to intervene in a dispute between employers and employed, either by way of conciliation or of arbitration, the number of representatives of employers and of employed taking part in the voting must be equal.

A plenary meeting of each Council (all sections combined) is to be called by the prefect, at least once in every year.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following Table shows the number of cases* of lead and arsenic poisoning and of anthrax reported during September as having occurred in factories and workshops. Of the 74 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month (22 males and 2 females) occurred in white lead works, the number of cases in this industry in September, 1899, being 38. The deaths of 8 persons (6 males and 2 females) were reported during the month, viz., 4 from lead poisoning, 3 from arsenic poisoning, and 1 from anthrax. The 13 cases of arsenic poisoning were caused by the inhalation of arseniuretted hydrogen gas. Two of those which proved fatal and one of the non-fatal cases occurred in the early part of the year.

Disease and Industry.	September, 1900.				Total Sept., 1899.
	Adults.		Young Persons.		
	M.†	F.†	M.†	F.†	
Lead Poisoning-					
White Lead Works ...	22	2	-	-	24
China and Earthenware ...	5	2	-	2	9
Glass Cutting and Polishing, Electrical Accumulator Works ...	3	-	-	-	3
Manufacture of Paints and Colours ...	4	-	-	-	4
Smelting Metals, Tinning and Enamelling of Hollow-ware ...	11	-	-	-	11
Printing, File Cutting ...	2	-	-	-	2
Coach Making, &c. ...	14	-	-	-	14
Other Industries ...	7	-	-	-	7
Total Lead Poisoning ...	68	4	-	2	74
Phosphorus Poisoning					1
Mercurial Poisoning ...	-	-	-	-	-
Arsenic Poisoning ...	13	-	-	-	13
Anthrax ...	2	1	-	-	3

In addition to the cases included in the Table, 27 cases of lead poisoning were reported among house-painters and plumbers.

* Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. † M.=Males. F.=Females.

FOREIGN TRADE OF 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, 1900, show an increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1899 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, but a decrease in the exports of Foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The Imports for September, 1900, were valued at £41,232,852, as compared with £38,721,079 for September, 1899, an increase of £2,511,773, or 6.5 per cent., and the Exports amounted in value to £28,990,095, as against £27,035,364 in September, 1899—an increase of £1,954,731. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £24,559,811 in September, 1900, and £22,374,807 in September, 1899—an increase of £2,185,004, or 9.7 per cent. The value of foreign and colonial merchandise exported in September, 1900, shows a decrease as compared with September, 1899, of £230,273, or 4.9 per cent.

Imports.—The following Table shows the value of the imports for September, 1900, as compared with September, 1899, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month ended Sept. 30th.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1899.	1900.		
Food, Drink and Tobacco ...	£ 17,664,269	£ 19,252,380	£ 1,588,111	—
Metals ...	2,224,837	2,870,902	646,065	—
Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances ...	352,366	383,230	30,864	—
Oils ...	814,577	926,316	111,739	—
Raw Materials for Manufactures	8,577,580	9,316,734	739,154	—
Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles ...	9,089,450	8,484,239	-	603,211
Total ...	£ 38,721,079	£ 41,232,852	£ 2,511,773	—

There is a net increase

Tonnage of Vessels 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 September, 1900, amounted to 3,109,293 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,868,409 tons, as against 3,014,732 tons entered, and 3,768,523 tons cleared in September, 1899. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes, during September 1900, amounted to 2,588,117 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,544,404 tons, as against 2,524,199 tons entered and 2,489,007 tons cleared in September, 1899.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in September, it will be seen that 1 Trade Union, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 12 Friendly Societies, and 33 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during the month. Two Trade Unions, 3 Industrial and Provident Societies, 20 Friendly Societies (including 18 branches), and 13 Building Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Associated Cement Merchants of London, 47, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, S.E. Scotland—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Wirksworth and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Ecclesbourne-cottages, Cromford-road, Wirksworth, Scotland.—None. Ireland.—St. Joseph's Co-op. Industries, Ltd., Thurles; Kildallan Co-op. Home Industries, Ardlogher. (B) Associations for Production.—None. (C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Stanley, Wooley, Grahamsley and Billy Row Workmen's Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, Stanley, R.S.O., Co. Durham; La Vraie France, Ltd., 64, New Oxford-street, W.C. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 2; Dividing, 2; Juvenile, 1; Medical, 1; Specially Authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 3. Scotland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Ireland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1. (B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—29. Scotland.—4. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—Notice of Dissolution.—Port of Leith Grain Carriers' and Lifters' Association. Ceased to exist.—Forth and Clyde Valleys Miners' Association. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—Resolution to Wind-up received.—England and Wales.—South Hams Co-op Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Market-place, Kingsbridge; Horsham Co-op. Industrial and Provident Soc., Ltd., 58, East-street, Horsham. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. Dissolved by Instrument.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—Arbroath Butcher Meat Co-op. Soc., Ltd. Ireland.—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Dividing 1; Order 1; Working Men's Club 1; Registration cancelled: Specially authorised, 1; Dissolved otherwise: Branches, 18. Scotland.—Ordinary Friendly, 1. Ireland.—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 2; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; notice of termination of dissolution, 10. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

New Order under Factory and Workshop Acts.

The Home Secretary has made an Order* dated September 6th, 1900, allowing, under conditions laid down in the Order, certain parts of factories or workshops, in which the manufacture of bright or burnished metal goods is carried on, to be treated as different factories or workshops, so far as regards the period of employment of children, young persons, and women. The parts of factories or workshops to which this Order applies are warehouses which are not used for any manufacturing process or handicraft, and in which persons are solely employed in polishing, cleaning, wrapping, or packing up goods. Every such part must consist of a separate room, or separate rooms, and must be under separate and distinct management. No person employed in such part may be employed in any other part of the factory or workshop. The occupier must hold a certificate from the Inspector, that the arrangements for carrying out the conditions imposed are satisfactory. The Order came into effect on October 1st, 1900.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1900; No. 668 (Eyre & Spottiswoode). Price 1d.

Explosives in Coal Mines.

The Home Secretary has made an Order,* dated September 24th, 1900, under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, repealing the Order of July 24th, 1899, and the amending Order of April 7th, 1900, and re-enacting them with certain modifications. The chief purpose of the Order is to embody the results of the "Special Test for Explosives," which was established in October, 1899, in consequence of the desire found to exist among mine owners for further assistance in the selection of explosives for use in dangerous mines. The "Permitted Explosives" are now arranged in two schedules annexed to the Order, the first containing a "Special List" of six explosives which have passed the more stringent "Special Test," and the second a list of explosives which have not been placed on the "Special List." The Order came into force on October 8th, 1900.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN SEPTEMBER

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions.	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Limewash	4	4	10 5 0	1 10 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	7	7	32 0 0	4 5 6
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c.	2	2	2 2 6	1 8 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates	31	31	24 11 0	15 10 4
Employing Women and Children in forbidden Trades	1	1	1 0 0	0 3 6
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour	62	58	36 6 6	21 11 6
During mea times, or without proper intervals for meals	63	63	45 10 0	14 0 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	10	10	3 0 6	4 2 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays	17	17	12 10 0	8 0 6
At night	15	15	12 0 0	7 12 10
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	3	3	1 10 0	1 12 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers	15	14	8 8 6	5 6 10
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	6	6	5 0 0	1 14 6
Not sending Notices required by Act	4	3	0 8 0	2 3 6
Prosecutions under Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889	3	1	5 0 0	0 19 6
By Workmen:				
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules	1	1	0 10 0	0 12 0
Total for September, 1900	244	236	200 2 0	90 13 6
Total for September, 1899	277	264	153 17 6	114 12 2

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Workmen:					£ s. d.
Safety Lamps	4	4	—	—	3 14 0
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	—	—	2 7 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	8	8	—	—	10 5 10
Riding on Trams	4	4	—	—	2 3 0
Miscellaneous	44	42	—	2	34 18 2
Total for September, 1900	62	60	—	2	53 8 6
Total for September, 1899	79	74	1	4	107 0 7
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					£ s. d.
Special rules	2	1	—	1	2 19 0
By Workmen:					
Explosives and Blasting	1	1	—	—	1 1 6
Total for September, 1900	3	2	—	1	4 0 6
Total for September, 1899	14	8	—	6	6 17 0

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Overcrowding passengers	1	1	10 0 0	—
By Boarding House Keepers:				
Harbouring Deserters	2	2	2 0 0	2 16 0
Crimping	6	6	3 15 0	2 4 0
Total for September, 1900	9	9	15 15 0	5 0 0
Total for September, 1899	7	7	24 8 0	—

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1900; No. 696 (Eyre and Spottiswoode). Price 2d.