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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

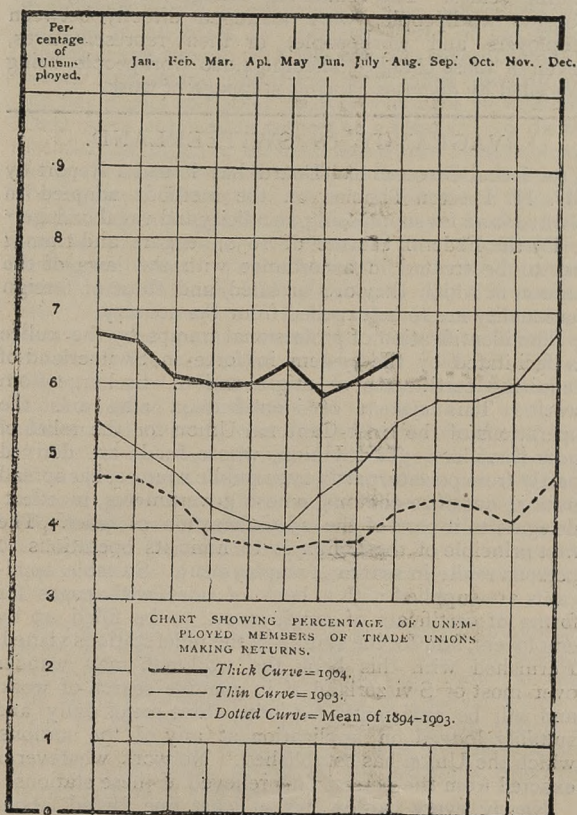


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

Thick Curve=1904.
Thin Curve=1903.
Dotted Curve=Mean of 1894-1903.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN AUGUST.

[Based on 4,588 returns, viz.: 3,161 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,337 from Trade Unions, and 90 from other sources.]

Employment in August was on the whole dull, though some of the metal trades, especially tinsplate, show signs of improvement. During August short time was again very general in the cotton trade, and the boot and shoe and other clothing trades show a marked decline.

As compared with a year ago most trades show a decline, except tinsplate and cotton.

There was a fall in wages affecting a large number of coal miners during the month.

In the 269 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 575,061 making returns, 37,006 (or 6.4 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 6.1 at the end of July, and 5.5 in August, 1903.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry during August shows little change as compared with a month ago but is rather worse than a year ago. At collieries employing 539,515 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 4.76 days per week, as compared with 4.79 in July, and 4.89 a year ago. At the pits for which returns have been received the number of workpeople employed in August was about the same as a month and a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. At the 129 mines and open works covered by the

returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 20th August was 5.70, as compared with 5.74 in July, and 5.76 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed is practically the same as a month ago, and 1.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry shows little change as compared with a month ago and is worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 297 furnaces, employing about 21,100 workpeople, were in blast at the end of August, as compared with 298 at the end of July and 322 in August, 1903.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment shows a slight improvement on the whole as compared with the previous month, but is not so good as a year ago. Returns relating to 194 works, employing 74,170 workpeople, show an increase in the total volume of employment during the week ended August 27th of 1.0 per cent. as compared with July, but a decrease of 4.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Tinsplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry improved during August both as compared with a month ago and a year ago. At the end of August 379 mills were working, as compared with 354 at the end of July and 345 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed in August, 1904, was 19,000.

Engineering Trades.—Employment remained dull during August and was worse than a year ago. The proportion of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 6.9 per cent., as compared with 6.7 per cent. in July, and 4.2 per cent. a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment in this industry is bad. It is slightly better than in July, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 12.7, as compared with 12.9 at the end of July, and 11.2 at the end of August, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues dull and on the whole shows little change compared with a month ago. It is rather worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among Carpenters and Joiners was 5.9 at the end of August, compared with 5.7 in July, and 2.9 a year ago. The percentage for Plumbers was 8.9 at the end of August, compared with 10.4 at the end of July, and 7.1 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is slack and worse than a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 6.4, as compared with 5.7 per cent. in July, and 4.0 per cent. a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment in August is slack generally. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 6.3, as compared with 4.4 in July, and 5.8 in August, 1903.

Employment in the Papermaking trade remains fair, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August being 3.2, the same percentage as in July. In August, 1903, the percentage was 3.5.

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

Cotton Trade.—Organised short time continued during August amongst spinners of American cotton, but at the

beginning of September the Employers' Federation removed their restriction on full time. On the other hand organised short time (40 hours a week) was begun by spinners of Egyptian cotton on August 27th, to be continued during September. This short time, however, does not affect the present returns. Returns from firms employing 50,000 workpeople in preparing and spinning show that 41.6 per cent. were in mills working short time during the last working week in August, compared with 38.2 per cent. during the last week in July, and 49.5 per cent. in the corresponding week in August, 1903. Of the 96,800 workpeople in weaving and other departments 9.9 per cent. were in factories working short time during the last week in August, compared with 12.1 per cent. in July, and 22.8 per cent. a year ago.

Employment in the *Woolen* trade continues good on the whole; it is about the same as a year ago in England, but worse in Scotland. In the *Worsted* trade it remains slack, and is much the same as a year ago.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the *Jute* and *Flax* trades it is moderate, and worse than a year ago.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. In the ready-made branch it continues bad, and worse than a year ago.

Employment in the silk and felt *Hat-making* trades continues quiet, and is worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 3.8, compared with 3.5 per cent. at the end of July, and 3.2 per cent. a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continues bad and is worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from 496 firms, employing 62,649 workpeople, and paying £187,644 in wages during the month, showed a decrease of 15.8 per cent. in wages paid during August compared with July. This decline is partly accounted for by the August Bank Holiday. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 6.2 per cent. in wages paid during the month.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment remains bad generally, with a good deal of short time. It is rather worse than in July, and worse than in August, 1903. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of August was 11.2, as compared with 10.6 in July, and 7.6 in August, 1903.

Agricultural Labourers were, generally speaking, well employed during August. The weather was favourable for harvest operations, and the condition of the corn permitted the full use of reaping machines. The demand for extra men for harvesting was consequently less than usual, and the supply was, as a rule, quite sufficient.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during August remained moderate, showing a slight decline on the whole as compared with a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended August 27th was 12,263, a decrease of 4 per cent. on the average for July, and of 10 per cent. on the average for August, 1903. The average number employed in August during the seven years 1897-03 was 14,633.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during August, 1904, was 12,969, compared with 16,322 in July, and 29,523 in August, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 228,000 working days, as compared with 262,800 in the previous month and 266,000 in August, 1903. Fifteen disputes began in August, involving 4,807 workpeople, compared with 15 in July, and 19 in August, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 10 disputes, new and old, affecting 9,533 workpeople. Of these disputes, three, involving 1,980 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; five, involving 7,132 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and two, involving 421 persons, were compromised. In the case of two other disputes, terminating during the month, and involving 349 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during August affected nearly 356,600 workpeople, of whom only about 900 received advances while nearly 355,700 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of over £17,600 per week. The changes of the previous month affected nearly 53,300 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of nearly £130 per week. During August, 1903, the number affected was about 121,200 workpeople, and the net result a decrease of about £1,300 per week.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 347,000 coal miners in the Federated Districts of England, and in South Yorkshire, South Staffordshire, and East Worcestershire. Three changes, affecting 246,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and two changes, affecting 1,250 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting over 109,300 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, seven of these changes, affecting 4,000 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

VAGRANCY IN SWITZERLAND.

The Local Government Board has issued a Report by Mr. H. Preston-Thomas on the methods adopted in Switzerland for suppressing mendicancy and vagabondage.*

By the Federal Statute of 1850, beggars and tramps are to be treated in accordance with the laws of the canton in which they are arrested, and those of foreign nationality are to be expelled from the country.

The identification of professional tramps by the police is facilitated by the system in force in Switzerland of requiring certificates of origin and of discharge from work. This system of identification also aids the operations of the Inter-Cantonal Union for the relief of poor travellers. This Union, whose funds are derived partly from private, partly from public sources, has spread over 14 out of 22 cantons, whose governments, in effect, delegate to it part of the administration of relief. The first principle of the Union is to limit its operations to persons really in search of employment. Suitable applicants are supplied with a book of rules, with pages for forms of certificate of employment, to be filled up by employers, and for the stamps of the relief stations visited. Furnished with this book the workman may wander over most of Switzerland if in genuine search of work, and will be sufficiently fed (with three meals daily) and suitably lodged on application at any of the stations, which the Union has established. No work whatever is exacted from the person thus relieved at these stations.

Nearly every canton has at least one forced labour institution, either belonging to it or under special arrangement, admitting persons sent from it. The Report describes the working of several of these forced labour institutions.

The cantonal laws on the subject differ widely from each other. It may be said generally, however, that if an able-bodied man is without means, is genuinely in search of work, and his papers are in order, he will, on application, be supplied by the police (or by the Inter-Cantonal Union) with food and lodging, and will, if possible, have employment indicated to him. If he cannot obtain any, he will be passed on to the next town, to a relief station, to his own district, or to the cantonal frontier. If he refuses work when offered, he is sent to his own district to be dealt with by its Council, and if the Council (who are responsible for the maintenance of their indigent citizens) decide that he is "work-shy" he may be sent for a term varying from three months to two years to a forced labour institution, which is in effect a house of correction for persons guilty of the less serious kinds of offences.

But the police are empowered to arrest beggars without special warrant and to bring them before a competent court, which may commit them to prison for a short term, or, in case of repeated offences and of refusal to work, may sentence them to from two to six months' imprisonment in gaol, or from six months to two years in a forced labour institution.

* Methods of dealing with Vagrancy in Switzerland (Cd. 2235). Price 2d.

WAGES AND COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 1890-1903.

THE United States Department of Commerce and Labour has completed an investigation into (1) the cost of living of workmen's families in 1901, (2) retail prices of food in 1890-1903 and (3) wages and hours of labour in 1890-1903.* A summary of the results obtained under heads (1) and (2) formed the subject of an article in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* for December, 1903 (p. 327).

As regards wages and hours of labour in 1890-1903 the investigation was designed to cover the principal distinctive occupations in the leading manufacturing and mechanical industries in the United States during the above period. Agriculture, mining and transport were excluded from the investigation. The particulars were secured in all cases by personal visits of the special agents of the Bureau of Labour to the several establishments represented, and have been taken directly from the pay-sheets and other records available for reference. Data were obtained in respect to a total of 519 distinct occupations in 3,429 establishments, the establishments being the same for every year in the period covered by the inquiry. The data in all cases were taken from that portion of each year's pay-sheets most nearly representing the average conditions in the establishment during each year. The information collected in respect to each establishment had reference to: (a) *The number of men "ordinarily employed"* in the selected occupations, as shown by the number employed at the time of the year for which the schedules were taken. (b) *The hours of labour per week.* In this case a total was made of the hours worked per week by the whole of the men enumerated and this total divided by the number of men. (c) *The rates of wages per hour.* All wages however shown on the pay-sheets were reduced to one definite standard, the rate per hour. Thus in the case of piece-workers, information was obtained as to the time worked to secure the earnings shown on the pay-sheets. An average was then computed in the same way as in the case of hours of labour per week.

In the following Table the facts in regard to numbers employed, wages and retail prices of food are brought together in percentage form so as to show how far each year is above or below the average of 1890-99 which is taken to be 100. The weekly earnings as stated in Col. 4 are computed from the figures in Cols. 2 and 3, and the purchasing power of the earnings from the figures in Cols. 4 and 5.

Year.	No. of Employees	Hours per Week.	Wages per Hour.	Weekly Earnings per Employee.	Retail prices of food.	Purchasing power of weekly earnings measured by retail prices.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1890	94.9	100.7	100.3	101.0	102.4	98.6
1891	97.4	100.5	100.2	100.7	103.8	97.0
1892	99.1	100.5	100.8	101.3	101.9	99.4
1893	99.2	100.3	100.9	101.2	104.4	96.9
1894	94.1	99.8	97.9	97.7	99.7	98.0
1895	96.3	100.1	98.3	98.4	97.8	100.6
1896	98.3	99.8	99.7	99.5	95.5	104.2
1897	100.9	99.6	99.6	99.2	96.3	103.0
1898	106.3	99.7	100.3	100.0	98.7	101.3
1899	110.8	99.2	102.0	101.2	99.5	101.7
1900	115.5	98.7	105.5	104.1	101.1	103.0
1901	119.1	98.1	108.0	105.9	105.2	100.7
1902	123.6	97.3	112.3	109.3	110.9	98.6
1903	126.4	96.6	116.3	112.3	110.3	101.8

Comparing the figures for 1903 with the lowest figures shown under each head (so as to bring out the full extent of the changes that have taken place in the several years of the period) the following conclusions are arrived at by the writer of the report: That the price of food in 1903 was 15.5 per cent. above the price in 1896, the year of lowest prices; that cost of living as a whole advanced probably somewhat less; that rates of wages per hour in 1903 had increased 18.8 per cent. as compared with 1894, the year of lowest wages; that hours of labour in 1903 had decreased 4.1 per cent.

* See *Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour*, No. 53—July, 1904.

as compared with 1890; that weekly earnings had advanced 14.9 per cent. in 1903 above the weekly earnings of 1894; and that 34.3 per cent. more persons were employed in 1903 than in 1894.

THE MINIMUM WAGE IN THE SCOTTISH COAL TRADE.

In July, 1899, the Scottish coal owners and miners agreed to form a Conciliation Board to regulate wages, and it was arranged that for a period of twelve months from 1st August, 1899, the maximum rate of wages should not be more than 75 per cent., nor the minimum rate less than 31.4 per cent., above the standard of 1888. Early in January, 1900, the Board was formally constituted to regulate wages between these points. In July, 1900, it was agreed to continue the Board for one year from 1st August, 1900, the maximum wage being at the same time increased to 100 per cent., and the minimum to 37.4 per cent. above standard.

From 1st August, 1901, to May, 1902, the Board was continued under the same rules as in 1900.

In May, 1902, an agreement was entered into confirming the maximum and minimum rates agreed to in 1900, with the proviso that these rates were terminable at three months' notice.

In June, 1903, wages were reduced under an award of the neutral chairman of the Board to the minimum, and have remained at that point to the present date. Early in June, 1904, notice to terminate the wages agreement was given by the coal owners, to take effect on September 1st, but arrangements were subsequently made to extend the notice to September 17th. This notice does not, however, terminate the existence of the Conciliation Board, the rules of which are quite independent of the wages agreement now terminating. The miners have apparently regarded this notice as the first step towards a reduction of wages, although at present no intimation of a reduction has been made.

On July 5th the Scottish Miners' Federation requested the Miners' Federation of Great Britain to call a conference of its delegates to take into consideration the present position of matters in Scotland in connection with the wages question. This action was taken in view of the resolution passed by the Miners' Federation at Glasgow, in October, 1903, viz.:

"That this conference, representing the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, records its satisfaction at a minimum wage being secured by all the large sections, and expresses its determination to maintain the same against any attempt by the employers to reduce wages below the said minimum in each district even to putting in force of the 20th rule."

The text of the 20th rule is as follows:—

"That whenever any county, federation, or district is attacked on the wage question, or any action taken by a general conference, all members connected with the society shall tender a notice to terminate their contracts, if approved of by a conference called to consider the advisability of such joint action being taken."

On July 29th the Miners' Federation held a conference and the following resolution was adopted:—

"That having heard the report from Scotland regarding the threatened attack on the minimum wage, and in view of the resolution on the minimum wage passed at the last annual conference held in Glasgow, we agree that the said resolution be forthwith placed before the various branches of the Federation, in order that a decision as to the policy to be adopted to protect the minimum wage in Scotland may be arrived at, at a future conference."

On August 1st the Scottish coal owners and miners held a private conference to discuss the wages question, but no agreement was arrived at and the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

On September 2nd and 3rd the Miners' Federation held a conference at Southport, as the result of which the following resolution was passed:—

"That after fully considering the Scottish wages dispute we suggest to the Conference that the following gentlemen be appointed to meet the Scottish coal owners, namely, Messrs. Enoch Edwards and Thomas Ashton, the President and Secretary of the English

Conciliation Board; Messrs. W. Abraham, M.P. and Thomas Richards, President and Secretary of the South Wales Conciliation Board; and Messrs. Robert Smillie and Robert Brown, President and Secretary of the Scottish Conciliation Board, with a view of obtaining from the owners what action they propose to take when the present notice expires, and to prevent, if possible, a conflict in defence of the minimum wage, and that if necessary, the President and Secretary of this Federation call another special conference as early a date as possible to consider the report of the above deputation appointed to meet the Scottish coal owners."

The Scottish coal owners have since agreed to meet the deputation appointed by the Miners' Federation, but the meeting has not yet (September 15th) taken place.

LABOUR DISPUTES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN FRANCE IN 1903.

Labour Disputes.

The report on strikes and lock-outs in France for 1903, issued by the French Labour Department,* shows that though labour disputes were somewhat more frequent in that year than in 1902, the aggregate numbers of workpeople involved and working days lost in the year under review fell considerably short of those of the previous year.

This will be seen from the following Table, which also shows the extent to which the principal groups of trades were affected by disputes:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Disputes.		No. of Workpeople who took part in Disputes.		No. of Working Days lost by Workpeople affected directly and indirectly by Disputes.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Building Trades ...	61	71	5,566	5,339	53,694	41,012
Mining and Quarrying ...	32	18	3,837	119,181	66,642	3,280,646
Metal Trades ...	78	88	6,732	9,852	92,861	190,951
Textile Trades:—						
Manufacture ...	175	167	76,376	34,693	1,783,726	502,771
Textile Goods (Clothing, &c.)	11	12	918	1,443	20,818	32,818
Transport ...	57	38	11,753	12,195	72,108	110,077
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	14	5	3,512	343	19,827	2,179
Miscellaneous Trades ...	143	113	15,263	29,858	333,533	514,627
Total ...	571	512	123,957	212,704	2,443,219	4,675,081

The following is a classification of the disputes of 1903, as compared with 1902, according to their causes or objects. (In this Table a dispute having two or more causes is counted under each.)

Cause or Object.	No. of Disputes.		No. of Workpeople who took part in Disputes.		No. of Working Days lost by Workpeople affected directly and indirectly by Disputes.	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Wages:—						
For increase ...	284	256	86,595	146,907	1,838,970	3,695,660
Against decrease ...	58	83	6,522	14,292	180,611	227,783
Other ...	78	54	15,083	120,233	177,588	3,252,382
Hours of Labour:—						
For decrease ...	58	38	12,323	134,015	213,534	3,545,118
Employment of Particular Classes or Persons	155	90	22,181	10,207	346,822	125,830
Working Arrangements	105	78	19,172	20,110	474,930	436,572
Other Causes ...	54	41	15,230	135,414	248,089	3,415,930

The results of disputes do not appear to have been quite so favourable to the workpeople in 1903 as they were in 1902. This may be seen from the following Table:—

Result.	Percentage of Workpeople engaged in disputes, the results of which were as stated in column 1.	
	1903. (2)	1902. (3)
In favour of Workpeople ...	10.51	11.06
In favour of Employers ...	17.10	13.33
Compromised ...	72.39	75.61

Conciliation and Arbitration.

The number of disputes in which recourse was had in 1903 to the means provided by the French Conciliation and Arbitration Law of December 27th, 1892, was 152,

* Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus pendant l'année, 1903. Office au Travail. Paris, Government Printing Office, 1904.

including 9 disputes in which no stoppage of work took place. In the previous year the disputes which it was attempted to settle by these means numbered 107 (including 4 cases in which no stoppage occurred). The initiative in applying the law in 1903 came from the workpeople in 89 disputes, from the Justices of the Peace in 58 disputes, from the employers in 3 disputes, and from the employers and workpeople jointly in 2 disputes. The number of conciliation committees formed under the law was 93, resulting in the settlement of 44 disputes (42 by conciliation and 2 by arbitration). In addition 4 disputes were settled before the committee of conciliation had time to meet, and 13 others immediately after conciliation had been declined, while 9 strikes are stated to have been settled subsequently to the meetings of the committees, as a result of the negotiations which took place at such meetings. The Report therefore concludes that there were in 1903 a total of 44 disputes settled directly, and 26 indirectly by the application of the law, while in 1902, 34 disputes were settled directly, and 13 indirectly by the same means.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

The Thirty-seventh Annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom was held in the Town Hall, Leeds, on Monday, September 5th, and five following days. The Congress was presided over by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr. R. Bell, M.P., General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants.

The Congress consists of representatives of Trade Unions who are actually working at their trade at the time of their appointment, or are permanent paid officials of the Unions they represent. Trade Unions may send one delegate for every 2,000 members or fraction thereof, but many of the larger societies do not send the full number of delegates to which they are entitled. Voting on important questions is by card, on the principle of one vote for every 1,000 members represented.

The analysis into groups of trades given below shows the composition of the Congress, and the trade groups represented are compared with the corresponding figures for the Congress of 1903:—

Groups of Trades.	1903.			1904.		
	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.	No. of Organisations.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members.
Building ...	11	29	184,721	11	29	182,942
Mining and Quarrying ...	7	86	347,156	10	81	373,326
Engineering ...	13	17	36,008	13	16	36,576
Shipbuilding (including Boiler Making)	3	20	63,831	3	21	68,261
Other Metal Trades ...	22	38	60,250	21	37	62,079
Textile Trades ...	15	91	157,579	15	96	156,721
Clothing ...	10	26	53,384	10	24	54,052
Transport (Land and Sea) ...	17	42	127,583	16	39	123,535
Chemical, Gas, and General Labourers	10	33	78,710	10	34	68,736
Printing, Bookbinding, &c. ...	11	19	46,792	11	19	49,319
Pottery and Glass ...	3	3	3,900	3	3	2,840
Woodworking and Furnishing Trades, &c. ...	10	12	31,663	9	12	31,645
Baking and Cigar Making ...	2	4	6,980	2	4	7,000
Enginemakers ...	11	14	23,375	9	14	25,384
Post Office Employees ...	5	7	37,722	4	7	39,032
Miscellaneous ...	12	15	35,878	12	16	38,984
Total ...	162	456	1,300,732	159	453	1,320,432

NOTE.—Societies forming parts or branches of a federation or amalgamation are not counted in this Table as separate organisations, and double entries arising in this way have been deducted.

The number of organisations accounted for in the above statement is 159, but allowing for the number of distinct societies included in Federations, members of about 222 separate Trade Unions attended Congress as delegates this year out of a total of about 1,183 Unions in existence. The membership represented, however, comprised about 70 per cent. of the total membership of all Trade Unions. The number of organisations represented this year is three less than in 1903, but the total membership is greater by 19,700. This increase is more than accounted for by the re-appearance in the list of the Northumberland Miners' Association, who were not represented last year. As in

1903, however, there has been a falling off in the membership of the general labour group of trades.

Among the principal industrial subjects on which the Congress passed resolutions were:—Restriction of the hours of labour to eight per day for miners and for workpeople generally; certificates of competency for persons in charge of steam engines and boilers; trade unions to undertake industrial assurance; reduction of naturalisation fees to alien workmen; amendment of the law in relation to trade unions and industrial disputes; the appointment of a Minister of Labour; amendment of the Mines Regulation Act, the Factory and Workshops Acts, the Shop Clubs Act, the Workmen's Compensation Acts, and the Truck Acts; reduction of fees for Registrars' certificates of death when required for trade unions; general old-age pensions; the character note system; wages of Government employees; and improved housing accommodation for working people.

A resolution in favour of compulsory arbitration in trade disputes was rejected by 869,000 to 383,000 votes.

Delegates representing the National Federation of Labour of the United States, the Co-operative Union, the Labour Representation Committee, and the General Federation of Trade Unions, attended the Congress and delivered addresses. Two British delegates were elected to attend the annual conference of the American Federation of Labour to be held in December next.

The voting by the Congress for members of the Parliamentary Committee for the ensuing year resulted in representatives of the following combinations being elected: Amalgamated Brassworkers, Barge Builders, Boot and Shoe Operatives, Miners' Federation of Great Britain, London Compositors, Amalgamated Railway Servants, Gas Workers and General Labourers, Amalgamated Cotton Spinners, Boiler Makers and Iron Ship Builders, Northern Counties Weavers, Associated Shipwrights, and National Dock Labourers. There was no opposition to the re-election of the Secretary to the Committee.

The balance-sheet presented by the auditors showed a total income of £4,443 (inclusive of a balance of £1,751 from the Leicester Congress), and an expenditure of £2,347, leaving a balance in hand of £2,096. It was decided that the Congress of next year should be held at Hanley.

WAGES OF AUSTRIAN MINERS.

The Austrian Ministry of Agriculture has recently published the first of a new series of annual reports on wages in the mining industry, based upon data furnished according to a uniform plan by all mine-owners in Austria.* The figures in this case relate to the year 1901. They represent the net earnings of miners, clear of deductions in respect of tools, blasting materials, &c., also in respect of obligatory contributions to provident and guild funds. Advantages enjoyed by the miners, over and above their ordinary wages, are included in the earnings, but only in so far as they consist of regular cash allowances. Thus the advantage of the free use of a dwelling, or piece of ground, has not been taken into account.

The average net earnings per shift are shown in the following Table:—

Description of Mining.	Hewers and Trammers.		Other Adult Pitmen.		Adult Surface-men.		Youths (surface and underground).		Women.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	
Coal ...	2 8	2 1½	2 0½	2 0½	1 4½	0 11½	—	—	—	
Lignite ...	3 1½	2 8½	2 5½	2 5½	1 5½	1 2½	—	—	—	
Iron ...	2 7½	1 11½	2 2½	2 2½	1 4½	1 5	—	—	—	
Salt ...	2 0½	1 5½	1 9	1 9	0 10½	—	—	—	—	
Ozokerite ...	1 11½	—	1 5½	1 5½	1 0½	0 9½	—	—	—	

It will be seen that the highest earnings per shift were obtained by workpeople employed in lignite mining, and as the average number of shifts worked by them per annum (288) was little short of full time, their annual earnings were also higher than those of miners in the other groups specified. Ozokerite miners, on the other hand, not only averaged low earnings per shift, but the number of shifts worked per annum (237) was fewer than

* Statistisches Jahrbuch des K.K. Ackerbau-Ministeriums für das Jahr 1901. Zweites Heft, Vierte Lieferung. Die Löhne der Arbeiter und Aufseher beim Bergbau. Wien, 1904. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei.

in the other groups, the result being that their annual earnings were only about half those of the lignite miners. The number of workpeople employed in ozokerite mining was, however, small, the mean number for 1901 being 2,645 only, while in lignite mining it was 57,242. In coal mining the mean number employed was returned as 65,700, in iron mining as 5,375, and in salt mining as 2,239.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT IN 1903.

An introductory note to the official statistics of proceedings under these Acts in 1903*, recently issued, states that while the official returns contain some information of interest, they leave untouched the great body of cases of compensation to workmen. In the majority of cases compensation is settled by agreement, no memorandum is registered, and no official information, therefore, is available.

Speaking generally, a comparison of the returns for 1903 with those for the years 1899 to 1902, the first four years during which the Workmen's Compensation Act was in force, does not show any great change in its operation.

The number of cases under the Workmen's Compensation Acts taken into County Courts in England and Wales in 1903 was 2,033, as compared with 1,807 in 1902. The cases dealt with by the Courts numbered 1,437, the largest number yet recorded. (The number so dealt with in 1902 was 1,269.) The remaining 596 cases were either withdrawn, settled out of Court, or otherwise disposed of. The number of claims for compensation finally settled in 1903 within the cognizance of the Courts was 1,138, as compared with 968 in 1902. Of the 1,138 claims, the decision in 960 cases was in favour of the applicant, and in 178 in favour of the respondent.

In 324 of the 960 cases settled in favour of the applicants in 1903, compensation averaging about £181 was awarded on account of death. In 122 cases lump sums averaging £28 were granted as compensation for injury, while a weekly sum was assigned averaging 12s. 1d. in 285 cases of total incapacitation, and 10s. 6d. in 227 cases of partial incapacitation. In the remaining two cases weekly allowances were made to dependants on account of death.

In addition to the cases dealt with by the County Courts, 2,971 memoranda of agreements under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, were registered in these Courts in 1903, as compared with 2,152 in 1902. It is stated, however, that these cases represent only a very small proportion of the agreements under the Acts.

The number of cases carried to the Court of Appeal in England was 38, or a little more than 2 per cent. of the cases that came before the County Courts. Of the 38 appeals, 18 were by workmen and 20 by employers. Of the former 9, of the latter 3, were successful.

Under the Employers' Liability Act 513 cases were taken into Court in 1903, as compared with 548 in 1902. The number of judgments for plaintiff was 125 (136 in 1902) and for defendant 95 (70 in 1902). The average amount of damages awarded in cases of death was £246.

The return gives separate Tables for Scotland and Ireland. The number of cases taken into Court in 1903 under the Workmen's Compensation Acts in Scotland was 251, and in Ireland 212. Under the Employers' Liability Act the numbers were 151 and 25 respectively.

On the basis of the official statistics of industrial accidents in the United Kingdom it is estimated that in the case of deaths, where large sums would generally be payable, not more than 22 per cent. of the cases came in any way before the Court. As regards claims for injury, unofficial figures available in certain industries indicate that the number of litigated cases is probably not more than 1 per cent. of the number of cases in which compensation is payable.

* Statistics of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1903. (C. d. 226) Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 4d.

STATISTICAL CHARTS FOR ST. LOUIS EXHIBITION.*

THE Board of Trade has recently published a volume containing a series of charts, reproduced on a reduced scale from those prepared for the St. Louis Exhibition by the Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department, dealing with the statistics of trade, employment and conditions of labour in the United Kingdom.

The statistics illustrated in the Charts relate to the Occupations of the People, Percentage Unemployed in Trade Unions, Fluctuations in Wages and in Prices Wholesale and Retail, Consumption of Articles of Food and Drink, Pauperism, Foreign Trade, Shipping and Railway Traffic, Production and Consumption of Coal and Pig Iron; Consumption of Raw Cotton and Wool, and Tonnage of Ships Built; Trade Disputes, Trade Unions, Co-operative Societies and Industrial Accidents.

The Statistical Tables on which the Charts are based are printed as an Appendix for convenient reference.

CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Steel Workers at Llanelly.

Sir William Markby, K.C.I.E., the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in response to a joint application on behalf of Messrs. R. Thomas & Co., Ltd., and the British Steel Smelters and Tinplate Workers' Union, for the appointment of an arbitrator to fix the rates of wages to be paid in the steel mill department at the Company's works (see GAZETTE for August, p. 229), issued his award on September 10th, 1904.

During the proceedings it was agreed by both parties that if the arbitrator was unable upon the evidence to fix a permanent rate of wages, he should then fix a temporary rate to remain in force up to 1st January, 1905, with liberty to either party to apply to the arbitrator after that date to resume the inquiry.

Accordingly, the mill being a new one, and some uncertainty existing as to its capacity of output, upon which, to a large extent, the rate to be paid would be based, the arbitrator fixed temporary rates only for the various classes of workpeople affected.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

The third-class fare from Liverpool to Quebec is now as low as £3. Though—as stated below—several trades have been very busy, it is too late in the year for men without means to emigrate to Canada in search of work.

The Labour Journal of the Canadian Department of Labour states:—"Labour and industrial conditions during July, as shown by the reports of correspondents to the LABOUR GAZETTE, were of a generally favourable character throughout Canada, employment being, on the whole, somewhat more active than in June, with the exception of isolated localities or branches of trade. A few instances in which a decided betterment took place were reported. At Sydney, N.S., though the demoralization caused by the strike of steelworkers was extended over the greater part of the month, a marked improvement set in with its termination on July 22nd. At Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., also the general industrial tone showed improvement over June. The cities of St. John, N.B., Sherbrooke, Que., Peterborough, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Stratford, London, St. Thomas and Windsor, Ont., may also be instanced as having reported exceptional activity. At Winnipeg, Man., Brandon, Man., and Rossland, B.C., a very busy month was reported, and

* Charts illustrating the Statistics of Trade, Employment and Conditions of Labour in the United Kingdom. Eyre & Spottiswoode, Cd. 2145. Price 4s. 9d.

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

throughout the west the absorption of the immigration movement proceeded without undue congestion in the labour market. On the Pacific coast less favourable conditions prevailed, and at a few points in Central and Eastern Canada, as well as at Chatham and Guelph, Ont., a falling off in activity since June seems to have taken place. In the remaining localities, represented by correspondents of the LABOUR GAZETTE, fair conditions were reported, with employment on a normal basis, and the demand for and supply of labour as a rule well balanced." There was a very good demand for farm labourers, especially in Ontario, and during harvest. Some of the busiest workmen were saw-millers, masons, bricklayers, carpenters, woodworkers, brickmakers, coopers, and unskilled labourers. The clothing trades were rather quiet.

Commonwealth of Australia.

There is some demand for farm labourers in Queensland and Western Australia, and for female servants in all the States. The supply of mechanics and miners is, generally speaking, quite sufficient, but at some country towns, as at Horsham, in Victoria, there is a demand for carpenters, blacksmiths and bricklayers. There are reduced nominated passages to Queensland and Western Australia.

New Zealand.

The building and engineering trades have been busy in most places, but at Wellington and Christchurch some carpenters, especially indifferent workmen, have been out of work. The boot trade has been busy at Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill. The clothing trade has been busy at Auckland, Napier, Wanganui, and Nelson. Coach-builders have been busy at Auckland, Westport, Nelson, Greymouth, and Dunedin, men in the rope and twine works and woollen mills at Napier, brickmakers at Palmerston North, agricultural implement workers at Christchurch, and men in the woollen factories at Dunedin. The supply of general labourers is sufficient.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No person is allowed to land unless he possesses £20 on arrival and has secured employment. Late reports show that there is no demand for labour at Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, or Kimberley, and that many persons are out of work. A report from East London urges all emigrants to avoid that place, except a few female servants, who may get places at £20 to £30 a year.

Natal.—There is no improvement in the demand for skilled labour; and all persons—especially indifferent mechanics and general labourers—are warned against going to Natal at the present time in search of work.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. There is no improvement in the demand for labour, and large numbers of men have been discharged from the railways. At Johannesburg and Pretoria a great many men are unable to get work at their trades, and are dependent on relief works or charity. The demand for female servants is limited mainly to house parlourmaids, cooks and cook-generals; wages show a tendency to decline. There is no demand for governesses, lady clerks, dressmakers, nurses, ladies-maids, shop assistants, companions, ladies' helps or housekeepers unless specially engaged. Wage-earning women may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The cost of living in the Transvaal is very high.

Orange River Colony.—No one may enter the Colony without a permit. Reports from Bloemfontein and Harrismith state that there is no demand for labour in the building or other trades. Many persons are out of work, and emigrants are warned against going to the Colony now on the chance of employment. Wage-earning women may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, mentioned above. The cost of living remains very high.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in July.**—The building trades were fully employed during July. On the whole there was no change in the metal trades, although, in some important districts, there was a perceptible increase in the number of persons employed. As regards the textile trades many factories were idle for one or two days per week in the cotton centres of the Nord, of Normandy, and of the Roanne districts, but in the Vosges district the revival reported in June was maintained. In the woollen industry at Roubaix and Reims, and in the cloth-weaving industry in the Ardennes district, Romorantin and Châteauroux, the workpeople continued actively employed. The revival in the silk-weaving industry at Lyons became more marked, but employment at St. Etienne showed no improvement. The slack season was prevailing in the garment-making and boot and shoe trades. Employment was satisfactory in the pottery trades, but in the glass works of the Nord employment was practically general. In the printing and book-binding trades the seasonal slackness continued. The weather being fine in July employment for agricultural labourers in the harvest fields of the north was abundant, but in consequence of the termination of vineyard labour in many parts, and of the enforced stoppage of work owing to the great heat and drought in other places, a fairly large number of workpeople were out of employment in the south.

Of 841 Trade Unions with 152,493 members, which made reports to the French Labour Department as to employment in July, 13,701, or 8.9 per cent. of their membership, were out of work on the 15th of the month, as compared with 10.0 per cent. in the preceding month and 10.5 per cent. in July, 1903. The foregoing figures do not include the miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments.

The following statement shows the percentages of members of Trade Unions reported unemployed in certain trades.

Trade Union.	Percentage reported unemployed in the middle of		
	July, 1904.	June, 1904.	July, 1903.
Building Trades:—			
Carpenters and Joiners ...	Per cent. 10.4	Per cent. 10.0	Per cent. 10.0
Other Branches ...	7.5	9.2	9.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	6.4	6.0	12.0
Textile Trades ...	8.4	10.4	14.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking)	13.0	10.0	3.0
Printing Trades:—			
Paris ...	5.9	4.6	4.0
Provinces ...	4.1	3.9	2.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	27.0	43.0	12.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	18.0	12.2	20.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades	17.0	20.0	9.0
Food Preparation Trades ...	16.0	10.8	10.0

*Coal Mining in July.**—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in July was 5.57, as compared with 5.63 in the preceding month and 5.83 in July, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 41.60 per cent. worked full time (6 days or over per week), and 50.67 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 39.60 and 52.80 respectively. The foregoing figures were furnished to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners and relate to over 146,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in July.**—Seventy-four disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in July, as compared with 82 in the previous month, and 50 in July, 1903. The number of persons taking part in 57 of the new disputes was 11,626, as compared with 12,778 participants in 68 disputes in the preceding month and with 7,592 who took part in the 50 disputes in July, 1903. Twelve of the 74 new disputes occurred in the building trades, 1 in mining, 7

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

in the metal trades, 9 in the textile trades, 22 in transport, 3 in agriculture and fishing, 4 in the woodworking trades, 7 in the chemical, glass and pottery trades, 2 in the food and tobacco trades, 3 in the leather-dressing trades, and 4 in trades not included within these groups. Of the 65 new and old disputes which came to an end in July, 15 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 17 in favour of the employers, and 33 in a compromise.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in July.**—Fifteen cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in July, the initiative being taken in 5 cases by the workpeople, in 9 by the Justice of the Peace, and in 1 by the employers. Conciliation Committees were formed in 9 cases, resulting in the settlement of 7 disputes. As to the 6 cases in which no committees were formed, the employers refused to accept conciliation in 4 cases, 1 dispute was settled eventually by an agreement arrived at before the Justice of the Peace, and in the remaining dispute the places of the strikers were filled by other workpeople.

Strikes in Shipping Trade at Marseilles.—The following is based upon a series of despatches to the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade, from H.M. Ambassador at Paris and the Acting British Consul at Marseilles, dated August 23rd to September 8th. Serious disputes have taken place in the shipping trade at Marseilles. The present movement is regarded as the culmination of the ill-feeling between the masters and men, which brought about the strikes of May and June (see GAZETTE, May, p. 137, and June, p. 170). Since then partial strikes have been constantly occurring. The present conflict began by the strike of the crews of the vessels of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, who had demanded modifications in the scale of pay and working hours, in consequence of which the officers of the company had been thrown out of employment since August 20th.

On August 23rd the stevedore foremen decided to strike on the pretext that it was impossible to maintain authority among the dockers. On that day the Guild of Officers also went on strike out of sympathy with their colleagues of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique, and also with the stevedore foremen. Work in the docks ceased on that day upon all vessels belonging to the port and also on foreign vessels loading or discharging there, and 12,000 men were rendered idle. All sailings of vessels belonging to Marseilles were cancelled, and trade was in a state of stagnation. An attempt at conciliation was made by the Chamber of Commerce, but this was not successful. At a later date the dockers declared they would, under no circumstances, return to work except for an 8-hours day and 6 francs (4s. 10d.) per day.

The object of the employers is to put a stop to the system of arbitrarily boycotting ships or firms until grievances are redressed. In consequence of the lack of materials due to the strike, the oil mills and sugar refineries were seriously affected. On September 1st the International Dockers' Union declared a general strike, and the dispute spread to other French Mediterranean ports; the carters, as well as the painters and scrapers of ships, being affiliated to the Union, were also concerned. This caused the complete cessation of work on foreign ships, there being at this date ten British vessels waiting to discharge their cargo.

[According to press notices 80,000 persons connected with the business of the port of Marseilles were out of employment on August 24th, and on September 1st the number was estimated at 100,000. On September 9th it was reported that the dock and other labourers employed in the harbour had decided to resume work for those employers who did not belong to the League of the Maritime Union.]

Closing of Flour Mills at Marseilles.—The flour mills at Marseilles were closed on September 1st owing to the inability of the employers to accede to the increased tariff for cartage which was being charged by the master carters. This increase was made in consequence of the master carters having granted a 10-hours day, amongst other concessions which the men had demanded.

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

GERMANY.

*Employment in July.**—The month of July brought no change in the general condition of the labour market. A number of trades were passing through their usual period of summer slackness. This slackness was, however, more pronounced than usual, the river traffic and dependent industries being, to a considerable extent, affected by the small rainfall of July. The coal and iron industries and those concerned with the transport of building material suffered especially in consequence. No improvement was reported in coal mining or in blast furnaces; employment in the electrical and chemical trades continued normal, but the cotton industry appeared to be beginning to suffer from the heavy fluctuations in the price of the raw material.

The demand for labour, as measured by the returns of the labour registries, was brisk, and exceeded that of July, 1903; agricultural labourers were much in demand, and could not be obtained in sufficient numbers.

Labour Disputes in August.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* 54 disputes began in Germany during August, as compared with 53 in July. Of these 10 occurred in the building trades, 18 in the metal and engineering trades, 4 in the clothing and cleaning trades, 5 in chemical and pottery trades, 4 in the transport trades, 3 in the printing and paper trades, 6 in the woodworking trades, 2 in the food and tobacco trades, and 1 each in the textile and leather trades.

Courts for the Settlement of Disputes between Tradesmen and their Employees.—Sir F. Lascelles, H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, has transmitted, through the Foreign Office, a copy and summary of a Law, dated July 6th, 1904, which provides for the institution of special tribunals (*Kaufmannsgerichte*) for settling disputes between tradesmen and their employees. In their organisation and working the new tribunals may be said to correspond to the Industrial Courts or *Gewerbegerichte* already in existence for the settlement of disputes between industrial employers and their workpeople (see *GAZETTE*, 1897, p. 293, and 1898, p. 230).

SPAIN.

Observance of Sunday Rest: Regulations for Applying and Enforcing New Law.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated August 24th, Sir E. H. Egerton, H.M. Ambassador at Madrid, forwards a copy of the regulations for applying and enforcing the provisions of the Law of March 3rd, 1904, relating to the observance of Sunday rest, which was referred to in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* for April (p. 106). The new Law came into force on September 4th.

The trades and industries which, for reasons set forth in the Law, are exempted from its provisions are specified in the Regulations, and include all railways, tramways, transport by public conveyances, telephone communication, loading and unloading of vessels in the open sea, chemists' shops, restaurants, and establishments connected with the sale of food generally. With the exception of bakeries (which must close at 7 a.m. on Sundays), all the trades, which are exempted on the ground that their interruption might cause serious prejudice to the public interests or to the trades themselves, are to cease work at 11 a.m. No exemption from the provisions of the law, which is accorded to any particular trade or industry by these regulations, is to apply to women or children under 18 years of age, who may be employed in such trade or industry.

As the printing, publishing or sale of newspapers and periodicals do not come within the lists of occupations exempted by the present regulations, the sale or distribution in the provinces of the important newspapers which are published in Madrid on Saturdays will be prevented.

* *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department).

Conditions of Labour in Iron Mines.—A Report* has recently been issued by the *Instituto de Reformas Sociales* (the Spanish Labour Department) describing the work of a special commission appointed by that Department in November, 1903, to investigate the circumstances of the strike then in progress among the iron miners in the Province of Bilbao (see *GAZETTE*, Nov., 1903, p. 305).

The Report shows that the number of workpeople employed in and about the mines in question was 11,411, the bulk of the work being carried on at the surface. The length of the working day is 10½ hours in winter and 13 hours in summer, broken in each case by an hour's interval for dinner at mid-day.

Apart from the foremen, the best paid class of the workmen engaged in mining operations are those who prepare the charges for blasting (*Barrenadores*). Returns from 70 mineowners show that the average daily wages of this class range from 1s. 9d. to 2s. 5d., the general average being 2s. 2d. The average wages of the main group of miners, *i.e.*, those employed in quarrying and loading the ore (*operarios*) range from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 2d., the general average being 1s. 11d. The wages of lads of 11 to 18 years of age range from 1s. to 1s. 7d. per day, the general average being 1s. 4d.

NORWAY.†

Employment in June.—Out of 9,276 members of 109 Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 185 (or 2.0 per cent.) were out of work at the end of June, as compared with 2.4 per cent. reported out of work by the same Trade Unions at the end of May, and 3.8 per cent. at the end of April.

The following statement shows, by trades, the percentage reported unemployed by the same 109 Unions at the end of each of the three months under review:—

Occupation.	Total Membership of the Unions reporting in June.	Percentage of Membership reported unemployed at the end of		
		April, 1904.	May, 1904.	June, 1904.
Masons and Bricklayers	139	22.1	15.3	7.2
Stonecutters	330	—	—	—
Painters	379	4.8	2.7	—
Iron and other Metal Workers (except Moulders)	4,374	1.2	1.1	1.1
Moulders	718	2.5	3.0	1.0
Miners and Smelters	217	10.0	9.6	5.5
Railway Servants	319	—	—	—
Sawyers, Planers and Building Yard Employees	1,588	17.1	2.0	1.9
Road and Railway Labourers	87	—	—	—
Bakers	331	7.1	5.4	6.6
Printers	950	6.4	5.6	6.0
Bookbinders	173	4.5	5.1	5.8
Mill Labourers	168	1.2	—	—
Others	462	4.1	0.6	0.6
All the above Trades	9,276	3.8	2.4	2.0

AUSTRIA.‡

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

	Males.	Females.	Both Sexes.
July, 1904	175	103	146
June, 1904	181	95	143
July, 1903	217	102	179

Labour Disputes in July.—Twenty-one disputes (exclusive of any which may have occurred in mining, the returns for which are quarterly) were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in July, the number of workpeople taking part in 19 of these being 2,757. Six of the disputes occurred in the building trades, 2 in the metal trades, 3 in the textile trades, 4 in the clothing trades, 4 in the food and tobacco trades, 1 in the pottery and glass trades, and 1 in the paper trade.

* Informe referente á las Minas de Vizcaya. Ministerio de la Gobernación, Instituto de Reformas Sociales. Madrid: Imprenta de la sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Ríos, Miguel Servet, 13, 1904.
 † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
 ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—BUILDING TRADES.

The results of 19 disputes were reported, and of these 8 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 4 in favour of the employers, and 7 were compromised.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Disputes in the Building Trade.—In a series of despatches to the Foreign Office, dated from August 5th to August 30th, the British Acting Consul-General at New York reports further upon the disputes in the building trades at that city, to which reference was made in the August *GAZETTE* (p. 234). The employers locked-out about 32,000 workpeople belonging to 13 Unions on August 8th, in addition to which there were 15,000 labourers rendered idle. The lock-out was to extend to all building operations within a radius of 25 miles from New York. As a result of this action of the employers, the Building Trades Alliance repudiated the arbitration agreement of a year ago. On August 12th it was reported that the electrical work in the New York Rapid Transit Subway was being finished with non-Union labour. An attempt to effect a compromise having failed, the employers threatened to accept the "open-shop" policy unless the men returned to work on August 22nd under the terms of the arbitration agreement, and on that date they proceeded to put this into effect. The Bricklayers' Union thereupon returned to work, and 500 applications were received from the electrical workers. The metal lathers left the Alliance and also returned to work, as also did the Plumbers' Union. The agreement which the employers require individual workpeople to sign on returning to work is as follows:—

"I hereby agree to work under the arbitration plan under such agreement as may be hereafter entered into between the employers and the Union of my trade, it being understood that wages and hours in such agreement shall be the same as prevailed prior to August 1st, 1904. I further agree to work on each and all jobs of the Building Trades Employers' Association without discrimination."

In consequence of the employers engaging men under individual agreements without reference to the Union leaders, the Building Trades Alliance threatened to call out all such Unions as were still at work, and had at the time of reporting called out those connected with the marble industry, in which 3,600 men are employed.

The Tilelayers' Association having applied for an injunction against the Employers' Association to restrain the latter from preventing tilelayers returning to work, the Supreme Court decided that the Arbitration Agreement under which the injunction was sought was not enforceable at law on the ground that it was not a mutual or reciprocal agreement.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike in the Meat Packing Industry.—In a telegram to the Foreign Office, dated September 10th, Mr. Finn, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reported the termination of the strike in the Chicago stockyards (see last month's *GAZETTE*, pp. 228-9). The skilled men were to be taken back at the old wages as vacancies occurred; the unskilled men were to be admitted at a slight reduction, except the drivers who, at the date of the despatch, were still holding out and insisting on the immediate re-employment of all strikers.

From information contained in despatches received through the Foreign Office from Mr. Clive-Bayley, Acting British Consul-General at New York dated August 9th to August 30th, it appears that the 3,500 men in the meat trades in that city, who had already struck in sympathy with the men in Chicago, were joined on August 12th by the engineers and firemen employed in the New York packing houses, and on August 18th by about 6,000 sausage-makers.

So far as New York was concerned the termination of the strike had not been reported up to the date of going to press.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns supplied by 73 Employers Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 84,000 building operatives of all classes, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 185,000, employment in the building trades continued dull during August, and on the whole showed little change as compared with July. It is, however, rather worse than a year ago.

With bricklayers employment is dull but improving, and somewhat better than last month and about the same as a year ago. It is moderate with masons; not so good as a month ago in England, but rather better in Scotland.

With carpenters and joiners employment is bad; worse than a month ago in England, but much the same in Scotland. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 5.9 at the end of August, compared with 5.7 in July, and 2.9 a year ago.

Employment with painters generally is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With plasterers it is much the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. With plumbers employment is reported as rather better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 8.9 at the end of August, compared with 10.4 at the end of July, and 7.1 a year ago.

With slaters and tilers in England and Ireland employment is bad, slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago; in Scotland it is quiet.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Aug., 1904, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	7,159	4.2	6.7	3.1	- 2.5	+ 1.1
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	6,073	9.9	8.7	0.5	+ 1.2	+ 3.4
Lancashire and Cheshire	19,532	6.2	4.9	2.6	+ 1.3	+ 3.6
Yorkshire	5,190	7.3	4.8	3.5	+ 2.5	+ 3.8
East Midlands	3,095	3.7	3.6	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 1.7
West Midlands	4,562	3.4	3.8	2.3	- 0.4	+ 1.1
Eastern Counties	1,082	5.1	5.5	2.7	- 0.4	+ 2.4
S. and S.W. Counties	5,961	3.8	4.5	2.0	- 0.7	+ 1.8
Wales and Monmouth	1,844	3.3	3.0	3.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Other Districts	640	1.1	2.1	1.6	- 1.0	- 0.5
SCOTLAND	5,540	9.0	7.7	2.3	+ 1.3	+ 6.7
IRELAND	4,791	6.2	6.2	2.4	...	+ 3.8
UNITED KINGDOM	56,469	5.9	5.7	2.9	+ 0.2	+ 3.0
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	985	7.5	11.4	5.3	- 3.9	+ 2.2
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,625	9.1	9.8	9.1	- 0.7	...
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,677	8.3	10.6	7.9	- 2.3	+ 0.4
Yorkshire	1,218	8.1	10.9	5.9	- 2.8	+ 2.2
East Midlands	677	6.2	7.8	3.6	- 1.6	+ 2.6
West Midlands	450	4.8	7.6	4.3	- 2.8	+ 0.5
Eastern Counties	111	7.2	4.5	3.3	+ 2.7	+ 0.9
S. and S.W. Counties	479	6.1	7.8	5.3	- 1.7	+ 0.8
Wales and Monmouth	286	5.2	5.7	9.0	- 0.5	- 3.8
Other Districts	28	3.6	13.3	8.3	+ 0.7	- 4.7
SCOTLAND	1,993	13.5	12.6	6.4	+ 9.9	+ 7.1
IRELAND	634	11.2	11.5	14.6	- 0.3	- 3.4
UNITED KINGDOM	11,163	8.9	10.4	7.1	- 1.5	+ 1.8

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

London.—Employment in London is slack generally. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 71

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

employers show that in the last week of August they paid wages to 16,642 workpeople of all classes, as compared with 15,292 in July, and 15,663 in August, 1903.

Northern Counties.—Employment generally continues dull, and much the same as a month ago. It is worse than a year ago.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—General slackness is reported, and no improvement is shown as compared with last month. Employment was, however, rather worse than a year ago.

Yorkshire.—No improvement has taken place in this district as compared with a month ago, and employment generally is bad, and worse than a year ago.

East Midland Counties.—The general condition of employment continues dull, and is much the same as a month ago. A slight improvement, however, is reported with carpenters and joiners at Northampton and with plasterers at Leicester.

West Midland Counties.—Employment shows no improvement as compared with a month ago. In the Potteries it continues bad; in the Birmingham district and at West Bromwich and Coventry it is quiet. At Wolverhampton, Dudley and Walsall it is slack.

Eastern Counties.—In Norfolk and Cambridge employment continues slack. In Suffolk and Essex it is dull generally.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment generally in this district is quiet, and much the same as a month ago.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In North Wales employment continues quiet. In South Wales and Monmouthshire on the whole it is fair.

Scotland.—Employment generally continues dull and shows little change on the whole as compared with a month ago, but it is worse than a year ago.

Ireland.—In Dublin and Belfast employment continues dull or bad generally. In Cork it is fair in most branches.

COAL MINING.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows little change as compared with a month ago but it is not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked by the mines was less last month than in August of any year since 1896.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries which furnished returns for the three periods is about the same as in July and in August, 1903.

Returns received relating to 1,350 pits, employing 539,515 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries during the four weeks ended August 20th was 4.76, as compared with 4.79 in July, and 4.89 in August, 1903. In comparing these percentages it should be remembered that the total possible working time was reduced by holidays in all three periods, the average loss of time on this account being estimated at 0.28 days per week in August, 1904 and 1903, and 0.13 days in July 1904.

The decrease in the time worked per week in England as compared with a month ago is due to the effect on the average of the holiday in August. On the other hand the apparent increase in the average number of days worked in Scotland during August as compared with July is due to the average for the latter month being lowered on account of the July holidays.

Of the 539,515 workpeople included in the returns, 315,598 or 58.5 per cent. were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ending August 20th, 1904, as compared with 55.7 per cent. in July, and 65.2 per cent. in August, 1903.

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

District.	No. of Workpeople employed in Aug., 1904, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1904, as compared with	
		Aug. 20th, 1904.*	July 23rd, 1904.	Aug. 29th, 1903.*	A m'th ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	40,426	5.20	5.38	5.23	- .18	- .03
Durham ...	100,187	5.20	5.21	5.30	- .01	- .10
Cumberland ...	6,554	4.36	4.27	5.32	+ .09	- .96
Yorkshire ...	76,079	4.58	4.58	4.74	...	- .16
Lancashire and Cheshire...	49,557	4.18	4.29	4.41	- .11	- .23
Derbyshire ...	38,002	4.11	3.82	4.58	+ .29	- .47
Nottingham and Leicester	26,970	3.68	3.74	4.26	- .06	- .58
Staffordshire ...	27,300	3.89	4.15	4.08	- .26	- .19
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick ...	10,048	4.48	4.11	4.70	+ .37	- .22
Gloucester and Somerset	8,292	4.45	4.27	4.72	+ .18	- .27
North Wales ...	10,696	4.49	4.20	5.06	+ .29	- .57
South Wales and Mon. ...	105,940	5.27	5.65	5.10	- .38	+ .17
ENGLAND & WALES ...	500,051	4.73	4.82	4.85	- .09	- .12
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	18,660	5.13	4.33	5.28	+ .80	- .15
The Lothians ...	4,628	5.42	5.07	5.58	+ .35	- .16
Fife ...	15,532	5.16	4.63	5.54	+ .53	- .38
SCOTLAND ...	38,820	5.18	4.94	5.41	+ .64	- .23
IRELAND.						
... ..	644	4.68	4.82	4.86	- .14	- .18
United Kingdom ...	839,515	4.76	4.79	4.89	- .03	- .13

Returns received from local correspondents and others show that in Northumberland house coal pits worked an average of about 5 days per week, and steam coal pits rather more than 5 days. In Durham employment was moderate; house, manufacturing, gas and coking coal pits averaged respectively 5.10, 4.86, 5.25 and 5.3 days per week. With coke yard workers employment has been bad.

At pits in the Leeds district employment has been moderate, 4 days per week being generally worked. At Morley 5 days per week have been worked, but there and at Dewsbury a number of miners are unemployed. At South Kirkby full time has been worked in the Barnsley seam, but in the house coal seam employment is slack. In the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham district an average of about 4.3 days per week has been worked. A number of colliery surfacemen are unemployed.

In Lancashire employment continues slack generally, and is worse than a month ago.

In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire employment continues slack. On Cannock Chase an average of nearly 3 days per week has been worked, and in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire the average was about 3.2 days. In Shropshire employment continues fair.

In the Forest of Dean employment continues bad. In the Bristol district about 4.4 days per week was the average worked. In the Radstock district employment was affected by the continuance of a dispute.

Employment is slack at collieries in North Wales. It is, however, slightly better than in July, but considerably worse than a year ago.

In Scotland employment is fairly good in Lanarkshire, fair elsewhere in West Scotland, fairly good in the Mid and East Lothians, and better than a month ago in West Lothian. In the latter district a considerable number of men are still on short time. In Fifeshire a slight improvement is reported as compared with a month ago.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during August amounted to 4,081,192 tons, as compared with 4,191,599 tons in July, and 3,960,065 tons in August, 1903.

* This period includes the August Bank Holiday.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

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

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

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good, but the average time worked shows a slight decrease as compared with a month and year ago. During the four weeks ended 20th August, the average number of days worked per week by the 129 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.70, as compared with 5.74 in July, and 5.76 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed during August was practically the same as a month ago, but was 1.5 per cent. less than in August, 1903.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Aug., 1904, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average Number of Days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1904, as compared with	
		Aug. 20th, 1904.	July 23rd, 1904.	Aug. 29th, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,610	5.79	5.94	5.91	- 0.15	- 0.12
Cleveland ...	7,054	5.93	5.72	5.88	+ 0.21	+ 0.05
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	910	5.47	5.68	5.71	- 0.21	- 0.24
Northamptonshire	580	5.50	5.78	5.49	- 0.28	+ 0.01
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,001	4.28	5.69	4.60	- 1.41	- 0.32
Other places in England ...	133	5.71	6.00	5.43	- 0.29	+ 0.28
Total, England ...	14,268	5.72	5.79	5.76	- 0.07	- 0.04
SCOTLAND ...	948	5.33	4.98	5.70	+ 0.35	- 0.37
IRELAND ...	125	5.94	5.91	5.95	+ 0.03	- 0.01
Total and Averages	15,361	5.70	5.74	5.76	- 0.04	- 0.06

Of the 15,361 workpeople covered by the returns, 12,726, or 82.8 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended 20th August, 1904, as compared with 91.4 per cent. a month ago, and 87.1 per cent. in August, 1903.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners continues good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in August 2,809 men were employed, as compared with 2,831 a month ago, and 2,713 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended 20th August was 5.57, as compared with 5.50 a month ago and 5.73 in August, 1903.

Tin, Copper, and Lead Mining.—Employment in the tin and copper mines in Cornwall and Devon is reported as bad in the Calstock district, as dull in the neighbourhood of Liskeard, as moderate in the Camborne district, and as having improved in the Marazion district. In the lead mines of Flintshire and Denbighshire employment is good, as also in the Weardale district of Durham.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment remains good in North Wales. In North Cornwall it is reported as moderate; in Argyllshire as fair.

Granite.—In Leicestershire employment remains fairly good. In Cornwall and Devon short time is being worked. Employment continues good in North Wales and fair in Aberdeenshire.

Limestone.—Employment in the Weardale district is reported as fair. In Cumberland employment is fairly good. In Derbyshire it is not very brisk. In North Wales it continues good. In the neighbourhood of Plymouth employment is quiet. In the blue lias quarries of Somerset it remains moderate.

Other Stone.—Employment in the Gateshead district is reported as more regular than a month ago, though still slack at quarries getting stone for building purposes. It is fair at Blyth, and in the Haslingden district. At Barnsley grindstone makers and general quarrymen report employment as moderate. At Wickersley grindstone makers are fairly employed. At Normanton general quarrymen are making full time. Chert quarrymen in Derbyshire are dull. At the grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district employment is moderate. In the Clee Hill (road material) quarries it is good. In the Forest of Dean quarries it is fair. In Forfarshire it remains bad.

Sett-making.—Employment is reported as fairly good in Leicestershire; as moderate in the Sheffield district; as good in North Wales. In Scotland it is good at Aberdeen; fair at Airdrie; bad in the Edinburgh district.

China Clay.—Employment is fairly good in both the Lee Moor (Devon) and St. Austell districts.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

Employment in this industry shows little change as compared with a month ago, but in England and Wales (especially in Cumberland) it continues considerably below the level of a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that one furnace in Ayrshire was damped down or blown out and that one was blown out and one re-lit in Yorkshire. At the end of August 297 furnaces were in blast as compared with 298 in July and 322 in August, 1903. The number of workpeople employed at works included in the returns is estimated at about 21,100.

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

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1904, as compared with	
	Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	77	77	79	...	- 2
Cumberland & Lancs.	30	30	41	...	- 11
S. and S.W. Yorks.	13	13	15	...	- 2
Derby & Nottingham	36	36	37	...	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln, } (and Northampton)	24	24	26	...	- 2
Stafford & Worcester	28	28	33	...	- 5
S. Wales & Monmouth	13	13	15	...	- 2
Other districts ...	6	6	7	...	- 1
Returned from England & Wales	227	227	253	...	- 26
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND ...	70	71	69	- 1	+ 1
Total furnaces included in returns	297	298	322	- 1	- 25

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT in August, on the whole, showed a slight improvement over the previous month, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns furnished by employers and relating to 194 works show that 74,170 workpeople were employed during the week ended August 27th, an increase of 409 as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1,351 as compared with August, 1903. Taking the total number of shifts worked by all workpeople as a basis, the volume of employment showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. over the previous month, but was 4.1 per cent. less than a year ago.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—IRON AND STEEL WORKS; TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

Number Employed.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1904, as compared with	
	Aug. 27th, 1904.	July 23rd, 1904.	Aug. 29th, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales	62,165	61,731	63,538	+ 434	- 1,373
Scotland	12,005	12,030	11,983	- 25	+ 22
Total	74,170	73,761	75,521	+ 409	- 1,351

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked by over 90 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table. The average number of shifts worked per man by such workpeople in the week ended August 27th was 5.28, as compared with 5.26 in the preceding month, and with 5.41 in the week ended August 29th, 1903.

Number of Shifts worked.	Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended		
	Aug. 27th, 1904.	July 23rd, 1904.	Aug. 29th, 1903.
Under 5 per week	16.2	17.5	10.9
5 per week	31.0	31.7	35.2
5½ per week	2.7	1.5	1.5
6 per week	49.5	48.7	51.6
Over 6 per week	0.6	0.6	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the basis of the foregoing Table the total number of shifts worked by all workpeople included in the returns was approximately 391,830 in the last week of August, 1904, 388,100 in the last week of the preceding month, and 408,370 in the last week of August, 1903.

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

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment with steel smelters is fairly good, most of the furnaces being fully employed. Steel plate mills continued working full time, but at bar mills there is some short time. Employment at forges on the Tyne is only moderate; on the Wear it is fair. At finished steel and iron works employment is moderate.

Tees and Hartlepool.—Employment is good at iron and steel works and better than a year ago. At rail mills it is quiet, and not so good as a year ago. Employment in metal expansion works is good, in chair and pipe foundries fair, and in other departments moderate.

South Yorkshire.—In the Sheffield district employment in the steel trade is slack, except on special classes of steel. Steel workers at Parkgate are fairly busy, but ironworkers are slack. Steel workers at Rotherham and Icles report a slight improvement. Ironworkers at Rotherham and Masbro' are moderately employed. With makers of tyres, axles, springs and baths employment is quiet. At Leeds employment improved with steel workers, and was fairly good at the end of the month. Steel smelters at Scunthorpe report employment as good.

Midlands.—In South Staffordshire steel smelters are, generally speaking, working full time; at Wednesbury, however, employment is slack. It is good at Hanley, quiet in Shropshire. The improvement reported a month ago at steel mills in Staffordshire has been maintained. In Shropshire employment with steel millmen is good. It is rather slack with iron mill workers in both counties. Employment is slack at iron and steel forges in Derbyshire, with much short time.

South Wales.—Steel smelters report employment as good at most works, but short time is being worked by some firms.

Scotland.—Employment with steel smelters is, on the whole, fairly good. Some short time, however, is being worked at Parkhead. With iron and steel workers employment is fair.

TINPLATE WORKS.

An improvement is shown in the tinplate industry, as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

At the end of August 379 mills were working, as compared with 354 at the end of July, and 345 a year ago. At the 75 works open, 58 had all their mills in operation, while the remaining 17 works had 77 mills going out of a total of 109. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 379 mills was 19,000.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 369 mills were in operation at the end of August, as compared with 342 a month ago, and 333 a year ago.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment	58	302	...	302
Works giving partial employment	17	77	32	109
Total at end of August, 1904*	75	379	32	411
Corresponding Total for July, 1904*	75	354	53	407
Corresponding Total for Aug., 1903†	66	345	40	385

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

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.
To United States	6,013	7,007	3,587	13	—	71
Other Countries	23,685	17,986	16,881	4,994	3,912	5,022
Total	32,598	24,993	20,468	4,977	3,942	5,093

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment, on the whole, shows a slight improvement as compared with the previous month, but is still bad. It is worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,791 members had 7,315 (or 12.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 12.9 per cent. at the end of July, and with 11.2 per cent. at the end of August, 1903. The districts in which the percentage of unemployed was greatest were the East of Scotland, the Bristol Channel Ports, the Clyde and Belfast, while it was lowest on the South Coast, the Thames and Medway, and the Wear.

As compared with a month ago, the districts which show the greatest improvement are the Mersey and the Humber, while the greatest decline is in the Belfast, Tees and Hartlepool, and East of Scotland districts. As compared with a year ago, an improve-

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

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING TRADES.

ment is shown at the Bristol Channel Ports, and on the Tyne and Wear, but there is a falling off in all the other districts, especially at Belfast.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1904 included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Aug., 1904, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,413	11.3	12.2	13.1	- 0.9	- 1.8
Wear	4,744	8.6	9.1	9.2	- 0.5	- 0.6
Tees and Hartlepool	4,855	12.6	10.4	12.0	+ 2.2	+ 0.6
Humber	2,472	10.5	12.5	6.3	- 2.0	+ 4.2
Thames and Medway	4,463	7.7	8.7	6.1	- 1.0	+ 1.6
South Coast	4,033	5.6	5.3	6.2	+ 0.3	+ 0.6
Bristol Channel Ports	2,715	20.7	19.4	22.5	+ 1.3	- 1.8
Mersey	4,106	13.7	17.0	13.5	- 3.3	+ 0.2
Clyde	12,281	16.0	17.0	12.7	- 1.0	+ 3.3
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	2,200	26.0	23.9	17.1	+ 2.1	+ 8.9
Belfast	2,775	15.1	12.4	4.8	+ 2.7	+ 10.3
Other Districts	3,078	7.8	5.6	7.4	+ 2.2	+ 0.4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	87,701	12.7	12.9	11.2	- 0.2	+ 1.5

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

Employment on the Tyne continues dull. On repair work in the lower reaches of the river and at Jarrow it is bad. Shipsmiths report it as slowly improving.

On the Wear a further improvement has taken place, and employment is also better than a year ago. Iron shipwrights report employment as moderate; drillers and hole cutters as steady on new work, bad on repair work.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment shows a decline as compared with the previous month, and is slightly worse than a year ago. At Middlesbrough it is fair, at Hartlepool moderate, and at Stockton slack. On repair work employment is good at Hartlepool, moderate at Middlesbrough. Shipjoiners are slack.

Employment in the Humber district has improved, but is not up to the level of a year ago. At Grimsby it is reported as good on repairs.

On the Thames and Medway employment is better on the whole than in the previous month, but not so good as a year ago. In the ship-repairing yards on the Thames it is bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Iron and steel shipbuilders report employment as slack at Chatham, fair at Sheerness; shipwrights as fairly good at Chatham, moderate at Sheerness.

Employment on the South Coast is fair generally, and shows little change either as compared with a month ago or a year ago. At Portsmouth and Devonport shipwrights report it as fairly good, iron shipbuilders as slack or bad. At Southampton it is moderate on ship work, bad on yacht work.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment continues bad, and is rather worse than in July, though not quite so bad as a year ago. At Cardiff employment is reported as slightly better than a month ago, but worse than in August, 1903. Shipwrights report employment as good at Pembroke Dock.

On the Mersey employment has improved, and is now moderate. It shows little change as compared with a year ago.

Employment on the Clyde continues slack, but is slightly better than in July. It is, however, worse than a year ago. At Clydebank and Dumbarton shipwrights report it as fair.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment is bad, and worse than a month ago and in August, 1903. Shipwrights report it as fair at Aberdeen.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

At Belfast employment has further declined, and is much worse than a year ago.

Other Districts.—Employment continues moderate at Barrow. It is fair at Ipswich and Dublin; dull at Cork; bad at Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 7 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 25 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment remains dull, and is worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 142,315 members show that 9,787 (or 6.9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 6.7 per cent. at the end of July, and 4.2 per cent. at the end of August, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed is highest in the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn district, and in the East of Scotland. The South Coast, London, and South Wales districts continue to show the lowest percentages of men out of work.

As compared with a month ago, the figures show an improvement in Scotland, where employment in July was somewhat affected by the Glasgow Fair holidays. In most of the English districts a decline is shown.

As compared with a year ago the percentages of unemployed indicate a general decline in employment, except in the South Coast district. The falling off is most marked in Lancashire and Scotland.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Aug., 1904, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	14,391	7.4	6.1	6.2	+ 1.3	+ 1.2
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,333	8.2	7.5	3.3	+ 0.7	+ 4.9
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,403	11.1	10.7	4.9	+ 0.4	+ 6.2
West Riding Towns	11,814	8.7	8.4	4.9	+ 0.3	+ 3.8
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,416	6.4	5.2	3.6	+ 1.2	+ 2.8
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,273	5.5	5.6	3.9	- 0.1	+ 1.6
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,133	8.1	6.9	4.6	+ 1.2	+ 3.5
London and Neighbouring District	12,288	4.3	4.3	2.9	...	+ 1.4
South Coast	4,606	2.5	1.7	2.0	+ 0.8	- 0.4
South Wales and Bristol District	6,392	5.1	4.3	3.8	+ 0.8	+ 1.3
Glasgow and District	13,755	8.7	10.1	4.4	- 1.4	+ 4.3
East of Scotland	3,656	10.6	11.2	6.5	- 0.6	+ 4.1
Belfast and Dublin	3,492	7.2	7.2	6.9	...	+ 0.3
Other Districts	5,444	5.2	5.4	3.5	- 0.2	+ 1.7
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	142,315	6.9	6.7	4.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.7

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

North-East Coast.—Employment generally continues quiet, and has declined somewhat. It is worse than a year ago. In Wallsend and Howdon, however, it remains good. With patternmakers on the Tyne and Wear employment is fairly good. In the Tees district it is good at Hartlepool, moderate elsewhere. With ironfounders employment is good at Newcastle and Blydon, moderate in the Wallsend and Shields district and at Middlesbrough, dull at Durham. Brass finishers report employment as bad, and worse than a month ago. It continues good with bridge builders and wagon makers on the Tees.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment is dull and continues to show a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. With smiths and strikers and machine workers at Manchester, however, it is stated

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—ENGINEERING; MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

to be fair, while at Openshaw the patternmakers and coachmakers report employment as moderate. It is improving with boiler-makers at Newton-le-Willows.

Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.—Employment continues bad, and is much worse than a year ago. A good deal of short time is being worked at textile machinery and other engineering works in Oldham. In Blackburn and Burnley, however, textile machine makers report an improvement. Employment at Preston is fair with coachmakers, good with pattern-makers. It is also fairly good with ironfounders at Bury.

West Riding Towns.—Employment is dull, and shows no improvement on the whole. At Sheffield, however, steam engine makers report it as moderate, patternmakers as fair. Employment is moderate with engineers at Huddersfield. Ironfounders at Chapelton and Keighley describe it as good.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—In this district employment is quiet, and not so good as a year ago.

West Midlands.—Employment is quiet and shows little change as compared with a month ago. It is bad at Birmingham, except with ironfounders, who report it as moderate. The cycle industry is quiet in Birmingham, Coventry, and Redditch, with much short time. Employment in this section at Wolverhampton has declined, but is fair for the time of year. In the motor trade employment is fair. Electrical engineers report it as fair in Birmingham, slack in Wolverhampton.

East Midlands.—Employment shows a decline, and is worse than a year ago. At Leicester it is bad generally, but is fair with shoe and hosiery machine makers. Electrical engineers at Loughborough report employment as good. It is bad at Nottingham, with a good deal of short time in the cycle industry. In Derbyshire it is dull on the whole, but railway carriage and wagon builders at Derby are fairly well employed.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment in this district remains quiet. It is rather dull with pattern-makers, moderate with ironfounders. With brass finishers employment though still depressed has slightly improved. With instrument makers it has declined, and is bad. With copper-smiths it is fair.

South Coast.—On the whole employment shows little change, and is only moderate.

South Wales and Bristol District.—In this district employment is quiet generally, though fair at Swindon. In South Wales some overtime has been worked at certain works, but employment is, on the whole, dull. Ironfounders at Trowbridge and Llanely report it as good.

Glasgow and District.—Employment, though still dull, shows some improvement as compared with July, when it was somewhat affected by holidays. It is worse than a year ago. At Greenock, Clydebank, and Johnstone employment is reported as moderate; at Dumbarton as good. With patternmakers it is, on the whole, fair, as also with brass moulders and boiler and pipe coverers.

East of Scotland.—In this district employment shows a slight improvement, but is slack and worse than a year ago. At Falkirk employment has declined with iron-moulders, there being a large increase in the number of men on short time.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment continues dull at Belfast. Brassfounders, however, report it as fair. At Dublin employment is still slack.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment continues moderate, but has declined with ironfounders and patternmakers. At Lancaster it has improved, but coachmakers report it as bad. Employment continues fair in the Eastern Counties. It is moderate at Stoke, bad at Hanley.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 20 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Compared with a month ago employment is shown to be about the same, and is worse than it was in August, 1903.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—Employment continues bad in the brass trade generally; it is worse than a month ago and a year ago, and there is much short time. In Birmingham there is a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but employment is bad in both the bedstead and fire brass branches. Employment is reported as fair at Exeter, and at Rotherham there is a slight improvement.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—On nuts and bolts employment is reported fair in the Wolverhampton district, moderate at Birmingham and Smethwick, slack in South Wales. In Birmingham employment is moderate with makers of wire and cut nails, quiet with makers of machine-made rivets. In the Blackheath district it is bad with makers of wrought nails and rivets. Employment is bad on malleable nails and protectors.

Tubes.—In the South Staffordshire trade employment is reported as slightly better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. In Birmingham it is fairly good in the seamless brass and copper tube trades. In South Wales employment is slack and worse than a month ago.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—With cable chain makers and their strikers, and with makers of drolled, side-welded, and block chains at Cradley employment has declined, and is moderate to slack. In South Wales the chain makers are slack. On the North-east Coast it is fairly good on large chains, but slack on small work. With anchor smiths employment is bad in the Black Country and in South Wales. Anvil and vice makers in the Dudley district report employment as slack, and there is some half time worked. In Birmingham and West Bromwich employment is fairly good with spring makers, fair with axle makers. At Wednesbury these trades report employment as bad, as also do makers of railway tyres, coach axles, and makers of iron and steel forgings. Employment is bad with makers of buckles, case hames, cart gear, and bits and stirrups at Walsall.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—In the lock, key and latch trade employment continues slack, and is worse than a month and a year ago; there is a good deal of short time in both the Willenhall and Wolverhampton districts. Hollow-ware makers at Birmingham report employment as slightly improved, at West Bromwich as very quiet with some half time, at Wolverhampton as fair. At Sheffield hollow ware buffers and stampers are slack. At Birmingham employment is reported as fairly good with makers of matchets and hoes, and at Wednesbury as good with makers of Brazil and plantation hoes. In the Wolverhampton district employment is fair with iron hurdle and fence makers and tank makers; quiet with makers of vermin traps, and of spades and forks at Stourbridge; bad with electrical and cycle castings at Oakengates.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—File smiths report employment as fair in the Wolverhampton district, file cutters as slack at Birmingham. At Sheffield hand forgers of files report employment as moderate, other branches as slack. Edge tool makers are slack both in Birmingham and Sheffield.

Cutlery, etc.—In Sheffield employment is reported as slack, except with sheep shear makers, who report it as fair. The needle makers at Redditch report employment as quiet, the fish hook makers as good. Machine needle makers at Leicester and Nottingham report trade as slack, with short time general in the first named town.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment in this branch is reported as fair in Glasgow and moderate in Suffolk and

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

Essex, but in other centres of the trade it is dull, with some short time.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London zinc workers report employment as fair, other branches as bad. In Manchester, Exeter, Edinburgh, and Dundee employment has been fair, at Aberdeen it has been good, at Birmingham it has been moderate on tin plate work, quiet on iron plate. In other centres employment generally is described as quiet or bad.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London both branches of the silver fork and spoon trade are quiet, as are also the small-silver workers. Employment is bad with goldsmiths and jewellers, diamond workers and silver-plate polishers, quiet with silversmiths, moderate with electro-platers, slack with gold beaters. In Birmingham the jewellery trade reports employment as dull, silversmiths as quiet, Britannia metal workers as bad. In the Coventry watch trade it is bad. In Sheffield silver platers and gilders are fairly well employed, other branches are slack.

Wirework.—Wire drawers and workers in Glasgow report employment as fairly good; wire drawers in Warrington as slightly better; wire drawers in London as fairly good, workers as bad. Wire drawers in Manchester are slack and have a large percentage on short time.

Farriers.—Employment generally is quiet, but is rather better than a month and a year ago. At Aberdeen it is reported as being good; at Nottingham, Leicester, Dundee, and Dublin it is fair; on the North-east Coast and in the Eastern Counties it is moderate.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade during the last week in August has been received through the Trade Correspondent to the Department from 599 firms employing 146,911 workpeople. Information has also been received from the Local Correspondents.

On August 24th it was announced that members of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, owning over 75 per cent. of the Egyptian spindles in the Federation, had signified their willingness to co-operate with spinners of Egyptian cotton in the Bolton and Chorley Associations by working 40 hours per week or its equivalent. In accordance with the terms of a resolution passed on August 19th, instructions were therefore given to members using Egyptian cotton to close their mills on Saturday and Monday, August 27th and 29th, and each succeeding Saturday and Monday during September.

With spinners of American cotton, on the other hand, it was resolved on August 26th that after August 29th members were to be allowed full liberty of action with regard to short time working for the week following, and a meeting was fixed for September 9th to consider the question of further short time working. At this meeting the following resolution was adopted:—

"That this meeting leaves the question of further short time working among spinners of American cotton to the discretion of each individual member."

In the spinning mills covered by the employers' returns 96.7 per cent. of the total spindles were working in the last week* of August, compared with 97.5 per cent. in July, and 92.8 per cent. in the corresponding week in August, 1903. Many of these spindles were working short time and in many cases 40 hours instead of 47½ hours in July. The proportion of the total number of operatives covered by the returns who were in mills in which short time was worked in the last week of August was 41.6 per cent., compared with 38.2 per cent. a month ago, and 49.5 per cent. a year ago.

In the weaving branch employment shows an improvement, a smaller percentage of workpeople working short

*The week selected is that ending on the last pay day, and does not include any holiday week, nor Saturday, August 27th, when organised short time began among spinners of Egyptian cotton.

time, and a smaller percentage of looms standing, but much slackness is reported in several centres, and employment is not satisfactory.

Of the total looms covered by the employers' returns 94.4 per cent. were working in the last week in August, compared with 92.9 per cent. a month ago, and 89.5 per cent. a year ago.

In the following Table the workpeople included in the employers' returns are shown separately for the preparing, spinning, weaving, and other departments, together with the percentage increase apparent compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed in last week of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in number employed in last week of Aug., 1904, as compared with	
	August, 1904.	July, 1904.	August, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing	19,831	19,886	18,814	- 0.3	+ 5.4
Spinning	30,480	30,421	28,191	- 0.8	+ 7.1
Weaving	82,468	82,205	80,622	+ 0.3	+ 2.2
Others... ..	14,432	14,296	13,898	+ 1.0	+ 3.8
Total	146,911	146,809	141,595	+ 0.1	+ 3.8

It will be seen from the above Table that the number of persons employed by the firms sending returns showed a decrease in the preparing and spinning branches, and an increase in the weaving and subsidiary branches compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there is an increase in all branches, which is especially noticeable in the spinning branch.

SPINNING.

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

District.	Percentage of Total* Number employed who were in Mills working short time in Preparing and Spinning Departments.			Spindles Working per cent. of Total Number of Spindles.		
	Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.
Ashton District	44.7	42.7	57.4	95.4	97.0	92.0
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	52.6	46.4	37.6	99.1	99.5	97.8
Oldham District	78.2	72.4	64.9	97.2	98.3	96.4
Bolton District	71.1	3.1	17.9	96.6	98.9	91.0
Wigan District	11.6	3.1	54.2	93.8	94.0	80.3
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden	37.2	51.1	74.7	98.3	98.2	96.1
Preston, Chorley, and Lancaster	8.8	1.6	19.4	98.3	99.1	77.0
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen	28.1	11.6	44.1	95.6	96.7	96.9
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, and Nelson	33.9	64.6	68.3	99.6	99.6	88.3
Manchester District	51.0	46.6	20.7	91.5	79.8	96.0
Total	41.6	38.2	49.5	96.7	97.5	92.8

From the above Table it appears that employment on the whole was worse than at the end of July, more workpeople being affected by short time and more spindles standing. It was better, however, than a year ago in both respects. Compared with a month ago the only districts showing an improvement are the Bury and Rochdale, and Burnley and Nelson districts. In Bolton the holidays were extended in several firms to ten days instead of three.

Compared with a year ago employment shows an improvement, fewer operatives being affected by short time and fewer spindles standing. The Blackburn district and the Manchester district are the only ones showing an increased number of spindles standing. An increased percentage of operatives affected by short time is shown in the Stockport, Oldham and Manchester districts.

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

WEAVING.

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

District.	Percentage of Total Number employed who were in Factories working short time during the last week of August.			Looms Working per cent. of Total Number of Looms.		
	Month of August.			Eight Months ended August.		
	1904.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1904.	1903.
Ashton District ...	0.0	5.1	54.8	78.8	79.8	78.5
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ...	20.1	15.9	16.5	99.8	99.1	99.7
Oldham District ...	32.6	30.1	53.8	70.4	73.6	78.9
Bolton District ...	28.3	23.3	32.6	90.8	90.3	90.2
Wigan District ...	18.9	14.7	80.3	83.6	83.1	63.0
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Todmorden, and Walsden ...	6.3	17.7	31.7	91.9	90.2	89.2
Preston, Chorley, & Lancaster ...	0.0	0.0	8.7	92.8	93.4	86.5
Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen ...	6.3	0.1	20.7	97.8	96.0	89.5
Burnley, Padiham, Bacup, Clitheroe, Colne, & Nelson ...	3.0	17.4	9.7	97.8	97.5	94.1
Manchester District ...	30.0	37.7	22.5	84.9	65.6	89.1
Total ...	9.9	12.1	22.8	94.4	92.9	89.5

Compared with a month ago there is a slight decline both in the percentage of operatives affected by short time and in the percentage of looms standing. The decline in the percentage affected by short time was, however, only apparent in the Ashton, Bury, Burnley, and Manchester districts; in the other districts an increase took place except in the Preston district, where full time was run in both periods. The percentage of looms standing was greatest in the Oldham, Ashton, Wigan, and Manchester districts.

Compared with a year ago a considerable improvement is apparent both in the percentage of operatives affected by short time and in the percentage of looms idle. The Stockport and Manchester districts are the only ones showing an increased percentage affected by short time, and the Oldham and Manchester districts are the only ones showing a higher percentage of looms standing.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of August the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.21d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.72d. and the lowest 5.94d. The price for July was 6.27d. and for August, 1903, 6.76d. For the period from 1st to 10th September, the average price of "middling American" was 6.62d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during August averaged 7.17d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.18d. and the lowest 7.18d. The price for July was 6.86d., and for August, 1903, 9.47d. For the period from 1st to 10th September the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.33d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

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

	Month of August.			Eight months ended August.		
	1904.			1903.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imported ...	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns ...	66,276	69,292	107,527	2,154,562	2,099,316	1,843,556
Exported ...	178,459	120,944	177,435	2,069,345	1,991,220	1,764,569
Total ...	37,184	60,213	25,034	320,082	359,221	277,380

The quantity of all kinds of American cotton forwarded from English ports to inland towns during the first eight months of 1904, was 1,418,824 bales, or 233,812 bales less than in the same period in 1903. The corresponding figures for Egyptian cotton are 200,693 in 1904, and 171,869 in 1903.

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of August.			Eight Months ended August.		
	1904.			1903.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
American ...	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Brazilian ...	140,421	93,808	150,933	1,682,651	1,652,636	1,418,824
East Indian ...	17,996	10,998	3,702	113,749	91,667	48,693
Egyptian ...	2,133	3,055	5,162	11,037	37,597	68,387
Miscellaneous ...	9,453	9,037	14,294	201,635	171,869	200,693
Total ...	178,459	120,944	177,435	2,069,345	1,991,220	1,764,569

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 9th September was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 154,010 bales, compared with 139,470 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in August, 1904, and in the corresponding months of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during August averaged 12.97d. per lb., as compared with 12.12d. per lb. in August, 1903, an increase of about 7 per cent. The corresponding value for July, 1904, was 13.44d. per lb. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to nearly 9 per cent., the value being 2.85d. per yard in August, 1904, as compared with 2.62d. in August, 1903. The declared value in July, 1904, was 2.79d. per yard:—

	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	1904.			1903.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Cotton Yarn & Twist—	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Grey ...	10,423,800	8,664,000	11,459,500	10.34	12.26	12.86
Bleached and Dyed ...	3,374,500	2,757,000	2,409,300	10.97	11.68	13.46
Total ...	13,798,300	11,421,000	13,868,800	10.49	12.12	12.97
Cotton Piece Goods—	yds.	yds.	yds.	per yd.	per yd.	per yd.
Grey or Unbleached ...	177,245,700	163,918,700	192,779,700	2.06	2.07	2.26
Bleached ...	114,806,500	118,515,200	143,954,200	2.51	2.52	2.69
Printed ...	87,211,400	104,133,100	98,786,000	2.67	2.74	3.02
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ...	75,134,200	98,449,200	95,528,700	3.57	3.53	4.09
Total ...	454,397,800	484,016,200	531,048,600	2.54	2.62	2.85

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 239 firms employing 71,110 workpeople, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The number paid wages by the firms making returns at the end of August was 71,110, compared with 71,477 at the end of July, and 71,022 at the end of August, 1903, a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago and an increase of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade and District.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on		
	August, 1904.			August, 1903.		
	1904.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1904.	1903.
Worsted—						
Bradford ...	22,853	23,217	22,752	- 1.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.6
Other Yorkshire Districts ...	20,684	20,746	20,565	- 0.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.6
Other Districts ...	2,347	2,371	2,429	- 1.0	- 3.4	- 3.4
Total ...	45,884	46,334	45,746	- 1.0	+ 0.3	+ 0.3
Woolen—						
Yorkshire ...	8,533	8,553	8,347	- 0.2	+ 2.2	+ 2.2
Scotland ...	6,583	6,581	6,997	...	- 5.9	- 5.9
Other Districts ...	3,536	3,555	3,567	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 0.9
Total ...	18,652	18,689	18,911	- 0.2	- 1.4	- 1.4
Woolen and Worsted (not separated) ...	6,574	6,454	6,365	+ 1.9	+ 3.3	+ 3.3
Total Woolen and Worsted ...	71,110	71,477	71,022	- 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES; OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

From the foregoing Table it will be seen that little change took place in the number employed in either the woollen or the worsted trade compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago an improvement in the woollen trade is apparent in Yorkshire, but a marked decline in Scotland.

In the following Table a decline is apparent in the number employed in the sorting and combing branch compared with a month ago, but in the other branches there is little change. Compared with a year ago there is a decline in the sorting and combing branch, and in the weaving branch; there is an increase in the spinning branch, which is found in the worsted spinning mills in Yorkshire, but several firms report short time.

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on		
	August, 1904.			August, 1903.		
	1904.	1904.	1903.	1904.	1904.	1903.
Sorting and Combing—						
Yorkshire ...	5,033	5,181	5,214	- 2.9	- 3.5	- 3.5
Scotland ...	380	386	408	- 1.6	- 6.9	- 6.9
Other Districts ...	273	288	288	- 5.2	- 5.2	- 5.2
Total ...	5,686	5,855	5,910	- 2.9	- 3.8	- 3.8
Spinning—						
Yorkshire ...	25,897	25,961	25,040	- 0.2	+ 3.4	+ 3.4
Scotland ...	2,221	2,205	2,355	+ 0.7	- 5.7	- 5.7
Other Districts ...	1,870	1,878	1,887	- 0.4	- 0.9	- 0.9
Total ...	29,988	30,044	29,282	- 0.2	+ 2.4	+ 2.4
Weaving—						
Yorkshire ...	16,005	16,175	16,341	- 1.1	- 2.1	- 2.1
Scotland ...	3,534	3,520	3,697	- 0.1	- 4.7	- 4.7
Other Districts ...	1,657	1,665	1,664	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.4
Total ...	21,196	21,366	21,702	- 0.8	- 2.4	- 2.4
Other Departments—						
Yorkshire ...	8,059	8,930	8,695	+ 0.7	+ 3.4	+ 3.4
Scotland ...	3,679	3,695	3,837	- 0.4	- 4.1	- 4.1
Other Districts ...	1,582	1,587	1,595	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.8
Total ...	14,250	14,212	14,128	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	+ 0.9
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—						
Yorkshire ...	55,924	56,247	55,291	- 0.6	+ 1.1	+ 1.1
Scotland ...	9,804	9,512	10,297	- 0.1	- 4.8	- 4.8
Other Districts ...	5,382	5,418	5,434	- 0.7	- 1.0	- 1.0
Total, Woollen and Worsted ...	71,110	71,477	71,022	- 0.5	+ 0.1	+ 0.1

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

Bradford District.—The Trade Union wool sorters report employment as bad, with much short time and many unemployed. The Employers' Association report employment with wool combers as worse than a month ago and a year ago, with much short time amongst male operatives and slackness amongst female operatives, the decline being attributed to the increasing scarcity of wool. Employment in the spinning branch shows a decline, compared with a month ago, but an improvement compared with a year ago; in the weaving branch it is worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Keighley District.—Employment is reported quiet and worse than a year ago; several firms report short time.

Halifax District.—Employment shows little change. Compared with a year ago the numbers employed show a slight increase, but slackness and short time are reported in several firms.

Huddersfield District.—In the worsted trade employment is quiet and the same as a month ago and a year ago; in the spinning branch a slight improvement is apparent. In the woollen trade some firms report overtime.

Leeds and Wakefield District.—Employment in Leeds is reported as fairly good during the month. Overtime is reported by some firms, short time by others. At Wakefield short time is reported.

Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, &c.).—Employment generally is good, and several firms report overtime.

Scotland.—Employment shows little change compared with a month ago and is worse than a year ago. In Hawick it continues bad. In Selkirk it is quiet in all branches. In Galashiels it is fairly good and about the same as a year ago.

Other Districts.—Employment in the Trowbridge district is reported as fair on woollen coatings, dull on worsted goods. In the Stroud valley it is reported as moderate. In Wales, at Newtown and Llanidloes, full employment has been given. At Rochdale and Milnrow employment continues slack. At Stockport it has declined and short time is reported.

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

	Quantities Exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	1904.			1903.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Yarn:—	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Woollen ...	123,700	179,700	260,500	17.79	18.98	19.28
Worsted ...	4,183,500	5,444,900	3,686,600	16.27	16.86	19.09
Alpaca and Mohair ...	1,029,600	1,172,200	1,014,800	28.87	27.96	26.02
Total ...	5,336,800	6,766,800	4,961,900	18.73	18.84	20.54
Piece Goods ...	Yds.	Yds.	Yds.	Per yd.	Per yd.	Per yd.
Woollen ...	5,681,900	6,379,500	8,223,800	29.36	29.10	28.52
Worsted ...	9,495,000	10,489,000	10,869,500	15.98	15.12	15.33
Total ...	15,086,900	16,868,500	19,093,300	21.02	20.41	21.01

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from two Employers' Associations, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades in Scotland and Ireland has been moderate and worse than a year ago.

In Dundee employment continues moderate, and is worse than a year ago. Information has been received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys, and 21,100 women and girls. From this it appears that out of 39 spinning mills, 6 gave only partial employment during the month. Out of 33 weaving factories, 5 gave only partial employment, and 1 has been partially closed, owing to a breakdown. The Trade Union operatives in Forfar again report employment as somewhat dull, but as better than a year ago. In Brechin and Arbroath employment is only moderate, and considerable idleness prevails. In Montrose one works has gone on short time.

A large jute mill in London has been closed. In Ulster the Employers' Association reports employment in the flax spinning mills as fair, the same as a month and a year ago. In Belfast the Trade Unions report employment as moderate with flax roughers and hackle and gill makers; as dull with flax dressers and linen lappers; as bad with beetlers; and as very bad with power loom tenters and yarn dressers; as very dull with women workers.

At Barnsley the linen weavers continue to be moderately well employed.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from correspondents of the department, from one Employers' Association, and from one Trade Union, employment in the hosiery trade continues bad and is worse than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 12,294 workpeople in their factories at the end of August show an increase of 0.7 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, but a decrease of 0.9 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Of the total number of

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—OTHER TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING.

operatives, 64 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 63 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in July. In Leicester employment continues bad, but a slight improvement is reported in some branches. In Hinckley employment continues slack in most departments. In Loughborough it is slack generally, but moderately busy in the seamless hose branch.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment continues bad throughout the district. It has further declined with framework knitters, and is very irregular in the circular branch and with rib top makers. In hand frame branches in the country districts work is practically at a standstill. Employment is reported as moderate at Mansfield, Sutton, Ruddington and Heyworth, and as slack at Arnold and Calverton. The improvement noted last month with wool and Shetland shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard has not been maintained, and employment is worse than a month and a year ago. It is reported as very bad at Ilkeston and Belper, where much short time is being worked.

Scotland.—In Hawick employment continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In Selkirk it is good, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.

Lace Trade.

According to information received from one Employers' Association, from one Trade Union, and from the Local Correspondent employment in the Nottingham lace trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. Employment in the levers and curtain branches is bad, and worse than a year ago. It is fairly good in the plain net branch, being about the same as a year ago. In the minor branches employment is reported as slack or bad, and as worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Stapleford employment is reported as bad, and as very quiet at Beeston, Kimberley, and Bulwell. At Ilkeston and Long Eaton it is reported as bad in all departments, short time being general. At Glasgow and Newmilns employment is fair.

Carpet Trade.

According to information received from employers through the Trade Correspondent of the Department, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the woollen carpet trade has slightly declined in England since last month but shows an improvement in Scotland.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of August was 4,392, compared with 4,384 at the end of July, and 4,371 at the end of August, 1903, an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment at Kidderminster is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. At Bridgnorth it has been bad, and short time was started towards the end of the month. In Halifax employment is not quite so good as a month ago. Employment with carpet weavers in Midlothian continues good, the same as a month and a year ago. In the Glasgow district it is moderate; the returns from employers show an increase in the numbers employed; the Trade Union reports that 5 per cent. of its members are on short time.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in the West Riding is reported as very slack, and worse than last month. Out of 5,200 Trade Union members, 3,500 have worked short time and 500 overtime; employment has been worse than a year ago, when it was reported as bad. A slight improvement has taken place at Halifax. With cotton dyers, employment on the whole is moderate and slightly better than a year ago. It is

reported as good at Burnley and Colne, and as bad at Bolton. Employment is fair with calico printers at Manchester, New Mills and Glasgow, and with calico printers' engravers at Dinting and Glasgow. Employment with hosiery dyers and trimmers is reported as bad at Leicester and worse than a month ago; it has slightly improved with dyers at Hinckley, and is moderate with trimmers at Bulwell and Basford. At Nottingham it is moderate with dyers of silk and best goods; it is very slack with bleachers at Basford, and has declined since last month. In Glasgow employment with calendermen is reported as dull, and some short time has been worked. In Dundee employment with calender workers is fair, and has improved since last month; some works are running overtime; dyers are busy, and bleachers are fairly well employed.

TAILORING TRADE.

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

Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London and the provinces shows the usual seasonal decline, and is worse than a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it is still bad, and worse than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 848 workpeople on their premises and 1,421 outworkers.* Employment during August showed the usual seasonal decline, and was bad. Compared with a year ago, employment with inworkers is reported as improved by firms employing 30 per cent. of the number included in the returns, as unchanged by firms employing 23 per cent., and as worse by firms employing 47 per cent. With outworkers* employment is reported as improved by firms employing 34 per cent. of the total number, as unchanged by firms employing 26 per cent., and as worse by firms employing 40 per cent. The West-end branch of the Trade Union reports employment as bad. In Liverpool, Edinburgh, and Dublin employment is reported as bad; in Glasgow as moderate.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment during August has been moderate, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. The Trade Union cutters report employment as fair on contract work, bad on stock work with much short time.

In Leeds employment shows a slight improvement, but is still bad, and worse than a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 9,000 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during August was good or fair with firms employing 18 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate with firms employing 49 per cent., and bad with firms employing 33 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 44 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 32 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 24 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 18 per cent. report employment as better, firms employing 26 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 56 per cent. as worse. The Trade Union operatives report employment as bad, with many unemployed, and with much short time. The Jewish operatives report a slight improvement. In Manchester employment is dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Bristol it continues bad, and is worse than a year ago; at Stroud full time is being worked. In Staffordshire employment has declined, and is worse than a year ago. It is reported as fair at Norwich and Colchester, and dull at Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds. In Glasgow employment has been moderate, but is reported as bad with outworkers.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Other Leather Trades, see p. 276.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 633 firms employing 75,971 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and Local Correspondents.

The number (75,971) employed by all firms making returns at the end of August shows an increase of 0.5 per cent. on the number (75,626) employed by these firms at the end of July, but a decrease of 1.8 per cent. on the number (77,335) employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives 62 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments throughout August, compared with 58 per cent. of those from whom returns were received for July.

A large number of firms (496) employing 62,649 workpeople, have also been good enough to supply returns of the aggregate amount of wages paid on the last four pay days in August, in addition to particulars of the number employed. The returns from these firms are analysed in the following Table:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both number unemployed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
		No. employed at end of Aug., 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last four pay days in Aug., 1904.*	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
			A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.			Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	48	3,186	- 2.5	+ 0.3	13,322	- 17.7	- 0.6
Leicester	69	12,065	+ 2.1	- 3.8	36,471	- 20.3	- 9.8
Leicester Country District	29	3,057	+ 2.5	+ 9.1	7,216	- 13.9	- 1.7
Northampton ...	59	8,396	- 1.4	- 3.5	24,135	- 23.5	- 7.5
Kettering	26	3,039	+ 0.5	- 0.8	10,070	+ 11.7	- 4.5
Northampton Country District	84	8,586	- 0.4	- 4.3	23,409	- 21.1	- 9.5
Stafford and District	16	4,538	+ 0.7	+ 4.4	6,476	- 22.5	- 4.8
Norwich & District	24	3,770	- 1.2	+ 0.5	9,700	- 80.8	- 2.1
Bristol	16	1,964	+ 1.5	- 6.6	5,801	- 12.4	- 8.2
Kingswood	25	2,917	+ 3.2	+ 7.5	9,975	- 18.2	- 2.4
Leeds and District	35	3,287	- 1.3	- 0.7	10,025	- 17.7	- 16.8
Manchester & District	10	1,770	+ 2.5	+ 8.9	5,342	- 16.9	+ 16.8
Birmingham & District	7	944	+ 1.7	- 0.6	2,361	- 21.4	- 8.0
Other parts of England and Wales	21	2,496	+ 1.5	- 4.5	6,397	- 5.9	- 0.3
Total, England and Wales	469	58,045	+ 0.4	- 1.6	170,701	- 18.1	- 6.5
SCOTLAND	24	4,265	+ 0.2	- 3.9	15,959	+ 18.1	- 2.7
IRELAND	3	379	+ 1.2	+ 1.2	984	- 4.9	- 2.1
Total, UNITED KINGDOM	496	62,649	+ 0.4	- 1.8	187,644	- 15.8	- 6.2

Compared with a month ago, 2 districts show an increase, from £22,525 to £26,029, in the amount of wages paid by 50 firms making returns, and 14 show a decrease, from £200,403 to £161,615, in the amount paid by 446 firms making returns. The increase took place in Kettering (11.7 per cent.), where a large decrease was reported in July, and in Scotland (18.1 per cent.), where the wages paid in July were affected by the holidays. The percentage decrease was greatest in Northampton (23.5 per cent.), in the Stafford district (22.5), the Birmingham district (21.4), the Northampton country district (21.1), the Norwich district (20.8), and Leicester (20.3). The decline was partly owing to the August Bank Holiday.

The net result was a decrease of 15.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month compared with a month ago, while the number of workpeople employed by these 496 firms at the end of August shows an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with a month ago.

Compared with a year ago, 1 district, Manchester, shows an increase, from £4,574 to £5,342, in the amount of wages paid by 10 firms making returns, and 15 show a decrease, from £195,379 to £182,302, in the amount paid by 486 firms making returns. The percentage decrease was greatest in the Leeds district (16.8 per cent.), in

* This period includes the August Bank Holiday.

Leicester (9.8 per cent.), and in the Northampton country district (9.5 per cent.). The net result was a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month, and a decrease of 6.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month.

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

London.—Employment is still dull, and shows a further decline since last month, and little change compared with a year ago. The operatives' Trade Union reports it as dull, and about the same as a month and a year ago. The Trade Union clickers, pressmen, and machinists report it as very slack. One branch of handsewn boot-makers reports it as better but still far from good, with much short time, and another as very quiet and worse than last month.

Leicester and District.—Employment in Leicester is still very slack in all branches, and worse than a year ago. In the Leicester country district a considerable increase in the number employed at the end of the month is reported compared with a year ago, but a slight decline in the amount of wages paid during the month.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—From the returns received from firms in Northampton and Northampton country district, a decline is shown in the number employed and the amount of wages paid compared with both a month and a year ago. At Kettering, returns received from 26 firms show a slight increase (0.5 per cent.) in the number employed and a marked one (11.7 per cent.) in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago when a decline of 26 per cent. was reported. The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as bad at Kettering; as slightly improved at Higham and Rushden; as quiet at Northampton. The Trade Union clickers and pressmen report employment as very slack at Northampton and bad at Kettering with continued short time. A further improvement is reported with army boot makers.

Stafford and District.—Employment is reported as quiet at Stafford with more short time than last month. It is good with hand-sewn shoemakers. Employment at Stone remains fair.

Eastern Counties.—Employment is reported as fairly good at Norwich and bad at Ipswich.

Bristol and Kingswood.—The Trade Unions report employment as slack at Bristol, but slightly improved compared with a month ago. At Kingswood firms making returns show an increase in the number employed compared with a month and a year ago.

Leeds and District.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as moderate at Leeds, fair at Heckmondwike. The clickers and pressmen as fair.

Other Districts in England.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as quiet at Wolverhampton, Newcastle and Kendal; as bad at Birmingham, Chesterfield and Derby; as good at Bishop Auckland.

Scotland.—Employment shows little improvement except at Maybole compared with a month ago; the Trade Union lasters and finishers report it as very slack throughout the district. The improvement shown in the employers' returns of wages paid, is due to the holidays occurring in the previous month.

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

		Month of August.			Eight months ended August.		
		1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imports	Dozen pairs...	14,325	17,506	15,237	169,260	161,030	143,880
	Value £ ...	51,064	65,756	51,774	602,080	645,047	526,065
Re-Exports	Dozen pairs...	1,342	2,080	1,083	13,047	14,331	12,591
	Value £ ...	3,922	5,748	3,357	35,300	38,628	33,997
Exports (British and Irish)	Dozen pairs...	59,603	74,207	62,194	459,596	536,305	413,998
	Value £ ...	145,719	183,328	154,374	1,113,340	1,279,756	973,547

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—HAT TRADE; OTHER CLOTHING; LEATHER; PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

HAT TRADE.

ACCORDING to information received from three Employers' Associations, and from two Trade Unions, employment in the hat trade has been quiet, and worse than a month ago, except in the ladies' felt hat branch, where there is an improvement; it is worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with 5,431 members have 208 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3·5 per cent. at the end of July, and 3·2 per cent. a year ago. The percentage unemployed is considerably higher in the silk than in the felt hat trade.

With *silk* hatters employment in London is reported as bad, and as worse than a month and a year ago; about 3 hours per day short time is being worked. In Denton employment is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; short time is general. The Trade Union silk hatters have 14·2 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 12·0 per cent. a month ago, and 14·0 per cent. a year ago.

With *felt* hatters, employment is bad on men's hats, but fair on ladies' hats, in which branch some overtime has been worked; it is about the same as a year ago. At Stockport employment has been quiet, and is worse than a month and a year ago. At Hyde it is improving; at Failsworth it continues moderate, and is about the same as a year ago. It is moderate at Bredbury and rather better than last month. At Bury it is fairly good, and about the same as a month and a year ago. In Warwickshire it is good in most departments, and better than a month ago; it is about the same as a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters have 2·1 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 2·0 per cent. last month, and 1·4 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

Employment in the dressmaking trade shows the usual seasonal decline, and is worse than a year ago; in the mantle trade there is again a slight improvement; in the shirt and collar trade employment continues quiet, and is worse than a year ago; in the corset trade employment shows little change compared with last month, but is worse than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns received from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 860 dressmakers at the end of August, show a decrease of 478 (or 35·7 per cent.) compared with a month ago; the decrease compared with a year ago was 6·4 per cent. Returns from Court dressmakers employing 735 workpeople at the end of August show a decrease of 723 (or 49·6 per cent.) in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 8·4 per cent. compared with a year ago, many workrooms being closed altogether for the whole or part of the month. With mantle makers in retail firms employment is quiet, and about the same as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle and costume trades it has been only moderate, but was better towards the end of the month. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons, and underclothing report employment as moderate, and the same as a month and a year ago. The number of milliners employed in retail firms has further declined, but is slightly greater than a year ago; in the wholesale branch employment is quiet.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show a decline in the demand for dressmakers compared with both a month and a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers has been fairly good and better than last month; it is slightly worse than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade it is only moderate; firms employing 1,793 workpeople at the end of August show a decrease of 4·5 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, and of 5·8 per cent. on the number employed a year ago.

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

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 7,977 workpeople in their factories at the end of August show a decrease of 0·5 per cent. in the number employed at the end of August compared with a month ago, and of 4·5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 34 per cent. of the total number report employment as good or fair, and firms employing 66 per cent. as quiet or bad, to be compared with 32 per cent. and 68 per cent. respectively at the end of July. Employment is moderate in London and Glasgow, fair in Belfast, and quiet in Londonderry.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,014 workpeople in their factories at the end of August, show a decrease of 0·1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2·7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 55 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as good or fair, and firms employing 45 per cent. as quiet or bad, to be compared with 32 per cent. and 68 per cent. respectively at the end of July.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 275.)

RETURNS have been received from 2 Employers' Associations, 21 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show that the state of employment continues bad generally, although some slight local improvement is reported in one or two branches of the trade. It is rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. There is still a good deal of short time. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of August was 9·7, as compared with 9·4 in July, and 6·7 per cent. in August, 1903.

Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—In these branches employment generally continues bad, about the same as a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. At Bolton, Bury and Wigan, however, employment is reported as fair. At Wellingborough a slight improvement is noted. At Birmingham employment with skimmers is reported as better.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—In London employment is moderate generally, but the brown saddlers report an improvement; the horse collar makers are quiet. At Leeds, Sheffield, and Birmingham employment is slack. At Walsall it is fair with the collar makers, bad with brown saddlers, and quiet in other branches. Employment is reported as bad at Bristol and Glasgow; quiet at Edinburgh, and fair at Aberdeen and Dublin.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Employment in the London pocket-book and leather case trade continues bad, but somewhat better than a month ago. With port-manteau makers it is fair in London and Manchester. In these trades short time still continues to be worked.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been furnished by 19 Employers' Associations, by 23 Employers in Scotland, by Trade Unions with nearly 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment is slack generally. In *letterpress printing* employment underwent a heavy decline, Trade Unions with 39,015 members having 6·1 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with the same percentage in August, 1903, and 3·7 per cent. in July, 1904. In *lithographic printing* there was a slight decline as compared with a month ago and a considerable decline as compared with a year ago, Trade Unions with 6,480 members having 5·8 per cent. unemployed, against 5·5 in July, and 4·4 per cent. in August, 1903. With *bookbinders* also the decline was greatest as compared with a year ago. The percentage unemployed of 6,967 Trade Union bookbinders at the end of August was 7·8, against 7·0 a month ago, and 5·6 per cent. a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES; GLASS, &c., TRADES.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1904, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,867	6·7	5·1	6·2	+ 1·6	+ 0·5
Northern Counties ...	1,458	6·0	2·5	4·7	+ 3·5	+ 1·3
Lanes. and Cheshire ...	6,741	8·4	4·8	7·5	+ 3·6	+ 0·9
Yorkshire	4,174	5·6	3·3	6·8	+ 2·3	− 1·2
East Midlands	2,126	6·4	3·5	4·3	+ 2·9	+ 2·1
West Midlands	2,463	8·2	4·7	6·9	+ 3·5	+ 1·3
Eastern Counties ...	374	4·0	1·1	5·8	+ 2·9	− 1·8
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,541	3·2	1·1	3·3	+ 2·1	− 0·1
Wales and Mon.	798	1·5	1·3	6·1	+ 0·2	− 4·6
Scotland	6,314	2·6	2·9	2·3	+ 0·3	+ 0·3
Ireland	2,606	10·5	8·0	8·1	+ 2·5	+ 2·4
United Kingdom ...	52,462	6·3	4·4	5·8	+ 1·9	+ 0·5

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

London.—Employment has declined generally. With letterpress printers it is much worse than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 17,131 members had 6·3 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 4·3 a month ago and 6·8 a year ago. In the lithographic trade employment remains slack with printers and good with artists, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 6·3 at the end of August, against 6·5 in July and 5·5 a year ago. With bookbinders employment remains bad, with a considerable amount of short time, and is much worse than a year ago. Of 3,740 Trade Union members in this section, 8·7 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 8·0 per cent. in July, and 5·7 in August, 1903.

Northern Counties, Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment is dull generally, but good at Bolton, Darlington, and Carlisle.

Yorkshire.—Employment is slack, except with lithographic printers, who are moderately employed.

Midland Counties.—Employment is slack as a rule, but fairly good at Northampton, Coventry, Warwick and Stafford.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties, and Wales.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair at Bristol, Cardiff, Oxford, Reading, Guildford, Tonbridge, Hertford and Ipswich; moderate at Plymouth; busy at Redhill; quiet at Bath, Gloucester, Portsmouth, Brighton, Watford and St. Albans. Lithographic printers at Bristol report employment as good.

Scotland.—With letterpress printers employment is fairly good at Edinburgh; quiet at Glasgow; good at Dundee and Aberdeen. Employment with lithographic printers is moderate. With bookbinders it is improving at Edinburgh; dull at Glasgow.

Ireland.—Employment is bad generally.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades remains fair. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,398 members had 3·2 per cent. unemployed at the end of August, the same percentage as in July, compared with 3·5 per cent. in August, 1903. Returns received from 20 employers in Scotland show that 3,855 workpeople were employed by them at the end of August, as compared with 3,814 at the end of July, and 3,788 at the end of August, 1903. Employment in Scotland is rather better than a month ago, but not quite so good as a year ago.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

Employment during August was slack, and worse than a month and a year ago. The percentage of

unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of August was 6·4, as compared with 5·7 per cent. in July, and 4·0 per cent. a year ago.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodworking machinists is slack generally, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 5·8, as against 4·5 a month ago and 3·4 a year ago.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment is bad generally and worse than a year ago. With a few branches, however, it is locally fair or moderate. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 14,735, show 1,233 (or 8·4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 7·7 at the end of July, and 4·3 per cent. a year ago.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers is moderate on the whole, and rather better than a month ago. At Hull, Bristol, Greenock and Cork it is reported as fair; at Newcastle, Fraserburgh, Peterhead and Dublin as good; at Glasgow, Leith, Liverpool, Burton, Birmingham and Belfast as dull.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment remains quiet, Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,791, having 315 (or 4·0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 3·4 per cent. a month ago, and 3·8 per cent. a year ago.

In London, Birmingham, Leicester, Leeds, Glasgow, Dublin and Cork employment is moderate. At Liverpool, Nottingham and Edinburgh it is reported as bad.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers remains bad, and is worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,747 report 193 (or 11·0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 9·3 per cent. at the end of July, and 7·0 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—Lathrenders in London report employment as slack; at Edinburgh as good; at Glasgow as dull. Packing case makers report it as dull in London; quiet at Birmingham; fair at Glasgow; bad at Belfast. Basketmakers in London report it as fair; at Leicester as moderate. With stickmakers and mounters in London it is reported as bad; with cork cutters in Glasgow as dull.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 13 Employers' Associations, 11 Trade Unions in the Glass Trade with 4,980 members, 1 Trade Union in the Brick Trade, Local Correspondents, and 1 firm of employers.

Employment in the *Glass* trade continues moderate generally in the bottle making branch and slack in the flint-glass branch. In the *Pottery* trades it is quiet, and in the *Brick and Tile* trades slack.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle-makers is reported as bad in London, Bristol, Barnsley, Castleford, and Leeds; moderate generally in the Yorkshire district and at St. Helens; fair at Dublin; good at Portobello and Glasgow, and better than a month ago in the Wear district and at Seaham Harbour. Flint glass makers report employment as bad at Edinburgh, Newcastle, Warrington, and Rotherham; slack at Glasgow; moderate at Stourbridge and Manchester, fair at Birmingham. Flint-glass cutters report it as bad at Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Stourbridge; slack at Birmingham, and dull in London. With pressed-glass workers employment has slightly improved at Gateshead, and is dull at Glasgow. With sheet-glass makers at St. Helens employment is good, and with sheet-glass flatteners at St. Helens and Liverpool it is fair. With plate glass bevellers at Birmingham

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—GLASS, ETC., TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

it is slack; and with decorative glass workers at Liverpool fair. With glass blowers in London employment continues bad.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment continues bad with hollow-ware and sanitary pressers. It is bad with printers, transferers, ovenmen, and dippers. With packers it continues quiet, and cratemakers have worked four days per week. Employment with china potters at Longton has slightly improved. At Swadlincote (Derbyshire) hollow-ware and sanitary pressers worked an average of four days per week. At Newcastle employment continues fair. With earthenware workers employment is fair in the Longton and Fenton district, and bad in South Yorkshire. With potters it is moderate at Rotherham, fair at Barnstaple and Bideford, and good in South Devon.

In Scotland employment generally continues fair. In Glasgow it is fair with stoneware throwers, dull with tobacco-pipe finishers, and bad with tobacco-pipe makers.

Brickmaking.—Employment is bad at Birmingham, West Bromwich, Peterborough, and Nottingham; slack at Coalport and Market Harboro'; moderate at Calstock, Ipswich, Chelmsford, and in the Tees and Hartlepool district; quiet in North Wales; fair at Plymouth and the Oldham district; fairly good at Exeter, and good in South Wales, and at Stourbridge and Sudbury.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the condition of employment in agriculture was received from 201 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that the weather during August was favourable for outdoor work, although there were one or two wet days in the latter part of the month. It is stated that the corn was generally short in straw and it stood up well so that full use was made of self-binding reaping machines. The demand for extra harvestmen was consequently smaller than usual. The supply of casual or day labourers was, as a rule, quite sufficient for requirements, and in parts of the Eastern counties some men failed to secure harvest engagements, but in a few districts a scarcity is reported.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland state that agricultural employment was regular during August. There was not much demand for extra assistance and the supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand. Regularity of employment is reported in Lancashire. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. Skilled men for permanent situations are scarce. In Yorkshire farm labourers were, generally speaking, fully employed with the harvest. There was some slight interruption at the end of the month through one or two rainy days. The supply of extra men has been quite equal to the demand, and in some districts rather in excess. Men suitable for permanent situations were in demand. A correspondent in the Patrington Union states that Irish migratory labourers who had come over for harvest found work difficult to get in the earlier part of August, unless they had previously been engaged by letter.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Cheshire and Derbyshire show that the harvest was rapidly got in, and fewer men than usual were required this season. Some of the Irish migratory labourers have not been so well employed as last year. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire farm labourers were, for the most part, regularly employed. There was a fair supply of day labourers. Capable men for permanent situations continue in demand. Employment was regular in Staffordshire and Shropshire, except on one or two wet days. The supply of extra men for harvesting was quite equal to the demand. Farm labourers were in regular work in Worcestershire and Warwickshire during August. There was no great demand for day labourers. Men suitable for permanent situations continue to be scarce.

Reports from Northamptonshire state that employment was regular during August. The supply of day labourers was sufficient, the harvest being light. In Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire a little time was lost by some men on piecework through showery days. The supply of day labourers was equal to the demand in most districts. Cowmen are stated to be in request. Employment in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire was regular on the whole. Very little extra labour was required for harvest, and the supply was in excess of the demand.

Eastern Counties.—In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire employment was plentiful in harvesting, hoeing roots, and cleaning the land. There was a good supply of day labourers. Farm labourers were well employed at harvest work in Lincolnshire, except on one or two wet days. There was no scarcity of extra men, and some casual labourers were not in constant employment. In Norfolk agricultural labourers were busily employed in harvest work and turnip hoeing, the weather being favourable during the greater part of the month. The supply of extra labour was in excess of the demand, and some day labourers failed to secure a harvest engagement. Farm labourers in Suffolk and Essex were, for the most part, regularly employed during August. The supply of day labourers was somewhat in excess of the demand, however, and some men of this class were in irregular employment.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—According to reports from Kent farm labourers were fully employed during August. The supply of odd men was equal to the demand in most districts. Men for permanent situations are said to be rather less difficult to obtain. In Surrey and Sussex employment was regular. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand, and in some districts in excess. Farm labourers in Hampshire and Berkshire were generally fully employed in harvest work and hoeing. There was a sufficient supply of day labourers in most districts. Agricultural employment in Wiltshire was regular during August. There were a few stormy days, but there was plenty of odd work to be done at such times. Extra labour was fairly plentiful in most districts.

In Dorsetshire harvesting and turnip-hoeing were somewhat interfered with by wet days. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand in most districts. In Somersetshire employment was somewhat interrupted by rainy weather towards the end of the month. The supply of day labourers was equal to the demand in most districts. Correspondents in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire state that, the weather during August being favourable, the harvest, generally speaking, was finished by the end of the month, and threshing had commenced. There was a fairly plentiful supply of extra labour. According to reports from Devon and Cornwall, a few agricultural labourers were irregularly employed during August, owing to wet weather. Casual or day labourers are stated to have been rather more plentiful than for some time past, but the supply was insufficient in certain districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

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

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended August 27th was 12,263, a decrease of 4 per cent.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING.

on the average for July, and of 10 per cent. as compared with August, 1903. The average daily number employed in August during the seven years, 1897-1903, was 14,633.

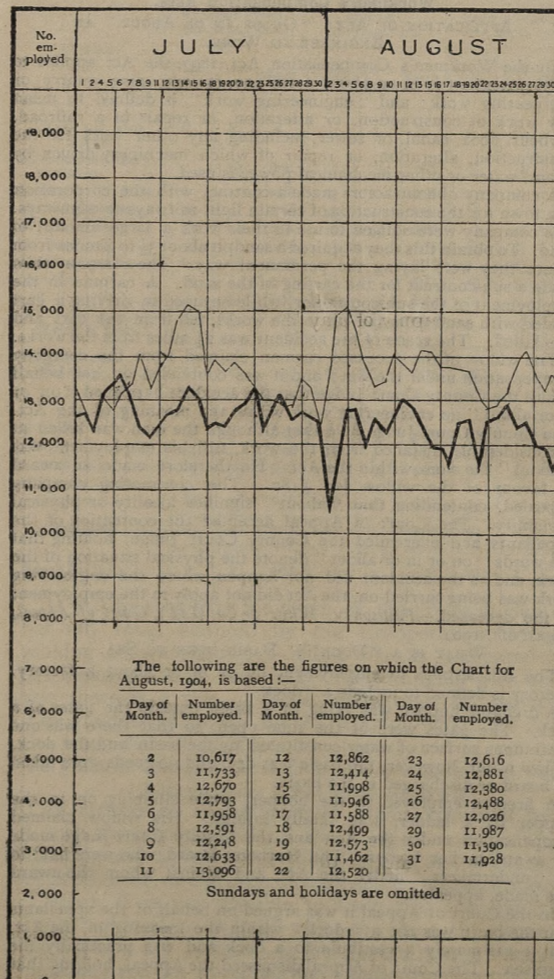
(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended August 27th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Aug. 6th	4,363	2,238	6,601	5,353	11,954
" " " 13th	5,157	1,987	7,144	5,497	12,641
" " " 20th	5,055	1,681	6,736	5,275	12,011
" " " 27th	5,038	2,175	7,213	5,272	12,485
Average for 4 weeks ended August 27th	4,903	2,011	6,914	5,349	12,263
Average for July, 1904	5,440	1,995	7,435	5,302	12,737
Average for Aug., 1903	6,123	2,180	8,303	5,840	14,143

(2) **Daily Fluctuations.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown in the following Chart. The numbers in August ranged from 10,617 on the 2nd to 13,096 on the 11th. During August, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 12,374 on the 1st to 15,045 on the 6th.

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 July and August, 1904. The corresponding curve for July and August, 1903, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1904, and the thin curve to 1903.]



Employment is moderate with workers in mid-stream, corn porters, coal porters, winchmen, and stevedores; fair with deal porters, lightermen, and lumpers. With fruit porters in Thames-street it is fair, the average daily number employed being 273, as compared with 258 in July, and 307 a year ago.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during August, 1904, 71 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 65 per cent. in the previous month, and 61 per cent. in August, 1903.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—Employment is reported as moderate at Newcastle, South Shields, Sunderland, and Hartlepool; slack at Middlesbrough.

Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.—At Hull and Grimsby employment is fairly good, and better than a year ago. At Goole it is reported as slack.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Dock and riverside labourers have been well employed throughout the month at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Wisbech, and Lynn. Employment is fair at Ipswich and Harwich; good at Parkeston

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment at Southampton is reported as moderate; at Plymouth as rather below the average.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment is fairly good on the whole. At the South Wales ports there is some decline in the employment of patent fuel and timber carriers. Employment at Bristol is better than a month ago and year ago.

Liverpool and Manchester.—Employment remained dull generally.

Glasgow.—Employment is reported as moderate.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment at Leith is reported as quiet with dock labourers; fair with coal porters. At Aberdeen it is reported as moderate; at Dundee as fair. At Bo'ness there is some briskness in pit-prop carrying.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin employment is reported as good; at Belfast as moderate; at Cork as fair.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

The fish landed during August show a considerable increase in quantity, but a decrease in value as compared with a year ago.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales	849,510	914,556	465,779	492,441
Scotland	2,358,373	1,681,135	439,336	492,659
Ireland	46,622	56,329	19,171	21,255
Total	3,254,505	2,652,020	924,286	1,006,346
Shell Fish	—	—	34,718	29,474
Total Value	—	—	959,004	1,035,770

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that the trawl and line-boats are fairly well employed.

Employment at Hull and Grimsby is slack generally; it is much the same as a month ago at Hull, but rather

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—FISHING; SEAMEN.

better at Grimsby. At Yarmouth it is good among fishermen, and fair with fish dock labourers and persons employed in fish curing. At Lowestoft it is moderate with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers.

Off the South-western coast employment with fishermen is quiet generally, as also with fish curers, packers and carters.

At Cardiff, Swansea and Milford good catches were landed.

Employment at Aberdeen is reported slightly better than last month, some of the trawlers which were then reported to be laid up having recommenced fishing. With fish dock labourers it is fair, with persons employed in fish curing it is good. At Peterhead and Fraserburgh employment in all branches is good. At Macduff it is fair. At Arbroath and Montrose fair catches were landed.

Off the South and South-Western coast of Ireland mackerel and sprat fishing is good.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN AUGUST.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during August, 39,880* seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 3,955 on the number shipped during August, 1903.

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

During the eight months of 1904, 292,616* seamen were shipped, of whom 44,426 (or 15.2 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of 1903, 283,488* seamen were shipped, of whom 44,555 (or 15.7 per cent.) were foreigners.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons shipped in August, 1904.*			Total in August, 1903.*	Total number* shipped in eight months ended August,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in August, 1904.		1904.	1903.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	19	3,011	3,030	2,867	23,461	22,164
Sunderland ... ..	...	402	402	417	3,858	3,617
Middlesbrough	20	281	301	778	2,049	1,678
Hull ... ..	...	1,243	1,223	1,066	9,052	8,744
Grimsby ... ..	...	112	112	88	792	943
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ... ..	...	716	716	888	5,207	5,466
Newport, Mon.	25	808	833	822	6,676	6,080
Cardiff	98	4,289	4,387	3,948	36,220	35,925
Swansea	30	361	391	368	3,332	4,189
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	137	15,286	15,423	12,676	105,674	98,842
London	158	6,360	6,518	6,480	48,556	49,667
Southampton ... ..	...	2,128	2,128	1,674	17,157	15,737
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth ... ..	...	456	456	541	4,716	4,598
Glasgow	75	3,681	3,756	3,479	23,360	22,506
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	...	3	3	190	512	1,068
Belfast ... ..	...	201	201	323	1,994	2,021
Total, August, 1904 ...	562	39,318	39,880	...	292,616	...
<i>Ditto, August, 1903 ...</i>	<i>498</i>	<i>35,432</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>35,925</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>283,488</i>

* 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.

USE OF NITRO-GLYCERINE IN METALLIFEROUS MINES.

Home Office Warning.

The attention of the Home Secretary having been called to accidents occurring in metalliferous mines from the use of explosives containing nitro-glycerine (such as dynamite, gelignite, blasting gelatine, &c.), when in a solid or frozen state, he has caused a Circular to be issued to owners of metalliferous mines, pointing out that these explosives when in a solid state are dangerous to handle, and should always be thawed before use. The Circular states that the thawing should be done by means of hot water only, and for this purpose safe and proper warming pans should be provided, and no explosives should be thawed by any other means. A form of notice is enclosed with the Circular, and it is asked that it should be kept posted on the door of the magazine or store from which the men fetch their explosives (or otherwise brought prominently before their notice) requiring that all cartridges containing nitro-glycerine are to be thawed in a properly designed warming pan before use during December, January, February and March, and at any other times if the cartridges are not in a soft or pasty condition.

The Home Secretary has also approached the manufacturers of the explosives in order to secure that the warning notices issued by them with explosives of this class should be as prominent and explicit as possible.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases reported in August, especially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

Workmen's Compensation Acts.

APPLICATION OF ACT: "ON OR IN OR ABOUT" AN ENGINEERING WORK.

By the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, the Act applies to employment on or in or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work; and "engineering work" is defined to mean any work of construction, or alteration, or repair of a railroad, harbour, dock, canal, or sewer, including any other work for the construction, alteration, or repair of which machinery driven by steam, water or other mechanical power is used.

A company of contractors made a contract with the corporation of a town for the construction of certain light railways or tramways. The company were obliged to use in their work a large amount of sand. To obtain this they acquired a sandpit about 3 1/2 to 4 miles from where they were laying the permanent way. The company then made a sub-contract for the carting of the sand. A carman in the employment of the sub-contractor, while engaged in driving a cart loaded with sand from the pit to the works, fell from the cart and was killed. The scene of the accident was 2 1/2 miles from the works.

The widow of the deceased carman claimed from the company compensation under the Act; and it was contended on her behalf before the County Court Judge that the accident happened "on or in or about" an engineering work within the meaning of the Act. The County Court Judge held that although the man was killed at a considerable distance from the work, still his employment was "about" the work within the Act. He therefore made an award in favour of the widow for £187. The contracting company appealed, contending that "about" signifies locality or physical proximity. The Court of Appeal accepted the contention of the appellants and over-ruled the County Court Judge, holding that the words "on or in or about" denote the physical situation of the work, and as the accident did not happen where the engineering work was being carried on, the Act did not apply to the employment of the deceased.—*Pattison v. White & Co. (Lid.), Court of Appeal, August 6th, 1904.*

WHAT IS A "DOCK"? BASIN OPEN TO SEA.

The Act applies to employment on or in or about a factory. Factory is defined to include a "dock."

A dredging hopper was lying in a basin outside the gates of a dock. The gates were at the time open, so that there was one continuous surface of water constituted by the basin and the dock. At low water, however, the basin was dry, and no goods were taken on board or discharged in the basin.

A fireman employed in the hopper, while climbing on to the hopper by a ladder, was fatally injured. His widow claimed compensation under the Act, and the County Court Judge made an award in her favour. The Harbour Board, who were held to be "undertakers" under the Act, and against whom the award was made, appealed.

In the Court of Appeal it was argued on behalf of the appellants that the basin was not a "dock" within the meaning of the Act, that it was merely a vestibule to a dock and was practically the open sea. The Court of Appeal dismissed the Appeal, holding that

the word "dock" must not be construed in too narrow a sense, and that the spot where the hopper was at the time of the accident was part of the dock.—*Nolan v. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board, Court of Appeal, August 9th, 1904.*

WHO ARE "DEPENDANTS"?

Where a workman is killed by accident, only those members of his family are entitled to compensation under the Act who were wholly or in part dependent upon his earnings at the time of his death.

The family of a collier consisted of his wife, two sons and two daughters, all living together. Both sons were also colliers. The elder son earned 32s. 10d. a week, and handed the whole of it to his father. The father and second son earned between them 69s. a week. The females did not contribute to the support of the family. The elder son was killed by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. The father claimed compensation as being partially dependent on the earnings of the deceased at the time of his death. The County Court Judge estimated that the claimant made a profit of £51 a year out of the earnings of the deceased. In the circumstances he held the claimant was a dependant, and awarded him £80 compensation. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal refused to interfere with the award, holding that there was abundant evidence to justify the finding of the County Court Judge.—*Edwards v. Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds (Lid.), Court of Appeal, August 6th, 1904.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on September 1st, 1904.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 236 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 129 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

District.	Present Price. (1st Sept., 1904.)			Price last quarter. (1st June, 1904.)			Price a year ago. (1st Sept., 1903.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.									
N. Counties and Yorkshire	7	4 1/2	5 81	6 1/2	4 1/2	5 71	6 1/2	4 1/2	5 63
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4	5 34	6 1/2	4	5 23	6	4	5 16
N. Mid. Counties...	5 1/2	4	4 64	5 1/2	4	4 61	5 1/2	4	4 60
W. do. do. ...	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 09	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 00	5 1/2	4 1/2	5 09
S. do. do. ...	5 1/2	4	4 84	5 1/2	4	4 78	5 1/2	4	4 76
Eastern Counties...	6	4 1/2	5 43	6	5	5 43	6	5	5 37
London	5 1/2	5	5 40	5 1/2	5	5 41	5 1/2	5	5 32
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5 56	6	5	5 52	6	5	5 44
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	5 1/2	4	5 02	5 1/2	3 1/2	5 06	6	4 1/2	4 98
England and Wales ...									
...	7	4	5 20	6 1/2	4	5 15	6 1/2	4	5 10
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6 1/2	5	5 60	6	5	5 52	6	5	5 40
Eastern Counties*	6 1/2	4	5 56	6 1/2	4	5 51	6 1/2	4	5 43
Lanarkshire ...	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 88	6	5 1/2	5 58	6	5 1/2	5 58
Other Southern Counties...	6 1/2	5 1/2	6 00	6 1/2	5 1/2	5 88	6 1/2	5	5 67
Scotland	6 1/2	4	5 72	6 1/2	4	5 63	6 1/2	4	5 51
Great Britain ...	7	4	5 38	6 1/2	4	5 31	6 1/2	4	5 25

It will be seen that the mean of the prices at September 1st, 1904, charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns, shows a slight rise as compared with the mean price at 1st June. As compared with a year ago there is a rise of rather more than 1/4d. per 4 lbs. The greatest increases are in Scotland where the rise in the mean district prices varies from 1/4d. to 1/2d. per 4 lbs. Very slight changes are shown in the English districts.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

THE returns as to the price of bread, furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of September, and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those

* Kincardine, Kinross, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

quoted in the Table below. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

Place.	1903.			1904.				Present Price, 1st Sept., 1904.
	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	1st Dec.*	1st March.*	1st June.*	1st July.	2nd Aug.	
London ...	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 5 & 5 1/2	d. 4 1/2 & 5	d. 4 1/2 & 5	d. 4 1/2 & 5
Birmingham	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	4 1/2 & 5 1/2
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derby ...	4 1/2 & 5	4 1/2 & 5	4 1/2 & 5	4 1/2 & 5	4 1/2 & 5	4 1/2 & 5	4 1/2 & 5	4 1/2 & 5
Gateshead	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Hudders- field	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hull ...	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 1/2 & 5 1/2	4 1/2 & 5 1/2	4 1/2 & 5 1/2	4 1/2 & 5 1/2	4 1/2 & 5 1/2
Ipswich ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Leicester ...	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Liverpool...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Manchester	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4	4	4 1/2
Middlesbro'	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Newcastle- on-Tyne	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	4 1/2	4 1/2
Nottingham	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oldham ...	4	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Plymouth...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Potteries ...	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	4	4	4	4 1/2
Wolverpton	5 1/2	5 1/2	5	5 1/2	5	5	5	5 1/2
Aberdeen...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Dundee ...	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Edinburgh	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Glasgow ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Belfast ...	5	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
Dublin ...	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	6	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2

As compared with a month ago, the price per 4 lbs. has been advanced 1/4d. at Manchester, Wolverhampton, Glasgow, Dundee, and in the Potteries. At Birmingham the prices of the bread generally consumed by workpeople have been reduced from 5d. and 6d. to 4 1/2d. and 5 1/2d. In London the prevailing price of bread is now 5d. per 4 lbs., 54 per cent. of the shops visited selling at that price, and about 21 per cent. selling at 4 1/2d. and 21 per cent. at 5 1/2d.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1903, to August, 1904:—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.	
	Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt. s. d.	Wheat. Average Declared Value.	Wheat-meal and Flour. Average Declared Value.
January ... 1903.	...	5 10	6 11	9 2 1/2
February	5 11	6 11	9 3
March	5 10 1/2	6 11 1/2	9 2 1/2
April	6 0 1/2	6 8 1/2	9 2 1/2
May	6 5	6 9 1/2	9 3 1/2
June	6 7 1/2	6 9 1/2	9 1 1/2
July	6 7 1/2	6 9 1/2	9 4 1/2
August	6 11 1/2	6 11 1/2	9 4 1/2
September	6 6	6 9 1/2	9 6 1/2
October	6 0 1/2	6 9 1/2	9 7 1/2
November	6 2 1/2	6 9 1/2	9 9 1/2
December	6 2 1/2	6 8 1/2	9 8 1/2
January ... 1904.	...	6 3 1/2	6 9 1/2	9 9 1/2
February	6 3 1/2	6 10 1/2	9 9 1/2
March	6 7 1/2	7 1	10 1 1/2
April	6 7 1/2	6 11 1/2	9 11
May	6 5 1/2	6 10 1/2	9 3 1/2
June	6 2 1/2	6 10	9 7 1/2
July	6 4 1/2	6 9 1/2	9 2
August	6 9	6 11 1/2	9 3 1/2

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1903, to August 31st, 1904, amounted to 93,102,100 cwts. (21,723,823 quarters), compared with 8

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

DURING August 34 cases of lead poisoning, 3 cases of anthrax, and one case each of mercurial and arsenic poisoning were reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act. No case of phosphorus poisoning was reported. The number of deaths was four, two of which were due to lead poisoning.

During the eight months ended August the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 383 as compared with 446 in the corresponding period of 1903. The number of deaths was 24, being 2 more than in 1903.

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	8 months ended August,		8 months ended August,	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals ...	1	18	16	—
Brass Works ...	—	5	11	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	4	9	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	2	15	14	—
Printing ...	2	11	7	—
File Cutting ...	1	16	19	1
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware ...	—	7	7	—
White Lead Works ...	10	61	75	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	1	8	6	—
China and Earthenware* ...	2	63	73	—
Litho-transfer Works ...	—	2	2	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	1	4	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	—	1	16	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	3	12	16	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	2	16	25	—
Coach Making ...	1	29	51	—
Shipbuilding ...	4	31	14	—
Paint used in other Industries ...	1	15	26	—
Other Industries ...	4	27	21	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	34	341	398	2
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	1	2	—
Furriers' processes ...	—	1	1	—
Other Industries ...	1	2	4	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	1	3	7	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	1	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ...	1	3	3	—
Other Industries ...	—	2	2	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	1	5	5	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting ...	—	2	4	—
Wool Combing ...	1	7	13	—
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	8	3	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) ...	1	9	9	—
Other Industries ...	1	7	7	—
Total Anthrax	3	33	36	2
Grand Total	39	383	446	4

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Midland District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-Manager of a mine will be held at Nottingham on 20th to 22nd October next. Candidates must, on or before 18th October, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. W. Saunders, Wilson-street, Derby, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

West Scotland District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-Manager of a mine will be held at Glasgow, on November 25th and 26th next. Candidates must, on or before November 12th, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. W. D. Ker, 140, Hope Street, Glasgow, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside these districts are eligible for examination.

* The two persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in August, 1904, were females.

† *House Painters and Plumbers.*—In addition to the cases included in the Table 21 cases of lead poisoning (including 1 death) were reported during August, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the eight months ended August, 1904, was 129 (including 23 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1903, 127 (including 27 deaths).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during August, 1904, was 217, or 23 more than in July, and 25 less than in August, 1903. The mean number for August in the years 1899-1903, was 214, the maximum year in this period being 1903, with 242 deaths, and the minimum year 1902, with 195 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen in August, 1904, was 131. The numbers reported in August of the years 1899-1903 varied from 99 to 160, the mean for the five years being 123.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 321, as compared with 324 in the corresponding period of 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

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

SUMMARY.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1904, as compared with a	
	Aug., 1904.			Month ago.	Year ago.
	Aug., 1904.	July, 1904.	Aug., 1903.		
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	1	6	—	— 5
Engine Drivers	1	3	4	— 2	— 3
Firemen	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Guards (Passenger)	10	—	7	—	+ 3
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	10	10	—	—	—
Porters	5	5	2	—	+ 3
Shunters	3	3	3	—	—
Miscellaneous	16	9	23	+ 7	— 7
Contractors' Servants	2	2	—	—	—
Total Railway Service	41	34	49	+ 7	— 8
Mines—					
Underground	72	66	63	+ 6	+ 9
Surface	6	10	10	— 4	— 4
Total Mines	78	76	73	+ 2	+ 5
Quarries over 20 feet deep	11	15	5	— 4	+ 6
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	3	1	1	+ 2	+ 2
Wool and Worsted	—	—	2	—	— 2
Other Textiles	2	1	—	+ 1	—
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	2	4	8	— 2	— 6
Founding and Conversion of Metals	9	9	7	—	+ 2
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	1	2	4	— 1	— 3
Ship and Boat Building	8	5	15	+ 3	— 7
Wood	4	1	1	+ 3	+ 3
Chemicals, &c.	2	5	2	— 3	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	31	18	33	+ 13	— 2
Total Factories	62	46	75	+ 16	— 13
Workshops	—	1	2	— 1	— 2
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays...	10	4	16	+ 6	— 6
Warehouses	7	1	1	—	—
Buildings to which Act applies	10	12	12	— 2	— 2
Laundries	—	—	1	—	— 1
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	27	17	30	+ 4	— 9
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	4	5	8	— 1	— 4
Total, exclusive of Seamen	217	194	242	+ 23	— 25
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	69	12	31	+ 57	+ 38
Steam	53	45	83	+ 8	— 30
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	3	2	1	+ 1	+ 2
Steam	6	—	8	+ 6	— 2
Total Seamen	131	62	123	+ 69	+ 8
Total, including Seamen	348	256	365	+ 92	— 17

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.*

Number and Magnitude.—Fifteen new disputes began in August, 1904, compared with the same number in July, and 19 in August, 1903. By the 15 disputes 3,628 workpeople were directly and 1,179 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 12,969 workpeople involved in trade disputes during August, 1904, compared with 16,322 in July, 1904, and 29,523 in August, 1903.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining	3	2,525	369	2,894
Metal and Engineering	4	217	180	397
Cotton and Jute Spinning	3	470	630	1,100
Other Trades	5	416	—	416
Total, August, 1904	15	3,628	1,179	4,807
Total, July, 1904	15	8,651	2,940	11,591
Total, August, 1903	19	23,069	163	23,232

Causes.—Of the fifteen new disputes, two arose on demands for increased wages, two on objection to reduction, two on other wages questions, four on questions of employment of particular classes or persons, three on details of working arrangements, and two from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in August in the case of seven new disputes, affecting 3,852 workpeople, and three old disputes, affecting 5,681 workpeople.

Of these ten new and old disputes, three, involving 1,980 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; five, involving 7,132 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and two, involving 421 persons, were compromised.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1904.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Masons, Labourers, Crane Drivers and Carters	Glasgow	3,500	2,000	1 July	47	Against proposed reduction in wages from 9d. to 8d. per hour	Reduction accepted.
Coal Miners	Pontypridd	1,451	369	1 Aug.	20	Refusal to work with non-unionists...	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Hewers and Underground Workers	Pontypool	825	—	15 Aug.	6	Men who had hitherto been conveyed to pit top by train objected to management stopping train 300 yards from pit top on account of alleged dangerous incline	Men to walk the 300 yards.
Card and Blowing Room Operatives and Spinners	Ashton-under-Lyne	90	160	17 Aug.	—	Dispute as to cleaning frames in cardroom	No settlement reported.
Jute Spinners and Winders	Dundee	320	280	29 Aug.	8	Dissatisfaction with working conditions	Returned to work on former conditions.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Leeds	300	—	13 Aug.	7	Misunderstanding in regard to working arrangements	Amicable arrangement arrived at.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of 1904 the figures 'previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople 'indirectly affected,' i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended 3rd September amounted to £10,380,227, a decrease of £118,105 (or 1.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £5,710,567, an increase of £25,980. The receipts from goods and mineral traffic amounted to £4,669,660 in the five weeks, or a decrease of £144,085. Of the £4,669,660 received under this head, £3,018,560 was received by the Northern lines of England, showing

in the case of two other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 349 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in August of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 144,000 working days. In addition, 84,000 working days were lost in August, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in August of all disputes, new and old, was 228,000 working days, which compares with 262,800 in the previous month, and 266,000 in the corresponding month of 1903.

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

Groups of Trades.	January to August,					
	1903.			1904.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	33	3,401	88,100	30	8,395	329,100
Mining and Quarrying	72	33,386	1,036,200	65	22,362	409,600
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	44	27,707	394,900	42	8,689	133,100
Textile	34	5,123	64,200	28	6,074	88,600
Clothing	19	2,163	114,100	15	2,46	8,900
Transport	3	1,427	13,000	3	830	20,850
Other Trades	20	1,290	39,200	27	2,423	48,159
Total	230	76,297	1,749,700	210	49,619	1,038,300

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

a decrease of £121,139 on the corresponding five weeks in 1903. The Southern and Western lines and those of Scotland and Ireland together received £1,651,100, a decrease of £22,946.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during August numbered 371, being 65 more than in August, 1903. During the eight months ended August, 1904, the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 3,029 as against 2,806 in the first eight months of 1903. The 3,029 bankruptcies in 1904 included 217 builders, 95 bakers, 71 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, as compared with 221, 90 and 74 respectively in the eight months ended August, 1903.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

WAGES.

Changes Reported in August.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in August was a decrease of £17,639 per week, as compared with a decrease of £129 in July, and a decrease of £1,296 in August, 1903. The number of workpeople affected was 356,596, of whom 925 received advances amounting to £35 per week, and 355,671 sustained decreases amounting to £17,674 per week. The total number affected in July was 5,288, and in August, 1903, 121,188.

The principal changes reported were decreases affecting 347,000 coal miners in the Federated Districts of England, South Yorkshire, South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire.

Three changes, affecting 246,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and two changes, affecting 1,250 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 109,346 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, seven of these changes, affecting 3,977 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the first Eight Months of 1904.†—For the eight months, January—August, 1904, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) respecting whom wages changes have been reported was 630,584, as compared with 388,440 in the corresponding period of 1903. The changes arranged give 7,736 workpeople a net increase amounting to £646 per week, and 620,321 a net decrease of £31,503 per week, whilst the remaining 2,527 have had upward and downward changes which have left their wages at the same level as at the

beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £30,857 per week, compared with a decrease of £13,638 per week in the corresponding period of 1903.

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

Groups of Trades.	January—August.			
	1903.		1904.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	3,996	+ 309	7,483	- 592
Coal Mining	261,250	- 8,784	499,990	- 23,200
Iron Mining	9,161	- 288	10,723	- 526
Quarrying	2,935	- 158	2,610	- 54
Pig Iron Manufacture	13,710	- 333	11,181	- 564
Iron and Steel Manufacture	8,768	- 182	52,031	- 2,784
Engineering and Shipbuilding	72,343	- 4,157	31,023	- 2,619
Textile Trades	599	+ 31	2,671	- 59
Glass Trades	5,091	- 362	4,479	- 668
Other Trades	7,045	+ 87	4,482	- 71
Employees of Local Authorities	3,542	+ 199	4,211	+ 320
Total	388,440	- 13,638	630,584	- 30,857

HOURS.

The changes in hours of labour reported during August, 1904, affected 173 workpeople, of whom 55 had their working time increased by 79 hours per week, and 118 had their time decreased by 98 hours per week. During the eight months January—August the total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour was 7,008, the net reduction in their working time being 12,129 hours per week.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	

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

Increases—Nil.		BUILDING TRADES.		Decreases—3,901 Workpeople.	
Stockton-on-Tees...	Plasterers†	18 July	30	Decrease of 3d. per hour (10d. to 9½d.).	
Hartlepool	Plasterers ...	18 July	36	Decrease of 3d. per hour (10d. to 9½d.).	
Middlesbrough ...	Plasterers†	18 July	25	Decrease of 3d. per hour (10d. to 9½d.).	
Lowestoft	Bricklayers†	27 July	110	Decrease of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 7d.).	
Glasgow & District	Stonemasons ...	25 Aug.	3,700	Decrease of 3d. per hour (9½d. to 9d.).	
Increases—Nil.		COAL MINING.		Decreases—351,090 Workpeople.	
Federated Districts‡	Coal Hewers and other Underground Workers	Third making-up day in Aug.	230,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off standard rates, leaving Hewers' wages 40 cent. above the standard of 1888.	
	Surface Workers	Third making-up day in Aug.	49,000	Decrease of from 2½ to 5 per cent.	
South Yorkshire	Coal Hewers and other Underground Workers	Third making-up day in Aug.	45,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off standard rates, leaving Hewers' wages 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888.	
	Surface Workers	Third making-up day in Aug.	11,000	Decrease of from 2½ to 5 per cent.	
South Staffs. and East Worcester (parts of)	Coal Hewers and other Underground and Surface Workers	Third making-up day in Aug.	12,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 40 per cent. above the standard of 1888.	
	Hewers and other Underground Workers, Banksmen and Screenmen	19 Aug.	4,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 25 per cent. above the standard of 1879.	
Somerset (Radstock District)	Engine-men and Stokers	19 Aug.	90	Decrease of 5 per cent. off standard rates, leaving wages 10 per cent. above the standard of 1879.	
	Increases—650 Workpeople.		METAL TRADES.		Decreases—600 Workpeople.
Workington ...	Steel Workers (except Enginemen, Crane-men and Firemen)	15 Aug.	600	Decrease of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 6 per cent. above the standard.	
Barrow-in-Furness	Rail, Wire, and Hoop Millmen	1 Aug.	650	Advance of 1 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 10 per cent. above the standard.	
Increases—275 workpeople.		OTHER TRADES.		Decreases—80 workpeople.	
Gateshead ...	Tram Motormen	1 Aug. } 68		Advance of 1½d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.).	
	Tram Conductors	1 Oct. } 70		Further advance of 3d. per hour (6½d. to 6¾d.).	
		1 Aug. } 70		Advance of 1½d. per hour (5d. to 5½d.).	
		1 Oct. } 70		Further advance of 3d. per hour (5½d. to 5¾d.).	

* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. 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. † Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen and railway servants. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. § Includes West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, North Staffordshire, Cannock Chase, Shropshire and North Wales.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1904.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
			Increase.	Decrease.	

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1904—continued.

OTHER TRADES—(continued).					
Orley ...	Compositors	22 July	22	4	Advance of 1s. per week (28s. to 29s.).
					Decrease of 1s. per week (34s. to 33s.).
Manchester ...	Flint Glass Makers	July	4	60	Advance of 4s. per week (34s. to 38s.).
					Decrease of 5 per cent.
Warrington ...	Flint Glass Makers	25 July	...	16	Decrease of 5 per cent.
Winchester ...	Tailors	11 June	75	...	Advance of about 2s. 6d. per week.
Bellshill & District	Bakers	4 July	36	...	Advance of 1s. per week (33s. to 34s.).

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

Stockton-on-Tees ...	Plasterers†	18 July	30	...	Increase of 3 hours per week in summer working hours (50 to 53).
Middlesbrough ...	Plasterers†	18 July	25	...	Increase of 1 hour per week in summer working hours (52 to 53).
Lowestoft	Bricklayers†	27 July	110	...	Re-arrangement of winter working hours and extension of winter period from 13 to 16 weeks. Average winter hours after change 51½ per week.
Orley	Linotype Operators†	22 July	8	...	Decrease of 6 hours per week (54 to 48) off day work and of 4 hours per week (48 to 44) off night work.

* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

† See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF LABOUR.

A REPORT has recently been issued by the Board of Trade respecting their proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1904. It is stated that the complaints of long hours made under the Act during the past year show a further decrease as compared with those recorded in the last report, fewer representations having been received than in any previous year since the passing of the Act.

The number of complaints ranges from 11 in 1904 to 156 in 1895, the total number made in the period 1894-1904 being 719. Of this total, 228 affected signalmen, 136 guards and brakemen, 126 drivers and firemen, 117 staff at stations, 66 shunters, and 46 various other grades. The number of servants however, whose hours are dealt with upon any representation, is often considerably larger than the number referred to in the original complaint.

passengers was 109,478, of whom 84,709 were bound for the United States, 15,994 for British North America, and 3,628 for British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1903, the number was 134,192, of whom 91,188 were bound for the United States, 30,700 for British North America, and 7,761 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During August, 20,242 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 10,425 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 93 as compared with August, 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 8,763 (exclusive of seamen), or 1,632 more than a year ago. For the eight months ended August, 1904, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 65,904, and the number not so stated, 49,627 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 97,469 and 46,381 respectively in 1903.

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

	Aug., 1904.		Aug., 1903.	
	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries ...	1,054	958	8,446	9,168
Seamen	8,763	7,131	49,627	46,381
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries ...	10,425	10,518	65,904	97,469
Gross Total	20,242	18,607	123,977	153,018

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Night Work: Special Exception.—The Home Secretary has made an Order,* dated August 9th, 1904, under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, extending the special exception under Section 54 of the Act, which allows the employment of male young persons above 16 years of age at night, to male young persons of the age of 16 years and upwards employed on the system of 3 shifts of not more than 8 hours each in the processes of pressing and reeling cordite and nitrating and moulding gun cotton carried on in non-textile factories. The extension is subject to the conditions prescribed in sub-section 1.

Explosives in Coal Mines.—Under the powers conferred upon him by Section 6 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, the Home Secretary has made an Order† amending the Order of 20th December, 1902, and dated 6th September, 1904. By this new Order, in addition to the requirements of Section 2 of the former Order, it is provided that a charge shall consist of a cartridge or cartridges of not more than one description of explosive. The following are added to the list of Permitted Explosives:—Ammonia B, Cellite, Colliery Cheddite, Nobel Ammonia Powder No. 1, Nobel Ammonia Powder No. 2, and Phoenix Powder. The name Permatite is to be deemed to be substituted for Coronite in the Schedule to the Order of 24th April, 1903.

* Factory and Workshop. Special Exception:—Night Work. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1904. No. 1429. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d. † "Explosives in Coal Mines Order of the 6th September, 1904." Statutory Rules and Orders, 1904. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during August was 53,234 as compared with 47,233 in August, 1903. During the eight months ended August, 1904, the number of passengers was 279,587, being 29,802 (or 9.6 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 53,234 passengers in August, 32,191 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 2,593 compared with a year ago. For the eight months ended August, 1904, the number was 170,109, as compared with 175,197 in the corresponding period of 1903, a decrease of 5,088, which is more than accounted for by a decrease of 17,023 in the number of passengers to British South Africa. The number proceeding to British North America shows an increase of 6,077.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Eight months ended			
	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.
British Empire:				
British North America	6,936	5,625	53,997	47,920
Australia and New Zealand... ..	1,314	1,168	7,196	5,826
British South Africa	2,318	5,001	15,850	32,853
India (including Ceylon)	188	216	1,935	1,878
Other British Colonies and Possessions	341	314	2,315	2,344
Total, British Empire	11,097	12,324	81,273	91,821
Foreign Countries:				
United States	20,750	16,800	85,683	80,281
Other Foreign Countries	344	474	3,153	3,095
Total, Foreign Countries	21,094	17,274	88,836	83,376
Grand Total	32,191	29,598	170,109	175,197

Foreign.—The remainder of the 53,234 passengers in August, viz., 21,043, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 3,408 more than in August, 1903. For the eight months ended August, 1904, the number of such

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for August.

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

The value of the Imports in August, 1904, was £42,439,943, a decrease of £321,513, or 0.75 per cent., as compared with those in August, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £31,738,369, showing a total increase of £218,573. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £694,996, or 2.7 per cent., as compared with August, 1903, whilst there is a decrease of £476,423, or 8.1 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

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

	Month of August.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	18,759,638	19,711,996	19,000,932	– 711,064	+ 241,294
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	11,128,521	11,739,904	11,964,968	+ 225,064	+ 836,447
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	10,326,343	11,137,907	11,479,301	+ 141,394	+ 952,958
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	198,069	171,649	194,742	+ 23,093	– 3,327
Total value of Imports	40,412,571	42,761,456	42,439,943	– 321,513	+ 2,027,872

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

	Month of August.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,617,721	1,617,861	1,722,841	+ 104,980	+ 105,120
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	2,757,263	2,883,415	2,841,682	– 41,733	+ 84,419
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	19,640,004	20,826,891	21,401,158	+ 574,267	+ 1,761,154
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	284,838	336,717	394,199	+ 57,482	+ 109,361
Total value of Exports of British produce	24,299,826	25,664,884	26,359,880	+ 694,996	+ 2,060,054

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of August, 1904, amounted to 3,719,865 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,193,214 tons, as against 3,732,702 tons entered, and 3,992,793 tons cleared in the month of August, 1903. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during August, 1904, amounted to 2,828,558 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,820,807 tons, as against 2,736,210 tons entered, and 2,717,541 tons cleared in August, 1903.

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

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

(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 August was 365,502 (viz., 155,863 indoor and 209,639 outdoor paupers), corresponding to a rate of 213 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1904.

Compared with July the number of persons relieved has increased by 5,429, and the rate per 10,000 by 3. This rise is due to an increase of 2,646 in the number of indoor paupers, and of 2,783 in the number of outdoor paupers. Increases are shown in twenty-five districts, the rate of increase being greatest in the Leicester district (26 per 10,000). Slight decreases occurred in six districts, and in four districts no change is indicated.

Compared with August, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 21,157 and the rate per 10,000 by 10. The number of indoor paupers shows an increase of 9,042 (or 6.2 per cent.), and outdoor paupers of 12,115 (or 6.1 per cent.). Increases are shown in thirty-one districts, the rate of increase being greatest in the Leicester district (56 per 10,000), North Staffordshire (30), West Ham (29) and East London (20). The only decreases occurred in three Irish districts. In the remaining district no change is shown.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of August, 1904.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolises.						
West District	10,764	3,209	13,973	169	+ 3	+ 1
North District	15,304	8,825	24,129	226	+ 8	+ 13
Central District	6,733	2,840	9,573	481	+ 13	+ 13
East District	14,293	6,118	20,411	284	+ 4	+ 20
South District	23,191	18,266	41,457	228	+ 4	+ 3
Total Metropolis	70,285	39,258	109,543	237	+ 6	+ 8
West Ham	3,708	10,276	13,984	217	+ 4	+ 29
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	1,937	4,845	6,782	160	+ 1	+ 8
Stockton & Tees District	1,181	4,000	5,181	243	+ 4	+ 16
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,086	9,124	13,210	175	+ 4	+ 14
Wigan District	2,011	6,300	8,311	211	...	...
Manchester District	9,282	8,808	18,090	194	– 1	+ 14
Liverpool District	11,368	9,085	20,453	202	+ 2	+ 14
Bradford District	1,602	2,856	4,458	123	+ 5	+ 10
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,275	3,809	5,084	140	+ 2	+ 7
Leeds District	2,254	6,443	8,697	188	– 1	+ 15
Barnsley District	717	2,982	3,699	156	– 1	+ 11
Sheffield District	3,090	4,936	7,126	166	+ 6	+ 15
Hull District	1,393	5,158	6,551	244	+ 1	+ 2
North Staffordshire	2,263	8,070	10,333	280	+ 5	+ 30
Nottingham District	1,981	5,665	7,646	190	+ 3	+ 19
Leicester District	1,268	4,684	5,952	287	+ 26	+ 56
Wolverhampton District	3,554	13,080	16,634	261	+ 3	+ 2
Birmingham District	4,740	3,523	8,263	144	+ 3	+ 8
Bristol District	2,764	6,845	9,609	251	+ 3	+ 4
Cardiff & Swansea	1,759	7,725	9,484	289	...	+ 6
Total "Other Districts"	58,525	117,038	175,563	199	+ 3	+ 12
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	4,748	17,300	22,048	231	+ 8	+ 9
Paisley & Greenock District	673	2,455	3,128	180	– 2	+ 6
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,707	5,629	7,336	185	+ 2	+ 7
Dundee & Dunfermline	1,014	2,848	3,862	195	...	+ 3
Aberdeen	623	2,910	3,533	217	...	+ 7
Coatbridge & Airdrie	328	1,445	1,773	190	– 3	+ 13
Total for the above Scottish Districts	9,093	32,587	41,680	210	– 1	+ 7
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	6,712	5,101	11,813	304	+ 3	– 4
Belfast District	3,228	280	3,508	90	+ 3	+ 3
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	3,974	4,794	8,768	357	+ 2	– 14
Galway District	338	305	643	180	– 1	– 9
Total for the above Irish Districts	14,252	10,480	24,732	233	+ 3	– 5
Total for above 35 Districts in August, 1904	155,863	209,639	365,502	213	+ 3	+ 10

* 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 AUGUST.

AT eleven Bureaux which furnished returns for both August, 1904 and 1903, 3,225 fresh applications for work were registered during August, 1904, as compared with 2,612 a year ago. During August these Bureaux found work for 874 persons, of whom 742 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 3,048, as compared with 3,114 a year ago.

Returns were also received from two other Bureaux not in operation a year ago. At the thirteen Bureaux included in the Table below 3,486 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 927 persons. The work procured for 320 of these persons was stated to be of a more or less permanent character, while, in the case of 607, temporary employment only was found. Of the 927 persons, 793 were engaged by private employers, 11 by Local Authorities, and 123 by the Salvation Army. At the end of August, the total number of persons remaining on the registers was 3,700, viz., 3,149 men and boys, and 551 women and girls.

Weekly returns which have been received from the Fulham Municipal Labour Bureau show that, during the five weeks ended September 3rd, 163 fresh applications for work were registered and 25 persons found work through the agency of the Bureau.

(I.) Work done in August.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau during	
	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1904.	Aug., 1903.
	London.					
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	121	126	21	24	21	24
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd. E.)	1,292	740	309	240*	432	240
St. Pancras (Crown Dale Rd., N.W.)	286	182	112	45	76	29
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	42	157	2	14	2	10
Hammersmith (St. Church Lane, W)	28	36	11	11	9	8
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	232	174	118	20	72	25
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	162	239	52	73	27	45
Provincial.						
Ipswich (Fore Street)	62	43	27	36	14	18
Plymouth (Basket Street)	116	182	59	108	55	103
Liverpool (Dale Street)	209	169	1	4	1	3
Glasgow (158, George Street)	675	564	557	452	165	190
Total of 11 Bureaux	3,225	2,612	1,269	1,027	874	695
London.						
Kensington (Lancaster Road, W.)†	172	...	15	...	46	...
Provincial.						
Wigan (Library Street)†	89	...	7	...	7	...
Total of 13 Bureaux	3,486	2,612	1,291	1,027	927	695

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

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men—			
Building Trades	16	25	41
Carmen, Stabblers, Horsemen, &c.	17	11	28
Porters and Messengers	32	43	75
Bill Distributors	...	298	298
General Labourers	13	...	13
Other Occupations	30	5	35
Lads and Boys	71	20	91
Women and Girls—			
Domestic Servants	71	14	85
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	11	63	74
Other Occupations	52	1	53
Total engaged by Private Employers	313	480	793
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads, and Boys	6	4	10
Women and Girls	1	...	1
Engaged by Salvation Army.			
Men	...	123	123
Grand Total of Bureaux			
	320	607	927

* Revised figure.
† Bureau not in operation in August, 1903.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August 584 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 437 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 109 persons, of whom 58 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 109 situations found for applicants, 65 were of a more or less permanent character, while 44 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 332 to 314, and the number of servants applying rose from 312 to 330; the number permanently engaged fell from 50 to 35. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., fell from 48 to 30, and the number requiring such situations rose from 37 to 38; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 12, compared with 24 in July.

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

WORK DONE IN AUGUST.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C. ...	62	58	12	4
Society for Promoting Training and Employment— 27, Berners-street, W. ...	19	29	5	10
Y.W.C.A.— 25, George-street (1) ...	283	379	30	23
Handover-square, W. (2) ...	33	61	4	5
Other Bureaux ...	40	57	14	2
Total of 6 Bureaux	437	584	65	44
Irish Central Bureau*, Dublin ...	19	24	5	—
Watford Bureau† ...	20	26	6	12
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc. ...	19	26	4	2
Shop Assistants ...	2	8	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ...	30	38	4	8
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ...	15	41	3	7
Apprentices and Learners ...	6	4	2	—
Domestic Servants ...	314	330	35	23
Miscellaneous ...	51	137	17	4
Total Number in August, 1904 ...	437	584	65	44
Total Number in July, 1904 ...	498	677	96	79
Total Number in August, 1903 ...	445	608	70	48

H.M. INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES.

Changes of Office Addresses.—The office of H.M. Inspector of Factories in charge of the Bradford District has been removed to 23, Piccadilly, Bradford.

Transfers.—Mr. J. H. Warren, Junior Inspector of Factories, has been transferred from the Sheffield to the South Ireland District in succession to Mr. Nicholl.

Mr. S. R. Bennett, Junior Inspector of Factories, has been transferred from the Southampton to the Sheffield District.

INFORMATION FOR INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

Argentine Republic.—A pamphlet containing general information for intending settlers in the Argentine Republic as to the climate, natural resources, and industries, and the wages of labour in that country, together with the fares from England, outfit required, and a summary of the immigration laws has been issued by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from whom it can be obtained post free for twopence.

* In operation since November, 1903.
† Opened July 1st, 1904.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING AUGUST.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Workmen's Compensation. Statistics of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1903. [Cd. 2269: pp. 41: price 4½d.] See page 261.

Statistical Charts for the St. Louis Exhibition. illustrating the Statistics of Trade, Employment, and Conditions of Labour in the United Kingdom. [Cd. 2145: pp. 37 + xxviii: charts: price 4s. 9d.] See page 262.

Statistical Abstract for the United Kingdom; 51st Number, 1889-1903. [Cd. 2192: pp. 304: price 1s. 3d.]

Physical Deterioration. Inter-Departmental Committee on. Minutes of Evidence. Vol. II. [Cd. 2210: pp. v. + 504: price 4s. 1d.] Vol. III. Appendix and General Index. [Cd. 2182: pp. 175: price 1s. 6d.]

Methods of dealing with Vagrancy in Switzerland. Report to the Local Government Board on. By H. Preston-Thomas, Local Government Board Inspector. [Cd. 2235: pp. 15: price 2d.] See page 258.

Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, England and Wales. 65th Annual Report, 1902. [Cd. 2003: pp. clxxx. + 308 + 43: price 2s. 2d.]

Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for the year 1903. Gives tables of agricultural labourers' wages in 1903 by Constabulary Districts. [Cd. 2196: pp. xxxii. + 165: price 1s.]

Report on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for 1903. Part I. General Report. Gives approximately numbers employed in various classes of fisheries. [Cd. 2154: pp. xxiii. + 249: price 1s. 4d.]

Annual Report of Proceedings under the Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Acts, 1903. Gives a table showing the estimated number of salmon fishermen employed in each year, 1867 to 1903. [Cd. 2177: pp. liv. + 101: price 8d.]

Report of the Irish Land Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904. Statistics of Judicial Rents fixed, proceedings under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1896, &c. [Cd. 2168: pp. iv. + 131: price 1s. 2d.]

Workmen's Trains. Report from Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the working and administration of the Cheap Trains Act, 1883, with Proceedings, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. Appendix contains tables of workmen's trains and fares in the London district, summary of the various Companies' regulations with regard to workmen's tickets, and details of workmen's fares on Continental railways. [H.C. 305: pp. xii. + 166: price 1s. 5d.]

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties for the three months ending 31st March, 1904, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers, Assistant Inspecting Officers, and Sub-Inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain accidents. [Cd. 2231: pp. 145: price 1s. 3d.]

Foreign Ships (Application of Statutory Requirements). Report from Select Committee appointed to inquire to what extent the Statutory Requirements applying to British ships trading to and from ports in the United Kingdom should be made applicable to foreign vessels trading to and from such ports. With Proceedings, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. [H.C. 299: pp. 114: price 1s.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Transvaal.

Further correspondence relating to Labour in the Transvaal Mines. [Cd. 2183: pp. iv. + 34: price 4d.]

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

New Zealand.

Return showing the registered Industrial Associations, &c., under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1900. Gives the names and membership of industrial unions of employers and workers registered under the Act at 17th July, 1903; 84 of the former with 2,497, and 232 of the latter with 23,815 members. [Wellington, John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 8.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Bi-monthly Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour, Department of Commerce and Labour. July, 1904. No. 53. Wages and Cost of Living, years 1890-1903. [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 265.] See page 259.

France.

Report on Relief Institutions in France for 1902. Direction du Travail. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1904: pp. vi. + 103.]

Report of Paris Mont-de-Piété (Municipal Pawnshops) for 1903-1904. [Paris: Imprimerie Chaix, 1904: pp. lii. + 30.]

Germany.

Nineteenth Annual Report of German Miners' Accident, Sickness, and Age Insurance Fund for 1903. [Berlin, 1904: pp. 65.]

Statistical Year-Book of Baden for 1903. Includes Statistics of Trade Unions, Labour Registries, Savings Banks, Accident and Invalidity Insurance, and Poor Relief. [Karlsruhe: Macklot'sche Druckerei, 1904: pp. xx. + 602: price 6s.]

Austria.

Report of Austrian Industrial—Factory—Inspectors for 1903. [Vienna: K. K. Hof und Staatsdruckerei, 1904: pp. 717.]

Belgium.

Year-Book of Labour Legislation for 1903. Office du Travail de la Belgique. [Brussels: Société Belge de Librairie, rue Truierenberg, 16: 1904: pp. xx. + 647: price 2s. 8d.]

Sweden.

Industrial Statistics, IV.—Report on Wages, Hours of Labour, &c. in Engineering Trades of Sweden. Part 2.—Smaller Workshops. Swedish Board of Trade. [Stockholm: Kungl. Hofboktryckeriet, 1904: pp. 473, price 1s. 8d.]

Consular Reports. Foreign Office Annual Series. No. 3262. *Trade of Vera Cruz, 1903.* Statistics of the Mexican cotton trade for years 1900 to 1903, number of factories working and idle, number of spindles and looms, old style and modern, printing machines and operatives employed, production, &c. [Cd. 2236-6: pp. 56: price 3d.]

No. 3243. *Trade of Lyons, St. Etienne and Grenoble, 1903.* Establishment of co-operative silk spinning mills projected; funds to be furnished by Minister of Agriculture. [Cd. 1766-177: pp. 14: price 1d.]

No. 3253. *Foreign Commerce of Russia and Trade of the Consular district of St. Petersburg, 1903.* Latest available statistics (year 1900) of the number of cotton factories in Russia, and the number of spindles and looms employed; statistics of textile mills in Finland. [Cd. 1766-187: pp. 44: price 2½d.]

Miscellaneous Series. Germany, No. 618. *Special Technical Schools for the Woodworking industries.* Give subjects of instruction at the various schools, fees, &c. [Cd. 1767-22: pp. 30: price 2d.]

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

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

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN AUGUST.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in August, was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, none; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 7; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 32 (including 22 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 1; in all, 40.

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

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—*Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—1, viz., Lydney Dist. Farmers' Co-op. Soc. (Ltd.), Agric. Store, Lydney. *Miscellaneous Societies.*—Working Men's Clubs, 1; others, 1. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—*Co-operative Society mainly for Production.*—1, viz., Dublin Tailors' Co-partnership (Ltd.), 14, Bachelors' Walk, Dublin. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—3, viz., Doonbeg Co-op. Agric. Soc. (Ltd.), Doonbeg, Co. Clare; Kilmeague and Dist. Co-op. Bee-keepers' Soc. (Ltd.), Kilmeague, Co. Kildare; Tannaghmore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc. (Ltd.), Tannaghmore, Randalstown, Co. Antrim.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales—10, viz., Henshaws, Oldham Blue Coat School Old Boys' Assn., Manchester; Anstey and Dist. Liberal Working Men's Club, Leicester; Rushall and Daw End Working Men's Liberal Club, Walsall; Port Talbot and Aberavon Workmen's Athletic Club, Aberavon; Lawson Paragon Provident Soc., Canning Town, E.; Faversham Juvenile Foresters' Friendly Soc., Faversham; Lester Tontine Benefit Soc., Everton Valley, Liverpool; Dyson Hall Sick and Dividend Soc., Aston, Birmingham; Upper Works Friendly Soc., Trecynon, Aberdare; Shop Assistants', Domestic and General Friendly Collecting Soc., Brighton. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(2) DISSOLVED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as having registration cancelled in August, was as follows:— Under the Trade Union Acts, none; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 6; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 16 (including 11 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 5; in all 27.

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

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