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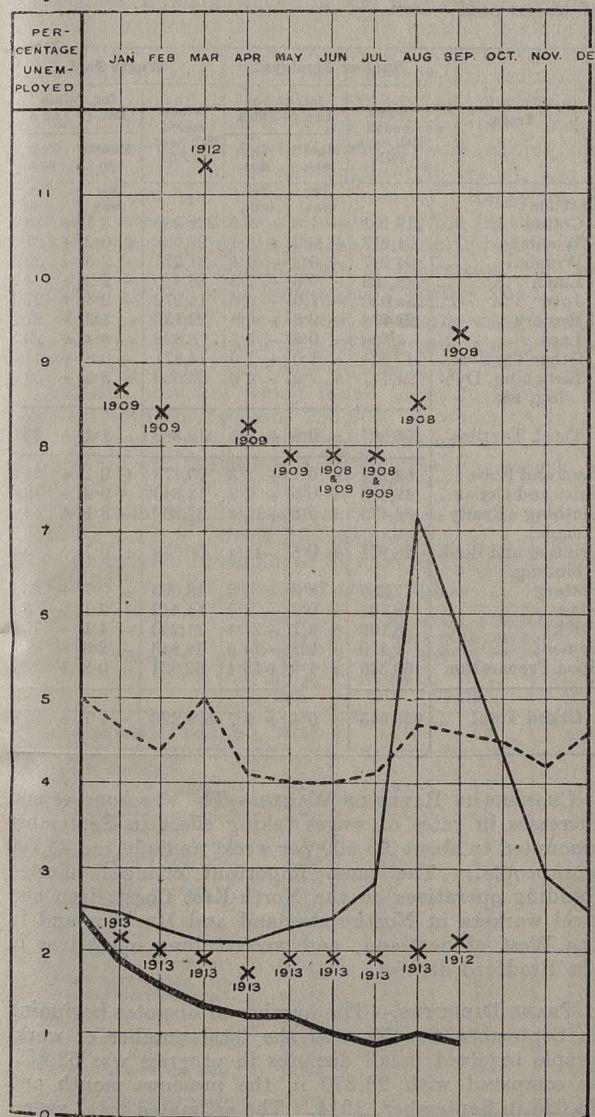
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1915. — Thin Curve = 1914.
 ----- Dotted Curve = Mean of 1905-14.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1905-14.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

THE LABOUR MARKET.

In some trades there was a slight relaxation of the great pressure of recent months, but on the whole employment in September continued to be at a very high level. The demand for male labour, both of men and boys, was not equal to the supply, and the substitution of female for male labour continued.

Employment in the coal mining industry continued very good, and the average weekly number of days on which the collieries were working was much higher than is usual in September. At iron and lead mines it was good, and at shale mines very good, and at tin mines dull. At quarries employment was generally fair, except in North Wales, where it was depressed.

In the pig-iron industry employment continued good, while the iron and steel trades showed a further improvement. The pressure in the engineering and shipbuilding trades continued, and there was still a shortage of labour. With the exception of tinsplate and steel sheet the other metal trades continued very busy, with much overtime.

In the cotton trade there was a decline, mainly in the weaving branch. The woollen, worsted and hosiery trades were still well employed in most districts, but the pressure on war contracts was not quite so marked. There was a decline in the jute trade, but employment was still good; there was also a decline in the linen trade, and at Belfast employment was slack. Employment improved in the bleaching, calico printing and dyeing trades, the improvement with dyers being especially noticeable. There was little change in the silk, lace and carpet trades.

The boot and shoe trades continued to be very busy, especially in the home trade; employment was also very good in the leather trades, except with saddle and harness makers at Walsall. There was a slight seasonal improvement in the bespoke tailoring, dressmaking and millinery trades; the ready-made tailoring trade showed a slight decline, but employment was still good. It was also good in the corset trade, and fairly good in the felt hat, and the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades.

Building operations, except on new factories and workshops, continue to be restricted, but owing to enlistments and transfers to other trades the number unemployed remained low. There was a decline in the brickmaking and cement trades. The woodworking and furnishing trades showed little change.

Employment with letterpress printers, though still quiet, showed an improvement on the previous month; with lithographic printers it continued fairly good. With bookbinders and with papermakers employment continued to improve and was good.

The glass and pottery trades were generally well employed. The food preparation trades showed some decline in certain branches, and employment in the fishing industry was good. In agriculture harvest operations were helped by fine weather, and the shortage of labour was met by the employment of women and children.

Dock labourers were well employed on the whole, and

at most ports the supply of seamen was about equal to the demand.

Compared with September, 1914, when industry had not fully recovered from the disorganisation caused by the outbreak of war, employment showed a very marked improvement. The improvement is reflected in the monthly pauperism returns, which in September, 1915, showed a reduction of 30 paupers per ten thousand of the population of 35 selected urban districts as compared with the corresponding date of last year.

TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 930,141 reported 8,231 (or 0.9 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of September, 1915, compared with 1.0 per cent. at the end of August, 1915, and 5.9 per cent. at the end of September, 1914.

Trade.	Membership at end of Sept., 1915, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces.	Unemployed at end of Sept., 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Number.	Percentage.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building* ...	82,645	1,696	2.1	- 0.3	- 3.6
Coal Mining† ...	132,226	91	0.1	...	- 2.0
Iron and Steel ...	34,810	338	1.0	- 0.1	- 1.8
Engineering ...	242,531	1,075	0.4	- 0.2	- 4.6
Shipbuilding ...	71,514	267	0.4	- 0.1‡	- 5.6
Miscellaneous Metal	35,126	62	0.2	...	- 4.0
Textiles†:-					
Cotton ...	82,115	1,544	1.9	+ 0.1	- 12.7
Woolen & Worsted	8,573	119	1.4	- 0.4	- 4.9
Other ...	50,261	240	0.5	- 0.1	- 8.1
Printing, Bookbinding and Paper.	59,744	1,701	2.8	- 0.4	- 4.5
Furnishing ...	16,386	594	3.6	+ 0.1	- 11.2
Woodworking ...	30,657	255	0.8	+ 0.1	- 4.8
Clothing ...	70,270	84	0.1	- 0.1	- 2.6
Leather ...	4,357	96	2.2	+ 1.4	- 2.2
Glass ...	822	16	1.9	+ 1.0	+ 0.2
Pottery ...	5,831	5	0.1	- 0.1	- 1.5
Tobacco ...	2,273	48	2.1	...	- 18.5
Total ...	930,141	8,231	0.9	- 0.1	- 5.0

* This percentage is based mainly on returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.

† In addition to the ordinary short time which occurs in all trades, it should be noted that in the mining and textile industries a contraction in the demand for labour is more generally met by a reduction in the time worked per week by a large number of workpeople than by the discharge of a smaller number.

‡ The figure for August, 1915, has been revised.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN "INSURED TRADES."

The percentage of "insured" workpeople unemployed at the end of September, 1915, was 0.9, compared with 0.9 at the end of August, and 5.4 at the end of September, 1914.

Trade.	Number Insured, exclusive of those serving with H.M. Forces	Unemployed at end of September, 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage unemployed on a	
		Number	Percentage	Month ago.	Year ago.
Building ...	640,947	11,024	1.7	...	- 5.1
Construction of Works.	150,974	737	0.5	- 0.1	- 2.8
Engineering and Iron-founding.	758,093	3,311	0.4	- 0.1	- 4.5
Shipbuilding...	242,963	1,454	0.6	- 0.1	- 3.8
Construction of Vehicles.	174,275	1,117	0.6	- 0.1	- 5.0
Sawmilling ...	9,433	74	0.8	...	- 2.8
Other Insured Work-people.	42,998	111	0.3	...	- 2.2
All Insured Work-people	2,019,683	17,828	0.9	...	- 4.5

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: MINING AND METAL TRADES.

The following Table summarises the returns from firms employing 673,916 workpeople in September, 1915, in the industries mentioned:—

Trade.	Workpeople included in the Returns for September, 1915.	August, 1915.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Days worked per week by Mines.	Days.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Coal Mining ...	499,899	5.64	+ 0.04	+ 0.65	
Iron ...	13,011	5.90	+ 0.12	+ 0.09	
Shale ...	2,911	5.89	+ 0.01	—	
Pig Iron ...	23,920	Furnaces in Blast. 268	+ 1	+ 4	
Tinplate and Steel Sheet	26,406	Mills Working. 489	—	+ 38	
Iron and Steel	107,769	Shifts Worked (One Week). 622,591	+ 1.7	+ 18.1	

EMPLOYERS' RETURNS: TEXTILE AND OTHER TRADES.

Returns from firms employing 659,643 workpeople in the week ended 25th September, 1915, showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 27.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Trade.	Number Employed.			Wages Paid.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Textiles:-		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Cotton ...	219,151	- 1.3	+ 9.6	229,380	- 3.1	+ 36.5
Woolen ...	24,912	+ 0.2	+ 5.1	28,638	+ 0.2	+ 27.5
Worsted ...	34,237	- 0.2	+ 0.4	31,327	+ 2.5	+ 32.5
Linen ...	40,123	- 0.6	- 7.3	26,370	- 2.2	+ 4.3
Jute ...	14,050	- 1.0	- 0.6	14,272	- 2.4	+ 27.1
Hosiery ...	22,936	+ 0.5	+ 6.8	22,139	- 1.3	+ 27.9
Lace ...	8,600	- 0.5	- 7.1	8,826	+ 0.4	+ 20.3
Other Textiles...	17,211	- 1.0	+ 1.0	14,871	- 0.8	+ 41.5
Bleaching, Dyeing, etc.	24,747	+ 1.0	+ 4.0	36,560	+ 5.5	+ 50.5
Total, Textiles...	405,967	- 0.8	+ 5.0	412,383	- 1.4	+ 33.0
Boot and Shoe ...	63,224	- 0.1	+ 1.3	79,173	+ 0.1	+ 25.8
Shirt and Collar ...	19,830	+ 0.6	+ 2.9	14,340	- 0.2	+ 19.4
Clothing (Ready-made).	38,475	+ 0.3	+ 14.4	37,260	- 3.1	+ 34.0
Printing and Book-binding.	28,971	+ 0.8	- 11.4	36,039	+ 0.7	+ 3.8
Pottery ...	17,350	+ 0.3	- 4.2	18,629	+ 0.7	+ 25.2
Glass ...	9,701	+ 0.2	- 8.7	14,442	+ 2.1	+ 3.3
Brick ...	8,169	- 4.1	- 27.4	11,250	- 4.1	- 15.2
Cement ...	7,410	- 0.8	- 14.9	12,846	- 2.6	- 1.3
Food Preparation	60,546	+ 1.0	+ 15.4	62,934	- 0.8	+ 35.9
Grand Total ...	659,643	- 0.4	+ 3.7	699,296	- 1.1	+ 27.4

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.—The war bonuses and increases in rates of wages taking effect in September amounted to about £3,600 per week, and affected 33,700 workpeople. The most important changes affected building operatives on the North-East Coast, iron and steel workers in Northumberland and Durham and in the West of Scotland, and woolcombing operatives in the Bradford district.

TRADE DISPUTES.—The number of disputes beginning in September was 55, and the total number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress was 52,869, as compared with 28,870 in the previous month and 13,025 in September, 1914. The estimated total aggregate duration of all disputes in progress during the month was 172,400 working days, as compared with 109,600 in the previous month, and 229,800 in September, 1914.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.—Cases dealt with during the month include coal miners, South Wales and

Monmouthshire; armour plate workers, Openshaw; engineers, Manchester and Rochdale; stevedores, shipwrights and joiners and upholsterers, London; razor grinders and spring makers, Sheffield; riveters, Paisley and Renfrew; women workers, Barrow; cabinet makers, Barnstaple; dock workers, Hayle; carpenters and joiners, Oldham; building trade operatives, Stafford; electricians, Bristol; co-operative employees, Lincoln; iron workers, Riddings; seamen and firemen, Dublin; dyers and scourers and plumbers, Leicester; and plumbers, Paisley.

In addition, a number of findings were issued during the month by the Committee on Production.

LABOUR EXCHANGES.—The average weekly number of vacancies notified to all Labour Exchanges for the four weeks ended 10th September was 34,957, as compared with 31,984 in the previous four weeks, and with 29,339 in the four weeks ended 11th September, 1914. The average weekly number of vacancies filled for the same periods were 25,534, 24,373 and 23,107 respectively.

EMPLOYMENT IN GERMANY IN AUGUST.*

The following is the general conclusion arrived at by the German Department of Labour Statistics as to the course of employment in Germany in August:—

Bearing in mind the difficulties created by the war, the state of employment in the majority of trades in August continued to be fair. The textile, weaving and hosiery trades, it is true, experienced a set-back owing to the Federal Council's Decree of August 12th reducing the hours of labour in spinning, weaving and hosiery mills; other trades reported a decline in army orders. Among the trades most actively employed were mining, most branches of the metal and engineering trades, and the food, drink and tobacco industries. Reference has already been made to the decline in the textile trades. On the other hand the potash mining industry, which has been in a constant state of depression for some months, showed some improvement during August.

Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns were furnished by 36 Trade Unions having an aggregate membership of 1,011,146, apart from those serving in the army or navy. Omitting branches which failed to make returns, the membership covered was 963,909, of whom 25,282, or 2.6 per cent., were unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 2.7 per cent. in the preceding month, and with 22.4 per cent. in August, 1914.

The following Table shows, for each of the principal Unions making returns, the membership in August and the proportion unemployed at each of the three periods referred to in the preceding paragraph:—

Unions.	Membership reported on at end of Aug., 1915.	Percentage of Membership reported as Unemployed at end of Month.		
		August, 1915.	July, 1915.	August, 1914.
All Unions making Returns	963,909	2.6	2.7	22.4
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Building trade operatives	92,489	1.0	1.3	16.4
Metal workers (Soc. Dem.)	259,569	1.4	1.5	21.5
Engineers and metal workers (Hirsch-Duncker)	11,091	1.2	0.6	26.1
Metal workers (Christian)	17,475	1.1	1.2	18.2
Textile workers (Soc. Dem.)	71,698	8.1	6.4	28.2
Hat makers	8,110	40.5	41.0	62.2
Book and shoe workers	20,540	3.7	4.4	35.7
Transport workers	83,380	0.9	0.9	10.8
Printers (book and job)	33,860	1.1	1.3	41.2
Lithographers	7,816	3.9	3.8	54.8
Bookbinders	18,430	9.7	10.7	39.9
Saddlers and bag makers	14,511	1.4	1.9	34.6
Leather workers (Soc. Dem.)	7,626	3.9	2.8	22.8
Wood workers (Soc. Dem.)	80,960	3.5	3.7	33.0
Porcelain workers	6,993	11.3	13.1	54.0
Bakers	10,680	1.0	1.1	6.2
Brewery & corn mill workers	23,420	0.5	0.5	1.7
Tobacco workers	15,065	0.4	0.6	32.6
Factory workers (Soc. Dem.) irrespective of trade.	93,933	1.0	0.9	16.3
State and municipal workers	27,973	0.3	0.3	1.8

Among male members the proportion unemployed at the end of August was 1.4 per cent., as compared with the same percentage at the end of the preceding month, and with 21.2 per cent. in August, 1914. Among women members the percentage unemployed at the end of

* Reichsarbeitsblatt (the journal of the German Department for Labour Statistics), September, 1915.

August was 9.9, as compared with 9.7 per cent. in July and with 32.4 per cent. in August, 1914.

Returns from Labour Exchanges.—Returns relating to August were furnished by 908 Labour Exchanges and showed the number of applications for work to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been as follows:—

	August, 1915.	July, 1915.	August, 1914.
Males	88	98	248
Females	165	165	202

RETAIL FOOD PRICES.

UNITED KINGDOM AT 1ST OCTOBER.

RETAIL prices of food advanced about 3½ per cent. between 1st September and 1st October. Apart from eggs, the price of which advances seasonally at this time of the year, the largest increases were in the prices of tea and granulated sugar, which are affected by the Budget. The tea duty has been raised by 4d. per lb., and about 70 per cent. of the returns show that amount of increase in the retail prices; advances of 2d. are, however, frequent, particularly in London and the Midlands. The increases recorded for granulated sugar are usually of ½d. per lb. Expressed in percentage form, the average increase is 14 per cent. for both tea and granulated sugar.

Butter and milk advanced 7 and 5 per cent. respectively on the average, fish 4 per cent., and bacon 3 per cent. Meat, bread, flour, cheese and margarine remained at practically the same prices as a month ago, and potatoes showed an average fall of 6 per cent.

As compared with 1st October, 1914, the general level of prices showed an increase of about 26 per cent. Tea was dearer at the later date by about 50 per cent.—9d. per lb., the increase in duty being 7d. Fish averaged over 40 per cent. dearer. The prices of meat, bread, flour, butter and eggs showed increases varying from about 25 to 35 per cent. Cheese was dearer by 20 per cent., and bacon, milk and potatoes by about 15 per cent. Granulated sugar was only 7 per cent. dearer, and margarine showed a slight decline in price at 1st October, 1915, as compared with a year earlier.

COMPARISON WITH JULY, 1914

In the following Table is given a percentage comparison of the level of prices at 1st October, 1915, in relation to the normal prices of July, 1914, the month preceding the outbreak of the war, figures for large towns and for small towns and villages being shown separately:—

Article.	Percentage Increase since July, 1914.		Article.	Percentage Increase since July, 1914.	
	Large Towns.	Small Towns and Villages.		Large Towns.	Small Towns and Villages.
Peef, British—			Bread	40	35
Ribs	39	38	Tea	60	47
Thin flank	51	43	Sugar (granulated)	97	90
Beef, Chilled or Frozen			Milk	19	17
Ribs	52	45	Potatoes	3*	5*
Thin flank	71	61	Margarine	6	5
Mutton, British—			Butter—		
Legs	29	30	Fresh	34	35
Breast	50	36	Salt	32	36
Mutton, Frozen—			Cheese	26	26
Legs	48	40	Eggs (fresh)	66	60
Breast	67	58			
Bacon (streaky)	30	24	ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE)	42	38
Fish	94	61			
Flour (household)	39	45			

In most places granulated sugar is now double the price of July, 1914—4d. instead of 2d. per lb.—and tea is about 50 per cent. higher, an increase of 9d. per lb. Fish is much dearer, but the variations in different places are great. British meat has increased about 40 per cent. in price, on the whole, and imported meat over 50 per cent. Flour has advanced rather more and bread rather less than 40 per cent. on the average. The rise in the price of butter averages 34 per cent.; bacon and

* Decrease.

cheese are 27 and 26 per cent. dearer respectively, and milk 18 per cent. Margarine remains but little changed in price. Potatoes and eggs are affected by seasonal causes.

Taking all the articles together, and making allowance for their relative importance in working-class household expenditure, the average increase in the retail prices of food since the beginning of the war may be put at about 40 per cent. This figure relates to food only, and in estimating the increased cost of living generally this increase must not be applied to the total family expenditure, but only to that proportion which is expended on food.

BERLIN IN AUGUST.

The official returns of retail food prices in Berlin published in the *Statistische Korrespondenz* show a rise as compared with July in the case of ten out of the twenty articles of food comprised in the Table below, the advances ranging from 0.7 per cent. for haricot beans to 7.9 per cent. for bacon, 8.2 per cent. for pork, 8.7 per cent. for butter and 9.8 per cent. for lard. On the other hand prices declined for lentils (11.1 per cent.) and potatoes (6.7 per cent.), and showed no change in the case of the remaining eight articles, the net result being that food prices in general were 3.3 per cent. higher in August than in July.

Taking the prices in July, 1914—the last pre-war returns—as a basis, retail food prices in August, 1915, showed an advance of over 75 per cent.

The following Table shows the percentage changes in August, 1915, as compared with the preceding month and with July, 1914:—

Articles.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in August, 1915, as compared with	
	Jul., 1915.	July, 1914.
Rye bread	No change.	+ 42.9
Wheat bread	No change.	+ 27.7
Rye flour	No change.	+ 50.0
Wheat flour	No change.	+ 28.6
Butter	+ 8.7	+ 68.8
Lard	+ 9.8	+ 170.1
Sugar	No change.	+ 24.0
Coffee	+ 9.7	+ 9.7
Eggs	No change.	+ 114.3
Milk	+ 3.8	+ 22.7
Beef	+ 6.0	+ 54.7
Mutton	+ 6.1	+ 53.4
Veal	+ 5.5	+ 40.7
Pork	+ 8.2	+ 129.0
Bacon	+ 7.9	+ 148.2
Potatoes	- 6.7	+ 75.0
Rice	+ 3.6	+ 186.0
Split peas	No change.	+ 232.5
Haricot beans	+ 0.7	+ 188.0
Lentils	- 11.1	+ 166.7
ALL ABOVE ARTICLES (WEIGHTED NET PERCENTAGE INCREASE) *	+ 3.3	+ 75.3

ITALY IN AUGUST.

The percentages in the following Table, showing the increase or decrease in retail food prices in August, as compared with the preceding month and with August, 1915, are based on index numbers published in the issue for October 1st of the journal of the Italian Labour Department (*Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro*). The method adopted by the Italian department in constructing these index numbers was described shortly in the August BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, p. 277.

Article.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug. 1915, as compared with	
	July, 1915.	Aug., 1914.
Wheat bread	+ 2.7	+ 21.5
Wheat flour	+ 2.4	+ 32.9
Macaroni, etc.	+ 4.7	+ 25.7
Beef	+ 7.4	+ 43.5
Bacon	+ 3.2	+ 23.5
Olive oil	+ 6.1	+ 11.2
Milk	- 2.1	+ 4.2
All Articles together	+ 3.5	+ 32.0

* For the purpose of weighting use has been made of consumption data derived from various German sources.

WAGES DURING THE WAR.

THE advance in rates of wages, which began in 1910, and reached its culminating point in the first half of 1913, was followed by a decline in wages in the metal and mining industries, and by a slackening in the advances in other industries. In the first seven months of 1914 the net effect of all the changes recorded was a decrease in wages of nearly £13,000 a week.

After the outbreak of war, however, owing to enlistments and an active demand for war requirements, employment became very good, and before the end of the year a considerable amount of overtime was being worked, and in several trades complaint was being made of a shortage of labour. This was especially the case in the engineering, shipbuilding, woollen, and leather and kindred trades. Concurrently, the prices of food and many other necessaries rose. In these circumstances a movement began at the beginning of 1915 to raise wages. This movement, which in most cases took the form of bonuses or of increases in rates of wages limited to the duration of the war, first became evident in the trades more directly concerned with the output of munitions and the transport of troops and supplies (e.g., engineering and shipbuilding, railway service, dock labour, and carting). From March onwards, however, it spread to nearly all the principal industries, and its effects have been far greater than those of any other upward movement in wages previously recorded. It is estimated that during the whole period under review about four and a half million workpeople have had their rates of wages increased by over £750,000 per week.

In the following Table are shown particulars as to the number of workpeople affected and the amount of the increase per week in various groups of trades, so far as reported to the Department. The numbers of workpeople shown include only those of the manual-labour classes, exclusive of shop assistants, clerks, salaried officials and domestic servants, and the figures as to the amounts of increase relate only to bonuses and advances in rates of wages, and not to increases in total earnings from other causes:—

Groups of Trades.	Estimated number of workpeople affected.	Estimated weekly increase in rates of wages.
<i>Trades in which the estimated Numbers affected are reported to the Department:</i>		£
Building Trades	110,000	11,000
Coal Mining	870,000	223,000
Other Mining and Quarrying	32,000	6,700
Pig Iron and Iron and Steel Manufacture	123,000	23,000
Engineering and Shipbuilding	624,000	108,400
Other Metal Trades	79,000	11,300
Textile Trades	414,000	33,000
Clothing Trades	91,000	8,300
Transport Trades	142,000	28,400
Printing and Paper Trades	22,000	2,100
Glass, Brick, Chemical, Pottery, &c., Trades	102,000	9,700
Employees of Local Authorities	96,000	9,600
Other Trades*	141,000	13,300
TOTAL OF ABOVE	2,846,000	493,800
<i>Trades in which the Numbers affected are estimated by the Department:—</i>		
Railway Servants, Seamen, Agricultural Labourers, Police, and Government Employees	1,600,000	270,000
GRAND TOTAL	4,446,000	763,800

In the trades in which the numbers affected are ascertained by the Department from the parties concerned in arranging the changes, there have been increases reported amounting to £494,000 per week in the rates of wages of over 2,800,000 workpeople, an average of about 3s. 6d. per head. These figures relate mainly to organised bodies of workpeople, and do not cover the numerous cases of advances granted to a few workpeople by individual employers, which escape the notice of the Department. Allowing, however, for those cases in which such employers have given advances on similar lines to those granted to organised employees in the locality, it may be assumed that at least three million workpeople in the trades mentioned have had increases amounting to over £500,000 a week.

* Including woodworking and furnishing, food preparation, gas and tramway companies' service, &c.

To this total the coal mining industry has contributed most largely as a result of the war bonuses granted in all the principal coalfields in May, and of the subsequent increases in wages in South Wales and Scotland. In the engineering trades there have been increases to skilled men in all the principal centres, the amount being generally 3s. or 4s. a week, with corresponding increases on hourly and piece rates. Labourers also have received similar advances in most of the important districts. Skilled and unskilled men in all the principal shipyards of the country have had increases of 3s. or 4s. a week, usually the latter amount, with equivalent advances on hourly and piece rates. In the pig iron and iron and steel trades, in which fluctuations in wages depend on the selling price of pig iron and manufactured iron, there have been increases under sliding scales, with bonuses in several districts in addition.

In the textile group bonuses or increases of various amounts have been granted to workpeople engaged in cotton spinning, woollen and worsted manufacture, jute manufacture, and in bleaching, printing, dyeing and finishing. Bonuses have been given to boot and shoe operatives generally, and in a large number of cases they have also received an increase of 1s. per week on minimum time rates. In the transport trades dock labourers at most of the important ports have had increases, usually of 1d. per hour, or 9d. or 1s. a day, and carters generally have had advances ranging from 1s. to 4s. a week. Bonuses have also been granted by a large number of Local Authorities to their employees. Reference may also be made to increases or bonuses affecting pottery workers in North Staffordshire, workpeople in various metal trades in the Midlands, and employees of large firms in the food and other miscellaneous trades. Trades in which the upward movement has been less marked are the building, printing, and furnishing trades, linen manufacture and certain luxury trades.

As regards the occupations for which particulars of the amounts of the increases or bonuses, but not exact figures of the numbers of workpeople affected, are known, it is estimated that approximately a total of over a million and a half employees received advances of about £270,000 per week. Included in these totals is an increase of 2s. or 3s. per week granted to large numbers of agricultural labourers generally. Bonuses of amounts varying from about 30s. up to 70s. per month have been granted to seamen, and railway servants received a bonus of 2s. or 3s. a week in February. In the case of Government employees, increases of 1s. to 5s. per week and 7½ per cent. on piece rates have been granted in H.M. Dockyards; postal servants with less than 60s. have been awarded 2s. or 3s. per week in the case of males, and half these amounts in the case of females; and certain classes of workpeople in War Department establishments generally have had their rates of wages raised by amounts ranging from 1s. to 7s. per week.

Apart, however, from the advances in rates of wages, many workpeople have received substantial increases in average weekly earnings owing to the large amount of overtime worked, to the speeding-up of piecework, and to greater regularity of employment. No figures are available to show for all industries the effects of this increase; but for certain trades returns are obtained from employers (see pp 362-375) giving particulars of the numbers of workpeople employed and the amount of wages paid in one week in each month. The average earnings deduced from these returns for recent months do not afford a strictly accurate comparison with those in July, 1914, for, though they cover as nearly as possible the same firms as in that month, they do not necessarily relate to quite the same workpeople. This qualification is of importance in view of the extent to which men of military age have been recruited and the varying degree in which they have been replaced by the employment of females and young persons. When due consideration is given to these factors, however, it is apparent from such figures as are available that in many of the principal industries the increases in earnings have been considerably greater than those in rates of wages.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN 1914.

UP to the end of July the number of fresh disputes in 1914 showed little diminution compared with the previous year. Following upon the declaration of war, however, outstanding disputes were quickly settled, and for the remainder of the year new disputes were comparatively few and of little magnitude.

The number of disputes recorded as beginning in the first seven months of the year was 848 and the total number of workpeople involved therein was 423,550, while for the subsequent five months the corresponding figures were 151 and 24,979 respectively. The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in the two periods was 9,964,091 and 147,246 respectively.

Year.	No. of Disputes beginning in each year.	No. of Workpeople involved in Disputes beginning in each year.			Aggregate Duration in Working Days in each year		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.	Of Disputes beginning in each year.	Of Disputes beginning in previous years.	Total.
1905.. .. .	358	67,653	25,850	93,503	2,295,973	174,216	2,470,189
1906.. .. .	486	157,872	59,901	217,773	2,570,950	457,866	3,028,816
1907.. .. .	601	100,728	46,770	147,498	1,878,679	283,472	2,162,151
1908.. .. .	399	223,989	71,538	295,527	10,632,638	201,551	10,834,189
1909.. .. .	436	170,258	137,961	308,219	2,560,425	215,561	2,775,986
1910.. .. .	531	385,085	130,080	515,165	9,545,531	349,300	9,894,831
1911.. .. .	903	831,104	130,376	961,480	7,620,367	2,699,224	10,319,591
1912.. .. .	857	1,233,016	230,265	1,463,281	38,142,101	2,772,574	40,914,675
1913.. .. .	1,497	516,937	172,888	689,825	11,484,534	146,138	11,630,672
1914							
Jan.—July	848	308,423	115,122	423,545	9,179,466	784,593	9,964,059
Aug.—Dec.	151	18,627	6,352	24,979	147,246		147,246
Whole year	999	327,050	121,474	448,524	9,326,712	784,593	10,111,305

The total number of disputes beginning in 1914 (999) exceeded that recorded in any year except 1913 during the period of 21 years for which comparative statistics are available. In addition, 51 disputes beginning before 1914, involving 37,934 workpeople, were in progress for varying periods during the earlier part of the year. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes beginning in the year (448,524) was exceeded on only five occasions, viz., in 1893 and in each of the four years preceding 1914.

The aggregate duration of disputes in working days, though less than in any of the years 1911-1913, was much above the average for the years 1893-1916, during which period it was exceeded on only four occasions. Slightly more than one-half of the total aggregate duration for the year was accounted for by two disputes, the London Building Trades Dispute (aggregate duration, 2,500,000), which began on 26th January and terminated in August, and the dispute in the Coal Mining Industry of Yorkshire (aggregate duration, 2,654,000), which occurred in February, March and April.

In the following Table the total number of workpeople involved in disputes beginning in 1914 is classified so as to show the extent to which each of the various groups of trades contributed to the total, comparative figures for the nine previous years being also given:—

Year.	Total Number of Workpeople involved* in Disputes.							Total.
	Build-ing.	Mining and Quarry-ing.	Metal, Engi-neering and Ship-build-ing.	Textile.	Clothing.	Trans- port.	Miscel-laneous and Em-ployees of Public Autho-rities.	
1905	6,637	44,791	12,753	15,786	3,540	2,112	7,884	93,503
1906	1,441	85,833	42,049	75,114	8,912	1,888	4,536	217,773
1907	1,230	52,567	19,576	47,429	11,643	8,703	6,345	147,498
1908	2,892	87,022	58,338	132,303	4,662	4,894	4,896	295,527
1909	1,592	272,754	9,724	6,795				308,219
1910	880	296,573	55,436	132,276	4,462	20,321	2,502	515,165
1911	2,789	140,808	93,783	221,433	9,810	448,618	44,739	961,480
1912	5,634	1,106,736	82,885	56,208	31,069	155,300	25,449	1,463,281
1913	40,002	214,078	152,689	93,510	15,227	86,225	67,194	689,825
1914								
Jan.—July	36,389	259,070	47,701	21,352	3,427	11,734	43,877	423,545
Aug.—Dec.	1,221	13,610	3,182	896	970	1,812	3,228	24,979
Year	37,610	272,680	50,883	22,248	4,397	13,546	47,105	448,524

* Including the workpeople indirectly involved. † The general dispute at Dublin, involving 20,000 workpeople employed in a large number of different trades, has been included in the total but not in the separate groups of trades.

The figures for the first seven months of 1914 and for the remaining five months, which are given separately, show that the great decline in fresh disputes following the outbreak of war affected all groups of trades.

With the exception of the mining and quarrying industry, all the main groups of trades showed a decrease in the number of workpeople involved in disputes in 1914 as compared with the previous year, and in the metal, textile, clothing and transport groups the totals are the lowest recorded since 1909. In the building and miscellaneous groups, however, the figures show an increase compared with 1912 and previous years. The increase in the mining and quarrying industry in 1914 was largely due to the dispute in the Yorkshire coalfield, which involved, directly and indirectly, 150,000 men, more than half the total affected in the industry. The annual decrease since 1911 in the number involved in the transport trades is very noticeable.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople directly involved in disputes beginning in 1914, classified according to principal cause and result:—

Principal Cause.	Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1914, the Results of which were—				Total Number of Workpeople directly involved in Disputes beginning in 1914.
	In favour of Workpeople.	In favour of Employers.	Compromised or Partially Successful.	Indefinite or Unsettled.	
Wages:—					
For Increase	5,595	13,544	42,878	—	62,017
Against Decrease ..	844	1,826	103,475	—	106,145
Re-adjustments of rates owing to difficulties in working, &c.	3,365	1,776	8,015	410	13,566
Other	4,709	8,514	7,570	—	20,793
Total.—Wages ..	14,513	25,660	161,938	410	202,521
Hours of Labour ..	991	2,968	6,949	—	10,908
Employment of particular classes or persons.	8,500	12,138	10,076	—	30,714
Working arrangements ..	8,881	2,325	3,322	—	14,528
Trade Unionism	16,122	3,011	30,682	—	49,815
Sympathetic Disputes ..	9,431	690	20	—	10,141
Miscellaneous	6,569	2,059	—	—	8,428
Grand Total	64,807	48,851	212,987	410	327,055

Nearly one-half (445) of the total number of disputes in 1914 arose on demands for advances in wages, but owing entirely to the dispute in the Yorkshire coal mining industry, strikes against actual or proposed reductions in wages accounted for a larger number of workpeople involved. The number of disputes (624) arising on all wages questions, and the number of workpeople (202,521) directly involved in such disputes, accounted for nearly two-thirds of the respective totals for all causes.

Questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons gave rise to 184 disputes, and of these 83, directly involving 16,872 workpeople, arose on demands for the reinstatement of discharged workpeople; and 32, directly involving 4,122 workpeople, on objections to the employment of certain officials. Of the remaining disputes in this class, 20, directly involving 1,575 workpeople, were disputes as to demarcation of work. Eighty-three disputes arose on questions of Trade Union principle, the most important being the London Building Trades Dispute, which was caused by the men refusing to sign an individual undertaking to work peacefully with non-unionists under penalty of a fine. Disputes on details of working arrangements (56) accounted for 14,528 workpeople; disputes as to hours of labour involved 10,908 workpeople; while 10,141 were involved in sympathetic disputes and 8,428 in disputes arising on miscellaneous questions.

The proportion of disputes which, from the point of view of the workpeople, were entirely successful was 25 per cent., of unsuccessful disputes 33 per cent., and of partially successful or compromised disputes 42 per cent. In the case of every group of trades, however, compromised or partially successful disputes accounted for the greatest number of workpeople directly involved. The groups of trades showing the highest proportion of "successful" workpeople were clothing (28 per cent.) and the miscellaneous group (30 per cent.); the highest proportions of workpeople involved in unsuccessful disputes were in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding

trades (32 per cent.) and the textile trades (39 per cent.); and in compromised or partially successful disputes the building trades (87 per cent.), mining and quarrying (70 per cent.) and the transport trades (75 per cent.).

The great majority of disputes that occur are settled by direct arrangement or negotiations between the parties involved; and in 1914, 732, or nearly three-quarters of the total number of disputes, directly involving 172,347 workpeople, or more than one-half of the total, were settled in this manner. Twenty-eight disputes, directly involving 6,699 workpeople, were settled by arbitration, and 58, directly involving 126,764 workpeople, by conciliation. Of these 86 disputes, 23 were settled under the Conciliation Act of 1896. In the case of 112 disputes, directly involving 17,513 workpeople, work was resumed on the employers' terms without negotiation; and in 60 additional disputes the 3,010 workpeople involved were replaced by other labour. Of the remaining 9 disputes other methods of settlement were adopted in 8 small cases, while in the case of one dispute no final settlement has yet been reported.

CONTROL OF PRICES AND SUPPLIES IN GERMANY.

THE *Reichsanzeiger* of 27th September publishes the text of a Decree of the Federal Council, dated 25th September, under which provision is made for the creation by local authorities of a network of Price Supervision Bureaux throughout Germany. Each bureau will consist of a president and of members representing equally (a) producers and wholesale and retail dealers, and (b) experts not personally interested in trade, and ordinary consumers.

The functions of the bureaux are (1) to establish, from their knowledge of market conditions, what prices are justifiable and proper for their several districts, taking as the basis for calculating such prices the cost of production of each article; (2) to assist the competent authorities in the supervision of the trade in necessities, and in the prosecution of persons charging extortionate prices for necessities; (3) to furnish opinions, for the assistance of courts of justice and administrative officials, as to the fairness of particular prices; (4) to assist the competent authorities in explaining to the public the formation of prices and their causes; and (5) to require retail traders to exhibit detailed catalogues of the goods sold by them, with the prices at which they are to be sold. When this last step is taken traders may not refuse to sell for cash at the prices stated, and if these prices themselves are excessive they will furnish ground for a prosecution for extortion.

In order to discharge these duties the bureaux are given the widest powers of inspection of premises, stocks, books, invoices, &c., and of taking evidence compulsorily and on oath.

A Central Price Supervision Bureau for the Empire is created at Berlin, the duty of which will be to collate and render accessible information as to prices, and to advise the Imperial Chancellor.

MINIMUM WAGES FOR FEMALE OUTWORKERS IN FRANCE.*

By a law dated 10th July last, which came into operation from that date, the principle of a minimum wage has been established in France for females engaged at home in executing work given out by employers in the clothing trades, including the manufacture of hats, boots and shoes, embroidery, lace, feathers, and artificial flowers. The minimum rates to be determined under the present law are such as will enable a workwoman of average capacity to earn in ten hours a wage equal to a minimum laid down (in the manner shown below) by the Labour Councils, or, where such do not exist, by Wage Boards to be set up for the industry or district in question.

* *Journal Officiel de la République Française*, 11th and 25th July, 1915.

RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

I.—CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896, AND THE MUNITIONS OF WAR ACT, 1915.

COAL MINERS, MONMOUTHSHIRE AND SOUTH WALES.

The Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of Monmouthshire and South Wales, in accordance with the terms of the new Conciliation Board agreement, signed on 2nd September, made application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide matters connected with standard rates for underground day wage men. Sir Laurence Gomme has accordingly been appointed to act in that capacity.

ARMOUR PLATE WORKERS, OPENSHAW.

Differences having arisen between Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., Ltd., and the British Steel Smelters, Mill, Iron, Tinplate and Kindred Trades Association, in respect of the dismissal without notice of 151 men from the armour plate department of the company's works at Openshaw, the matter was referred for settlement to the Chief Industrial Commissioner.

The Company stated that the discharges were due to lack of work; and the men urged that under the circumstances they should not have been dismissed without notice and that they should have been provided with certificates of release, as the non-possession of such certificates would debar them from obtaining other employment. The Company did not, at the time of the discharge, make a practice of issuing these certificates, nor were they demanded by the men.

The Chief Industrial Commissioner issued his award on 17th September. He decided that in present conditions, whereby the men are placed under obligation to continue at work, the firm should meet this as far as possible by giving the men some intimation when their services are about to be dispensed with, that the action of the Company in not giving certificates of release had placed the men at a disability in obtaining work elsewhere, and that they should give one week's pay to each of the men, except in the case of men who were out of work for less than a week, when a proportionate amount should be given.

ENGINEERS, MANCHESTER.

A difference arose between the Manchester Dry Docks Co., Ltd., and the engineers in their employment respecting the time rates to be paid for clearing the pipe lines in an oil ship. Application was made to the Committee on Production, and the Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., was appointed to deal with the matter.

According to a rule of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, time and a half should be paid on an oil-carrying vessel, unless such vessel has carried as its last cargo other material than oil. The oil tanks on the vessel in dispute had been adapted for Government purposes by filling the oil tanks with barrels.

Sir David Harrel, in his award issued 17th September, decided that the uses to which the vessel had been put since oil was carried could not be interpreted as carrying cargo, and that wages should be paid at the rate of time and a half.

STEVEDORES, LONDON.

The stevedores employed by members of the London Master Stevedores' Association claimed, in accordance with their working rules, double pay for working on 3rd June, the King's birthday, although, in consequence of the war, no holiday was declared for that day. No settlement having been effected, both parties agreed to refer the matter for settlement to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, in his award dated 28th September, decided that in the circumstances of the present year 3rd June was an ordinary working day, and that the stevedores who worked on that day were not entitled to double pay.

SHIPWRIGHTS AND JOINERS, LONDON.

The shipwrights and joiners working in the Port of London decided, for the prevention of misunderstandings, to come to an agreement for the demarcation of work as between the two trades. During negotiations between committees representing the parties agreement was arrived at upon all points except three, and application was made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the matters at issue.

Mr. Gosling has, on the nomination of the parties, been appointed to act in that capacity.

RAZOR GRINDERS, SHEFFIELD.

On 29th May application was made to the Sheffield Cutlery Manufacturers' Association by the Amalgamated Society of Razor Grinders for a war bonus to razor grinders of 12½ per cent. on Government work, to date from 1st May, agreement having already been arrived at on prices for commercial work. Negotiations ensued between the parties, and the men's demand was modified to one for an advance of 10 per cent. No settlement having been arrived at, the operatives ceased work on 16th August in support of their demand. The attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner had been called to the dispute, and at a meeting at Sheffield on 3rd September, presided over by an officer of his Department, it was agreed that work should be resumed on 6th September, and the question of an advance in wages at issue

The Labour Councils referred to are those created by the law dated 17th July, 1908, under the title of "Consultative Labour Councils" (*see* BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, 1908, p. 275). They are bodies consisting of employers and workpeople in equal numbers, elected for each occupation or group of occupations. From the circular issued by the Ministry of Labour explaining the new law, it appears, however, that very few Labour Councils have so far been established, and that none have been appointed for the trades which are the subject of the present law. In actual practice, therefore, Wage Boards will have to be appointed, which will perform the duties of the Labour Councils in connection with the new law.

A Wage Board is to be set up in the chief town of each department; it will be presided over by a magistrate (*judge de paix*), and will be composed of from two to four workmen or workwomen and an equal number of employers, all of whom are engaged in the clothing trades. Each board is to institute an enquiry as to the daily rate of wages usually paid in the district to workmen of average capacity employed in factories or workshops in executing various categories of work of ordinary character in the trades covered by the law. On the basis of the daily rate of pay so determined, the Wage Board is to fix the minimum piece rates to be paid for completed articles to outworkers within the district.

In order to assist the Wage Boards in determining the piece rates for completed articles, provision is made for the appointment in each department of one or more *Comités d'Expertise*, or Time-determining Boards, consisting of two workmen and two employers (male or female) belonging to and actively engaged in the clothing industry, and presided over by a magistrate (*judge de paix*). The duty of these Boards will be to prepare tables of the time necessary to make up each of the various articles, the manufacture of which involves a series of processes. The minimum piece wage to be paid for any finished article of this description will be arrived at by multiplying the current hourly rate, as determined by the Wage Board, by the number of hours necessary to finish the article in question, as computed by the Time-determining Board.

The minimum rates thus determined are to be published by the prefect of the department, and on the expiration of three months after such publication they will be obligatory within the district of the Wage Board which established them. If, within this period, any objection is lodged against such rates, the matter is to be decided by a special committee sitting at the Ministry of Labour, and having a permanent officer of the Ministry as secretary.

Every manufacturer, agent, or middleman employing female outworkers in the clothing trade must inform the factory inspector of the fact, and keep a register of such workpeople. Lists of piece rates for completed articles to be paid to outworkers must be permanently exhibited in waiting-rooms, as well as in places where materials to be made up are delivered to outworkers, and where the finished articles are handed in after completion by such workers. A counterfoil slip or memorandum form is also to be handed to each person receiving work, on which are to be entered details as to the character and quantity of the work, the rate of pay applicable according to the list of piece rates exhibited, and the character and value of the requisite accessories to be provided by the workwoman at her own expense. On the goods being returned finished, the amount of remuneration earned by the employee is to be entered on the slip or form, as also the net amount payable to her.

When the minimum wage for female outworkers has been established, male outworkers employed at the same occupations, and whose remuneration falls below the minimum, will have the right to take proceedings to recover the difference from employers.

The minimum piece rates determined under the present law are subject to revision every three years.

Contraventions of the provisions of the law are punishable with fines varying in amount from 4s. to £120.

referred to an arbitrator appointed by the Chief Industrial Commissioner.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 14th September, granting an advance of 10 per cent. on existing prices for grinding in the case of Government and commercial work, the advance to date as from 6th September, 1915.

RIVETTERS, PAISLEY AND RENFREW.

A dispute arose between the Clyde Shipbuilders' Association and the United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders as to whether the Clyde Piece-work List should apply to riveters employed by three firms at Paisley and Renfrew on the construction of Admiralty mooring steamers. No settlement of the matter having been arrived at, the Board of Trade appointed Sheriff-Principal A. O. M. Mackenzie, K.C., as arbitrator.

Sheriff Mackenzie, in his award issued 1st October, decided that the Clyde Riveters Piece-work List should apply to the disputed work, but without prejudice to the rule which provides that any obstruction or job not priced is to be mutually arranged between the employer and the men.

UPHOLSTERERS, LONDON.

In June the Upholstery Trades Federation was approached by the Amalgamated Union of Upholsterers for a war bonus of 10 per cent. to upholsterers in London. No settlement of the matter having been effected, it was agreed to refer the question to the arbitration of the Chief Industrial Commissioner.

Sir George Askwith heard representatives of the parties on 13th September, and issued his award on 18th September. He decided that the men should receive an advance of 5 per cent., to be regarded as war wages, and that all restrictions on increased output should be removed. The advance was to come into operation as from the first full pay week following 13th September.

ENGINEERS, ROCHDALE.

A dispute arose between a Rochdale engineering firm engaged partly on war work and partly on civil work on the one hand, and the Joint Committee representing certain engineering Trade Unions and the Friendly Society of Ironfounders on the other, respecting the rates of wages to be paid, and Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., was appointed by the Board of Trade to act as arbitrator upon the matter.

The men contended that the advances agreed upon on 12th March last between their representatives and the Associated Engineering Employers should apply to this firm, though not a member of the Employers' Association, and in the case of the ironfounders that the firm should be bound by an award of a Court of Arbitration. The firm stated that they were already paying a war bonus to men engaged on war work, and refused to consider the question of arbitration except in the case of men engaged on the manufacture of munitions of war.

Mr. Macassey, in his award dated 10th September, decided that the advances agreed to on 12th March by the Associated Employers should be paid by this firm to men engaged on the manufacture of munitions of war, credit being given for the war bonus already being paid. With regard to the men not engaged on war work the arbitrator made no award.

WOMEN WORKERS, BARROW.

The National Federation of Women Workers, representing the women workers employed in the airship shed of Vickers, Ltd., Barrow, having been unable to come to an agreement with the firm respecting claims for increased basic rates of wages and certain other improvements in working conditions, it was agreed to refer the claims for decision to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., the arbitrator appointed, issued his award on 25th September, granting an increase of 2s. per week in the basic rates, and deciding the other questions at issue.

CABINET MAKERS, BARNSTAPLE.

In March last the National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association applied, on behalf of their members employed by two woodworking firms at Barnstaple, for a war bonus of 5s. per week. Prolonged negotiations ensued, but no settlement was arrived at, and on 31st August the men ceased work, in company with some joiners, demanding an advance in wages of 1d. per hour. Subsequently the employers offered an advance of 2s. per week, but this was not acceptable.

The attention of the Chief Industrial Commissioner had been called to the dispute, and at his instance work was resumed on 27th September, the question at issue being left to an arbitrator to be appointed by him.

Mr. Charles Doughty, who was appointed, issued his award on 30th September. He granted an immediate advance to time workers of 1d. per hour, with a further advance of 1d. per hour on and after 25th March, 1916, and an advance of 1d. per hour to pieceworkers for every hour worked, pending the fixing of new piecework prices to include and supersede this additional 1d.

SPRING-MAKERS, SHEFFIELD.

The National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers applied on behalf of their members employed in the spring department of a Sheffield steel firm, for an advance in wages of 3s. per week on time rates and 10 per cent. on piece rates, in lieu of 2s. and 5 per cent. respectively already being paid. No settlement having been arrived at, it was agreed to refer the dispute for settlement to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., who was appointed, sat at Sheffield on 15th September. At the hearing it appeared that the employers were not averse to granting the workmen's request, provided it was conditional on good time-keeping and a full week's work being done. The arbitrator, in his award issued 24th September, decided that an advance of 2s. per week on time and 5 per cent. on piece rates should be paid, and a further bonus of 1s. per week and 5 per cent. respectively, conditional upon good time being kept and a full week's work being done.

DOCK WORKERS, HAYLE.

Differences having arisen between Messrs. Harvey & Co., Ltd., Hayle, and their employees, members of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, in respect of the rates to be paid for various classes of work, and other matters, it was agreed to submit the questions at issue to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

The Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., the arbitrator appointed, heard the case at Hayle on 3rd September, and settlements between the parties were effected on all points, except (1) the tonnage rate for discharging coal, including dusty coal, stone and cement by steam; (2) discharging anthracite small coal; and (3) loading iron and sand from the quay, which were left to the arbitrator for decision.

In his award, dated 13th September, Sir David Harrel awarded in respect of (1) an advance in the tonnage rate from 5½d. to 6½d. per ton, and in respect of (2) an advance from 7d. to 7½d. per ton. In respect of (3) he decided that no advance should be made.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS, OLDHAM.

A dispute having arisen between an Oldham firm and the carpenters and joiners in their employment, consequent upon the engagement of certain casemakers for the manufacture of boxes for the packing of ball grenades, upon which work carpenters had been previously employed by the firm, it was agreed by both parties to refer the matter to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

Mr. John Haswell, D.C.L., the arbitrator appointed, awarded that the work of making boxes of the type described is not necessarily and exclusively the work of joiners, but may also be done by casemakers at the employers' discretion.

BUILDING TRADE OPERATIVES, STAFFORD (NEAR).

Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to decide the claim on behalf of certain building trade operatives for the payment in respect of walking time from Stafford to Brocton-Milford Military Camp (see LABOUR GAZETTE for September, page 320), issued his award on 17th September. He decided that the men had failed to establish their claim for such payment.

ELECTRICIANS, BRISTOL.

The Bristol Electrical Contractors' Association and the Electrical Trades Union having been unable to agree, after protracted negotiations, upon a demand of the electricians for an advance in wages, it was agreed by both parties to refer the question for settlement to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade.

His Honour Judge H. Y. Stanger, K.C., has accordingly been appointed.

CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES, LINCOLN.

A dispute arose between the Lincoln Equitable Co-operative Industrial Society, Ltd., and the Amalgamated Union of Co-operative Employees respecting the dismissal of one of the members of the Union. After discussion between representatives of the parties, it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration, and the Chief Industrial Commissioner was asked to appoint an arbitrator.

Mr. Charles Doughty, who was appointed, issued his award on 6th October. He found that no sufficient reason had been given for dismissal of the man by the society, and that he should accordingly be reinstated as from the date of his dismissal in a similar position not less advantageous than his late position.

IRON WORKERS, RIDDINGS (DERBYSHIRE).

In August last application was made on behalf of the cupola men employed at the Alfreton Ironworks, Riddings, for an advance in wages of 6d. per day. No settlement having been arrived at, it was agreed to refer the dispute for settlement to the Board of Trade, and Mr. W. W. Mackenzie, K.C., has been appointed to act as arbitrator in the matter.

SEAMEN AND FIREMEN, DUBLIN.

Mr. Lynden Macassey, K.C., the arbitrator appointed to decide the claim of the crews of the boats of the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company for an advance in wages of 7s. 6d. per week (see LABOUR GAZETTE for September, page 320), issued his award on 18th September. He decided that the wages of the men should be increased by 2s. 6d. per week when the vessel is running, such advance to be regarded as dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions due to the war.

DYERS AND SCOURERS, LEICESTER.

Disputes occurred between the Leicester Master Dyers' and Trimmers' Association and the dyers and scourers in their employment as to restriction of output, payment of piecework on yarn scouring, overtime, adoption of new rules, supply of labour, and other matters.

At a meeting of representatives of the parties on 19th July, under the chairmanship of the Chief Industrial Commissioner, it was agreed that an equal number of employers and operatives should be appointed as a Conciliation Committee, with an independent chairman, who should decide the matters in dispute if the Committee should disagree.

Mr. Charles Doughty was appointed independent chairman, and, the Committee being unable to agree, issued his award on 27th September deciding the matters in dispute.

PLUMBERS, LEICESTER.

On 5th July the operative plumbers at Leicester gave three months' notice for an advance in wages of 1½d. per hour. The employers refused the application, and also gave notice for alterations of certain of the working rules. The Joint Standing Committee of Conciliation being unable to agree upon the matters in dispute, application was made to the Chief Industrial Commissioner for the appointment of an umpire.

Mr. Charles Doughty, the umpire appointed, issued his award on 6th October, advancing the standard rate of wages ½d. per hour (9½d. to 10d.) as from 4th October, and making no change in the other working rules.

PLUMBERS, PAISLEY.

Early in July the plumbers employed by a Glasgow firm of sub-contractors to a shipbuilding firm in the Paisley district applied for payment of the Paisley district rate of wages in addition to the travelling allowance from Glasgow and a war bonus already being paid. No agreement having been arrived at after lengthy negotiations, it was agreed to refer the dispute for settlement to an arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade, and Professor J. M. Irvine, K.C., was appointed.

Professor Irvine issued his award on 29th September, deciding that the rates to be paid were those regulated by the working rules for the Glasgow district.

II.—COMMITTEE ON PRODUCTION.

The Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into the best steps to be taken to ensure the fullest productive power of employees in engineering and shipbuilding establishments, and whose reference was subsequently extended to deal with the avoidance of stoppages on work for Government purposes (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, page 83, and August, page 280), have issued the following further decisions on cases referred to them. Where advances have been granted "to be regarded as war wages" they are to be recognised as due to and dependent on the existence of the abnormal conditions now prevailing in consequence of the war.

ENGINEERING TRADES, CHESTER DISTRICT (ISSUED 20TH SEPTEMBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to the members of the Chester Engineering Employers' Association on behalf of the Chester Engineering Trades Joint Committee.

Following a three years' agreement, which expired in June, 1914, the men concerned received, on the 6th February, 1915, an advance of wages of 2s. per week, and on the 8th May a further advance of 1s. Subsequently an application was made for an additional advance of 4s. per week. The matter was considered by the parties at a local conference on the 6th July, and at central conference on the 13th August, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the question to the Committee on Production for decision.

The Committee's finding is that the men concerned should receive an advance of 2s. per week on time rates and 5 per cent. on piece rates, to come into operation as from the first full pay week following 24th August, and to be regarded as war wages.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE CORPORATION EMPLOYEES (ISSUED 20TH SEPTEMBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application made to the Ashton-under-Lyne Corporation by the Municipal Employees' Association for an advance of wages to manual workers employed in certain departments of the Corporation. Following negotiations between the parties, it was agreed to refer the question to arbitration, and arrangements were made for representatives of the parties to be heard by the Committee on Production on 20th September. Prior to the hearing, however, the following terms of settlement were arrived at, and in accordance with the request of the parties the Committee hereby promulgate the said terms as their finding on the matter:—

That an advance of wages be granted to such members of the Municipal Employees' Association as are employees of the Corporation in the following departments: (a) Electricity, (b) Cleansing, (c) Highways, (d) Lighting, and (e) Sewage—such advance to be as follows:—

1s. per week to employees between 18 and 21 years of age, and 2s. per week to employees aged 21 years and upwards in receipt of 38s. per week or less; and employees receiving 38s. per week and under 40s. to be paid an advance sufficient to raise the normal weekly wage to 40s. The above advance is to be paid as from the 1st day of July, 1915, and is subject to the following conditions:—

(a) Where an advance has been made to an employee since 31st August, 1914, the amount of the

present advance shall be such sum (if any) as with the advance already granted will equal the advance provided for above.

(b) Tramways employees not to come under this Scheme.

ENGINEERS' WAGES, MESSRS. LAURENCE SCOTT & Co., LTD., NORWICH (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to Messrs. Laurence Scott & Co., Ltd., by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the Amalgamated Toolmakers' Society.

On 6th March, 1915, a "war bonus" of 3s. per week was granted by the firm, and on 1st April a notice was issued intimating that half of any extra profits, over an average of two years, would be applied to the benefit of the staff and employees. In May, following representations made by the Trade Unions, the firm converted the "war bonus" of 3s. into an advance of 3s. per week on the rates of wages.

In July application was made by the three Unions mentioned for an advance of 5s. per week. The matter formed the subject of negotiation between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and, on the Unions reporting the difference to the Board of Trade in accordance with the terms of the Munitions of War Act, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee on Production for settlement. The firm intimated that such reference would be accompanied by the withdrawal of their proposal in regard to the division of extra profits. Representatives of the parties were heard by the Committee on 23rd September.

The Committee's finding is that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be advanced 1s. per week as from the beginning of the first full pay following 30th September, 1915.

ENGINEERS' LABOURERS, MESSRS. LAURENCE, SCOTT & COMPANY, LTD., NORWICH (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to Messrs. Laurence, Scott & Company, Ltd., by the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers.

Prior to May, 1915, a "war bonus" of 2s. per week was granted by the firm to labourers, and in May (following representations made by the Union) this "bonus" was converted into an advance of 3s. per week on the rates of wages, making the minimum rate for labourers 24s. per week.

In August the Union applied for a further advance of 3s. per week to labourers and semi-skilled workers; the request was also made that "charge-hand" labourers should receive 3s. per week above the rate of the men with whom such "charge-hands" may be working. In the course of subsequent negotiations the firm offered to give a further advance of 1s. per week, but the offer was not accepted, and it was agreed to refer the question to the Committee on Production for decision. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on 23rd September. In the course of the hearing it was stated on behalf of the firm that if there were cases of "charge-hands" not receiving wages above the rates of the men with whom they were working, such cases would be adjusted.

As regards the claim for an advance of wages, the Committee's finding is that there should be an advance of 1s. per week, to come into operation as from the first full pay following 30th September, 1915.

IPSWICH AND DISTRICT ENGINEERING TRADES—LABOURERS (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).

The following finding is in respect of a claim made to the Ipswich and District Engineering Employers' Association by the Workers' Union and the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers for an increase of 4s. per week for unskilled and semi-skilled workers, and an increase of 20 per cent. on piece-work prices. The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the question to the Committee on Production for decision. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on 15th September.

The wages of engineering labourers at Ipswich were advanced from 18s. per week to 20s. in October, 1910, to 21s. in December, 1913, to 22s. 6d. in February, 1915, and to 23s. in March, 1915. In the course of the negotiations respecting the present application the following offer was made by the employers, but was not accepted by the workmen's representatives:—

An increase of 1s. per week to all able-bodied unskilled and semi-skilled workers employed on daywork—this advance not to apply to any man who has already received an advance of 3s. or more since 1st January, 1915.

The advance to take effect on the first pay-day in September. The advances are to be regarded as war wages.

Present standard piece-work prices not to be altered, but any piece-work prices for war material work to be fixed so as to ensure a reasonable increase in such men's earning capacity compared with pre-war conditions.

Any such men who, while using their best efforts, are still unable to make such reasonable increase in their earnings, shall have free access to their respective managing directors, who will see that any real grievance is rectified, and that this and the preceding paragraphs are interpreted in a broad-minded spirit.

The Committee's finding is that the wages of the workpeople concerned should be advanced in accordance with the following arrangement:—

An increase of 1s. 6d. per week to all able-bodied unskilled and semi-skilled workers employed on daywork. Where

advances already given since 1st January, 1915, amount to 5s. or more, the present advance to be 1s.

The advance to take effect on the first pay-day in September. The advances are to be regarded as war wages.

Present standard piece-work prices not to be altered, but any piece-work prices for war material work to be fixed so as to ensure a reasonable increase in such men's earning capacity compared with pre-war conditions.

Any such men who, while using their best efforts, are still unable to make such reasonable increase in their earnings, shall have free access to their respective managing directors, who will see that any real grievance is rectified, and that this and the preceding paragraphs are interpreted in a broad-minded spirit.

In so far as Machinists are included in the application made by the Workers' Union and the National Union of Gasworkers' and General Labourers, it is understood that their case is covered by an agreement dated 2nd July between the Ipswich and District Engineering Employers' Association and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

MESSRS. COX & CO. (ENGINEERS), LTD., FALMOUTH (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).

The following finding is in respect of applications for revision of rates of wages and working conditions made to Messrs. Cox and Company (Engineers), Ltd., Falmouth, by the United Society of Boilermakers, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Ship-constructors' and Shipwrights' Association, and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union. The questions formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee on Production for decision.

At the hearing it appeared that the claims made as regards hours of labour and meal hours are the same as are now in practice at the firm's establishment, and no question on these points required to be settled. In regard to payment for overtime, Sundays and public holidays, the representatives of the firm accepted the proposals of the Unions, viz., overtime on ordinary days to be paid at "time and a half"; Sundays and public holidays (Christmas Day, Good Friday and Bank Holidays) to be paid at double day or night rates on actual time worked.

In regard to "dirty money" the representatives of the firm offered at the hearing to make the following arrangement:—

On all old work in or out of shop 8d. per day "dirty money" to be paid.

On all old work afloat outside dock limits, 1s. per day to be paid.

On all old work afloat inside dock limits, 8d. per day to be paid.

These payments to apply to all men, including shipwrights and joiners, but not to apply to "local repairs," i.e., work on old vessels belonging to Falmouth or to local Cornish ports.

The Committee record the above arrangement as their finding on the question of "dirty money."

In regard to the claims for advances of wages, the representatives of the firm stated that since May, 1915, a "war bonus" of 3s. per week has been paid to their workmen. The Committee's finding in regard to wages is that, in substitution for and in lieu of the "war bonus" of 3s., the following advances should be paid as from the beginning of the first full pay following 1st October, 1915:—

Men receiving 22s. per week and under to be advanced 4s. per week.

Men receiving over 22s., up to and including 26s., to be advanced 4s. 6d. per week.

Men receiving over 26s. to be advanced 5s. per week.

These advances are to be regarded as war wages, and are not applicable to oremen and apprentices, whose cases were not before the Committee.

† PATTERNMAKERS—COVENTRY (ISSUED 29TH SEPTEMBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to the Coventry and District Engineering Employers' Association by the United Patternmakers' Association.

In June, 1912, an agreement was concluded between the parties under which wages were advanced 1s. per week, the agreement to remain undisturbed for five years. In February, 1915, following a special application from the Union, the employers agreed to a further advance of 2s. 6d. per week for the period of the war. In June, 1915, an application for a further advance was made. This application formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee on Production for decision.

The Committee's finding is that there should be no change in the present wages of the workpeople concerned.

LUTON ENGINEERING TRADES, LABOURERS, & C. (ISSUED 7TH OCTOBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application made to the Bedfordshire Engineering Trades Employers' Association by the Workers' Union for an advance of wages to labourers and semi-skilled workers in the engineering trade of Luton. The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties at a local conference, and consequently at central conference, on 9th September, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the question to the Committee on Production for decision. Representatives of the parties were accordingly heard on

30th September. It was stated that during February last advances were given to labourers by the firms concerned of 1d. or 2d. per hour, while the semi-skilled workers participated in an advance of 3d. per hour agreed upon between the Association and the skilled trades, to come into force on 1st March.

The Committee's finding is that the wages of the labourers should be advanced 4d. per hour as from the beginning of the first full pay following 30th September. As regards semi-skilled men, it is understood that an application for a further advance to the skilled trades is now the subject of negotiations between the parties, and in the circumstances the Committee make no finding at present in regard to the semi-skilled workers.

BROUGHTON COPPER COMPANY, LTD., MANCHESTER (ISSUED 7TH OCTOBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application for an advance of wages made to the Broughton Copper Co., Ltd., by the Workers' Union, for their members employed by that firm. In February, 1915, the firm agreed to pay a "war bonus" of 2s. per week. The application for a further advance was made in August, and formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the question to the Committee on Production for decision.

The Committee's finding is that there should be an advance of wages of 1s. per week on time rates, the advance to come into operation as from the beginning of the first full pay following 30th September, and to be regarded as war wages. In addition the Committee are of opinion that the rate of payment for overtime should be "time and a quarter" for the first two hours and "time and a half" afterwards.

DRILLERS, NORTH BRITISH LOCOMOTIVE CO., LTD., SPRINGBURN (ISSUED 7TH OCTOBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application made by the Ship Constructors and Shipwrights Society that a number of hand and pneumatic drillers employed by the North British Locomotive Co., Ltd., members of the North-West Engineering Trades Employers' Association, should receive an advance of 4s. a week or 1d. per hour (under the finding of the Committee on Production of 23rd March, affecting engineers, or under the finding of the Committee of 1st March, affecting shipyard workers), instead of an advance of 3s. a week or 2d. per hour granted to the men in question by the firm, following a similar advance given by the members of the Employers' Association to various classes of semi-skilled and unskilled workers throughout the district covered by the Association.

The matter formed the subject of negotiations between the parties, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the question to the Committee on Production for decision.

The Committee's finding is that no further advance be made in the wages of the drillers concerned beyond that already granted to them.

MESSRS. DOUGLAS & GRANT, LTD., KIRKCALDY (ISSUED 7TH OCTOBER).

The following finding is in respect of an application made to Messrs. Douglas & Grant, Ltd., Kirkcaldy, by the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society, for an advance of wages to their members in the employ of the firm.

In February, 1915, the Company gave the whole of their employees a war bonus of 1d. per hour, and in March, following an application from the Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders' Society for a further advance of 1d. per hour, their boilermakers were offered and accepted an advance of 1d. per hour. Subsequently another firm in the neighbourhood (whose boilermakers were doing similar work) agreed with their workpeople that in the event of any workman having a complete 54 hours week he should be paid one-quarter time on the 54 hours, and towards the end of May the boilermakers in the employ of Messrs. Douglas & Grant, Ltd., asked to be placed on the same basis. The firm offered the men a further 1d. per hour advance of wages, and the men continued working at this advanced rate. Negotiations were continued with respect to the men's original demand, but no settlement was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee on Production for decision.

The Committee's finding is that the men have not established a claim to the further advance applied for.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS OVERSEA.

[Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 3A, Broadways, Westminster, London, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, &c.—Free quarterly circulars on Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and Handbooks (with maps) at 1d. each, may be obtained from the Office post free; and all enquiries about emigration addressed to the Office will be answered.]

WARNING.—Owing to the war (1) labour conditions overseas are uncertain, and openings for emigrants are greatly restricted; and (2) steamers are liable to delay and risk.

CANADA.

There is no demand for more skilled or unskilled labour in Canada at the present season of the year, and all emigrants—both male and female—are cautioned against going there during the winter.

AUSTRALIA.

New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania give cheap passages to farm workers, lads, or female servants, or to persons who have relatives in Australia. But no assisted passage is given to men of military age. Passages also from £1 each are given by New South Wales and Victoria on certain conditions to widows and young women who will take up domestic service.

According to a telegram just received from Sydney the demand for labour in New South Wales is about equal to the supply; in Victoria the engineering trade continues brisk, and very few in the building trades are unemployed; in both States seasonal prospects are good, and work promises to be plentiful.

NEW ZEALAND.

During the war reduced-rate passages are granted to married farmers and farm hands and *bonâ-fide* female domestic servants, and also to single farmers and farm hands who are not eligible for military service. The building trades have been busy at Wellington and Dunedin, and the engineering trades at Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and some smaller places, and other trades have been fair. Female servants are in demand for private houses.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Owing to the war the labour market in South Africa is disorganised, and no one should go there now.

LABOUR IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.*

NORWAY.†

Employment in August.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of August in certain Trade Unions making returns to the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	31st Aug., 1915.	31st July, 1915.	31st Aug., 1914.	31st Aug., 1915.	31st July, 1915.	31st Aug., 1914.
Bricklayers and Masons (Christiania)	735	670	658	0·4	..	1·2
Carpenters, &c.	1,397	1,294	1,310	0·1	0·2	3·4
Painters (Christiania)	448	415	450	..	..	4·7
Iron and Metal Workers	8,450	8,369	8,459	0·7	0·8	2·4
Boot and Shoe Makers	782	787	712	0·4	1·8	1·0
Wood Pulp and Papermakers	728	737	641	..	0·9	..
Printers	2,048	2,081	2,009	3·1	0·7	6·6
Bookbinders	635	633	681	2·5	2·1	4·5
Planers and Sawyers	405	405	360	6·7	3·5	19·7
Cabinet Makers	774	690	651	1·6	0·6	9·3
Bakers (Christiania)	435	433	460	2·5	3·0	7·6
Tinned goods (Stavanger)	610	609	471	6·1	0·7	..
TOTAL	17,447	17,123	16,662	1·4	0·9	3·7

SWEDEN.

Employment, April-June, 1915.—The issue of *Sociala Meddelanden* (the journal of the Swedish Department for Social Affairs) for August contains particulars as to unemployment among members of Trade Unions at the beginning of April, May, and June respectively.

Unions.	Membership reporting at June 1st, 1915.	Percentage Unemployed on 1st of Month.		
		April, 1915.	May, 1915.	June, 1915.
All Unions making Returns	58,980	11·2	8·5	6·7
PRINCIPAL UNIONS:—				
Stoneworkers	2,996	20·0	19·4	18·2
Bricklayers and masons	1,421	45·2	22·7	11·3
Painters	3,397	26·0	10·2	2·9
Blastfurnacemen, &c.	3,893	0·6	1·5	0·4
Powdermen	1,911	1·5	1·6	1·7
Template workers, &c.	1,362	21·8	13·4	6·1
Engineering operatives	17,684	3·6	3·2	2·5
Boot, shoe and leather workers	2,238	1·5	0·8	1·0
Brewery workers	1,152	1·0	2·0	0·4
Tobacco workers	1,454	35·4	35·5	84·0
Sawmill workers	3,855	19·0	11·6	3·7
Woodworkers	4,041	23·2	16·2	7·9
General labourers and factory operatives (trades not distinguished)	5,588	17·7	14·3	8·6

* For Employment in Germany see p. 353.

† Information furnished by the Statistical Office of the Norwegian Department of Labour, Commerce, Industry and Fisheries.

The percentage of 6·7 for June, 1915, is about double that reported for June, 1914, viz., 3·2 per cent.

DENMARK.*

Employment in July.—According to returns supplied to the Danish Statistical Office 3·7 per cent. of the 129,500 members of Trade Unions reporting were unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 3·3 per cent. in the previous month and 3·8 per cent. in July, 1914. The average time lost through unemployment during July was $\frac{1}{8}$ of a day per member, as compared with $\frac{1}{4}$ of a day both in June and in July, 1914.

A SCANDINAVIAN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS.

Soziale Praxis, for September 23rd, announces the recent formation of an International Defensive Federation of Scandinavian Employers. The Federation will afford to its members such mutual support, in labour disputes, as the Swedish, Norwegian and Danish Unions of Employers have been wont to give in the past. The new agreement (which has now been sanctioned by all the employers' organisations concerned) consists chiefly in an undertaking with respect to labour disputes. If a dispute occurs in one country, the Employers' Associations in the other countries will grant subsidies. The financial obligations will come into force in case any Labour Union in one country receives a financial subsidy from a Labour Union in another country in consequence of any arrangement in regard to the matter that may be made by the Labour Unions.

RUSSIA.

Co-operative Consumers' Societies on 1st January, 1914.—The *Vyestnik Melkovo Kredita* (the journal of the Department of Petty Credit in Petrograd) for 28th August (O.S.) contains an article on the above subject, from which the following notes are extracted:—

On 1st January, 1914, the number of co-operative consumers' societies in the Russian Empire was 10,080, of which 8,020, or 80 per cent., were agricultural in character. The total membership was computed to be approximately 1,460,000. Taking the total population of the Russian Empire as 172 millions, it appears that the percentage of the population who are members of such societies would be less than four-fifths of 1 per cent.

The distribution of co-operative consumers' societies throughout the Russian Empire is as follows:—

Region.	No. of Societies.	No. of Members.
European Russia	7,482	1,085,000
Russian Poland	1,366	198,000
Siberia	965	123,000
Caucasus	237	34,000
Central Asia	130	19,000

The annual turnover of all the societies was, in round numbers, £31,667,000. The share capital was £2,322,000, and the reserve capital £633,000. The net profits totalled £1,034,000, equivalent to about 3·3 per cent. of the turnover; in the agricultural societies the figure was somewhat higher, namely, about 3·7 per cent. Compared with profits gained by similar societies in other countries these figures are very low.

UNITED STATES.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Employment at End of June, 1915.—For the quarter ending June 30th, 1915, returns were received from 1,092 labour organisations in Massachusetts, with an aggregate membership of 162,315, or about 66 per cent. of the total membership of all Trade Unions in that State. The proportion of such members unemployed on June 30th, owing to causes other than labour disputes or disablement—e.g., lack of work, shortage of materials, weather conditions, holidays and temporary shut-downs—was 8·5 per cent., as compared with 12·7 per cent. at the end of March and with 8·0 per cent. at the end of June, 1914.

* *Statistiske Efterretninger*, 2nd October, 1915. † Danish Statistical Office. ‡ Thirtieth Quarterly Report on Unemployment in Massachusetts, 30th June, 1915. Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM DURING SEPTEMBER.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during September, and showed little change from a month ago. It was better than a year ago as regards the number of days worked by the collieries, showing an average improvement of over half a day per week, or 13 per cent. The number of workpeople employed, however, was less by 9.05 per cent. than the number in September, 1914. As compared with August there was a decline in numbers of 0.4 per cent.

Of the 499,899 workpeople included in the returns 243,853, or 48.7 per cent., were at pits working 12 days* during the fortnight to which the returns relate; while a further 167,674, or 33.5 per cent., were at pits working 11 days, but less than 12 days. Thus 82.2 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at pits working 11 days or more during the fortnight.

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in Sept., 1915, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1915, on a	
		25th Sept., 1915.	28th Aug., 1915.	26th Sept., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ..	35,919	5.33	5.36	3.96	- 0.03	+ 1.37
Durham ..	83,482	5.51	5.54	4.62	- 0.03	+ 0.89
Cumberland ..	6,668	5.32	5.71	5.72	+ 0.11	+ 0.10
South Yorkshire ..	55,514	5.75	5.65	5.15	- 0.08	+ 0.59
West Yorkshire ..	24,671	5.48	5.66	4.69	- 0.08	+ 0.89
Lancashire and Cheshire ..	47,915	5.67	5.50	4.65	+ 0.17	+ 1.02
Derbyshire ..	35,115	5.82	5.79	5.37	+ 0.03	+ 0.45
Nottingham and Leicester ..	31,845	5.42	5.45	4.80	- 0.03	+ 0.62
Staffordshire ..	24,188	5.82	5.60	5.49	+ 0.22	+ 0.33
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ..	8,389	5.79	5.75	5.10	+ 0.04	+ 0.69
Gloucester and Somerset ..	5,323	5.91	5.93	4.96	- 0.02	+ 0.95
North Wales ..	8,827	5.73	5.97	5.81	- 0.24	- 0.08
South Wales and Mon. ..	85,347	5.98	5.88	5.79	+ 0.10	+ 0.19
ENGLAND AND WALES ..	499,003	5.68	5.64	5.01	+ 0.04	+ 0.67
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ..	18,119	5.15	5.15	4.90	+ 0.07	+ 0.05
The Lothians ..	2,441	5.18	5.11	5.13	- 0.07	+ 0.69
Fife ..	19,884	5.26	5.33	4.57	- 0.04	+ 0.46
SCOTLAND ..	40,444	5.20	5.24	4.74	- 0.04	+ 0.46
IRELAND ..	452	5.19	5.26	5.50	- 0.07	- 0.31
UNITED KINGDOM ..	499,899	5.64	5.60	4.99	+ 0.04	+ 0.65

The highest average number of days worked in the week ended 25th September was in South Wales and Monmouth (5.98 days), and the lowest average was in West Scotland (5.15 days).

Compared with a month ago employment in Northumberland and Durham showed little change, and was very good. In Cumberland and in South Yorkshire it showed some improvement. In West Yorkshire there was a slight decline. A shortage of trucks was reported as affecting a few pits. In Lancashire and Cheshire and in Derbyshire it was very good, and showed an improvement. It was stated that some men were leaving the cotton trade for the mines. In Nottingham and Leicester it continued good on the whole, a shortage of labour being reported from Leicestershire. In Staffordshire and Warwick, Worcester and Shropshire it was very good, and in Staffordshire there was a noticeable improvement. From several districts a shortage of various classes of labour was reported. In Gloucester and Somerset and South Wales and Monmouth it continued very good. In North Wales, however, although still good, it showed some decline.

In Scotland it was good generally, but in the Lothians and West Fifeshire several collieries were working short time owing to scarcity of railway trucks and to export difficulties.

Compared with a year ago employment showed an

* The figures in this article and the following only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day that the mines or works were open.

improvement in every district except North Wales, where there was little change, and Ireland, where a decline occurred. The improvement was greatest in Northumberland (1.37 days) and Lancashire and Cheshire (1.02 days).

Description of Coal.	No. of Work-people employed in Sept., 1915, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Pits in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1915, on a	
		25th Sept., 1915.	28th Aug., 1915.	26th Sept., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite ..	3,706	5.92	5.90	5.43	+ 0.02	+ 0.49
Coking ..	25,829	5.82	5.78	4.82	+ 0.04	+ 0.90
Gas ..	25,330	5.42	5.45	4.83	- 0.03	+ 0.74
House ..	54,806	5.53	5.55	4.86	+ 0.03	+ 0.72
Steam ..	188,822	5.75	5.67	5.27	+ 0.08	+ 0.48
Mixed ..	190,406	5.57	5.56	4.81	+ 0.01	+ 0.76
ALL DESCRIPTIONS ..	499,899	5.64	5.60	4.99	+ 0.04	+ 0.65

Compared with a month ago, there was a slight improvement at pits producing all kinds of coal except gas coal. At pits producing gas coal there was a slight decline. Compared with a year ago there was a great improvement at all pits, especially coking, gas and house coal pits.

The exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in September amounted to 4,097,000 tons, as compared with 3,854,000 tons in August, 1915, 4,096,000 tons in September, 1914, and 6,502,000 tons in September, 1913.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago, at iron mines. Shale mines continued busy. In tin mines employment remained dull; in lead mines it was good.

The North Wales slate industry was depressed, and the china clay industry rather slack, but otherwise employment at quarries was fair generally.

MINING.

Iron.—Returns received for each of the three periods named below, relating to the same mines and open works in each case, show that the number of workpeople employed in September, 1915, was 13,011, an increase of 200 (or 1.6 per cent.) compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1,158 (or 8.2 per cent.) compared with a year ago. These variations in the number employed should be borne in mind in connection with the following Table, which gives the number of days that the mines and works were in operation:—

Districts.	Work-people employed in Sept., 1915.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in Fortnight ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1915, on a	
		25th Sept., 1915.	28th Aug., 1915.	26th Sept., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland ..	5,613	5.96	5.81	5.91	+ 0.14	+ 0.04
Cumberland and Lancashire ..	4,442	5.85	5.79	5.83	+ 0.06	+ 0.02
Scotland ..	699	5.61	4.89	4.74	+ 0.72	+ 0.87
Other Districts ..	2,257	5.97	5.97	5.85	..	+ 0.12
ALL DISTRICTS ..	13,011	5.90	5.78	5.81	+ 0.12	+ 0.09

The weekly average number of days* worked by the mines and open works included in the returns was 5.90, compared with 5.78 a month ago and 5.81 a year ago. There was a marked improvement in Scotland.

Shale.—According to the returns received, there were 2,911 workpeople employed in the fortnight ended 25th September, 1915, at shale mines which were working on the average 5.89 days per week, compared with 3,230 workpeople in August employed at mines working 5.88 days, and 3,489 workpeople employed at mines working

* See * note in previous column.

5.89 days per week, a year ago. The number employed in September, 1915, was reduced by about 300 through a fire. Holidays in September, 1915 and 1914, accounted for the loss of about 0.11 of a day per week. For August the corresponding figure was 0.03.

Tin.—Employment continued dull generally in Cornwall. At some mines, however, there was a difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour.

Lead.—Employment continued good in Weardale, Darley Dale (Matlock), and Flintshire.

QUARRYING.

Slate.—The depression in North Wales continued, and in the Blaenau Festiniog quarries employment was much worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked.

Granite.—In Leicestershire employment was fair, but not so good as a year ago. In the Aberdeen district it continued slack, and was much worse than a year ago.

Limestone.—In the Weardale district employment continued moderate, and some short time was worked. In Cleveland it was fair, but not so good as a year ago; a little short time was worked. In Cumberland and in the Buxton district it was good, and showed an improvement on a year ago.

Other Stone.—In the Bristol district employment declined, and was only fair; it was about the same as a year ago. The Bakewell chert quarries continued fully employed. In the Cleve Hill road material (basalt) quarries employment continued good, and there was a shortage of labour. In the Rowsley grindstone and building stone quarries there was no improvement, and employment was reported much worse than a year ago. The depression in Forfarshire continued; the industry was affected by the high prices of raw materials, especially coal. At whinstone quarries in Weardale employment continued good.

Settmaking &c.—In Scotland employment continued good in the Glasgow district, but at Aberdeen it was still slack. There was also a decline in Leicestershire. In the Cleve Hill quarries employment continued very quiet, but in North Wales it was good. In Cornwall it was only moderate on the whole; want of stone was said in one instance to be the cause.

China Clay.—In the St. Austell district employment continued bad, and was about the same as a year ago. In the Shaugh and Lee Moor district it was fair. Many were stated to have left the industry.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

At pig iron blast furnaces employment continued good. A general shortage of skilled and unskilled labour was reported, and also difficulty in obtaining supplies of ore and other raw materials, partly owing to lack of transport facilities.

Returns received show that 268 furnaces were in blast at the end of September, compared with 267 a month ago and 264 a year ago. During the month two furnaces, one in Staffordshire and one in Monmouthshire, were relit, and one, in Cumberland, was damped down.

The following Table summarises by districts the returns received for September:—

District.	Number of Furnaces included in the Returns in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1915, on a	
	September, 1915.	August, 1915.	September, 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES:					
Cleveland ..	68	68	69	..	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs. ..	26	27	28	- 1	- 2
S. and S.W. Yorks. ..	11	11	10	..	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham ..	23	23	35	..	- 7
Leicester, Lincoln, J. and Northampton ..	28	28	27	..	+ 1
Staffs. & Worcester ..	32	31	26	+ 1	+ 6
S. Wales & Monmouth ..	11	10	10	+ 1	+ 1
Other districts ..	5	5	4	..	+ 1
ENGLAND & WALES ..	209	208	209	+ 1	..
SCOTLAND ..	59	59	55	..	+ 4
TOTAL ..	268	267	264	+ 1	+ 4

The imports of iron ore in September amounted to 470,000 tons, as compared with 572,000 tons in August, 1915, and 529,000 tons in September, 1913.

The exports of pig iron were 53,000 tons, about 20,000 tons less than in August, and only about half the quantity exported in September, 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued very good during September, and showed a further improvement. It was much better on the whole than a year ago.

There was a general shortage of labour, especially of skilled men, and difficulty was experienced in many places in procuring full supplies of raw materials.

According to returns from employers relating to 107,769 workpeople, the average number of shifts worked during the week ended 25th September, 1915, was 622,591, showing an increase of 10,448 (or 1.7 per cent.) on a month ago, and of 95,264 (or 18.1 per cent.) on a year ago:—

DEPARTMENTS.	No. of Work-people employed by firms making returns.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a		Aggregate number of shifts worked.		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with a	
		Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ..	10,526	+ 1.5	+ 16.7	61,573	+ 1.1	+ 17.6
Crucible Furnaces ..	525	- 3.3	+ 16.2	3,029	- 2.9	+ 56.5
Bessemer Converters ..	1,474	..	- 12.3	7,791	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Puddling Forges ..	6,906	- 3.8	- 11.8	35,551	- 3.4	- 7.0
Rolling Mills ..	30,717	+ 1.3	- 0.1	165,216	+ 0.6	+ 8.1
Forging and Pressing ..	5,265	+ 3.2	+ 5.0	30,115	+ 3.6	+ 8.9
Founding ..	16,875	+ 3.8	+ 46.4	110,574	+ 4.6	+ 65.6
Other Departments ..	15,489	+ 2.5	+ 11.7	89,848	+ 3.2	+ 2.4
Mechanics, Labourers ..	19,992	+ 1.1	+ 15.5	118,894	+ 1.1	+ 19.1
TOTAL ..	107,769	+ 1.6	+ 10.6	622,591	+ 1.7	+ 18.1
DISTRICTS.						
Northumberland & Durham ..	12,017	+ 0.1	+ 11.0	68,827	- 0.2	+ 17.8
Cleveland ..	9,434	+ 2.5	+ 11.2	54,551	+ 2.9	+ 22.1
Sheffield and Rotherham ..	27,071	+ 2.3	+ 32.4	169,105	+ 2.3	+ 48.3
Leeds, Bradford, &c. ..	3,971	- 1.2	- 15.6	22,128	- 0.0	- 12.6
Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire ..	5,334	+ 0.6	+ 11.6	46,024	+ 0.9	- 9.6
Staffordshire ..	9,314	- 0.3	- 2.2	51,622	- 0.4	- 0.1
Other Midland Counties ..	5,075	+ 1.1	+ 1.0	28,191	+ 0.6	+ 4.3
Wales and Monmouth ..	12,396	- 0.1	+ 11.6	66,601	- 1.3	+ 14.4
TOTAL, England & Wales ..	87,612	+ 1.0	+ 10.1	507,049	+ 0.9	+ 17.8
Scotland ..	20,157	+ 4.1	+ 12.7	115,542	+ 5.3	+ 19.0
TOTAL ..	107,769	+ 1.6	+ 10.6	622,591	+ 1.7	+ 18.1

Compared with a month ago there was a considerable improvement in the Cleveland and Sheffield and Rotherham districts and in Scotland. In the other districts there was little change. All the departments showed an improvement except crucible furnaces and puddling forges, in which there was a decline. Employment was good in the Tyne district, except at Consett and Gateshead, where it was fair, and with forge and hammermen. On the Wear it was only fair, but better than a month ago. In the Tees and Hartlepool area employment was again good, or very good, except at pipe and chair foundries, and in iron and steel works in Stockton, and at finished iron works at Thornaby, where it was reported as fair. In Sheffield steel smelters were fully employed, and in some cases overtime was worked. At Scunthorpe employment continued good. At Rotherham, Mexborough, and Parkgate all works were fully employed, and employment was quite equal to what it was a month ago. Taking the Sheffield and Rotherham district as a whole, the average number of shifts worked was nearly 6 1/2. At Leeds employment continued very good at the principal steelworks, owing to work on armaments. In the Potteries it was very good with steel smelters, who were mostly employed on Government work. Employment in the Birmingham district was fairly good, and in North Wales it was very good. In South Wales it was slack with iron and steel workers, but with steel smelters it was fair at Pontardawe, very good at Briton Ferry, and good at Newport (Mon.). In Scotland it was good, especially in West Scotland, and better than in August.

Compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed showed an improvement in every district except the Leeds and Bradford, the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire, and the Staffordshire districts. In every district, however, the average number of shifts worked per man showed an improvement. In the Sheffield and Rotherham district the number of workpeople employed increased by 32.4 per cent., and the average number of shifts worked per man by 11.8 per cent.

All the departments except Bessemer converters, puddling forges, and rolling mills showed an increased number of workpeople employed in them as compared with last year. Bessemer converters and puddling forges showed a decline, and rolling mills practically no change. The improvement was greatest at foundries, where the number of workpeople employed increased by 46.4 per cent., and the average number of shifts worked by over 13 per cent.

The imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof amounted to 135,000 tons in September, as compared with 121,000 tons in August, and 175,000 tons in September, 1913. As compared with two years ago there was a decline under practically every heading except steel blooms and billets, imports of which from the United States increased enormously.

The exports (excluding pig iron, tin plates and galvanised sheets) amounted to 152,000 tons, as compared with 177,000 tons in August, 1915, and 180,000 tons in September, 1913. Almost every heading showed considerable declines as compared with that month, except black sheets and bars, angles, rods, &c., which showed large increases owing to the quantity sent to France.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

THERE was still a great demand for labour in these trades, and work continued at high pressure.

Trade Unions with 242,531 members (mostly in skilled occupations) reported 0.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, compared with 0.6 per cent. a month ago, 5.0 per cent. a year ago, and 2.2 per cent. at the end of September, 1913.

The number of workpeople (skilled and unskilled) in these trades insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 758,093, of whom 0.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 0.5 per cent. in August, 4.9 per cent. in September, 1914, and 2.6 per cent. in September, 1913.

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1915, on a	
		24th Sept., 1915.	27th Aug., 1915.	25th Sept., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	74,134	1.1	1.2	5.1	- 0.1	- 4.0
Northern Counties	77,050	0.3	0.3	2.4	.. .. .	- 2.1
North-Western	146,361	0.5	0.6	7.7	- 0.1	- 7.2
Yorkshire	96,463	0.2	0.3	4.5	- 0.1	- 4.3
East Midlands	82,797	0.2	0.4	5.5	- 0.2	- 5.3
West Midlands	83,662	0.4	0.5	3.8	- 0.1	- 3.4
Eastern & S.E. Counties	48,321	0.3	0.4	2.1	- 0.1	- 1.8
South-Western	33,014	0.5	0.7	2.8	- 0.2	- 2.3
Wales	15,194	0.3	0.4	3.3	- 0.1	- 3.0
Scotland	112,824	0.2	0.3	4.7	- 0.1	- 4.5
Ireland	18,268	2.1	2.9	10.3	- 0.8	- 8.2
UNITED KINGDOM	758,093	0.4	0.5	4.9	- 0.1	- 4.5

The principal exceptions to the state of employment as described above were as follows:—

Employment was reported as quiet with workpeople engaged in the making of textile machinery and tools at Oldham, Burnley, Leeds and Nottingham, and some short time was worked. At Nottingham cycle makers also were said to be on short time. With iron-moulders employment was reported as only moderate or fair at Belfast, at Wigan and Blackburn, on the Tyne and Wear, at Lincoln and Grantham, and at Northampton. At Glasgow, though there was a slight general improvement as compared with August, a considerable number of iron-moulders were unemployed, and at Dundee employment with iron-moulders was reported quiet. At Hartlepool employment, though

still good, showed a decline. With patternmakers on the Tyne it was reported as moderate and worse than a month ago, and at Preston and Falkirk it was only fair. Employment with wagon makers at Stockton was reported as slack.

The imports of machinery were valued at £806,000, as compared with £794,000 in August, 1915, and £522,000 in September, 1913. Most of the important kinds of machinery showed increases, and agricultural machinery, road locomotives, and machine tools showed enormous increases as compared with September, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) were valued at £1,611,000, as compared with £1,484,000 in August, 1915, and £3,048,000 in September, 1913. Compared with September, 1913, agricultural machinery, boilers, and textile machinery all showed marked decreases.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

In these trades employment continued very good. Much overtime was worked, and there was a general scarcity of labour.

Trade Unions of iron and steel shipbuilders and of shipwrights, with 71,514 members, reported 0.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, compared with 0.5 per cent. at the end of August, 6.0 per cent. at the end of September, 1914, and 4.9 per cent. at the end of September, 1913.

The percentage unemployed among the 242,963 workpeople in the shipbuilding industry who are insured against unemployment under the National Insurance Act was 0.6 in September, as compared with 0.7 in August, 4.4 in September, 1914, and 4.3 in September, 1913:—

Division.	Number Insured.	Percentage of Unemployment Books lodged at			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1915, compared with a	
		24th Sept., 1915.	27th Aug., 1915.	25th Sept., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	10,549	0.9	1.1	8.0	- 0.2	- 7.1
Northern Counties	52,073	0.3	0.3	3.8	.. .. .	- 3.5
North-Western	41,762	0.2	0.4	4.3	- 0.2	- 4.1
Yorkshire	5,844	0.5	0.8	4.4	- 0.3	- 3.9
East Midlands	1,807	1.4	1.1	10.4	+ 0.3	- 9.0
West Midlands	351	0.9	0.6	4.7	+ 0.3	- 3.8
Eastern & S.E. Counties	7,530	0.5	0.5	2.6	.. .. .	- 2.1
South-Western	23,551	0.6	1.0	8.0	- 0.4	- 7.4
Wales	10,645	1.0	1.5	5.5	- 0.5	- 4.5
Scotland	67,907	0.2	0.3	2.5	- 0.1	- 2.3
Ireland	20,924	2.9	2.5	7.8	+ 0.4	- 4.9
UNITED KINGDOM	242,963	0.6	0.7	4.4	- 0.1	- 3.8

The principal variations as compared with August, or exceptions to the general state of employment as described above, were as follows:—

Ship joiners reported employment on the Clyde as fair and much better than it was a month ago; on the Tees (repair work) it was good, and better than it was a month ago. With iron and steel shipbuilders repair work at Hartlepool was again only fair. At Hull employment continued only moderate on merchant vessels and trawlers; but at Swansea it was very fair, showing an improvement on a month ago.

TINPLATE, AND STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEET TRADE.

The following Table shows the number of tinplate and steel sheet mills in operation at the end of September, 1915, and the increase or decrease on a month ago and a year ago. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 26,000 workpeople.

Works.	Number of Works open.			Number of Mills in operation.		
	At end of Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	At end of Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate	76	+ 1	+ 10	407	.. .. .	+ 57
Steel Sheet	12	.. .. .	+ 1	82	.. .. .	- 19
TOTAL	88	+ 1	+ 11	489	.. .. .	+ 38

* Revised figure.

TINPLATE.

Employment continued about the same as in August, and was much better than a year ago.

There was some falling off in the demand for tinplate, though the home trade showed an improvement. High prices of coal and raw materials continued to affect the industry adversely, and a scarcity of young skilled men prevented additional mills being started.

The number of mills working at the end of September was 407, the same number as in August and 57 more than in September, 1914.

The exports showed some decline on the previous month, and there was a marked decline as compared with September, 1913. The decrease compared with August was due largely to diminished exports to France.

	Sept., 1915.	August, 1915.	Sept., 1914.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States	33	59	206	- 26	- 173
British East Indies	1,859	2,342	6,011	- 503	- 4,172
Germany .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
France	1,374	4,816	556	- 3,512	+ 748
Netherlands	2,543	829	677	+ 1,714	+ 1,866
Russia	33	14	1	+ 19	+ 32
Norway	1,960	1,652	2,837	+ 308	- 877
Belgium .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
Portugal	632	1,988	250	- 1,358	+ 382
Italy	1,971	1,783	144	+ 178	+ 1,827
Roumania	600	.. .. .	.. .. .	+ 600	+ 600
China and Japan	68	1,643	3,346	- 1,576	- 3,278
Australia	4,644	2,554	3,077	+ 2,090	+ 1,567
Canada	128	83	454	+ 45	- 326
Argentina	546	1,445	38	- 899	+ 508
Other Countries	3,701	3,354	5,843	+ 347	- 2,142
TOTAL	20,002	22,572	23,440	- 2,570	- 3,438
Black Plates for Tinning.					
TOTAL	2,693	3,853	533	- 1,160	+ 2,160

STEEL AND GALVANISED SHEETS.

Employment in this section of the trade was about the same as a month ago. There was still difficulty in getting supplies of ore and raw material and a great shortage of labour was reported. The demand for back-plates continued, but the high price of spelter prevented any improvement in the galvanised trade.

The number of sheet mills in operation at the end of September was 82, the same as at the end of August, and 19 less than a year ago.

The imports of crude zinc amounted to 6,432 tons, about the same quantity as in August, 1915, but less than half of those in September, 1913.

Exports of galvanised sheets were 20,351 tons, or rather more than in August, 1915, but less than one-third of those in September, 1913. As compared with that month there was a decline in exports to every destination, especially to British India, the most important market.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

THESE trades continued very busy during September, and much overtime was worked on Government contracts. Trade Unions with 35,126 members reported only 0.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, compared with the same percentage as in August and 4.2 a year ago.

Brasswork and Bedsteads.—Employment continued very good with brassworkers at most centres; in the Birmingham district 80 per cent. were working overtime. Bedstead workers at Birmingham continued fairly well employed.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails &c.—Employment continued good with nut, bolt, rivet and spike makers at Blackheath and Halesowen; with nut and bolt makers it was good on the Tyne, and fairly good at Birmingham and Darlaston. It was very good with wire nail and shoe rivet makers at Birmingham.

Cutlery, Tools, Bits, Stirrups &c.—The cutlery trades at Sheffield continued very busy, and there was a shortage of labour. With machine grinders employment con-

tinued good, but saw grinders reported a decline, short time being worked. Machine file forgers reported employment as good, with overtime. With makers of edge tools it was good at Birmingham and fair at Wednesbury; at Walsall it was fair on bits and stirrups and fairly good with makers of saddle and harness furniture. At Redditch needle and fishing tackle makers reported some decline, but employment was still good; with fish hook makers it continued moderate.

Tubes.—Employment continued good generally, and at Birmingham with brass and copper tube makers it was very good. At Wednesbury it was fair.

Chains, Anchors, Springs &c.—At Cradley and on the Wear chain makers and anchor-smiths continued well employed. On the Tyne employment was fair with anchor-smiths. With case hame and cart gear makers it was good at Walsall. Axle and spring makers at Wednesbury reported it as fair, and spring makers at West Bromwich and Redditch were very busy. Anvil and vice makers at Dudley were fairly well employed.

Sheet Metal Workers.—Braziers and sheet metal workers continued busy at the principal centres, and much overtime was worked. At Aberdeen, Exeter, Oldham, Warrington and Grimsby, however, employment was stated to be only fair. With ironplate workers it was very good at Birmingham, good in the Lye district, and fairly good at Bilston, Dudley, and Wolverhampton.

Wire.—Employment continued good generally, and there was some scarcity of skilled labour. At Norwich, however, wire weavers reported it as slack.

Locks, Hollow-ware &c.—At Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment continued good with lock and latch makers, and overtime was worked. It was fairly good at Wolverhampton, and fair at West Bromwich with cast iron hollow-ware makers. In the galvanised hollow-ware trade employment continued fairly good, but the high price of spelter was responsible for some short time; it was good in the tin and enamel branch at Wolverhampton, and fairly good with makers of builders' ironmongery.

Stoves, Grates &c.—Employment in England continued moderate. At Sheffield and Rotherham short time was worked, though no workpeople were entirely unemployed. At Leeds and Ipswich, however, employment was reported fair, and at Luton and Newcastle overtime was worked. At Falkirk employment continued very good.

Jewellery, Plated Ware &c.—At Birmingham employment continued good; there was some scarcity of labour, and electroplaters and goldsmiths worked overtime; in Sheffield employment was also good. In London it continued quiet, but was slightly better than a year ago.

Farriers.—Employment was fair with farriers at Cork and in the Eastern Counties, good on the Tyne and at Glasgow, and very good in the Potteries district, at Leicester and Northampton, and at Edinburgh and Leith.

COTTON TRADE.

THERE was a decline in this trade, chiefly in the weaving branch, during September, but employment was much above the level of a year ago. The slackness in the weaving section was largely due to the unsatisfactory state of the export trade with India and China.

Output in both spinning and weaving was affected by the shortage of male labour which was reported in all the principal districts—firms employing 25 per cent. of the operatives covered by the Returns being thus affected. The difficulty has been partly met by the introduction of female labour into the spinning departments in some districts and by its more general employment in the weaving section.

Returns from firms employing 219,151 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 9.6 in the number employed and of 36.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Dunfermline employment was fair, there being a great demand for coloured damasks. A scarcity of mechanics and other classes of male labour was reported. Linen workers at Brechin reported employment as good. At Barnsley employment was slack.

The imports of flax and tow amounted to 6,787 tons, a decline of 1,900 tons on those for August, 1915, but nearly three times as much as in September, 1913, owing to increased imports from Russia. Imports of linen yarn were less than 2,000 lb. Two years ago they amounted to nearly two and three-quarter million lb.

The exports of linen yarn were 479,800 lb., a decline on the previous month, and less than half the amount exported in September, 1913. The exports of linen piece goods amounted to 7,835,000 yards, a decline of over 400,000 yards compared with the previous month, and only about 70 per cent. of the exports in September, 1913.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, with overtime, on Government orders, but it showed some decline on a month ago.

Returns from firms employing 14,050 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 27.1 per cent. in the wages paid.

DEPARTMENTS.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	3,173	- 0.5	- 1.2	3,072	- 0.9	+ 28.8
Spinning	3,789	- 1.2	- 2.3	3,509	- 4.0	+ 28.5
Weaving	5,039	- 0.9	- 1.0	5,165	- 1.8	+ 27.1
Other	2,082	- 1.5	+ 4.6	2,526	- 3.3	+ 23.3
TOTAL	14,050	- 1.0	- 0.6	14,272	- 2.4	+ 27.1

In the Dundee district, in which are employed nearly 87 per cent. of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns, employment continued good. A general shortage of spinners was reported. At Arbroath, Forfar and Kirkcaldy it was also good, though a few winders at Forfar were working half-time.

The imports of jute in September were 17,440 tons, an increase of over one-third on those in both August, 1915, and September, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) of jute yarns amounted to 3,503,000 lb., an increase on August, and about the same amount as in September, 1913. The exports of jute piece goods were 8,390,000 yards, an improvement on August, but little more than 50 per cent. of those in September, 1913. This decline was due chiefly to the falling-off of exports to the United States, the most important market.

LACE TRADE.

IN the levers branch employment continued bad, in the curtain branch it was fair; in the plain net branch it was good, and better than a month ago. Compared with September, 1914, there was a decline in numbers employed, but the average earnings showed an increase of 4s. 8d. per week.

Some shortage of labour, chiefly of men and boys, was reported in the curtain and plain net branches; firms employing about 30 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns complained of a scarcity.

Returns from firms employing 8,600 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 7.1 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 20.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Levers	1,921	+ 0.1	- 15.7	2,106	+ 0.5	+ 9.7
Curtain	2,281	- 1.3	+ 8.8	2,573	- 0.2	+ 26.6
Plain Net	3,122	- 0.8	- 12.9	3,054	+ 1.4	+ 1.0
Others	1,276	+ 0.8	- 1.3	1,093	- 0.8	+ 8.8
TOTAL	8,600	- 0.5	- 7.1	8,826	+ 0.4	+ 20.3
DISTRICTS.						
Nottingham City	3,155	- 0.7	- 0.9	2,987	- 0.8	+ 27.3
Long Eaton and other out-lying districts	1,148	- 0.6	- 15.7	1,464	+ 2.4	+ 18.4
Other English Districts	2,754	- 0.7	- 15.8	2,722	+ 0.7	- 0.2
Scotland	1,543	+ 0.2	+ 7.4	1,653	+ 0.4	+ 61.3
TOTAL	8,600	- 0.5	- 7.1	8,826	+ 0.4	+ 20.3

At Nottingham employment continued bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch—in all three branches there was a great improvement as compared with a year ago, and some shortage of labour was reported in the curtain and plain net branches.

In the Long Eaton district much short time was reported in the levers section, and the other branches were hampered by a shortage of male labour. In the West of England employment continued fair. In Scotland employment continued fairly good—several firms reported a shortage of male labour.

The imports of cotton lace in September were valued at £69,921, a great decline from the high figure (£103,000) in August, and considerably less than half the imports in September, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) were valued at £229,411, a slight increase on the value in August, but only a little more than two-thirds of the value of the exports in September, 1913.

HOSIERY TRADE.

THE operatives in this trade continued well employed during September, with some few exceptions in the fine hosiery section, and employment was considerably above the level of a year ago.

A shortage of labour, chiefly of women and girls, was reported by firms employing 24 per cent. of the operatives. The shortage was most marked in the Leicester district.

Returns from firms employing 22,936 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 6.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 27.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester	12,829	+ 0.4	+ 8.1	13,117	- 1.7	+ 30.6
Leicester Country District	2,013	- 1.2	+ 2.6	1,950	- 0.7	+ 28.5
Notts and Derbyshire	5,202	+ 0.6	+ 2.4	4,798	- 0.4	+ 28.5
Scotland	2,534	+ 1.6	+ 14.2	2,027	- 1.4	+ 17.9
Other Districts	358	+ 0.3	+ 2.0	247	+ 6.5	+ 17.6
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	22,936	+ 0.5	+ 6.8	22,139	- 1.3	+ 27.9

At Leicester firms employing 30 per cent. of the operatives reported a shortage of labour, chiefly women and girls, though men were also wanted in some branches. There was a slight lull in Government orders, but employment continued good, and was very much better than in September, 1914. At Hinckley and Loughborough all available labour was also well employed.

In Nottingham and Derbyshire employment with power frame workers continued good, and overtime was reported affecting 15 per cent. of the operatives; there was some slackness in the best class of fine goods. In the country districts of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire employment continued very slack with hand frame

workers, only about half time being worked in this branch.

In Scotland overtime was worked by about 28 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns, and employment was considerably better than a year ago.

SILK TRADE.

IN this trade employment continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago in every district.

There was a slight shortage of labour in some districts, firms employing 19 per cent. of the workers being thus affected. The demand was chiefly for men, but women were also wanted by a few firms.

Returns from firms employing 9,833 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in both the number employed and in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 23.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

BRANCHES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing	1,259	- 1.6	- 1.4	714	+ 0.8	+ 35.0
Spinning	1,988	- 1.2	- 3.2	1,816	+ 0.7	+ 19.3
Weaving	3,772	- 0.2	+ 1.6	5,029	+ 0.1	+ 28.0
Other	1,723	- 0.6	- 2.0	1,510	+ 0.8	+ 16.4
Not specified	1,091	- 0.3	+ 10.1	945	- 7.5	+ 19.8
TOTAL	9,833	- 0.6	- 0.7	8,014	- 0.6	+ 23.1
DISTRICTS.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	2,109	- 2.0	- 4.9	1,982	- 1.6	+ 19.1
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	2,148	+ 1.7	+ 1.0	1,838	+ 1.8	+ 29.4
Eastern Counties	2,982	- 0.2	+ 4.3	2,327	- 0.2	+ 22.7
Other Districts, including Scotland	2,594	- 1.9	- 3.9	1,867	- 2.1	+ 21.9
TOTAL	9,833	- 0.6	- 0.7	8,014	- 0.6	+ 23.1

At Macclesfield, Congleton, and Leek employment continued good in all the principal branches of the industry with the exception of hand-loom weaving in factories and in the making-up branch. A large number of the operatives were still busy on Admiralty orders. In the Eastern Counties employment was reported as good at Norwich and Braitreth, and as fair at Halstead, Sudbury, and Yarmouth.

In the West Riding employment was reported as moderate at Bradford and fair at Brighouse. Ribbon weavers and artificial silk workers were fairly well employed at Coventry.

Imports of raw silk amounted to 147,214 lb., an increase on both August, 1915, and September, 1913. Imports from British East Indies, which were nil in September, 1913, were responsible for the latter increase. Imports of silk yarns and manufactures were valued at £1,324,000, this amount being about £60,000 less than those in both August, 1915, and September, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) of silk yarns and manufactures were valued at £154,000, as compared with £163,000 in August, 1915, and £226,000 in September, 1913.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT in the carpet trade showed some slackness, due partly to seasonal causes, but the big output of military blankets continued, and compensated to some extent for this slackness. Compared with a year ago, when about 80 per cent. of the workpeople were working little more than half time, there was a marked improvement.

A shortage of labour of both sexes was reported by firms employing about 15 per cent. of the operatives.

Returns from firms employing 7,378 workpeople and paying £6,857 in wages in the week ended 25th September showed a decrease of 1.4 per cent. in the number

employed and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 71.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Kidderminster district there was a seasonal slackness in the regular carpet trade, but spinning and weaving for Army purposes provided full employment for a very considerable number of workers. In the Halifax district firms engaged on Government work were fairly well employed, and some overtime was reported. In Scotland employment continued good.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair, and better than a month ago—there was a marked improvement compared with a year ago, especially in the dyeing branch.

A shortage of men and boys was reported by firms employing 60 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns—in some cases women have been substituted.

Returns from firms employing 24,747 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 50.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid—this increase on a year ago includes a war bonus paid since April by a large number of firms:—

TRADES.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Bleaching	2,931	+ 0.4	- 6.1	3,446	+ 1.9	+ 13.1
Printing	734	+ 1.4	+ 0.7	1,062	+ 4.5	+ 60.7
Dyeing	12,938	+ 1.4	+ 6.6	21,481	+ 9.2	+ 65.1
Trimming, Finishing and other Departments	7,023	+ 0.9	+ 4.1	9,028	+ 0.4	+ 39.7
Not specified	1,121	- 1.9	+ 5.9	1,543	- 3.1	+ 39.9
TOTAL	24,747	+ 1.0	+ 4.0	38,560	+ 5.5	+ 50.5
DISTRICTS:						
Lancashire	12,112	+ 1.0	+ 6.4	20,593	+ 10.0	+ 64.4
Yorkshire	7,814	- 0.2	+ 4.9	10,310	+ 0.2	+ 47.2
Scotland	1,857	+ 1.0	- 3.2	1,975	+ 1.8	+ 14.7
Ireland	909	- 0.8	- 11.3	687	- 4.2	- 8.4
Other Districts	2,055	+ 0.9	+ 1.8	2,985	+ 0.3	+ 31.1
TOTAL	24,747	+ 1.0	+ 4.0	38,560	+ 5.5	+ 50.5

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire was fairly good, and better than a month ago or a year ago. At Basford employment was good, and some overtime was reported; in the Dundee district it continued fair.

Printing.—With machine calico printers in England employment was better than a year ago, but much short time was reported, affecting about 65 per cent. of the operatives, and a considerable number of the Trade Union workers were unemployed. Calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire reported employment as moderate, in Lancashire it continued bad; in Scotland it was reported as fair.

Dyeing.—Employment with *woollen* and *worsted* dyers in Yorkshire continued good, and was better than in September, 1914; about 70 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime. With *cotton* dyers employment was also good. At Macclesfield and Leek employment with *silk* dyers continued good; at Congleton it was moderate. *Hosiery* dyers at Nottingham and Basford were well employed.

Trimming, Finishing &c.—At Leicester, Hinckley and Loughborough employment was good, but there was some difficulty in keeping up a continuity of employment owing to dye shortage. At Basford overtime was fairly general. Overtime was also frequently worked during the month by calender workers at Dundee.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

DURING September employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Under ordinary circumstances employment would be dull at this season of the year, whereas there was full employment and a good deal of overtime in most of the factories during the current month.

The labour problem is still the most serious factor in the situation. Many firms are hampered by the shortage of male labour, though the difficulty has been met to some extent by the allotting of work to women hitherto done by men. In the Bristol district there has also been a shortage of female labour for some months past.

Returns from firms employing 63,224 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed practically no change in the numbers employed or in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed and of 25.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
London	2,307	- 1.3	- 0.4	3,145	- 2.3	+ 35.5
Leicester	12,327	- 0.1	+ 7.5	17,279	+ 1.4	+ 59.5
Leicester Country Districts	3,109	- 1.2	- 2.4	3,880	- 1.7	+ 33.1
Northampton	8,419	+ 0.8	+ 4.6	10,999	+ 1.2	+ 26.3
Northampton Country District	9,502	- 0.6	- 2.7	11,670	- 0.0	+ 10.7
Kettering	4,052	- 1.1	- 2.3	5,333	+ 2.9	+ 9.0
Stafford & District	2,668	+ 0.7	+ 7.2	3,121	- 3.9	+ 34.0
Norwich & District	3,980	- 0.5	- 6.2	4,344	- 2.5	+ 12.1
Bristol & District	1,591	+ 0.2	+ 13.5	1,822	+ 2.1	+ 33.2
Kingswood	2,065	- 0.3	+ 4.6	2,415	- 1.1	+ 16.2
Leeds & District	2,324	- 0.6	- 0.4	2,731	- 2.7	+ 13.5
Manchester & District	3,334	+ 2.6	+ 5.1	3,887	+ 0.8	+ 15.7
Birmingham & District	931	- 0.5	- 4.4	900	- 3.4	+ 10.2
Other parts of England and Wales	3,219	- 0.2	- 0.8	3,406	- 1.9	+ 19.3
ENGLAND & WALES	59,828	- 0.1	+ 1.8	74,931	+ 0.0	+ 26.6
SCOTLAND	3,068	- 0.5	- 7.5	3,982	+ 1.7	+ 13.1
IRELAND	328	+ 4.1	- 6.0	260	+ 3.2	+ 5.7
UNITED KINGDOM	63,224	- 0.1	+ 1.3	79,173	+ 0.1	+ 25.8

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT was good on the whole, and was better than a year ago, workpeople generally employed in branches of the industry which are slack having been largely transferred to other sections. In the saddle and harness trades, however, employment was quiet at Walsall, and a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago was reported in London and at Birmingham.

Trade Unions with 4,357 members, exclusive of those serving with the colours, reported 2.2 per cent. as unemployed at the end of September, compared with 0.8 per cent. at the end of August, 4.4* per cent. at the end of September, 1914, and 5.0 per cent. in September, 1913. Most of the workpeople out of employment were saddle and harness makers.

The imports of raw hides in September were 174,000 cwt., a decrease of 75,000 cwt. on August, but an increase of 46,000 cwt. on September, 1913. The increase was largely due to greater supplies of wet hides from the Argentine and France. The imports of leather amounted to 141,000 cwt., as compared with 151,000 cwt. in August, 1915, and 117,000 cwt. in September, 1913.

The exports (British and Irish) of leather in September amounted to 12,970 cwt., a slight increase on August, but only about 60 per cent. of those in September, 1913. More than half the exports went to France. Exports of leather manufactures were valued at £137,000, a fall of £40,000 as compared with August, and of £59,000 as compared with September, 1913. The increase, as compared with two years ago, in exports of saddlery and harness to countries in Europe was about £23,000.

* Revised figure.

HAT TRADE.

Silk.—During September employment was bad in London and in the provincial centres; it was worse than a month ago and about the same as a year ago; short time was general. A considerable number of the Trade Union operatives have found work outside the trade since the war.

Felt.—Employment was fairly good. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed was 0.4, compared with 0.7 a month ago and 11.0 a year ago. At Denton 25 per cent. of the operatives were on short time during September, but employment was much better than a year ago, when 95 per cent. were similarly affected. At Stockport about 20 per cent. of the workers were on short time, but employment was reported as fair and as better than at either of the other periods under review. In Warwickshire employment continued good, and was much better than in September, 1914. Some overtime and a shortage of workers were reported in this district.

TAILORING TRADE. BESPOKE.

London.—During September employment was slack, but showed a seasonal improvement compared with a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago, when more work was being done on military orders. Returns from firms paying £8,743 to their workpeople (indoor and outdoor workers) during the four weeks ended 25th September showed an increase of 13.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 8.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—At Liverpool employment was reported as moderate, but as better than a month ago. At Glasgow employment was bad, and worse than in August. At Belfast a seasonal slackness was reported, about half time being worked by the operatives, but employment was better than in September, 1914.

READY-MADE.

There was a slight falling off in employment as compared with a month ago, but it was still good, and considerably better than in September, 1914.

Firms employing 27 per cent. of the operatives covered by the returns reported a shortage of labour. The demand was chiefly for women machinists and men cutters, and was greatest in the Leeds district.

Returns from firms employing 38,475 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 14.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 34.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. About 20 per cent. of the operatives worked more than the normal hours during September, and about 5 per cent. were on short time. The total amount of wages paid to outworkers by the above firms showed a decrease of 21 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 31 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District.	Indoor Workpeople.					
	Number.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Leeds	10,315	+ 1.1	+ 7.4	9,786	- 0.8	+ 23.2
Manchester	3,694	+ 3.4	+ 36.3	3,684	- 0.8	+ 57.5
Other places in Yorkshire, Lancs. & Cheshire	5,115	- 0.6	+ 10.5	4,231	9.8	+ 31.4
Bristol	2,091	- 0.1	- 1.8	1,743	- 2.0	+ 16.7
North and West Midland Counties (excluding Bristol)	3,998	- 1.4	+ 3.5	3,105	- 6.2	+ 3.4
South Midland & Eastern Counties	4,083	+ 3.4	+ 13.3	3,715	+ 8.5	+ 33.6
London	3,905	- 2.9	+ 62.6	4,764	- 13.3	+ 110.4
Glasgow	2,567	+ 0.2	+ 13.4	2,283	+ 3.3	+ 14.4
Rest of United Kingdom	2,997	- 2.4	+ 12.0	3,949	- 0.4	+ 42.2
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	38,475	+ 0.3	+ 14.4	37,260	- 3.1	+ 34.0

At Leeds all the factories were well employed, and the supply of labour was not equal to the demand. Firms employing about 40 per cent. of the operatives reported a shortage of women machinists, male cutters and other workers. Overtime was reported by firms employing 23 per cent. of the workers. Less work was done on Government contracts than during the earlier part of the year, but there has been an improved demand for civilian requirements recently.

At Manchester employment continued fairly good, and was far above the level of a year ago. At Wigan and Huddersfield employment continued moderate; at Liverpool it was fairly good; at Hebden Bridge it was good.

At Bristol employment showed a decline compared with a month ago, but was fairly good and better than a year ago. At Stroud, Walsall, Tamworth, Colchester and Plymouth the operatives continued well employed. At Norwich there was less overtime than a month ago, but full time was worked at all the factories.

At Glasgow employment was fairly good, and no shortage of labour was reported.

In London employment was not so brisk as a month ago, but still above the level of a year ago.

SHIRT AND COLLAR TRADE.

THERE was little change in this trade as compared with a month ago, and employment on the whole was fair, and much better than in September, 1914.

Firms employing 37 per cent. of the workers experienced a shortage of labour, mostly female. There was a scarcity, to a greater or less extent, in all the principal districts except Ireland, where the supply was about equal to the demand. Women machinists and men cutters were principally in request.

Returns from firms employing 19,830 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 19.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.		Per cent.	Per cent.
London	3,558	+ 1.2	+ 3.0	3,061	+ 0.3	+ 22.1
Manchester	3,364	+ 0.4	+ 9.4	2,912	- 0.6	+ 15.6
Rest of Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,067	+ 0.7	+ 8.1	1,351	- 5.7	+ 9.3
S.W. Counties	2,604	+ 0.6	+ 1.1	1,626	+ 1.1	+ 28.4
Rest of England and Wales	1,487	+ 2.3	+ 5.8	1,040	+ 2.2	+ 14.3
Glasgow	2,594	- 1.7	- 1.8	1,766	- 1.0	+ 3.2
Londonderry	1,978	- 0.6	- 4.9	1,153	- 0.8	+ 36.6
Belfast	1,237	+ 4.2	+ 2.8	891	+ 2.3	+ 44.6
Rest of Ireland	941	+ 0.3	+ 1.7	640	- 1.8	+ 35.3
TOTAL, UNITED KINGDOM	19,830	+ 0.6	+ 2.9	14,340	- 0.2	+ 19.4

In London firms employing 65 per cent. of the workers covered by the returns reported a shortage of labour, principally of women machinists and men cutters. At Manchester employment on the whole was fairly good, and there was also a shortage of machinists and cutters. In the South-Western Counties about 24 per cent. of the workers were on short time, but employment was much better than a year ago; it was reported as fairly good at Bideford, and as good at Barnstaple and Exeter.

At Glasgow employment was fair, but not quite so good as a month ago. Machinists were wanted by several firms.

In Londonderry and Belfast there was practically no shortage of labour, and employment at both centres was much above the level of a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

DRESSMAKING AND MILLINERY.

EMPLOYMENT with retail firms in London was reported as slack, but it showed a seasonal improvement compared with a month ago; it was not as good as a year ago. Returns from firms, chiefly in the West End, employing 1,852 dressmakers in the week ended 25th September, showed an increase of 51.9 per cent. compared with a month ago (when a number of workers were on holiday), and a decrease of 16.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Short time was worked by 14 per cent. of the workpeople.

With court and private dressmakers employing nearly 1,000 workpeople in the week ended 25th September there was a seasonal improvement, but employment was very slack, and the number employed showed a decrease of 16.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; short time was worked by 39 per cent. of the workers.

With milliners in the West End there was a seasonal improvement, but employment was only moderate, and worse than a year ago.

MANICLE, COSTUME AND BLOUSE, &c., TRADES.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and millinery trades, returns from firms in London employing 5,376 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 12.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 10 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns reported a shortage of labour—the demand was chiefly for machinists in the blouse section.

At Manchester returns from firms employing 5,359 workpeople in the week ended 25th September in the costume, blouse, mantle, &c., trades showed an increase of 2.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and of 12.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; about 11 per cent. of the workpeople were on overtime during the month, and employment was reported as fairly good. A deficiency of workers (chiefly women machinists) was reported by firms employing 24 per cent. of the workers.

At Glasgow returns from firms employing 2,331 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago and of 7.1 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was good, and firms employing about 20 per cent. of the workers reported a shortage of workers.

CORSET TRADE.

Employment continued good at all the principal centres, and was better than in September, 1914. Firms (mainly in England) employing 6,049 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended 25th September showed no change in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 8.9 per cent. on a year ago. Firms employing 47 per cent. of the workpeople covered by these returns reported a scarcity of labour. Women machinists, men cutters and others were in demand.

BRICK AND CEMENT TRADES.

BRICK TRADE.

THERE was in all centres an increasing shortage of adult male labour; boy labour was also scarce in several centres. Employment for the workpeople remaining was fairly good, and little short time was reported, although the continued suspension of building operations caused slackness in a number of cases. Returns from firms employing 8,169 workpeople in the week ending 25th September showed a decrease of 4.1 per cent. in the numbers employed and in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 27.4 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 15.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Districts.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Northern Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire	2,713	- 1.3	- 21.8	4,017	- 1.3	- 7.7		
Midland and Eastern Counties	2,472	- 4.5	- 28.7	3,102	- 3.9	- 17.3		
S. and S.W. Counties and Wales	1,848	- 2.9	- 30.3	2,639	- 5.1	- 18.9		
Scotland	627	- 13.0	- 21.1	842	- 8.9	- 11.2		
Other Districts	509	- 9.3	- 41.5	650	- 10.6	- 31.9		
TOTAL	8,169	- 4.1	- 27.4	11,250	- 4.1	- 15.2		

Employment continued moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district. Short time, however, was reported from Darlington and also from some districts in South Lancashire. Much short time again occurred at Nottingham, and some short time was also reported at Birmingham, where, however, employment was fair on the whole. Makers of encaustic tiles at Tamworth continued well employed, and there was a recovery in the Shropshire glazed brick and pipe trade, where employment was good. It continued good in the Stourbridge district. Employment was fair at Ipswich and Sudbury and good at Chelmsford, but at other centres in the Eastern Counties it was slack on the whole. A number of works continued closed in the Plymouth district, and employment was still slack at Bridgwater and in the Wrexham and Ruabon districts of North Wales.

CEMENT TRADE.

Employment continued good generally. A scarcity of labour was still experienced at most centres.

Returns from firms employing 7,410 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and of 2.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 14.9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 1.3 per cent. in the wages paid.

The exports (British and Irish) of cement in September amounted to 27,741 tons, a decrease on the previous month, and little more than half the amount exported in September, 1913.

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT continued quiet in September. The percentage unemployed remained low in all occupations, varying from 0.6 per cent. for navvies to 4.0 per cent. for plasterers, owing to many men having enlisted or joined other trades. At many places a shortage of labourers was reported.

The following Table shows the percentage unemployed among 791,921 workpeople insured against unemployment under Part II. of the National Insurance Act at the end of September, 1915:—

Occupations.	Number Insured at end of September, 1915.	Percentage Unemployed at end of September.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters	123,722	1.7	- 0.3	- 3.4	
Bricklayers	65,594	2.8	+ 0.7	- 4.1	
Masons	38,933	2.2	- 0.1	- 2.1	
Plasterers	19,818	4.0	+ 0.6	- 3.9	
Painters	123,686	1.8	+ 0.1	- 10.0	
Plumbers	34,195	1.0	- 0.1	- 3.6	
Other skilled occupations	35,067	1.3	- 0.1	- 4.1	
Navvies	101,604	0.6	- 0.1	- 2.9	
Labourers	249,312	1.0	- 0.1	- 4.6	
ALL OCCUPATIONS	791,921	1.5	- 0.0	- 4.8	

The next Table shows in detail the percentage unemployed in the above occupations in each division. The highest percentages for all occupations taken together were again found in Ireland (4.4) and London (3.3), no other district having a higher percentage than 1.5.

Taking the occupations separately, carpenters show a reduced percentage in practically all districts, while in most districts an increased percentage is shown by brick-

layers and plasterers, and a decreased percentage by other occupations.

Compared with a year ago there were (with one exception) reductions in the percentages unemployed in every occupation in every district. The greatest improvement was shown by painters, and the least by masons.

Districts.	Number Insured.	Per cent. em-ply'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Number Insured.	Per cent. em-ply'd.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Mnth ago.	Year ago.	Mnth ago.	Year ago.		Mnth ago.	Year ago.		
									Mnth ago.	Year ago.
Carpenters.										
London	20,882	3.6	- 0.1	- 7.3	10,641	8.2	+ 2.5	- 4.7		
Northern Counties	5,741	0.6	- 0.3	- 1.6	3,315	0.9	+ 0.2	- 1.7		
North-Western	13,639	1.1	- 0.6	- 5.6	7,565	0.8	- 0.3	- 5.3		
Yorkshire	9,809	0.8	- 0.8	- 2.1	5,372	0.9	- 0.1	- 3.7		
East Midlands	6,514	0.5	- 0.5	- 2.3	5,139	1.3	+ 0.5	- 3.6		
West Midlands	4,450	1.0	0.2	- 4.7	1,428	1.2	+ 0.3	- 3.6		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	20,386	1.0	- 0.5	- 3.1	14,687	2.7	+ 0.7	- 4.6		
South-Western	14,578	1.4	- 0.1	- 1.3	6,124	2.0	+ 0.4	- 3.7		
Wales	6,500	1.2	- 0.3	- 1.4	2,106	1.9	+ 0.2	- 0.1		
Scotland	11,318	0.7	- 0.3	- 1.5	1,820	0.8	- 0.1	- 2.5		
Ireland	6,411	6.7	- 0.6	+ 0.7	1,783	8.0	+ 2.6	- 1.9		
Bricklayers.										
London	2,285	4.7	- 0.4	- 3.2	4,311	8.8	+ 2.3	- 6.2		
Northern Counties	2,207	0.3	- 0.2	- 1.3	839	0.8	+ 0.3	- 1.9		
North-Western	3,386	1.9	- 0.8	- 3.5	2,131	2.3	+ 0.3	- 6.1		
Yorkshire	4,450	1.0	0.2	- 4.7	1,428	1.2	+ 0.3	- 3.6		
East Midlands	1,089	1.1	- 0.1	- 3.7	528	1.9	- 1.3	- 5.6		
West Midlands	900	1.7	- 0.6	- 2.9	956	1.7	- 0.3	- 3.1		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	1,337	2.7	+ 0.2	- 4.6	2,044	4.8	+ 0.2	- 3.9		
South-Western	7,855	2.4	+ 0.2	- 1.8	2,050	4.4	- 0.1	- 2.7		
Wales	5,836	1.6	+ 0.1	- 0.4	1,834	1.5	- 0.4	- 1.3		
Scotland	7,044	2.2	+ 0.5	- 0.9	2,169	0.7	- 0.5	- 3.5		
Ireland	2,544	5.6	- 1.0	- 1.3	1,530	4.9	+ 0.8	- 1.1		
Masons.										
London	2,207	0.3	- 0.2	- 1.3	839	0.8	+ 0.3	- 1.9		
Northern Counties	3,386	1.9	- 0.8	- 3.5	2,131	2.3	+ 0.3	- 6.1		
North-Western	4,450	1.0	0.2	- 4.7	1,428	1.2	+ 0.3	- 3.6		
Yorkshire	1,089	1.1	- 0.1	- 3.7	528	1.9	- 1.3	- 5.6		
East Midlands	900	1.7	- 0.6	- 2.9	956	1.7	- 0.3	- 3.1		
West Midlands	1,337	2.7	+ 0.2	- 4.6	2,044	4.8	+ 0.2	- 3.9		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	7,855	2.4	+ 0.2	- 1.8	2,050	4.4	- 0.1	- 2.7		
South-Western	5,836	1.6	+ 0.1	- 0.4	1,834	1.5	- 0.4	- 1.3		
Wales	7,044	2.2	+ 0.5	- 0.9	2,169	0.7	- 0.5	- 3.5		
Scotland	2,544	5.6	- 1.0	- 1.3	1,530	4.9	+ 0.8	- 1.1		
Plasterers.										
London	34,735	3.5	+ 1.1	- 13.4	6,404	1.8	- 0.2	- 7.4		
Northern Counties	3,612	0.4	- 0.7	- 8.6	1,692	- 0.1	- 2.1	- 2.1		
North-Western	13,369	1.2	- 0.2	- 13.7	4,741	0.8	- 0.3	- 4.1		
Yorkshire	7,965	0.9	- 0.4	- 8.1	2,988	0.4	- 0.3	- 4.0		
East Midlands	4,819	0.3	- 0.7	- 8.7	1,427	0.4	- 0.3	- 3.9		
West Midlands	8,326	0.5	- 0.1	- 7.2	2,053	0.4	+ 0.1	- 3.9		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	20,909	1.2	- 0.5	- 8.1	3,923	1.2	+ 0.4	- 2.3		
South-Western	12,733	1.1	+ 0.1	- 8.1	3,252	0.6	- 0.1	- 2.1		
Wales	3,924	0.9	- 0.1	- 3.3	831	0.4	- 0.4	- 2.4		
Scotland	8,766	1.5	- 0.1	- 5.1	5,552	0.3	- 0.1	- 1.4		
Ireland	4,523	3.6	- 0.4	- 9.3	1,342	5.4	+ 0.7	- 1.1		
Painters.										
London	8,125	2.8	+ 0.1	- 8.9	9,102	1.6	- 0.2	- 6.9		
Northern Counties	2,370	0.4	- 0.4	- 1.4	6,970	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.2		
North-Western	4,371	1.3	- 0.4	- 3.3	18,798	0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.3		
Yorkshire	2,411	0.9	- 0.3	- 3.8	11,228	0.3	- 0.2	- 3.0		
East Midlands	1,851	0.8	- 0.1	- 3.1	5,784	0.7	- 0.7	- 2.7		
West Midlands	2,088	0.6	+ 0.3	- 5.3	6,185	0.4	+ 0.1	- 3.4		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	2,714	0.4	- 0.6	- 2.3	11,117	0.6	- 0.1	- 3.6		
South-Western	2,347	1.1	+ 0.5	- 3.5	7,750	1.1	- 0.2	- 5.2		
Wales	1,412	0.8	- 0.1	- 1.6	10,933	0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.0		
Scotland	6,300	0.3	+ 0.1	- 1.2	11,098	0.1	- 0.1	- 1.2		
Ireland	1,268	3.6	+ 0.3	- 2.9	2,639	2.8	- 1.9	- 7.3		
Plumbers.										
London	52,445	2.0	- 0.1	- 9.4	148,830	3.3	+ 0.5	- 9.2		
Northern Counties	11,345	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.9	38,091	0.4	- 0.1	- 2.3		
North-Western	35,688	0.5	- 0.1	- 3.1	103,673	0.8	- 0.2	- 4.9		
Yorkshire	19,370	0.3	- 0.1	- 3.2	64,999	0.6	- 0.2	- 3.8		
East Midlands	11,138	0.3	- 0.2	- 3.6	38,089	0.6	- 0.2	- 3.9		
West Midlands	17,120	0.2	- 0.1	- 3.4	52,664	0.4	- 0.1	- 4.3		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	36,718	0.9	+ 0.1	- 3.5	113,806	1.3	- 0.1	- 4.4		
South-Western	24,381	1.3	+ 0.1	- 3.6	81,070	1.5	+ 0.1	- 3.8		
Wales	13,503	0.6	- 0.1	- 1.8	47,184	0.9	- 0.1	- 1.4		
Scotland	14,841	0.3	- 0.1	- 1.6	68,908	0.7	- 0.1	- 1.9		
Ireland	12,458	3.0	- 1.0	- 6.1	34,503	4.4	- 0.5	- 4.3		
Other Skilled Workers.										
London	8,125	2.8	+ 0.1	- 8.9	9,102	1.6	- 0.2	- 6.9		
Northern Counties	2,370	0.4	- 0.4	- 1.4	6,970	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.2		
North-Western	4,371	1.3	- 0.4	- 3.3	18,798	0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.3		
Yorkshire	2,411	0.9	- 0.3	- 3.8	11,228	0.3	- 0.2	- 3.0		
East Midlands	1,851	0.8	- 0.1	- 3.1	5,784	0.7	- 0.7	- 2.7		
West Midlands	2,088	0.6	+ 0.3	- 5.3	6,185	0.4	+ 0.1	- 3.4		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	2,714	0.4	- 0.6	- 2.3	11,117	0.6	- 0.1	- 3.6		
South-Western	2,347	1.1	+ 0.5	- 3.5	7,750	1.1	- 0.2	- 5.2		
Wales	1,412	0.8	- 0.1	- 1.6	10,933	0.4	+ 0.1	- 1.0		
Scotland	6,300	0.3	+ 0.1	- 1.2	11,098	0.1	- 0.1	- 1.2		
Ireland	1,268	3.6	+ 0.3	- 2.9	2,639	2.8	- 1.9	- 7.3		
Navvies.										
London	8,125	2.8	+ 0.1	- 8.9	9,102	1.6	- 0.2	- 6.9		
Northern Counties	2,370	0.4	- 0.4	- 1.4	6,970	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.2		
North-Western	4,371	1.3	- 0.4	- 3.3	18,798	0.5	+ 0.1	- 1.3		
Yorkshire	2,411	0.9	- 0.3	- 3.8	11,228	0.3	- 0.2	- 3.0		
East Midlands	1,851	0.8	- 0.1	- 3.1	5,784	0.7	- 0.7	- 2.7		
West Midlands	2,088	0.6	+ 0.3	- 5.3	6,185	0.4	+ 0.1	- 3.4		
Eastern & S.E. Count.	2,714	0.4	- 0.6	- 2.3	11,117	0.6	- 0.1	- 3.6		

PAPER TRADES.

Employment continued good. It was better than a month ago and a year ago. The supply of labour remained unequal to the demand.

Returns from firms employing 14,482 workpeople in the last week of September showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the total number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

	Workpeople paid Wages in last week of Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
MACHINE-MADE PAPER AND MILLED BOARDS:			
Northern Counties	3,576	+ 0.5	- 2.2
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ..	1,330	- 0.1	- 2.1
Southern Counties	5,735	- 0.2	- 2.3
Scotland	3,274	+ 1.1	- 6.2
TOTAL MACHINE-MADE PAPER, &c.	13,915	+ 0.3	- 3.2
Hand-made Paper	567	- 0.4	- 11.8
TOTAL	14,482	+ 0.2	- 3.6

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade with 3,740 members had 0.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of September, 1915, compared with 0.3 per cent. in August and 1.2* per cent. in September, 1914. In the hand-made paper trade Trade Unions with 398 members had 2.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of September, 1915, compared with 0.5 per cent. in August and 4.2* per cent. a year ago.

The imports of wood pulp were 125,823 tons, about the same amount as in the previous month, and considerably more than two years ago, owing to increased imports from Sweden. The imports of all kinds of paper amounted to 1,118,000 cwt., an increase on those both in August, 1915, and in September, 1913. The amount of printed paper, however, showed a considerable decrease as compared with two years ago.

The exports (British and Irish) of paper amounted to 288,635 cwt., a considerable increase on the exports in August, and about the same amount as in September, 1913.

GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago, a scarcity of labour being frequently reported. The industry was still, however, affected by the scarcity and high prices of raw materials.

Compared with September, 1913, when conditions were normal, employment showed a considerable improvement.

Returns from firms employing 9,701 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the number of workpeople declined by 8.7 per cent., but the total earnings increased by 3.3 per cent., partly owing to the payment of war bonuses.

	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.						
Glass Bottle	6,833	+ 0.9	- 3.7	10,636	+ 2.1	+ 1.6
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,883	- 1.7	- 10.5	2,567	+ 0.6	+ 8.6
Other Branches	975	- 0.9	- 5.4	1,239	+ 5.6	+ 7.6
TOTAL	9,701	+ 0.2	- 8.7	14,442	+ 2.1	+ 3.3
DISTRICTS.						
North of England	1,010	- 0.6	- 27.4	1,665	+ 5.4	- 12.7
Yorkshire	4,788	+ 0.9	- 6.4	7,168	+ 2.3	+ 3.8
Lancashire	881	+ 0.1	+ 1.7	1,177	- 5.3	+ 7.3
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	1,088	+ 0.4	- 7.3	1,500	+ 5.6	+ 10.6
Scotland	826	- 1.3	- 18.3	1,244	- 1.5	- 0.6
Other parts of the United Kingdom	1,098	- 1.3	+ 3.5	1,688	+ 1.7	+ 21.1
TOTAL	9,701	+ 0.2	- 8.7	14,442	+ 2.1	+ 3.3

* Revised figures.

Employment in the glass bottle trade continued good in practically all centres, the supply of labour remaining unequal to the demand; at Glasgow and Castleford, however, it was only fair; and at Wakefield only moderate and worse than a month ago owing to a shortage of boys. A shortage of boys was also reported from Portobello. With flint glass bottle makers employment was good and better than in August, but not so good as a year ago.

With flint glass makers at Birmingham it was good, and with cutters it was stated to be improving, though some short time was still worked. In the Wordsley and Stourbridge district flint glass makers and cutters reported employment as fairly good.

With plate glass bevellers at Birmingham and with sheet and plate glass workers and flatteners at St. Helens employment was good. Pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear reported it as fair and better than in the previous month; and with table glass makers it continued good.

The imports of glass in September were valued at £199,000, an increase of £28,000 on August, 1915, but a decrease of £86,000 on September, 1913.

The exports were valued at £109,000, an increase of £4,000 as compared with August, 1915, but a decrease of £34,000 on September, 1913.

POTTERY TRADES.

A SHORTAGE of male labour was generally experienced, and was most marked in the case of ovenmen and glaziers and biscuit placers. The consequent dislocation caused short time to be worked in a few centres, but in general employment continued good, and although fewer workpeople were employed than a year ago, the earnings (partly owing to the payment of war bonuses) were on the average 5s. higher than in September, 1914. Employment was especially good in the cheaper grades of china and earthenware, while in the manufacture of tiles and sanitary ware it continued quiet on the whole, but showed some improvement on the previous month.

Returns from firms employing 17,350 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.2 per cent. in the numbers employed and an increase of 25.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
BRANCHES.						
China Manufacture	3,011	+ 0.6	+ 9.9	4,049	+ 0.4	+ 39.5
Earthenware Manufacture	10,930	+ 1.2	- 2.9	11,301	+ 1.0	+ 29.0
Other Branches (including unspecified)	3,409	- 3.0	- 17.3	3,279	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
TOTAL	17,350	+ 0.3	- 4.2	18,629	+ 0.7	+ 25.2
DISTRICTS.						
Potteries	13,156	+ 1.1	- 2.2	13,136	+ 1.3	+ 33.8
Other Districts	4,194	- 2.4	- 10.2	5,493	- 0.6	+ 8.5
TOTAL	17,350	+ 0.3	- 4.2	18,629	+ 0.7	+ 25.2

In the Potteries district employment was good with china workers and fairly good with earthenware workers. Employment in the sanitary ware and tile trade continued quiet on the whole, but there was some improvement on the previous month. In South Yorkshire and at Bristol and Plymouth employment was reported as good generally, and in Glasgow as very good.

The imports of china and earthenware in September were only 7,322 cwt., a decrease of 2,723 cwt. on the imports in August, 1915, and less than one-tenth of those in September, 1913.

The exports were 186,377 cwt., a decline as compared with the previous month, and only about 60 per cent. of those in September, 1913.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades as a whole was again reported as very good.

Returns from firms employing 60,546 workpeople in the week ended 25th September showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the numbers employed, but a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with August. Compared with September, 1914, there was an increase of 15.4 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 35.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid:—

Trade.	Workpeople.			Earnings.		
	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.	Week ended 25th Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Year ago.
Sugar Refining, &c. ..	5,344	+ 1.1	+ 4.4	8,482	+ 2.1	+ 16.0
Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery	32,150	+ 2.6	+ 12.7	32,380	+ 1.3	+ 40.5
Biscuits, Cakes, &c. ..	9,518	- 1.3	+ 27.2	8,668	- 7.1	+ 51.9
Jams, Marmalade, &c. ..	8,065	+ 2.5	+ 25.5	7,407	- 4.7	+ 40.1
Bacon and Preserved Meats ..	4,799	+ 2.0	+ 12.8	5,258	- 0.4	+ 20.5
Pickles, Sauces, &c. ..	880	- 3.6	+ 8.6	739	- 1.9	+ 25.3
TOTAL	60,546	+ 1.0	+ 15.4	62,934	- 0.8	+ 35.9

A general shortage of male labour continued in all the above trades, and overtime was worked in all branches.

Sugar Refining.—Employment was very good, and even showed an improvement on August. The cutting off of Continental supplies continued to make the demand for the products of this trade very great. Female labour was being substituted for male labour in the lighter branches of the industry to some extent.

Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery.—Employment was very good, and showed an improvement on the previous month. The difficulty of obtaining raw materials was again mentioned. The shortage of male labour was being met by the introduction of female labour in a good many cases, but some firms reported a shortage of female labour also.

Biscuits, Cakes &c.—Employment was good, partly owing to Government contracts. Firms were not quite so busy in September as they had been, and less overtime was worked. The shortage of unskilled male labour had been largely met by the substitution of female labour.

Jams, Marmalade, &c.—Employment was still good everywhere, largely owing to Government contracts, but firms were rather less busy than in August. Some firms reported a shortage of female, as well as of male, labour.

Bacon and Preserved Meats.—Employment was reported in general as good or fairly good. Many firms were still busy on Government orders. The shortage of male labour was less marked in this branch than in most.

Pickles, Sauces &c.—Employment was good on the whole. Comparatively little overtime was worked, but Government orders kept some firms busy.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

On the whole, those remaining in the fishing industry were fairly well employed.

East Coast.—At Hartlepool employment with fishermen was reported as good and with fish curers as moderate. At Scarborough steam trawling was exceptionally good, and the herring fishery was quite up to the average. Fishermen and fish dock labourers were well employed at Hull, and also fishermen at Grimsby. At the latter place, however, employment was bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers. The industry was almost at a standstill at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. At Yarmouth, however, preparations were being made for the herring fishery.

South Coast.—At Brixham and Plymouth some good catches by trawlers were reported, and hook and line boats did fairly well. Drift fishing for pilchards in Mounts Bay improved, and good catches were made at

Newlyn, Mousehole and St. Ives. In general there was no unemployment among fishermen, and in some cases the boats were laid up through inability to obtain crews. Curers, packers and carters were fairly well employed.

West Coast.—At Milford the catches were smaller than in August, and only about half those of a year ago. There was a decline at Fleetwood also, where the quantity of fish landed was only about one-fifth that of September, 1914.

Scotland.—Fishermen and fish dock labourers at Aberdeen were well employed, but at Fraserburgh employment was bad. It was fair with fishermen and bad with fish dock labourers at Macduff. With fish curers it was fair at Aberdeen, but bad at Fraserburgh and Macduff. At Peterhead fishermen not on Government service were well employed, but there was no employment for fish dock labourers or fish curers. There was an improvement on a month ago at Dundee, and at Arbroath catches were up to the average. At Montrose there was some interruption through storms.

Ireland.—There was little change, as compared with the previous month, on the Irish coasts as a whole.

The quantity of fish (other than shell fish) landed in England and Wales and Ireland in September, 1915, showed a decrease of 287,910 cwt. (or 34.8 per cent.) on September, 1914. Owing to higher prices, however, there was an increase in the value of this quantity of £56,625 (or 8.7 per cent.).

FISH LANDED IN SEPTEMBER.

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Sept., 1914.	Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Sept., 1914.
FISH (OTHER THAN SHELL):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 494,813	- 295,211	£ 647,879	+ 40,299
Ireland	43,434	+ 7,301	23,396	+ 11,887
TOTAL	538,247	- 287,910	676,275	+ 52,186
Shell Fish	—	—	27,613	+ 4,439
TOTAL VALUE	—	—	703,888	+ 56,625

AGRICULTURE.*

AGRICULTURAL labour is reported to have been more or less scarce generally, but the fine weather during September materially assisted in the work of gathering the harvest. In many cases women and children helped in the fields.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

In the Northern Counties, Lancashire, and Yorkshire the fine weather enabled the harvest to be completed under favourable conditions, and the shortage of labour was not severely felt, and farmers in Cheshire and Derbyshire secured the harvest in good time, notwithstanding the general shortage of workers. Men for potato-lifting and skilled men for tending stock were in demand in south-east Shropshire. In Nottinghamshire, although labour was everywhere scarce, no great inconvenience was caused, as the favourable weather facilitated harvest work. In Northamptonshire and Warwickshire the shortage of labour was less pronounced on the termination of the harvest work, but in Bedfordshire it was very marked. There was a fairly adequate supply of labour in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire for work on the potato and other root-crops when the harvest was over; but there was reported to be an increasing shortage of men, especially for threshing, in Worcestershire and Herefordshire; in some districts women were being employed to meet the deficiency. In Hertfordshire and Middlesex labour was short generally, and in South Essex root crops were said to be suffering for want of hoeing.

Labour was generally deficient in Lincoln and Norfolk, especially for threshing; women were largely employed in potato-lifting in north-west Lincoln. In Suffolk, Cambridge, and Huntingdon labour was also

* Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

short, and women and boys were employed in many districts.

In Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset, and Wiltshire the supply of labour was generally deficient, but no great inconvenience was caused; a scarcity of carters, cowmen and shepherds was reported from the last named county. Labour was scarce generally in Gloucestershire and Somerset, and some farm work had to be postponed. In Devon and Cornwall the harvest was secured in good condition, although labour was deficient in most districts.

The supply of labour in Anglesey, south-west Carnarvon, and west Merionethshire appears to have been generally sufficient for the demand, but there was a scarcity in other parts of North Wales. In central Wales the supply was short in some districts, but was generally found sufficient for immediate requirements, harvest work being facilitated by the fine weather. Labour in South Wales, especially casual labour, continued to be scarce.

SCOTLAND.

In Fife the scarcity of workers was reported as not serious, and in Wigtown the supply was said to be normal; in Ayr, also, there was sufficient labour to meet the demand. But in all other districts the shortage continued, and in the Lothians, Berwick, and Dumfries it was said to have increased.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT continued good in London and at Liverpool. At the other principal ports dock labourers were well employed on the whole.

LONDON AND TILBURY.

Employment in London continued good, showing little change on the previous month. It was much better than a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended 25th September was 18,339, an increase of 0.1 per cent. on the previous month, of 34.6 per cent. on a year ago, and of 26.4 per cent. on September, 1913.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks			At Wharves making Returns.	Total in Docks and at Principal Wharves.
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners.	Total.		
Week ended Sept. 4th	7,355	3,809	11,164	7,278	18,442
" " 11th	7,313	3,428	10,741	7,248	17,989
" " 18th	7,532	3,329	10,861	7,339	18,200
" " 25th	7,882	3,186	11,068	7,655	18,723
Average for 4 weeks ended 25th Sept., 1915	7,521	3,438	10,959	7,380	18,339
Average for Aug., 1915	7,270	3,701	10,970	7,847	18,817
" " Sept., 1914	5,383	1,911	7,294	6,327	13,621

The number employed on each day tended to increase as the month proceeded. The maximum number employed on any one day was 19,297, an increase of 4,713 on the maximum for September, 1914, and of 2,592 on that for September, 1913. The minimum number (17,264) showed an increase of 4,957 on that for September, 1914, and of 3,804 on that for September, 1913.

The numbers employed at the docks and principal wharves on each day* in September, 1915, were as follows:—

Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.	Day of Month.	Number Employed.
1	18,388	11	17,473	22	19,128
2	17,911	12	17,264	23	18,694
3	18,456	13	18,515	24	18,455
4	18,298	14	18,772	25	18,661
5	18,250	15	18,723	26	18,717
6	18,532	16	18,334	27	19,297
7	18,431	17	17,690	28	18,355
8	17,583	18	18,702	29	19,164
9	17,663	19	18,729	30	19,164

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks during September was 2,498, as compared with 2,273 a month ago, 1,365 a year ago, and 1,420 during September, 1913.

* Sundays are omitted.

OTHER ENGLISH AND WELSH PORTS.

East Coast.—Employment on the Tyne and Wear and at Blyth continued to improve, and was good on the whole, except on grain cargoes on the Tyne, where it was slack. Dock labourers and riverside workers continued well employed in the Tees and Hartlepool district. Employment with dock labourers was fair at Hull and Grimsby, and bad and worse than a month ago at Goole; with coal porters it continued moderate generally at all three ports. At Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Lynn employment was again slack; at Ipswich it was only moderate, but showed some improvement towards the close of the month; it was quiet on the whole at Harwich.

South and West Coasts.—Dock labourers continued well employed at Hayle and Falmouth; at Plymouth and Dartmouth employment was fair, with a slight decline at the latter port. It continued good at Bristol, and was fair at Gloucester. At the South Wales ports dock labourers working on general cargoes were only moderately well employed, but coal trimmers continued busy. Employment at Liverpool showed some decline on the previous month, less overtime being reported at the North End and none at the South End docks.

SCOTTISH AND IRISH PORTS.

Dock labourers continued well employed at Glasgow; at the Ayrshire ports employment was very good, and better than a month ago. It was fair at Dundee. At Belfast it continued fair, but it was still slack at Waterford; at Cork also it was slack, and worse than a month ago.

SEAMEN.

THE supply of men for ordinary mercantile ships during September was at most ports equal to the demand. Some scarcity, however, was reported at the London docks, at Southampton, Avonmouth, Barry and Penarth; at Liverpool and Bristol also the supply was barely sufficient. In the latter end of September there was some scarcity of firemen and trimmers at Glasgow.

Returns received from certain selected ports show 35,907 seamen* shipped on foreign-going vessels during September, an increase of 1,363 on August, but a decrease of 10,676 on a year ago. Compared with August, the increase was most marked at the Tyne ports, at Glasgow, and at Belfast. At Newport, Cardiff, and Southampton there were considerable decreases. Compared with a year ago the decrease was most noticeable at Cardiff, Liverpool, London, and Southampton. There was a considerable increase at Belfast.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* (excluding Lascars) shipped in					
	Sept., 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Nine months ended September,		
		Month ago.	Year ago.	1914.	1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1915.
ENGLAND & WALES:						
<i>East Coast—</i>						
Tyne Ports	1,934	+ 518	- 197	23,188	15,875	- 7,313
Sunderland	176	- 67	+ 41	3,452	2,478	- 974
Middlesbrough	254	- 85	+ 16	2,432	2,191	- 241
Hull	1,184	+ 198	- 308	12,031	10,955	- 1,076
Grimsby	71	+ 63	+ 66	742	440	- 302
<i>Bristol Channel—</i>						
Bristol	1,526	+ 148	+ 215	11,520	12,032	+ 512
Newport, Mon.	629	- 471	- 172	7,887	8,880	+ 993
Cardiff	3,709	- 409	- 1,357	38,474	41,374	+ 2,900
Swansea	193	- 19	- 131	3,706	2,769	- 937
<i>Other Ports—</i>						
Liverpool	12,267	+ 491	- 6,904	157,123	115,559	- 41,564
London	8,230	+ 355	- 1,584	79,024	72,801	- 6,223
Southampton	1,359	- 303	- 745	37,543	12,408	- 25,135
SCOTLAND:						
Leth	267	- 98	- 179	3,399	2,905	- 494
Burntisland, Methil, and Grangemouth	37	+ 29	- 97	2,274	588	- 1,686
Glasgow	3,206	+ 425	+ 97	34,598	27,022	- 7,576
IRELAND:						
Dublin	50	- 40	- 143	693	659	- 34
Belfast	815	+ 628	+ 716	1,626	4,146	+ 2,520
TOTAL	35,907	+ 1,363	- 10,676	419,717	333,112	- 86,605

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals.

† Including Avonmouth, and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

STATISTICAL TABLES.

TRADE DISPUTES.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.

Number and Magnitude.—The number of disputes beginning in September was 55, as compared with 49 in the previous month and 23 in September, 1914. In these new disputes 14,170 workpeople were directly, and 2,169 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in disputes which began before September, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 52,869 workpeople involved in trade disputes in September, 1915, as compared with 28,870 in August, 1915, and 13,025 in September, 1914.

New Disputes in September, 1915.—In the following Table the new disputes for September are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople Involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	4	548	20	568
Coal Mining	13	8,492	1,121	9,613
Other Mining and Quarrying	1	40	6	46
Engineering	3	47	..	47
Shipbuilding	7	1,519	840	2,359
Other Metal	3	114	2	116
Textile	3	305	167	472
Clothing	3	1,119	..	1,119
Transport	4	378	..	378
Miscellaneous	13	1,128	..	1,128
Employees of Local Authorities	4	480	13	493
TOTAL, SEPTEMBER, 1915	55	14,170	2,169	16,339
TOTAL, AUGUST, 1915	49	23,945	2,913	26,858
TOTAL, SEPTEMBER, 1914	23	2,972	383	3,355

Causes.—Of the 55 new disputes 31, directly involving 3,052 workpeople, arose on demands for advances in wages; 9, directly involving 2,313 workpeople, on other wages questions; 4, directly involving 5,151 workpeople, on questions of Trade Union principle; 6, directly involving 2,051 workpeople, on questions respecting the employment of particular classes or persons; 3, directly involving 1,495 workpeople, on details of working arrangements; and 2 on other questions.

PRINCIPAL DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN OR ENDED IN SEPTEMBER.

Occupations and Locality. ‡	Number of Workpeople Involved.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Cause or Object §	Result §
	Directly.	Indirectly. §				
COAL MINING:—						
Miners, etc.—Rhondda	2,284	..	1915 7th Sept.	5	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Non-unionists joined the Trade Union.
Colliers, day wagemen, &c.—Rhondda	1,206	..	13th Sept.	6	To enforce demand that certain surfacemen should belong to the South Wales Miners' Federation and not to other Trade Unions.	Some of the surfacemen joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Miners, etc.—Aberdare	1,700	..	29th Sept.	5	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Non-unionists joined the Trade Union.
SHIPBUILDING:—						
Riveters, holders-up, platers, caulkers, etc., platers' helpers, rivet heaters, and catwalkers—Southampton	977	700	21st Sept.	12	Refusal to work with non-unionists.	Work resumed after a number of men had been fined under the Munitions of War Act, 1915; matter in dispute to be submitted to the Board of Trade.
TEXTILE:—						
Spinners, piecers, card and ring room workers, etc.—Stookport	204	258	1914 11th June	393	Alleged bad material.	Standing wages guaranteed for one week and on certain mules for four weeks, after which inspection to be made, if claimed, by representatives of Associations of employers and workpeople.
BOOT AND SHOE:—						
Lasters, finishers, etc.—Northampton	489	..	1915 9th Sept.	2	Against introduction of system of supplementary wage for increased output.	Supplementary wage system waived for the time, and advance in weekly rate of wages granted to certain operatives conditionally upon increased output being maintained.
OTHER TRADES:—						
Cabinet makers, joiners, carvers, polishers, etc.—Barnstaple	207	..	31st Aug.	23	For advance in wages.	(See p. 358).
Cranemen and capstanmen—Clyde	400	..	20th Sept.	9	To enforce demand that certain workmen should belong to the British Steel Smelters' Association, and not to another Trade Union.	Trade Unionist arbitrators appointed by the Board of Trade decided that the British Steel Smelters' Association had the sole right to organise the class of workmen concerned.

DISPUTES STILL IN PROGRESS.—20 disputes, involving about 6,000 workpeople, were in progress at the time of going to press.

* 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 (i.e., number of workpeople multiplied by number of working days, allowing for workpeople replaced by others, etc.) exceeded 100 days.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures have been amended in accordance with the most recent information.

‡ The aggregate duration in 1914 of the general dispute at Dublin (200,000 working days) is included in the total but not in the separate groups of trades.

§ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved" (i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves parties to the disputes). The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

[Based on Returns from Employers and Workpeople.]

RATES OF WAGES.

THE war bonuses and increases in rates of wages reported to the Department as taking effect in September affected 33,700 workpeople, and amounted to about £3,600 per week. Of this total the building trades accounted for £820, the iron and steel trades for £920, and the textile trades for £1,400.

In the building trades the principal changes were increases, as war wages, of 1d. per hour granted to various classes of operatives at the north-east coast towns and an increase of the same amount to plumbers at Glasgow. In the North of England and West Scotland there were increases under sliding scales to iron puddlers and millmen. The largest body of workpeople whose wages were increased during the month were the woolcombing operatives and warehousemen in the Bradford district, who received a bonus of 2s. per week conditional on full time being worked. At Coventry coachbuilding operatives received an increase of 3s. per week on time rates and 7½ per cent. on piece rates.

Two changes, affecting 1,800 workpeople, were settled

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN SEPTEMBER, 1915.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect.	Occupations.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected.	Particulars of Change.
Increases in Rates of Wages.					
Building	Tyne and Blyth	11 Sept.	Bricklayers	4,180	Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (10½d. to 11d.).
			Masons		
			Carpenters and joiners		
			Plasterers		
Sunderland and District	4 Sept.	Carpenters and joiners	1,200	Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.). Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (banker hands, 10d. to 10½d., fixers, 10½d. to 11d.).	
		Plasterers' labourers			
		General builders' labourers			
		Bricklayers			
Tees and Hartlepool District	20 Sept.	Carpenters	1,500	Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (9½d. to 10½d.). Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.). Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.). Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (6½d. to 7½d.). Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (10d. to 10½d.). Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (banker hands, 9½d. to 10d.; fixers 10d. to 10½d.).	
		Plasterers			
		Plasterers' labourers			
		General builders' labourers			
Iron and Steel Manufacture.	Glasgow, Northumberland, Durham, and Cleveland	1 Sept.	Iron puddlers	1,000	Increase, as war wages, of ½d. per hour (10s. to 11s.). Increase, under sliding scale, of 1s. per ton (10s. to 11s.).
			Iron and steel millmen		
Engineering	West Scotland	27 Sept.	Iron millmen	2,650	Increase, under sliding scale, of 10 per cent.
			Iron puddlers		
Textile	Swansea, Llanelly, and District	1 Sept.	Fitters, turners, smiths, & machinemen	600	Increase, under sliding scale, of 9d. per ton, making wages 11s. per ton, plus bonus of 1d. per heat. Increase, under sliding scale, of 7½ per cent. Increase of 1s. per week.
			Woolcombing operatives and warehousemen		
Printing and Bookbinding	Belfast	1st pay in Sept.	Compositors & letterpress machine-men	400	War bonus of 2s. per week to workpeople working a full week. Increase in minimum rate of 1s. 6d. per week (35s. to 36s. 6d.).
			Bookbinders and machine rulers		
Furnishing	London	1st pay after 13 Sept.	Upholsterers (wholesale trade)	£00	Increase, as war wages, of 5 per cent. on time and piece rates.
			Body-makers, finishers, smiths, fitters, painters, wood-cutting machinists, french polisher, etc.		
Coachmaking, &c.	Coventry	4 Sept.	Body-makers, finishers, smiths, fitters, painters, wood-cutting machinists, french polisher, etc.	1,250	Increase, as war wages, of 3s. per week on time rates and 7½ per cent. on piece rates.
Reduction in Hours of Labour.					
Engineering	Swansea, Llanelly and District	1 Sept.	Fitters, turners, smiths, machinemen, patternmakers, ironmoulders, labourers, and other workpeople	2,000	Reduction of one hour per week (54 to 53).

Changes in October:—Full particulars will appear in the November Gazette of the following important changes arranged to take place in October:—

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Increase to blastfurnacemen of 6½ per cent. in Cleveland and Durham; of 10 per cent. in South Staffordshire; and of 10½ per cent. in South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Increase of 1s. per ton to puddlers and 10 per cent. to iron millmen in the Midlands; and of 10½ per cent. to iron and steel workers in South Wales.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Increases of from 10 to 20 per cent. to tinplate workers in South Wales.

Printing Trade.—Increases to new minimum time rates for hand and machine compositors on book, jobbing, general printing, and weekly and Sunday newspaper work in London.

* Exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees.

IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES IN JULY.

THE total number of immigrant aliens admitted into the United States in July, 1915, was 21,504, of whom 13,016 were males and 8,488 females. This number is about one-fifth of the average number of immigrant aliens in July in the three previous years. In addition 2,006 aliens were debarred from landing, principally on the ground that they were "likely to become a public charge." As compared with previous years, this number showed little diminution.

The largest classes of aliens admitted were described as labourers (4,315), servants (1,989), and farm labourers (1,137). The next in importance were merchants and dealers (707), clerks and accountants (592), carpenters and joiners (385), and farmers (383). There were (including women and children) 7,662 persons of no stated occupation. The countries from which the largest number of immigrants arrived were British North America (6,678), Greece (2,448), the United Kingdom (2,141), Italy (1,877), the West Indies (1,274), and Mexico (1,181).

SLIDING SCALE CHANGES IN WAGES.

THE results of the ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given below:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase of last Audit on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
COAL.	1915.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
(Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth)				
Northumberland	June—August	12 11½	1 4	3 6½
PIG IRON.				
Cleveland	July—Sept.	64 0½	5 5½	12 8½
Cumberland	July—Sept.	95 0	—	31 0½
MANUFACTURED IRON.				
(North of England)	July—August	178 8½	19 1	44 6½
(Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, &c.)				
Midlands	July—August	191 2½	20 5½	54 10½
(Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, &c.)				
West of Scotland	July—August	170 9½	13 11½	41 6
(Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops and rods.)				

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron for July, August and September, the wages of blast-furnacemen in Cleveland and Durham were increased by 6½ per cent., making wages 40 per cent. above the standard. The average price of Cumberland warrants showed no change for the quarter July-September compared with the previous quarter.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the ascertainment of the selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron resulted in an increase of 1s. per ton to puddlers and 10 per cent. to forge and millmen. Similar increases were given in the Midlands, subject, however, to an arrangement by which 6d. per week is deducted from the war bonuses already given for each 2½ per cent. increase in wages under the scale. The ascertainment in the West of Scotland involved increases of 9d. per ton to puddlers and 7½ per cent. to millmen.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES.

The total number of Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, whose registers were open at the end of September, 1915, was 19, compared with 51 in September, 1914.

The total number of persons who received unemployment relief during September was 96, as compared with 4,298 a year ago, a decrease of 4,202 persons. Employment was also provided for 58 persons by arrangement with employers and local authorities.

The aggregate duration of employment relief decreased from 25,431 days in September, 1914, to 1,593 days in September, 1915, and the average duration of unemployment was 16.6 days, compared with 5.9 a year ago.

The total amount of wages paid in September, 1915, was £134, compared with £4,163 in September, 1914; the average earnings were 27s. 11d. per head, compared with 19s. 4d.; those not on piecework received an average of 1s. 8d. a day, compared with 3s. 3d. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Applicants granted Employment Relief.		Aggregate Duration of Employment Relief.		Total Amount of Wages Paid.	
	Sert., 1915.	Sert., 1914.	Sert., 1915.	Sert., 1914.	Sert., 1915.	Sert., 1914.
	Days.		Days.		£	£
London:						
County	5	537	84	8,729	1,561	1,561
Outer .. .. .	..	389	..	2,538	10	430
Northern Counties .. .. .	..	25	..	273	..	40
Lancs. and Cheshire	39	196	188	1,646	15	156
Yorkshire .. .. .	..	507	..	1,933	..	362
Midlands .. .. .	..	145	..	396	..	155
Northern Counties .. .. .	..	156	..	2,000	..	120
Northern Counties .. .. .	..	75	..	1,146	..	207
Wales and Monmouth .. .. .	..	2,111	..	3,211	..	813
ENGLAND AND WALES	44	4,141	272	21,872	25	3,844
Scotland	52	157	1,321	3,569	109	319
Ireland .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
UNITED KINGDOM	96	4,298	1,593	25,431	134	4,163

* Including 14 men who were engaged on piecework.

BUILDING PLANS.

RETURNS received by the Department from 91 of the principal urban districts in the United Kingdom (exclusive of the County of London), giving the estimated cost of the buildings for which plans were passed during the third quarter of 1915, show that there was a decrease of £607,571 (or 22.1 per cent.) compared with the corresponding period of 1914. The population of the districts included in the Returns is about 12 millions.

District and Population at Census of 1911.	Dwelling Houses.	Factories and Workshops.	Shops and other Business Premises.	Churches, Schools, and Public Buildings.	Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations.	Total.
Third Quarter of 1915.						
Outer London (1,700,000)	£ 295,106	£ 41,227	£ 46,731	£ 33,300	£ 84,202	£ 500,566
Northern Counties (725,000)	60,550	2,725	12,590	23,570	20,337	119,772
Yorkshire (1,925,000)	187,313	101,112	121,222	160,400	88,202	658,249
Lancashire & Cheshire (2,375,000)	207,837	134,580	50,077	44,490	51,263	488,257
Midlands (1,200,000)	113,252	51,665	19,809	25,840	85,555	296,121
Other Districts in England (1,065,000)	98,920	7,680	5,900	22,050	52,702	187,252
Wales & Mon. (430,000)	24,760	965	5,070	16,500	17,523	64,818
Scotland (1,832,000)	67,173	32,042	7,280	201,939	61,489	269,903
Ireland (825,000)	23,325	1,500	7,600	12,975	17,690	69,080
TOTAL	1,084,243	373,506	276,259	541,064	478,963	2,754,037
Third Quarter of 1915.						
Outer London (1,700,000)	£ 75,550	£ 38,855	£ 24,420	£ 12,900	£ 54,927	£ 206,652
Northern Counties (725,000)	8,250	22,260	6,915	1,800	14,562	53,787
Yorkshire (1,925,000)	114,465	343,521	102,125	6,370	49,956	616,427
Lancashire & Cheshire (2,375,000)	122,575	151,855	68,532	67,620	108,498	518,080
Midlands (1,200,000)	54,976	181,598	6,725	4,100	77,485	324,884
Other Districts in England (1,065,000)	44,900	6,940	3,850	8,250	17,368	81,296
Wales & Mon. (430,000)	16,260	225	100	250	7,513	24,448
Scotland (1,832,000)	56,550	75,996	13,715	30,486	57,843	234,580
Ireland (825,000)	31,202	700	18,900	9,460	26,020	86,302
TOTAL	524,718	820,950	248,362	141,176	414,260	2,148,426

There was a very marked increase in the case of factories and workshops, the value of the buildings for which plans were passed being more than double that recorded in the corresponding quarter of 1914. All other classes of building showed a decrease, of which the most noticeable were churches, schools and public buildings (73.9 per cent.) and dwelling-houses (51.6 per cent.).

Three districts showed an increase—viz., the Midlands (9.7 per cent.), Lancashire and Cheshire (6.1 per cent.), and Ireland (24.9 per cent.). The improvement in the Midlands was due entirely to an increase in factories and workshops. Of the decreases, the most noticeable were Wales and Monmouthshire (62.3 per cent.), Outer London (58.7 per cent.), other districts in England and Wales (56.6 per cent.), and Northern Counties (55.1 per cent.).

The following Table shows, for each class of building and for each district, the increase or decrease in the quarter ended 30th September, 1915, compared with the corresponding period of 1914:—

CLASS OF BUILDING:	Increase (+) or Decrease (-).	
	Amount.	Per cent.
Dwelling Houses	£ - 559,527	- 51.6
Factories and Workshops	+ 447,444	+ 119.8
Shops and Other Business Premises	- 30,897	- 11.2
Churches, Schools and Public Buildings	- 399,888	- 73.9
Other Buildings, Additions and Alterations	- 64,703	- 13.5
TOTAL	- 607,571	- 22.1
DISTRICTS:		
Outer London	£ - 293,913	- 58.7
Northern Counties	- 65,985	- 55.1
Yorkshire	- 41,822	- 6.4
Lancashire and Cheshire	+ 29,823	+ 6.1
Midlands	+ 28,763	+ 9.7
Other Districts in England	- 105,966	- 56.6
Wales and Monmouthshire	- 40,370	- 62.3
Scotland	- 135,313	- 36.6
Ireland	+ 17,212	+ 24.9
TOTAL	- 607,571	- 22.1

PRICES OF WHEAT, FLOUR, AND BREAD.

I.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Imports.—The quantity of wheat and flour (in grain equivalent) imported into the United Kingdom during September, 1915, was 1,728,634 quarters, a decline of 1,408,470 quarters (or nearly 45 per cent.) compared with September, 1914, and of 731,760 quarters (or 30 per cent.) compared with September, 1913. Compared with September, 1914, there was a decrease of 715,578 quarters in the quantity imported from the United States and of 819,886 quarters from Canada; from Australia none was received during September, 1915, as against 136,663 quarters in September, 1914. From the British East Indies the quantity imported in September, 1915, was greater by 231,433 quarters than the amount for September, 1914. Compared with September, 1913, the following were the decreases in imports:—From United States, 122,787 quarters; from Canada, 53,813 quarters; from British East Indies, 71,213 quarters; and from Australia, 356,627 quarters.

The average declared value of wheat imported during September, 1915, was 51s. 6d. per quarter, a decrease of 1s. 10d. (or 3·4 per cent.) compared with August, 1915, but an increase of 14s. 2d. (or nearly 38 per cent.) compared with September, 1914. The average for September is lower than that for any previous month of 1915 except January, when the figure was 49s. 1d. The average declared value of imported flour during September, 1915, was 15s. 10d per cwt., a decrease of 5d. (or 2·6 per cent.) compared with August, 1915, but an increase of 4s. 1d. (or 34·8 per cent.) compared with September, 1914. The average for September, 1915, is 1s. 5d. below that for June (17s. 3d.), which is, so far, the highest quotation for any month of the war period. The spot price of No. 1 Northern Manitoba wheat at Liverpool on the 30th August was about 56s. 3d. per quarter, from the 10th to 15th of September it was 57s. 1d., and by the 20th September the price was 56s. 11d. Since that date no quotations have appeared. The spot price of No. 2 Hard Winter at Liverpool has likewise not varied greatly during September as regards old wheat, the price on 1st September being 56s. 11d. and on 30th September 57s. 1d. During October to date the price has stiffened somewhat, and the quotation for 13th was 59s. per quarter. For new wheat quotations are available from the 7th September, when the price was given as 48s. 1d. per quarter. There was a gradual increase during the month, and on 27th 49s. 1d. was quoted; in the early part of October there was a more rapid increase, and on 13th the price was given as 52s. 1d. The spot price of Indian wheat, choice white Karachi, which was quoted at about 53s. 8d. in the middle of August, declined to about 50s. 3d. at the beginning of September, but soon began to rise, and on 30th the quotation was 52s. 6d. On 1st October it was 53s. 6d. and on 13th it was about 54s. 4d.

Gazette Prices of British Wheat.—During the first six weeks of the cereal year 1915-1916 (August 30th-October 9th inclusive) the deliveries of wheat by farmers at the various markets of England and Wales from which returns are received by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries totalled 376,868 quarters, compared with 570,511 quarters in the corresponding weeks of the 1914-1915 season.

Recently the deliveries have increased considerably, and the quantity for the week ended 9th October exceeded the quantity for the corresponding week a year ago by some 8,000 quarters.

At the beginning of September the price of British wheat was 45s. 3d. per quarter, and in the returns received in the week ended 18th September had dropped to 42s. 9d. Since then there has been some recovery, and for the week ended 9th October the price was 44s. 1d. The average price in September was 43s. 7d., a decline of 10s. 7d. (or 19·5 per cent.) compared with the average for August, though, in connection with this decline, it must be borne in mind that the September prices are almost wholly for new wheat, much of which was in poor condition and contained a great deal of moisture. The average price in September, 1914, was 37s. 6d.

Price of Flour.—The cash price of town households flour (ex mill, less the usual discount) in London during September was 41s. 6d. per sack of 280 lb., a decrease of 1s. 10d. (or 4·3 per cent.) on the price in August, but an increase of 6s. 4d. (or 18 per cent.) on the average for September, 1914. The quotation for the end of September, 1915, 41s. 6d., was continued till the 6th October, when the price rose 1s., and on 11th October there was a further increase, making the price 43s. 6d., the same as that which prevailed during the first four weeks of August.

II.—BREAD.

Returns received from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations, and 30 returns received from other sources, are summarised below. In these Tables the predominant prices, i.e., the prices at which the bulk of the bread was sold, are utilised, but it will be understood that bread was also sold at both lower and higher prices. The necessary allowance has been made for cases in which the 2-lb. or 4-lb. loaf has been displaced by a loaf of smaller size.

The following Table shows the mean predominant price in different parts of the country at 1st October, as compared with 1st September, 1915, and 1st October, 1914:—

District.	Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on		
	1st October, 1915.	1st Sept., 1915.	1st October, 1914.
	d.	d.	d.
London:—	7½	7¼	6¾
N. & N.W.	7¾	7¼	6¾
E. & N.E.	7¾	7¼	6
S.E.	7¾	7¼	6
S.W.	7¾	7¼	6½
W. & W.C.	8	8	6½
Northern Counties & Yorkshire	8	8	6½
Lancashire & Cheshire	8	8	6½
Midlands	7¾	7¼	5¾
Eastern Counties	7¾	7¼	6
Southern Counties	8	8	6½
South Western Counties & Wales	7¾	7¼	6
Scotland	8½	8½	6½
GREAT BRITAIN	7¾	8	6

The average price as compared with a month ago showed a decline in the Midlands, and, although for each of the other districts the mean price remained unchanged, that for Great Britain as a whole showed a decrease from 8d. to 7¾d. per 4 lb. As compared with a year ago, the amount of the increase is usually 1½d. or 2d. per 4 lb.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:—

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on 1st October, 1915.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with		Last Change	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Amount per 4 lb.
		d.	d.		d.
London	7½ & 8	—	+1½	July, '15	- ¼
Birmingham	7½ & 8	—	+1½	June, '15	- 1
Bristol	7½ & 8	—	+2½	June, '15	- ½
Cardiff	8	—	+2	June, '15	- ½
Derby	8	—	+2	June, '15	- ½
Hull	8	—	+1½	June, '15	- ½
Ipswich	8	—	+2	June, '15	- ½
Leicester	7	—	+1	June, '15	- 1
Liverpool	8	—	+2	June, '15	- ½
Manchester	7½	—	+1½	July, '15	- ¾
Middlesbrough	8 & 8½	—	+2½	June, '15	- ¾
Norwich	7½	—	+2	June, '15	- ½
Nottingham	6½ to 7½	—	+1	Sept., '15	- ½
Plymouth	8	—	+2	July, '15	- ½
Southampton	8	—	+1½	June, '15	- 1
Stoke-on-Trent	7 & 7½	—	+1½	Sept., '15	- ¾
Wolverhampton	7½	—	+2	June, '15	- ½
Aberdeen	8	—	+2	Aug., '15	- ½
Dundee	8	—	+2	Apr., '15	+ ½
Edinburgh	8½	—	+2	July, '15	+ ½
Glasgow	8	—	+2	May, '15	+ ½
Belfast	8	—	+2	May, '15	+ ½
Dublin	8	—	+1½	May, '15	+ ½

Since 1st October there have been reductions from 8d. to 7½d. in the price of bread at Cardiff and certain other towns in South Wales. In nearly all other places the price remains unchanged.

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland.]

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in September, 1915, in the 35 urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 165 per 10,000. Compared with August, 1915, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 3,639 (or 1·2 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 1,434 (or 1·0 per cent.) and the number of outdoor paupers by 2,205 (or 1·3 per cent.). Barnsley, Aberdeen, and Dublin were the only places showing increases, and the increase in each case was only 1 per 10,000. Seven districts showed no change; and in the remaining 25 districts there were decreases, the greatest being in Leicester (8 per 10,000), Central London (6 per 10,000), East London (5 per 10,000), and West Ham, Wolverhampton, and Paisley and Greenock (4 per 10,000).

Compared with September, 1914, when conditions were affected by the depression which followed the outbreak of war, the total number of paupers decreased by 52,272 (or 14·7 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 decreased by 30. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 25,019 (or 15·1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 27,253 (or 14·3 per cent.). There were decreases in all districts but Barnsley, where there was an increase of 4 per 10,000. The largest decreases were in the Metropolitan districts, which averaged 40 per 10,000. The greatest decreases in provincial towns were at Manchester (63) and Hull and Leicester (43).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of September, 1915.			Rate per 10,000	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with a	Month ago.	Year ago.
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.				
	Estimated Population.	Month ago.	Year ago.				
ENGLAND & WALES.*							
Metropolis.							
West District	10,271	1,848	12,119	149	- 2	- 25	
North District	12,896	6,127	19,023	188	- 3	- 49	
Central District	3,884	1,247	5,131	351	- 6	- 49	
East District	11,779	4,496	16,275	243	- 5	- 69	
South District	20,595	12,808	33,403	178	- 1	- 29	
TOTAL, Metropolis	59,405	26,526	85,931	190	- 3	- 40	
West Ham	4,410	10,032	14,442	192	- 4	- 29	
Other Districts.							
Newcastle District	2,137	4,133	6,270	130	- 3	- 27	
Stockton & Tees District	1,131	3,396	4,527	182	- 3	- 21	
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	3,828	3,676	7,504	93	..	- 36	
Wigan District	1,948	4,701	6,649	152	- 1	- 25	
Manchester District	8,371	6,131	15,002	147	- 3	- 63	
Liverpool District	9,871	10,962	20,833	184	- 2	- 28	
Bradford District	2,002	1,613	3,615	97	- 1	- 20	
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,152	2,539	3,691	96	- 1	- 22	
Leeds District	2,429	2,947	5,376	112	- 2	- 32	
Barnsley District	836	2,965	3,801	123	+ 1	+ 4	
Sheffield District	2,883	3,561	6,444	131	- 1	- 12	
Hull District	1,763	5,138	6,901	220	..	- 43	
North Staffordshire	1,983	4,817	6,800	169	- 1	- 31	
Nottingham District	1,854	4,025	5,879	123	- 1	- 26	
Leicester District	1,280	2,830	4,110	169	- 1	- 43	
Wolverhampton District	3,235	6,677	9,912	144	- 4	- 19	
Birmingham District	6,046	5,006	11,252	132	- 3	- 30	
Bristol District	2,721	3,838	6,559	163	- 1	- 12	
Cardiff & Swansea	2,197	5,713	7,910	179	- 1	- 27	
TOTAL, "Other Districts"	58,116	84,708	142,824	144	- 2	- 29	
SCOTLAND.*							
Glasgow District	3,351	17,447	20,798	219	- 3	- 19	
Paisley & Greenock District	688	2,555	3,243	171	- 4	- 17	
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,365	4,854	6,219	154	- 2	- 13	
Dundee and Dunfermline	610	2,026	2,636	132	..	- 18	
Aberdeen	404	2,765	3,169	190	+ 1	- 12	
Coatbridge & Airdrie	261	1,633	1,894	185	..	- 21	
TOTAL for the above } Scottish Districts	6,679	31,270	37,949	188	- 3	- 19	
IRELAND.†							
Dublin District	5,372	5,161	10,533	287	+ 1	- 14	
Belfast District	2,387	880	3,267	77	..	- 15	
Cork, Waterford and Limerick District	3,099	4,268	7,367	297	- 2	- 8	
Galway District	272	165	437	126	- 2	- 16	
TOTAL for the above } Irish Districts	11,130	10,474	21,604	194	..	- 13	
TOTAL for above 35 Districts in September, 1915	139,740	163,010	302,750	165	- 2	- 30	

* The percentages unemployed in the Insured Trades will be found on pages 352, 364, and 372.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN SEPTEMBER.* INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

The total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Labour Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended 24th September, 1915, was 22,329, as compared with 21,663 during the four weeks ended 27th August, 1915, and with 133,692 during the four weeks ended 25th September, 1914. Of the total of 22,329 claims, 12,921 (or 58 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 9,408 (or 42 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the four weeks was 5,845, 5,631, 5,397, and 5,456, the average being 5,582, as compared with 5,416 in the four preceding weeks and with 33,423 in September, 1914.

The average weekly amount of unemployment benefit paid during the four weeks ended 24th September, 1915, was £1,381, as compared with £1,491 per week in the four preceding weeks, and with £19,734 per week in September, 1914; 55 per cent. of the amount was paid direct and 45 per cent. through Associations.

Districts	Average Weekly No. of Claims Made.			Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid.		
	Sept., 1915.	August, 1915.	Sept., 1914.	Sept., 1915.	August, 1915.	Sept., 1914.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
London	2,028	1,608	7,326	353	341	4,056
South-Eastern	616	523	2,429	162	192	1,307
South-Western	496	449	1,976	119	133	911
West Midlands	161	133	2,028	29	27	1,934
East Midlands	190	213	1,532	45	57	1,921
Yorkshire	275	364	2,473	65	82	1,942
North-Western	665	767	8,054	169	149	4,611
Northern	169	157	1,824	51	53	958
Scotland	376	477	3,589	105	118	1,639
Wales	178	212	1,138	47	46	362
Ireland	523	513	1,054	245	293	1,093
UNITED KINGDOM	5,582	5,416	33,423	1,381	1,491	19,734

* The percentages unemployed in the Insured Trades will be found on pages 352, 364, and 372.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES.

FOUR WEEKS ENDED 10TH SEPTEMBER, 1915.

THE total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers* of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges (395 in number) on September 10th was 93,080, as compared with 97,790 on August 13th, 1915, and 207,429 on September 11th, 1914.

Excluding cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed there were on the Register at some time or other during the period 326,973 workpeople (men 137,917, women 140,574, boys 20,514, and girls 27,968), as compared with 319,073 in the previous four weeks, and 540,736 in the four weeks ended September 11th, 1914.

The number of vacancies filled was 102,137, a daily average of 4,256, as compared with 4,062 in the previous four weeks, and with 3,851 in the four weeks ended September 11th, 1914.

The following Table summarises the work of the Exchanges during the period:—

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
On Register at beginning of period	39,066	44,924	5,116	8,664	97,790
Registrations during period	108,993	99,560	15,852	19,783	244,088
Individuals registered	98,351	95,650	16,398	19,804	230,103
Re-registrations	8,092	3,900	484	179	12,665
On Register at end of period	35,245	45,331	4,439	8,065	93,080
Vacancies notified during period	78,869	37,628	12,259	11,073	139,829
Vacancies filled during period	55,270	29,946	8,726	8,195	102,137
Individuals placed	45,531	23,528	7,088	6,070	80,217
Applicants placed in other districts	17,310	4,298	1,791	1,908	24,307

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportions of vacancies filled to vacancies notified and of vacancies filled to registrations (including those on the registers at the beginning of the period) in the principal groups of trades:—

* Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature (i.e., dock labourers, cloth porters and cotton porters); these are dealt with in the last paragraph but one.

* Exclusive of Vagrants, of Patients in the Fever and Smallpox 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.

Trades.	Proportion of Vacancies filled to Vacancies notified.		Proportion of Vacancies filled to Registrations.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
<i>Insured Trades—</i>				
Building, Construction of Works and Sawmilling	68.1	—	29.8	—
Engineering, Shipbuilding and Construction of Vehicles.	64.4	97.9	46.1	66.6
<i>Uninsured Trades—</i>				
Textiles	45.8	74.5	31.4	32.2
Dress	49.5	88.9	18.9	17.4
Transport	77.2	88.3	39.2	22.8
Agriculture	57.6	83.8	43.7	29.6
Paper, Prints, &c. . . .	62.1	76.4	14.2	34.3
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	55.5	85.2	35.4	34.4
Commercial	74.1	80.0	10.6	14.1
Domestic	56.0	69.0	21.6	21.8
General Labourers .. .	82.1	—	29.8	—
TOTAL	70.1	79.6	37.9	20.7

The average daily numbers of registrations and vacancies filled, for the periods stated, are shown in the following Table:—

District or Department.	Insured Trades.			Uninsured Trades.		
	4 weeks ended 10 Sept. 1915.	4 weeks ended 13 Aug. 1915.	4 weeks ended 11 Sept. 1914.	4 weeks ended 10 Sept. 1915.	4 weeks ended 13 Aug. 1915.	4 weeks ended 11 Sept. 1914.
	REGISTRATIONS.*					
London	653	666	1,487	2,111	2,137	2,683
South-Eastern .. .	213	222	517	545	536	495
South-Western .. .	254	254	553	399	406	483
West Midlands .. .	245	226	664	574	580	594
East Midlands .. .	128	137	358	277	264	359
Yorkshire	222	193	642	585	531	612
North-Western .. .	427	440	1,482	1,004	994	1,114
Northern	171	174	463	444	3.6	357
Scotland	252	261	1,153	808	840	750
Wales	225	203	362	203	195	259
Ireland	130	145	280	256	270	282
Men	2,690	2,726	7,888	1,765	1,821	3,168
Women .. .	137	156	117	4,011	3,794	2,321
Boys	66	66	54	594	676	870
Girls	7	9	9	817	828	969
TOTAL	2,900	2,927	8,061	7,187	7,119	7,968
	VACANCIES FILLED.					
London	250	274	156	1,055	830	578
South-Eastern .. .	107	100	105	189	197	207
South-Western .. .	127	143	192	161	180	255
West Midlands .. .	182	170	82	185	168	163
East Midlands .. .	67	74	94	107	100	123
Yorkshire	148	145	103	193	193	168
North-Western .. .	188	173	144	322	354	281
Northern	113	108	144	108	101	90
Scotland	144	162	172	297	319	358
Wales	155	125	226	59	61	102
Ireland	23	25	29	64	60	79
Men	1,293	1,322	1,407	1,010	807	1,274
Women .. .	153	117	7	1,095	1,097	619
Boys	49	54	32	314	338	509
Girls	9	6	1	333	327	202
TOTAL	1,504	1,499	1,447	2,752	2,563	2,404

* Including re-registrations of persons placed in vacancies through the exchanges during the period.

INSURED TRADES.†

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 64,082 (men 59,101, women 3,257, boys 1,551, and girls 173). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 87,706 (men 79,810, women 5,473, boys 1,988, and girls 435). These figures exclude 5,515 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

Of the registrations among men 58.4 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 28.9 per cent. in mechanical engineering, and 9.5 per cent. in shipbuilding.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register on September 10th was 21,617, as compared with 23,624 on August 13th and 118,046 on September 11th, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 52,238, a daily average of 2,176, as compared with 1,952 in the previous four weeks and 1,771 in the four weeks ended September 11th, 1914. The number of vacancies

filled was 36,084, a daily average of 1,504 as compared with 1,499 in the previous four weeks, and 1,447 in the four weeks ended September 11th, 1914.

Building and construction of works account for 46.5 per cent. of the total vacancies notified for men and 47.8 of the vacancies filled by men, the corresponding figures for mechanical engineering and shipbuilding respectively being 40.2 and 11.6 per cent. of the total vacancies notified and 37.8 and 12.6 per cent. of the total vacancies filled.

UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 165,101 (men 92,730, women 92,393, boys 13,847, and girls 19,131). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 229,267 (men 58,107, women 135,101, boys 18,526, and girls 27,533). These figures exclude 7,390 cases in which persons already placed in vacancies during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

Among men 20.6 per cent. of the total registrations were in the transport, &c., trades, and 31.3 per cent. as general labourers, while of the women registered 36.0 per cent. were in domestic offices or services and 8.4 per cent. in dress. Commercial occupations accounted for 7.7 per cent. of the registrations among men and 6.8 per cent. among women.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at September 10th was 71,463 (men 16,372, women 43,315, boys 3,970, and girls 7,806), as compared with 74,166 on August 13, and 89,383 on September 11th, 1914.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 87,591, a daily average of 3,650, as compared with 3,380 in the preceding four weeks and 3,119 in the four weeks ended September 11th, 1914. The number of vacancies filled was 66,053, a daily average of 2,752, as compared with 2,563 in the preceding four weeks, and 2,404 in the four weeks ended September 11th, 1914.

Of the vacancies notified for men 19.4 per cent. were in conveyance of men, goods, &c., and 20.3 per cent. as general labourers. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 19.8 per cent. in the transport, &c., trades and 22.0 per cent. as general labourers. Among women 45.4 per cent. of the vacancies notified, and 40.4 per cent. of those filled were in domestic offices or services, while dress accounted for 6.6 per cent. of the notifications, and 7.6 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

Of the vacancies filled during the period 6,387 (men 2,887, women 3,073, boys 177, and girls 250) were known to be for less than a week's employment, while of the total of 15,525 vacancies filled by boys and girls 3,676 (boys 1,689, and girls 1,987), or 23.7 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men who obtained casual employment through the Exchanges was 603, and the number of casual jobs found for them was 3,458, a daily average of 144, compared with 195 in the preceding four weeks and 525 in the four weeks ended September 11th, 1914. Of the jobs given during the period 2,771 were for dock labourers and 687 for cloth porters at Manchester. During the period there were also 2,238 cases in which men were given employment through the Clearing House system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

During the period there was again an unsatisfied demand for men in the shipbuilding and engineering trades and for navvies in construction of works. A large shortage of colliery workers was again reported; and the demand for workers in agricultural occupations and the cotton industry exceeded the supply. An unsatisfied demand existed for chemical labourers, for glass workers and in the metal trades.

With regard to women, shortages in the clothing and textile trades were reported at their respective centres.

† The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES—FOUR WEEKS ENDED 10th SEPTEMBER, 1915.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 10th September, 1915.

OCCUPATION GROUPS.†	ADULTS.				JUVENILES.			
	REGISTRATIONS.			VACAN- CIES.	REGISTRATIONS.			VACAN- CIES.
	On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registrations during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.		On Register at Beginning of Period.	Registrations during Period.*	On Register at End of Period.	
Building:—								
Carpenters, Joiners, &c.	3,440	7,568	2,981	2,872	13	21	10	13
Bricklayers	1,404	3,381	1,681	759	—	2	—	1
Masons	783	1,219	703	178	—	—	—	—
Painters, Decorators &c.	1,785	6,197	2,049	2,072	3	8	1	18
Plumbers and Glaziers .. .	457	1,034	420	282	6	13	4	6
Other skilled occupations .. .	685	1,810	773	391	—	2	1	1
Labourers	1,924	8,399	1,566	3,485	12	43	15	33
Construction of Works .. .	1,007	8,073	982	4,839	3	7	1	10
Sawmilling	211	432	176	213	6	10	4	18
Shipbuilding:—								
Platers and Riveters .. .	429	2,014	383	1,283	16	39	13	36
Shipwrights	128	573	99	746	—	7	4	3
Labourers	628	3,169	456	1,868	32	28	25	45
Mechanical Engineering:—								
Moulders (Iron and Steel) .. .	1,007	1,349	751	495	10	44	9	35
Smiths	287	650	217	284	7	16	1	10
Erectors, Fitters and Turners .. .	1,733	5,569	1,481	3,959	126	694	206	410
Metal Machinists	673	2,065	653	1,322	60	279	77	241
Wiremen	274	734	234	328	12	44	15	26
Other skilled occupations .. .	936	2,345	773	1,019	6	53	19	69
Labourers	2,058	5,923	1,755	4,333	47	168	45	166
Making of Vehicles	433	1,084	423	273	16	39	18	33
Cabinet Making &c. .. .	427	540	377	72	2	10	—	12
TOTAL MALES	20,709	64,558	18,873	31,023	437	1,585	469	1,134
TOTAL FEMALES .. .	2,216	3,280	2,016	3,655	262	174	259	212
GRAND TOTAL	22,925	67,838	20,889	34,678	699	1,759	728	1,396

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.
† Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Four Weeks ended 10th September, 1915.

TRADES.	ADULTS.									JUVENILES.					
	On Register at Beginning of Period.			Registrations during Period.*			On Register at End of Period.			Vacancies Filled during Period.					
	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.	Men.	Women.	Total.			
Mining and Quarrying .. .	113	—	113	374	10	384	113	3	116	124	15	139	16	—	16
Miscellaneous Metal Trades .. .	376	605	981	824	1,191	2,015	320	440	760	576	807	1,383	210	398	608
Textiles:—															
Cotton	260	912	1,172	671	2,715	3,386	199	956	1,155	366	902	1,268	92	124	216
Wool and Worsted .. .	127	155	282	271	689	960	126	181	307	84	231	315	34	59	93
Other Textiles	134	674	808	251	1,478	1,729	110	625	735	140	960	1,100	90	291	381
Dress:—															
Boot and Shoe Workers .. .	121	72	193	322	234	556	176	65	241	156	108	264	43	37	80
Others	257	3,183	3,440	510	7,808	8,308	263	3,143	3,406	103	1,878	1,981	60	673	733
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages:—															
On Railways	186	—	186	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
On Roads, Seas, Rivers, &c. . . .	3,301	659	4,176	259	1,619	10,346	161	738	3,979	664	527	5,322	64	727	2,425
Agriculture:—															
Fruit, &c., Pickers	51	644	695	515	2,159	2,674	34	1,078	1,112	477	1,024	1,501	184	115	299
Others	487	518	1,005	952	857	1,809	310	383	763	398	302	700	100	35	135
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	260	439	699	411	978	1,389	209	410	619	95	486	581	118	519	637
Wood, Furniture, Fittings and Decorations.	331	102	433	521	285	806	291	102	394	150	120	310	194	63	257
Chemicals, Oil, Grease, Soap &c. . .	592	3,470	4,062	564	6,613	7,577	907	3,466	4,393	579	1,174	1,753	1,064	399	1,453
Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass	92	173	265	163	408	571									

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

[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.]

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act during September, 1915, was 39, of which 36 were due to lead poisoning, 1 to mercurial poisoning, 1 to arsenic poisoning, and 1 to anthrax. Two deaths due to lead poisoning were reported. In addition, 12 cases of lead poisoning (2 of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the nine months ended September, 1915, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported under the Factory and Workshop Act was 430, compared with 607 during the corresponding period of 1914. The number of deaths in 1915 was 48, compared with 57 in 1914. In addition there were 93 cases of lead poisoning (including 26 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first nine months of 1915, compared with 191 cases (including 29 deaths) during the corresponding period of 1914.

ANALYSIS BY INDUSTRIES.

Industry.	Cases.			Deaths.		
	Month of Sept., 1915.	Nine Months ended		Month of Sept., 1915.	Nine Months ended	
	Sept. 1915.	Sept. 1914.	Sept. 1914.	Sept. 1915.	Sept. 1915.	Sept. 1914.
Lead Poisoning.						
AMONG OPERATIVES ENGAGED IN—						
Smelting of Metals	7	40	20	—	1	3
Brass Works	—	—	6	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ..	—	2	4	—	—	1
Plumbing and Soldering	1	14	22	—	—	1
Printing	1	23	22	—	3	1
File Cutting	—	1	9	—	—	—
Tinning of Metals	1	3	10	—	—	—
White Lead Works	4	28	17	—	—	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works ..	—	6	3	—	—	—
Pottery and Litho-Transfer Works	1	16	24	2	4	4
Glass Cutting and Polishing ..	—	—	2	—	—	1
Vitreous Enamelling	—	5	9	—	1	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ..	6	47	31	—	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	10	20	—	—	—
Coach and Car Painting	1	31	46	—	4	3
Shipbuilding	4	13	24	—	1	4
Paint used in other Industries ..	2	10	35	—	2	—
Other Industries	7	39	47	—	—	3
TOTAL IN FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS	36	288	361	2	16	22
HOUSE PAINTING AND PLUMBING	12	93	191	2	26	29
Other Forms of Poisoning.						
MERCURIAL POISONING—						
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	3	4	—	—	—
Furriers Processes	—	—	2	—	—	—
Other Industries	1	3	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	6	8	—	—	—
PHOSPHORUS POISONING	—	3	—	—	1	—
ARSENIC POISONING—						
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	1	1	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	2	—	—	1
TOTAL	1	1	2	—	—	1
TOTAL "OTHER FORMS OF POISONING"	2	10	10	—	1	1
Anthrax.						
Wool	1	22	23	—	1	5
Handling of Horsehair	—	1	4	—	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers &c.)	—	14	12	—	3	—
Other Industries	—	2	6	—	1	—
TOTAL ANTHRAX	1	39	45	—	5	5
TOTAL REPORTED UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT	39	337	416	2	22	28
GRAND TOTAL	51	430	607	4	48	57

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

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS. CASES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

[Based on Home Office and Board of Trade Returns.]

THE number of workpeople, exclusive of seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment in September, 1915, was 272, an increase of 26 on a month ago and of 62 on a year ago. The mean number for September during the five years 1910-1914 was 310, the maximum being 369 and the minimum 263. Fatal accidents in the railway service during September, 1915, numbered 42, an increase of 11 on a month ago and of 3 on a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents at mines was 96, a decrease of 2 on August, and an increase of 23 on September, 1914. There were 10 fatal accidents at quarries, compared with 3 a month ago and 6 a year ago. The total number of accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act in September, 1915, was 122, compared with 112 in August, 1915, and 91 in September, 1914.

The total number of fatal accidents to seamen during September, 1915, was 130, a decrease of 52 on a month ago and an increase of 48 on a year ago.

The following Table shows by trades and by groups of trades the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during the months of September, 1915, August, 1915, and September, 1914, respectively:—

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Sept., 1915, on a	
	Sept., 1915.	August, 1915.	Sept., 1914.	Month ago.	Year ago.
RAILWAY SERVICE—					
Brakemen & Goods Guards	4	3	3	+ 1	+ 1
Engine Drivers	1	..	2	+ 1	- 1
Firemen .. ..	..	..	2	..	- 2
Guards (Passenger) .. ..	..	..	1	..	- 1
Permanent Way Men (not including labourers)	10	5	10	+ 5	..
Porters	9	12	5	- 3	+ 4
Shunters	3	1	..	+ 2	+ 3
Mechanics .. ..	..	1	..	- 1	..
Labourers .. ..	..	2	6	- 2	- 6
Miscellaneous	12	7	7	+ 5	+ 5
Contractors' Servants ..	3	..	3	+ 3	..
TOTAL, RAILWAY SERVICE	42	31	39	+ 11	+ 3
MINES—					
Underground	87	90	67	- 3	+ 20
Surface	9	8	6	+ 1	+ 3
TOTAL, MINES	96	98	73	- 2	+ 23
Quarries over 20 feet deep ..	10	3	6	+ 7	+ 4
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—					
Textile—					
Cotton	4	4	1	..	+ 3
Wool and Worsted	2	2	1	..	+ 1
Other Textiles	3	..	1	+ 3	+ 2
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	5	6	7	- 1	- 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	21	17	11	+ 4	+ 10
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building ..	16	12	14	+ 4	+ 2
Gas	2	5	..	- 3	+ 2
Wood	2	4	..	- 2	+ 2
Clay, Stone, &c.	1	1	2	..	- 1
Chemicals	11	3	5	+ 8	+ 6
Laundries	1	..	..	+ 1	+ 1
Food	5	4	4	+ 1	+ 1
Drink	2	4	3	- 2	- 1
Paper, Printing, &c.	1	1	1	..	..
Other Non-Textile Industries	23	27	13	- 4	+ 10
TOTAL, FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS	102	91	65	+ 11	+ 37
ACCIDENTS REPORTED UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	13	9	13	+ 4	..
Warehouses	1	3	..	- 2	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	6	9	13	- 3	- 7
TOTAL UNDER FACTORY ACT, SS. 104-5.	20	21	26	- 1	-
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	2	2	1	..	..
TOTAL, EXCLUDING SEAMEN.	272	246	210	+ 26	+ 62
SEAMEN—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	7	6	5	+ 1	+ 2
Steam	104	140	46	- 36	+ 58
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	19	..	2	..	- 2
Steam .. ..	..	36	29	- 17	- 10
TOTAL, SEAMEN	130	182	82	- 52	+ 48
TOTAL, INCLUDING SEAMEN.	402	428	292	- 26	+ 110

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. IMPORTS IN SEPTEMBER.

[Note.—Certain goods which, at the time of importation, were the property of H.M. Government or of the Governments of the Allies, are not included in the imports.]

THE total value of the imports in September, 1915, was £70,293,000, as compared with £69,497,000 in August, 1915, £45,007,000 in September, 1914, and £61,356,000 in September, 1915. The increases, as compared with both a year ago and two years ago, are largely due to higher prices. Comparisons with September, 1914, would be of little value for the purposes of this article, as conditions in that month were still much disturbed by the outbreak of war. For this reason, in the comments which follow, comparisons have been made with September, 1913.

FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO.

Grain and Flour.—As compared with September, 1913, imports of all kinds of grain, except rice, showed reductions in quantity, but, owing to higher prices, the total value of wheat, barley and oats imported increased. The quantity of rice imported increased from 285,385 cwt. in September, 1913, to nearly 612,000 cwt. in September, 1915.

Meat.—Imports of beef showed a considerable increase in quantity, and were more than double the value of those two years ago, owing to higher prices. The quantity of mutton imported showed a reduction, but, owing to higher prices, the total value showed a large increase. Imports of pork fell to about one-tenth of those two years ago, this reduction being due to the cessation of imports from the Netherlands. On the other hand, imports of bacon, hams, and tinned meat showed large increases, both in quantity and value.

Other Food.—Butter showed a slight reduction in quantity, but an increase in value. The quantity imported from Denmark decreased largely, but that from Russia increased by over 50 per cent. Eggs showed a reduction of over 50 per cent. in quantity, owing to the decreased supplies from Russia. The value of imported fruit fell by about 40 per cent. The quantity of cheese imported increased by about 6.8 per cent., and the value by about 22 per cent. A decrease of 22,000 cwt. in the quantity received from the Netherlands was more than negated by an increase of 27,000 cwt. in the quantity from New Zealand, and of about 5,000 cwt. in the quantity from Canada. Fish showed some increase in quantity, and a very large increase in total value. Of dutiable articles, the imports of cocoa were about three times what they were in September, 1913; coffee, tea, and tobacco also showed increases both in quantity and value. In the cases of coffee and tea the increases in value were much greater than those in quantity, owing to higher prices. The quantity of refined sugar imported showed a considerable reduction; but imports of unrefined sugar amounted to 2½ million pounds compared with just over half a million pounds in September, 1913; in both cases the total value showed a marked increase. The United States and Java, which sent practically no sugar in 1913, were the most important sources of supply. Imports of wine, especially of cheap wines, increased as compared with September, 1913, and there was an increase in the case of spirits. The total value of all food, drink, and tobacco imported in September, 1915, was £33,029,000, as compared with £25,060,000 in September, 1913.

RAW MATERIALS.

Textile Materials.*—The quantity of cotton imported was less by 36 per cent. than the imports in September, 1913; the amount received from the United States in September, 1913, was 576,000 cents, but in September, 1915, only 235,000 cents were imported. The quantity of wool, on the other hand, was nearly double the amount in September, 1913. Imports of flax were more than double those two years ago; those of hemp, however, were considerably less, having dropped from over 10,000 tons in September, 1913, to barely 7,000 tons in September, 1915. Imports of jute and raw silk showed increases on those in September, 1913.

Other Raw Materials.—Particulars are given in the following Table:

Article.	Quantities imported in September, 1915.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with September, 1913.
Iron ore	469,879 tons	- 59,523
Tin ore	2,285	- 218
Pit props and pit wood	178,529 loads	- 300,812
Other wood and timber, hewn ..	47,446	- 69,608
Wood, sawn or split, planed or dressed	741,290	- 149,594
Furniture woods	30,972 tons	+ 1,323
Cotton seed	12,617	- 12,574
Linseed	180,972 qrs.	- 179,952
Nuts and kernels for expressing oil	25,550 tons	+ 19,263
Petroleum	41,942,831 gallons	- 5,956,117
Fish oils	4,779 tons	+ 432
Palm and palm kernel oil, unrefined	117,670 cwt.	- 59,338
Stearine	8,800	+ 1,398
Tallow, unrefined	8,234	- 112,240
Rosin	107,903	- 56,703
Hides, raw, wet	112,405	+ 25,920
.. .. dry	61,208	+ 19,738
Sheepskins, woolled	5,691,824 lb.	- 550,555
.. .. pickled	1,094,733	+ 379,213
Goatskins, undressed	1,166,617	+ 10,518
Wool pulp, chemical	51,100 tons	+ 14,474
.. .. mechanical	74,723	+ 12,092
Rubber	117,439	- 13,564
Ornamental feathers	72,451 lb.	- 118,774
Nitrate of soda	4,086 tons	- 13,948

* For further details, see notes on imports and exports appended to the articles on the state of employment in the several trades.

The most important decreases occurring were in petroleum, in pit props and pit wood, in other hewn wood and timber, in cottonseed and linseed, in unrefined tallow, in ornamental feathers, and in nitrate of soda. The greatest increase was in nuts and kernels for expressing oil; except for this there were no very large increases.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof showed a decline under every heading except pig iron and steel blooms and billets. The imports of sheet bars and tinplate bars especially declined. In the case of steel blooms and billets, the cessation of imports from Germany and Belgium was more than counteracted by the enormous increase in those from the United States, from which country we received nearly 37,000 tons in September, 1915, compared with only 600 tons two years ago. Imports of copper and lead increased largely, but the imports of tin showed a reduction. Those of quicksilver and crude zinc fell considerably in quantity, but increased largely in value owing to higher prices. Imports of cutlery and hardware decreased both in quantity and value. The value of electrical goods imported showed a decline, which was most noticeable in the case of rubber-insulated wires and cables and telegraph and telephone apparatus. Machinery showed a considerable increase, largely owing to greater imports of road locomotives and machine tools. Imports of cotton manufactures fell in value by about 24 per cent., and those of woollen manufactures by about 80 per cent. Those of jute manufactures more than doubled in value, but those of linen yarn almost disappeared. Imports of silk manufactures showed little change. Imports of clothing, boots and shoes, and hats all showed substantial reductions. Of other goods, the most important increases were in dye stuffs and tanning substances, in undressed and dressed leather, and in motor cars. Imports of earthenware and glass, of painters' colours, and of printed paper showed large reductions.

EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN SEPTEMBER.

[N.B.—Goods bought in the United Kingdom by, or on behalf of, the Governments of the Allies are included in the exports, but not goods taken from British Government Stores and Depots, or goods bought by H.M. Government and shipped on Government vessels.]

The total value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures in September, 1915, was £32,308,000, as compared with £32,439,000 in August, £26,674,000 in September, 1914, and £42,425,000 in September, 1913. The total for September, 1915, was less than that in each of the four previous months, but was greater than that in any other month of the war period. Practically every heading, however, showed a decrease as compared with September, 1913.

FOOD, DRINK, AND TOBACCO.

This group showed some increase on August, and a considerable increase on September, 1914, but a decline of nearly 50 per cent. on September, 1913, chiefly owing to the fall in exports of fish. The quantity of fresh fish exported in September, 1913, was 153,000 cwt., valued at £113,000, but in September, 1915, the figures had fallen to 12,446 cwt., and to £30,000. The quantity of herrings fell from 1,249,000 cwt. to 55,000 cwt., and the value from £790,000 to £51,000.

RAW MATERIALS.

The total value of the exports under this heading was £4,722,000, an increase on the previous month, but a decrease of £1,045,117 on September, 1913. By far the most important heading in the group is coal, coke, and manufactured fuel, and exports under this heading showed some increase as compared with the previous month, but a very large reduction on September, 1913. Hides and undressed skins declined by about £55,000, and oil seeds, nuts, oils, &c. by nearly £25,000. Certain of the less important textile materials showed a slight increase, but under all the other main headings there were decreases.

MANUFACTURED ARTICLES.

The total value of the exports under this heading in September, 1915, was £24,004,000, compared with £24,742,000 in August, 1915; £20,662,000 in September, 1914, and £32,430,000 in September, 1913. Compared with September, 1913, the principal declines in value appeared under the following headings:—Cotton fabrics, £2,401,000; machinery, £1,436,000; iron and steel and manufactures thereof, £884,000; new ships, £736,000; apparel, £544,000; and railway carriages, trucks, motor cars, cycles, &c., £488,000.

Textiles.*—As compared with August, cotton fabrics showed little change, but exports of woollen fabrics decreased considerably. In both cases, especially in that of cotton fabrics, there were large decreases as compared with September, 1913. Other materials showed some decline.

Other Articles.—Every heading shows a decline, except steel bars, etc., other plates and sheets, unwrought tin, soap, and soda compounds and "other chemicals." In the first two cases the increase was due to greater exports to France. The largest percentage decreases were in pig iron, rails, galvanised sheets, tinplates, copper, brass, and manufactures thereof, boots and shoes and clothing, leather, machinery, railway carriages, trucks, etc., and motor-cars, cycles, and motor-cycles. The particulars are given in the following Table:—

* See note to previous column.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Article.	Exports in September, 1915.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on September, 1913.
Pig iron tons	53,068	- 53,457
Steel bars, angles, sections, &c. .. "	35,853	+ 18,846
Rails "	15,976	- 10,616
Galvanised sheets "	20,351	- 43,213
Thin plates "	20,002	- 16,570
Other plates and sheets "	28,735	+ 6,496
Tubes and pipes and fittings, wrought or cast "	20,710	- 8,136
Wire and manufactures thereof "	3,764	- 5,714
Other manufactures of iron and steel "	49,404	- 28,087
TOTAL iron and steel and manufactures thereof	245,853	- 140,451
Copper, brass, and manufactures thereof	2,573	- 2,655
Lead, pig and manufactures	3,958	+ 534
Tin, unwrought	985	+ 258
Boots and shoes (leather) doz. pairs	78,962	- 55,623
Hats and bonnets doz.	75,028	- 34,172
Leather cwts.	12,970	- 8,412
Paper "	288,635	- 1,791
Oilcloth sq. yards	2,402,500	- 1,431,800
Earthenware and china cwts.	186,377	- 126,010
Soap "	28,649	+ 16,728
Machinery tons	1,611,450	- 33,022
Painters' colours and materials cwts.	150,638	- 42,863
Soda compounds "	673,209	+ 35,663
Sulphate of ammonia tons	21,943	- 6,168
Other chemicals, drugs, dyes, &c. (value) £	1,018,555	+ 177,621
Cutlery, hardware, implements and tools, scientific instruments and apparatus (except electrical) £	416,835	- 212,540
Electrical goods and apparatus £	262,088	- 25,216
Other metals and manufactures thereof £	262,156	- 79,530
Leather manufactures (except boots and shoes) £	136,548	- 59,428
Apparel, waterproofed and not waterproofed £	572,720	- 285,301
Railway carriages, trucks, &c. £	69,466	- 232,879
Motor cars, cycles, motor cycles and parts thereof £	327,081	- 245,671
Books, printed £	186,631	- 82,138
Stationery, other than paper £	132,483	- 58,641

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (BRITISH AND IRISH) IN JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1915.

The imports during the nine months January-September, 1915, were valued at £643,888,000, as compared with £522,474,000 in the corresponding period of 1914, and with £557,767,000 in 1913. As compared with the 1913 period there was an increase in value of £74,530,000 in the food, drink and tobacco group, of which £20,061,000 was under the head of grain and flour and £25,371,000 under meat (including animals for food). In the raw materials group there was an increase of £21,316,000, chiefly accounted for by the increased total values of imported cotton and wool; the value of timber imported declined by £2,847,000. Manufactured articles declined in total value by nearly £10,000,000. Metal manufactures (other than iron and steel), chemicals, drugs, etc., and leather manufactures increased, but there were marked decreases under iron and steel, cotton and woollen goods, and apparel.

The exports (British and Irish) during the first nine months of 1915 were valued at £283,092,000, a decrease of £67,657,000 as compared with the corresponding period of 1914, and of £107,664,000 as compared with that of 1913. Compared with September, 1913, there was a decrease of £3,686,000 in the food, drink and tobacco group. In the raw materials group coal, coke and manufactured fuel declined over £10,500,000, wool by over £1,000,000, but oil seeds, nuts, etc., increased by £987,000. In the manufactured articles group the total decrease amounted to £93,425,000, the most marked decreases in the headings comprising this group occurring under cotton goods, machinery, metals and metal manufactures and new ships.

EXPORTS (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL).

SEPTEMBER, 1915.—The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted, during September, 1915, to £7,564,000, a slight improvement on August and an increase of £2,290,000 on a year ago and of £711,000 on two years ago. As compared with August, the food, drink and tobacco group showed some decline; re-exports of meat and tobacco, however, increased. There were increases in both the other two groups. Compared with a year ago, the main increases occurred in raw cotton and wool, oil seeds, hides and undressed skins and chemicals, drugs, dyes and colours. Compared with September, 1913, the food, drink and tobacco group showed an increase of £260,000, and in the raw materials group there was a considerable increase, accounted for mostly by larger re-exports of cotton, wool, and oil seeds; the manufactured articles group showed a decrease, largely owing to a fall in metals and metal manufactures; the chemical, drug, etc., group showed a marked increase.

JANUARY-SEPTEMBER, 1915.—During the nine months ended September, 1915, the re-exports amounted in value to £75,620,000, being £1,176,000 less than in the corresponding months of 1914, and £6,751,900 less than in 1913. Compared with both periods in the food, drink and tobacco group showed a large increase. In the raw materials group, wool showed a decrease of over £8,500,000 on 1914, and of £4,900,000 on 1913. In the manufactured articles group, compared with 1914, there were many large decreases, but chemicals, drugs, etc., increased by over £1,000,000; compared with 1913, there were large decreases in

metals and manufactures thereof, cutlery, cotton and woollen fabrics, clothing and leather manufactures, but chemicals, drugs, &c., increased by over £960,000.

PASSENGER MOVEMENT TO AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM IN AUGUST.

IN August, 1915, the total number of passengers who landed in the United Kingdom from other countries was 55,005, and the number who embarked for other countries was 47,085; these numbers compare with 144,900 and 111,343 respectively in August, 1914. In the eight months ending August the passengers inward numbered 420,634 and the passengers outward 389,983, the inward being 659,154 and the outward 640,248 less than in the corresponding period of 1914.

The number of outward passengers to non-European countries in August was 8,664 in 1915 and 56,679 in 1914, these numbers including 7,190 and 30,852 British subjects respectively; the inward passengers from non-European countries in August numbered 15,647 in 1915 and 28,870 in 1914, of whom 14,333 and 18,806 respectively were British subjects. The numbers in the eight months ending August were 82,863 outward, including 68,005 British, and 103,548 inward, including 89,822 British; the number of British subjects being less by 143,648 and 79,300 respectively than in the first eight months of 1914.

The total of passengers of British nationality in August includes 5,393 passengers outward who were recorded as leaving permanent residence in the United Kingdom and intending to reside permanently in non-European countries; while 10,316 of the inward British passengers were recorded as having been resident in such countries, and intending to reside within the United Kingdom. The British passengers who were so recorded as changing their country of permanent residence during the eight months ending August numbered 50,398 outward and 62,448 inward, showing a decrease of 110,141 and 5,292 respectively on the corresponding figures for 1914. The distribution of the migratory movement of British subjects during August and the eight months ending August is shown below so far as the principal countries are concerned.

Migrants of British Nationality.*	August,		Eight months ending August,	
	1914.	1915.	1914.	1915.
EMIGRANTS TO—				
British North America	7,276	1,591	67,750	12,604
Australia	2,265	104	24,786	6,614
New Zealand	692	294	5,091	1,855
British South Africa	802	469	5,902	3,474
India (including Ceylon)	346	253	2,746	2,517
Other British Colonies and Possessions	368	235	3,446	2,601
TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE	11,749	2,946	108,721	29,665
United States	7,124	2,219	46,700	18,628
Other Foreign Countries	402	228	4,118	2,105
TOTAL EMIGRANTS	19,275	5,393	160,539	50,398
IMMIGRANTS FROM—				
British North America	3,399	5,988	16,342	25,092
Australia	1,230	317	11,586	6,251
New Zealand	221	187	2,492	1,164
British South Africa	865	858	8,720	5,230
India (including Ceylon)	563	200	5,550	4,472
Other British Colonies and Possessions	415	652	3,276	4,022
TOTAL, BRITISH EMPIRE	6,693	8,202	47,975	46,221
United States	1,608	1,579	13,964	10,649
Other Foreign Countries	693	556	5,801	5,568
TOTAL IMMIGRANTS	8,994	10,316	67,740	62,448
EXCESS OF EMIGRANTS	10,281	4,923†	92,799	12,050†

* Exclusive of persons travelling *via* Continental Ports.
† Excess of Immigrants.

If the figures for the eight months ended August, 1913, 1914, and 1915, respectively, be examined, it will be found that the large decrease in emigration in the early part of 1914, compared with a year earlier, was accentuated in 1915 as a result of the European war. In the period January-August, 1913, the total number of such emigrants of British nationality was 295,001 (of whom 160,982 went to British North America and 50,305 to Australia and New Zealand); the corresponding total for 1914 was 160,539 (of whom 67,750 went to British North America and 29,877 to Australia and New Zealand); and in 1915 the total had fallen to 50,398 (a decrease of 244,603 on 1913), and only 12,604 went to British North America and 8,469 to Australia and New Zealand. The number of immigrants in the period January-August, 1915, was 62,448, compared with 67,740 and 55,613 respectively in the corresponding months of 1914 and 1913. The number coming from British North America rose from 12,398 in 1913, to 16,342 in 1914, and to 25,092 in 1915. The net effect of the change in the direction of the migratory movement was that, while in January-August, 1913, there was an excess of 239,388 emigrants over immigrants, in 1914 this excess was reduced to 92,799, and in 1915 the immigrants exceeded the emigrants by 12,050.

OFFICIAL NOTICES, &c.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACTS, 1911 to 1915.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

APPLICATIONS TO THE UMPIRE.

In pursuance of Regulations made by the Board of Trade and dated 26th day of March, 1912, Notice is hereby given that the Umpire (Unemployment Insurance) has received applications for decisions as to whether contributions are payable or not in respect of the following classes of workmen:—

348. Workmen engaged in fitting, cutting and erecting girders and steel netting on buildings for protection against bombs.

TRADE BOARDS ACT, 1909.

TIN BOX AND CANISTER TRADE.

GREAT BRITAIN.

MINIMUM RATES OF WAGES.*

The Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain) have resolved to fix minimum rates of wages for male and female workers.

The minimum rates fixed for male workers are 26s. per week of 52 hours for workers of 21 years of age and upwards, and special rates for younger workers (subject to conditions prescribed by the Trade Board), ranging from 6s. per week for workers under 15 years of age to 22s. 6d. per week for workers of 20 and under 21 years of age.

As regards male workers over 21 years of age who have had no previous experience in the trade, the minimum rate fixed is 22s. 6d. per week for a period of twelve months.

The minimum rates fixed for female workers are 14s. 1d. per week of 52 hours for workers of 18 years of age and upwards, and special rates for younger workers (subject to conditions prescribed by the Trade Board), ranging from 6s. per week for workers under 15 years of age to 12s. per week for workers of 17 and under 18 years of age.

As regards female workers over 18 years of age who have had no previous experience in the trade, the minimum rate fixed is 12s. per week for a period of twelve months.

The minimum rates will come into limited operation on 29th November, 1915.

Further particulars may be obtained by persons affected from the Secretary of the Tin Box Trade Board (Great Britain), Old Serjeants' Inn Chambers, 5, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

INSTRUCTION IN COOKERY (SCOTLAND).

The following special regulations have been approved by the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland as a temporary provision for grants in aid of instruction for housewives in economical cookery:—

Where the Managers desire to provide instruction for housewives in the preparation of nourishing and economical meals with special regard to the abnormal conditions arising out of the war and are unable to secure regular attendance at progressive Courses occupying 10 hours or more and satisfying the full conditions of the Continuation Class Code, the provision of such instruction by means of public lectures and demonstrations may be aided by the Department in accordance with the provisions of Articles 92 to 94.

The instruction, which should throughout be as practical as possible, may deal with all or any of the following topics, and such other topics concerned with the economical provision of food in war-time as circumstances may suggest:—

- The principal kinds of nourishing foods which may be employed to supplement the use of meat and fish.
- The kinds of food specially suitable for children.
- The employment of economical methods in the purchase, preparation and cooking of meat, fish and other nourishing foods.
- The use of simple cooking equipment, apparatus and utensils, with special regard to economy in the use of fuel.

COAL MINES ACT, 1911.

EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATES AS MANAGER AND UNDER-MANAGER, AND FOR CERTIFICATES OF QUALIFICATION AS SURVEYOR OF MINES.

An Examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-Manager of Mines will be held on the 23rd November, 1915, at Edinburgh, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Sheffield, Wigan, Cardiff, and Birmingham.

An Examination for Certificates of Qualification as Surveyor of Mines will be held at the same places on the 24th November. Candidates must send their names and state the district in which they are employed to the Secretary at the Home Office, Whitehall, London, S.W., from whom all particulars can be obtained.

W. W. WARE,

Secretary to the Board for Mining Examinations.

* See LABOUR GAZETTE for April, 1915, page 153, and July, 1915, page 271.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEONS.

SEPTEMBER, 1915.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination.*
Ashton-under-Lyne (Lancs.)	W. H. Hughes, Latchford House, Ashton-under-Lyne	Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m.
Ballyearad (Co. Cork)	T. Kennedy, Tracton, Carrigaline, Co. Cork	Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m.
Bankfoot (Perth)	T. E. S. Sibbald, Stanley, Perthshire	Surgery, Dunkeld Road, Bankfoot, Weekdays, 11 a.m.
Edenbridge (Kent)	C. W. H. Newington, The Croft, Edenbridge	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Gamlingay (Beds & Cambs)	W. F. Buckle, Gamlingay	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Letterkenny (Co. Donegal)	D. F. Murnaghan, Main Street, Letterkenny	Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
Market Bosworth (Leicester)	T. N. Wilson, The Manor, Ibstock, Leicester	(1) Residence, weekdays, 9-10 a.m.; (2) Nailstone Colliery, Wednesday, 11.30 a.m.
Milford Haven (Pembroke)	H. O. Williams, Milford House, Milford Haven	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Roths (Elgin)	J. W. Logie, Ashville, Roths	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Tring (Herts)	C. E. O'Keefe, 23, High Street, Tring	Weekdays, 9.30-10.30 a.m.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated, the place of examination is at the residence of the Certifying Surgeon.
* Of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING SEPTEMBER.

[All the United Kingdom Official Publications, including Consular Reports, may be purchased either directly or through any bookseller from Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, London, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; H.M. Stationery Office (Scottish Branch), 28, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. Pensonby, Ltd., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Colonial and Foreign Agencies of T. Fisher Unwin, London, W.C.]

UNITED KINGDOM.

Mines and Quarries, 1914. District Reports. Scotland Division (No. 1). [Cd. 8023: price 8½d.] South Wales Division (No. 5). [Cd. 8023-iv.: price 8d.] Lancashire, North Wales and Ireland Division (No. 4). [Cd. 8023-iii.: price 8d.] Midland and Southern Division (No. 6). [Cd. 8023-v.: price 9d.] Northern Division (No. 2). [Cd. 8023-i.: price 9½d.]

Output of Coal in the United Kingdom. Return showing the estimated quantities of coal raised in the United Kingdom in the quarters ended 31st March and 30th June, 1915, with particulars for corresponding periods of 1915. Board of Trade. [H. C. 327: price ½d.]

List of Coal Merchants in the London District who have accepted an Arrangement for a Limitation of Profits. Board of Trade. [Cd. 8070: price 1d.]

Railway Accidents. General Report of the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during 1914. [Cd. 8059: price 2½d.]

Railway Accidents. Summary of Accidents and Casualties during the Three Months ended 31st March, 1915, together with reports upon certain accidents which were inquired into. Board of Trade. [Cd. 8031: price 1s. 2d.]

Departmental Committee (Home Office) on Lighting in Factories and Workshops. First Report. Vol. 1. Report and Appendices. [Cd. 8000: price 11d.] Vol. 2. Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 8001: price 1s. 7d.]

Interim Report on an Investigation of Industrial Fatigue by Physiological Methods. By A. F. Stanley Kent, to Home Office. [Cd. 8056: price 4½d.]

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1913: Part C. Trade Unions. [H. C. 121-iii.: price 1s. 2d.]

Twentieth Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland, 1914. [Cd. 8041: price 2s. 3d.]

Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Ireland. Year ended 31st March, 1915. [Cd. 8016: price 2s.]

Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Board of Superintendence of the Dublin Hospitals, 1914-1915. [Cd. 8030: price 3d.]

Labourers (Ireland). Return showing the number of cottages and allotments provided, rents, advances made, &c., under the Irish Land and Labourers (Ireland) Acts. [H. C. 280: price 2½d.]

Agricultural Statistics Ireland, 1914. Report and Tables relating to Irish Agricultural Labourers. [Cd. 8036: price 2½d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1915. General Abstracts showing the Acreage under Crops and the Numbers and Descriptions of Live Stock in each County and Province, 1914-15. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 8049: price 2d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.
INDIA.—Prices and Wages in India. 31st Issue. 1913. [Price 3s.] Agricultural Statistics of India, 1912-13. Vol. II. Area, Area under Crops, Live Stock, &c. [Price 1s. 6d.] Statistical Abstract for British India. Vol. I. Commercial Statistics. 7th Issue, 1915. Industrial census, mining and textile industries, &c. [Price 2s. 3d.] Department of Statistics of India, [Calcutta: Superintendent, Government Printing.]

CANADA.—*The Labour Gazette*, August, 1915. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, changes in wages and hours in second quarter of 1915, trade disputes, industrial accidents, war prices in Canada, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Census and Statistics Monthly*, July, 1915. Field crops of Canada, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Ontario Commission on Unemployment*. Interim Report, July 20th, 1915. [Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics*, June, 1915. Trade unions, industrial disputes, changes in wages, unemployment, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Gazette*, June, 1915. Dislocations in industries, arbitration proceedings, employment and unemployment, &c. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: price 1s.]

VICTORIA.—*Wages Board Determinations. Agricultural Implements*. Dated 16th July, 1915, cancelling that of 1st September, 1913. *Engineering*. Dated 23rd July, 1915, cancelling that of 18th June, 1915. *Mining Engine-drivers*. Dated 2nd July, 1915, cancelling that of 2nd May, 1913. *Fuel and Fodder*. Dated 30th June, 1915, cancelling that of 22nd April, 1913. *Gas Meter*. Dated 12th July, 1915, cancelling that of 29th January, 1914. *Animal Manure Board*. Dated 12th August, 1915. *Quarry Board*. Dated 4th August, 1915, cancelling that of 30th March, 1914. *Timber-fellers*. Dated 7th August, 1915, cancelling that of 17th March, 1914.

QUEENSLAND.—*Awards under the Industrial Peace Act. Flour Millers*. Dated 25th June, 1915, cancelling that of 14th April, 1914. *Painters and Decorators, Central Division*. Dated 17th May, 1915. *Coal Mining Industry, South-Eastern and Northern Divisions*. Dated 2nd July, 1915, cancelling that of 27th May, 1912. *Engine Drivers, Firemen, Greasers, and Assistant Firemen's Industry Board, Central Division*. Dated 6th July, 1915, cancelling that of 7th July, 1911.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—*Prices Regulation Commission. 2nd-7th Reports*, 1915. *Second and Final Report of the Royal Commission on the Metropolitan Abattoirs, the Meat Supply, and the Scarcity of Stock*. 1915. [Adelaide: R. E. E. Rogers, Government Printer.]

NEW ZEALAND.—*Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. XVI. Parts 1, 2 and 3*. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

—*Journal of the Department of Labour, July*, 1915. Condition of trade and employment at 30th June, 1915, current retail prices, retail prices in New Zealand, 1891-1914, persons assisted to employment, accidents, &c. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—*Annuaire International de Législation Agricole. Quatrième Année*, 1914. Texts of laws and decrees relating to agriculture; sections on co-operation, insurance, agricultural credit, and protection of workpeople. [Price 8s.]

—*Monthly Bulletin of Economic and Social Intelligence August*, 1915. Progress of co-operation in India in 1913-14, co-operative credit societies in Russia. *Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics. September*, 1915.

—*Statistical Notes on the Production, Imports and Exports, Prices and Maritime Freights of Cereals, 18th September*, 1915. Supplement to *Bulletin of Agricultural and Commercial Statistics, September*, 1915. [Price 2½d.] International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

UNITED STATES.—*Bureau of the Census. (1) Cotton Production, 1914. (2) Telephones and Telegraphs and Municipal Electric Fire-alarm and Police-patrol Signalling Systems, 1912. (3) Central Electric Light and Power Stations and Street and Electric Railways*. With summary of the Electrical Industries. 1912. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics. August*, 1915. Minimum Wage Legislation in 1915, Immigration in 1915, &c. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*Department of Labour Bulletins. No. 176, July*, 1915. Effect of Minimum-wage Determinations in Oregon. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

—*New York. Department of Labour Bulletin. No. 73, August*, 1915. Idleness of Organised Wage Earners in the first half of 1915. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., Printers.]

—*Massachusetts. Thirtieth Quarterly Report on Unemployment in Massachusetts*. Quarter ending 30th June, 1915. Bureau of Statistics.

GERMANY.—*Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, August*, 1915. Employment in July; Order of Imperial Federal Council as to acquisition of food stuffs and other articles and fixing of prices. Imperial Statistical Office, Department of Labour Statistics. [Berlin: C. Heymann: price 1d.]

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—*Soziale Rundschau, June-July*, 1915. Labour exchanges in March and April, unemployment in trade unions, February-May; Order prohibiting sale of 1915 harvest. Ministry of Commerce, Department of Labour Statistics. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 4d.]

ITALY.—*Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro (Monthly series), April*, 1915. Retail food prices at co-operative stores in March. [Price 3d.] (*Fortnightly series*), 16th August, 1915. *Do.*, 1st September, 1915. Labour disputes in July, emigration statistics for 1914. *Do.*, 16th September, 1915. Retail food prices in June. [Price 3d. each part.] *Provvedimenti di Carattere sociale emanati all'Estero durante la Guerra Europea fino al 30 aprile*, 1915. (*Supplemento al Bollettino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro*.) Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Price 5d.] [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]

—*Statistica degli Scioperi avvenuti in Italia negli anni 1908 e 1909*. Department of Labour Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. 1915. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 2s. 5d.]

—*Dati Statistici sui Rimpatriati per Causa di Guerra e sulla Disoccupazione (con un Cartogramma e un Grafico)*. Department of Labour Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome, 1915.]

—*Annali del Credito e della Previdenza. Infortuni sul Lavoro. Giurisprudenza Giudiziarie nell'Anno 1911*. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome, 1915: price 3s. 2d.]

—*Bollettino dell'Ispettorato dell'Industria e del Lavoro, May-June*, 1915. Department of Labour, Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

HOLLAND.—*Verslag over het Jaar 1914, uitgebracht aan den Minister van Waterstaat door den Raad van Toezicht op de Spoorwegdiensten*. Ministry of Waterways. [The Hague: Gebroeders van Cleef.]

—*Verslag van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek over het Jaar 1914*. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague.]

—*Verslag van de Centrale Commissie voor de Statistiek over het Jaar 1914*. Central Statistical Commission. [The Hague.]

—*Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, 31st August*. Employment, labour disputes, wholesale and retail prices in July. Central Statistical Bureau. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

—*Maatschappij van Weldadigheid. Jaarverslag over 1914 en Verslag van het Verhandelde in de Algemeene Vergadering van Afgevaardigden, Gehouden te Amsterdam, 15th June*, 1915. [Steenwijk.]

DENMARK.—*Statistiske Efterretninger, 28th August*, 1915. Labour disputes in 1914, retail prices in August, unemployment in June. *Do.*, 15th September. Statistical Department. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag.]

—*Social Forsorg, August*, 1915. Work of public labour exchanges in July. *Do., Do., September*, 1915. Unemployment in July. Danish Workman's Insurance and the Unemployment Inspector's Department. [Hellerup: V. L. Faber.]

—*Beretninger fra Arbejderforsikrings-Raadet. (1) Søjfartsafdeling, 1913 and 1914. (2) Industriafdeling, 1913 and 1914. (3) Landbrugsafdeling, 1913 and 1914. (4) Fiskeriafdeling, 1913 and 1914*. [Copenhagen, 1914 and 1915.]

—*Indberetning fra Direktøren for Arbejdssanvisningen for Finansaaret 1914-15*. [Copenhagen. J. H. Schultz, A/S.]

—*Forslag til Lov om Forsikring mod Følger af Ulykkestilfælde*. Workmen's Insurance Council, 1915. [Copenhagen.]

SWEDEN.—*Sociala Meddelanden, No 8*, 1915. Unemployment in April, May and June, labour disputes in 1915, retail food prices in July. Department for Social Affairs. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

—*Postsparbanken ar 1914*. Post Office Savings Bank Department. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

SPAIN.—*Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales, August*, 1915. Labour disputes in July; retail prices of food in the period October, 1914, to March, 1915. Bill for prohibition of night work in bakeries. Spanish Labour Department. [Madrid: D. V. Suárez: price 2½d.]

RUSSIA (FINLAND).—*Arbetsstatistisk Tidskrift, No. 4*, 1915. Workpeople's benefit societies in 1913, labour exchanges in first quarter of 1915, retail food prices in June. Department of Industry. [Helsingfors: Kejsarliga Senatens Tryckeri: price 3d.]

BULGARIA.—*Annuaire Statistique du Royaume de Bulgarie, 1912*. Savings banks, co-operative societies, trade unions, prices and wages, 1887-1912. General Statistical Department, 1915. [Sofia: Imprimerie de l'Etat.]

—*Bulletin Mensuel de la Direction Générale de la Statistique du Royaume de Bulgarie, August-September*, 1915. Prices of food, &c., in certain large towns, January to June, 1915. General Statistical Department. [Sofia: B. N. Banka: price 2½d.]

CONSULAR REPORTS.

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