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[PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

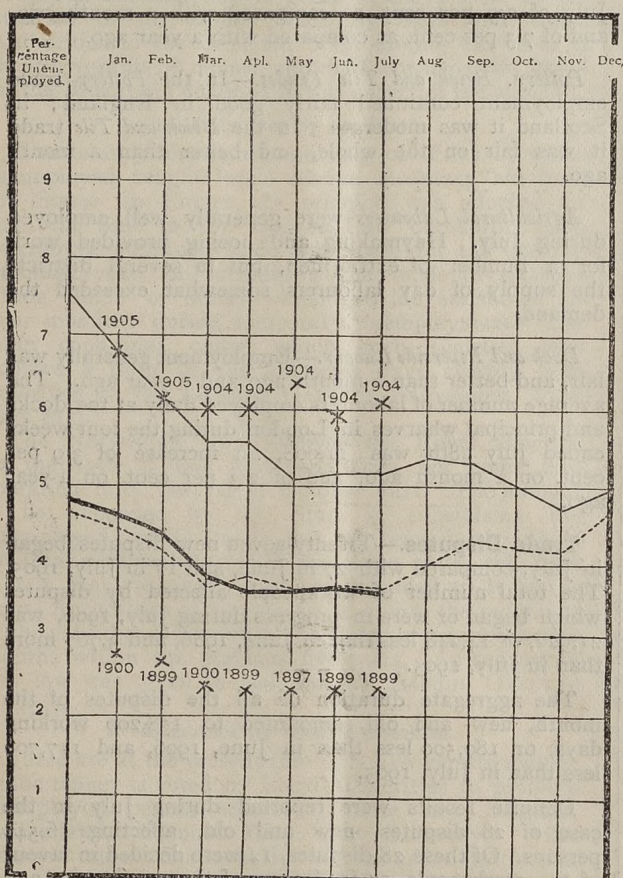


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve=1906. — Thin Curve=1905.
- - - Dotted Curve=Mean of 1896-1905.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JULY.

[Based on 7,894 returns, viz.: 3,743 from Employers and their Associations; 3,664 from Trade Unions; 393 from Local Correspondents; and 94 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in July was, on the whole, much about the same as in June. There was some improvement in the shipbuilding trade, and some further decline in the boot and shoe and woollen and worsted industries.

As compared with a year ago nearly all the principal industries showed an improvement.

In the 272 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 595,637, making Returns, 21,464 (or 3·6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of July, as

compared with 3·7 per cent. at the end of June, and 5·2 per cent. at the end of July, 1905.

Building Trades.—Employment continued dull, but on the whole it was slightly better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago it showed little change.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued fairly good. It showed a slight further decline compared with the previous month, but was better than a year ago in nearly every district.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good and, on the whole, about the same as a month and a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during July continued good, and showed no change as compared with June. It was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing about 24,300 workpeople showed that 338 furnaces were in blast at the end of July, 1906, the same number as at the end of June, 1906, but an increase of 17 as compared with July, 1905.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works was not quite so good in July as in June, but was considerably better than a year ago. The volume of employment at 204 works from which Returns were received was 1·4 per cent. less in the week ended July 21st, 1906, than in the week ended June 23rd, 1906, but 5·7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate and Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during July showed an improvement as compared with June, but was worse than a year ago. According to Returns received, 402 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of July, 1906, as compared with 391 in the previous month, and 421 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 402 mills at work was about 20,000.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally continued good. It showed little change compared with a month ago, but was much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of July was 2·5 per cent. as compared with 2·4 in June, and 4·7 in July, 1905.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued good in the principal shipbuilding centres. It was better on the whole than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 5·7, as compared with 6·4 at the end of June, and 11·7 at the end of July, 1905.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 135,325 workpeople on the last pay day in July showed a decrease of 0·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment remained good in this industry. It showed a decline compared with a month ago and little change compared with a year ago. Returns

from firms employing 23,320 workpeople in the last week of July showed a decrease of 3·2 per cent. in the wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0·4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continued good generally. It again showed a decline compared with the previous month but was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,296 workpeople in the last week of July showed a decrease of 2·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3·7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment in this industry continued fairly good, but showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month. It was, however, much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,153 workpeople on the last pay-day in July showed a decrease of 1·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 5·8 per cent. as compared with July, 1905.

Jute Trade.—Employment in this trade continued good, and much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,379 workpeople on the last pay-day in July showed an increase of 1·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with June, and an increase of 9·6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment in this trade again showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month, but remained better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,160 workpeople showed a decrease of 0·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with June, but an increase of 3·9 per cent. as compared with July, 1905.

Lace Trade.—Employment in this trade continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 6,999 workpeople on the last pay-day in July, showed increases in the amount of wages paid of 1·3 per cent. as compared with June, and of 19·0 per cent. as compared with last year.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on the whole continued good. It was better than a year ago. Firms employing 13,672 workpeople in the last week of July showed an increase of 0·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal decline in London, and was not so good as a year ago; in the provinces it was moderate. In the *ready-made* branch there was a further decline, but employment was better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during July in the *Silk Hat* branch was slack; in the *Felt Hat* branch quiet, and in some places better than a month ago; in both branches it was somewhat worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of July in the *Silk Hat* trade was 13·6 compared with 11·8 at the end of June, and 13·1 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 3·0, 3·5 and 2·7.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade showed a further decline as compared with June; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,179 workpeople in the last week of July showed a decrease in the amount of wages paid of 4·6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2·1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment during July continued fairly good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Trade Unions, with a membership of 4,520, had 5·2 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, compared with 5·0 per cent. in June, and 6·3 per cent. a year ago.

Paper-making Trades.—Employment remained good in these trades, and was much the same as a month ago and a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was fairly good with letterpress printers, and quiet with lithographic printers and bookbinders. It was better than a year ago in all branches. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 3·5, as compared with 4·1 in June, and 4·5 in July, 1905. In the bookbinding trades the percentages were 5·4 for July, 5·7 for June, and 7·7 for July, 1905.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment was quiet in the furnishing trades, and fairly good in the woodworking trades. It was slightly worse than a month ago, but was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 4·4, as compared with 4·1 at the end of June, and 5·0 a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued moderate, but was better than a month and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,381 workpeople showed an increase in the wages paid on the last pay-day in July of 2·9 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 7·3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery, Brick and Tile Trades.—In the Pottery trade employment continued fairly good in England; in Scotland it was moderate. In the Brick and Tile trade it was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago.

Agricultural Labourers were generally well employed during July. Haymaking and hoeing provided work for a number of extra men, but in several districts the supply of day labourers somewhat exceeded the demand.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment generally was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended July 28th was 11,908, an increase of 3·9 per cent. on a month ago, and of 2·3 per cent. on a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-seven new disputes began in July, compared with 27 in June, and 17 in July, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during July, 1906, was 21,922, or 14,248 less than in June, 1906, and 3,767 more than in July, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 158,200 working days, or 180,500 less than in June, 1906, and 117,700 less than in July, 1905.

Definite results were reported during July in the case of 28 disputes, new and old, affecting 16,542 persons. Of these 28 disputes, 12 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 11 in favour of the employers, and 5 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The principal change in rates of wages reported in July was an increase affecting 38,000 coal miners in Northumberland. The total number of workpeople affected by all changes reported was 79,000, and the net effect was an increase of about £2,910 per week, 77,000 workpeople having received advances amounting to £2,980, and 2,000 having sustained decreases amounting to £70. The changes of the previous month affected 62,150 workpeople, the net result being an increase of about £2,350 per week. During July, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was over 183,300, and the net result an increase of nearly £4,600 per week.

Two changes, affecting nearly 39,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and 13 changes, affecting over 17,000 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting about 23,000 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

ASSISTANCE OF UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT FUNDS OUT OF PUBLIC MONEY.

ON November 20th, 1902, the German Imperial Statistical Office was instructed by the German Home Department to "ascertain what schemes have hitherto been adopted for insuring against the consequences of unemployment, and with what results." The Report of the Inquiry undertaken in compliance with this instruction has now been issued by the Imperial Statistical Office in three volumes of 1,450 folio pages.* The first of these occupies 691 pages, and deals with the main subject of the Inquiry, namely, schemes for insuring against the consequences of unemployment. The second volume (of 291 pages) deals with public and other labour registries not carried on for profit, while the third volume is in the nature of an appendix to the first, and contains the statistical matter together with the text of the laws, local ordinances and rules bearing on the various kinds of schemes for providing unemployed benefit discussed in that volume.

Special consideration is given in the Report to the question of the action taken by State and Local Authorities in the direction of promoting this form of thrift by grants of money, and the following notes based on the Report are confined to this aspect of the subject.

1.—Assistance by the State.

France and Norway are the only countries in which unemployed benefit funds receive monetary aid from the State. In France the principle was adopted for the first time in the Budget Law of April, 1905, whereby a sum of £4,000 was voted for the ensuing financial year for subsidising the funds of societies (trade union or other) which provide assistance for their members during temporary unemployment. The main conditions under which such societies may acquire a right to the subsidies have already been described in the LABOUR GAZETTE (November, 1905, page 325).

The Norwegian Law received the Royal sanction on the 12th of last July, and does not come into operation until the 1st of October next. The amount to be expended by the State in subsidising the unemployed benefit funds has not been fixed, and of the total expense incurred by the State under this head in any year two-thirds must be refunded to it by the Local Authorities of the places in which the recipients of the subsidies last resided for a period of six consecutive months within the previous five years. An account of this law was given in last month's LABOUR GAZETTE (p. 195).

2.—Assistance by Local Authorities.

There are at the present time only five countries where public money is voted by Local Authorities to promote unemployed benefit schemes; these are Belgium, Switzerland, France, Italy, and Germany. After October 1st a sixth country will be added to the list, viz., Norway, under the terms of the new law already referred to.

As regards the application of this principle Belgium occupies by far the most prominent position.

The initiative was taken by the Provincial Council of Liège in 1897, when that body voted a sum of £60 in support of the unemployed benefit funds of Trade Unions, and this example has since been followed by the Provincial Councils of Antwerp, Hainaut and Namur. It is the municipalities, however, that have shown most energy in promoting unemployed benefit schemes based on the principle of self-help. The earliest action in this direction was taken by the Municipality of Ghent, in August, 1901, as the result of recommendations made by a Special Commission on Unemployment, which advised the formation of a municipal unemployment fund under conditions specified in a set of rules which they submitted for consideration. The system applied in Ghent has since been adopted with certain modifications by many other municipalities in Belgium, including those of

Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges, Liège, Malines, Louvain, Courtrai, Verviers, and Alost.

The main principles on which this system is based are as follows: The Municipality establishes and defrays the cost of administering a special fund to promote insurance against unemployment. The operations of this special fund consist either (a) in providing a supplement to sums paid to their members as unemployed benefit by Trade Unions and other organisations, or (b) in supplementing any provision made by individual thrift for the specific case of unemployment.

In the case of unemployed benefit paid by societies, the municipal supplement must never exceed the amount of such benefits. In calculating that amount for the purpose of determining the amount of the supplement, no account is taken of any benefits paid to any one member for a period exceeding 60 (formerly 50) days in one year, nor of any benefits at a higher rate than one franc (9·6d.) per day. Societies desiring that their members shall participate in the supplements provided by the fund are required to send in each month a return showing the number and amount of all payments on account of such benefits made by them, and to furnish each year their balance sheet, also their rules and regulations.

Special provision is made for enabling workpeople who do not happen to belong to any organisation to participate in the municipal subsidies. Such a person has only to "be the rightful owner of a pass-book showing an account with the National Savings and Pension Bank, and to submit to the measures of supervision provided for in the rules of the municipal fund." Sums withdrawn by such a person from the savings bank during unemployment are accorded a municipal supplement at the same rate as that given in respect of unemployed benefit.

The fund is administered by a committee, which has to be re-elected every three years, and which consists of members of the Town Council and representatives of the affiliated Trade Unions and other societies for paying unemployed benefit. The committee appoints an inspector, whose duty it is to verify the declarations as to unemployment made by affiliated unions or individuals, and who has a right to inspect all books and records relating to unemployed benefit kept by the unions.

With regard to the degree of success attained by the Ghent system, the Report of the Managing Committee of the fund points out that in 1898, before the Special Commission on Unemployment was formed, the total of all sums devoted by the Trade Unions of Ghent to insurance against want of employment was no more than £600 a year. In 1900, when the recommendations of the Commission were known, and the Trade Unions were preparing to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded them of having the results of the efforts made by their members themselves supplemented under the scheme, the amount devoted to unemployed benefit reached £1,000. In 1902, the first complete year during which the system of municipal supplements was in operation, the unemployed benefits paid by the Ghent Unions (irrespective of the supplements) amounted to £1,648, in 1903 they amounted to £1,411, and in 1904 to £1,544. Including the supplements the aggregate unemployed benefits paid by the Unions in these years amounted to £2,295, £2,171, and £2,487 respectively.

The Ghent system was introduced in Antwerp on September 1st, 1902.

In 1903, the first complete year of its operation in that city, the unemployed benefits paid by the Unions out of their own resources amounted to £762, and in 1904 to £1,118. By the addition of the municipal supplements these sums were brought up to £1,112 and £1,688 respectively.

The object which the promoters of what has come to be known as the "Ghent System" had in view was not so much to devise a new method of providing relief during unemployment for a large section of the working classes, as to stimulate the spirit of self-help in this direction. That the object in view has been attained, the compilers of the Report regard as being beyond

* Die Bestehenden Einrichtungen zur Versicherung gegen die Folgen der Arbeitslosigkeit im Ausland und im Deutschen Reich. Berlin. Julius Sittenfeld, 1906.

doubt, for not only in Ghent itself but all over Belgium, the number of Trade Unions organising unemployed relief is rapidly increasing. From information supplied on January 16th, 1906, to the Imperial Statistical Office, by M. Varlez, the President of the Ghent Municipal Unemployment Fund, this system of public subsidies to unemployed benefit funds was at that date being applied in one form or another in towns and parishes in Belgium with an aggregate population of 5,000,000.

As regards the arrangement for enabling persons who do not belong to any organisation to benefit by the municipal subsidies, it appears that scarcely any use has been made of this feature of the Ghent system. The arrangement has therefore come to be regarded as a failure, and has not been adopted by the other municipalities.

Switzerland furnishes two examples at the present time of the expenditure of public money by Local Authorities in aid of unemployed benefit funds. The one is the Berne Municipal Unemployed Insurance Fund, which has been in existence since April 1st, 1893, and the other is the Basle Trade Union Unemployed Insurance Fund established since April 1st, 1901.

The Berne fund is worked in close connection with the municipal labour registry, and is controlled by a sub-committee of the committee which manages that registry. The amount of the municipal contribution to this fund, originally fixed at £200, is now £480 per annum, and represents 64 per cent. of the total revenue of the fund for the year ended March 1st, 1905, the rest being made up by contributions from insured workpeople (25 per cent.), employers (6 per cent.) and donations, interest, etc.

The Basle unemployed benefit fund is a Trade Union institution established by the local Trades Council. The annual grant from the Cantonal Government, at first £40, now amounts to £80, a sum which exceeds by £6 the revenue accruing to the fund from the contributions of its insured members.

In this connection it may be added that Switzerland is the only country in which the experiment of compulsory unemployment insurance has as yet been tried. The experiment was made by the town of St. Gall, under a law passed by the Great Council of the Canton of St. Gall, giving power to Municipal and Communal Authorities to introduce a system of insurance against unemployment, which should be compulsory for all male wage-earning workpeople whose average daily earnings did not amount to more than 4s. The experiment, which lasted from July 1st, 1895, to June 30th, 1897 (during which period it was helped by grants of public money amounting to £1,300), was unsuccessful. The reasons for its failure have been described in a Report [Cd. 2304] issued by the Board of Trade in 1904.*

The principle of subsidising Trade Union and other unemployed benefit funds has been adopted by the Local Authorities of six towns in France—by Limoges since 1891, by Dijon since 1897, and by Rheims, Lyons, Tarbes, and Amiens since 1904.

The sums employed for this purpose by the town of Limoges in the years 1891-4 were quite insignificant—altogether £42; for 1896 a sum of £240 was voted, and during the six years 1897-1902 sums amounting in all to £1,780, or a little over £250 per annum on the average were provided. For 1903 £460 was voted, and this is the latest figure available. The participating Unions numbered 32, with 2,285 members in 1902, as against 19, with 1,432 members, six years previously.

The town of Dijon spent altogether £1,054 in subsidies of this sort in the years 1897-1902, *i.e.*, about £176 per annum on the average. The number of participating Unions in 1902 was 11, with 3,130 members, as against 13 Unions with 2,320 members in 1897. In the year 1900 the Town Council found "the extent to which Trade Unions were exerting themselves in order to obtain the subventions to be so slight" as to induce the Council to reduce the vote, which had originally been £400, to £250.

* Report to the Board of Trade on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed in certain Foreign Countries. [Cd. 2304] 1904, pp. 143-148.

The sums voted by the Municipalities of Rheims and Tarbes in 1904 towards subsidising unemployed benefit funds were £200 and £20 respectively, and that voted for a similar purpose by Amiens in 1905 was £200.

In Rheims and Amiens the municipal supplements are in proportion to the benefits actually paid out of the Union funds (the Ghent system); in Limoges, they are based on the number of members belonging to the fund; in Lyons, on the amount of the members' subscriptions, while in Dijon they represent a sum sufficient to meet any deficit, not exceeding the aggregate contributions of the members.

Neither in Italy nor in Germany do we find any instances of the expenditure of public money in subsidising the unemployed benefit funds of Trade Unions. Since 1901 a "Society for making Provision for Unemployed Workmen" has existed in Venice. The "Insurance Fund," organised by this society, receives £400 per annum from the town, and £80 per annum from the Provincial Council, besides the interest on a sum of £1,200 voted by the Town Council in the years 1896-8 for providing for the unemployed. This society reports that the "experiment at insurance has proved a complete failure," and that the scheme will have to be radically altered. Of a total of 452 workpeople insured with the fund in the year 1903-4, 329 drew unemployed pay amounting to £688 in the aggregate.

In Germany a scheme of "Insurance against Unemployment" is assisted out of public money in Cologne. This scheme, which is somewhat on the lines of the Berne Fund referred to above, has been in operation since 1896 and has been fully described in the Board of Trade Report already referred to. It receives an annual grant of £800 from the Municipality.

LABOUR REGISTRIES IN PRUSSIA.

SOME details respecting the work of labour registries in Prussia, which are either administered or subsidised by Municipalities, are given in *Soziale Praxis* of July 5th last. The number of such registries in existence on January 1st, 1906, was 288, as compared with 276 a year earlier. The Municipal registries numbered 198, the municipally subsidised registries 90; of the latter 62 were managed by joint bodies of employers and workpeople.

The great increase in the work of these registries in the years 1902-1905 is shown by the following Table:—

Year.	Number of Situations.		
	Offered by Employers.	Applied for by Workpeople.	Filled.
1902	294,418	500,382	208,700
1903	380,505	559,700	272,204
1904	457,527	602,545	322,534
1905	571,067	698,192	393,933

The numbers of situations found in the five preceding years were 104,307 in 1897, 122,120 in 1898, 160,643 in 1899, 185,681 in 1900, and 189,215 in 1901. The increased use made of the registries by employers is remarkable, the number of situations offered in 1905 being nearly double the number in 1902. The number of applications for situations by workpeople increased by nearly 40 per cent. during the same period, while the number of situations filled in 1905 was nearly twice as great as in 1902, and nearly four times as great as in 1897. In 1905, 56 per cent. of the total number of applications by workpeople resulted in situations being obtained. The corresponding figure for the year 1902 was only 41 per cent., while the average for the years 1902-5 was 51 per cent.

During the past year over 10,000 situations were filled through the agency of each of the eight following registries:—Berlin (90,058), Frankfurt-on-Main (34,050), Cologne (28,841), Düsseldorf (19,556), Breslau (12,960), Posen (10,968), Schöneberg (10,820), Cassel (10,486); while from 5,000 to 10,000 situations were filled by means of the 12 registries in Kiel, Erfurt, Magdeburg, Barmen, Charlottenburg, Dortmund, Wiesbaden, Hanover, Bielefeld, Essen, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Flensburg.

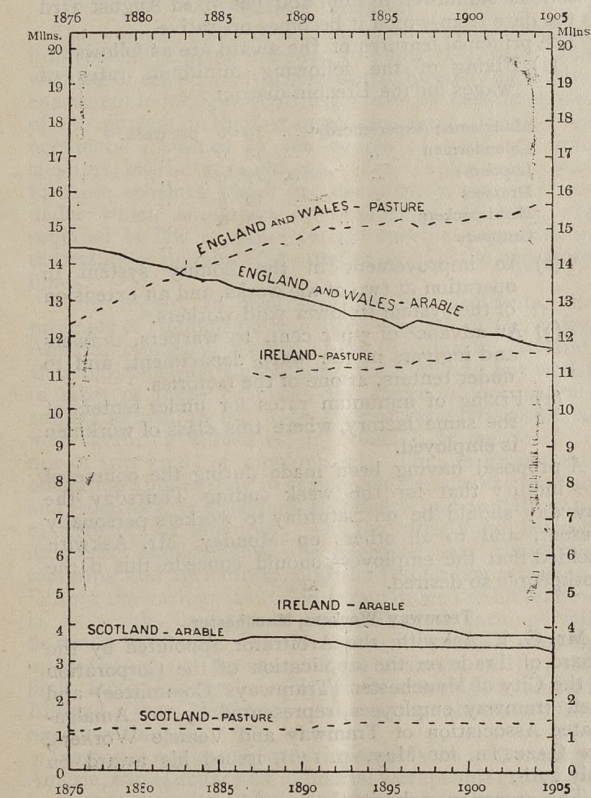
AGRICULTURE IN THE LAST THIRTY YEARS.

THE recently issued Agricultural Statistics for 1905* show that there were 11'66 million acres of arable land in England and Wales in that year, a decrease of 3'10 million acres, or 21 per cent., as compared with the average for the five years 1871-5, which period is taken as a normal one admittedly anterior to the fall in prices of grain which led to the curtailment of arable farming in this country.

In Scotland, however, the movement has been relatively insignificant, the arable land increasing up to 1888, and the fall in the later years only just carrying the total below the level of 1871-5, the total decrease in the area under crops being only about 50,000 acres.

For Ireland figures are not available for so long a period, but, as will be seen from the following chart, there has been on the whole some decline in the arable acreage.

Acreage of Arable and Pasture Land (Permanent Grass) in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland.



It will also be seen from the chart that along with the decrease in the arable acreage, there has been in each case an increase of the acreage under grass, which has been most marked in England and Wales. Thus, while permanent pasture accounted for an average of 11'80 million acres in England and Wales in 1871-5, the corresponding area for 1905 was 15'74 million acres, an increase of 3'94 million acres, or 33'4 per cent.

As a result of these movements the total area returned as "cultivated" in Great Britain shows an increase from an acreage of 31'12 million acres in 1871-5 to 32'28 million acres in 1905, the growth of the surface accounted for in the returns being due to actual reclamation and to the extension of the grass area returned as cultivated in the earlier part of the time.

The following Table shows, by quinquennial averages for the thirty years 1876-1905, the acreage under the chief crops in the United Kingdom:—

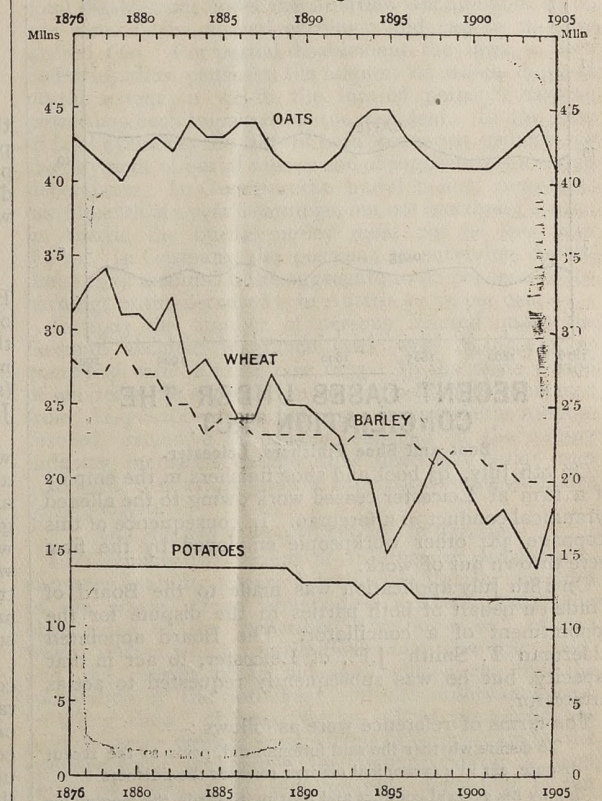
	1876-1880.	1881-1885.	1886-1890.	1891-1895.	1896-1900.	1901-1905.
Wheat	3,190,086	2,829,584	2,488,356	2,016,467	1,957,573	1,676,839
Barley	2,752,850	2,478,870	2,313,898	2,277,014	2,179,953	2,004,180
Oats	4,170,324	4,296,113	4,268,676	4,370,834	4,176,729	4,203,003
Beans and Peas	753,700	684,276	586,074	495,797	424,047	424,480
Potatoes	1,384,515	1,384,244	1,367,336	1,268,218	1,225,359	1,214,854
Turnips, Swedes, and Mangolds	2,793,956	2,714,295	2,653,409	2,656,574	2,524,937	2,394,222
Flax	138,404	114,928	119,230	83,420	47,973	28,744
Total Arable Land	—	—	—	20,345,937	19,779,047	19,135,694
Permanent Grass	—	—	—	27,642,070	28,047,113	28,577,400
Total Acreage under Crops and Grass	47,403,060	47,741,072	47,932,068	47,988,007	47,826,760	47,713,094

It will be seen that, with the exception of oats, all the crops show a falling-off in the period. In the case of wheat the quinquennial averages show a steady decline, the area under this cereal averaging in 1901-5 but little more than half the corresponding figure for 1876-1880. Barley also shows a steady decline but not of such great amount, so that, whereas in 1876-1880 the average area under barley was nearly half-a-million acres less than that under wheat, in 1901-5 the area under barley exceeded that under wheat by over a third of a million acres.

The area under oats showed considerable increase in the earlier part of the period covered by the Table, but the average for 1896-1900 fell to almost exactly the same figure as that for 1876-1880. Some increase, however, was shown in the next five years. Beans and peas, and turnips, swedes and mangolds, show a steady decline throughout. The acreage under potatoes showed little change in the first half of the period, then fell off by about 100,000 acres, and again became stationary. The area under flax shows a very great decline in the latter part of the period.

Some of the fluctuations are eliminated in the above Table, based on quinquennial averages, but are brought out in the following chart:—

Acreage under Wheat, Barley, Oats and Potatoes in the United Kingdom.



It will be noticed that the fluctuations are particularly sharp in the case of wheat. The recovery in 1905 (amounting to nearly 422,000 acres or 30'7 per cent.) is attributed to the favourable seeding time during the autumn of 1904, in marked contrast to the unfavourable

* Cd. 3061. Price 1s. 6d. Wyman & Sons.

conditions of the previous year which reduced the area under this crop in 1904. The decline in oats and barley in 1905 was largely due to the increased extent of land placed under wheat.

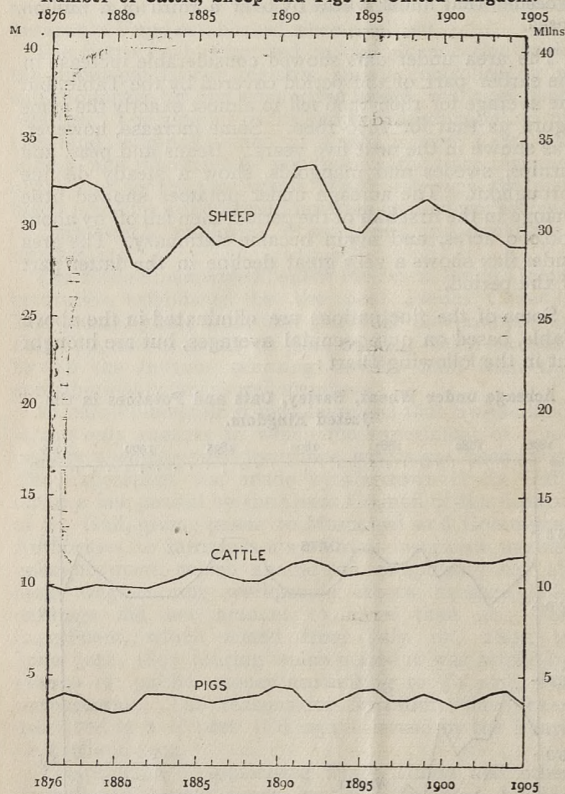
LIVE STOCK IN UNITED KINGDOM.

The following Table shows by quinquennial averages the changes in the number of live stock in the United Kingdom:—

	1876-1880.	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.	1896-1900.	1901-1905.
Horses ...	1,913,935	1,908,279	1,912,290	2,075,560	2,050,827	2,064,408
Cattle ...	9,864,108	10,225,779	10,538,798	11,120,853	11,178,058	11,502,576
Sheep ...	31,906,218	28,631,008	29,689,535	31,722,858	31,051,718	29,745,478
Pigs ...	3,595,686	3,736,985	3,860,334	3,769,521	3,874,060	3,786,014

It will be seen from this Table that the numbers of horses and cattle have shown a fairly steady increase. The number of pigs has fluctuated considerably, and shows no very definite movement over the whole period. The greatest fluctuation, however, as is well seen in the chart below, has been in the case of sheep.

Number of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs in United Kingdom.



RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Boot and Shoe Finishers, Leicester.

On 9th July, 93 boot and shoe finishers in the employ of a firm at Leicester ceased work owing to the alleged tyrannical conduct of a foreman. In consequence of this stoppage 384 other workpeople employed by the firm were thrown out of work.

On 18th July application was made to the Board of Trade on behalf of both parties to the dispute for the appointment of a conciliator. The Board appointed Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, to act in that capacity, but he was subsequently requested to act as Arbitrator.

The terms of reference were as follows:—

To decide whether the said foreman did, prior to the recent dispute, act in a tyrannical manner towards the finishers

- by his general conduct and bearing towards the men under his supervision,
- by returning work to the finishers after it had been accepted by him and had passed through several other operations,
- by unfairly limiting the earnings of the finishers under his charge.

In his award, issued on August 1st, Mr. T. Smith found that on counts *a* and *b* the foreman had not been systematically vindictive or tyrannical, nor had he shown personal animosity to the workmen under his charge, but that he had occasionally been severe when complaining of alleged faulty work, and had not always exercised reasonable care and discrimination in his method of rejecting work in bulk, while on count, *c* he decided that no attempt had been made by the foreman to unfairly use his office and power to limit the earnings of the finishers under his supervision.

Linen Factory Operatives, Brechin.

On July 30th an inquiry into the wages of linen factory operatives at Brechin was opened by Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, who had been appointed for that purpose by the Board of Trade on an application made on behalf of the employers and workpeople involved in a dispute on the matter (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 197).

By arrangement between the parties it was settled that any matter on which an agreement could not be arrived at should be left to Mr. Askwith's decision.

Mr. Askwith has now issued his award on the questions submitted to him, and has fixed August 23rd as the date from which it becomes operative.

The principal features of the award are as follows:—

- (1) Fixing of the following minimum rates of wages for the Brechin district:—

	s.	d.	per week.
Manglemen (experienced) ...	19	0	''
Calendermen	18	0	''
Lappers	17	0	''
Dressers	19	0	''
Head packers ...	18	6	''
Croppers	15	0	''

- (2) An improvement in the bounty system in operation at two of the works, and an extension of the system to lower paid workers.

- (3) An advance of 5 per cent. to warpers, drawers and ingivers in the warp department, and to under tenters, at one of the factories.

- (4) Fixing of minimum rates for under tenters at the same factory, where this class of workmen is employed.

A proposal having been made during the course of the inquiry that for the week ending Thursday the pay day should be on Saturday to workers personally present, and to all others on Monday, Mr. Askwith decided that the employers should concede this if the workpeople so desired.

Tramway Workers, Manchester.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the Arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade on the application of the Corporation of the City of Manchester (Tramways Committee) and their tramway employees, represented by the Amalgamated Association of Tramway and Vehicle Workers, (*see* GAZETTE for May, p. 136), issued his award on July 27th.

The question submitted to arbitration was as to whether the drivers, guards, timekeepers and inspectors are reasonably entitled to payment of time and half for all Sunday labour, having regard (1) to the concessions granted by the Committee in the past; (2) to the present wages and working conditions of the men as compared with the wages and working conditions obtaining in other tramway undertakings; and (3) to such other facts and arguments as may be submitted by either party in support of or against the proposal.

In his award Mr. Askwith stated that such a concession would entail a heavy charge upon the ratepayers, and that the employees would, taking into consideration their present high wages and the previous concessions made to them, receive a benefit out of the undertaking quite out of proportion to that to which they were reasonably entitled. He therefore decided that unless the existing wages and working conditions were revised, the claim could not justifiably be granted, however desirable it might be on general principles that facilities should be afforded for releasing employees from work on Sundays.

FOREIGN LABOUR STATISTICS.

THE Third Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics* was issued to-day by the Labour Department. The volume deals with Wages and Hours of Labour, Trade Unions, Trade Disputes, Conciliation and Arbitration, Workmen's Insurance and Co-operation. Of the 14 countries with regard to which statistics are given respecting one or other of these subjects, France and Germany are represented in each section, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Austria-Hungary, Italy, and the United States in five out of the six sections, while Spain and Japan figure in one section each.

The statistical tables occupy over 300 pages, and include rates of wages and hours of labour in a number of occupations for some of the principal cities of the United Kingdom and certain foreign countries.

The tables are preceded by an introduction consisting of memoranda dealing with Wages, Hours of Labour, Trade Unions, Trade Disputes, Conciliation and Arbitration, Workmen's Insurance, and Co-operation. From one of these memoranda the following notes have been compiled:—

Workmen's Insurance.

The volume contains a number of Tables compiled from official sources intended to show the growth and working of the different schemes introduced by legislative enactment in foreign countries for insuring certain classes of the population against impoverishment arising from accidents sustained in the course of work, or from sickness, infirmity, or old age. The Tables relate only to those schemes which are compulsory, that is, those under which employers or workpeople, or both, are required by law to make certain specific payments in the nature of premiums in order to provide the necessary funds.

With regard to insurance against accidents, the principle of compulsion has been applied in Germany, Austria, Hungary, France, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, Norway, Luxemburg, and Finland; but whilst in most of these countries the range of occupations subject to insurance is wide, and comprises the principal manufacturing industries, in others it is restricted to one or two kinds of employment. Thus in France the obligation applies only to seamen, in Denmark to seamen and fishermen, in Belgium to miners, and in Hungary to agricultural labourers. On the other hand, besides industrial employments the German law comprises seafaring and agriculture, and the Italian law seafaring. Within the various insurable occupations the obligation is, as a rule, confined to persons whose earnings fall below a fixed sum. In Germany all persons earning more than £150 per annum are exempt; in Italy the limit for exemption is £85, in Norway £60, and in Finland £30. Neither the Austrian nor the Dutch law fixes any limit.

Insurance against sickness is compulsory in Germany, Austria, and Hungary for industrial workpeople generally. In France there is compulsory insurance against sickness in the case of miners, and in Belgium in the case of miners and seamen.

The system of insurance against old age and infirmity is most developed in Germany. This country stands alone in having adopted legislation applying to the working classes generally, including domestic servants, though in other countries special classes of workers are similarly insured under earlier laws, as, for instance, in France and Belgium, where seamen and miners are entitled to old age pensions, and in Austria and Hungary, where the same is true of miners.

The most important of the existing schemes of compulsory insurance are those in operation in Germany and Austria, respecting which some details are given below.

Accident Insurance in Germany and Austria.

The laws in these two countries differ not only as regards the range of occupations covered, but also in respect to (1) what constitutes an "accident" for purposes of compensation; (2) the proportions in which

the burdens have to be borne by employers and workpeople respectively; (3) the manner in which the funds are raised, and (4) the scale of compensation payable to the various classes of persons whose means of subsistence are impaired as a result of the accident.

In Austria the only kind of accident excluded from compensation is one which the workman has intentionally brought about; in Germany the same rule held good until the revision of the law in 1900, when all accidents which are due to the gross misconduct of the workman were also excluded from the area of compensation. In the earlier period of disablement, limited to 13 weeks in Germany and to 4 in Austria, the cost of compensation is borne by the sickness insurance funds to which, in both countries, the workers contribute two-thirds and the employers one-third. In Germany the money spent in compensation after the thirteenth week is paid in its entirety by the employers, while in Austria the employers are entitled to deduct 10 per cent. of their contributions from the workmen's wages.

In both countries the funds are raised and administered by associations of employers, formed expressly for that purpose, but while in Germany these associations are organised by trades, in Austria the basis of organisation is territorial. The amount of each individual employer's contribution towards the expenses incurred by his association is fixed by the executive of the association, and depends upon the degree of accident risk in the trade (as determined by a table of risks prepared by the association), and the amount of his wages bill.

The scales of compensation payable in respect of accidents are as follows:—For total disablement the pension payable under the German law represents two-thirds of the injured person's earnings, but in the event of that person being at the same time entirely dependent on strangers for attendance and nursing, the full amount of such earnings is given up to a sum of £75, and if the actual earnings are in excess of that amount, one-third of such excess is also given. The pension allowed for total disablement under the Austrian law amounts to 60 per cent. of the annual earnings, and can in no case exceed £60. For partial disablement the laws of both countries allow pensions, the amount of which depends on the extent to which the injured person's earning power has been impaired by the accident. In the case of fatal accidents the laws of both countries provide for the payment of burial money and of pensions to surviving dependants. In Germany the burial money represents one-fifteenth of a year's earnings, but not less than £2 10s.; in Austria the burial money must not be less than £2 2s. In Germany, the pensions to surviving dependants may amount in the aggregate to 60 per cent. of the earnings of the deceased; in Austria to 50 per cent.

In 1903 the number of persons insured under the German accident insurance laws was 19,465,422, as compared with 18,118,850 in 1893. In the same period of ten years the expenditure on compensation increased from £1,908,190 to £5,895,645. In Austria the number insured, exclusive of persons engaged in the mining industry, increased in the same decennial period from 1,466,270 to 2,621,929 and the expenditure from £104,021 to £780,519.

Old Age and Infirmity Insurance in Germany.

In Germany the receipt of an infirmity pension presupposes inability to earn a livelihood (literally one-third of the wages of an able-bodied workman) and the observance of the prescribed "waiting-time" of 200 weeks, during which contributions must have been paid, and the receipt of an old age pension requires the completion of the 70th year and the observance of a "waiting time" of 1,200 weeks. The premiums are paid for every week of employment in equal sums by the employers and workpeople, the amount falling to each being $\frac{1}{4}$ d., $\frac{1}{3}$ d., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., or $\frac{2}{3}$ d., according to the wages class to which the insured person belongs. The five wages classes are fixed as follows:—

- (1) wages up to £17 10s.;
- (2) £17 10s. to £27 10s.;
- (3) £27 10s. to £42 10s.;
- (4) £42 10s. to £57 10s.;
- (5) over £57 10s.;

* Third Abstract of Foreign Labour Statistics. Cd. 3120. Price 1s. 6d.

but the actual amount of wages earned does not altogether determine the class in which a man is placed; the usual basis is 300 times the daily wage of the class of worker insured.

The minimum pension for infirmity is £3 per annum for the first wages class, £3 10s. for the second, £4 for the third, £4 10s. for the fourth, £5 for the fifth, with a subsidy from the Empire of £2 10s. in every case, but the pensions may reach maxima of £9 5s., £13 10s., £16 10s., £19 10s., and £22 10s. respectively, according to the duration of the contributions.

The minimum old age pension is £3 per annum in the first wages class, £4 10s. in the second, £6 in the third, £7 10s. in the fourth, and £9 in the fifth, increased by the imperial subsidy of £2 10s. in each case. Where a person does not live to enjoy the promised benefits, or otherwise forfeits them, half the sum of the premiums paid is returnable.

The average value of pensions granted in Germany for old age and infirmity respectively in each year from 1893 to 1902 is as follows:—

Year.	Average Value of Pensions granted in each Year.		Year.	Average Value of Pensions granted in each Year.	
	Old Age.	Infirmity.		Old Age.	Infirmity.
1893	£ s. d. 6 9 5	£ s. d. 5 18 0	1899	£ s. d. 7 1 7	£ s. d. 6 11 7
1894	6 5 7	6 1 2	1900	7 5 6	7 2 0
1895	6 11 10	6 4 1	1901	7 10 5	7 6 4
1896	6 13 5	6 6 8	1902	7 13 0	7 9 9
1897	6 15 10	6 8 8	1903	7 15 5	7 12 3
1898	6 18 0	6 10 10	1904	7 17 2	7 15 2

WEEKLY DAY OF REST: NEW FRENCH LAW.

By a law promulgated by the French Government on July 13th last, it is forbidden to employ any person in, or in connection with, a commercial or industrial establishment for more than six days a week. A weekly rest of not less than 24 consecutive hours must be given to all employees and workpeople, and, as a general rule, such rest must be given on Sunday.

All establishments, whether public or private, including those of a religious or charitable nature, come within the scope of the law, which, however, does not apply to persons engaged in transport by water or to railway employees, whose rest is provided for by special regulations. Where, in respect to any given establishment, it shall be proved that the simultaneous cessation of work on Sundays by all the employees would be prejudicial to the public convenience, or that it would have an injurious effect upon the business of such establishment, one or other of the following alternatives may be adopted, either permanently or at certain periods of the year, on permission being obtained from the authorities:—

- The substitution of another day for Sunday for the whole of the staff;
- Cessation of work from Sunday mid-day to Monday mid-day;
- Cessation of work on Sunday after mid-day only, and a cessation on one complete day of 24 hours every fortnight in compensation for Sunday mornings for portions of the staff by rotation.
- Cessation of work on Sunday for all or part of the staff by rotation.

Without special permission from the authorities the weekly day of rest may be given to the staff in rotation in the following classes of business:—

- Preparation of foods for immediate consumption.
- Hotels, restaurants and places for the sale of drink.
- Tobacconists and florists.
- Hospitals, nursing homes, almshouses, shelters, asylums, dispensaries and shops for the sale of medical and surgical requisites.
- Baths.
- Newspaper offices, information bureaux, entertainments, museums, and exhibitions.
- Establishments for the letting out on hire of books, chairs, and carriages and other vehicles.

(viii.) Lighting, water, or power distribution.

(ix.) Land transport (other than railway), loading and discharging at ports, quays, wharves, and stations.

(x.) Businesses involving work with perishable goods.

(xi.) Businesses in which interruption of work would entail loss or depreciation of goods in course of manufacture.

The weekly day of rest may be suspended for such persons as it may be necessary to employ on work which must be immediately carried out for the purpose of saving life or property, preventing threatened accidents, or repairing damage caused by accidents. This power of suspension is also applicable to establishments carrying out repairs for firms engaged on such urgent work, but, in this case, the periods of rest lost by employees are to be made up to them at some other time.

In establishments for the retailing of articles of food, the weekly rest may be taken on Sunday afternoon, with a compensating rest of another afternoon per week for persons under 21 who lodge with their employer, and of a whole day once a fortnight for other workpeople.

In establishments employing less than five persons, the weekly day of rest, if permitted to begin in rotation, may be replaced by two half-days per week. This does not apply to males under 18 years of age, or to females, who must not be given work on more than 6 days in any one week.

In cases in which work cannot be carried on in bad weather, the period of forced cessation of work on that account during each month shall be counted as days of rest for purposes of this law.

LABOUR DISPUTES AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN 1905.*

IN the February number of the GAZETTE preliminary figures relating to the labour disputes in the United Kingdom in 1905 were given in considerable detail. The final figures for the year have just been published in a volume, which also contains a full account of the work done by various agencies engaged in settling disputes.

Strikes and Lock-outs.

The number (358) of disputes recorded in 1905 was practically the same as in the previous year. The number of workpeople affected by these disputes (93,503) showed a slight increase on 1904, but was lower than in 1903 or any previous year for which statistics exist. The best test of the magnitude of disputes, however, is the amount of working time lost thereby. In 1905 this was nearly 2½ million working days, a much higher figure than in the previous year, when the numbers were the lowest on record, but somewhat below the average (2,913,000 working days) for the five years 1900-04. In the same quinquennial period the average annual number of disputes was 495, and of workpeople affected 166,000. In the previous five years (1895-1899) the corresponding average for number of disputes was 793, for number of workpeople affected 225,000, and for aggregate duration 7,524,000 days.

Although the number of days lost in 1905 appears large, it amounts to only about one-quarter of a day per head when spread over the whole industrial population of the country. About one-half of the time lost in 1905 by disputes was accounted for by those in the mining and quarrying industries.

Questions of remuneration were, as usual, by far the most important causes of disputes. The year being one of improving employment, the proportion of disputes arising out of demands for advances in wages, showed an upward tendency in 1905. The number of persons affected by disputes arising out of refusals to work with non-union men and other questions of Trade Union principle was higher than in 1904 and comprised about one-fifth of the total.

The results of the disputes were, on the whole, in favour of the employers.

* Strikes and Lock-outs and Conciliation and Arbitration Boards in 1905. Cd. 3065. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 8d.

Most of the disputes were settled by the parties themselves, or their representatives, the principal agencies for conciliation and arbitration being concerned mainly with the prevention of disputes rather than the settlement of actual stoppages.

Conciliation and Arbitration.

Of the 358 disputes, causing a stoppage of work, 30, involving directly 10,546 workpeople, or 15.6 per cent. of the total for all disputes, were settled by conciliation or arbitration. The workpeople directly involved in stoppages settled by arbitration formed 3.3 per cent. of the total number directly affected by the disputes of the year, while the proportion involved in disputes arranged by conciliation was 12.3 per cent.

Taking only those disputes which were settled in the year, irrespective of date of commencement, it is found that 25 disputes, in which 6,978 persons were directly involved, were settled by conciliation or arbitration in 1905, as compared with 28 disputes, directly involving 21,118 persons, in the previous year. Of the 25 disputes, 2 were settled under the Conciliation Act, under which Act settlements were also made during the year in 13 cases not involving stoppages of work. Seven cases were settled by permanent Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration, and 16 cases were settled by individuals.

Much more numerous, however, were the questions, not involving stoppage of work, settled by permanent Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration.

The total number of cases known to have been considered by 66 permanent Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration in 1905, was 1,726, as compared with 1,418 cases considered by 65 Boards in the previous year. Of the 1,726 cases considered in the year under review, 834 were withdrawn, referred back, or settled independently of the Boards, and 53 were still under consideration at the end of the year. The remaining 839 cases were settled, 614 by the Boards or Committees, and 225 by arbitrators or umpires appointed by them. Of these cases only seven involved a stoppage of work, four being in the coal mining industry, and one each in the shipbuilding, boot and shoe, and fishing industries.

The cases dealt with vary very greatly in importance. For example, one case considered by the Coal Trade Conciliation Board for the Federated Districts of England and Wales involved the wages of about 230,000 workpeople, and the reductions in wages arranged by the Conciliation Board for the Northumberland Coal Trade affected 35,000 workpeople. On the other hand, the 453 cases settled by the Durham Joint Committees affected in most instances very few workpeople.

In the following Table the particulars of the work done in 1905 are shown for each group of trades:—

Trade.	Number of Boards which		Number of Cases	
	Considered Cases.	Settled Cases.	Considered.	Settled.
Trade Boards—				
Building	10	10	24	22
Mining and Quarrying ...	14	13	1,451	657
Iron and Steel Manufacture	5	5	30	25
Engineering & Shipbuilding	12	9	102	53
Tinplate Manufacture ...	1	1	1	1
Textile Trades	2	2	17	14
Boot and Shoe	11	9	67	38
Tailoring	3	3	8	8
Transport	3	3	17	15
Other Trades	2	2	4	2
Total Trade Boards ...	63	57	1,721	835
General Boards	1	1	2	1
District Boards	2	2	3	3
Grand Total	66	60	1,726	839

It will be seen that the mining and quarrying group accounts for nearly four-fifths of the cases settled during the year, while of the remainder the Boards in the metal and clothing trades together contributed more than one-half. The Boards not connected with any particular trade disposed of only four cases during the year.

The Conciliation Boards in the coal trade which control the general level of wages are quite distinct from the local joint committees. The latter are concerned with questions arising at individual pits, many of the cases relating to the adjustment of prices for particular work affecting only a few men. The Northumberland and Durham Joint Committees contributed between them 601 cases, or more than two-thirds of the total number known to have been settled by permanent Conciliation Boards.

The Boards in the engineering and shipbuilding trades contributed 53 cases to the total number settled. A number of these cases related to the demarcation of work between different trades in this group, 10 permanent Boards dealing with questions of this nature being in existence.

WAGES AND HOURS IN H.M. HOME DOCKYARDS.*

THE Admiralty have decided to grant certain improvements in the conditions of service, and some re-adjustment of the rates of wages of the employees in the various Dockyards. It is hoped that these changes may take effect from October 1st next, and, although the financial effect cannot be stated in detail at present, it is anticipated that the cost will amount to approximately £60,000 per annum.

Hitherto, since the acceptance of the principle of the eight-hours working day in 1894, workmen in H.M. naval establishments have worked varying hours according to the period of the year, the total number of working hours being so arranged as not to exceed 48 hours per week on the average throughout the year. The recent installation of electric light in the Dockyards has made it possible to establish a uniform 48-hours week throughout the year.

It has not been found possible to extend the new scheme—which has been introduced provisionally for 12 months' trial—either to the Victualling Yards or to the Naval Ordnance Depôts, and at present it will not apply to Portland.

A premium system has been adopted experimentally in the Dockyards at Portsmouth, Devonport, Chatham, and Sheerness, and it is designed to enable expert workmen to increase their pay by completing their work in less than the time allowed for it, the premium or bonus paid being in proportion to the time saved. A scheme has also recently been promoted in the Dockyards with a view to encouraging the workmen to suggest improvements in tools and methods, and a sum of £200 has been authorised for distribution during the present year.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire and report what diseases and injuries, other than injuries by accident, are due to industrial occupations, are distinguishable as such, and can properly be added to the diseases enumerated in the third schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Bill, 1906. The Chairman of the Committee is Mr. Herbert Samuel, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department; and the other members are Professor Clifford Allbutt, F.R.S., Regius Professor of Physic at Cambridge University; Mr. H. Cunynghame, C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Home Office; and Dr. T. M. Legge, Medical Inspector of Factories.

Correspondence on the subject may be addressed to the Secretary, Mr. F. L. D. Elliott, of the Home Office.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MINERS' EIGHT HOUR DAY.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a Committee to inquire into the probable economic effect of a limit of eight hours to the working day of coal miners, both when calculated from bank to bank and when otherwise calculated, upon production, wages, employment, the

* Memorandum explanatory of recent and forthcoming changes in the administration of His Majesty's Dockyards in the United Kingdom (Cd. 2861), August, 1906. Price 3d.

export trade, and other British industries which might be affected thereby, and also into the probable effect of such a limit upon the health of the miners. If the Committee think necessary the inquiry may be extended to metalliferous mines. The members of the Committee are Mr. W. Russell Rea, M.P. (Chairman); Sir Andrew N. Agnew, Bart.; Mr. S. H. Cox, Professor of Mining, Royal College of Science; Mr. J. W. Crombie, M.P.; Sir Robert Giffen, K.C.B., F.R.S.; The Right Hon. Lord Glantawe; and Mr. R. A. S. Redmayne, Professor of Mining, Birmingham University. The Secretary of the Committee is Mr. J. J. Wills, Commercial, Labour and Statistical Department, Board of Trade.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

There is a large demand for men for harvest work in the North-West, and cheap passages at £6 a head from England to Winnipeg are offered to those who sail before August 24th. Work in all trades is still very active in Canada, but those who go now must bear in mind that operations will be greatly restricted in outdoor trades after October. Female servants are in great demand. The Dominion Labour Gazette states that during June labour conditions were active, which was mainly owing to the extensive railway construction work in progress in Quebec, Ontario, and the Western provinces, which affected the unskilled labour market over a very wide area. The mining and manufacturing industries were more active than in any former year. Mining and development work at Cobalt (Ontario) and asbestos mining in the Province of Quebec continued very busy. The output of the lumber mills in British Columbia exceeded the highest previous record. Traffic on the railways was exceedingly heavy, and the progress of settlement in Western Canada unprecedentedly rapid. Municipal work and the building trades were in the midst of their season of greatest activity.

An important feature of the month was an increasing shortage in the supply of labour reported in several localities and branches of employment. In the Maritime provinces, the operations of certain of the coal and steel companies were stated to have been somewhat curtailed through lack of help. In Ontario and Quebec, farm and railway labourers and domestic servants were very scarce, and factory hands in several of the large centres were in great demand. Sash and door factories, brick-yards, and agricultural implement factories were especially busy in Ontario, and iron and steel establishments at Sault Ste Marie (Ontario) and Sydney (Nova Scotia). Ship labourers at Quebec and Montreal were also among classes in which a scarcity was reported. In the prairie provinces the extensive railway construction operations in progress, and the expansion in agriculture, created an exceptional demand for men which the heavy arrivals of immigrants did not satisfy. In British Columbia railway construction labourers were scarce, and a number of the metalliferous mines were short of help, mining being especially active in the Kootenay district, but coalminers on Vancouver Island were rather slack.

Commonwealth of Australia.

There is a good opening for competent farm labourers and female servants: there is not much demand for mechanics or miners, but competent men obtain work.

The New South Wales Government grants assisted passages at from £8 to £12, which is from £6 to £9 below ordinary rates, to men skilled in agricultural pursuits, provided they will be possessed of not less than £10 on arrival in the state. Children between three and twelve years of age travel at half-rate. Similar reductions are made in the case of domestic servants. Such settlers are met on arrival by a Government Official, and every assistance is given them to obtain suitable employment. Under this arrangement a further £4 has to be deposited

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

with the Agent-General for New South Wales, but this is refunded to the emigrant immediately upon landing in Sydney, and is reckoned as part of the £10 the emigrant is required to possess on arrival.

The Government of Queensland also, under certain conditions, grants to emigrants nominated passages, and the Government of Western Australia in some cases grants reduction in the passage rates.

New Zealand.

The last reports received show that trade generally continued to be good, though there is not much opening at present for more mechanics. The New Zealand Government, under certain conditions, grant reduced passages to suitable settlers with a capital of not less than £50. Reduced passages are also granted by the New Zealand Government to approved female domestic servants.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—There is no demand for more labour, and persons are warned against going to Cape Colony at the present time in search of work. In Kimberley all trades are very dull, especially the building trades; there is no demand for anyone. There is some demand in the colony for female servants.

Natal.—There is no demand for more men in the building or other trades.

Transvaal.—Permits are still required by those who wish to proceed to the Transvaal or Orange River Colony. They are given immediately to British subjects, unless there is any police record against them, on their making personal application to the Permit Secretary, Transvaal and Orange River Colony Permit Office, at the port at which such persons propose to land, *i.e.*, Cape Town or Durban, or to H.M. Consul-General at Lourenco Marques. But no permit is granted to anyone (1) who does not possess £20, or who has not secured *bona fide* employment in the Transvaal or Orange River Colony; (2) who, when asked to do so by any duly authorized officer, shall be unable through deficient education to himself write out and sign in the characters of any European language (not including Yiddish) an application to the satisfaction of the officer. Foreign persons must apply through their Consuls. There is no demand for more labour in the Transvaal. Trade is bad; a great amount of distress exists in Johannesburg, and many persons have left the country to seek work elsewhere. The cost of living is very high. There is a good demand for female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—Permits are necessary for those entering the Colony, and the regulations are the same as given above for the Transvaal. There is no opening for more miners, farm or general labourers, or mechanics—the supply of all kinds of labour being far greater than the demand. Most of the work is done by natives. There is a small demand for female servants, who may obtain assisted passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 225 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries.]

FRANCE.*

Employment in June.—Employment in the building and allied trades continued normal during June. Metal workers on the whole were satisfactorily employed. In the textile trades employment was about the same as a month ago in the Nord, with the exception of the smaller weaving centres, where a slight revival was reported. In the Vosges and the smaller centres of the departments of Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres employment continued satisfactory; at Roanne it declined. In the silk manufacture there was no change in the Loire,

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

but at Lyons a slight increase of activity was noted. The garment trades continued busy. With printers and bookbinders employment again declined. A large number of leather dressers in the Tarn department, and coopers in the South of France, were out of work. The recent excessive amount of unemployment among agricultural labourers in the South of France showed considerable diminution, work being found in the vineyards and in haymaking and harvesting. Gardeners at Paris were satisfactorily employed.

Out of 197,584 members of 1,085 Trade Unions which made returns to the French Labour Department as to the state of employment of their members during June, 16,786, or 8.5 per cent., were described in the returns as out of work, as compared with 7.7 per cent. in the previous month, and 8.8 per cent. in June, 1905. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" above). Returns from the Miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais and Nord departments are not included in the foregoing details.

Coal Mining in June.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mining in France during June was 5.66, as compared with 5.41 in the previous month, and with 5.44 in June, 1905. Full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 6.20 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 93.25 per cent. of all workpeople (whether surface or underground workers), the corresponding percentages for the preceding month being 3.11 and 76.90, and for June, 1905, 0.60 and 95.16 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 140,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in June.—The number of disputes reported to the French Labour Department as having begun during the month was 95, as compared with 247 in the previous month, and 72 in June, 1905. In 89 of the new disputes, 17,796 workpeople took part, as compared with 154,055 who participated in 226 of the May disputes, and with 12,908 who took part in the disputes of June, 1905. The groups of trades most affected by disputes were the transport (20 disputes), building (19), textile (18), and metal (9). Out of 114 new and old disputes which came to an end in the month, 18 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 41 in favour of the employers, while 55 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in June.—Eighteen cases of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in June, the workpeople taking the initiative in 10 cases, the Justices of the Peace in 5 cases, and the employers and workpeople jointly in 2 cases; in 1 case information is not given on this point. In 3 of the disputes settlements had already been arrived at, and application was made to the Justice of the Peace to draw up a *procès-verbal* of the agreements. In 1 case no conciliation committee was constituted, the dispute being settled by the Justice of the Peace and the employers, and in 2 cases the disputes were settled before such committees met. In 4 cases the employers declined to take part in conciliation proceedings. In the remaining 8 cases committees of conciliation met and by this means 7 of the disputes were settled.

GERMANY.

*Employment in June.**—In the building trades employment continued good. Coalminers were fully employed. In the metal and engineering, the electrical, and the textile trades, and generally also in the chemical trades, employment was thoroughly satisfactory. Taking into consideration the time of the year, employment in the printing and clothing trades was good, while the holiday season and the hay harvest acted favourably on the labour market in the transport trades and in agriculture respectively.

Returns relating to the state of employment during the second quarter of 1906 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate

* *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (Journal of the German Labour Department), July, 1906.

membership of 1,271,413, as compared with a membership of 1,221,760 in the Unions which reported at the end of March, and 845,218 in the Unions which reported at the end of June, 1905. After allowing for incomplete returns from certain branches of the Unions reporting, the aggregate membership covered by the returns was 1,053,958 on June 30th, 1906, and of these 14,310 or 1.3 per cent. were described in the returns as unemployed on that date, the corresponding percentage for March 31st being 1.1 per cent. and for June 30th, 1905 1.6 per cent. (as regards these figures see note under heading "Labour Abroad" on p. 234).

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal unions respecting which figures are available for the three periods, the number of members to whom the returns as to unemployment relate and the percentage of such members unemployed:—

Name and Headquarters of Unions.	Number of Members to whom Returns as to Unemployment relate.			Percentage of such Membership Unemployed on		
	June 30, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906.	June 30, 1905.	June 30, 1906.	Mar. 31, 1906.	June 30, 1905.
Metal Workers (Stuttgart) ...	304,183	285,985	212,755	0.9	1.0	1.3
Woodworkers (Stuttgart) ...	145,873	137,775	113,851	1.5	1.7	1.3
Miners (Bochum) ...	103,100	103,835	130,000	0.0	0.0	0.3
Commercial and Transport Employees (Berlin)	59,389	55,422	44,563	0.6	0.5	0.8
Engineers & Metal Workers (Berlin)	46,720	50,831	42,828	0.9	0.5	0.5
Printers (Berlin) ...	42,396	42,968	40,060	4.6	1.8	5.7

It is stated that these percentages are slightly less than the actual percentage of unemployed members, owing to the fact that a certain proportion of unemployed members who are out of work, but who are not entitled to unemployed benefit, do not report themselves as such to the Unions to which they belong.

NORWAY.

*Employment in June.**—Of 13,500 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 117, or 0.9 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of June, 1906 (one union with 108 members, of which 110 were on strike, not being included). For comparison, the figures for June, 1906, May, 1906, and June, 1905, are given for 81 Trade Unions, and it will be seen that the returns would indicate an improvement in June, 1906, as compared with a year ago, and, allowing for a considerable improvement in the case of the sawyers and planers, about the same state of employment as a month ago.

Group of Trades.	No. of Unions making Returns.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
		June, 1906.	May, 1906.	June, 1905.	June, 1906.	May, 1906.	June, 1905.
Metal Workers & Moulders	31	6,058	6,024	5,434	0.7	0.7	1.2
Painters ...	1	325	300	250	—	—	0.8
Carpenters, &c. ...	7	877	746	688	4.3	4.8	0.7
Cabinet Makers ...	4	365	361	283	1.4	1.1	4.6
Sawyers and Planers	2	286	309	365	1.0	3.6	0.8
Woodpulp and Paper Makers	3	571	531	164	—	—	—
Boot and Shoe Makers	6	422	415	427	—	—	—
Printers ...	7	1,084	1,062	966	1.1	1.2	4.2
Bookbinders ...	3	248	248	199	1.2	1.2	6.0
Other Trades ...	17	993	934	1,030	0.1	0.2	—
Total ...	81	11,139	10,930	9,807	0.9	2.0	1.4

BELGIUM.†

Employment in June.—According to reports made to the Belgian Labour Department, 146 Trade Unions with 31,697 members had 361 or 1.1 per cent. of their number out of work towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.3 per cent. in the preceding month and 1.8 per cent. in June, 1905. (As regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 234.) The figures do not include particulars relating to miners, home-workers, or agricultural labourers.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
† *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

Labour Disputes in June.—Eight labour disputes, involving 726 workpeople (670 directly and 56 indirectly), were reported to the same Department as having begun in June. In addition to these, 9 other disputes which commenced before June 1st, and which involved 517 workpeople (465 directly and 52 indirectly), were in progress during the month. In the preceding month 22 disputes began, involving some 1,710 workpeople, while in June, 1905, there were 8 new disputes, in which 4,960 workpeople were involved.

The industries most affected by the June disputes were the textile (3 strikes affecting 341 workpeople) and coal mining (one strike affecting 249 workpeople).

Out of 8 new and old disputes which came to an end in June, one, affecting 40 persons, terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 6, affecting 706 workpeople, in favour of the employer, while one, affecting 25 workpeople, was compromised.

ITALY.*

Labour Disputes in June.—One hundred and eighty-six strikes were reported to the Italian Labour Department as having commenced during June, compared with 167 which began in the previous month. The number of persons directly involved in 111 of these was 31,217, as compared with 50,715 who took part in 111 of the May disputes. Strikes were most frequent in the building trades, agriculture, the textile trades, and the stone, earthenware and pottery trades, the numbers recorded being 41, 28, 24, and 20 respectively. So far as can be seen from the available data, the most extensive of the strikes were those among agricultural labourers and in the textile and building trades, some 9,000 workpeople being involved in 16 of the 28 strikes in agriculture, about 7,000 in 16 of the 24 textile strikes, and about 5,000 in 26 of the 41 strikes in the building trades. Out of 142 strikes which came to an end in June, 33 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 31 in favour of the employers, while 48 were compromised. In 30 cases the results were not stated.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.†

Strikes in the Building Trades.—The strike of members of the *Housesmiths' and Bridgemen's Union* in New York and the vicinity (see GAZETTE, December, 1905—March, 1906), has now terminated, the men having resumed work under the conditions prevailing before the strike, i.e., at the old rate of 18s. 9d. per day.

The strike of *painters* in New York City (see June GAZETTE, p. 169), came to an end on June 29th, the men having abandoned their demands for an increase in wages.

A strike of *plumbers* in New York, in which about 1,500 men were involved, commenced on July 2nd. The men demanded an increase in wages from 19s. 9½d. to 21s. 10½d. per day; the employers offered to raise their wages to 20s. 10d. on October 1st., but the strikers were willing to resume work only if that increase were granted immediately. On July 6th another strike, involving about 1,200 plumbers, was declared in Brooklyn. In this case the men demanded an increase of wages from 19s. 9½d. to 20s. 10d. per day, which amount they stated was promised them, as from 2nd July, in an agreement made with the Master Plumbers' Association two years ago. The employers wish to defer this increase until October 1st. An increase from 19s. 9½d. to 20s. 10d. per day has been granted in the wages of plumbers, who are members of a union which has not declared a strike amongst its members, but the strikers have received no concessions, and some have returned to work.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strikes at Chicago.†—On July 9th 2,200 cement workers went on strike, demanding that their wages should be increased from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 5½d. per hour. Three hundred grain handlers also struck on the same day, demanding an increase in wages from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 5½d. per hour.

* Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro (Journal of the Italian Labour Department).
† Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul-General at New York.
‡ Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Chicago.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN JULY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 513 Returns—445 from Employers, 51 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued fairly good during July. It showed a slight further decline compared with the previous month, but was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,369 pits employing 582,291 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended July 21st, 1906, was 4.99 as compared with 4.84 in June, 1906, and 4.63 in July, 1905. Time lost by holidays amounted to an average of .17 days per week in July, 1906, .50 days per week in June, 1906, and .16 days per week in July, 1905. Making allowance for holidays, employment was rather worse in July than in June, but was better than a year ago.

Of the 582,291 workpeople covered by the Returns, 384,112 (or 66.0 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended July 21st, and of these 238,988 (or 61.0 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified. This Table shows that compared with a year ago there was an increase in the average number of days worked per week in all districts, with one exception (the Warwick, Worcester, and Salop district):—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in July, 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1906, as compared with	
		July 21st, 1906.*	June 23rd, 1906.*	July 22nd, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland	41,635	5.31	5.19	5.06	+ .12	+ .25
Durham	113,851	5.30	5.31	5.26	+ .01	+ .04
Cumberland	7,510	5.42	5.33	4.51	+ .39	+ .91
South Yorkshire	55,083	5.40	4.90	4.61	+ .50	+ .79
West Yorkshire	21,186	4.73	4.32	3.46	+ .19	+ .67
Lancashire and Cheshire	54,218	4.52	4.40	4.17	+ .12	+ .35
Derbyshire	36,614	4.05	4.07	3.75	+ .12	+ .30
Nottingham and Leicester	29,927	3.86	3.71	3.61	+ .15	+ .25
Staffordshire	25,880	4.08	4.14	3.73	+ .06	+ .35
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop	8,189	3.89	4.09	4.04	-.20	-.15
Gloucester and Somerset	8,082	4.06	4.17	4.04	-.11	-.02
North Wales	10,701	5.14	4.95	4.60	+ .19	+ .54
South Wales and Mon. ...	117,482	5.69	5.17	5.21	+ .52	+ .48
ENGLAND & WALES...	580,358	5.00	4.81	4.62	+ .19	+ .38
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	24,046	4.58	5.21	4.28	-.63	+ .30
The Lothians	5,826	5.29	5.50	5.17	-.21	+ .12
Fife	21,368	5.05	4.99	4.66	+ .06	+ .19
SCOTLAND	51,240	4.88	5.16	4.66	-.30	+ .21
IRELAND.						
... ..	693	4.53	3.88	5.23	+ .65	-.70
United Kingdom ...	582,291	4.99	4.84	4.63	+ .15	+ .36

The average number of days lost by holidays in July was greatest in Scotland, where it amounted to .62 of a day per week.

In the *Northern Counties* employment continued good on the whole, but in West Yorkshire over half the men were still employed at pits working less than 18 days during the four weeks.

In the *Midlands* employment remained dull generally, two-thirds of the men working less than 18 days during the four weeks. At steam coal pits in Derbyshire, however, employment was reported as fairly good.

In *Wales* employment continued good generally, the average number of days worked per week in South Wales and Mon. (.569) being considerably higher than that worked in any other district.

In *Scotland* employment was fair, and rather better on the whole than a month ago, the decline in the average number of days worked being due to holidays.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week,

* This period was affected by holidays.

according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. In pits employing 190,571 workpeople more than one description of coal was produced.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in July, 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1906, as compared with	
		July 21st, 1906.*	June 23rd, 1906.*	July 22nd, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite	7,870	5.39	5.16	5.01	+ .23	+ .38
Coking	29,482	5.43	5.45	5.41	-.02	-.12
Gas	40,349	4.75	5.09	5.01	-.20	-.12
House	78,866	4.9	4.11	3.79	+ .08	+ .40
Manufacturing and Steam	235,159	5.31	4.98	4.87	+ .33	+ .44
Mixed	190,571	4.85	4.79	4.46	+ .06	+ .39
Total	582,291	4.99	4.84	4.63	+ .15	+ .36

For each of the periods under review, manufacturing, steam, coking, and anthracite pits worked a higher number of days than the general average, while pits producing house and mixed coal worked less than the general average. Pits producing gas coal showed a decline in the average number of days worked compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

The *Exports* of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in July, 1906, amounted to 5,239,932 tons, as compared with 4,417,254 tons in June, 1906, and 4,298,967 tons in July, 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 97 Returns—80 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron mines, and was on the whole about the same as a month and a year ago. In shale mines employment was fairly good and better than in June, though not so good as a year ago.

In tin and copper mines employment still showed an improvement, and it continued good in lead mines.

In and about quarries employment remained fair on the whole, but slack in slate quarries.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended July 21st the average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.73, as compared with 5.71 a month ago and 5.72 a year ago.

The time lost by holidays amounted to .21 of a day per week in July 1906, .22 in June 1906, and .20 in July 1905.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in July, 1906, at all Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1906, as compared with	
		July 21st, 1906.*	June 23rd, 1906.*	July 22nd, 1905.*	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland... ..	7,209	5.76	5.71	5.76	+ 0.05	...
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,025	5.92	5.73	5.94	+ 0.19	- 0.02
Scotland... ..	972	4.77	5.83	4.68	- 1.06	+ 0.09
Other Districts	2,948	5.66	5.60	5.61	+ 0.06	+ 0.05
Total and Averages	16,154	5.73	5.71	5.72	+ 0.02	+ 0.01

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 93.1 per cent. were employed in mines working twenty-two or more days during the four weeks ended July 21st, as compared with 92.5 per cent. a month ago, and 91.0 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,112 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended July 21st, as compared with 3,080 a month ago, and 3,095 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended July 21st was 5.43, as compared with 5.42 a month ago, and 5.65 a year ago.

* This period was affected by holidays.

† Revised Figures.

In July 1906, and July 1905, .28 of a day per week was lost owing to holidays.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall continued to improve, and in West Cornwall there was still a demand for skilled miners.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in Flintshire and Denbighshire, and was also good at Darley Dale (Derbyshire). In Weardale it was fair, five days a week being worked.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment in North Wales continued slack generally, though a slight improvement was reported at certain quarries; there was some short time in the Festiniog district. Employment continued quiet in the Ballachulish (Argyllshire) quarries, where only five days a week were worked.

Granite.—Employment continued moderate on the whole in Aberdeenshire, but was worse than a year ago. It continued fair in Leicestershire. In Devonshire and Cornwall employment was quiet, but better than a month ago.

Limestone.—Employment was good, and better than a month and a year ago in Cumberland. It was also good in Weardale, and was fair in South Durham. In the Plymouth district employment was fair generally, and better than a month ago. It continued fair in the Buxton district.

Other Stone.—In the Gateshead district employment was reported as fair, and better than a month ago. In the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham district full time was generally worked. Chert quarrymen were well employed in Derbyshire, with much overtime. Employment was fair in the Clee Hill road-material quarries, and moderate in building and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district. It continued bad, with much short time, in Forfarshire.

Settmaking.—Employment continued good at Airdrie, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stoney Stanton, and fair in Aberdeenshire. It was fair, on the whole, in North Wales and in the Clee Hill district. At Rowley Regis it was reported slack through want of stone.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district and at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, 4 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during July continued good, and showed no change compared with the previous month. It was much better than in July, 1905.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of July was 338, the same number as in June, but an increase of 17 on the total for July, 1905. Four furnaces were re-lit in the Cleveland district, and one each in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Monmouth. Six furnaces were blown out, three in Scotland, and three in Cumberland, Lancashire, and Worcestershire.

In addition a furnace in Cumberland was damped down.

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1906, as compared with	
	July, 1906.	June, 1906.	July, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.					
Cleveland	88	84	85	+ 4	+ 3
Cumberland & Lancs.	36	37	33	- 1	+ 3
S. and S.W. Yorks.	16	16	15	...	+ 1
Derby & Nottingham	42	42	37	...	+ 5
Leicester, Lincoln,) and Northampton }	28	28	27	...	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	32	33	32	- 1	...
S. Wales & Monmouth	16	15	15	+ 1	+ 1
Other districts	7	7	6	...	+ 1
Returned from England & Wales }	265	262	250	+ 3	+ 15
Returned from Scotland ...	73	76	71	- 3	+ 2
Total furnaces included in returns	338	338	321	...	+ 17

The Imports of iron ore in July, 1906, amounted to 771,207 tons, or 167,621 tons more than in June, 1906, and 129,789 tons more than in July, 1905.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during July, 1906, amounted to 162,295 tons, as compared with 157,788 tons in June, 1906, and 109,333 tons in July, 1905.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 221 Returns—204 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 4 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was not so good in July as in June. It continued generally brisk, however, and was considerably better than a year ago.

The total volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended July 21st, 1906, at the 204 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 1.4 per cent. less than during the week ended June 23rd, 1906, but 5.7 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 522,800, as compared with 530,300 a month ago, and 494,800 a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was a general decline in the number of workpeople employed. On the other hand the number employed was greater than a year ago except at iron forging, Bessemer converters, and crucible furnaces. Two districts showed a slight decline compared with a year ago, viz.:—"Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire towns," and "Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire."

Table with columns: Departments, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, In week ended July 21st, 1906, Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with A month ago, A year ago.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was less than five at puddling forges and iron rolling mills, and only 5.10 at Bessemer converting

departments. It was highest among foundry workers, who averaged 5.87 shifts per week.

Workpeople at crucible furnaces averaged nearly a quarter of a shift more than last month, but otherwise the average number of shifts worked showed little alteration. Compared with a year ago, there was a slight decrease at steel works and an increase of nearly a quarter of a shift at iron works.

TINPLATE WORKS AND SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 50 Returns—46 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during July showed an improvement as compared with June, but was worse than in July, 1905.

At the works covered by the Returns, 355 tinplate mills were working at the end of July, as compared with 347* at the end of June, 1906, and 377 in July, 1905; the number of sheet mills for the corresponding periods was 47, 44, and 44. At the 402 mills working about 20,000 workpeople were employed.

The following Table shows the number of tinplate and sheet mills working at each of the three periods:—

Table with columns: July, 1906, June, 1906, July, 1905, Number of Works open, Number of Mills in operation.

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets and black plates for tinning are given in the Table below:—

Table with columns: July, 1906, June, 1906, July, 1905, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1906, as compared with June, 1906, July, 1905.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 334 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 310 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in the principal shipbuilding centres. It was better on the whole than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,690 members had 3,217 (or 5.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 6.4 per cent. at the end of June, and 11.7 per cent. at the end of July, 1905.

Table with columns: District, No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1906, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of July, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for July, 1906, as compared with a month ago, a year ago.

* Revised figures.

Compared with a month ago, decreases in the percentages unemployed were shown in seven districts, and increases in five districts. The greatest decrease was in the Bristol Channel district, where, however, the work is principally on repairs. The smallest percentages of unemployed were in the Tyne and Wear districts (1.8 and 1.7 respectively).

Compared with a year ago, all the districts (without exception) showed an improvement in employment.

Employment on the Tyne and Wear was very good with all branches except sail-makers, and better than a month ago. Much overtime was worked at some of the yards, and employment was much better than a year ago. On the Tees employment was good with iron shipbuilders and fair with shipwrights. On the Humber it was slack generally, but good with shipwrights at Beverley, Selby and New Holland.

In the Thames and Medway district, employment, though quiet, was better than a month ago and a year ago. On the South coast it was fair on the whole. At the Bristol Channel ports it was slack, but better than at the end of June. On the Mersey employment was reported as moderate, and better than a year ago.

Employment on the Clyde continued good, and overtime was frequent before the local holidays, which caused interruption of work. At Dundee employment remained good, and was better than a month ago and a year ago. At Leith it was good with iron shipbuilders, but slack with shipwrights. At Aberdeen it was fair with iron shipbuilders and good with shipwrights. Employment at Belfast was moderate on the whole, and not so good as in June. It was also moderate, and worse than a month ago at Barrow. At Lowestoft it was fair; at Yarmouth, Ipswich, Dublin, and Cork it was dull.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 908 Returns—12 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 861 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 35 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during July showed little change compared with a month ago. It continued good and was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 153,818 members of Trade Unions show that 2.5 per cent. were unemployed, as compared with 2.4 in June and 4.7 a year ago.

The percentages for the various districts are shown below:—

Table with columns: District, No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1906, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of July, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for July, 1906, as compared with a month ago, a year ago.

It will be seen that although on the whole little change in employment took place as compared with the previous month; there was a slight falling off in certain districts, e.g., the Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry district, Scotland, the North East Coast and South Wales. In Scotland the figures were affected by the usual annual holidays. A slight improvement on the other hand is shown in the Lancashire districts, in Notts, Derby and Leicester, and at Belfast and Dublin.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † Revised figures.

In all districts employment was better than a year ago, especially in Scotland.

On the North-East Coast employment was good generally, but with pattern-makers at Hartlepool it was bad.

In Lancashire employment was good and overtime was general; at Preston, however, it was only moderate.

In Yorkshire most branches in the principal centres were well employed. Ironfounders at Sheffield, however, report a slight falling off as compared with a month ago. At Leeds, also, employment in the textile machinery, toolmaking and boiler-making branches has fallen off a little. At Hull employment with pattern-makers continued dull.

At Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry employment in the general engineering trade continued good. In the cycle industry there has been a slackening off, but the motor industry continued to be busy.

In the Notts, Derby, and Leicester district employment on the whole was rather better than a month ago. In the hosiery machine, cycle and motor sections at Nottingham, however, employment has declined.

In the Potteries employment generally was better than a month ago, and overtime was general.

In the Eastern Counties employment generally was good.

In the London district there was a slight falling off as compared with a month ago.

On the South Coast employment was not quite so good as a month ago. With engineers and boilermakers at Plymouth and Devonport it was quiet.

In South Wales employment with engineers continued fair generally; with ironfounders it was fair, but rather worse than a month ago. At Bristol employment showed some improvement. At Gloucester and Swindon it showed little change.

In Scotland July is the chief holiday month, but employment was fairly good on the whole, although rather worse than a month ago. Pattern makers on the Clyde and at Edinburgh and Falkirk reported a decline.

In Ireland employment at Belfast was dull with pattern makers and fair with other branches. At Dublin it continued dull generally, but slightly improved with engineers. At Cork also it was dull.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 52 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued fair generally. Eighteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 15,174, had 2.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, compared with 2.3 per cent. for the previous month, and 2.6 per cent. at the end of July, 1905.

Tubes.—In the tube trade employment continued fair, but not quite so good as a month ago and a year ago. In South Wales it continued good, with overtime in some departments.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was fair with block, cable, side-welded and doliied chain makers; with anchor smiths it remained slack. In the Tyne district employment was good. In South Wales it continued fair. At Dudley, Birmingham, Lye and Stourbridge, employment in the anvil and vice trade continued good; as also with axle and spring makers at Sheffield, Birmingham, West Bromwich and Wednesbury, and makers of iron fences at Wolverhampton. At Walsall employment was slack with buckle, cart gear and stirrup makers. It remained good upon railway ironwork at Wednesbury.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London employment with tin and iron plate workers was fair, but not so good as a month ago. It was, however, better than a year ago. With zinc workers in London it was slack. Employment with sheet metal workers was good at Sheffield, Oldham, and Aberdeen; fairly good at Leeds; fair on the Tyne and at Bilston, Dudley, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee; slack at Wolverhampton and Lye; and bad at Hull. At Birmingham employment continued quiet with iron plate workers; with tinplate workers it was moderate.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was quiet on the whole, and there was some amount of short time in London. Employment was much better, however, than a year ago. In Edinburgh employment was good.

Table with 5 columns: Location (London, Other Districts, United Kingdom), No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1906, included in the Returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of July, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a Month ago, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a Year ago.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,873 Returns—130 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,711 from Trade Unions, and 32 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued dull, though it was slightly better than a month ago. Compared with a year ago it showed little change.

London.—In London employment was rather better than a month ago, but it was not so good as in July, 1905. Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 57 London employers show that in the last week of July, 9,993 workpeople of all classes were paid wages, as compared with 9,556 in June, and 11,441 in July, 1905.

Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners show that the percentage of unemployed in July was 7.8, as compared with 9.4 a month ago, and 7.9 a year ago. With plumbers the percentage for July was 14.3, for June 13.7, and for July, 1905, 11.1. In both trades the percentage of unemployed was higher in London than in any other district. With bricklayers and plasterers employment was rather better than in the previous month; with masons a considerable improvement was shown, though employment continued dull, and with painters little change was shown.

The Provinces.—Returns received from 72 Employers' Associations in towns outside London show that employment in these towns continued quiet, and on the whole rather worse than a year ago.

The following information is based on returns received from the General Secretaries of Trade Unions and from Trade Union reports:—

Employment with bricklayers and masons was dull on the whole, but somewhat better than a month ago. With carpenters and joiners it continued slack, but was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage unemployed of Trade Union carpenters and joiners in the whole country was 5.3, compared with 5.4 in June, and 6.5 in July, 1905. With plumbers it was rather worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union plumbers unemployed was 8.9 in July, as compared with 7.9 in June and 10.1 in July, 1905. With slaters, painters and builders' labourers there was a falling-off in employment as compared with a month ago. With plasterers there was a slight improvement.

The following information is based on reports from Branch Secretaries of Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents:—

Northern Counties.—Employment was quiet on the whole, and about the same as a month and a year ago. With painters a falling off was reported; with slaters and tilers short time was general in the Tyne district.

Yorkshire.—Employment generally continued quiet. In Sheffield, however, it was slightly better than a month ago.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—In Lancashire and Cheshire employment continued fair. With bricklayers and masons it was rather better, but in other branches, especially with painters, there was a falling off.

Midlands and Eastern Counties.—In Derbyshire employment was slack; in Leicestershire it was quiet; in Nottingham it was moderate. In the Eastern counties employment was slack generally.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment continued quiet in the Three Town district and in South Wales. There was a slight improvement at Bristol.

Scotland.—Employment was moderate generally. In the Clyde district it was rather better than a month ago with bricklayers and joiners; with plasterers and painters it was worse.

Ireland.—At Belfast and Dublin employment was fair generally. At Cork it was fairly good, and better than a month ago.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 178 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 146 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during July was quiet in the furnishing trade, and fairly good in the woodworking trades. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 4.4, as compared with 4.1 in June, 1906, and 5.0 in July, 1905.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was moderate on the whole. Trade Unions with a membership of 4,397 reported 188 (or 4.3 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of July, the same percentage as at the end of June. The percentage for July, 1905, was 5.1. Employment was reported as good at Birmingham and Edinburgh, and as dull in London.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment was quiet in the furnishing trades, and short time was worked by cabinet makers in several districts. It was worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 14,073 reported 891 (or 6.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 5.2 per cent. at the end of June, 1906, and 7.4 per cent. at the end of July, 1905.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was fairly good, and better than a month ago. It was not quite so good as a year ago.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachmakers was reported as remaining good, a considerable amount of overtime being worked; with wheelwrights and smiths it was reported as moderate generally. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 8,762, reported 150 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 1.6 per cent. at the end of June, and 2.0 per cent. at the end of July, 1905.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment in London was fair; at Glasgow it was reported as good; at Hull as fairly good; at Bristol as declining; at Dublin as dull. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,686 reported 66 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 3.1 per cent. in June and 5.7 per cent. a year ago.

With packing-case makers and basket-makers employment was fairly good generally.

POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 26 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

In the Pottery trade employment continued fairly good in England; in Scotland it was moderate. In the Brick and Tile trades it was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago.

Pottery Trade.—In Staffordshire employment continued fairly good, but some short time was being worked. In Scotland employment was moderate, and also in South Yorkshire and the River Aire district. In North Devon it was reported to be fairly good. It was bad with Glasgow tobacco pipe makers.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued good at Oldham and in South Wales. It was also good in North Wales. In the Tees and Plymouth districts it was fair; in Nottingham it was slack, short time being worked. At Peterborough an improvement was reported.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 111 Returns—65 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 21 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, but was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 10,381 workpeople, and paying £12,127 in wages during the last week in July, show that compared with a month ago there was an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the numbers employed, and of 2.9 per cent. in the wages paid. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 6.4 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 7.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table with 4 main columns: Branches, Districts, Workpeople (Number paid wages, Increase/Decrease in percentage unemployed), and Earnings (Aggregate amount of wages paid, Increase/Decrease in percentage wages paid). Rows include Glass Bottle, Plate Glass, Flint Glass Ware, Other Branches, and various districts like North of England, Yorkshire, Lancashire, etc.

As compared with a month ago the increase in the numbers employed was most marked in the Northern Counties and in Yorkshire. There was also a smaller increase in Worcester and Warwick. In Lancashire, however, a decrease was shown, and a slight decrease took place also in Scotland.

Compared with a year ago, an increase was shown in all the principal districts except Scotland, which has suffered a decline. The most marked increase was in Yorkshire.

Employment with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens, and with bottle makers at Bristol and Portobello, continued good. It was also good with glass cutters in Edinburgh. With flint glass makers and plate glass bevellers at Birmingham, glass blowers in London, and bottle makers at Dublin, it was fair. It was dull with flint glass workers at Warrington, where there was short time. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear, and with glass bottle makers in Lancashire employment was bad. With flint glass cutters and medical bottle makers at Glasgow it was bad, but with other bottle makers it was fair.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the periods mentioned:—

Table with 5 columns: Description, July 1906, June 1906, July 1905, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1906, as compared with June 1906 and July 1905. Rows include Imports: Window & German Sheet Glass, Plate, Flint, Manufactures, other sorts, Bottles, Exports: Plate, Flint, Manufactures, other sorts, Bottles.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 167 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

AGRICULTURAL labourers were generally well employed during July. The weather was dry, except for a few local storms towards the end of the month, and caused very little or no interruption to outdoor work. In certain districts the dry weather resulted in light hay crops, and lessened the work required in connection with the root crops, hoeing, &c., thereby somewhat affecting the demand for extra labour. For the most part, however, haymaking and hoeing caused a good and constant demand for extra men.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland, Cumberland, and Westmorland, day labourers were in demand for hoeing and haymaking. In the Carlisle Union some scarcity of labour was reported. Employment was regular in Lancashire, and in the Fylde Union it is reported that haymaking was prolonged because of the scarcity of labour. Fine weather favoured employment in Yorkshire, and in most districts the labourers were fully employed.

Midland Counties.—Employment generally was good in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Notts and Leicester, work on the hay and root crops being plentiful. In Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire employment was also good. In Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire farm labourers were generally fully employed, but a few day labourers were in irregular work after the hay had been gathered in. Horsemen, cowmen, and shepherds were reported to be rather scarce in the Wellingborough Union, on account of the objection to Sunday work. Some scarcity of cowmen and shepherds is also reported in Buckinghamshire. In this county and in Hertfordshire the light hay crop somewhat affected the demand for casual labour. In Bedfordshire the demand for labour was fully met, and a correspondent in the North Bedford Union states that there was a better supply of men for permanent situations.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was generally good in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. In Norfolk and Suffolk it was also good. In Essex few labourers were unemployed. A scarcity of cowmen is still reported in the Braintree Union.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment was regular in Kent, where haymaking, hoeing, and hop-washing offered a good deal of extra work; day labourers, however, were still somewhat in excess of the demand. Farm labourers in Surrey were regularly employed. In Sussex haymaking generally provided full employment, but the number of casual labourers seeking employment during the hay harvest was somewhat greater than usual. In Hampshire employment generally was good, but in several districts there were more day labourers than required. In Berkshire the dry weather has affected the demand for labour in connection with the root crops. In Wiltshire, Dorset, and Somerset, employment generally was good. A correspondent in the Yeovil Union, however, reported that employment was affected by the poor root crops. Farm labourers were in full work in Herefordshire. In Gloucestershire, Devonshire, and Cornwall haymaking and hoeing provided full employment. Some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported in certain districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 132 Returns, 107 from Employers, 9 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

London.*—Employment generally was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended July 28th was 11,908, an increase of 3.9 per cent. on a month ago, and of 2.3 per cent. on a year ago.

The daily numbers in July ranged from 11,147 on the 7th to 12,687 on the 27th. During the corresponding period of 1905, the numbers ranged from 10,760† on the 22nd to 12,423† on the 27th.

* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

The Returns as to the price of bread per 4 lbs., as furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 26 large Provincial towns at the beginning of August.

As compared with a month ago, a decrease of 1/4d. per 4 lbs. took place at Glasgow. In London a decrease of 1/4d. per 4 lbs. took place in some districts, and the predominant prices are now 4 1/2d. and 5d. per 4 lbs.

As compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1d. at Middlesbro', and increases of 1/4d. at Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead. In 5 towns (2 in England, 2 in Scotland, and 1 in Ireland) the price is now 1/4d. per 4 lbs. less than a year ago. In London the price is on the average about 1/4d. per 4 lbs. less than in August, 1905.

Table showing bread prices by place, predominant price at 1st Aug. 1906, increase/decrease from month ago and year ago, and last change date.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated:—

Table with columns for Month, British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price), Imports (Average Declared Value), and Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households).

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

Factories and Workshops: Special Exceptions: Employment between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in respect to women and young persons working in non-textile factories and workshops that the period of employment (except on Saturday) shall be from 6.0 a.m. to 6.0 p.m., or from 7.0 a.m. to 7.0 p.m., or from 8.0 a.m. to 8.0 p.m.

* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same in the different towns, the predominant prices quoted for the several towns are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago for the same towns.

the health of those affected thereby, he may by special Order grant a special exception that the time of employment in that class may, on any day except Saturday, begin at 9.0 a.m. and end at 9.0 p.m., if so fixed by the occupier, and if so specified by him in the notice required to be given to the Inspector of the district, and to be affixed on the premises of the occupier's intention to avail himself of the exception.

In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order* dated July 24th, 1906, granting this special exception between September 1st. and last day of February following, to factories in the County of London in which letterpress bookbinding is carried on; on condition that there shall be, after 8.0 p.m. in each room in which any woman or young person is being employed, at least 400 cubic feet of space for each person employed therein.

The Home Secretary has also made an Order† of the same date granting this special exception up to August 31st, 1907, to workshops in which millinery work and dressmaking are carried on in connection with drapers' retail establishments within the City of Manchester and the Borough of Salford, and to factories and workshops in which the manufacture of straw hats and bonnets is carried on, on the same condition as to space, and on the further condition that no woman or young person to whom the exception applies shall be employed under any circumstances after 9.0 p.m.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for July.

IMPORTS.†

Table showing imports by category (Food, Drink and Tobacco; Raw Materials; Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Miscellaneous) for months ended 31st July 1904, 1905, and 1906.

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.‡

Table showing exports by category (Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Raw Materials; Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Miscellaneous) for months ended 31st July 1904, 1905, and 1906.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £5,293,714 in July, 1904; £5,773,478 in July, 1905; and £6,059,325 in July, 1906.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1906. No. 565. Price 1d. † Statutory Rules and Order, 1905. No. 564. Price 1d. ‡ The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office during July was 82, consisting of 73 cases of lead poisoning, 2 of other forms of poisoning, and 7 cases of anthrax. Five deaths were reported, 3 due to lead poisoning, and 2 to anthrax.

During the seven months ended July, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 424, as compared with 373 in the corresponding period of 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 33 in 1906, as compared with 22 in 1905.

[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.]

Analysis by Industries.

Large table showing analysis of diseases by industry, categorized into Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax, with columns for cases and deaths in 1906 and 1905.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DANGERS ATTENDANT ON BUILDING OPERATIONS.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the dangers attendant on building operations, and to prepare a draft for regulations embodying the precautions which may in

* Of the 14 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in July, 1906, 8 were females.

their opinion be desirable for the safety of the workers. The members of the committee are:—Mr. William Dawkins Cramp, I.S.O., Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories (Chairman); Mr. John Batchelor (Operative Bricklayers' Society); Mr. E. T. Jessup (Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners); Mr. William Shepherd (London Master Builders' Association); and Mr. Alexander R. Stenning (Surveyors' Institution).

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JULY.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during July, 1906, was 204, a decrease of 33 as compared with June, and of 136 as compared with July, 1905.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in July, 1906, was 93. The number reported for July in the years 1901-1905 ranged from 62 in 1904 to 126 in 1905, the mean for the five years being 85.

Table showing fatal industrial accidents by trade, including Railway Service, Mines, Factories, Workshops, and Seamen, with columns for number of workpeople killed and increase/decrease.

* Now included under Factories.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-seven new disputes began in July, 1906, compared with 27 in June, 1906, and 17 in July, 1905. By the 27 disputes 11,088 workpeople were directly and 4,889 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before July, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 21,922 workpeople involved in trade disputes during July, 1906, compared with 36,170 in June, 1906, and 18,155 in July, 1905.

New Disputes in July, 1906.—In the following Table the new disputes in July are summarised by trades affected:—

Table with 4 columns: Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total). Rows include Coal Mining, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Cotton Weaving, Woollen, Boot and Shoe, Other Trades, and Totals for July 1906, June 1906, and July 1905.

Causes.—Of the 27 new disputes, 5 arose on demands for increased wages, 2 on objections to reduction, and 12 on other wages questions, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 4 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 2 on details of working arrangements.

Results.—Definite results were reported in July in the case of 22 new disputes, affecting 15,287 workpeople, and 5 old disputes, affecting 1,255 workpeople. Of these new and old disputes, 12, involving 11,733 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 11, involving 2,670 persons, in favour of the employers;

and 5, involving 2,139 persons, were compromised. In the case of 1 other dispute, involving 297 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in July of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 95,000 working days. In addition, 63,200 working days were lost during July owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in July of all disputes, new and old, was 158,200 working days, as compared with 338,700 in the previous month, and 275,900 in the corresponding month of 1905.

Summary for the First Seven Months of 1905 and 1906.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the seven months January-July, 1905 and 1906, respectively, were as follows:—

Table with 7 columns: Groups of Trades, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople affected, Aggregate Duration in Working Days (1905, 1906), No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople affected, Aggregate Duration in Working Days. Rows include Building, Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding, Textile, Clothing, Transport, Other Trades, and Total.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with 10 columns: Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began in 1906, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Rows include Coal Mining—Miners, &c., Miners, &c., Hauliers and Miners, Hauliers and Miners, &c., Engineering—Pipe Moulders, Core Makers, &c., Patternmakers, Fitters, Moulders, and Labourers, Cotton Weaving—Weavers, Winders and Warpers, Weavers, Boot and Shoe—Finishers and other Boot and Shoe Operatives, Rubber Tyre Manufacture—Rubber Workers.

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

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A copy of a monthly Return showing names of seamen whose deaths have been reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may be seen at any Free Library, Mercantile Marine Office, or Sailors' Home throughout the country

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages. Changes reported in July.—The net effect of all the changes reported in July was an increase of £2,907 per week, as compared with an increase of £2,349 per week in June, 1906, and an increase of £4,557 per week in July, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 79,188, of whom 77,159 received advances amounting to £2,977 per week, and 2,029 sustained decreases amounting to £70 per week. The total number affected in June, 1906, was 62,150, and in July, 1905, 183,337.

Two changes, affecting 38,650 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and 13 changes, affecting 17,430 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 23,108 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for the Seven completed Months of 1906.—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since 1st January was 859,955, as compared with 436,143 in the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 849,071 workpeople a net increase of £30,120 per week, and 6,754 workpeople a net decrease of £432 per week, while the remaining 4,130 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes was an increase of £29,688 per week, as compared with a decrease of £5,238 per week in the corresponding period of 1905.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople

affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Table with 4 columns: Groups of Trades, January—July (1905, 1906) with sub-columns for No. and £. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Other Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, and Total.

Hours. The changes in hours of labour reported during July, 1906, affected 127 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 173 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since 1st January last was 26,768, the net decrease in their working time being 42,594 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in July. Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages reported in July are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN WAGES REPORTED IN JULY.

Table with 6 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1906, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by (Increase, Decrease), Particulars of Change. Rows include Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel, Engineering, Textile, and Other Trades.

NOTE.—Durham Coal Mining.—Early in August it was arranged that the Durham miners' wages should be advanced 2½ per cent., making their wages 3¼ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the September GAZETTE. * Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JULY.

TWENTY-FOUR Bureaux furnished Returns, of which fourteen can be compared with similar Returns for a year ago. The remaining ten were either not established in July, 1905, or the figures are not available for that date.

(I.) Work done in July, 1906.

Table showing work done in July 1906 by 24 bureaux, categorized by London, Provincial, and Total. Columns include Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during July 1906 and July 1905, Situations offered by Employers during July 1906 and July 1905, and Workpeople found Work during July 1906 and July 1905.

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during July, 1906.

Table showing employment found for workpeople during July 1906. Columns include Capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, and Total. Sub-sections include Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, and Engaged by Salvation Army.

(III.) Occupations of the Workpeople on the Registers of 24 Bureaux at the end of July, 1906.

Table showing occupations of workpeople on registers at the end of July 1906, categorized by Men, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls. Columns include Name of Bureau, Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Porters, Messengers, Carmen &c., Other Occupations, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls.

* Including 5 men who emigrated.

Occupations of the Workpeople on the Registers of 24 Bureaux at the end of July, 1906.—(Continued.)

Table showing occupations of workpeople on registers at the end of July 1906, categorized by Men, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls. Columns include Name of Bureau, Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Porters, Messengers, Carmen &c., Other Occupations, Lads and Boys, and Women and Girls.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JULY.

DURING July 651 fresh applications (333 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 586 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 170 persons, of whom 92 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 170 situations found for applicants, 96 were of a more or less permanent character, while 74 were temporary only. The work done by the Bureaux during July is shown in the following Table:—

Table showing women's employment in July. Columns include Applications by Workpeople during July 1906 and July 1905, Situations offered by Employers during July 1906 and July 1905, Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanent and Temporary), and Summary by Bureaux and Occupations.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended July 28th, 1906, amounted to £3,900,983, an increase of £168,366 (or 4.5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905. During the thirty weeks ended July 28th, 1906, the total amount was £30,623,852, an increase of £1,215,291 (or 4.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

Table showing railway goods and mineral traffic receipts. Columns include Name of Railway, Amount for 4 weeks ended July 28th, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905, Amount for 30 weeks ended July 28th, 1906, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905.

PAUPERISM IN JULY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in July, 1906, corresponded to a rate of 209 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with June, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 5,996 (1.6 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 4. There was a decrease of 3,118 (1.9 per cent.) in the number of indoor paupers, and of 2,878 (1.4 per cent.) in the number of outdoor paupers. Decreases occurred in all districts except 6, in 2 of which no change was shown, the remaining 4 showing slight increases.

Compared with July, 1905, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 8,024 (2.1 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 7. There was a decrease of 362 (0.2 per cent.) in the number of indoor paupers, while outdoor paupers decreased by 7,662 (3.5 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 23 districts, and increases in 12. The most marked decreases were shown in Galway (117 per 10,000), a potato famine having caused exceptional distress in this district a year ago, East London (38), and Wolverhampton (24).

Table showing pauperism in July. Columns include Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of July, 1906 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago and A year ago. Sub-sections include ENGLAND & WALES*, METROPOLIS, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND*, and IRELAND*.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JULY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in July was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 12; under the Friendly Societies Act, 54 (including 32 branches of existing Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, nil; in all 67.

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

Trade Unions.—Scotland.—1, viz., Shipyard Keepers' Assoc., Glasgow.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Co-op. Soc. mainly for Distribution: 4, viz., Narborough and Littlethorpe Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Narborough, Leicester; Aldeburgh Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Aldeburgh, Suffolk; Wealdstone Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Wealdstone, Middlesex; Milford Haven Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Milford Haven. Co-op. Agric. Soc.: 2, viz., Chalvington and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Chalvington, Hellingly, Sussex; Dulverton and Dist. Agric. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Dulverton, Somerset. Misc. Soc.: 4 Working Men's Clubs. Ireland.—2, viz., Co-op. Agric. Soc.: Killumney Co-op. Creamery Soc., Ltd., Killumney, Ovens, co. Cork; Crosskeys Co-op. Creamery Soc., Ltd. Crosskeys, co. Cavan.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—21, viz., Dumbleton and Dist. Pig Insurance Soc., Dumbleton, Evesham; Reading Marxian Working Men's Club and Inst., Reading; New Boultham Working Men's Club and Inst., New Boultham, Lincoln; Wakefield Friendly and Trade Soc. Working Men's Club, Wakefield; Castleford Roundhill Working Men's Recreation Club, Castleford; Worsbro' Dale Working Men's Inst. and Club, Worsbro' Dale, Barnsley; Bedlingtonshire Gardeners' Protective Assoc., Bedlington, Northumberland; North London Co-op. Credit Soc., Islington, N.; Pontypridd Permanent Money Soc., Pontypridd; Royal Naval Chief Petty Officers' Mutual Improvement and Death Benefit Soc., Landport, Portsmouth; Dr. Gaster Roumanian Sick and Benefit Soc., Manchester; All Souls Sick Benefit and Burial Soc., Liverpool; Bankhall P.S.A. Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Pride of Israel Friendly Benefit Soc., Bedford Street, Commercial Road, E.; Oxford Tavern Slate Club, Portobello Road, Notting Hill, W.; Pease Odd Fellows' Friendly Soc., Guisborough; Brodsworth Main Colliery Sick and Accident Soc., Brodsworth, Doncaster; Christian United Tontine Benefit Soc., Rhoslanerchrugog, Ruabon; Monarch Collecting Soc., Bush Lane, Cannon Street, E.C.; Flower Sick and Dividend Soc., Ledsam Street, Birmingham; New Inns Sick and Dividend Soc., Lozells, Birmingham. Ireland.—1, viz., Sackville Loan and Investment Soc., Dublin.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table showing societies and unions ceasing to exist in July. Columns include Notices Received in July of, Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up, and Registry Cancelled.

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

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Explosives in Coal Mines.—Under the powers conferred on the Home Secretary by section 6 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, he has made an Order, dated 2nd August, 1906, directing that "The Explosives in Coal Mines Order of the 20th December, 1902" shall be amended and shall take effect as if the explosives named and defined in the schedule to this new Order were named and defined in the schedule to the old Order, and in all respects, as if the schedule to the new Order formed part of the schedule to the old Order.

The schedule to the new Order contains the definitions of Cornish Powder, Curisite, Exallite, Extra Carbonite, Good Luch, Kolax, Odite, Permalite and Titanite. It also contains two new definitions of Faversham Powder, which are to be substituted for the definition of that explosive contained in the Order of 10th December, 1903.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING JULY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1905. Reports and Statistics. Reports of Superintending and other Inspectors; of the Superintending Inspector for dangerous trades and dangerous machinery; Statutory Orders and Certificates in 1905; accidents, prosecutions, and appeals; cost of administration of the Factory Acts, 1895-1905. [Cd. 3036: pp. xx. + 447: price 3s. 9d.]

Report of Home Department on the circumstances attending an Explosion in the Corning House of the Gunpowder Factory at Blackbeck, Lancashire, on 30th April, 1906. [Cd. 3038: pp. 7: price 1d.]

Thirtieth Annual Report of H.M. Inspectors of Explosives, 1905. [Cd. 3044: pp. 259: price 2s. 2d.]

Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1905. [H.C. 149: pp. 75: price 8d.]

Agricultural Statistics, 1905. Report on the Agricultural Returns relating to Acreage and Produce of Crops and Number of Live Stock in Great Britain. With summaries for the United Kingdom, British Possessions and Foreign Countries, and particulars of Prices, Imports and Exports of Agricultural Produce. [Cd. 3061: pp. lxii. + 306: price 1s. 6d.]

Annual Report of Proceedings under the Salmon and Fresh Water Fisheries Acts for the year 1905. [Cd. 3062: pp. xxiv. + 89: price 6d.]

Report of Proceedings at the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of Representatives of Authorities under the Sea Fisheries Regulation Act, 1888. Held on Thursday, June 14th, 1906. [Cd. 3063: pp. 31: price 3d.]

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1905. Part II. Report on Salmon Fisheries. [Cd. 3042: pp. xii. + 88: price 1s. 1½d.]

North Sea Fisheries Investigations. Reports of the British Delegates attending the meetings of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, in 1903, 1904, and 1905. [Cd. 3033: pp. 444, with maps and charts: price 6s. 9d.]

Report from the Select Committee on Butter Trade, with the Proceedings of the Committee. Appointed to consider whether any, and if so what, further legislation is required in order to secure the better conduct and control of the trade in butter and butter substitutes. [H.C. 245: pp. xxxvi.: price 4d.]

Diplomatic Reports (Coal). Extracts from Reports from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Officers Abroad for 1904 and 1905. Coal production and consumption in various countries, numbers employed, prices, wages, disputes, &c. [H.C. 260: pp. 306: price 1s. 3d.]

Local Authorities (Ireland) Female Inspectors. Return showing what Local Authorities in Ireland, in the year 1905 had appointed (a) Female Sanitary Sub-Officers; and (b) Male and Female Inspectors of Workshops, who are not also Sanitary Sub-Officers. [H.C. 214: pp. 2: price ½d.]

Post Office Savings Banks. Account of all Deposits received and paid during the year 1905, liabilities, securities held, &c. [H.C. 230: pp. 3: price ½d.]

Report from the Standing Committee on Law, &c., on the Workmen's Compensation Bill; with the Proceedings of the Committee. [H.C. 216: pp. 39: price 4d.]

Report from the Select Committee on Education (Provision of Meals) Bill, 1906. [H.C. 267: pp. x.: price 1½d.]

Report from the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., on the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Bill, with the Proceedings of the Committee. [H.C. 249: pp. 8: price 1½d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Further Correspondence relating to Affairs in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. [Cd. 3028: pp. iv. + 107: price 11d.]

Further Correspondence relating to Labour in the Transvaal Mines. [Cd. 3025: pp. xvii. + 190: price 1s. 11d.]

Colonial Office Reports—Annual Series. No. 486. St. Helena, 1905. Notes on agriculture, trade and industries, savings banks, &c. [Cd. 2684-32: pp. 42: price 2½d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

The Industrial Reports and Records of New South Wales, 1905. Volume IV., Part 5. Reports of five cases. 1906, Volume V., Part 1. Reports of fourteen cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

Canada.—The Labour Gazette, July, 1906. Articles on "Legislation in Canada with regard to Master and Servant;" "Legislation of Dominion Parliament affecting Labour, 1906."

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

The Apprenticeship System. Part I. of the Annual Report for 1905 of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour. Result of an inquiry by the Bureau of Labour among employers and trade unions. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 85.]

Bulletin of the Department of Labour of the State of New York. No. 29. June, 1906. Work of the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration in first quarter of 1906; the new Eight-hour Law; state of employment in the first quarter of 1906, &c.

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No. 42. July, 1906. Labour Legislation in 1906; hours of labour of women in certain branches of occupation.

France.

Population Census of March 24th, 1901. Vol. II. Deals with South-Eastern Departments of France. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, 1906. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. xvi. + 803.]

Strikes and Lock-outs, Conciliation and Arbitration in France, 1905. Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour, 1906. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. xix. + 684: price 3s. 7d.]

Journal of the French Labour Department, June, 1906. Contains articles on miners' Friendly Societies in 1903 and 1904, and the 9-hours day in French tobacco and match factories and the French Mint.

Germany.

Conditions of Female Employment in Factories, Clothing Trades and Shops at Karlsruhe. Baden Factory Inspectorate, 1906. [Karlsruhe: pp. xi. + 232.]

Journal of the German Labour Department. Contains articles on Factory Inspection in Baden in 1905, Hirsch-Duncker and Christian Trade Unions in Germany in 1905, and Unemployment Statistics for April-June, 1906.

Index to Monthly Journal of the Imperial Insurance Department of Germany for 1885-1905. [Berlin, 1906: pp. 519.]

Journal of the Imperial Insurance Department of Germany. July, 1906.

Austria-Hungary.

Lead Poisoning in Industrial Occupations. Part IV. Austrian Labour Department, 1906. [Vienna: Alfred Holder: pp. 38.]

Registered Co-operative Credit Associations in Austria in 1902. Austrian Central Statistical Commission, 1906. [Vienna: Karl Gerold's Sohn: pp. lxxiii. + 262: price 8s. 7d.]

Census of Occupations on June 3rd, 1902. Part IX. Bohemia. Austrian Central Statistical Commission, 1906. [Vienna: Karl Gerold's Sohn: pp. 189: price 4s. 11d.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department. Contains article on Strikes and Lock-outs in Italy in 1904.

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, June 30th, 1906. Yearbook of Labour Legislation, 1905. Contains text of labour laws for all countries in 1905. Belgian Labour Department, 1906. [Société Belge de Librairie, rue Treurenberg 16, pp. xviii. + 584: price 2s. 2½d.]

Laws and Enactments concerning the Inspection of Labour and the Regulation of Dangerous Trades. Belgian Labour Department, 1906. [Brussels: Société Belge de Librairie, rue Treurenberg 16, pp. 316.]

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, July 15th 1906.

Holland.

Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau of Holland, Part 16.

Denmark.

Statistics of Wages in Copenhagen in 1904. Copenhagen Municipal Statistical Office, 1906. [Copenhagen: Lehmann & Stage: pp. xiii. + 69.]

Statistics of Denmark, Series IV., Volume 20. Contains results of Census of February 1st, 1906. Danish Statistical Bureau, 1906. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel: pp. 291.]

Sweden.

Statistics of Population, 1903. Central Statistical Bureau of Sweden, 1906. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. xlv. + 68.]

Electoral Statistics, 1903-1905. Central Statistical Bureau of Sweden, 1906. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. 37.]

Postal Savings Banks in Sweden in 1904. Official Report. [Stockholm: Imprimerie K. L. Beckman: pp. 17.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department. June, 1906.

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3656. Trade of Germany for the year 1905. Notes on the state of the labour markets; average wages in the textile and other industries; prices and consumption of meat; organisations of employers; strikes, &c. [Cd. 2682-181: pp. 82: price 4½d.]

No. 3662. Trade of Consular District of Gothenburg for the year 1905. Notes on the cotton, woollen and sugar-beet industries; strikes, &c. [Cd. 2682-187: pp. 35: price 2½d.]

No. 3665. Trade of Consular District of New York for the year 1905. Notes on the textile and other industries. [Cd. 2682-190: pp. 48: price 2½d.]

No. 3675. Trade of Japan for the year 1905. [Cd. 2682-200: pp. 46: price 2½d.]

No. 3679. Trade of South Italy for the year 1905 (Supplementary). Effect of the Law of 8th July, 1904, for the encouragement of industries; emigration statistics of 1905, &c. [Cd. 2682-204: pp. 30: price 4d.]

No. 3681. Trade of Savannah for the year 1905. Enforcement of the American Alien Immigration Laws; price of cotton, &c. [Cd. 2682-206: pp. 28: price 2d.]

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

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