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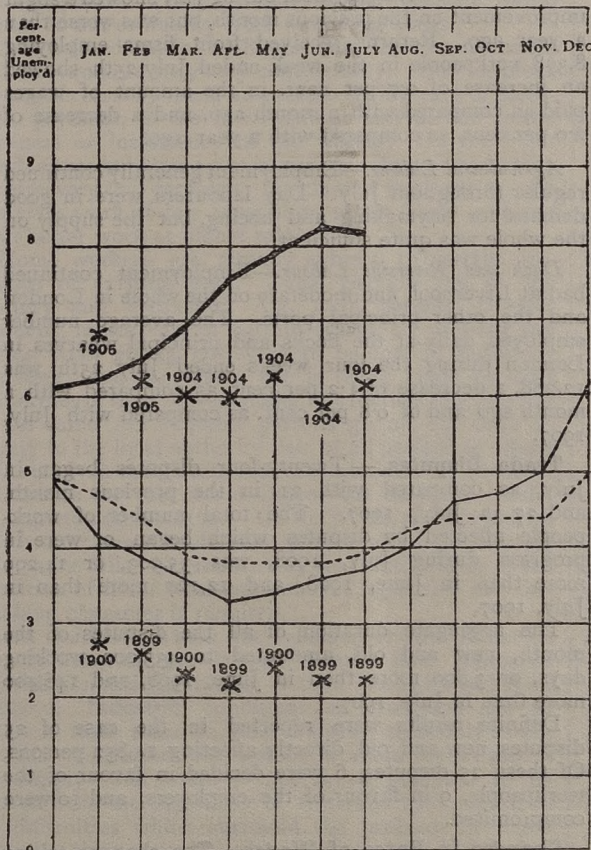
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve=1908. — Thin Curve=1907.
----- Dotted Curve=Mean of 1898-1907.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1898-1907 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For July, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 646,511 members in the following trades:—

Building... ..	64,286	Printing & Bookbinding	55,394
Coal Mining	128,753	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering	152,839	nishing	35,281
Shipbuilding	59,831	Miscellaneous	20,896
Other Metal Trades ...	31,593		
Textiles... ..	97,638	Total	646,511

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JULY.

[In addition to the 2,675 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,621 were received from employers relating to 1,113,369 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,296 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in July was, on the whole, much about the same as in June. It was still affected by the continuance of the dispute in the engineering trade on the North-East Coast.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in employment in all the principal industries, with the exception of the boot and shoe manufacture.

In the 268 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 646,511, making Returns, 53,163 (or 8.2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of July, 1908, as compared with 8.3* per cent. at the end of June, 1908, and 3.7 per cent. at the end of July, 1907.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the coal mining industry during July was fairly good. It showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good, but was on the whole not quite so good as a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during July was only moderate, and showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was considerably worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing over 21,000 workpeople, showed 267 furnaces in blast at the end of July, as compared with 282 in June, 1908, and 347 in July, 1907.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed little change as compared with the previous month. It was worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended July 25th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 0.4 per cent. less than in the week ended June 27th, 1908, and 14.0 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate Works and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during July was very good. It was better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 446 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of July, as compared with 432 a month ago and 446 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment was slack, with much short time, and continued to be adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year

*Revised figure.

ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 11.1,* as compared with 10.5* a month ago and 3.5 a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 21.9, as compared with 22.9† in June, 1908, and 7.2 in July, 1907.

Cotton Trade.—Employment was worse than a month ago and a year ago. At many spinning mills there was organised short time, and in the weaving sheds there was a good deal of slackness. Returns from firms employing 118,414 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 10.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woolen Trade.—Employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 27,745 workpeople in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,054 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment during July continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked. Returns from firms employing 46,795 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 16.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued fairly good on the whole, but showed a decline as compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,847 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Some short time was reported. Returns received from firms employing 8,436 workpeople in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment continued bad. It was slightly better than a month ago, but considerably worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,988 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 20.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment continued moderate, and showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 17,493 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed the usual seasonal decline, but was better than a year ago; in the provinces it was fairly good. In the *ready-made* branch it was fair, and slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the *Silk Hat* trade was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* trade it was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,312 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of

* Members on strike are not included in these figures.
† Revised figure.

wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,436 had 8.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 8.6 per cent. in June, and 4.1 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades was fairly good, but not so good as a month ago, short time being reported at a number of mills.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was moderate with letterpress printers, and bad with lithographic printers and bookbinders. It was worse than a year ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 4.6, as compared with 4.8 a month ago and 3.6 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 8.3, 9.2, and 6.2 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in July continued slack. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 6.9 per cent. a month ago, and 4.0 per cent. in July, 1907.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued dull.

Glass Trades.—Employment during July showed a slight improvement on the previous month, but was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,378 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment generally continued regular throughout July. Day labourers were in good demand for haymaking and hoeing, but the supply on the whole was quite sufficient.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment continued bad at Liverpool, and moderate on the whole in London and the other principal ports. The average number employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended July 25th was 12,288, a decrease of 1.2 per cent. as compared with a month ago and of 0.8 per cent. as compared with July, 1907.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-four disputes began in July, as compared with 21 in the previous month, and 27 in July, 1907. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during July, 1908, was 35,903, or 14,299 more than in June, 1908, and 12,127 more than in July, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 435,000 working days, or 3,800 more than in June, 1908, and 146,400 more than in July, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 25 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 14,852 persons. Of these 25 disputes, 6 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 10 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in July affected 191,200 workpeople, of whom 10,000 received advances and 181,200 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were reduced included 146,000 coal miners in Northumberland and Scotland; 4,000 shale miners and 8,000 ironmoulders in Scotland; and 4,000 blastfurnacemen and 15,000 iron and steel workers in various parts of Great Britain. Amongst those whose wages were increased were 5,000 blastfurnacemen in Cleveland and Durham. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of about £17,000 per week.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON HOME WORK.

THE Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed "to consider and report upon the conditions of labour in trades in which Home Work is prevalent, and the proposals which have been made for the remedying of existing abuses in those trades," have presented their Report.*

The Committee report that there is no doubt that "sweating" prevails extensively; "sweating" being defined as work paid for at a rate which yields to the workers an income quite insufficient to enable an adult person to obtain anything like proper food, clothing, and house accommodation. The opinions of witnesses differed as to whether conditions as regards sweating had improved since Lord Dunraven's Committee on the Sweating System reported in 1890.

The section of home workers with which the Committee were mainly concerned—those, namely, who work for others in their own homes, and do not themselves employ any other persons—may be divided into the three following classes:—

(i.) Single women, widows, deserted wives, and wives whose husbands are ill or unable to work. (These are usually regular workers.)

(ii.) Wives who obtain work when their husbands are out of employment. (These are more or less casual workers.)

(iii.) Wives and daughters of men in regular employment. (These usually select pleasant work, and do not ordinarily work very long hours.)

It is pointed out in the Report that the circumstances of home workers vary very considerably. Low earnings do not necessarily mean an excessively low rate of piece-work payment, as the low earnings may be due to the slowness or inefficiency of the worker. On the other hand, apparently low rates of payment do not necessarily involve very low earnings; the class of work varies, and low class work at low rates often gives larger earnings than better work at higher rates.

Home workers are already subject to certain provisions of existing laws. Thus, Section 108 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, permits District Councils, in the case of certain trades, to prohibit any person from giving out work to be done in insanitary premises; and increasing use is being made by local authorities of their powers under this section. Section 107 of the same Act requires persons giving out work to supply to the local authority lists of all persons to whom work is given out; these lists are tabulated by the local authorities for the Home Office, but they are usually incomplete and incorrect. On the whole, the Committee report that these and other provisions of the existing law "have failed to produce any real amelioration of the condition of home workers, and that legislation of a far-reaching character is required."

The Committee took the evidence of Mr. Aves† on the working of the Wages Boards and Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts in Australia and New Zealand. Industrial conditions in Australia are so different from those in this country—especially in the fact that the demand for women workers there exceeds the supply—that there is not much guidance to be derived from the experience of Australia with regard to the difficulties which surround the problem of home work in this country. Nevertheless, the Victorian Wages Boards are reported to have been undoubtedly useful in abolishing or modifying the evils of sweating, at a time when sweating was rampant; and this in trades such as the clothing, underclothing, and shirt making trades, in which sweating largely prevails in this country also. The institution of Wages Boards was supported by other witnesses.

The Committee accordingly recommend the establishment of Wages Boards, as tending to raise the wages

of home workers: no proposal, in the Committee's opinion, which fails to raise wages will have any appreciable effect in improving the condition of home workers. Such Wages Boards should have a twofold function, viz., to fix:—

(a) A general minimum rate of *time* payment for an average home worker in the particular trade for which the Board acts, and also for any branch or process in the trade for which a different rate might seem to be desirable; such special rate not to be less than the general minimum rate.

(b) Minimum *piece* rates for any work done by home workers, these piece rates to be such as would enable an average worker to earn not less than the equivalent of the minimum time rate.

The purpose of this twofold minimum is thus explained in the Report:—

"In this way the great practical difficulty of fixing piece rates for every variation in size, pattern and class of every article would be avoided. Piece rates could be fixed for everything which was to any extent of a standard size, pattern or character, while the minimum time rate would ensure that articles or patterns or sizes which were not covered by the minimum piece rates already fixed could not be paid for at a lower piece rate than would yield to an average worker the equivalent minimum time rate. It should be compulsory for the Wages Board, as its first duty, to fix a minimum time rate of payment for the trade for which it was appointed, for the district for which it acted. The gradual building up of lists of piece rates based on the minimum time rate would follow."

The Committee also consider that the fixing of a minimum time rate of payment, below the equivalent of which any piece rates fixed must not fall, will reduce the risk of the evasion of a Wages Board's decision, an important consideration in view of the fact that the unorganised condition of the home workers renders them peculiarly powerless to protect themselves against unscrupulous employers.

The Committee recommend that Wages Boards should at first be established experimentally, and only for certain specified trades, beginning with tailoring, the making of shirts, underclothing and baby linen, and the finishing processes of machine-made lace. The Boards should consist of representatives of the employers and of the employed home workers in equal numbers, with a chairman chosen by the members, or, failing agreement upon one, by the Home Secretary.

The Committee do not attach much importance to the possibility that different rates of payment might be fixed in different districts. Such local differences of payment already exist in all trades, and it is not probable that they would be greater under the Wages Board system than otherwise. The Committee also deal with the difficulty of foreign competition. They point out that the Boards, being composed of persons actually engaged, as employers or workpeople, in the various trades affected, may be assumed to be unwilling to curtail the trade with which all their interests are so closely allied.

The Committee also recommend that the delivery and collection of work done at home should be done by persons in the direct employment, and in the pay, of the employer. (This is to avoid, on the one hand, the evil of middlemen, and on the other the loss of time and money to the worker in fetching the work to and from the employer's establishment. This loss is often equivalent to a reduction of 20 or 25 per cent. in the earnings.) Where this arrangement is not made, the amount which a worker could earn in a specified time should be calculated on a basis which included the time spent in fetching and returning the work as time occupied in doing the work.

The Committee regard the proposals which have been made as to the *licensing* of home workers' premises as unnecessarily drastic; involving an excessive multiplication of the staff of inspectors, and also placing a serious burden on the home worker, especially on those who wish to take in home work temporarily and occasionally. They recommend, however, that all home workers should be required to register their name, address, and

* H.C. 246 of Session 1908. Price 5d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

† See Mr. Aves's Report on Wages Boards &c. Cd. 4,167; Price 1s. red. A detailed account of this Report appears in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1908, pp. 206-7.

class of work at the offices of the local authority, and to receive a certificate of registration from the authority; and that no work should be allowed to be given out to a home worker, unless he or she produced such a certificate. No conditions as to cleanliness of person or dwelling need be required as a condition of registration, and consequently there would be no necessity for inspection and report as to the state of the premises as a preliminary to registration. The provision of Section 9 of the Public Health Act, 1875, with regard to factories and workshops which are not kept in a cleanly state, or are ill-ventilated or over-crowded, might, however, with advantage be extended to rooms in which home work is done. The enforcement of this provision should rest primarily with the local authority, the factory inspector being empowered to secure enforcement if the local authority failed in its duty.

The Committee recommend that employers should in addition be required, as at present, to keep lists of outworkers.

The Committee also recommend that the full protection of the Truck Act should be secured to home workers, who should be entitled to receive at least the full amount of the fixed minimum rate of payment in cash; and that the Employment of Children Act should be adopted by all local authorities, and enforced for the protection of children working at home and elsewhere.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.

Steel Workers, Middlesbrough.

His Honour, Judge Austin, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for March, 1908, p. 70) issued his award on August 6th.

On March 30th, 1905, an agreement was made between 13 steel manufacturing firms and certain classes of workmen in their employment, establishing a sliding scale based upon standard rates of wages. The standard rates fixed for the workmen employed at hand-charged furnaces were 7d., 4½d., and 3½d. per ton, for first, second, and third hands respectively.

It is provided by Clause 8 of the agreement that no alteration should be made in these standard rates except on the ground that the working conditions or the working appliances had changed in such a way as to affect the facilities for working. In consequence of the installation of a charging machine the rates were reduced by a supplementary arrangement made in October, 1907, the new rates being 5·37d., 3·45d., and 2·68d. per ton, respectively.

Since the date of the 1907 arrangement, an employer at Middlesbrough had sought to dispense with the third hand, and to reduce the standard rates for the first and second hands by 50 per cent. each, on the ground of the smaller amount of material to be handled at their works, as compared with other works. The workpeople, on the other hand, contended that the arrangement of October, 1907, was absolute and permanent; and that there was no appreciable difference between the labour required at the works in dispute and at other works.

After visiting the works in dispute and another works Judge Austin awarded that the arrangement of October, 1907, was temporary and not absolute or permanent, and that the labour required at the works in dispute was substantially less than that required at the other works visited; but that no sufficient reason had been shown why the third hand should cease to be employed. He fixed the rates to be paid at the works in dispute at the following rates, as from August 15th, 1908:—First hand, 4·57d.; second hand, 2·94d.; third hand, 2·28d. per ton of steel made.

Silk Weavers, Macclesfield.

On July 24th the Macclesfield Power Loom Silk Weavers' Association applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle a dispute between members of their Association and a firm of silk manufacturers in Macclesfield, with reference to a

new price list, and on August 3rd the firm concurred in the application.

On August 5th the Board appointed Sir Alfred E. Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act in that capacity.

Painters, Burnley.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, p. 169), issued his award on July 20th.

The operatives had struck for an advance in wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour, and other alterations in the working rules. Mr. Hudson decided that wages should be advanced to 8½d. per hour from January 31st, 1909, and also modified the rules relating to payment for overtime and for country work, and provided that all notices of alterations in the rules should in future terminate on January 31st. By consent of the parties the arbitrator inserted a new rule making provision for the settlement of any future dispute by application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator in cases where the parties are unable to agree within 14 days of the dispute arising.

Painters, Prestwich and Whitefield.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in this case (see LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 203), issued his award on July 23rd.

The operatives had claimed an advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour. The arbitrator granted their claim as from September 1st, 1908, on condition that the operatives agreed to certain other alterations in the working rules, viz.: (1) A modification of the walking time rule, (2) the insertion of a rule permitting the employment of labourers on rough work, and (3) the omission of the rule relating to apprentices. Mr. Hudson also modified the rule relating to arbitration in cases of dispute between employers and workpeople; and, by consent of the parties, inserted an additional rule providing for the appointment of an arbitrator by the Board of Trade if the local board of arbitration should be unable to give a decision.

Timber Yard Labourers, Swansea.

Differences having arisen at a saw mill at Swansea as to the rate of wages to be paid to timber yard labourers known as "bookmen's helpers," application was made to the Board of Trade on July 22nd by the firm, and by the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union, for the appointment of an arbitrator to whom the question should be referred.

The Board of Trade, on July 28th, appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act in that capacity.

The labourers had asked for an advance from 3s. 11d. to 4s. 2d. a day; the firm offered 4s. Mr. Yates issued his award on August 7th, deciding that the rate should be 2s. 6d. a week.

Iron Moulders, South Wales.

On August 8th, the South Wales Western Districts Engineers' and Founders' Association, and the Iron-founders' Association, applied to the Board of Trade—in accordance with a resolution passed at a joint meeting of employers and workpeople on that day—for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle a dispute between the parties, arising out of a demand from the iron-moulders for an advance in wages.

The Board of Trade, on August 11th, appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act in that capacity.

Dock Labourers, Dublin.

On July 4th, 1908, the Dublin branch of the National Union of Dock Labourers gave notice to their employers that, on and after July 20th, no member of that Union would work with any non-union man. The employers replied by issuing notices that any man who objected to work with non-unionists would be discharged, and that no member of the National Union would be employed after July 11th.

About 100 members of the Union were paid

off on July 10th, and the remainder were to have ceased work, in accordance with the above notice, on the following day. On that day, however, negotiations were entered into between the parties and Lord MacDonnell, Sir James Dougherty (Under Secretary of State for Ireland), and Mr. I. H. Mitchell, of the Board of Trade; and it was arranged that the notices on both sides should be withdrawn, and the *status quo* maintained, pending a further conference to be held on July 18th. Accordingly, on the following Monday (July 13th), a majority of the members of the Union returned to work; some difficulties arose, however, by which a number of men were unable to resume work, but these were successfully arranged by Sir James Dougherty.

The adjourned conference took place as arranged on July 18th; it was presided over by Lord MacDonnell, at the request of the Board of Trade; and Sir J. Dougherty and Mr. I. H. Mitchell were again present, in addition to representatives of the parties. An agreement was made at this conference for submission to the parties, and on July 30th the following terms of settlement were finally arrived at:—

1. Questions affecting individuals only shall be settled by the individual and the firm concerned.
2. The freedom of the employers as to the persons whom they employ is admitted.
3. No distinction as to work (including the delivery or reception of cargo) between Union and non-union men to be made either by employers or employed.
4. Questions affecting general conditions of employment, hours, rates of wages, &c., shall in the first place be communicated in writing by the men directly affected to the firm or firms concerned. If no arrangement is arrived at, the men, through the general secretary of the National Union of Dock Labourers, may make further representations on the matter to the firm or firms affected, who will then consider them.
5. If no settlement be arrived at, the question shall be referred to a Conciliation Board consisting of a representative of the employers, a representative of the employed, and an umpire. The umpire to be agreed upon by the two representatives, or, failing agreement, to be appointed by the Board of Trade.
6. That no distinguishing badges or buttons be displayed by the men during working hours.
7. All notices and documents, including tariffs issued during this dispute by either side, be withdrawn.

Tinplate Workers, South Wales.

At a meeting of the South Wales Tinplate Conciliation Board on May 19th, the National Union of Gasworkers and General Labourers put forward a claim to the Welsh Plate and Sheet Manufacturers' Association for an advance in the rate to be paid to certain men employed at annealing furnaces heated by gas. The matter was referred by the Conciliation Board, in accordance with their rules, to a joint committee of employers and workmen for settlement.

The committee were unable to agree, but decided to refer the dispute for the decision of an Umpire to be appointed by the Board of Trade; and on August 12th, joint application was accordingly made by the parties to the Board of Trade, asking for the appointment of an Umpire. The Board of Trade on August 15th appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act in that capacity.

Army Boot and Shoe Makers, Northamptonshire.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C., the umpire (appointed with the consent of the Board of Trade) of the Joint Standing Committee for Government Boot Work, on July 20th issued an award on certain matters which had been referred to him for settlement. The questions in dispute had reference to (1) prices for daywork, and (2) prices for operations not included in the wages statement.

Mr. Askwith decided (1) that the piecework statement already arranged was purely for work done by the piece, and that prices for daywork would have to be separately arranged; and (2) that the subdivision of

operations in force, with the prices paid for the same, should be included in the revised statement of wages to be printed; and that the representatives of the Trade Union, with the contractors directly concerned, may fix the prices for such operations, and report the same to the Committee for confirmation.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE METAL TRADES OF BELGIUM.

In continuation of the Belgian Industrial Census of 1896 (the chief results of which were summarised in the GAZETTE for 1901, pp. 11 and 361, and for 1902, p. 278) an investigation into the wages and hours of labour of persons employed in the metal trades of Belgium was undertaken in 1903 by the Belgian Labour Department. The second volume of the Report* of this investigation has now been published.

The inquiry was concerned only with persons employed on the employers' premises, while engineers, accountants, clerks, overseers, foremen, watchmen, &c., were excluded, as were also homeworkers, and members of the employer's family. The total number of persons included within the scope of the investigation was 93,050, or more than 93 per cent. of those employed in the metal trades.

I. Wages.

The following particulars were taken from the pay sheets, and are based on the actual earnings for a normal day's work, *i.e.*, exclusive of payments for overtime, but including bonuses. This information was obtained in the case of 84,136 adult males, and is summarised in the following Table, the various groups of occupations being distinguished:—

Occupations.	Number of Adult Males (<i>i.e.</i> over 16) whose Daily Earnings were						Total.
	Under 2 francs (1/7)	2 francs and under 3 (1/7-2/5)	3 francs and under 4 (2/5-3/4)	4 francs and under 5 (3/4-4/1)	5 francs and over 6 (4/1-4/10)	6 francs and over (4/10 and over)	
Pig-Iron (Blast Furnaces)	21	335	1,695	505	91	13	2,66
Iron and Steel Puddling & Rolling	278	1,676	4,863	3,528	1,555	1,452	13,354
Steel Manufacture	43	364	1,740	1,011	426	274	3,858
Manufacture of other Metals	223	2,152	3,595	1,532	554	236	8,492
Metal Founding and Smelting	525	1,515	3,049	2,184	846	333	8,452
Engineering: Machine Construction	658	1,896	4,190	3,586	1,246	395	11,971
Boiler Making	348	1,461	2,405	1,184	327	129	5,855
Railway Materials	340	1,230	2,611	2,004	1,041	332	7,558
Shipbuilding	183	465	822	553	463	122	2,668
Other	230	374	1,294	1,245	220	255	4,318
Manufacture of Metal Goods	1,066	2,627	5,094	3,728	1,707	990	15,212
Total ...	3,915	14,295	31,359	21,060	8,976	4,531	84,136

From these figures it appears that 52,419, or 62·3 per cent., of the men received wages ranging from 2s. 5d. to 4s. per day. Those earning less than 2s. 5d. formed 21·6 per cent. of the total, and were 18,210 in number; while 13,507, or 16·1 per cent., earned more than 4s. per day, of whom about one-third received 4/10 or more per day. The branches of the metal trades having the largest proportion of workpeople in the lowest wage-class were shipbuilding and the "manufacture of metal goods"; in each case 7·0 per cent. of those employed earned under 1s. 7d. per day. On the other hand 10·9 per cent. of iron and steel puddlers and rollers and 7·1 per cent. of steelmakers earned 4s. 10d. or over per day.

II.—Hours of Labour.

As in the case of the preceding particulars relating to wages, the hours of labour are those actually worked in an ordinary day, short days and overtime being excluded. Intervals for mealtimes have also been

* *Salaires et Durée du Travail dans les Industries des Métaux au Mois d'Octobre, 1903. Deuxième Partie—Tableaux Statistiques.* The particulars are, however, based upon the *Exposé de Quelques Résultats*, containing a summary of the volume referred to. Both publications were issued by the Ministry of Industry and Labour, Brussels, in 1907.

deducted so that the figures represent the effective working hours per day. These were as follows, the various branches of the metal trades being separately distinguished as before:—

Occupations.	Number of Adult Males (over 16) whose Hours of Labour per Day (exclusive of intervals) were:					Total.
	9 hours or less.	Over 9 up to 10 hours.	Over 10 up to 11 hours.	Over 11 up to 12 hours.	Over 12 hours.	
Pig Iron (Blastfurnaces) ...	18	865	1,776	1	...	2,660
Iron and Steel Puddling and Rolling ...	53	5,726	7,444	399	...	13,552
Steel Manufacture ...	...	467	3,296	95	...	3,858
Manufacture of Other Metals ...	1,875	5,606	415	415	...	8,311
Metal Founding and Smelting ...	...	3,722	4,152	299	...	8,473
Engineering:—						
Machine Construction ...	12	5,462	5,817	584	66	11,921
Boiler Making ...	55	1,951	3,459	389	1	5,855
Railway Materials ...	200	5,876	993	457	32	7,558
Shipbuilding ...	169	2,124	240	75	...	2,608
Other ...	77	2,454	1,497	259	1	4,318
Manufacture of Metal Goods ...	167	7,132	6,894	1,622	6	15,221
Total ...	2,626	41,385	36,113	3,955	106	84,185

The figures show that just under half (49·2 per cent.) of the 84,185 workpeople concerning whom particulars are given worked from 9 to 10 hours per day, while 42·9 per cent. worked from 10 to 11 hours; practically all the blastfurnacemen and nearly all engaged in the puddling and rolling of iron and steel and in steel manufacture being included in one or other of these two sections. Into the next group—over 11 and up to 12 hours—fell 3,955 workmen, or 4·7 per cent.; while only 106, or 0·1 per cent., exceeded this limit, these being practically all in branches of the engineering trades. The number of persons working 9 hours or less was 2,626, or 3·1 per cent.

Over 5,000 men are shown in the report to be employed in the manufacture of zinc. Of these more than 30 per cent. worked 9 hours or less per day.

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.

The only classes of emigrants wanted in Canada at the present time are experienced farm labourers, farmers financially able to take homesteads or purchase lands, and female domestic servants; there is an excellent demand for these. The regulation now in operation in Canada requiring every emigrant 18 years of age or over to have in his possession at least 25 dollars (£5) in cash at the time of landing, besides a ticket to his destination, is enforced strictly and impartially in the case of all emigrants outside the classes above mentioned. All emigrants sent out by British charitable societies or public funds must be certified as suitable by the Canadian authorities in London. In a large Dominion like that of Canada, there is always a great amount of work going on, but the volume this year is much less than it was in 1907, and nowhere is there any demand for more mechanics and unskilled labourers. At Sydney, N.S., the depression in the iron and steel trade has thrown many men out of work, but the cement and building trades have been good. At Moncton, N.B., men have been busy on railway construction and building, and building has been very active at Hull (Quebec); but at Halifax and Amherst in Nova Scotia, at Quebec and Montreal in the Province of Quebec, at St. John, New Brunswick, at Ottawa, Belleville, Kingston, Hamilton, London, Sault Ste. Marie and Toronto in Ontario, at Regina, Calgary, etc., in the North West, and at Nelson, Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia large numbers of both skilled and unskilled labourers, especially the latter, have been out of work. Owing to the recent bush fire in the Crow's Nest Pass it is particularly undesirable that emigrants should go to that district of British Columbia at present. At Winnipeg, Manitoba, it is reckoned that

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

only 300 bricklayers and 700 carpenters are being employed, as against 800 bricklayers and 1,500 carpenters last year. Coal mining has been very active in Nova Scotia, and asbestos mining in Quebec. Many thousands of men are employed on railway construction, but the supply equals the demand. It is reported that an extensive strike has occurred on the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is said to affect 8,000 men, including boiler-makers, car-makers, electricians, machinists, moulders, blacksmiths, fitters and helpers.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—There is an excellent demand for farmers, farm workers, and female servants, and these classes may obtain assisted passages; skilled men accustomed to farming machinery receive high wages. There is a fair opening for mechanics if they are not too specialised, and can afford to keep themselves till they find work. There is no demand for miners. The new iron making industry at Lithgow has been seriously retarded by disputes. The tramway strike in Sydney is reported to be at an end.

Queensland grants free passages to female servants between 17 and 35 years of age, and assisted and nominated passages to other suitable emigrants, and by an Act passed this year grants free homesteads, not exceeding 160 acres each, to suitable settlers on easy conditions. The best openings are for farm labourers, and for men able to take up land after some experience of the country; the demand for mechanics is not so great.

In the other States of *Australia* competent farm labourers and female servants can always secure employment, but there is no special demand for mechanics, miners and general labourers.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages to New Zealand may be granted on certain conditions to farmers, farm labourers and domestic servants, for whom there is an excellent demand. At Auckland all trades have been busy, except the engineering and furniture trades. At New Plymouth a number of male and female apprentices in the boot factories are required. At Palmerston North and Wellington machinists in the boot factories are much wanted. In several places women are wanted in the woollen mills and for dressmaking. Throughout New Zealand—except at Wellington, and to some extent Dunedin—employment has been fairly regular, and a competent mechanic from this country would be likely to obtain work there if he could support himself for a short time at first.

South Africa.

Emigrants should not go to any part of South Africa at the present time in search of work. In *Cape Colony* the supply of men in the building and other trades exceeds the demand. The depression at Kimberley is especially great, and many of the white and coloured labourers at the diamond mines have been discharged.

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. 237 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.

*Employment in June.**—In the building and allied trades employment was plentiful, and fewer masons at Paris were out of work. There was no appreciable change in employment in the metal trades as compared with the previous month; among tin-box makers on the coasts of Brittany unemployment was less severe owing to

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

recent good catches of fish. There was no improvement in the textile trades in the Nord, Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres departments; in the Ardennes employment continued satisfactory. There was a good deal of unemployment among silk-workers in the Lyons and St. Etienne districts, but a revival of activity was reported for weavers at Croix-Rousse in the former district. The garment trades, especially at Paris, were still in their busy season. Employment began to decline in the printing trades. In the woodworking trades many coopers were out of work, and much unemployment was also reported in the principal leather-dressing centres and among diamond workers. Fewer vineyard workers in the South of France were out of work, and woodcutters found abundant employment in field work, especially in the hay harvest. Employment was also good for gardeners in Paris, and for agricultural labourers in the Seine-et-Marne department.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in June were received by the French Labour Department from 954 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 220,404. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais, 7·8 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 11·9 per cent. in the previous month, and 6·7 per cent. in June, 1907.

*Coal Mining in June.**—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during June was 5·68, as compared with 5·87 in May, and 5·98 in June, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 57·04 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 42·31 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 56·15 and 43·43, and in June, 1907, 93·51 and 6·30.

*Labour Disputes in June.**—Ninety-six disputes (94 strikes and 2 lock-outs) were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in June, compared with 77 in the previous month and 124† in June, 1907. In 83 of the new disputes 7,216 workpeople took part, as compared with 5,999 workpeople who took part in 69 of the May disputes, and 13,677 who took part in 100 disputes in June, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (40), textile (15), pottery (7), mining and quarrying (7), and transport and warehousing (6). Of 75 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 12 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 26 in favour of the employers, while 37 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in June.**—Two instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in June. In one case a committee of conciliation settled the dispute without any stoppage of work having occurred; in the other the employer declined to take part in the conciliation proceedings.

Labour Disputes in Building Trades at Paris.‡—In sympathy with workmen who had for some time previously been engaged in a strike at Vigneux, the General Federation of Labour declared a strike of 24 hours' duration on July 30th in the building trades of Paris. Work was stopped in many yards, and collisions with the police and military took place at Vigneux, whither the strikers had proceeded. A further "general strike" in all trades was ordered on August 3rd. This order, however, was not generally responded to, and the movement failed.

GERMANY.

Employment in June.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of *Reichs-Arbeitsblatt* (the Journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of July:—"As usual in June the condition of the labour market was considerably affected by the demand for workpeople for agricultural labour,

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

† Revised figure.

‡ Based on despatches from H.M. Ambassador at Paris, dated June 7th to August 4th, and on newspaper reports.

such as the hay harvest, and also by the commencement of the holiday season in watering-places. Several trades were affected by seasonal influences; in the clothing trades and in commercial employment especially some slackness set in at the conclusion of the Whitsuntide busy season. Otherwise there was in general comparatively little change in employment. It was good on the whole in coal-mining, as in previous months, while in the electrical and chemical trades there was little change, although these two trades were not so busy as a year ago. Locomotive and railway carriage builders were generally still well supplied with orders. In the building trades there was a further improvement in employment. In iron-founding in North and Central Germany, in plate-rolling, and in the principal branches of the hardware trade employment was only moderate. The engineering trades received a considerable number of orders compared with the previous month. Unfavourable reports were received as to employment in the textile trades, and there was much short time. In the Rhine and Elbe transport trades, especially the latter, employment was unsatisfactory. Reports from labour registries indicate some improvement in labour conditions, but chiefly of a temporary nature, as, for example, in the case of Berlin."

*Unemployment in Second Quarter of 1908.**—Returns relating to unemployment during the second quarter of 1908 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership at the end of the quarter of 1,269,340. From certain branches of the Unions reporting, however, no returns as to the numbers out of work were available; omitting these, the membership covered was 1,261,045, of whom 36,084 (or 2·9 per cent.) were stated to be unemployed on June 27th, as compared with 34,883 (or 2·8 per cent.) on May 23rd, and 34,871 (or 2·8 per cent.) on April 25th. The percentage at the end of June, 1907, was 1·4. [These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentage for the United Kingdom given on p. 237.]

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal Unions for which figures are available, the membership at the end of the second quarter of 1908, the percentage of members returned as out of work on a certain day towards the end of each month of the quarter, and the corresponding percentage for the end of the second quarter of 1907.

Name of Union.	Membership on June 27th, 1908.	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed on			
		June 27, 1908.	May 23, 1908.	April 25, 1908.	June 29, 1907.
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	365,446	3·3	3·3	3·2	1·0
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ...	40,241	1·3	1·4	1·4	0·8
Woodworkers ...	147,624	4·5	4·6	4·8	1·7
Miners ...	112,031	0·1	0·1	0·1	†
Printers ...	51,945	6·5	3·8	2·5	4·4
Transport Workers ...	88,872	1·3	1·6	1·7	0·7

HOLLAND.‡

Employment in June.—Employment in the building trades showed a marked decline in seasonal activity. In the larger metal and engineering establishments and in shipbuilding it continued good. Slackness was again reported in the textile trades, while in garment making activity had considerably diminished. Boot and shoemakers were satisfactorily employed, but there was some slackness in North Brabant. In the woodworking trades employment was only moderate. No change was reported in the printing trades as compared with a month ago. In bulb cultivation all workpeople available were employed in digging up and cleaning. In the diamond trades at Amsterdam employment was somewhat better than in May, but there was still a large amount of unemployment. The cocoa and chocolate trades were not so busy, while the brewing trades showed increased activity.

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

† Less than 0·1 per cent.

‡ Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

Labour Disputes in June.—Eleven strikes, 7 of which directly affected 107 workpeople, and 2 lock-outs directly affecting 22 workpeople, were reported to have commenced in June. Sixteen disputes came to an end during the month, including 5 which had begun in previous months. The results were known in 12 cases. Two of these resulted in favour of the workpeople and 5 in favour of the employers, while 4 were compromised. The result of the remaining dispute was indefinite.

BELGIUM.*

Employment in June.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department 4.6 per cent. of the 43,727 members of 203 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 3.9 per cent. in May, and 1.8 per cent. in June, 1907. The above percentages do not include particulars with regard to the Antwerp diamond workers, among whom unemployment was stated to have diminished considerably. (As regards foreign unemployment returns in general see note under "Labour Abroad" above.)

Labour Disputes in June.—Six strikes, affecting 3,610 workpeople (2,606 directly and 1,004 indirectly) were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in June. In addition 4 strikes, affecting 770 workpeople, which began before June 1st, were in progress during the month. The termination of 9 strikes was reported. One of these (involving 30 strikers) ended in favour of the workpeople, and 6 (involving 2,099 strikers) in favour of the employers, while 2 (involving 1,065 strikers) were compromised.

NORWAY.†

Employment in June.—According to returns made to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1.1 per cent. of the 8,470 members of Trade Unions reporting were described as unemployed at the end of June, as compared with 1.6 per cent. in the previous month, and 1.0 per cent. in June, 1907. In the following Table the figures are grouped by trades:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.	June, 1908.	May, 1908.	June, 1907.
Metal Workers ...	5,270	5,308	5,122	1.5	1.4	0.5
Carpenters, &c. ...	378	385	427	2.9	6.5	5.2
Painters ...	550	550	600	...	...	...
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	494	484	257	2.0	...	...
Printers ...	1,301	1,291	1,233	0.4	1.1	2.2
Bakers ...	200	200	170	...	9.5	...
Tinned Goods (Food Preparation) ...	277	277	243	...	...	0.8
Total ...	8,470	8,495	8,072	1.1	1.6	1.0

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 242.)

UNITED STATES.

Employment in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated July 15th, H.M. Consul at Boston reports that in spite of a slight improvement in trade and industry great difficulty is experienced by the Boston Free Employment Bureau in finding employment for persons out of work. The number of applicants received is from one to four thousand daily, employment being found for about 30 per cent. of these. In New Hampshire employment is not good, though there is some apparent improvement in manufacturing industries. There is usually a keen demand for farm workers in Maine during the summer, and also in nearly all branches of manufacturing, but the demand has fallen off since the financial crisis of 1907. At present there appears to be no great demand for outside help in lumbering or manufacturing. Extra hands are only likely to be needed from September to October for the potato crops.

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

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN JULY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 493 Returns—427 from Employers, 50 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry was fairly good during July, but showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,356 pits employing 629,963 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended July 25th, 1908, was 4.93, as compared with 4.75 in June, and 5.38 a year ago. In July of both years about one-fifth of a day per week was lost on account of holidays. In June, 1908, the time lost on this account was about three-fifths of a day weekly.

Of the 629,963 workpeople covered by the Returns 386,159 (or 61.3 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended July 25th, 1908, while 245,657 (39.0 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest averages were in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 5.71 days; Northumberland, 5.37 days; and Durham, 5.28 days. The lowest averages were in Lancashire and Cheshire, and Gloucester and Somerset, 4.09 days; West Yorkshire, 4.10 days; and West Scotland, 4.11 days.

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended July 25th, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in June, 1908, and July, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in July, 1908, 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, 1908, as compared with	
		July 25th, 1908.†	June 27th, 1908.†	July 20th, 1907.†	A month ago.†	A year ago.†
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	43,191	5.37	5.13	5.26	+ .24	+ .11
Durham ...	115,068	5.28	5.19	5.56	+ .09	+ .28
Cumberland ...	6,884	5.13	4.65	5.72	+ .48	+ .59
South Yorkshire ...	64,015	5.05	4.72	5.63	+ .33	+ .58
West Yorkshire ...	24,185	4.10	4.41	5.16	- .10	- 1.06
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	56,551	4.09	4.19	5.21	+ .10	+ 1.12
Derbyshire ...	39,226	4.32	3.96	5.21	+ .36	+ .89
Nottingham and Leicester ...	33,320	4.21	3.77	4.98	+ .44	+ .77
Staffordshire ...	29,141	4.25	4.18	5.18	+ .07	+ .93
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	10,803	4.51	4.38	5.12	+ .13	+ .61
Gloucester and Somerset ...	7,946	4.09	4.01	4.85	+ .08	+ .76
North Wales ...	10,757	4.74	4.65	5.64	+ .09	+ .90
South Wales and Mon. ...	139,118	5.71	5.14	5.75	+ .57	+ .04
ENGLAND AND WALES	880,210	4.98	4.73	5.44	+ .25	+ .46
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	25,658	4.11	4.82	4.68	- .71	- .57
The Lothians ...	4,252	4.75	4.89	5.12	- .14	- .37
Fife ...	19,157	4.51	4.95	4.51	- .44	...
SCOTLAND ...	49,067	4.32	4.87	4.60	- .55	- .24
IRELAND ...	686	4.93	5.22	5.11	- .29	- .18
United Kingdom ...	829,963	4.93	4.75	5.38	+ .18	+ .45

Compared with a month ago, and after making due allowance for holidays, there was some improvement in West Scotland. In Northumberland and Durham there was little change, while in South Yorkshire, Lancashire

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

† The number of days worked in each of the three periods and the comparison with a month ago and a year ago are affected by holidays.

and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Scotland there was a decline. Compared with July, 1907, the number of days worked showed a decrease in every district except Northumberland and Fife. The decline was most marked in Lancashire and Cheshire and in the Midland Counties.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 206,433 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." There was a decline, as compared with a year ago, at pits producing all classes of coal, most marked at house coal pits.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in July, 1908, 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, 1908, as compared with	
		July 25th, 1908.*	June 27th, 1908.*	July 20th, 1907.*	A month ago.*	A year ago.*
Anthracite ...	7,422	5.65	5.14	5.84	+ .51	+ .19
Coking ...	32,805	5.25	5.23	5.70	+ .03	+ .44
Gas ...	40,959	5.02	4.95	5.40	+ .07	+ .38
House ...	80,754	4.26	4.07	5.06	+ .19	+ .80
Manufacturing and Steam ...	261,510	5.24	4.93	5.46	+ .31	+ .22
Mixed ...	206,433	4.69	4.64	5.33	+ .05	+ .64
All Descriptions ...	629,963	4.93	4.75	5.38	+ .18	+ .45

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in July, 1908, amounted to 6,131,368 tons, or 880,138 tons more than in June, 1908, but 197,389 tons less than in July, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 84 Returns—67 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines, but was, on the whole, not quite so good as a year ago. It continued good in shale mines.

It was fair in tin and copper mines and good in lead mines. In quarries it remained on the whole moderate.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended July 25th, 1908, the average number of days per week worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.62, as compared with 5.57 a month ago and 5.76 a year ago. Time lost through holidays amounted to about one-fifth of a day in each of the three periods.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. employed in July, 1908, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with	
		July 25th, 1908.†	June 27th, 1908.†	July 20th, 1907.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland... ..	7,511	5.76	5.72	5.72	+ 0.04	+ 0.04
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,708	5.60	5.47	5.94	+ 0.13	+ 0.34
Scotland ...	719	4.87	5.35	5.36	- 0.48	+ 0.49
Other Districts ...	2,297	5.44	5.40	5.68	+ 0.04	+ 0.24
All Districts ...	18,235	5.62	5.67	5.76	+ 0.05	+ 0.14

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 83.2 per cent. worked 22 or more days during

* The number of days worked in each of the three periods and the comparison with a month ago and a year ago are affected by holidays. The averages in these columns are reduced on account of holidays.

the four weeks ended July 25th, as compared with 90.4 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,291 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended July 25th, as compared with 3,324 a month ago, and 3,148 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended July 25th, was 5.53, as compared with 5.71 in June, and 5.48 a year ago. In July, 1908, 0.34 of a day per week was lost through holidays, as compared with 0.29 of a day in July, 1907.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment in Cornwall was fair generally; it was good in the Camborne district, but bad at Gunnislake.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in North Wales and in Derbyshire. In Weardale an average of four and a half days per week was worked.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack in North Wales, and only four days a week were worked by a large number of quarrymen at Festiniog. Five days a week were worked at Ballachulish (Argyllshire).

Granite.—Employment was good in the macadam trade in Leicestershire. It continued fair in Aberdeenshire. On Dartmoor and at Gunnislake employment was bad.

Limestone.—Employment continued fair in North Wales. It was slack in the Plymouth district, in Derbyshire, and in Weardale; and bad in Cumberland. In the Somerset blue lias quarries it showed an improvement.

Other Stone.—Employment continued good in the Clew Hill road material quarries; in the Bristol district it was moderate. It continued fair in sandstone quarries in North Wales. In the Bath stone quarries employment was slack; in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries it showed an improvement. In the Sheffield district quarrymen were fairly well employed. In the Rowsley district employment in both grindstone and building stone quarries was moderate. In the grindstone trade employment was moderate at Barnsley and slack at Wickersley; in the Newcastle and Gateshead district it was fair.

Settling.—Employment was fair on the whole in North Wales, and at Glasgow and Airdrie. It was moderate at Rowley Regis (Staffs) and dull in the Clew Hill district.

China Clay.—Employment was good in the St. Austell district, and showed a further improvement compared with a month ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 113 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during July was only moderate, and showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was considerably worse than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 21,300 in July, 1908; 21,700 in June, 1908; and 25,200 in July, 1907, a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in July, 1908, as compared with the previous month, and of 15.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of July, 1908, was 267, as compared with 282* in June, 1908, and 347 in July, 1907. During July 2 furnaces in Lanarkshire were re-lit, and 17 were either damped down or blown out (10 in Lanarkshire, 4 in Derbyshire, 2 in the Cleveland district, and 1 in Lancashire). The damping down of 3 of these furnaces was owing to a dispute.

* Revised figures.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with	
	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
	ENGLAND & WALES—				
Cleveland	77	79	89	- 2	-12
Cumberland & Lancs.	23	24	38	- 1	-15
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	11	11	15	...	- 4
Derby & Nottingham	27	31*	43	- 4	-16
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	26	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	32	32	37	...	- 5
S. Wales & Monmouth	10	10*	16	...	- 6
Other districts ...	6	6	7	...	- 1
England & Wales	212	219*	271	- 7	-59
Scotland	58	53	78	- 8	-21
Total	267	282*	347	-15	-80

The Imports of iron ore in July, 1908, amounted to 541,223 tons, or 17,358 tons more than in June, 1908, but 281,387 tons less than in July, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in July, 1908, amounted to 127,459 tons, or 21,574 tons more than in June, 1908, but 56,094 tons less than in July, 1907.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 57 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during July was very good. It was better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 398 tinplate mills were working at the end of July, as compared with 382 in the previous month, and 391 a year ago. The numbers of sheet mills working during the same months were 48, 50 and 55 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour were fairly equal. The works to which these figures relate are chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,300 workpeople.

	Number of Works open.†		Number of Mills in operation.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
	At end of July, 1908.		At end of July, 1908.		Month ago.		Year ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinplate Mills...	76	+ 1	398	+ 16	+ 7			
Sheet Mills ...	8	- 1	48	- 2	- 7			
Total	84	...	446	+ 14	...			

Exports.

	July, 1908.			June, 1908.			July, 1907.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a			
	At end of July, 1908.			At end of July, 1908.			At end of July, 1907.			Month ago.		Year ago.	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.			
Tinplate Mills...	76	+ 1	398	+ 16	+ 7								
Sheet Mills ...	8	- 1	48	- 2	- 7								
Total	84	...	446	+ 14	...								

Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.

	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
To United States ...	8,657	6,014	5,250	+ 2,643	+ 3,367
" British East Indies ...	2,584	3,353	4,128	- 769	- 1,544
" Germany	2,955	2,286	3,071	+ 669	- 116
" France	1,952	1,765	2,794	+ 199	- 832
" Netherlands	1,804	1,865	2,477	- 61	- 673
" Other Countries ...	16,594	19,121	20,177	- 2,527	- 3,583
Total	34,556	34,402	37,937	+ 154	- 3,381

Black Plates for Tinning.

	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Total	3,266	5,931	5,269	- 2,665	- 2,003

* Revised Figure.

† It will be understood that in addition to the works returned as open, i.e., giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the Returns relate; but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 211 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 3 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works during July showed little change as compared with the previous month and was much worse than a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended July 25th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received, was 0.4 per cent. less than in the week ended June 27th, 1908, and 14 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended July 25th, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns, was about 459,300, as compared with 461,300 a month ago, and 534,200 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with			Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		
	In week ended July 25th, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.	In week ended July 25th, 1908.	A month ago.	A year ago.
IRON:						
Puddling Forges ...	9,475	- 38	- 1,175	4.70	+ 0.15	- 0.28
Rolling Mills ...	3,632	- 29	- 801	4.50	+ 0.03	- 0.50
Forging ...	460	+ 12	- 3	5.50	+ 0.46	- 0.05
Founding ...	1,764	+ 7	- 347	5.77	- 0.13	- 0.18
Other Departments ...	654	+ 6	- 39	5.92	+ 0.16	+ 0.09
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,716	...	- 43	5.46	- 0.02	- 0.06
Total, Iron ...	17,681	- 42	- 2,408	4.90	+ 0.09	- 0.28
STEEL:						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	7,569	- 54	- 1,223	5.75	...	- 0.12
Crucible Furnaces ...	520	- 1	- 41	4.04	- 0.19	- 1.47
Bessemer Converters ...	1,571	+ 53	- 105	4.58	- 0.23	- 0.65
Rolling Mills ...	14,105	+ 576	- 2,318	4.92	- 0.08	- 0.49
Forging and Pressing ...	2,803	- 123	- 20	5.35	- 0.02	- 0.30
Founding ...	2,067	- 159	- 1,206	5.84	+ 0.07	- 0.05
Other Departments ...	6,817	- 18	- 171	5.71	- 0.07	- 0.16
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,603	- 16	- 1,101	5.92	+ 0.02	- 0.01
Total, Steel ...	48,055	+ 288	- 6,185	5.46	- 0.04	- 0.23
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):						
Rolling Mills ...	10,425	- 368	- 862	5.00	+ 0.07	- 0.25
Forging and Pressing ...	686	+ 1	- 50	5.37	- 0.05	- 0.11
Founding ...	665	- 45	- 117	5.86	+ 0.11	- 0.02
Other Departments ...	3,037	+ 192	+ 112	5.57	- 0.28	- 0.03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	5,750	- 367	- 410	5.78	+ 0.02	- 0.02
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	20,603	- 589	- 1,327	5.33	+ 0.01	- 0.13
Grand Total ...	86,339	- 373	- 9,920	5.32	...	- 0.23
Districts.						
Northumberland & Durham	9,275	+ 420	- 2,834	5.02	- 0.06	- 0.02
Cleveland ...	8,047	+ 122	- 663	5.50	- 0.19	- 0.14
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,263	- 261	- 87	5.44	...	- 0.26
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,490	- 21	- 102	5.38	+ 0.08	- 0.19
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	7,392	- 321	- 3,297	5.37	+ 0.05	+ 0.02
Staffordshire ...	9,471	- 91	- 539	5.25	+ 0.09	- 0.21
Other Midland Counties ...	4,874	+ 197	- 269	5.27	- 0.01	- 0.13
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,453	+ 5	- 26	5.50	- 0.10	- 0.26
Total, England and Wales	70,267	+ 50	- 7,817	5.32	- 0.03	- 0.24
Scotland	16,072	- 423	- 2,103	5.50	+ 0.09	- 0.21
Total	86,339	- 373	- 9,920	5.32	...	- 0.23

Compared with a month ago there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in the Northumberland and Durham, Cleveland, and "other Midland" districts; while there were decreases in the Sheffield and Rotherham District, in the Cumberland and Lancashire district and in Scotland. In the remaining districts there was but little change. As regards departments the chief increase was at steel rolling mills, and the decreases were chiefly at works producing both iron and steel.

As compared with a year ago the number employed decreased in every district; the decline was greatest in the Northumberland and Durham, and Cumberland and Lancashire districts, and in Scotland. As regards departments the decline was mostly in the steel rolling mills, open hearth melting furnaces, steel foundries, and iron puddling forges.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.32, (the same as in June), and 0.23 of a shift less than a year ago. Compared with a month ago there was an increase in the average number of shifts worked in most departments of iron works, and a decrease in most departments of steel works. Compared with a year ago, there was a decline in all departments (except in "Other Departments" of iron works) and in all districts, except Cumberland and Lancashire, where there was a very slight increase.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during July, 1908, amounted to 100,654 tons, or 13,848 tons more than in June, 1908, and 14,008 tons more than in July, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during July, 1908, amounted to 195,762 tons, or 6,918 tons more than in June, 1908, but 51,999 tons less than in July, 1907.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,017 Returns—12 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 967 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 38 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was slack, with much short time, and continued to be adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was rather worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 152,839 show that at the end of July the percentage unemployed was 11.1 as compared with 10.5 a month ago, and 3.5 in July, 1907. Compared with a month ago a majority of districts showed an increase in the percentage unemployed, the most marked increase being in the Glasgow district. On the North-East Coast there was a decrease, chiefly confined to ironfounders on the Tyne, and in a few other districts there was a very slight decrease. Compared with a year ago there was an increase in the percentage unemployed in every district, the most noticeable increases being on the North-East Coast and in Scotland.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of July, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for July, 1908, as compared with a	
		July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		North-East Coast	4,961	30.9†	38.1†	6.2	- 7.2	+ 24.7
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,060	10.4	9.7	2.7	+ 0.7	+ 7.7
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,535	8.2	8.1	2.2	+ 0.1	+ 6.0
West Riding Towns ...	13,333	12.2	11.2	3.6	+ 1.0	+ 8.6
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,933	6.9	6.0	1.6	+ 0.9	+ 5.3
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,161	7.3	7.5	3.7	- 0.2	+ 3.6
Notts., Derby and Leicester District	4,149	9.6	9.0	3.4	+ 0.6	+ 6.2
London and Neighbouring District	11,709	6.1	6.3	4.1	- 0.2	+ 2.0
South Coast	4,148	5.0	5.1	1.9	- 0.1	+ 3.1
South Wales and Bristol District	6,850	6.5	5.6	2.4	+ 0.9	+ 4.1
Glasgow and District ...	16,269	24.6	21.2	4.7	+ 3.4	+ 19.9
East of Scotland	4,102	18.6	17.3	4.4	+ 1.3	+ 14.2
Belfast and Dublin	3,536	13.8	14.4	9.5	- 0.6	+ 4.3
Other Districts	6,047	11.5	9.6	2.5	+ 1.9	+ 9.0
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	152,839	11.1	10.5	3.8	+ 0.6	+ 7.6

On the North-East Coast employment continued very slack, being greatly affected by the strike of fitters, turners and machinemen. There was a reduction in the number of ironfounders unemployed in the Tyne district as compared with a month ago, but a considerable amount of short time was reported generally.

In Lancashire employment was fairly good with makers of textile machinery, and some overtime was still reported. In general engineering employment was slack, and short time was frequently worked.

In Yorkshire employment was slack generally, and, except at Leeds, short time was common. At Lincoln

* Exclusive of Superannuated members.
† Exclusive of members on strike.

employment was good, with overtime, and at Grantham it was fair.

In the Birmingham district and at Nottingham and Leicester employment was slack generally, with much short time, but brass bobbin makers at Nottingham and shoe machinery makers at Leicester were well employed. Employment was fair with engineers and boilermakers at Derby, and moderate at Colchester.

Employment in London continued very quiet. It was fair with engineers at Enfield and good with ironfounders at Erith. On the South Coast it was quiet on the whole. It was slack in South Wales, moderate at Bristol, and bad, with short time, at Swindon.

In Scotland employment was bad generally, worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. In some cases the usual summer holidays were extended owing to the bad condition of employment. At Belfast and Dublin employment was bad.

The Imports of machinery in July, 1908, amounted to £384,989, as compared with £369,932 in June, 1908, and £506,874 in July, 1907; and the Exports for the same months to £2,790,569, £2,365,684, and £3,118,704 respectively.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 362 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 337 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 59,831 members had 13,131 (or 21.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, 1908, as compared with 22.9† in June, 1908, and 7.2 in July, 1907.

Compared with a month ago there was a considerable decrease in the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed on the Tyne and on the Clyde, and an increase on the Humber and Mersey, and in the East of Scotland. Compared with a year ago, there was a decline in employment in every district, the most marked increases in the percentages unemployed being on the Wear, Tees, and Humber, on the Mersey, and in Scotland.

District.	No. of Members* at end of July, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for July, 1908, as compared with a	
		July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Tyne and Blyth	9,838	19.2	26.2	9.4	- 7.0	+ 9.8
Wear	5,118	45.4	45.2	7.3	+ 0.2	+ 38.1
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,727	34.4	34.2	6.9	+ 0.2	+ 27.5
Humber	2,598	21.3	19.2	2.1	+ 1.1	+ 19.2
Thames and Medway ...	4,241	13.0	13.3	6.5	- 0.3	+ 6.5
South Coast	4,395	2.7	4.9	2.0	- 2.2	+ 0.7
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,794	17.4	15.8	11.4	+ 1.6	+ 6.0
Mersey	3,980	26.9	17.2†	3.5	+ 9.7	+ 23.4
Clyde	13,689	21.8	27.7	8.6	- 5.9	+ 13.2
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen	2,214	30.7	19.3	9.1	+ 10.9	+ 21.6
Belfast	2,914	14.1	10.8	4.3	+ 3.3	+ 9.8
Other Districts	3,193	12.7	16.5	8.7	- 3.8	+ 4.0
United Kingdom ...	59,831	21.9				

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 96 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 68 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during July continued slack generally. It was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 16,261 had 4.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 3.9 per cent. at the end of June, and 3.7 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brass-workers was reported to be bad at Birmingham, London and Leeds, slack at Nottingham, and quiet at Wolverhampton. With bedstead workers at Birmingham it continued bad, with short time.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment was quiet in the rivet, spike and rough bolt trades. With nut and bolt makers at Darlaston it showed a decline compared with a month ago; at Birmingham it was reported to be moderate, and at Winlaton quiet. Employment continued fair with wire nail makers, and moderate with cut nail makers at Birmingham.

Wires.—Employment continued slack, on the whole, with short time general. It was, however, reported to be good with wire weavers at Glasgow.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trade continued bad, and short time was worked. At Wolverhampton and at West Bromwich it was quiet in the hollow-ware trade.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was slack on the whole, and about the same as a month ago.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield continued moderate with sawmakers, and fair in the file trades. In the other trades it was, on the whole, slack. Employment continued quiet in the edge tool trade at Birmingham. At Redditch it was reported to be quiet in the needle trade and fair in the fishhook trade.

Tubes.—Employment in South Wales and in South Staffordshire was slack.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment continued bad with wrought anchor smiths and in the chain trade. It was also bad with anchor smiths on the Wear. With railway spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield it was bad. At West Bromwich it continued fair with spring makers; with axle makers it was quiet. At Dudley anvil and vice makers continued to work short time.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was fair at Manchester; at Bury and at Bolton it was bad. With sheet metal workers at Belfast it was good. With tinplate workers it continued quiet at Birmingham and fair at Edinburgh; at Wolverhampton and at Oldham it was bad. With iron-plate workers at Birmingham and in the Lye district it continued bad. In London employment was bad, though rather better than a month ago.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment in London was slack with goldsmiths and jewellers; it was also slack with silver-workers; with silver plate polishers it was fair. In Birmingham employment with jewellers showed some improvement; with silversmiths and electroplaters it was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; with Britannia metal workers it was bad. It continued bad with silversmiths at Sheffield, and quiet with watch makers at Coventry.

Farriers.—Employment continued fair generally.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Cutlery	8,913	9,036	16,858	- 123	- 7,945
Hardware	74,839	66,811	89,494	+ 8,028	- 14,655
Exports:					
Cutlery	53,743	47,829	74,345	+ 5,914	- 20,602
Hardware	184,600	165,727	251,176	+ 18,873	- 66,576
Implements and Tools...	184,217	171,998	210,664	+ 12,219	- 26,447

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 465 Returns—369 received from Employers, 88 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch was quiet, and organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in the American cotton branch: in the Weaving branch it was slack and many looms were standing idle. Employment was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 118,414 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 10.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

As compared with a month ago and a year ago there was a decrease in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid in every department. This decline was most marked in the wages paid in the spinning department as compared with a year ago.

As regards districts, the amount of wages paid showed a decline, compared with a month ago, in every district (except Ashton). The most marked decreases were in the Oldham and Manchester districts. As compared with a year ago, every district showed a decrease, which was greatest in the Oldham, Burnley, Manchester, Yorkshire, Ashton, and Bury districts.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Preparing	13,828	- 0.5	- 0.5	11,692	- 3.9	- 10.5		
Spinning	24,179	- 0.6	- 0.6	21,447	- 3.9	- 12.5		
Weaving	54,340	- 0.1	- 2.6	44,854	- 2.3	- 10.8		
Other	9,846	- 1.4	- 3.7	10,772	- 2.4	- 5.9		
Departments not specified	16,221	- 1.2	- 2.0	15,693	- 4.7	- 12.7		
Total	118,414	- 0.5	- 2.0	104,458	- 3.4	- 10.9		

Exports of Cotton Goods.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—					
Grey	15,398	13,747	19,690	+ 1,651	+ 4,292
Bleached and Dyed ...	3,668	2,961	3,266	+ 707	+ 402
Total	19,066	16,708	22,956	+ 2,358	+ 3,890
Cotton Piece Goods—					
Grey or Unbleached ...	188,656	144,821	207,469	+ 46,365	- 18,813
Bleached	130,204	112,687	177,280	+ 17,517	- 47,076
Printed	101,015	87,766	128,397	+ 14,249	- 26,381
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	101,220	86,673	121,011	+ 14,547	- 19,791
Total	521,095	429,417	634,157	+ 92,678	- 112,062

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of July the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.15d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.43d. per lb. and the lowest 5.89d. The price for June, 1908, was 6.52d. per lb., and for July, 1907, 7.19d. per lb. For the period from August 1st to 11th, the average price of "middling American" was 6.15d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during July averaged 7.18d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.4d., and the lowest 7.4d. per lb. The price for June, 1908, was 7.38d. per lb., and for July, 1907, 10.34d. per lb. For the period from August 1st to 11th, 1908, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.19d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on August 7th, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 351,050 bales, as compared with 768,080 bales on August 9th, 1907.

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

Description of Cotton.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	Bales. 182,596	Bales. 190,216	Bales. 217,002	- 7,220	- 34,006
Brazilian	3,291	2,221	8,502	+ 1,070	- 5,211
East Indian	8,863	3,804	6,065	+ 5,059	+ 2,798
Egyptian	17,197	30,098	20,470	- 12,501	- 3,273
Miscellaneous	2,851	2,976	7,279	- 125	- 4,428
Total	215,198	239,315	259,318	- 14,117	- 44,120

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 393 Returns—369 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 27,745 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting	659	+ 2.6	- 4.1	580	+ 4.3	- 5.8		
Spinning	5,649	- 1.4	- 4.1	4,907	- 2.2	- 10.7		
Weaving	12,886	- 0.9	- 4.7	9,731	- 0.5	- 7.7		
Other Departments ...	7,868	- 0.7	- 1.6	7,880	- 0.3	- 3.5		
Unspecified	1,503	+ 3.1	+ 1.8	1,357	+ 8.0	+ 2.3		
Total	27,745	- 0.7	- 3.4	24,464	- 0.2	- 6.5		

In the Huddersfield district employment showed a further decline, and was much worse than a year ago. In the Leeds district employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley districts employment was moderate, and slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Some short

time was worked in all the above districts. At Hawick, Selkirk and Galashiels employment continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

Worsted Trade.

Employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 47,054 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and also in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.				
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,194	+ 0.1	- 6.2	4,980	+ 2.5	- 10.9	
Spinning	26,060	+ 0.2	- 1.2	14,942	+ 1.5	- 2.7	
Weaving	8,672	- 4.5	- 14.0	7,163	- 4.1	- 19.9	
Other Departments ...	5,677	- 0.6	- 1.6	5,335	- 6.2	- 6.8	
Unspecified	1,451	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	958	+ 6.6	- 14.1	
Total	47,054	- 0.8	- 4.4	32,478	- 0.8	- 9.5	

time was worked in all the above districts. In the Bradford and Keighley districts continued quiet, and was much worse than a year ago. In the Halifax district employment was still quiet, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago. In the Huddersfield district employment showed a further decline. Some short time was worked in all the above districts.

Prices of Raw Material.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	8½	8½	12½
40's Crossbred tops ...	10½	10	16½
60's Super Botany tops ...	23½	23½	28½
Course of Prices during the month:			
Lincoln Hogs	8-8½	8½-8½	13-12½
40's Crossbred tops ...	10-10½-10½	10-10	16½-16
60's Super Botany tops ...	23½-24	23½-23½	28½-28½

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen and worsted yarns and piece goods, for the months stated.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	29,903	13,336	19,251	+ 16,573	+ 10,668
British Exports "	2,652	1,888	2,092	+ 764	+ 560
Yarn:					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs	236	154	231	+ 82	+ 5
Worsted ... "	4,565	3,716	5,447	+ 849	- 882
Alpaca & Mohair "	1,207	960	1,590	+ 247	- 383
Total, Yarn "	6,008	4,830	7,268	+ 1,178	- 1,260
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	9,143	6,702	10,257	+ 2,441	- 1,114
Worsted ... "	6,826	6,411	11,125	+ 475	- 4,299
Total, Piece Goods "	15,969	13,113	21,382	+ 2,856	- 5,413

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 114 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during July continued dull, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 46,795 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 5.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 16.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing ...	6,448	- 0.6	- 1.2	3,058	-	- 16.1
Spinning ...	11,968	- 1.9	+ 1.8	5,090	-	- 13.8
Weaving ...	14,402	- 0.7	- 14.4	7,975	+ 5.1	- 21.8
Other ...	7,270	+ 0.6	- 2.4	5,196	- 1.1	- 11.3
Not specified ...	6,697	+ 0.9	- 0.3	3,573	+ 5.3	- 13.3
Total ...	46,795	- 0.6	- 5.0	24,911	+ 2.0	- 16.3

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Belfast ...	17,309	- 0.3	- 5.0	9,265	+ 6.4	- 19.5
Other Places in Ireland ...	15,219	- 1.2	- 4.2	7,116	- 4.7	- 16.9
Total, Ireland...	32,528	- 0.7	- 4.6	16,381	+ 1.3	- 18.4
Fifeshire ...	6,260	- 0.3	- 7.8	3,720	+ 3.8	- 14.7
Other Places in Scotland ...	6,175	+ 0.2	- 3.8	3,698	+ 4.4	- 9.7
Total, Scotland	12,435	- 0.1	- 5.9	7,418	+ 4.1	- 12.3
England ...	1,832	- 0.8	- 6.4	1,112	- 0.6	- 9.4
United Kingdom ...	46,795	- 0.6	- 5.0	24,911	+ 2.0	- 16.3

As compared with a month ago the amount of wages paid showed little change in the preparing and spinning departments, but in the weaving department there was an increase. Compared with a year ago there was a general decline, which was greatest in the weaving department. In the Belfast district employment continued bad, the majority of the mills running only 32 hours per week during the month. In other parts of Ireland employment was also bad, with much short time, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland, although there was an improvement, much short time was worked, and in some cases the holiday stoppage was extended.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:	
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	7,619	9,874	9,564	- 2,225	- 1,915
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	12,065	9,613	14,377	+ 2,452	- 2,312
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	119,004	105,166	162,991	+ 13,838	- 43,987

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 32 Returns—31 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good on the whole, but showed a decline as compared with a year ago. Some short time was worked, and at many works the holidays were extended.

Returns received from firms employing 17,847 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decline of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared

with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 17,847 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,211 (or 85 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with a month ago the amount of wages paid showed a slight decline in the preparing department. In the spinning and weaving departments there were increases. As compared with a year ago there were decreases in the preparing and weaving departments, and a slight increase in the spinning department.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing ...	4,036	- 2.3	- 2.3	2,644	- 0.6	- 5.3
Spinning ...	5,078	+ 0.3	+ 0.6	3,118	+ 1.6	+ 0.9
Weaving ...	5,907	- 0.6	- 3.1	4,350	+ 2.4	- 4.1
Other ...	1,937	+ 4.5	- 1.1	2,026	+ 5.7	- 0.7
Not specified ...	389	- 0.6	+ 0.7	673	+ 0.7	+ 0.7
Total ...	17,847	- 0.2	- 1.5	12,841	+ 2.0	- 2.4

Imports and Exports.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:	
Jute ... Tons	12,653	23,932	6,210	- 11,279	+ 6,443
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	47,206	39,693	56,197	+ 1,513	- 14,991
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	147,154	142,937	193,295	- 1,783	- 52,141

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 86 Returns—78 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad. It was slightly better than a month ago, but was considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 7,988 workpeople, and paying £6,843 in wages in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 7.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 20.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lavers ...	2,232	- 1.6	- 15.9	2,437	+ 3.7	- 37.8
Curtain ...	2,386	- 0.7	- 1.4	2,174	+ 2.5	- 2.1
Plain Net ...	2,722	- 1.2	- 4.2	1,985	- 1.9	- 15.5
Others ...	648	+ 1.6	- 4.6	447	+ 15.6	- 7.5
Total ...	7,988	- 0.9	- 7.1	6,843	+ 2.3	- 20.9

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Nottingham City ...	1,510	- 3.1	- 8.9	1,217	- 2.2	- 24.4
Long Eaton and other outlying districts ...	1,538	- 0.3	- 6.0	1,496	+ 3.2	- 28.6
Other English districts ...	3,254	- 0.8	- 7.8	2,548	- 0.8	- 21.6
Scotland ...	1,686	+ 0.2	- 4.9	1,582	+ 7.7	- 6.4
Total ...	7,988	- 0.9	- 7.1	6,843	+ 2.3	- 20.9

At Nottingham employment continued bad in the levers branch, and fair in the curtain branch. In the plain net branch there was a slight improvement. Much short time was worked. In the Long Eaton district

employment continued bad, with much short time; it was, however slightly better than in June. In the West of England it was quiet. In Scotland it was also quiet, rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:—	
Silk Lace ...	19,230	16,250	30,749	+ 2,980	- 11,519
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	323,273	261,559	455,731	+ 61,714	- 132,458
Silk Lace ...	5,938	7,337	11,502	- 1,409	- 5,574

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 104 Returns—96 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, and showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 17,493 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed an increase of 0.7 per cent., but the wages paid a decrease of 1.6 per cent.

At Leicester and Hinckley employment continued moderate generally; much short time was worked. At Loughborough it was slack in the cashmere branch, but fairly good in other branches. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago; with hand-frame workers in the country districts it was reported as fair. At Hawick it continued good; at Selkirk it was slack.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester ...	7,986	- 0.8	+ 2.5	6,282	+ 1.2	- 0.1
Leicester Country District ...	2,581	- 0.5	- 0.0	1,963	+ 3.4	- 0.4
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	4,103	- 0.4	- 2.5	2,845	+ 2.3	- 7.0
Scotland ...	2,161	- 0.4	+ 4.1	1,420	+ 0.2	+ 2.3
Other Districts ...	662	+ 0.8	- 6.6	421	+ 1.9	- 3.2
Total, United Kingdom	17,493	- 0.6	+ 0.7	12,931	+ 1.7	- 1.6

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in July, 1908, amounted to £28,600 and £136,441 respectively, as compared with £22,390 and £83,659 in June, 1908, and £31,939 and £126,262, in July, 1907.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in July, 1908, amounted to £123,330 and £43,682 respectively, as compared with £105,037 and £34,628 in June, 1908, and £177,135 and £57,399 in July, 1907.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 54 Returns—52 from Employers, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Some short time was reported. Returns received from firms employing 8,436 workpeople, and paying £5,601 in wages in the week ended July 25th, showed that, as compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 4.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 6.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Throwing ...	980		- 0.7	- 11.1	407	- 0.7	- 8.5
Spinning ...	2,548	- 1.8	- 2.8	2,078	- 1.7	- 2.4
Weaving ...	3,438	+ 0.4	- 3.6	2,261	+ 2.4	- 0.9
Other ...	1,113	- 2.5	- 1.8	826	- 3.1	- 2.9
Not specified ...	37	...	...	29	+ 7.4	+ 3.6
Total ...	8,436	- 0.9	- 4.8	5,601	- 0.2	- 6.1

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire ...	3,383	- 0.5	- 2.8	2,531	- 1.6	- 3.6
Macclesfield, Congleton and District ...	906	+ 3.7	- 0.5	659	+ 3.6	- 0.2
Eastern Counties ...	2,292	- 2.0	- 7.7	1,298	+ 1.6	- 8.8
Other Districts, including Scotland ...	1,855	- 2.3	- 6.7	1,113	- 1.4	- 11.3
Total ...	8,436	- 0.9	- 4.8	5,601	- 0.2	- 6.1

At Macclesfield employment with spinners and with factory handloom weavers was good; with trimming weavers and with makers-up it was bad. At Leek it was fair on the whole, and about the same as a month ago; some short time was worked. In the Bradford district employment, though still quiet, showed some improvement. In the Eastern Counties it was still slack, and worse than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:—	
Raw Silk ... Lbs.	70,160	139,637	65,294	- 69,477	+ 4,866
Thrown Silk ... "	33,624	41,889	48,877	- 8,265	- 15,253
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	23,401	26,643	26,401	- 3,242	- 3,000
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	5,261,104	5,659,515	5,042,568	- 398,411	+ 218,536
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs.	2,873	3,337	4,537	- 464	- 1,664
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	61,176	75,398	93,825	- 14,222	- 32,649
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	325,554	290,096	661,760	+ 33,458	- 338,206

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 48 Returns—27 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

Employment in this industry during July, though still quiet, showed some improvement as compared with June. It was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 5,526 workpeople, and paying £4,753 in wages in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 2.17 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the number employed decreased by 4.3 per cent. and the amount of wages paid by 15.7 per cent.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. About three-quarters of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-eighth worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as bad at Macclesfield and Leek.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers was moderate, and worse than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers it was slack. In Glasgow it continued bad with calico printers and

engravers, and was worse than a year ago; with block printers it continued good.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester and Hinckley employment was reported as bad, with much short time; at Loughborough it showed a decline. With dyers at Nottingham and with bleachers at Basford and Bulwell it was bad, and short time was general; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell employment was moderate; on the whole employment in Nottinghamshire was worse than a year ago.

Calendeyers, &c.—At Glasgow employment was fair, and better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. At Dundee it was fair, but some short time was reported.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 13 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 10 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during July in the *Silk* hat trade was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade it was quiet, but slightly better than a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 13.5, compared with 10.9 a month ago, and 8.8 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 2.6, compared with 3.4 a month ago, and 2.0 a year ago. Employment was reported as bad at Denton and Stockport, with much short time. In Warwickshire employment was fair.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
All kinds	Dozens. 26,573	Dozens. 35,071	Dozens. 28,545	Dozens. - 8,398	Dozens. - 1,872
Exports:					
Felt	38,254	28,791	51,373	+ 9,471	- 13,111
Straw	54,669	42,761	56,956	+ 11,908	- 2,297
Other Sorts	8,342	6,973	6,925	+ 1,369	+ 1,417
Total	101,273	78,525	115,264	+ 22,748	- 13,991

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 118 Returns—90 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch in London showed the usual seasonal decline, but was better than a year ago; in the provinces it was fairly good. In the *ready-made* branch it was fair, and slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment showed the usual seasonal decline, but was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £11,803 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended July 25th showed a decrease of 12.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as good at Dublin and Belfast, and fair at Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was moderate, and slightly worse than a year ago. Firms employing 6,833 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester was fair, but slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

At Bristol it continued fairly good. At Norwich it was fairly good. At Glasgow it was good, but at the end of the month was affected by holidays.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in July, 1908, were valued at £211,549, as compared with £256,819 in June, 1908, and £230,578 in July, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months at £472,071, £343,408, and £603,597 respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 492 Returns—475 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 6 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 62,312 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	2,159	- 5.2	+ 0.6	£ 2,332	- 8.1	- 0.1
Leicester	13,602	- 2.0	+ 4.2	13,327	- 0.8	+ 15.3
Leicester Country District	3,055	+ 0.6	- 1.1	2,782	+ 5.2	+ 2.6
Northampton	9,126	+ 0.3	+ 12.6	8,808	- 0.8	+ 12.3
Northampton Country District	8,738	+ 0.6	+ 4.2	8,435	+ 5.1	+ 8.6
Kettering	3,821	+ 1.0	+ 1.3	3,049	+ 2.4	+ 4.0
Stafford & District	2,674	+ 0.1	+ 5.3	2,452	- 4.5	+ 13.2
Norwich & District	3,364	- 0.5	+ 0.9	2,936	- 0.6	+ 4.8
Bristol & District	2,056	+ 1.3	- 0.8	1,868	+ 0.8	+ 3.6
Kingswood	1,876	+ 0.6	+ 10.7	1,844	+ 3.8	+ 17.7
Leeds & District	4,276	+ 3.4	- 0.2	2,082	+ 5.7	...
Manchester & District	2,491	+ 0.8	- 5.8	2,541	+ 17.8	- 1.9
Birmingham & District	1,036	+ 1.5	+ 3.0	784	- 1.0	- 2.9
Other parts of England and Wales	2,582	- 1.1	+ 3.3	2,241	+ 3.5	+ 8.3
ENGLAND & WALES	38,236	- 0.2	+ 3.9	56,351	+ 1.4	+ 8.6
SCOTLAND	3,794	- 1.3	+ 8.2	3,606	+ 0.7	+ 6.8
IRELAND	282	+ 1.1	- 1.1	186	- 5.1	- 11.0
UNITED KINGDOM	62,312	- 0.3	+ 4.2	69,143	+ 1.3	+ 8.4

Employment at Leicester showed a further slight decline, but was better than a year ago. At Northampton it was fairly good, and much better than a year ago; at Kettering it was slack, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; with army bootmakers it showed a decline, and short time continued to be worked. At Bristol employment showed a slight improvement, and was moderate. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood it showed an improvement, and was much better than a year ago. At Leeds it was moderate. In Scotland employment continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported and exported for the months stated:—

Imports (less Re-Exports)	Quantity ... Dozen pairs	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
Quantity	26,804	18,067	15,006	+ 7,837	+ 11,798	
Value	£ 63,340	51,571	54,866	+ 11,769	+ 8,474	
Exports (British and Irish)						
Quantity	94,599	79,996	103,548	+ 15,003	- 8,549	
Value	£ 209,486	169,651	226,955	+ 39,835	- 17,469	

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see under "Other Leather Trades," p. 253.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 182 Returns—172 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the West-End dressmaking trade showed the usual seasonal decline; in the retail branch it showed an improvement, and in the court dressmaking branch a decline, compared with a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades, and in the shirt and collar trade generally, employment was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the corset trade it was moderate, and better than a year ago.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,518 dressmakers in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 7.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers, employing 929 workpeople in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 22.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment was fair.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 2,994 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended July 25th showed a decrease of 7.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 6.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed practically no change in the demand for, and a decrease in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,752 workpeople in the week ended July 25th showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

In Glasgow employment was fairly good, but at the end of the month it was affected by holidays; it was about the same as a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,115 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers), and paying £3,970 in wages, in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was moderate.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 2,915 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended July 25th, showed a decrease of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 37 Returns—22 from Trade Unions and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,436 had 8.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 8.6 per cent. in June, and 4.1 per cent. a year ago.

Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with both skimmers and curriers was bad generally. With leather workers generally it continued fair at Bolton, Bury and Wigan; bad at Leeds, and quiet at Manchester.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment on the whole was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a

year ago. It was bad at Walsall, fair at Glasgow, and good at Dublin.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad, and much short time was worked. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment was fair in London, and rather better than a month ago; it continued bad in Manchester.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	cwts. 29,717	cwts. 23,833	cwts. 32,595	cwts. + 5,884	cwts. - 2,878
Ditto, wet	69,746	58,590	51,786	+ 17,156	+ 17,960
Total, hides, dry and wet	99,463	76,423	84,381	+ 23,040	+ 15,082
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	878,414	542,891	1,421,124	+ 335,533	- 542,710
Sheep skins ,, (value) £	173,385	186,470	294,051	- 12,885	- 120,476
Leather*	cwts. 117,283	cwts. 86,204	cwts. 97,706	cwts. + 31,079	cwts. + 19,577
Exports:					
Saddlery and harness	£ 34,724	£ 31,198	£ 53,616	+ £ 3,526	- £ 17,892

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 410 Returns—131 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 260 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades was fairly good, but not so good as a month ago, and at a number of mills short time was reported. Returns received from firms employing 22,347 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 2.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

Description.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of July, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,072	- 0.4	+ 1.2
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	1,805	- 1.1	+ 1.4
Southern Counties	6,813	+ 0.2	+ 5.6
Scotland	6,726	+ 0.3	+ 0.7
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,476	- 0.1	+ 2.4
Hand-made Paper	871	+ 0.2	+ 0.3
Total	22,347	- 0.1	+ 2.3

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,698 members had 2.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 1.9 per cent. a month ago, and 2.2 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 582 members had 6.0 per cent. unemployed, compared with 6.4 per cent. a month ago, and 6.4 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of paper in July, 1908, amounted to £485,441, as compared with £469,326 in June, 1908, and £481,992 in July, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same periods amounted to £212,906, £174,427 and £204,448, respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment with letterpress printers was moderate on the whole. It was slightly better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago. With lithographic printers employment was slack, worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago.

* Includes hides tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned or dressed as leather.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	20,521	5.2	4.7	4.2	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,216	3.5	4.8	3.0	- 1.3	+ 0.5
Lanc. and Cheshire...	6,567	3.7	4.5	3.4	- 0.8	+ 0.3
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,302	3.9	3.5	3.6	+ 0.4	+ 0.3
West Midlands	2,542	3.5	5.9	3.4	- 2.4	+ 0.1
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,635	2.5	3.7	2.0	- 1.2	+ 0.5
Scotland ...	5,451	5.1	4.7	2.9	+ 0.4	+ 2.2
Ireland ...	2,410	9.0	8.0	5.4	+ 1.0	+ 3.6
United Kingdom	48,614	4.6	4.8	3.6	- 0.2	+ 1.0

London.—Employment was reported as slack by compositors and lithographic printers; it was fair with printing machine managers, correctors of the press, electrotypers and stereotypers, and lithographic artists. Compared with a month ago little change was reported; compared with a year ago employment was worse generally. At the end of July 5.2 per cent. of the Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 4.7 per cent. a month ago and 4.2 per cent. in July, 1907.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers was good at Sheffield, Bolton, Manchester, Hull, Birmingham, Bristol, Oxford, Plymouth, and Aberdeen, overtime being worked on voters' lists. At Edinburgh few men were out of employment. At Leeds short time was reported. At Bradford, Liverpool, Nottingham, Cardiff, Glasgow, and Belfast employment was slack. With lithographic printers employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With electrotypers and stereotypers it was fair.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In London there was some improvement compared with a month ago, but short time was still reported.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	3,604	7.9	9.2	7.4	- 1.3	+ 0.5
Other Districts	3,146	8.7	9.1	4.9	- 0.4	+ 2.1
United Kingdom	6,750	8.3	9.2	6.2	- 0.9	+ 2.3

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,685 Returns—699 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 928 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 58 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in July continued slack. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from 632 firms employing 42,701 workpeople at the end of July are summarised below. These Returns show that in London compared with a month ago there was an increase of 7.9 per cent. in the number of skilled tradesmen, and of 11.4 per cent. in the number of labourers employed; while compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 7.0 per cent. in the number of skilled tradesmen, but an increase of 13.9 in the number of labourers. In the provinces the number of skilled tradesmen showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 7.3 per cent. compared with a year ago, while the number of labourers showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. compared with June and a decrease of 4.6 per cent. compared with July, 1907.

Employment with painters was moderate on the whole, but declining; in other branches it was slack generally. The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of July was 9.9, as compared with 7.4 a month ago and 5.0 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were

11.9, 12.8, and 8.8 respectively. Excluding the Northern Counties and Scotland, where many members of the carpenters' and plumbers' Trade Unions are employed in the shipbuilding industry, the percentages for the three periods were: carpenters and joiners, 8.6, 8.8 and 5.3; plumbers, 9.7, 11.0 and 9.3.

District	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London ...	7,472	6,926	8,034	5,911	5,305	5,190
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,150	2,192	2,531	1,748	1,701	2,192
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,976	3,980	4,227	3,457	3,299	3,088
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,520	2,478	2,475	1,886	1,859	1,869
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,763	2,932	3,138	1,666	1,688	2,106
England and Wales ...	18,881	18,508	20,403	14,678	13,852	14,445
Scotland ...	2,861	2,856	2,891	1,679	1,721	1,670
Ireland ...	612	611	797	741	852	805
United Kingdom	22,354	21,975	24,091	17,093	16,425	16,920
	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
London ...	481	500	470	13,864	12,731	13,692
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	449	454	534	4,347	4,347	5,287
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	842	851	862	8,285	8,190	8,177
Midland & Eastern Counties	322	333	368	4,738	4,670	4,712
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	413	437	493	4,822	5,087	5,737
England and Wales ...	2,507	2,575	2,727	36,066	34,938	37,575
Scotland ...	669	693	713	8,299	8,270	8,274
Ireland ...	73	69	70	1,426	1,532	1,672
United Kingdom	3,249	3,337	3,510	42,701	41,737	44,521

London.—Employment was slack generally, but rather better than a month ago. Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 14.5 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 15.8 per cent. a month ago, and 9.7 per cent. in July, 1907. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 13.4, 15.6, and 14.4 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment continued slack in nearly all districts. It was much the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

In the Tyne and Wear district a decline was reported, except with labourers at Newcastle who were fairly well employed. Carpenters at Leeds and Sheffield reported a slight improvement. Painters in the Northern Counties and Yorkshire were slack generally. At Oldham and Burnley employment was fair generally, and an improvement was reported at Bolton. With carpenters at Manchester employment was better than a month ago; with painters it was fair.

In the Midland Counties employment with painters showed a decline. An improvement was reported by bricklayers and masons in the Bristol district, and employment was fair at Torquay, as also with masons in South Wales. At Edinburgh employment was fair with bricklayers and masons, but showed a decline with carpenters and painters. Employment was fair at Dundee. It declined with painters at Glasgow and with carpenters at Aberdeen. In Ireland painters were fairly well employed, and in the Cork district a general improvement was reported.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 167 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 129 from Trade Unions, and 34 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,281 reported 8.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 6.9 per cent. a month ago, and 4.0 per cent. in July, 1907.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was generally bad, worse than a month ago and considerably worse than a year ago. It was, however, reported as fair in certain branches at Newcastle, Glasgow and Aberdeen,

and moderate at Belfast and Edinburgh. Trade Unions reported 12.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 9.1 per cent. a month ago, and 5.3 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in July, 1908, were valued at £31,696, as compared with £36,931 in June, 1908, and £68,431 in July, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods at £50,550, £39,001, and £58,696, respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. It was, however, fair at Lincoln and Hull. Trade Unions reported 8.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 9.0 per cent. a month ago, and 4.1 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn ...	113,356	90,081	102,086	+ 23,275	+ 11,270
" sawn ...	911,602	687,176	892,557	+ 234,426	+ 28,745
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 16,497	£ 15,648	£ 17,446	+ £ 649	- £ 1,149

Coopers.

Employment showed an improvement compared with June, and was fair on the whole. It was quiet at Burton and moderate at Manchester.

Coachbuilding.

Employment on the whole, was dull, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, compared with 4.1 per cent. a month ago, and 2.9 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment remained bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 6.5 per cent. a month ago, and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was moderate on the whole. It continued moderate with basket-makers.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in July, 1908, were valued at £28,185, as compared with £23,995 in June, 1908, and £29,274 in July, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £17,265, £15,305, and £18,155 respectively.

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 33 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued dull, much short time being worked.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was bad, most factories being on short time. It was fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne, at Swadlincote, and in Devonshire. With earthenware makers employment was slack in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district, and in the Potteries, much short time being worked. Employment in the china furniture trade was bad; it was fair with packers. With clay tobacco-pipe makers employment was very fair at Manchester, dull at Gateshead, and bad at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was good at Oldham, at Chelmsford, and in South Wales and Monmouthshire; and fairly good in North Wales and at Stourbridge. It was moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district and at Ipswich. Employment continued slack in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Devonshire. It was dull at Nottingham and Birmingham, and quiet in Shropshire and

Leicestershire. Employment in South Staffordshire and at Peterborough and Glasgow was bad.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in July, 1908, were valued at £72,796, as compared with £73,812 in June, 1908, and £94,240 in July, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £211,828, £182,145 and £243,160, respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 85 Returns—54 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during July showed a slight improvement on the previous month, but was worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,378 workpeople in the week ended July 25th, 1908, and paying £10,202 in wages, showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The increases were principally in the glass bottle trade in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

As compared with a year ago there were decreases of 4.5 per cent. in numbers employed and of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the decline being general.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 25th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Glass Bottle ...	5,662	+ 24	- 40	7,126	+ 1.2	- 0.7
Plate Glass	129	- 3.7	- 25.4	121	- 34.2	- 34.2
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	2,213	+ 0.2	- 4.6	2,515	- 0.8	- 3.3
Other Branches ...	374	+ 0.8	- 2.1	438	- 0.2	- 1.6
Total ...	8,378	+ 1.6	- 4.5	10,202	+ 0.7	- 2.0
Districts.	800	+ 0.4	- 6.0	961	+ 3.3	- 1.9
North of England	4,634	+ 2.7	- 1.6	5,732	+ 0.8	- 1.3
Yorkshire ...	732	+ 7.3	- 18.0	850	+ 7.1	- 1.7
Lancashire	1,108	- 0.1	- 4.1	1,377	- 1.4	...
Worcester and Warwick	780	- 5.8	- 6.3	963	- 5.7	- 8.5
Scotland ...	324	+ 1.6	- 1.5	319	+ 3.2	- 3.0
Other parts of the United Kingdom						
Total ...	8,378	+ 1.6	- 4.5	10,202	+ 0.7	- 2.0

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol, Dublin and Mexborough; fairly good at Wakefield; moderate in the North of England and Scotland; improving at Leeds and Barnsley; quiet in Lancashire. With medical glass bottle makers employment was moderate at Leeds and slack at Barnsley. With flint glass makers it was fairly good on the whole. With cutters it was very quiet, much short time being worked. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was bad. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it was moderate. Employment with London glass blowers was fairly good. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear employment was bad, but showed a slight improvement on the previous month; a considerable amount of short time, however, was worked during the month.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	July, 1908.	June, 1908.	July, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 95,15	cwts. 86,232	cwts. 110,512	+ 8,920	- 15,360
Plate ...	21,768	33,059	34,532	- 8,291	- 9,764
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	66,331	51,565	71,630	+ 5,768	- 11,299
Manufactures, other sorts...	262	317	580	- 55	- 318
Bottles ...	gross 108,733	gross 130,009	gross 119,899	gross + 21,296	gross - 11,166
Exports:					
Plate ...	cwts. 15,765	cwts. 11,380	cwts. 14,293	+ 4,385	+ 1,472
Flint ...	4,721	5,351	7,333	- 630	- 2,612
Manufactures, other sorts ...	40,533	42,617	42,736	- 2,084	- 2,203
Bottles ...	gross 51,109	gross 54,446	gross 76,780	gross - 3,337	gross - 25,671

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 210 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was regular in July, but hay-makers lost some time on account of rain towards the middle of the month. Haymaking and hoeing caused a good demand for extra labour, but the supply, on the whole, was sufficient.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland generally report full and regular employment during July; there was a good demand for day labourers to assist in haymaking and turnip hoeing; and in several instances the supply was not equal to the demand. Employment was also reported as regular in Lancashire, with the supply of and demand for extra labour generally equal. Employment was generally regular in Yorkshire, though rain in the early part of the month caused some interruption to the employment of day labourers; in several districts there was a scarcity of men for hay-making.

Midland Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Cheshire and Derbyshire, the supply of extra labour being generally about equal to the demand. In the Hayfield Union (Derbyshire), however, a number of Irish migratory labourers were reported as in irregular work. The hay harvest and turnip hoeing generally caused a good demand for labour in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, and employment was regular and full, except for a little interruption from wet weather. There was little or no interruption to employment in Staffordshire and Shropshire, and in the latter county the demand for extra labour somewhat exceeded the supply. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire rain caused some interruption to employment about the middle of the month; otherwise haymaking and hoeing roots provided constant work for day labourers. Similar reports come from Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire. Employment was generally regular in Buckinghamshire, and the supply of labour about equal to the demand. Rain somewhat interfered with the employment of day labourers in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, but generally there was full employment in these counties at haymaking and hoeing.

Eastern Counties.—There was generally regular employment in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, and the supply of day labourers was, on the whole, sufficient. Haymaking, hoeing, pea-picking and other work occasioned a good and constant demand for extra labour in Lincolnshire, and in several districts the supply was reported as insufficient. In Norfolk and Suffolk rain somewhat interrupted haymaking in the middle of the month, but employment on the whole was regular, the supply of and demand for labour being about equal. Similar reports come from Essex.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—There was a fairly good demand for extra men in Kent, but this was exceeded by the supply in several districts, while rain also occasioned some irregularity of employment for this class of labour. Haymaking and hoeing generally afforded regular employment in Surrey. In Sussex and Hampshire the supply of labour was about equal to the demand. Farm work proceeded regularly, hoeing being carried on when the haymaking was interrupted by wet weather. Regularity of employment was reported from Berkshire and Wiltshire. In Dorset and Somerset the backward condition of the root crops was said to have somewhat diminished the employment of extra labour. Haymaking was interrupted by rain for some days in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, but hoeing was proceeded with instead, and employment generally suffered little interruption. The supply of extra labour was about equal to the demand in Devonshire and Cornwall, but some scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from both counties.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Based on 133 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad at Liverpool, and moderate on the whole in London and the other principal ports.

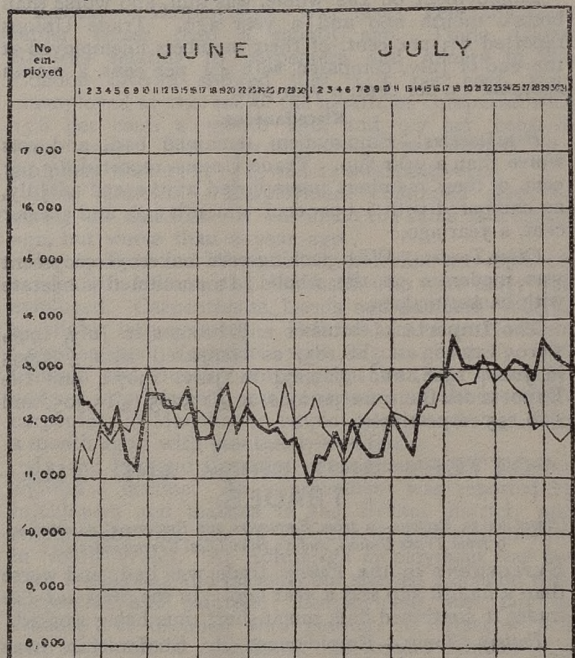
London.*—Employment generally was moderate, but there was some improvement in certain sections compared with a month ago owing to the wool sales and imports of timber. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended July 25th was 12,288, a decrease of 1·2 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 0·8 per cent. as compared with July, 1907. The daily numbers in July, 1908, ranged from 11,423 on the 8th to 13,691 on the 17th. During July, 1907, the numbers ranged from 11,241 on the 6th to 13,337 on the 23rd.

Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.

Period.	In Docks*			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended July 4th	4,084	2,035	6,119	5,366	11,485
" " 11th	4,313	2,185	6,498	5,251	11,752
" " 18th	5,024	2,310	7,340	5,476	12,816
" " 25th	5,389	2,199	7,588	5,513	13,101
Average for 4 weeks ended July 25th, 1908	4,702	2,184	6,886	5,402	12,288
Average for June, 1908	4,318	2,319	6,744	5,689	12,433
Average for July, 1907	4,883	2,640	6,928	6,416†	13,388†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of June and July, 1908. The corresponding curve for June and July, 1907, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1908, and the thin curve to 1907.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for July, 1908, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	11,463	11	11,776	22	13,120
2	11,426	12	11,449	23	12,985
3	11,856	13	12,749	24	13,247
4	11,526	14	12,987	25	13,105
5	12,062	15	12,914	26	12,806
6	11,568	16	13,691	27	13,579
7	11,423	17	13,109	28	13,416
8	11,444	18	13,041	29	13,203
9	12,238	19	13,109	30	13,038
10		20		31	

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 988 during July, 1908, as compared with 1,098 during June, and 1,173 in July, 1907.

At Liverpool employment continued bad with dock labourers, and was dull with quay and railway carters.

Other Ports.—Employment on the Tyne and Wear was moderate. It was moderate at Hartlepool and fair at Middlesbrough. At Hull employment was moderate with dock labourers and fair with coal porters; at Grimsby and Goole it was fair generally. Dock labourers continued fully employed at Yarmouth, Lowestoft and King's Lynn. Employment was fair at Plymouth; it was bad at Bristol and worse than a month ago. At the South Wales ports it was fair generally. It was bad at Manchester. Dock labourers were well employed at Leith, where employment was better than a month ago. At Aberdeen employment was dull. An improvement was reported at Dundee. Employment was dull at Belfast and Dublin.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 15 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in July, 1908, showed an increase in quantity, but a decline in value as compared with July, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports during July was fair generally.

At Yarmouth it was good with fishermen, but bad with fish dock labourers and fish curers, as the herring boats were fishing from Scottish and other ports. At Grimsby employment was bad generally.

At Hull it was moderate with fishermen and fish curers, and fair with fish dock labourers. It was worse on the whole than both a month ago and a year ago. At Lowestoft it was fair and better than a month ago. At Aberdeen it was moderate with all classes and worse than a year ago; at Macduff it was fair, and better than both a month ago and a year ago; at Fraserburgh it was good and better than a month ago. Off the South-Western Coast of England catches were generally light, though towards the end of the month steam trawlers were more successful.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in July, 1908 and 1907:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	July, 1908.	July, 1907.	July, 1908.	July, 1907.
Fish (other than Shell):	Cwts.	Cwts.	£	£
England and Wales ...	902,559	1,136,661	518,227	585,455
Scotland ...	2,616,755	1,038,395	614,394	653,181
Ireland ...	65,918	75,816	20,949	26,258
Total ...	3,585,232	2,250,872	1,153,570	1,264,894
Shell Fish ...	—	—	32,480	37,010
Total Value ...	—	—	1,186,050	1,301,904

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in July, 1908, were valued at £492,434, as compared with £163,554 in June, 1908, and £561,170 in July, 1907.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JULY.

(Based on 27 Returns received through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during July 47,991 seamen*, of whom 5,233 (or 10·9 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with July, 1907, there was a net increase of 2,570. There were marked increases at Liverpool, Cardiff and London, and decreases at Southampton and Hull.

For the seven months ended July, 1908, the total number of seamen* shipped was 283,858, an increase of 902 as compared with the number shipped during the corresponding period of 1907. The greatest increase was at Southampton, and the greatest decreases at Glasgow and Cardiff.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	July,			January-July,		
	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast						
Tyne Ports ...	3,095	3,133	+ 38	18,345	17,257	- 1,088
Sunderland ...	613	660	+ 47	2,752	2,692	- 60
Middlesbrough ...	445	330	- 115	2,927	1,793	- 1,134
Hull ...	1,933	1,584	- 349	9,041	7,966	- 1,075
Grimsby ...	542	852	+ 290	1,020	1,385	+ 365
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol† ...	658	659	+ 1	4,347	4,243	- 104
Newport, Mon. ...	1,204	1,408	+ 204	6,368	7,051	+ 683
Cardiff ...	5,133	5,760	+ 627	36,484	34,088	- 2,396
Swansea ...	678	628	- 50	3,520	3,002	- 518
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	14,971	16,560	+ 1,589	103,287	105,556	+ 2,269
London ...	6,518	7,059	+ 541	42,505	42,699	+ 194
Southampton ...	4,393	3,755	- 638	20,720	27,541	+ 6,821
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	691	729	+ 38	3,310	2,932	- 378
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	344	537	+ 193	1,580	1,479	- 101
Glasgow ...	3,998	3,955	- 43	24,754	22,184	- 2,570
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	70	120	+ 50	388	406	+ 18
Belfast ...	135	282	+ 147	1,608	1,604	- 4
Total ...	45,421	47,991	+ 2,570	282,956	283,858	+ 902

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

THE results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron are given in the Table below. The movements in wages which resulted from these ascertainment are shown in the paragraphs following the Table:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with		
		Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.	1908.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
(Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).				
Northumberland ...	Mar.-May	8 10	- 0 2'85	+ 0 4'28
Durham ...	April-June	8 10'43	- 0 2'88	+ 0 4'43
Pig Iron.				
Cleveland ...	April-June	51 0'88	+ 0 10'36	- 5 5'57
Cumberland ...	April-June	60 7'118	- 0 6'215	- 16 0'091
West of Scotland ...	May-July	56 0'442	- 0 8'413	- 10 0'958
Manufact'd Iron.				
(North of England:— Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	May-June	133 10'61	- 3 7'50	- 8 11'56
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)	May-June	136 0'28	- 4 3'06	- 11 5'99
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)	May-June	122 5'21	- 8 0'74	- 22 1'96

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board on July 4th, that the wages of underground workers and banksmen should be reduced by 2½ per cent., and of other surface workers by 2 per cent., leaving their wages 43½ per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively above the standard of 1879. It was arranged at a meeting of the Durham Conciliation Board on August 7th, that the wages of Durham miners should be reduced by 1¼ per cent.

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

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were reduced by 1½ per cent. in West Cumberland, and were advanced by 1 per cent. in the Cleveland district; whilst in the West of Scotland the wages remained unchanged.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England and the Midlands the wages of puddlers were reduced by 3d. per ton and those of millmen by 2½ per cent., and in the West of Scotland by 6d. per ton and 5 per cent., as the result of the ascertained average selling price of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of bread on August 1st, 1908, have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources. These Returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

District.	1st August, 1908.			1st July, 1908.			1st August, 1907.		
	Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W.	5½	5	5¼	5½	5½	5½	5½	5	5½
E. & N.E.	5½	5	5¼	5½	5	5¼	5½	4	4½
S.E.	6	5	5½	6	5	5½	6	5	5½
S.W.	6	5	5½	6	5	5½	6	5	5½
W. & W.C.	6	5½	5¾	6	5½	5¾	6	5	5½
N. Counties & Yorks.	7	5	5¾	7	5	5¾	6	5	5½
Lans. & Cheshire	7	5	5¾	7	5	5¾	6	5	5½
Midlands	6	4½	5½	6	4½	5½	5½	4½	5½
Eastern Counties	6	5	5½	6	5	5½	6	4½	5½
Southern Counties	6½	4½	5½	6½	4½	5½	6	4½	5½
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5½	6	5	5½	6	4½	5½
Scotland	7	5½	6½	7	5½	6½	6½	5	6½
Great Britain	7	4½	5½	7	4½	5½	6½	4	5½

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices remains unaltered. As compared with a year ago, an increase of ¼d. per 4 lbs. is shown.

Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. at August 1st, 1908	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
					Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London	5½	d.	+ ½	Oct. '07	- ½
Birmingham	5	- ½	...	July, '08	- ½
Bolton	6	...	+ ½	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff	5 & 5½	...	- ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Derby	5	...	...	April '08	- ½
Huddersfield	5	...	...	...	...
Hull	5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Ipswich	6	...	+ ½	Oct. '07	+ ½
Leeds	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1
Leicester	5	...	...	Feb. '08	- ½
Liverpool	5½	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Manchester	5	...	...	April '08	- ½
Middlesbrough	5	...	...	April '08	- ½
Newcastle	5½	...	+ ½	Jan. '08	- ½
Norwich	5	...	...	Feb. '08	- ½
Nottingham	5 & 5½	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Oldham	4	...	- ½	April '08	- 1
Plymouth	6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth	6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries	4½	...	...	Mar. '08	- ½
Wolverhampton	5	...	...	Feb. '08	- ½
Aberdeen	5½	...	+ ½	May '08	- ½
Dundee	5½ & 6	...	+ ½	Dec. '07	- ½
Edinburgh	6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow	6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast	6	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin	6	...	+ ½	Mar. '08	- ½

The above Table shows that, compared with a month ago, the only change in the predominant price of bread occurred at Birmingham, where the price is now 5d. per

4 lbs. instead of 5d. and 5½d. as in the previous month. As compared with a year ago, the predominant price of bread has risen in 17 of the towns. In 2 of these, including London, the increase amounted to ½d. per 4 lbs., in 14 to ¼d., and in 1 to 1d. per 4 lbs. Nine of the towns show no change, and two, Cardiff and Oldham, show decreases of ½d. and ¼d. per 4 lbs. respectively.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September, 1907-July, 1908, amounted to 85,595,010 cwts., or 321,090 cwts. less than during the corresponding period of 1906-7. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1907-July, 1908, amounted to 12,734,956 cwts., or 438,655 cwts. more than in September, 1906-July, 1907.

The following Table 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.

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).		(Average Declared Value.)		
	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1907.	Per cwt.*	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.	Per cwt.
July	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1908.	7 6	7 7½	9 6	10 4½	10 4½
June	7 6	8 0½	10 6½	11 3½	11 3½
July	7 2	8 2½	10 4½	10 11½	10 11½

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

WHAT IS AN ACCIDENT? SEAMAN: HEAT STROKE IN STOKEHOLD.

Compensation is payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, to a workman injured in the course of his employment, only where the injury is caused by an "accident." The Act applies to seamen who are members of the crew of any ship registered in the United Kingdom.

A British steamship, when about to sail from a foreign port, was found to be three men short, and the captain applied to a Mission to supply the deficiency. One of the three men sent by the Mission was engaged as a "trimmer" in the stokehold. This man was in a very emaciated condition, and had been starving when he applied to the Mission for work. He had never done the work of a trimmer before. On the day after joining the ship he was put to rake out ashes which had fallen from a furnace when he fell down unconscious as the result of "heat stroke." The ventilation of the stokehold was in proper order, and the conditions of the employment were quite normal, but the temperature was, as usual, very high, reaching 96 degrees. The man died from exhaustion two hours afterwards. His widow subsequently claimed compensation, and the Recorder of Belfast made an award of £162 in her favour. The medical evidence showed that owing to the deceased man's low vitality from starvation he was unable to withstand the high normal temperature of the stokehold. The shipowners appealed against the decision of the Recorder, but the Court of Appeal in Ireland confirmed his award. The shipowners then appealed to the House of Lords.

It was argued on behalf of the appellants that the death could not be said to have been caused by an accident. The House of Lords, however, dismissed the appeal, holding that the death had been caused by an accident within the meaning of the Act. They were of opinion that the weakness of the deceased, which predisposed him to heat stroke, was immaterial; that the cause of death was a heat stroke coming suddenly and unexpectedly upon him while at work; that such a stroke was an unusual effect of a known cause, often threatened though usually averted; and that as this man's inexperience prevented him from avoiding the danger he came within the protection of the Act.—*Ismay, Imrie & Co. v. Williamson, House of Lords, July 31st, 1908.*

WHAT IS AN ACCIDENT? DISEASE CONTRACTED IN COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT.

A man was employed by a municipal authority in their sewers. In the course of his ordinary work in the sewers he contracted enteritis from inhaling sewer gas, and the illness incapacitated him from afterwards following his occupation. He claimed compensation under the Act on the ground that his injury had been caused by an accident within the meaning of the Act.

* In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, the rate of conversion from quarters to cwts. is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.

The County Court judge found as facts that the result of the enteritis was to accelerate a pre-existing disease of the heart, and to incapacitate him for work earlier than the disease would otherwise have done, but that it was an ordinary incident of the man's work that noxious gases should be present where he worked, and that his work necessarily involved the risk of poisoning by such gases; therefore the cause of the injury could not be said to be unexpected or fortuitous or unforeseen. The judge, therefore, held that there had been no accident within the meaning of the Act, and that the claimant was not entitled to compensation. The workman appealed.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court judge, and dismissed the appeal, holding that it was not enough that the injury complained of was caused by the employment, but there must be a further element of accident; injury by disease alone not accompanied by accident was not the subject of compensation except in the case of certain industrial diseases among which the disease in this case was not included.—*Broderick v. London County Council, Court of Appeal, July 20th, 1908.*

WHAT IS AN ACCIDENT? BITE OF A CAT.

A carter in the course of his employment had to take his team of horses to their stable for their mid-day meal. He also had to take his own dinner during the time the horses were feeding. While he was eating his dinner in the stable, a cat kept in the stable sprang at him and bit him. He was not teasing the cat, nor was he feeding it, though on other occasions he had thrown bits of food to it. Blood poisoning resulted from the bite, and the man had to have one of his fingers amputated. He claimed compensation under the Act, and obtained an award in his favour. The employer appealed.

On the hearing of the appeal it was contended for the employer that the accident was not one arising out of the employment, as the claimant had nothing to do with the cats, nor was it his duty to feed them. The Court dismissed the appeal, and decided that the man was entitled to compensation. They held that the man was properly taking his meal in the stable, where, to his knowledge, and to the knowledge of the employer, the cat was kept; and the bite was therefore an injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment within the meaning of the Act, though it would have been different if the cat had been a strange cat which had strayed into the stable.—*Rowland v. Wright, Court of Appeal, July 24th, 1908.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: INJURY DURING ABSENCE FROM WORK WITHOUT LEAVE.

A workman injured by accident is not entitled to compensation under the Act unless the accident was one arising out of and in the course of the employment.

A workman employed as a labourer by a firm of shipbuilders agreed with his employers to work overtime all through a certain night upon a ship. During the night he told the foreman that he was going ashore to get some bread. The foreman forbade him to leave his work, but suggested that the boy should go and fetch what was wanted. The man, however, in defiance of the foreman, went ashore, and on returning, although there was a perfectly safe gangway, he attempted to jump on board at another part of the ship, and, falling into the water, was drowned. The father of the deceased man claimed compensation as a dependant. The Sheriff-Substitute, however, held that in going ashore contrary to orders he had left his work without justification, and that in attempting to jump on board he was deliberately breaking a rule of which he was well aware. An award of compensation was therefore refused.

The claimant appealed, but the Court of Session affirmed the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute, holding that in the circumstances the accident was not one arising out of or in the course of the deceased's employment.—*Martin v. Fullerton & Co., Court of Session, Reported, July 1st, 1908.*

ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: SEAMAN RETURNING TO SHIP FALLS INTO WATER: EVIDENCE: LOG BOOK.

A seaman who had been ashore, in returning to his ship, slipped off the gangway leading to the ship, fell into the water and died in consequence. His widow claimed compensation. The only evidence available as to how the accident had happened was the following extract from the ship's log book:—"11 15, January 4, 1908.—Thomas McDonald, donkeyman, whilst returning on board ship from the shore, more or less the worse for liquor, refused the aid of night watchman and policeman to assist him up the gangway, and on reaching the top step suddenly overbalanced and fell over the gangway mainropes, dropping between the ship and quay, and striking the iron girder before reaching the water."

In this state of things the County Court judge decided that a conclusion might be drawn from the entry equally consistent with an accident having occurred arising out of the man's employment or otherwise; but that he was entitled to infer that the man was returning to the ship in pursuance of an obligation so to do, and that the accident had occurred by reason of a risk naturally incident to his occupation and therefore had arisen out of his employment. He therefore made an award in the widow's favour. The shipowners appealed.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal. They held that there was nothing to show whether the man had gone ashore on the ship's business, or on a spree without leave; that it was for the claimant to prove that the accident was one which arose out of and in the course of the employment; that there could be no presumption in favour of the claimant; that if the man had gone ashore without leave, or with leave for his own pleasure, the accident could not be one which arose out of and in the course of the employment, and that as the claimant was unable to bring forward the

necessary evidence she had not proved her right to compensation.—*McDonald v. Owners of Steamship Banana, Court of Appeal, July 31st, 1908.*

WHAT IS EMPLOYMENT OF A CASUAL NATURE? WASHERWOMAN EMPLOYED AT REGULAR INTERVALS: AUTHORITY OF WIFE TO ENGAGE SERVANT.

The term "workman," as used in the Act to describe a person entitled to compensation in case of injury by accident, does not include a person whose employment is of a casual nature, and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business; but (with certain exceptions) the term does include any person who has entered into or works under a contract of service with an employer.

A married woman was in the habit of employing, and had for about 18 months regularly employed, a washerwoman to work at her house every Friday and on alternate Tuesdays. The washerwoman also did some washing at her own home, and for other persons; while at work for the lady in question she accidentally pricked her thumb with a pin, blood poisoning supervened, and she lost the use of one hand. She claimed compensation under the Act.

At the hearing of her claim it was proved that her aggregate earnings from all sources were about 15s. a week. The County Court judge decided that the claimant was not in casual but in regular employment, and that she was entitled to compensation. He accordingly made an award in her favour for 7s. per week. The employer appealed.

On the hearing of the appeal it was contended on behalf of the appellant that the claimant's work was of a casual nature, and that as her employer did not carry on the business of washing, the claimant was not a workman within the meaning of the Act. It was also contended that the lady employing the claimant could not bind her husband by the contract of service to which she had become a party. The Court of Appeal held that there was a contract of service of a periodical and regular nature; that the employment was not casual; that the lady made a contract of service with the claimant as agent for her husband, and that the award of the County Court judge was right.—*Dewhurst v. Mather, Court of Appeal, July 17th, 1908.*

WHAT IS EMPLOYMENT OF A CASUAL NATURE? WINDOW CLEANING.

A man had for some years been in the habit of cleaning the windows of a certain private house. He used to call at the house at irregular intervals of about a month. He did not wait to be summoned, nor did he ask permission to come, but he called at the house and was usually admitted and did the work. There was no formal contract between him and the householder, and the latter might have engaged any other person or refused the man admittance when he called. The work usually occupied three or four hours, and he was paid 3s. 4d. on each occasion. The man cleaned windows for many other persons, his average weekly earnings being about £2 2s. In December, 1907, while cleaning the windows of the house in question he fell into the area and was severely injured. He claimed compensation under the Act, but the Sheriff-Substitute refused to make an award in his favour on the ground that his employment was of a casual nature, and that therefore he was not entitled to the benefits of the Act.

The injured man appealed, but the Court of Session upheld the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute.—*Rennie v. Reid, Court of Session, July 3rd, 1908.*

CONTRACT OF SERVICE: UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN: EMPLOYMENT BY CHARITABLE SOCIETY.

No one is entitled to compensation under the Act unless he is a person who has entered into or works under a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer, and who is injured by an accident arising out of or in the course of that employment.

A religious mission, as a part of their philanthropic work, provided board and lodging (to which was sometimes added small sums of money) for men out of employment. Such men, however, had to do a certain amount of work in the labour yard attached to the mission. While a man was engaged in this work he was injured by accident and claimed compensation. The County Court judge refused to make an award in his favour on two grounds. First, that a charitable organisation providing employment in a labour yard not for profit did not carry on a trade or business within the meaning of the Act. Second, that the man was not working under any contract of service. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. They would not consider whether the judge was right in holding that the charity did not carry on a trade or business, but they held that the claimant was not entitled to the benefits of the Act, because when injured he was not working under a contract of service.—*Burns v. Manchester and Salford Wesleyan Mission, Court of Appeal, July 21st, 1908.*

INDUSTRIAL DISEASE: SEQUELÆ: DEATH FROM DISEASE WHICH MAY BE SEQUELÆ OF SEVERAL COMPLAINTS: BURDEN OF PROOF.

When the death of a workman is caused by any one of certain diseases, amongst which is "lead poisoning or its sequelæ," and the disease is due to the nature of any employment in which the workman was employed at any time within twelve months previous to the date of becoming disabled from earning full wages by reason of the disease, whether under one or more employers, the dependants of the workman are entitled to compensation as if the disease were a personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment. If at or immediately before the date of disablement the workman was employed in a process involving the use of lead or its compounds, the disease shall be deemed to

have been due to the nature of that employment, unless the certifying surgeon certifies that in his opinion it was not so due, or the employer proves the contrary.

A man was employed by one firm for many years as a painter. He had suffered from lead poisoning. In October, 1907, he died in hospital of "granular kidney," but showed no trace of lead poisoning at the time of death.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that it was not sufficient for the claimants to prove that the death was due to a disease which might or might not be a sequela of lead poisoning, and that to succeed it was necessary for them to prove that the death was caused by lead poisoning either directly or as a remote consequence.

(3) Merchant Shipping Acts.

[UNLAWFUL GOING ON BOARD SHIP AT END OF VOYAGE: CRIMPING.

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1904, that, where a ship is about to arrive, is arriving, or has arrived, at the end of her voyage, no person not being in His Majesty's Service, or not being duly authorised by law, may go on board the ship without permission of the master before the seamen lawfully leave the ship at the end of their engagement or are discharged [whichever last happens].

A ship arrived from Adelaide and was berthed in the Victoria Docks. When the Board of Trade officer went on board he found that two men had come on board without permission. These two men were accordingly prosecuted at the Central Criminal Court, and at the trial it was stated that many complaints had been received of thefts on board ship and of crimping.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

LIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED.

THE persons named below have been duly returned on behalf of the employees as members of the Conciliation Boards on the following Railways:—

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY.

Sectional Board No. 1. Eastern District.—Walter Hampson, fireman, Normanton; George Lupton, engine driver, Gooles. Central District.—Arthur Law, fireman, Newton Heath; Tom Robinson, engine driver, Bury. Western District.—John Hunter, fireman, Southport; Robert Morris, fireman, Wigan.

Sectional Board No. 2.—Eastern District.—Albert William Hill, signalman, Wakefield (Kirkgate); Thomas Henry Holland, signalman, Horbury. Central District.—Joseph Moore, signalman, Rochdale; George Knights, signalman, Radcliffe. Western District.—William Fitzgerald, signalman, Blackburn; Robert Crane, signalman, Kirkham.

Sectional Board No. 3. Eastern District.—Samuel Butterworth, goods guard, Wakefield; John Frederick Thurston, goods guard, Gooles. Central District.—Reuben Bebbington, goods guard, Manchester (Miles Platting); William Edmund Turner, goods guard, Bury. Western District.—Frank Mitchell, goods guard, Wigan; Joseph Walter Ryder, goods guard, Bolton.

Sectional Board No. 4. Eastern District.—George Henry Clegg, passenger porter, Sowerby Bridge; Francis Marchant Smithies, passenger guard, Holmfirth. Central District.—William Henry Beresford, passenger guard, Burnley (Bank Top); Ezra Collien, passenger porter, Bury. Western District.—Laurence Beswick, passenger porter, Preston; Frederick Arkwright, passenger guard, Blackburn.

Sectional Board No. 5. Eastern District.—Samuel Lord, goods loader, Halifax (Shaw Syke); Albert Dyson, goods checker, Brighouse. Central District.—Richard Ingham, goods checker, Burnley (Bank Top); Matthew Carey, damage man, Salford Goods. Western District.—James Reilly, sheeter, Liverpool (North Docks); John Clark, goods checker, Preston.

Sectional Board No. 6.—Eastern District.—Henry Denton, carter, Leeds; William Parker, carter, Wakefield. Central District.—Joseph Ditchfield, carter, Manchester (Oldham Road); William Henry Cadman, carter, Salford Goods. Western District.—Albert Kitchen, vanman, Bolton; John Jolly, crane driver, Fleetwood (Wyre Dock).

Sectional Board No. 7.—Eastern District.—George William Gibson, platelayer, Wakefield; Edward Stow, platelayer, Hebden Bridge. Central District.—James Maccabe, platelayer, Burnley

(Barracks); Charles Henry Whitehall, point fitter, Ramsbottom. Western District.—John Knowles, foreman platelayer, West-houghton; John Wimbhurst, platelayer, Liverpool (Aintree).

BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. Traffic Department.—William Crowe, passenger guard, Belfast; Thomas Ward, passenger guard, Belfast; James M. Graham, head porter, Newtownards; William James Seeds, goods porter, Belfast.

Sectional Board B. Permanent Way Department.—John Lawson, ganger, Belfast; Thomas McCready, platelayer, Donaghadee; Bernard McDonnell, milesman, Crossgar; William Savage, ganger, Bangor.

Sectional Board C. Locomotive Department.—Frederick William Taylor, engine driver, Belfast; William Reid, engine driver, Belfast; Samuel Price, fireman, Belfast; Thomas Gourley, fireman, Belfast.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. London District.—Frank Green, engine driver, King's Cross. Main Line District.—George Palmer, fireman, Pe-erborough (New England). Eastern District.—Ernest Crouter, engine driver, Boston. Western District.—John William Dawson Rose, engine driver, Colwick. West Riding District.—George Eason, engine driver, Leeds (Copley Hill).

Sectional Board B. London District.—Arthur Davis, platelayer, Holloway. Main Line District.—John Clark, platelayer, Doncaster. Eastern District.—Thomas Henry Pickering, platelayer, Lincoln. Western District.—Harry Spencer, platelayer, Colwick Sidings. West Riding District.—William Carpenter, foreman platelayer, Ardsley.

Sectional Board C.—London District.—Andrew O'Leary, passenger guard, King's Cross. Main Line District.—William Ernest Crawford, goods guard, Doncaster. Eastern District.—William Thomas Jones, signalman, Lincoln. Western District.—John Sumner, goods guard, Colwick Sidings. West Riding District.—Arthur Godfrey, signalman, Drighlington (Adwalton Junction).

Sectional Board D.—London District.—George Mason, passenger porter, King's Cross. Main Line District.—John Pilkington, ticket collector, Hitchin. Eastern District.—John Hawkins, passenger porter, Lincoln. Western District.—Thomas Addeese, carman, Manchester (Deansgate). West Riding District.—Harry Shackleton, checker, Halifax (North Bridge).

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. Locomotive Department.—Henry Robinson, engine driver, Stoke-on-Trent; Thomas G. Birch, fireman, Stoke-on-Trent; Frederick William Smith, carriage and wagon examiner, Tutbury.

Sectional Board B. Permanent Way Department.—John Elks, platelayer, Rocester; John Locker, platelayer, Longton; James Moss, ganger, Bollington.

Sectional Board C. Traffic Department.—Jesse Bailey, signalman, Tutbury; Samuel Thomas, brakeman, Stoke-on-Trent; William Robinson, passenger porter, Stoke-on-Trent; James Faulkner Powney, passenger guard, Crewe; William Stubbs, goods porter, Stoke-on-Trent.

MIDLAND AND GREAT NORTHERN JOINT RAILWAYS.

Sectional Board No. 1.—Thomas Wright, engine driver, Cromer Beach; Joseph William Evans, fireman, South Lynn; George Canham, engine driver, Peterborough; John Thomas Neave, engine driver, South Lynn; John Pooley, engine driver, South Lynn.

Sectional Board No. 2.—John Lee Lingard, signalman, Sutton Bridge; Robert Bunnett, signalman, South Lynn; Robert Sandall, goods guard, Peterborough; George Cooper, goods guard, King's Lynn; George Henry Stanford, signalman, Yarmouth Beach.

Sectional Board No. 3.—George Lambert, platelayer, Thursford; Charles Simmonds, platelayer, East Rudham; Edward Berwick, carriage and wagon examiner, Melton Constable; William Jackson, platelayer, Holbeach; James Moore Brown, carriage and wagon examiner, Yarmouth Beach.

Sectional Board No. 4.—Arthur William Appleton, number taker, Norwich City; Frederick George Cossey, foreman shunter, South Lynn; Walter Fisher, platform porter, Melton Constable; Arthur Fuller, foreman checker, South Lynn; Samuel Ribbans, ticket collector, Melton Constable.

NEATH AND BRECON RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. Locomotive Department.—Thomas Gwyn, fireman, Neath; Richard Jenkins, engine driver, Neath; Edwin White, engine driver, Neath.

Sectional Board B. Permanent Way Department.—Thomas Grice, ganger, Colbren Junction; Rees Hopkins, ganger, Crynant; David Morgan, platelayer, Abercrave.

Sectional Board C. Traffic Department.—Jestyn Hopkin Bartlett, brakeman, Neath; James Jones, signalman, Colbren Junction; John Price, goods guard, Neath.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during July was 83, consisting of 71 cases of lead poisoning, 4 of mercurial poisoning, 4 of arsenic poisoning, and 4 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 19 cases of lead poisoning (4 of which were fatal) were reported during July among house painters and plumbers.

During the seven months ended July, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 454, as compared with 318 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 25, as against 26 in 1907. In addition there were 113 cases of lead poisoning (including 17 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first seven months of 1908, as compared with 87 cases (including 22 deaths) in the first seven months of 1907.

[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.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of July, 1908, Seven Months ended July, 1908, 1907), Deaths (Month of July, 1908, Seven Months ended July, 1908, 1907). Rows include Smelting of Metals, Brass Works, Sheet Lead and Lead Piping, etc.

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

* Of the 6 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 5 were emales.

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, 1908, was 201, an increase of 4 as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 26 as compared with July, 1907.

The mean number for July in the years 1903-1907 was 238, the maximum year being 1905 with 340 deaths, and the minimum year 1904 with 194 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in July, 1908, was 88, as compared with 91 in June, and 100 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during July, 1908, was 72, as compared with 81 in the previous month, and 89 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 35, 22, and 34 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during July, 1908, was 89, as compared with 88 in June, 1908, and 90 in July, 1907.

During the seven months ended July, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 1,689, as compared with 1,670 in the corresponding period of 1907. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 722 in 1908, and 783 in 1907.

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (July, 1908, June, 1908, July, 1907), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, as compared with a (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Accidents reported under Factory Act, etc.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-four disputes began in July, 1908, as compared with 21 in June, 1908, and 27 in July, 1907. By the 24 disputes, 14,622 workpeople were directly and 7,027 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 35,903 workpeople involved in trade disputes during July, 1908, compared with 21,604 in June, 1908, and 23,776 in July, 1907.

New Disputes in July, 1908.—In the following Table the new disputes in July are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining and Quarrying	13	12,132	6,249	18,381
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	1,931	616	2,547
Textile	4	339	162	501
Dock Labour	2	220	...	220
Total, July, 1908	24	14,622	7,027	21,649
Total, June, 1908	21	3,964	637	4,601
Total, July, 1907	27	9,939	7,100	17,039

Causes.—Of the 24 new disputes, 3 arose on demands for increased wages, 4 on objections to reduction in wages, 2 on other wages questions, 4 on details of working arrangements, 7 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 2 on other questions.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 17 new disputes, directly affecting 11,969 persons, and 8 old disputes, directly affecting 2,883 persons. Of these 25 new and old disputes, 6, directly involving 2,715 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 9, directly involving 3,702 persons, were decided in

favour of the employers; and 10, directly involving 8,435 workpeople, were compromised. In the case of 2 other disputes, work has been resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in July of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 125,700 working days. In addition, 309,300 working days were lost during July owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in July of all disputes, new or old, was 435,000 working days, as compared with 431,200 in the previous month and 288,600 in the corresponding month of 1907.

Summary for the First Seven Months of 1907 and 1908.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the seven months January—July, 1907 and 1908, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-July, 1907.			Jan.-July, 1908.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	17	947	22,500	16	2,638	69,100
Mining and Quarrying... ..	59	34,877	358,200	76	41,236	681,300
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	59	12,491	354,000	36	56,384	3,324,300
Textile	100	27,176	394,100	42	10,214	485,700
Clothing	28	3,127	32,500	22	1,889	53,100
Transport	19	6,673	66,400	13	2,223	16,700
Other Trades	45	3,494	58,900	28	2,462	45,600
Total	327	88,785	1,284,600	233	117,046	4,675,800

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1908.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.‡				
Building Trades— Slaters	Glasgow ...	325	...	15 May	46	Against proposed alteration in rule as to taking on men at country jobs	Amicable settlement effected.
Coal Mining— Hewers, Shifters, Stonemen, &c., and other Workpeople	Chester-le-Street	443	385	13 July	...	Demand for dismissal of a deputy...	No settlement reported.
Hewers, Stonemen, &c.	Gateshead ...	1,640	...	13 July	4	For advance in wages to six labourers, and other matters	Advance granted to labourers, other demands withdrawn.
Miners, &c., and other Workpeople ...	Washington	900	100	22 July	3	Dispute as to whether a workman was entitled to a new colliery house	Work resumed on employers' terms, after negotiations.
Colliers, Fillers, Haulage Boys, and other Underground Workers and Surfacedmen	Rotherham (near)	820	317	15 July	9	Against alteration in hours of part of afternoon shift	Work resumed on employers' terms.
Miners, Drawers, Labourers, and other Workpeople	St. Helens ...	1,259	213	14 July	7	To compel non-unionists to join Miners' Federation	Non-unionists joined Federation.
Miners	Aberdare ...	5,000	...	29 July	7	For improvement of working conditions	Men returned to work on understanding that alleged grievances should be discussed.
Hauliers, Colliers and Surfacedmen ...	Clydach Vale	400	3,800	14 July	1	For reinstatement of a workman at his old working place	Work resumed unconditionally.
Hauliers, Miners, Surfacedmen, &c. ...	Maesteg ...	94	1,172	13 July	1	Against penalty imposed for leaving work early on occasion of fatal accident	Work resumed.
Engineering and Shipbuilding— Engineers, Boilermakers, Moulders, &c.	Wednesbury	1,200	...	39 July	...	Dispute arising out of dismissal of a workman.	No settlement reported.
Ironmoulders, Patternmakers, Fillets, Labourers, &c.	Neath and Swansea district	250	500	6 July	29	For advance in wages from 36s. to 38s. per week.	Dispute referred to Mr. W. B. Yates, arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896.
Sheet Ironworkers, Copper-smiths and Tinsmiths	The Clyde ...	867	330	6 Jan.	150	Against proposed reduction in wages of ½d. per hour.	Reduction accepted.
Cotton Weaving— Weavers, Winders, Warp-ers, Over-lookers, Loomers, &c.	Westhoughton	851	68	25 Mar.	87	For advance in wages.	Wages advanced to Blackburn list, less 5 per cent.

* 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 disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes taking effect in July.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in July, 1908, was a decrease of £17,144 per week, as compared with a decrease of £16,671 per week in June, 1908, and an increase of £11,721 per week in July, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 191,232, of whom 10,054 received advances amounting to £259 per week, and 181,178 sustained decreases amounting to £17,403 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 156,783, and in July, 1907, 179,860.

Two changes, affecting 3,420 workpeople, were settled by arbitration; four changes, affecting 128,510 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and twenty-four changes, affecting 25,454 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 33,848 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 587 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the seven completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the seven months ended July 31st, 1908, was 869,457, as compared with 1,175,121 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 419,925 workpeople a net increase of £21,863 per week, and 443,532 workpeople a net decrease of £55,206 per week, whilst the remaining 6,000 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes was thus a decrease of £33,343 per week, as compared

with an increase of £127,076 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result in their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—July.			
	1907.		1908.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	2,447	+ 144	10,935	+ 155
Coal Mining	805,321	+ 106,851	643,750	- 22,001
Iron, &c., Mining	15,340	+ 1,693	14,031	- 2,620
Quarrying	2,751	+ 97	2,363	- 230
Pig Iron Manufacture	16,273	+ 1,029	16,905	- 1,807
Iron and Steel Manufacture	51,017	+ 3,537	51,940	- 5,208
Engineering and Shipbuilding... ..	29,825	+ 1,549	89,212	- 3,363
Other Metal Trades	673	+ 41	2,973	- 344
Textile Trades	236,895	+ 10,993	11,952	+ 1,091
Printing, &c., Trades	5,084	+ 350	10,374	+ 901
Glass, &c., Trades	3,850	+ 388	5,986	+ 281
Other Trades	1,876	+ 220	6,873	- 382
Employees of Local Authorities ...	3,789	+ 224	2,113	+ 204
Total	1,175,121	+127,076	869,457	-33,343

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in July, 1908, affected 196 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 497 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the seven months ended July 31st, 1908, was 11,183. Of these 490 had their aggregate working time increased by 117 hours per week, and 10,693 had reductions amounting to 16,957 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in July.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages taking effect 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 RATES OF WAGES IN JULY.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1908.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)		
				In-crease.	De-crease.			
Building ...	Preston	1 July	Carpenters and Joiners	360	...	Advance of ½d. per hour (gd. to 9½d.).		
	Blackburn and District	7 July	Carpenters and Joiners	420	...	Advance of ½d. per hour (gd. to 9½d.).		
Coal Mining ...	Glasgow	1 July	Joiners ... ..	...	3,000	Decrease of ¾d. per hour (9½d. to 9½d.).	
	Northumberland	6 & 13 July	Underground Workers & Banksmen (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen and Firemen)	...	38,000	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 43½ per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.		
			Other Surface Workers	...	...	Decrease of 2 per cent., leaving wages 35 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
Scotland	29 July	Underground Workers ... ..	...	90,000	Decrease of 12½ per cent., leaving wages 56½ per cent. above the standard of 1888.		
Shale Mining... ..	Scotland	30 July	Surfacemen, Mechanics and Firemen	...	18,000	Decrease of 2d. per shift.		
			Miners ... ..	...	4,000	Decrease of 12½ per cent.	
Stone Mining ...	Frodingham ...	20 July	Oncostmen, Boys and Enginemen	...	500	Decreases of from 2d. to 6d. per day.		
			Miners, &c. ... ..	...	500	Decrease of 5 per cent.	
Iron and Steel Manufacture ...	Cleveland and Durham	4 July	Blastfurnacemen	5,500	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., making wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.		
			West Cumberland	1 July	Blastfurnacemen	1,400	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of 1889.
Iron Manufacture ...	North Staffs. ...	1st making-up day July	Blastfurnacemen ... ..	...	600	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 22½ per cent. above the standard.	
			South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 July	Blastfurnacemen	1,250	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4 per cent., leaving wages 17½ per cent. above the standard of 1895.	
					Iron Puddlers	750	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (gs. to 8s. 9d.).	
Iron and Steel Manufacture ...	Northumberland, Durham & Cleveland	27 July	Iron and Steel Millmen	2,650	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.		
			Consett, Jarrow and Newburn	1 July	Steel Millmen	1,184	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent.	
			Eston	5 July	Steel Workers	1,220	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., making wages 19½ per cent. above the standard.
Ironmoulding ...	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 July	Iron and Steel Workers and Mechanics	...	5,000	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 4 per cent., leaving wages 17½ per cent. above the standard of 1895.		
			West of Scotland	27 July	Iron Puddlers	3,000	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 6d. per ton (gs. to 8s. 6d.).
					Iron Millmen	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 5 per cent.
Scotland	20 July	Ironmoulders ... ..	...	8,233	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates, and of ¾d. per hour, or 1s. per week off time rates.		
Textile ...	Leek	1st pay July	Silk Pickers ... ..	...	349	Advance of 1s. per week.	
			Silk Twisters ... ..	...	...	Advance of 5 per cent.
		4 July	Silk Workers (Female)	1,000	...	Advance of 6d., 1s., or 1s. 6d. per week.		

Note.—Coal Mining.—Early in August it was arranged that the rates of wages of miners in Durham should be reduced by 1½ per cent., and those of Pig Iron Manufacture.—A reduction took effect early in August of 2½ per cent. in the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen in South Staffordshire, and one of 5 per cent. in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Under the sliding scale arrangements steel melters and pitmen in Great Britain sustained a reduction of 3½ per cent. early in August, and iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands one of 2½ per cent. 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, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

PAUPERISM IN JULY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in July, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 214 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with June, 1908, the total number of paupers decreased by 3,571 (0.9 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 2,031 (1.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers 1,540 (0.7 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 26 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (18 per 10,000); in seven districts there were increases, and in the Liverpool and Bristol districts there was no change.

Compared with July, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 6. The number of indoor paupers increased by 8,158 (5.1 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 5,801 (2.8 per cent.). In twenty-two districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Galway district (210 per 10,000), and in the Stockton and Tees district (94 per 10,000); in twelve districts there were decreases; in the Aberdeen district there was no change.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of July, 1908 (Indoor, Outdoor, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with A month ago, A year ago. Includes sections for ENGLAND & WALES*, SCOTLAND*, and IRELAND*.

* 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.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN JULY.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 266.

THE following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of July, by those Committees whose registers were still open at that date. The following Distress Committees closed their registers for the receipt of fresh applications during July:—Erith, Leeds, and West Bromwich.

The Distress Committee at York re-opened its register in July.

The Committees were requested, in making up their returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work, or to have left the neighbourhood, since registration; and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified.

Table with columns: Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of July, 1908, Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of July, 1907. Lists districts like Outer London, Stockport, Sunderland, etc.

The following Table shows the amount of employment-relief provided by all Committees, including those whose registers were not open for the receipt of new applications:—

Table with columns: Distress Committees, No. given Employment-relief, Aggregate duration of Employment-relief, Total Amount of Wages paid. Includes sections for London (Central Body), Outer London, and other districts.

It will be seen that the average number of days' employment-relief given was between 14 and 15, and the average amount of wages paid was about 41s. per man, or 2s. 9d. a day.

EMPLOYMENT REGISTRIES IN AUSTRIA IN 1906. A REPORT on the work of employment registries in Austria in 1906, has been issued by the Austrian Labour Department. The total number of situations filled in 1906 through the agency of the 918 registries making returns was 398,642, of which 141,738 were filled by the Vienna Municipal Labour Registry and 41,171 by registries in connection with relief stations. In the preceding year the total number of situations filled by 890 registries was 333,922.

* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number on the "unemployed register" was 896. † Including some not registered by the Distress Committees. ‡ The number given employment-relief includes 14 on piecework, the aggregate duration of whose employment cannot be stated. § Ergebnisse der Arbeitsvermittlung in Österreich im Jahre, 1906. K.K. Arbeitsstatistisches Amt im Handelsministerium. Vienna, 1907: A. Hölder.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JULY.

DURING July 696 fresh applications (403 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 605 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 188 persons, of whom 104 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 188 situations found for applicants 109 were of a more or less permanent character, while 79 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was greatly in excess of the supply; the demand for children's nurses was also in excess of the supply; the supply of housekeepers, ladies' maids, and companions was greatly in excess of the demand; in the case of housemaids demand and supply were fairly well balanced.

The work done by the Bureaux during July is shown in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Applications by Work-people during July, 1908, July, 1907, Situations offered by Employers during July, 1908, July, 1907, Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily). Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

In addition to the above registered applications, the Returns show that 31 persons in London and 10 in Edinburgh were referred to other Agencies; 258 persons in London and 64 in Dublin were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HALF-TIMERS.

An Inter-Departmental Committee on partial exemption from school attendance has been appointed, consisting of the following members:—Mr. T. McKinnon Wood, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education (Chairman); Lord Clifford of Chudleigh; Lord Stanley of Alderley; Mr. Walter R. Rea, M.P.; Mr. H. M. Lindsell, C.B., a Principal Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education; Mr. G. Bellhouse, one of His Majesty's Superintending Inspectors of Factories; Mr. Joseph Cross, of Accrington, Secretary of the Northern Counties Weavers' Amalgamation; Mr. Tom Garnett, of Manchester; Mr. Allen Gee, of Huddersfield, General Secretary of the General Union of Weavers and Textile Workers; Mr. Mark Oldroyd, of Dewsbury; with Mr. C. E. Sykes, an Examiner of the Board of Education, as Secretary.

The terms of reference are as follows:—

(1) To inquire into and report upon the extent to which existing enactments relating to partial exemption from compulsory school attendance are taken advantage of in urban and rural areas in England and Wales; the occupations in which children so exempted are employed; and the effect of such occupations upon the general education and industrial training of the children.

(2) To consider the practical effects of legislation

providing for the abolition or restriction of half-time employment upon industries and wage-earning, and upon educational organisation and expenditure.

(3) To report whether and to what extent, in view of these considerations, it is desirable to amend the law by raising the age at which partial exemption from attendance at public elementary schools is to be permitted, or by raising the minimum age for total exemption concurrently with affording facilities for partial exemption.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for July.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale values of such goods.

Table with columns: July, 1906, 1907, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, compared with 1907, 1906. Includes categories like I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE.—The values of the Exports represent the cost and charges of delivering the goods on the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

Table with columns: July, 1906, 1907, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1908, compared with 1907, 1906. Includes categories like I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £6,059,325 in July, 1906; £7,388,291 in July, 1907; and £6,310,928 in July, 1908.

ITALIAN EMIGRATION IN 1907.

In 1907 the number of persons leaving Italian ports and the port of Havre for trans-oceanic countries was 397,704 (including 25,125 not of Italian nationality), as compared with 440,338 (of whom 25,619 were not Italians) in 1906, a decrease of 42,634, or 9.7 per cent. The greatest number of emigrants left the ports in March (53,966) and April (54,614), and the least in January (13,722) and December (11,317). In 302,484 cases—70.6 per cent. of the whole—the United States was the destination of the emigrants. The number of persons who, having emigrated from Italy to trans-oceanic countries, returned from such countries and landed at Italian ports in 1907 was 233,979, of whom 162,278 (or 69.4 per cent.) came from the United States. In the previous year 159,949 persons returned, of whom 106,620 came from the United States. The large increase in the number returning from the United States in 1907 as compared with the previous year is stated to be due to the depression caused by the financial crisis.

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c. † Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c. ‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c., hides and skins, &c. § Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c. ¶ Bollettino dell' Emigrazione, Journal of the Italian Emigration Department, No. 6, 1908.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JULY.*

NOTE.—Labour bureaux whose registers are identical with those of Distress Committees are excluded from this Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in July, see page 264.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 48 Labour Bureaux during July; of these Bureaux 29 were in London (including West Ham), and 19 in the Provinces. Of the 29 London Bureaux, 26 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 22,537, of which 18,365 were in London, and 4,172 in the Provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 6,406, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 5,095, or 22.6 per cent. of the applications received, and 79.5 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 2,704 (or 53.1 per cent.), and temporary 2,391 (or 46.9 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades, as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 311; wood-working trades, 45;

metal and engineering trades, 178; other skilled trades, 95; "transport and general," 595; other trades, men and boys, 776; women and girls, 858. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 109; metal and engineering trades, 102; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 237; general labourers, 17; bill distributors, 856; employees of local authorities, 95; charwomen and domestic servants, 156; other occupations, 371. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 294 men.

At 44 of the Bureaux mentioned below, figures for 1907 are available. The number of applicants registered at these Bureaux was 22,153 in July, 1908, as compared with 10,272 in July, 1907. Employers offered 6,159 situations during July, 1908, of which 4,941 were filled. In July, 1907, 3,889 situations were offered, and 2,733 filled. The number of workpeople on the registers at the end of July, 1908, was 14,199, as compared with 14,931 in July, 1907.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING JULY, 1908.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, New Applications, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

* The figures for the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange relate to the 5 weeks ended July 31st, 1908; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended August 1st, 1908, amounted to £5,038,359, a decrease of £316,138 (or 5.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the thirty-one weeks ended August 1st, 1908, the receipts amounted to £32,219,548, a decrease of £1,309,286 (or 3.9 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

Table comparing receipts for 5 weeks ended August 1st, 1908 and 31 weeks ended August 1st, 1907. Columns: Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1907.

Soc., Coates, Peterborough; Froome's Hill Co-op. Credit Soc., Froome's Hill, Ledbury; Risca Dist. Mutual Loan Soc., Newport, Mon.; Rhymney Valley Perm. Thrift and Loan Soc., Bargoed, Cardiff; Penrhiw and Maritime Working Men's Band Musical Inst., Pontypridd; Provincial Perm. Money Soc., Cardiff; Alma Inn Mutual Benefit Soc., Harwich; Northleach Juvenile Oddfellows' Friendly Soc., Northleach, S.O., Glos.; Cowley Road Wesleyan Mission Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Sons of Grodno Friendly and Divisional Benefit Soc., 20, New Road, E.C.; Stage Carriage Servants' Orphan and Superannuation Soc., Wandsworth, S.W.; Court McClean of Chasetown, Juv. Foresters' Friendly Soc., Chasetown, Walsall; Red Card Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Arter Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Polesworth Lily of the Valley Sick and Benefit Soc., Polesworth, Tamworth; Coenat Workmen's Sick and Accident Fund, Bridgend, Scotland.—1, viz., Bathgate Juvenile Foresters' Sick and Funeral Soc., Bathgate, Ireland.—2, viz., Gorravagh Credit Soc., Gorravagh, Mohill, co. Leitrim; Monamolin Agric. Bank, Monamolin, co. Wexford.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table with columns: Societies, Notices Received in July of (Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up), Registry Cancelled.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING JULY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Mines and Quarries, 1907. District Reports. Persons employed, output, accidents, prosecutions, &c. Report for Newcastle District (No. 3). [Cd. 4045-ii.: pp. 64: price 9d.] Report for the Liverpool and North Wales District (No. 7). [Cd. 4045-vi.: pp. 54: price 7d.]

Report to Home Office on the Explosions which occurred at Benwell and Whitehaven Collieries on 19th March and 26th November, 1907, respectively. Edited by R. A. S. Redmayne, Chief Inspector of Mines. [Cd. 4182: pp. 16, with diagrams: price 1s. 1d.]

Report to Home Office on the Causes of and the Circumstances attending the Accident which occurred at Roachburn Colliery, Cumberland, on 28th January, 1908, from an inflow of clay, sand, moss and water. By J. B. Atkinson. [Cd. 4155: pp. 11: price 6d.]

Railway Employment Safety Appliances. Third and Fourth Report from Board of Trade Committee to examine and test appliances designed to diminish danger to men employed in Railway Service. [Cd. 4213: pp. 10: price 1s. 1d.]

Report to Home Office on the Circumstances attending an Explosion of Gelignite at the Factory of Curtis & Harvey, Ltd., Roslin, Edinburgh, on March 26th, 1908. By Captain A. H. Desborough. [Cd. 4191: pp. 8: price 1d.]

Post Office (Changes in Wages, &c.). Copies of the Post Office Circulars announcing changes in the wages and conditions of service of Post Office servants in connection with the Report of the Select Committee on Post Office Servants. [H.C. 206: pp. 67: price 7d.]

Report and Special Report from the Select Committee on the Daylight Saving Bill, with Proceedings of the Committee, Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. [H.C. 204: pp. xvi. + 171: price 1s. 6d.]

Report from the Select Committee on the Hoop Industry. [H.C. 213: pp. liv.: price 5s. 3d.]

Departmental Committee on Agricultural Education in England and Wales. Report of Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. [Cd. 4206: pp. 48: price 9d.]

Report from the Select Committee on Homework together with the Proceedings of the Committee. [H.C. 246: pp. xlix: price 5s. 3d.]

Poor Relief (England and Wales). Statement for the half year ended Michaelmas, 1907. [H.C. 309-i: pp. 29: price 3d.]

Forty-fourth Annual Report on Alkali, &c. Works by the Chief Inspector, 1907. Number of registered works, prosecutions, &c. [H.C. 182: pp. 220: price 1s. 1d.]

Thirteenth Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland, 1907. Proceedings of Distress Committees, establishment of farm and labour colonies by Distress Committees, emigration, provision of work, &c. [Cd. 4142: pp. xci. + 446: price 2s. 3d.]

Seventh Annual General Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, 1906-07. Agricultural credit societies, loans for industries, home industries, technical instruction, &c. [Cd. 4148: pp. vi. + 658: price 2s. 8d.]

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING 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, 5; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 37; under the Friendly Societies Act, 53 (including 27 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all, 97.

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

Trade Unions.—England.—4, viz., Liverpool and Dist. Builders' and Contractors' General Labourers' Soc., 34, Old Haymarket, Liverpool; Borough of St. Marylebone Municipal Employees' Union, 50, Church Street, Edgware Road, N.W.; Manchester and Salford Society of Women Employed in the Bookbinding and Printing Trades, 5, John Dalton Street, Manchester; Journeymen Furriers' London Trade Union, Raglan Hotel, St. Martin's-le-Grand. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—1, viz., Operative Soc. of Mechanical Engineers, Whitesmiths, Ironworkers and Pipe Fitters, Locksmiths, Bellhangers, &c., Trades Hall, Capel Street, Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England.—35, viz., Co-operative Agricultural Society: (1) Wherwell and Dist. Poultry Soc., Ltd., Wherwell, Andover. Working Men's Clubs: (7) Leiston and Dist. Constitutional Club, Ltd., Club House, Leiston, Suffolk; Eastwood Conservative and Unionist Club, Ltd., Keighley; Shamrock, Thistle and Rose Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., 12, Market Place, Herst, Morpeth; White House Unique Social Club, Ltd., White House, Ashington, Morpeth; Beaconsfield Working Men's Club, Ltd., Arcade, Lows-off; Burnopfield Constitutional Club, Ltd., Burnopfield, S.O. Durham; Hunwick and Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., Church End Lane, Hunwick, Willington, R.S.O., Durham. Miscellaneous: (27), including 22 Small Holdings Societies. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—(2) Co-operative Agricultural Societies: (2) Knocklong Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Knocklong, co. Limerick; Kiltely Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Kiltely, co. Limerick.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—23, viz., Moss Bay Working Men's Club, Moss Bay, Workington; Leadgate Workmen's Social Club and Inst., Leadgate, S.O., Durham; Abercarn Working Men's Club and Inst., Abercarn, Newport, Mon.; Golden Hill Working Men's Club and Inst., Stoke-on-Trent; Kidsgrove Working Men's Club and Inst., Stoke-on-Trent; Hanging Heaton and Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst., Hanging Heaton, Dewsbury; Eastfield Working Men's Recreation Club, Castleford; Coates and Dist. Small Holders' Credit

Trades for London Boys and how to enter them. Compiled by the Apprenticeship and Skilled Employment Association. [Longmans: price 9d.]

Report of Special Committee of the Charity Organisation Society on Unskilled Labour. [C. O. S., 1908: pp. 249]

Progress. Organ of the British Institute of Social Service. July, 1908. Contains article—Industrial Future of Boys and Girls. I. Skilled Employment and Apprenticeship Committees in England, J. G. Gibbon. II. Apprenticeship Schools in Wurtemberg, A. Holden Byles.

BRITISH COLONIES.

Report to the Home Office on the Wages Boards and Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts of Australia and New Zealand. By Ernest Aves. [Cd. 4167: pp. 226: price 1s. 10d.]

Report to the Home Office on the Acts for the Regulation of the Hours of Employment in Shops in Australia and New Zealand. By Ernest Aves. [Cd. 4168: pp. 28: price 3d.]

(The above mentioned Reports relating to British Colonies may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct or through any bookseller.)

Canada. *The Labour Gazette*, June 1908. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during May: Employers' Liability on Railways in the United States, new Act, &c.

Ontario. *Illustrated Appendix to the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors of Factories for the Province of Ontario*, 1906. Illustrations of practical devices for guarding dangerous machinery, systems of removing dust, methods of heating and ventilation, &c. [Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer: pp. 80.]

New Zealand. *Awards, Recommendations and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.* Vol. IX. Part II. May, 1908. [Wellington, N.Z.: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 119.]

Journal of the Department of Labour, June, 1908. Condition of employment and trade; persons assisted by the Department of Labour during May; cases under the Workers' Compensation Act, &c.

Queensland. *Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies and Official Valuer on the Quinquennial Valuation of Friendly Societies in Queensland.* [Brisbane: G. A. Vaughan, Government Printer: pp. 60.]

Western Australia. *Reports of Proceedings before the Boards of Conciliation and the Court of Arbitration.* Vol. VI., 1907. [Perth, W.A.: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer: pp. 203.]

New South Wales. *Second Annual Report of the Director of Labour, State Labour Bureau, for year ended 30th June, 1907.* Appendices contain table showing the Trade Union rates of wages. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 36, with photographs: price 2s. 6d.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Thirty-first Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the State of Ohio, 1907. Statistics of manufactures—numbers employed, wages, &c.; free employment offices, &c. [Springfield: Springfield Publishing Co., State Printers: pp. 523.]

Commercial America in 1907. Showing commerce, production, transportation facilities, area and population of each of the countries of North, South and Central America and the West Indies. Department of Commerce and Labour. [Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 175.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, June, 1908. Communal unemployment subventions (Armentières, Haubourdin, Roubaix); employment and labour disputes in May. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: price 2d.]

Report on the Work of the Council of General Statistics in 1907. Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of May 26th, 1908. [Paris: Imprimerie des Journaux Officiels, 31 quai Voltaire: pp. 4.]

Population and Vital Statistics of France in 1907, with Comparative Figures (Provisional) for Certain Countries. Extract from the "Journal Officiel" of June 16th, 1908. [Paris: Imprimerie des Journaux Officiels, 31 quai Voltaire: pp. 19.]

Statistics Showing Number, Size of Families, &c., of French Government Employees. French Labour Department. 1908. [Paris: pp. 80.]

Municipal Pawn-Shop of Paris. Report for year ending March 31st, 1908. [Paris: Imprimerie Chaix, rue Bergère, 20.]

Germany.

Tariff Agreements concluded in 1906, with account of the development of the Tariff Movement since 1905. German Labour Department. 1908. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: pp. xii. + 411.]

Inquiry into Hours of Labour of Carters and Drivers in 1905. Report by representatives of Employers and Workpeople. German Labour Department, 1908. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: pp. 151.]

Statistical Yearbook of the German Empire. Contains statistics of unemployment, insurance, prices, savings banks, trade unions, &c. Imperial Statistical Office, 1908. [Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: pp. xxix. + 388 + 79: price 2s.]

Proceedings of the Council for Labour Statistics, Berlin, April 28th-30th, 1908.

Statistical Yearbook of Wurtemberg, 1907, Part II. Statistical Office of Wurtemberg, 1908. [Stuttgart: W. Kohlhammer: pp. xxvi + 206 + map.]

Industry and Commerce of Düsseldorf, based on the Census of June 12th, 1907. Municipal Statistical Office. [Düsseldorf: pp. xli. + 20, with diagrams.]

Austria-Hungary.

Statistical Journal of Hungary, May-June, 1908. Statistics of Hungarian Trade Unions in 1907. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, June, 1908. Wages hours, &c. in foundries of Lombardy; strikes in April. [Rome, Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Journal of the Italian Emigration Department, No. 8, 1908. No. 9, 1908. Contain statistics of emigration for year ending April, 1908. Rome: price 3d. each.]

Proceedings of Council of Thrift and Social Assurance, Third Session of 1907. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: pp. 402.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, June 30th, 1908. Labour Disputes in May. July 15th, 1908. Report on work of public unemployment funds in 1907. [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price 1d. each.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, June, 1908. Employment and labour disputes in May. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: price 2d.]

Statistics of State Reformatories and Schools of Holland in 1906. Dutch Central Statistical Office, 1908. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: pp. xxv. + 43.]

Statistical Yearbook of Dutch Colonies, 1906. Dutch Central Statistical Office, 1908. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: pp. xxvi. + 153.]

Switzerland.

Reports of Swiss Federal Factory Inspectors for 1906 and 1907. Federal Industrial Department, 1908. [Aarau: H. R. Sauerländer & Co.: pp. 249.]

Statistics of Zürich. *Workplaces and Dwellings in December*, 1900. Statistical Office of Zürich, 1908. [Zürich, Rascher & Co.: pp. vii. + 88: price 9½d.]

Denmark.

Housing and Rent Statistics for Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and Gentofte, based on the Population Census of February 1st, 1906. Municipal Statistical Bureau of Copenhagen, 1908. [Copenhagen: pp. 58.]

Miscellaneous Statistics of Denmark. Series IV., Vol. 27. Primary Schools outside Copenhagen in 1904 and 1905. Danish Statistical Office, 1908. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag: pp. 292.]

Handicraft and Industry in Denmark according to Census of June 12th, 1906. Danish Statistical Office, 1908. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel-Nordisk Forlag: pp. cxxxvii. + 392.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, June, 1908. New Spanish laws on conciliation and arbitration, and on industrial courts. [Madrid, Calle Mayor 93: price 2½d.]

Russia.

Inquiry into Wages in the Printing Trade of Finland, including Tariff of 1st March, 1906. [Helsingfors, 1908: Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri.]

Chile.

The Utility of Labour Statistics. Circular addressed to employers and workpeople by the Labour Department of Chile, 1907. [Santiago de Chile: pp. 13.]

Roumania.

Statistics of Agricultural Wages in Roumania, 1904-1907. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, 1908. [Bucarest: pp. lxxxi. + 392.]

CONSULAR REPORTS.

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

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 4057. *Trade of the States of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana*, 1907. Statistics of industries, supply of labour, cost of living, &c. [Cd. 3727-140: pp. 58: price 3d.]

No. 4054. *Trade of Brazil*, 1907. Contract labour, wages, immigration, &c. [Cd. 3727-137: pp. 24: price 1½d.]

No. 4074. *Trade and Commerce of Peru*, 1907. Rents, cost of living, wages, statistics of industries, &c. [Cd. 3727-157: pp. 48: price 4d.]

No. 4059. *Trade of Westphalia and the Rhenish Provinces*, 1907. Statistics of industries, wages of coal miners, 1900-1906, statistics of Düsseldorf Municipal Employment Bureau 1906 and 1907, &c. [Cd. 3727-142: pp. 70: price 3½d.]

No. 4066. *Trade of the Consular District of Lyons*, 1907. Silk industry—world's production and consumption, the cotton trade of Roanne, small motors for home workshops, home industries, &c. [Cd. 3727-149: pp. 43: price 2½d.]

No. 4068. *Trade and Agriculture of the Consular District of Calais*, 1907. Statistics of industries, average daily wages of certain classes of workpeople, fishermen's provident societies, &c. [Cd. 3727-151: pp. 45: price 2½d.]

No. 4071. *Trade of the Consular District of Dantzic*, 1907. Strike in the wood trade, &c. [Cd. 3727-154: pp. 38: price 4½d.]

Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by VEALE, CHIFFERIEL & CO., LTD., 31-37, Cursitor Street, London, E.C.; and to be purchased, either directly or through any Newsagent, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C., or OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or E. PONSONBY, 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.—Price 1d.—August, 1908.