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DURING the past few months the Labour Department has been engaged on the collection of information regarding agencies and methods for dealing with the unemployed. It is hoped to publish the results of the inquiry in the form of a Special Report, which may be of service to local authorities and others who are interested in schemes dealing with various aspects of the question. The Report will include chapters dealing with the work of Trade Societies with regard to their unemployed members, Labour Bureaux, Municipal and other schemes for providing work for the unemployed which were carried out during last winter, the work of various other organisations, the Labour Colonies of certain Continental countries, and historical examples of schemes for the relief of distress by the provision of employment. It is hoped that the Report will be ready in the course of a few weeks.

The most absorbing matter of interest affecting labour during the month of August has been the great dispute in the Coal Trade, which still unfortunately remains unsettled. Besides the detailed account of the recent progress of the dispute given on p. 104, notices of the indirect effects of the stoppage on other industries will be found in several of the reports from local correspondents.

On September 4th, and the five following days, the Trade Union Congress was held in Belfast. A notice of the proceedings of the Congress is given on p. 106, dealing specially with the numbers and industries represented.

A full reprint is given on p. 110 of the Employers' Liability Bill as amended by the Grand Committee on Law, and on p. 109 a notice is given of the Third Census Volume, recently issued, dealing with employments.

Owing to pressure on space the third instalment of the Table showing the provision made by Trade Societies for Old Age is held over until next month. The retail prices return, which has hitherto been published monthly, will in future be issued quarterly only, owing to the labour of compiling the increasing number of returns. The next table will, therefore, be published in the November number, and will, it is hoped, have a still wider statistical basis than those hitherto issued.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

THE state of employment during the month has continued somewhat to decline, largely no doubt owing to

the disturbance in the labour market caused by the continued stoppage in the Coal Trade.

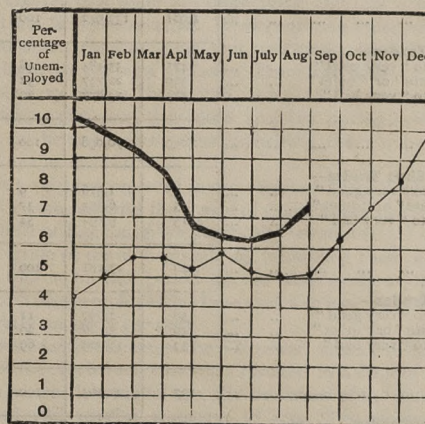
Of the 32 societies, with an aggregate membership of 321,941, making returns, 22,743 members, or 7·1 per cent., are reported as being unemployed at the end of August, compared with 6·2 per cent. shown by the returns for the same societies for July. Taking the 26 societies which have made complete returns since May, the percentage of unemployed was 7·4 compared with 6·6 for July, and 5·1 for 22 societies making returns for August 1892.

As in previous numbers, a chart is inserted, which enables the percentages of unemployed shown in the monthly returns to be compared with those for last year.

PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED IN 1892 AND 1893 COMPARED.

NOTE.—The Chart shows the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1892, and of each month yet completed of 1893. Unions which began to make returns since May 1893 are not included in this chart.

The thick line applies to 1893, the thin line to 1892.



Turning to the various groups of trades we find that the course of employment has been largely determined by the extent to which they depend upon supplies of coal.

On the whole the hopeful prospects of the Shipbuilding Industry referred to last month have been realised. The Engineering, Iron and Steel Trades continue very slack, the number of unemployed in the first-named branch having only been exceeded in recent times in one year (1879), while the scarcity of coal has necessitated complete stoppage in a number of iron and steel works. The percentage of unemployed in these trades at the end of August was 10·7.

The Building Trades continue busy, any slight falling off in one district being counterbalanced by a greater demand in another. The percentage of unemployed remains at 2·6, as for July.

Though the percentage of unemployed returned by societies connected with the Furnishing Trades has only risen from 4·6 to 4·9, these trades are described as depressed for the time of year. The temporary improvement in the Printing Trades referred to last month has given place to a marked decline, the percentage of unemployed having risen from 3·3 to 6·3 during the month. The Clothing Trades continue quiet, both the bespoke and ready-made branches of the

Tailoring Trade having fallen off, while the Boot and Shoe Trades are stated to have temporarily suffered from the exceptionally dry weather. The Cotton Trade continues busy, but the Woollen and Worsted Trades show little signs of improvement.

The Mining Industry has been at a standstill for the whole or part of the month over large districts of England, Wales and Scotland. Those coal districts which have continued at work have felt the impetus given by the stoppage both in increased regularity of work and diminution of the unemployed, who in Northumberland have fallen from 2:1 to 1:1 per cent. (A detailed account of the coal dispute is given on page 104.)

The state of employment for seamen at most of the chief ports continues slack, with a slightly downward tendency. Waterside labourers have felt the effect of the coal dispute in different ways at different ports, an improvement being reported from the Tyne, Wear and other ports near the coal districts which have continued at work, while an opposite change has taken place in many other districts.

Of the 32 societies making returns nine describe trade as "good," four as "moderate," and 19 as "bad." From the monthly reports published by many societies and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected:—

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	August.		Per-centage of Members for Aug.	Per-centage of Members for July.
	Branches	Members		
Engineering and Shipbuilding—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	106	7,087	5	3
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	326	37,773	28	32
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	649	89,082	67	65
Total ...	1,081	133,942	100	100
Building Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	475	33,484	48	40
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	349	22,737	32	42
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	215	13,877	20	18
Total ...	1,039	70,098	100	100
Boot and Shoe Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	2	1,576	9	7
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	5	6,333	37	77
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	15	9,192	54	88
Total ...	22	17,101	100	100
Printing Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	58	2,990	11	17
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	46	5,486	20	73
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	33	18,729	69	70
Total ...	137	27,205	100	100
Furnishing Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	35	1,209	13	20
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	50	3,093	35	67
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	40	4,625	52	79
Total ...	125	8,927	100	100

With the exception of the disputes in the Coal Trade in Scotland and South Wales, the fresh disputes reported during the month have been comparatively few and unimportant, 59 having been reported, as compared with 55 for July and 71 for June. Of these, 14 occurred in Mining, 12 in the Textile Trades, 9 in the Building Trades, 7 in the Metal Trades, 4 in the Clothing Trades, 3 in the Shipbuilding Trades, and 10 in Miscellaneous Industries. Particulars obtained concerning 40 of these disputes show the number of persons affected to have been 116,898, of whom no less than 113,890 were involved in 13 of the mining disputes.

The principal changes in wages during August have been among the miners in Scotland and South Wales. In the West Scotland district wages have advanced 2s. per day; in Mid and East Lothian 10 per cent., and in some collieries in Fife and Clackmannan 25 per cent. An advance of 20 per cent. was granted for a time to coal hewers at a few collieries in South Wales. Shale

miners in Mid and West Lothian, to the number of about 2,400, have received an advance of 10 per cent.

The number of bankruptcies gazetted during the month was 449, compared with 354 in August 1892.

The number of British emigrants who left the United Kingdom for countries outside Europe during August was 24,366, being a decrease of 927 when compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The pauperism returns for the selected districts show a slight increase when compared with those for last month, the total number relieved on one day in the middle of August being 299,699, or 205 per 10,000 of population, as compared with 297,078, or 203 per 10,000 in July. The figures for the corresponding day in August 1892, were 282,593, or 193 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase last month of 17,106, or nearly 12 per 10,000.

II.—REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.—Mr. J. Ratcliffe reports that the increased activity in the Durham Coal Trade noted last month has developed into considerable briskness. Nearly all the pits laid idle have been restarted. The constant pressure for delivery of contracts due to the uncertainty as to the action of the miners with regard to the strike has caused colliers to be very fully employed. Prices have continued to rise for all classes of coal, the increases varying from 2s. to 4s. 6d. per ton. Very few men are at present out of employment; fully 8 out of the 10 per cent. of previously unemployed pitmen throughout the county have resumed work. Pits in Northumberland are practically working full time—eleven days per fortnight. Prices have ruled as high as 4s. per ton more than last month, but have since declined. About 1 per cent. are unemployed in the collieries throughout the county. The Northumberland and Durham miners are again pressing for an advance in wages.

Heavy shipments of coal from Sunderland have created an active demand for seagoing men. The improved tone hitherto reported in the Shipbuilding and Engineering Industry on the Wear has scarcely been maintained. A few shipbuilding and engineering firms on the Wear have booked orders, and the repairing shops and forges are moderately well employed, but the work in hand is not sufficient to give stability to employment. The proportion of boiler-makers and shipbuilders out of work is 18:4, as against 16:6 per cent. last month; that of unemployed engineers is 13:9, as against 14 per cent. last month. Work in shipyards and engine shops on the Tyne is still improving, the percentage of unemployed iron shipbuilders being much the same as last month, viz., 12:4 per cent., as against 12:7. The percentage of unemployed Tyne engineers shows an increase of 1:7 this month, due to the depression in the Ordnance works in Newcastle, and the closing of another gun factory in Mid-Tyne. Work still continues slack with shipwrights, moulders and shipyard labourers. All departments of the Building Trade are moderately active. Notices of reductions by employers and of advances by workmen have been mutually withdrawn. Chemicals exhibit little change. Steel-plate mills are well employed. Electrical engineers are reported as exceptionally busy. Tinsmiths and machine workers on both rivers are badly employed, the latter having a percentage of 13:9 in receipt of out-of-work benefit. Harvesting operations in the district are nearly completed.

Oldham, Bolton and District.—Mr. J. T. Fielding reports that in the Cotton Trade full time is being made throughout. In the manufacturing section there has been a considerable increase of orders. This cannot, however, be said of the spinning portion of the industry, which still suffers from the production of yarn being in excess of the demand. The Building Trades are quieter, as the season is drawing to a close, and this also applies to the Clothing Trades, although in both cases employment is fairly plentiful and regular. A slight improvement is noticeable in the Bleaching, Finishing and Dyeing Trades. Two strikes have occurred in this industry during the month; in one case for an advance in wages; in the other case objection was taken to what is known as "the Stock System," under which the workpeople are not paid until the woven cloth leaves the works, which often is some months after it has been finished and placed in the storeroom awaiting the time for its delivery. Business is still quiet in the Iron Trades, the number of men unemployed being greatly in excess of what is usual.

In the coal-mining dispute no new aspect has presented itself during the month. The stoppage has not entailed a closing of

works, partial or otherwise, in other industries, except in the case of an iron and steel firm, which closed for 14 days, but resumed work again before the end of the month, and in that of a firm of cotton spinners and manufacturers, which has closed one of its mills for seven days. In other cases ordinary time is being made in most trades.

Burnley, Accrington and District.—Mr. W. H. Wilkinson reports that the weaving branch of the Cotton Trade still keeps moderately healthy: and one mill, employing 220 workpeople, which had been stopped for the past eight months, has now been reopened. A dispute has arisen in the Nelson District as to the prices which should be paid for weaving coarse twist in fine reeds. The question was placed before the Joint Committee of Employers and Operatives at a meeting on 29th August, but no definite settlement was then arrived at. The employers, however, promised to send to the operatives a full statement of the proposals which they were prepared to make.

The machine works in this district continue well occupied, one firm having worked overtime. The Calico Printing and Dyeing Trades are also in a fairly good condition. There is a slight falling off in the Building Trades, but the painters and decorators are still kept in full work. The dispute in the Building Trades in the Blackburn District continues without prospect of early settlement. A number of the workmen involved, including plumbers, masons and joiners, have left the town and obtained work elsewhere.

In the Burnley District the miners still remain out against the proposed reduction in wages, but those in the Accrington, Baxenden and Huncoat Collieries have resumed work, most, if not all, being non-union men; they have restarted work at the old rate of wages, pending a settlement of the general question. Up to the present no stoppage of mills or works in the district has occurred through the dispute, some of the mills having stocks of coals which will last for some weeks, whilst others are almost worked out, and will either have to stop or pay the enhanced price.

Manchester and District.—Mr. G. D. Kelley reports that in the Amalgamated Society of Engineers the number of unemployed members shows a slight increase. The steam-engine makers report no change, about 3 per cent. of their members being unemployed. Of the boiler-makers, 36 members are out of employment in the district. The United Machine Workers' Association reports an increase of 1 per cent., which is attributed to the present dispute in the Coal Trade. In the Brassfounders and Finishers' Society the number out of employment is the same as in last report. The above five societies all report trade as being "moderate." The Coach-making Trade is reported as "bad," as there are quite double the number unemployed now, compared with last month, and there is no sign of improvement at present. Coachmaking in the railway shops is reported as "slack," owing to a great extent to the dispute in the Coal Trade. The bricklayers still report trade as "good," and the carpenters and joiners as "moderate," the number of unemployed showing a slight, but hardly appreciable, increase. In the Printing and kindred Trades the number of unemployed remains about the same, employment being very scarce in the letterpress, litho. and bookbinding branches. Amongst the unskilled labourers the state of employment may be put down as "bad," and the number out of work is considerably larger than it was a month ago.

In the Macclesfield district some of the silk mills are fairly well employed and likely to continue so for some time yet. There is, however, a general complaint by the weavers, of the small wages they are able to earn, and several families of silk workers are reported to be considering the advisability of emigrating to the United States. The builders of Macclesfield complain of bad trade, with apparently no signs of improvement.

House coal is being used by several of the mills here, whilst a number of dealers are quite unable to supply even that quality.

Liverpool and District.—Mr. J. Sexton reports a severe dislocation of trade owing to the coal dispute, some industries being entirely stopped and others working under one day's notice. The effect on the Chemical and Copper Industries is marked in St. Helens, Widnes, Runcorn and the surrounding districts, there being an almost entire cessation of the caustic and soda-ash processes in every locality, and great distress prevails in consequence. The position in North Wales has not been quite so acute, many of the miners having remained at work through the month, though in decreasing numbers. The employment of Seamen and Firemen is comparatively unchanged. A serious decrease in the employment of Mersey watermen and others in kindred occupations has taken place owing to the stoppage in the coal trade, 50 coal-carrying flats and about 200 high-level trimmers being thrown idle in consequence. This is partly due to the fact that coasting steamers are engaged in carrying from other ports, direct to ocean steamers, coal which would otherwise have been conveyed by rail to coal tips

and transhipped into river flats. The employment of dock labour has been of a fluctuating character, with no change for the better on the whole. There has been a marked falling-off in the Shipbuilding Industries, some of the largest firms only working half time; the slackness is due to the completion of several large contracts and the reluctance to undertake new contracts until the close of the coal dispute. Bakers and confectioners report no change. The Tailoring Trade is quiet. General labourers report no change, except in the case of the Birkenhead scavengers, to whom an advance of 1s. per week has been conceded. Excavation work is still fairly brisk. The Iron-founding and Brass-finishing Industries are quiet. There is no change in the Building Trades, except in St. Helens and Widnes, where some falling off is noticeable.

Barrow-in-Furness District.—A report states that trade has not improved in this district. The Building Trades are fairly well employed, but the Engineering Trade is very slack, at least 20 per cent. being unemployed. The other branches of the Iron Trade are in a like position. Ship-building is very bad and no fresh orders are coming in. Steel makers are but indifferently employed. In other departments, such as ship-plates, tin-plates, &c., there is little being done. The present coal strike has a depressing effect on the Pig-iron Trade, as owing to the want of coal and coke, furnaces have had to be stopped, and the workmen have been thrown idle. Printing, Bookbinding and kindred Trades are rather dull. Tailors report trade as rather flat, bakers as fairly good. Paper and pulp makers are very busy. The iron miners in the district are not so well employed, owing to the coal dispute. Shipping has been fairly busy during the past month, but has again fallen off. The arrival of several very large cargoes of timber furnished considerable employment, but only occupied a small proportion of the men desirous of having a day's work. Failing any improvement in trade, the prospect for the coming winter seems bad.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.—Mr. A. Main reports that the general trade of the district has altered little. The shipbuilding yards, with one or two exceptions, are fairly well employed, and it is reported that some are quite brisk, and that a number of additional men have been started. Work continues steady and regular at the steel works which are going, but anticipations as to the starting of others have not yet been realised. There has been an increased make of pig-iron during the month, owing to the greater demand for steelmaking purposes, two more furnaces having been put into operation on hematite iron, thus increasing the number of men employed at the blast furnaces.

There is no change reported in the Finished Iron Trade, but the employers connected with the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the North of England have practically withdrawn the notice for the termination of the sliding scale by intimating their willingness to renew it for a further period on the same basis as heretofore. The number of unemployed in these trades is less than last month, being slightly under 10 per cent.

The dissatisfaction amongst the Cleveland miners respecting the working of the ratchet machines has resulted in a dispute at four of the mines where they are in use, the estimates of the number who have ceased work varying from 150 to 500. The Building Trades are only moderately employed. Printing and other minor trades are very slack, some firms working short time, and the number of unemployed or partially employed continues very large. The painters' dispute at Hartlepool, begun in April, has at length been settled: wages remain the same as before, but the conditions of working have been altered in one or two particulars.

Leeds and District.—Mr. O. Connellan reports that a slight improvement was apparent in the Engineering Trade at the commencement of the month. Owing, however, to the increased cost of fuel, manufacturers are not anxious to undertake fresh contracts, being content to discharge, as far as possible, existing orders of an urgent nature. The engineers report that the previous high rate of unemployed members is still maintained, with a probability of the number being increased. The ironfounders also report an increase in the number out of work. The Boot and Shoe Trade is very dull. The important regulation that "all work be completed in healthy workshops," mutually agreed upon by the Leeds Arbitration Board and the Boot and Shoe Operatives' Society, came into operation on Monday, September 4th, and will result in the prohibition of out-work in the Boot Trade in Leeds. There is nothing favourable to report in the condition of the Ready-made Clothing Industry, which is exceptionally depressed. The Building Trades continue fairly busy, the joiners showing an improvement on last month, very few members being unemployed. The Glass Bottle Trade has been good during the month, but the stoppage of furnaces, owing to scarcity of fuel, has thrown a large

number of men at Hunslet, Castleford and Wakefield either partially or wholly out of employment. The Textile Industry has shown a falling-off since last month, and here again the effect of the coal strike has been the curtailment of working hours or total stoppage in some mills. This applies also to the Dyeing Trade, the stuff and cloth wool departments of which have hitherto been pretty brisk. The willeys and fettlers report trade as being much worse, the number of unemployed having nearly doubled within the last fortnight. The Printing, Cabinet-making, Coach-making and Brush-making Industries are all dull, and there is no change in the Leather Trade. A correspondent at Heckmondwike writes that trade is bad generally throughout the Spen Valley, and many textile workers are idle at the week's end in consequence of the scarcity of coal. A Wakefield correspondent reports the discharge of a considerable number of men in the Engineering Trade, who are usually employed on material used for colliery purposes, and also the stoppage of some mills.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.—Mr. A. Gee reports that the miners' dispute is seriously dislocating the whole of the trades in the district. Many woollen mills in Huddersfield and the Colne Valley are compelled to get coal at much higher prices; some are working short time, others are working full time for four days a week and "playing" on Saturdays and Mondays. Negotiations are going on between the employers and workmen for the arrangement of a working scale for the 90 to 100 pick looms in the Huddersfield District. In Halifax and Bradford, as well as in Huddersfield, the Worsteds Trade is decidedly quiet, and the same short time systems are being adopted. The Rug and Blanket Trade is quiet, although in ordinary seasons it is active at this time of year. In the Worsteds Coating Trade a number of firms have been accustomed to deliver their pieces "in the grease," and they are then taken to dyers and finishers, who have now somewhat raised their prices in consequence of the coal strike. These manufacturing firms have therefore given notice to their workpeople to terminate existing contracts, and if they still go on working afterwards it will be on the understanding that they are liable to dismissal without notice. The Building Trades are not so depressed as the textiles, but they are not very busy. Painters and printers are but moderately employed. Engineering is very quiet, as well as the Cotton Trade, in both cases in consequence of the coal strike. Railway men are also being affected, many trains, both for passengers and goods, having been stopped. Some of the signalmen have to either be "idle" or accept situations at reduced wages, while many men are having their holidays and are being allowed by some of the companies to travel all over the system at one-quarter fare.

Barnsley and the Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).—Mr. J. Wadsworth reports that the Yorkshire miners have evidently made up their minds for a long and severe struggle. There are about half-a-dozen large collieries in the district, at which the miners (about 3,700 in number) are said to be desirous of remaining out after the general question has been disposed of, in order that a settlement may be obtained in regard to certain alleged special grievances of long standing. Though the members of the Yorkshire Miners' Association agreed not to fill up stacks of coal, the various railway companies and other contractors are doing so, good prices being obtained, as consumers have to pay 5s. and 6s. a ton extra. Trade generally is not so depressed as might have been expected from such a gigantic dispute. This is no doubt due to a large extent to the fact that manufacturers and others had laid in heavier stocks than was supposed. The fourth week's strike pay was distributed at the end of the month. The men in Yorkshire are fairly well provided with resources, as a very large majority are financial members of the Yorkshire Miners' Association, and thousands are members of Co-operative Societies; for instance, of the members of the Barnsley British Co-operative more than 10,000 are miners with an average investment of £13 each. The men that are most put to the test are the non-Union men and improvident portion of the mining class.

Sheffield and District.—Mr. S. Uttley reports that very great anxiety is being caused in this district by the great coal struggle, colliery owners showing no signs of relaxing their demands for the 25 per cent. reduction, and miners, firmly adhering to their decision to allow no reduction in their wages, or any coal to be raised until a general settlement is arrived at. Under these circumstances trade is rapidly coming to a deadlock, for although a large number of manufacturers had laid in supplies of coal and coke, the stocks are now coming to an end. Household stocks are also becoming exhausted, and the price having already advanced some 6s. a ton, the prospect is very serious. Many workmen employed where steam power is a requisite have been put on short time during the latter half of the month. Two blast furnaces have already been

set down, and one of the principal rolling mills stopped; others are only executing such orders as are most pressing. The railway companies are severely affected by the coal struggle, one company having reduced the number of trains by 80, chiefly engaged in mineral traffic.

A month ago trade prospects generally appeared to be getting brighter, and during the early part of August a very marked improvement took place in the Spoon and Fork Trade. In the Armour Plate Trade very little is being done; in fact, only one firm may be said to be moderately employed. Puddlers are in a very depressed condition, many not having had any work for several months. The Railway Carriage and Wagon Builders are very slack, a remark which applies also to the Engineering Trade, and the Iron and Steel Founders. The Boiler-makers are fairly well employed, as many firms are embracing the opportunity to repair, and in some cases to renew, their boilers. There is a fair amount of activity in edge tools and surgical instruments, and skate-makers are well employed. Some large orders for ivory hafts and scales have been recently placed by German houses. The Building Trades are fairly well employed, the carpenters and joiners having settled down to work after their recent dispute. The plumbers are agitating for an advance of 4d. per hour, which will raise the rate to 9d.

There has been a dispute at one of the largest firms in the Tyre and Axle Trade, the firm demanding a reduction of 10 per cent., which the workmen resisted; eventually it was arranged that the tyre makers should concede 5 per cent., and the axle makers 2½ per cent., the wages in future to be regulated by a sliding scale, and the present reduction to be returned when the selling price of tyres exceeds £8 per ton.

Trade generally in Rotherham is moderate, the work being largely in connection with the Building Trades, viz., baths, stove grates, and general joiners' fittings. But little inconvenience has, so far, been suffered from the coal dispute, fairly large stocks having been laid in.

Hull and District.—Mr. W. G. Millington reports that the effect of the coal dispute on the trade of the ports of the Humber is most serious. Ships importing cargoes find it difficult to secure the usual return shipments, and many have to leave in ballast, or go to other ports to secure cargoes; numbers of both steam and sailing vessels are laid up. The steamers engaged in the Hamburg trade have been reduced in number, but are running with shorter intervals between their voyages. Many of those who seek labour as seamen, firemen, etc., in the mercantile marine, are not employed. Railway and Dock workpeople are also suffering. The extensive railway sidings, generally filled up with wagons of coal awaiting shipment, are practically empty, and the shunters and others can only find casual work. The men employed on cranes, lifts, and hydraulic hoists are thrown out of work, as well as the coal-heavers who discharge coal from the river craft for bunker and household purposes. The stoppage also affects the men who navigate the keels, canal boats, and small river craft generally engaged in bringing coal to the Humber ports and to other towns and villages in the district accessible by water service. All kinds of vessels are being run to the Tyne and Scotch ports for cargoes of coal. Employment for deal carriers and those connected with the Timber Trade has been fairly good. This industry only lasts till the Baltic closes, and is liable to be diverted from the Humber ports, if the vessels bringing timber cannot get return cargoes of coal. Dock-side labour has been very casual. Employment in the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades has been a little worse than last month. Repair work has not been so good. Of the engineers and shipbuilders, 12 per cent. were on the out-of-work books, and many more were only casually employed. About the same percentage are out of work in the Building Trade, which has fallen off considerably this month. Employment in the Fishing Trade is scarce. The harvest has this year been gathered in early, and crops on the whole are said to be fairly good.

Wolverhampton and District.—Mr. W. F. Mee reports that there has been an almost universal decline in the state of trade. The usual holidays have been lengthened, and short time in most branches has become general. The effects of the strike of miners have not been felt to any great extent at present. This is due to the fact that a large number of miners in the district continued working until the decision of the London Conference was made known, and that in South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire work has been continued under the sliding scale agreement, the extra demand for coal having provided more employment than existed prior to the strike. The stocks of coal laid in by the manufacturers will, however, soon be exhausted, and many standing contracts with collieries are now closed, so that the influence of the strike upon trade will become more marked. The

slight increase of business in the iron-works cannot be taken as evidence of an improvement in the trade, but is rather due to the supply of fuel being better here than elsewhere; and a large amount of distress still exists amongst the iron-workers. There is no improvement in the Nut and Bolt Trade; the Chain Trade is much the same; mill-rollers, galvanisers, heavy iron-founders, boiler and tank-makers, bridge-builders, constructive machinists, agricultural implement-makers, enamellers, japanners and wire-workers are all fairly well employed. The Lock Trade is very bad in all its branches, and the makers have large stocks on hand. The Boot, Shoe and Tailoring Trades are very slack, the bulk of the men working very short time. In the former trade several minor disputes have arisen, but have been settled amicably. The depression in the Tin-plate and Iron-plate Trades is very great, and short time is almost universal. Several small disputes have been settled in the former by mutual arrangement. There is no improvement in the Brass and Copper Trades, the greater portion of the men working four days a week. The Cycle Trade is almost over for the season. The safe-makers report short time as the rule. The Carpet Trade at Kidderminster is reported as very dull, short time being made by the weavers. In the Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades there is no improvement recorded. The Printing Trade is very depressed. There is no improvement in the Nail Trade, and much distress prevails amongst the workers. A large number of nail and chain makers have obtained temporary employment in the hop-fields. The Electrical Trades are fairly well off for orders and work is steady, but the hollow-ware casters report trade as "very bad." Bricklayers report trade as "unsettled." Masons are fully employed, but trade is declining. Plumbers and plasterers report trade as good, there having been a slight demand for men. Carpenters and joiners are fairly well employed, very few being out of work. Painters and decorators are fully employed, but the demand is declining.

Birmingham and District.—Mr. W. J. Davis reports that trade in Birmingham has been adversely affected by (1) the holidays and stock taking; (2) the extremely hot weather, which has caused a stoppage of glass works and mills; and (3) the coal dispute, which has suspended orders from the districts where it is going on. The pits in this district are still at work under the sliding scale, and by reason of the stoppage elsewhere, are working full time, with, in some cases, double shifts. Although the supply of coal to Birmingham has been reduced by about one-half, little injury has as yet resulted, the stocks on hand having been very large.

The decision of the Yorkshire Miners' Association to call out the coke-burners and coke-drawers has greatly affected the market in pig-iron, as most of the coke used in the blast furnaces in this district comes from the North. The coal dispute has disorganised the Iron Trade all through; every advantage was taken of the August holiday to restrict production, and stoppages of work during the hot weather were willingly allowed by the employers.

Trade is reported as fair by the masons, bricklayers and labourers, moderate by the plasterers, bad by the plumbers, and dull by the carpenters, of whom about 3 per cent. are on unemployed benefit. The engineers gave favourable reports at the beginning of the month, but a falling-off took place afterwards. Of 304 tool-makers and machinists, 26 are unemployed. The ironfounders report trade as bad, but have only two members out of 157 on the unemployed funds. The iron-plate workers report an average of 60 out of work each week, as against an average of 23 in August last year. Metal rolling is now moderately good. The Wrought Iron Tube Trade has been tolerably busy, and a growing demand for brass and copper tube was reported at the beginning of the month. Brass-founders report no change, copper-smiths are fairly well employed, business in cycles, mail carts and perambulators has very much fallen off, and there is no demand for cycle lamps; in ship and carriage lamps a good trade is being done, and the demand for standard or floor lamps is increasing. The foreign trade in bedsteads is good, the home trade bad, the Cut-nail Trade is flat, the Electro-plate Trade is bad, but slightly improving; gunmakers have had regular employment, but complain of low earnings; galvanised ironworkers are engaged on good orders. There has been a run on wire-woven meat safes and dish covers during the recent hot weather, and for ordinary wire the demand is satisfactory. The Ivory Button Trade is bad, but all are sharing the work. Flint glass-blowers are on still shorter time than last month. Stained glass-workers are well employed. Plate glass bevelling is declining to some extent as a handicraft owing to the introduction of machinery. Out of 50 bedstead-making firms, 41 have combined to keep up prices. In South Staffordshire there is a fairly brisk trade in heavy ironfoundry, horse-shoes and turned iron castings.

Nottingham, Derby and District.—Mr. W. L. Hardstaff reports that no improvement has taken place in the Lace Trade, quite 16

per cent. of the workers being out of employment, and of those that are employed nearly the whole are making only half-time. There appears to be no change for the better in the Hosiery Trade. Short time prevails in warehouses and factories, and in all departments, male and female employees are in a serious condition. With regard to female labour, complaints of the want of work are general, many lace-finishers having been entirely unemployed during the month. Menders and winders are doing badly.

In the Engineering Trades there is a slight increase in the number unemployed; about 8 per cent. of the members of the union are in receipt of out-of-work benefit. Lace-machine builders continue very brisk, but hosiery and general machinists very slack. Iron-moulders are doing very badly, 15 per cent. of the men being still in receipt of out-of-work pay. Tool machinists are fairly busy, but stove-grate fitters are rather slack, with a few members unemployed. The Cycle Trade shows an improvement. The Building Trades are moderately active, with but few men out of work. The painters are very slack for the season of the year, a large number being idle. Stonemasons continue well employed, as also bricklayers. With regard to builders' labourers, work is difficult to obtain, a number of men being only casually employed. Boot and shoe finishers are very slack, every firm of note working short time. Bleachers and dyers are also very slack, no firms making more than three-quarter time. The Tailoring Trade is very quiet, the majority of workmen being only partially employed. The ready-made departments, however, continue busy. Several mills and factories are working half-time, owing to the coal dispute, which is having a serious effect on the manufactures of the district.

A report received from Derby states that in this district the Iron-workers' Trade is very bad. One large firm has entirely closed owing to want of fuel; and, in consequence, many workpeople are in great distress. The Railway Company has been compelled to discharge many engine-cleaners for the same cause, but the majority will be reinstated as soon as the coal dispute has terminated; in other branches men have been put on shorter hours. One or two engineering and machinery works are fairly well employed, others only moderately, and a few men are out of work. Electrical engineers are also well employed. Iron and brass moulders and rivet makers are very well employed. The Stove-grate Trade is rather quiet; the dispute begun in May is still unsettled. The dispute in the Building Trade among the bricklayers and labourers still exists, but most of the men have obtained work elsewhere; the carpenters and joiners are rather dull, being considerably affected by this dispute. Stonemasons are quiet, house-painters and decorators in fair demand, sawyers and wood-workers' machinists are moderately employed; box-makers and brush-makers are fairly brisk. Elastic web and surgical bandage makers are fairly well employed. The Tailoring and Silk Trades are declining, and the Lace Trade is almost entirely suspended. Bookbinders and letterpress printers are very busy. Brick-makers are severely depressed owing to want of fuel.

Leicester and Northampton District.—Mr. T. Smith reports that the depression in all departments of the Boot and Shoe Trade is most acute. The majority of firms are working short time, and both in the Leicester and Northampton Districts large numbers of shoe hands are unemployed. Working staffs have been reduced all round. The relations between employers and employed are much strained in consequence of continuous disagreements respecting the new system of employment brought about by the rapid substitution of machine for hand labour.

The umpires appointed by the Board of Arbitration representing the Boot and Shoe Industry in the district of Higham Ferrers, Rushden and Irthlingborough (Northamptonshire) have awarded certain advances to shoe finishers and rivetters.

In the Hosiery Trade business is chiefly confined to the production of orders for immediate delivery and a few specialities; employment has, however, been fairly regular. Spinners are moderately busy, and most houses hold sufficient stocks to meet pressing orders. Some of the large firms are only running half time, owing to the shortness of fuel, consequent upon the coal strike. Most of the larger factories in other branches of industry are seriously affected in a like manner. Business in the Wool and Yarn Industries is quiet, and the output restricted. The production of elastic web fabrics is limited, and employment irregular in many branches of the trade. The Wholesale and Retail Tailoring Trades are but moderately employed. In the Leicester Cigar Trade about 2,000 are only working half time. In the Engineering Industry most firms are working full time, but the orders for boot and shoe machinery are mostly confined to "oddments," contracts for putting down new machinery being less plentiful. Workmen in the Building Trades are not so busy, except plasterers, who are still in demand. Quarry men and stone dressers are in full

work, but the ironworkers in Northamptonshire have been thrown out of employment in consequence of the furnaces being damped down for want of coal. The services of a great many railway employees have also been dispensed with in this district for the same reason. The cycle-making firms complain of the slackness of trade, and many of the artisans are on short time.

The collieries are all stopped in consequence of the strike, except one pit at Heather, where 100 to 150 men have continued at the old rate of wages. There is much distress in the South Leicester colliery district. Some slight disturbance has resulted from the strike, but on the whole the district is quiet, the men being very firm in their determination not to accept the 25 per cent. reduction against which they have come out.

Eastern Counties.—A report from Ipswich states that the agricultural labourers, who form the largest number of workers in the Eastern Counties, are in a very unsettled state. The price for five weeks' harvesting has been this year reduced on an average about 15s. per man from the prices last year, which ranged from £6 to £9 per man, according to the number of acres. This is due to the fact that the crops are lighter and prices of corn low. The outlook for the coming winter is not at all cheerful for agricultural labourers, as some farmers who have completed their harvest are already discharging a portion of their men, and an exceptional number of labourers for the time of year are out of work.

Bricklayers are well employed, and the Building Trades generally are good. Engineering Trades are in better condition than a month ago. The largest firm in the Eastern Counties is very busy, and the amount of work in hand in other large firms is improving. The Boot and Shoe Trade is fairly brisk.

Bristol, Somerset and Forest of Dean District.—Mr. J. Curle reports that, although the coal dispute has not actually caused the suspension of any industry in this district, the scarcity and consequent enhanced price of coal has had the effect of shortening working time, and in some instances partially closing works dependent upon large quantities of fuel. Prices of all grades had at the time of reporting advanced 5s. per ton. Sailors and firemen find employment very scarce, and the Cabinet, Furnishing, Brush-making, and Printing and allied Trades report a still further decline. The Building Trades have remained stationary, except the masons, who are in demand. The wholesale clothing houses are fairly busy, but the Bespoke Trade is bad. Dock labourers have been fairly well employed, principally in grain and timber. In the Boot and Shoe Trade a dispute appears imminent at Kingswood, owing to the alleged disregard shown by the manufacturers for the "statement" recently drawn up for that district. The Bristol trade continues depressed, with no hope of improvement while the coal difficulty lasts. The engineers and ironfounders are very slack; the latter have 33 per cent. idle. The agricultural outlook steadily improves. Favoured by fine weather, the harvest is practically over. The prospects for the potato crop have improved, and there are few complaints of disease.

The miners in the Bristol and Somerset coalfields, who are resisting a reduction in wages, remain firm. The Kingswood and Parkfield colliers, to the number of about 1,050, who gave in their notices, will probably continue at work. At some few pits the notices for a reduction had not been given, and at these the men are continuing at work.

In the Forest of Dean the situation remains unchanged. Those who can continue working at the old rates are doing so. The house-coal collieries are doing well. In some cases three turns per day are being worked, and the output in the Howbeach district is nearly doubled. Some 4,200 men are affected by the general dispute, and the distress amongst them is becoming acute. Should the dispute be prolonged it is probable that many of the iron furnaces in the district will be stopped. The railway companies are seriously affected, their income from the transport of minerals and merchandise being considerably reduced.

Cardiff and District.—Mr. T. Davies reports that trade has been paralysed during the past month by the stoppage of the collieries, and the shipping of coal has almost ceased. Several works in the Tin, Chemical, Fuel, Copper and Engineering Industries have been entirely stopped, while the remainder are in most cases working short time. The dock and railway companies, and nearly all the engineering firms, have put a large number of their workers on short time. On one railway the train-men for the last three weeks have only averaged about 1½ days per week. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, by a special grant, is assisting its members in this district to the extent of about £220 a week, payment being made only to those who have worked less than 30 hours a week: nearly 500 members have drawn this pay. There has also been an increase in the number of unemployed among

some of the other trade societies, but not so great as might have been expected. This is probably owing to the fact that a large number of the ships laid up are being overhauled and repaired, thus giving employment to many mechanics and assistants. Among the dock workers the coal-trimmers and hoblors have suffered the most, the timber and iron-ore men less so. In Newport the discharging of timber, iron ore and imports generally has been so active that the members of the National Amalgamated Labourers' Union report employment as better than for two years past. In Cardiff and Swansea, however, hundreds of dock labourers are unemployed. The Building Trades continue brisk, some of the branches having had to send for assistance from other ports. There has been no attempt to effect a general reduction of wages, except in the case of seamen and firemen, but, although one or two crews have been obtained at reduced rates, the wages at the Bristol Channel ports remain the same as last month. The dispute in the Engineering Trade, referred to in last month's report, has been settled by the operatives agreeing that 67 should be the maximum number of hours that any member should actually work in one week. The ordinary number of working hours in the week being 54, it is thus rendered possible, according to the rate of overtime pay, for a regular worker to be paid as for 80 hours, and an irregular one as for about 97 hours in a week.

South Wales Mining District.—Mr. W. Evans reports that, although the hauliers' strike had not terminated at the end of August, there were signs that it will soon come to a close. Starting in Ogmore and Garw Valleys, it extended nearly all over Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire. Some collieries stopped only for a few days, others for a week or a fortnight, but a large number suspended operations for over a month. In the Aberdare Valley, 20 out of the 24 collieries have resumed work. With one exception, all collieries in the Rhondda Vawr Valley are working. There is every probability of work being resumed in the course of a few days upon exactly the same terms as previously. At a meeting recently held resolutions were passed agreeing to resume work on the 5th September, provided (1st) that the employers pay the hauliers the wages due to them; (2nd) that all summonses issued for breach of contract be withdrawn; (3rd) that all costs incurred by the hauliers be paid.

The notices terminating contracts at the extensive Tinplate works in the Llanelly, Landore, Neath, Moniston, and Swansea districts have expired. A large number of the mills are consequently stopped, and 5,000 men thrown out of employment.

London District.—Mr. C. J. Drummond, one of the Labour Correspondents to the Department, reports as follows:—In 68 branches of Unions connected with the Engineering and Iron Trades, containing 11,778 members, 1,125 (or 9 per cent.) are unemployed, no alteration in the percentage having taken place during the month. Only 2 branches, containing 91 members, report trade as "good"; 13 branches, containing 1,774 members, reporting it as "moderate"; and 53 branches, with 9,913 members, as "bad." In the Building Trades, 131 branches of four societies, containing 9,249 members, report 183 (or 2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 34 per cent. last month; 93 branches of seven societies describing trade as "good," 70 as "moderate," and 37 as "bad." The four branches of the Printing Trades, with an aggregate membership of 12,984, return 815 (or 63 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3 per cent. last month, each of these branches describing trade as "bad," with little or no prospect of improvement for some time to come. In the Furnishing Trades, 18 branches, containing 2,260 members, report 172 (or 76 per cent.) unemployed, a very large proportion for the time of year. The Boot and Shoe Trades, both in the bespoke and ready-made branches, are very slack, and many workers are out of employ. The Coopers report trade as "bad," three branches, containing 1,500 members, having 77 (or 51 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 43 per cent. last month. The number of labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during the month ranged from 3,653 to 4,454, as compared with 3,595 to 4,740 in the corresponding period of 1892. These figures do not, however, include all the men employed by the shipowners and others, and, on the whole, the state of trade at the docks and wharves is said to show a marked improvement, the colonial trade being brisk, and the tea trade being at its busiest, with the result that a large amount of surplus labour is being employed, the men not only working full time, but in some cases overtime. Work at Wapping is not so brisk, though better than it has been for some time past, while at the Millwall Docks, especially in the grain department, a considerable number of men have been employed, few standing idle. The South Dock has been very busy, and the East India Docks slack. The Albert and Victoria Docks have been very brisk, though a number of men have failed to find employment, the introduction of new methods of working having

decreased the demand for labour. The Surrey Commercial Docks and the wharves on the south side of the river are very busy, and a number of men have obtained employment. There are no disputes of importance to report as having occurred during the month. Efforts are, however, being made by the farriers to maintain their minimum rate of wages, and to prevent an increase in the number of shoes to be made per day. The tailors are actively engaged in endeavouring to abolish sweating, and to reduce their hours, especially at the East End. The cab-drivers are again endeavouring to limit, as far as possible, the alleged unfair competition from which they claim to suffer from privileged cabs and unlicensed omnibuses.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.—Mr. J. Mallinson reports that, owing mainly to the strike in England, the Coal Trade in the Lothians has been brisk during the month. In West Lothian wages have advanced 2s. per day, and in Mid and East Lothian 10 per cent. In the latter districts, a demand for a further advance of 20 per cent. has been made. A few of the colliery owners who are not members of the Coalmasters' Association have offered an advance of 10 per cent., which has been accepted, but those belonging to the Association have decided not to give any advance, but have offered to refer the question to the Board of Conciliation. It is expected that a ballot of the men will be taken on that point, but meanwhile the men have given notice to stop work. The price of coal has risen from three to four shillings per ton, but otherwise the industries in this district have not been appreciably affected by the dispute in England.

The last reduction of 10 per cent. on the wages of the shale-miners having been restored, the men are now working full time, viz., six days a week, instead of four. A lock-out of shale-miners took place at Loanhead on account of their taking an idle day to discuss grievances, but they have now returned to work. Two of the mines which were closed during the dispute, have not, however, been re-opened yet, but nearly all the men have found work in the other mines. There is very little improvement in the Mineral Oil Trade.

In the Building Trades, masons, bricklayers and plasterers, report trade as "good"; the joiners and other branches as "fair"; cabinet-makers are fully employed. Tinsmiths report an improvement in trade, and their members with one exception are fully employed. Brass-finishers are better employed, the number unemployed at the end of the month being 24 per cent. Coopers have been much better employed during August, but there are still 12½ per cent. out of work. Painters and lithographic printers report trade fair, the latter having 25 per cent. unemployed. The Letterpress Printing Trade continues quiet, with a weekly unemployed average of 22 per cent. Bookbinders and typefounders report trade as bad, the former having 69 per cent. out of work at the end of the month, while the latter are only working four days a week. Bakers, tailors, shoemakers, and brush-makers report trade dull. The Iron and Engineering Trades have not improved. Returns from five branches of blacksmiths and engineers show 104 per cent. out of work at the end of the month, while the moulders show 23 per cent. The condition of the India-rubber and Paper-making Industries is fair. Sett-makers are fairly well employed. The Shipbuilding Trades continue bad. The boiler-makers show 35½ per cent. out of work at the end of the month, and the shipwrights 65½ per cent., the latter being attributed to the excessive number of apprentices. The Shipping Industry is fair, and dock labourers are well employed. Agricultural employment has been plentiful during the month. Harvest labourers have been paid from 16s. to 18s. a week with board, and from 20s. to 23s. a week without board. The Linen Industry in Fifeshire is in a very depressed condition, most of the factories only making four days a week.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.—Mr. A. J. Hunter reports that the Shipbuilding Industry on the Clyde appears more promising than last month, many orders having been recently placed. Trade is, however, reported dull by the shipwrights on the upper reaches of the Clyde. Sailors and Firemen have been better employed, owing to the influx of vessels through the coal dispute in England. The West Scotland coal miners have just secured a second advance of 1s. a day. In the Maryhill District, where the wages of iron ore miners have always followed those of colliers, a corresponding advance has not been conceded, and difficulties have consequently arisen. In the counties of Ayr, Lanark, Dumbarton and Stirling, however, the miners have obtained the full advance of 2s. Coal is reported to have risen in price 4s. 6d. a ton since the beginning of the English miners' strike, and this increase is especially felt in the Steel Trade, where the employers say they can only work at a loss. A conference with their

operatives took place on 3rd August, to arrange a sliding scale, but further consideration was postponed. The millmen report trade as brisk, and good orders have been booked in advance, unattended, however, with any rise in prices. The steel smelters, blacksmiths, ironmoulders, tinplate workers and toolmakers report no change. Pattern-makers are not quite so brisk, and the boiler-makers—both marine and locomotive—are quiet. Indications of better trade are, however, reported by the hammermen and the engineers. The Building Trades are still active, the masons reporting that there is work for all who are willing to take it. Trade is reported by the slaters as "very good," and by the plumbers and joiners as "good," while the painters are "quieter." A slight improvement is reported by saw-mill workers and by coachmakers and coopers. The packing box makers are brisk, with very few members unemployed. The sett-makers are also brisk. The brassfounders, curriers, shoemakers, boot and shoe riveters, tailors, upholsterers, cabinet-makers, textile workers, calico engravers, printers (both letterpress and litho.), bakers, confectioners and preserve-makers all report trade as quiet or dull. Carters are well employed, dock labourers are much better employed than for some time, work in the harbour being plentiful. The National Union of Labourers report that their members are fairly well employed, and that the prospects are favourable.

Dundee and District.—Mr. R. D. B. Ritchie reports that much anxiety is felt in Dundee at the continued depression in the Jute Trade, which seems to be increasing. Several of the largest works have adopted short time; but it is feared this will not meet the difficulty as there is an entire absence of demand for certain classes of goods. In addition to the adoption of short time, a large amount of machinery has been stopped, and consequently the number of unemployed is much greater than usual.

The various branches of the Building Trades continue well employed. The Iron Trades are far from satisfactory. Printing and kindred Trades are in their normal condition at this season.

The Salmon Fishing on the Tay has not been up to the average, and has fallen far short of the expectations of both fishers and tacksmen. The Herring Fishing has, however, been very successful on the East Coast.

The Fife Coal Trade has been completely paralysed by a miners' dispute, which, however, has now terminated.

Aberdeen and District.—Mr. W. Johnston reports that with the exception of shipbuilding and some branches of engineering, trade in the district is fairly good. The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders have reduced their out-of-work roll from 40 to 36 per cent.; that of the shipwrights on the other hand, has increased from 35 to 37 per cent. The ironmoulders are still very dull, the number out of work being 17½ per cent. The blacksmiths and engineers report no change. The house-carpenters, masons, plasterers and plumbers are well employed, only two members in the House Carpenters and Joiners Society having signed the out-of-work book in August, and then for one day only. House-painters are not so busy as they were in July. General labourers are in good demand for the harvest, which is early this year, and has attracted a number of them to the country. Employers at a distance find difficulty in obtaining labourers. The granite stone-cutters and granite polishers are all fully employed. Letterpress printers have been busy, with an out-of-work average of 17 per cent. The Boot and Shoe Trade is fair. The bakers are not busy, although few are out of work.

The Herring Fishing, although not so productive towards the end of the season as it was in July, has been on the whole very successful. The close of the season will lighten the pressure of work for tinsmiths and casemakers, and this may also be said with regard to the coopers, who, when the fishing is over often remain idle for six or eight weeks before they can secure engagements with the curers for another year.

The Combmaking Industry is very dull, but no workers are unemployed.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.—Mr. J. P. Nannetti reports that a general improvement is noticeable during the month in several trades. The Building Industry maintains its satisfactory condition and work is brisk, with a good prospect of continuance, as the carrying out of the Guinness bequest will open up considerable employment. The members of the two Societies of Painters and Decorators are fairly well employed. In the Tailoring and Clothing Trades work is not so good, while in the Boot and Shoemaking Industry employment is scarce. The brush-makers maintain last month's improvement, but the basket-makers, lath-renders, bakers, and cabinet-makers are dull. The upholsterers are fairly well employed, and the same remark applies to the coach-builders, coach painters, harness-makers and saddlers. In the Engineering and Iron Trades work is very good, but the supply of labour is equal to the

demand. All the members of the Tramwaymen's Union are fully employed, and work has been brisk among the members of the Railway Servants' Society and of the Coopers' Society. In the Printing and allied Trades work is dull, a weekly average of 68 out of 850 members (8 per cent.) signing the unemployed book of the Typographical Society. The bottle-makers are still busy, and work among the unskilled labourers is fairly good. The members of the Sawyers and Wood-cutting Machines Society have obtained a reduction of working hours from 57 to 54 per week from their employers with one exception, and in that case a strike has taken place. The Building Trades' Labourers have memorialised their employers for a uniform wage, winter and summer. A large open-air meeting was held in the Phoenix Park, under the auspices of the United Labourers' Society, at which a deputation to the master builders was appointed. A favourable result is expected. A meeting of the female workers employed in the Printing and Book-binding Trades has been held, and a Society formed. The "Dispatch" hands engaged on the various newspapers have also held a meeting and established a Society under the auspices of the General Labourers' Union.

Belfast and District.—Mr. R. Sheldon reports that there has been a great increase of unemployed in all sections of trade during the past month. In the building, linen, and many miscellaneous industries, the slackness is seasonal, but, speaking generally, trade shows a decline. Reports from eight branches of the linen trade, with a membership of 3,179, show an increase of unemployed from 212 to 425 (6·3 to 13·3 per cent.). The hackle and gill makers report trade as fair, linen lappers as quiet, flax dressers, powerloom tenters and yarn dressers as dull, the beetling-engine men, collar and apron cutters as very dull, and the flax roughers as very bad. The returns from eight branches of the Building Trade, with a membership of 2,447, show 82 unemployed, an increase from 1·2 to 3·3 per cent. The mill-sawyers and plumbers report employment as dull; bricklayers, painters, carpenters and joiners, and bricklayers' and plasterers' labourers as fair, and plasterers and paviors as very good. Returns from the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades, with a membership of 8,682, show a slightly increased number out of work, the percentage having risen from 6·2 to nearly 6·5. The electrical trades, pattern workers, enginemen and crane-men, machine workers and shipwrights, all report trade as fair, while the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, and the cabinet makers and French polishers are quiet. The labourers in the Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades report trade as bad, having 263 members out of work. The boot and shoe operatives and the platers' helpers were still on strike at the end of the month, but an agreement has since been arrived at. From reports received from 16 miscellaneous trades, it appears that of the 3,770 members, 259 (6·8 per cent.) were unemployed. The bakers, bookbinders, lithographic artists and designers, carters, butchers, railway men and tinplate workers report trade as fair; the furnishing trades and the packing case makers as dull; and the coopers and coach-builders as very dull. The locomotive engine drivers report trade as good, the lithographers as moderate, and the letterpress printers as bad. The tailors are on short time. Taking together all the 44 societies making returns, with a membership of 18,078, it appears that the number unemployed is 1,330, or 7·3 per cent., as against 4·8 per cent. for July.

Cork and District.—Mr. P. O'Shea reports that practically no change has taken place during the month in the Building and Engineering Trades. The Printing Trade is unusually slack for the time of year. Coach-making in all its branches is exceedingly brisk. The Woollen Trade is in a very flourishing condition; besides the Blarney factory reported on last month, there are two firms in Douglas employing 200 and 250 hands respectively. Both these mills have a large amount of orders on hand. Work in some gunpowder mills has been suspended during the month, owing to a decline of orders, a number of hands being thereby thrown out of employment. During the month a new water-works has been established in Ballincollig, and a new saw-mill has been opened with a large timber yard, and a great number of hands are already employed there. The boot and shoe-makers and riveters report trade as very good. The coopers also make a very fair report. The pork butchers (whose industry is an important one in this district) report that their trade is in a very satisfactory condition. The employment of different trades in connection with shipbuilding, such as shipwrights, sail-makers and riggers, block-makers, boiler-makers, &c. in Queenstown and Passage has been exceptionally dull. The moulders and brass-finishers are very dull at present.

The Sea Fishery around the South and West coast of Cork has been unusually successful, especially in Skibbereen and Baltimore, the take in some instances being greater than the number of hands employed could manage.

THE DISPUTE IN THE COAL TRADE.

THE great dispute in the Coal Trade, of which the causes and earlier stages were described in the July and August numbers of the GAZETTE, still continues, without any apparent prospect of an immediate settlement. During the past fortnight the feeling between the parties to the dispute, so far as Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands are concerned, appears to have grown in intensity, and there has been a deplorable outbreak of disturbances in certain parts of South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and elsewhere. Meanwhile the effect of the stoppage upon trades dependent on coal supplies has been increasingly felt, and in many districts the distress among both miners and those indirectly affected has become acute. During a considerable part of August public interest was largely concentrated on the dispute in the South Wales coal field, which, though to some extent connected with the main dispute, had a separate origin and history of its own.

In the last number of the GAZETTE, the course of events was traced up to August 10th. A marked division of opinion had already appeared between the representatives of the Midland miners and those of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Unions, as regards the policy of allowing those miners in the districts affected by notices who had received no notice of reduction, to continue to work at the old rates of wages. At the Birmingham Conference on July 20th the advisability of drawing all the men out had been affirmed in opposition to the delegates from the Midland districts, in some of which only a small fraction of the miners had received notice of reduction. At that time the action of Northumberland and Durham was still doubtful, and the policy of widening the area of the dispute, and causing so far as possible a general stoppage of coal supply, was in the ascendant. As a whole, the Midland representatives acquiesced in the decision, and notices were handed in. In North Staffordshire, for example, between August 12th and 20th, several thousands of miners left work, though not threatened by reduction, while on the other hand 3,000 men in the Pelsall district of Staffordshire resolved on August 14th to go on working at the old wages. In Somerset (which is included in the Midland Federation) many of those not under notice continued at work without objection from the agent of the Federation. The whole question was revived at the Federation Conference which met at Westminster on August 22nd. Previously, however, to this Conference, the council of the Yorkshire Miners' Association and the delegates of the Lancashire and Cheshire miners resolved, on August 19th, not to allow their members to resume work even at the old rate of wages, until the entire dispute was arranged. At the Westminster Conference, the decision of the Lancashire and Yorkshire representatives was confirmed by the third resolution, which was as follows:—

"That no pit in the Federation be allowed to work until a general settlement is made for all to commence at one and the same time."

The decision was not received with satisfaction in Stafford, Nottinghamshire and other Midland districts. A Federation Conference held in London on August 31st decided to take a ballot of all the men on this question among others, the result to be declared on September 14th. On September 5th, however, the coalowners in North Staffordshire resolved not to allow their men to return except on the terms of any settlement which might be arrived at between the Federated Coalowners and the Miners' Federation.*

At the National Federation Conference of August 22nd already referred to, 233,000 members were stated to be represented. Besides the resolution given above, it was resolved not to allow the Durham delegates to sit, and not to submit to any reduction, but to offer to assist the owners in preventing underselling. The following resolution suggesting a compromise was also passed:—

"That this Conference hereby agrees that, subject to the coalowners withdrawing the notices for a 25 per cent. reduction,

* This resolution, however, was partially rescinded on September 9th, and on September 11th about 10,000 North Staffordshire miners in the Longton district returned to work at the old rate of wages, subject to any general agreement which may be arrived at.

we pledge ourselves to resume work at once and not to ask for an advance of wages until prices reach the 1890 level."

On August 29th the Federated Coalowners met in London, and after re-affirming the necessity of a reduction of wages in consequence of the fall in prices, and emphasizing the connection of prices and wages, passed a resolution referring to the offer of the miners to assist them in maintaining prices, stating that—

"The coalowners cannot accept such a combination as being to the advantage of the trade, the miners, or the public, and believe it would result in disaster to both employers and employed."

They further resolved to refuse the above-quoted proposal of the miners with regard to wages, and declared the offer of arbitration still open. On August 31st the questions of reduction of wages and of arbitration were referred by the Miners' Federation to a ballot of all their members, of which the result is not yet known.

As regards the outlying districts of the Federation, many of the Cumberland miners left work on August 11th, in accordance with their notices, to obtain a return of the 20 per cent. reduction which has taken place in their wages since 1890. Within the first week of the strike the West Cumberland Coalowners offered an increase of 10 per cent. in hewers' wages and a corresponding increase in the day men's wages, and the men resumed work. At the end of August, however, a demand was made by the Miners' Association for a further rise of 10 per cent. in hewers' earnings, and about 12 per cent. in those of day wage men, which was refused by the employers.

On August 9th the Northumberland miners' officials issued an official report of the joint meeting of the Wages and Executive Committees, held on August 7th and reported in the last GAZETTE, at which the proposed advance of 16½ per cent. in wages was refused on the ground that the ascertained price of coal had fallen 9·36d. since the last reduction of wages. It was pointed out in the report that a strike for an advance would probably lead to a reduction. At the same time ballot papers were issued on the question of a strike. On August 17th the result of the ballot was announced as follows:—For strike 6,043, against 7,694; majority against 1,651. Votes of the lodges were then taken on the questions of paying a levy to assist the Federation, and of sending a representative to the Federation Congress, both of which proposals were negatived. After considerable delay caused by the necessity of a preliminary vote as to the eligibility of enginemen and cokemen to take part in the final ballot, the Durham Miners' Association also took a vote of their members on the question of a strike for an advance of 15 per cent. The result published on August 29th was as follows:—For strike 20,782, against 19,704; majority for 1,078. As the necessary two-thirds majority in favour of striking was not obtained no strike was declared.

In North Wales the Flintshire miners, stated to number 2,000, resolved on August 12th to cease work in a fortnight's time, and a considerable number came out on the 26th and following days.

In Scotland, where the miners in most districts are little organised, the course of affairs has been largely affected by the rise in the price of coal and increased demand caused by the stoppage in the Federation districts of England. As stated in the last number of the GAZETTE, the offer of 6d. a day rise on the part of the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire coal owners was refused by the men, who asked for an advance of 1s. The Fife and Clackmannan miners claimed an advance of 25 per cent., and the Lothian miners of 10 per cent.

In several districts temporary stoppages of work took place, but owing to the advance in prices, the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire owners not only granted the rise of 1s., to begin on August 15th, but conceded a further advance of 1s., to take effect on August 24th. This advance of 2s. per week also extended to Stirlingshire. The Lothian miners obtained the 10 per cent. rise, to take effect on August 23rd, but struck for a further rise of 20 per cent., to date from August 30th. It was ultimately decided on a ballot of the men, by 1,371 to 1,268, to refer the question of the second advance to arbitration, and the

Lothian men resumed work on September 6th. On August 18th, the Fife and Clackmannan owners offered a rise of 12½ per cent., which was rejected, and the Fife men came out on strike, followed on August 30th by the Clackmannan miners, making about 9,000 in all. On September 2nd, however, the Clackmannan miners accepted the proposed 12½ per cent. rise (by 341 to 203), and two days later the Fife miners, who had been out for a fortnight, decided by 2,810 to 942 to return to work on similar terms.

In South Wales, as reported in the last GAZETTE, the advance of 1½ per cent. in wages under the sliding scale audit announced on August 5th was refused by the hauliers, who form about 10 per cent. of the miners, and are paid day wages, rising and falling according to the sliding scale. They struck for 20 per cent. advance, and thus threw the great mass of colliers idle. It has, however, been stated that many of the colliers who claimed to be idle under compulsion were not sorry to have an opportunity of protesting against the sliding scale arrangement, which had resulted in an advance which they regarded as insufficient. A few collieries not in the Coalowners' Association in the Treherbert, Blaenavon and Maesteg districts, resumed work at a 20 per cent. advance, but the Monmouth and South Wales coalowners at a meeting at Cardiff refused to entertain any proposal to depart from the sliding scale agreement. Meetings of miners adverse to the sliding scale were held at the Rocking Stone, near Pontypridd, and disputes between the two sections of men took place in the Ebbw Vale district and elsewhere. On August 18th, the miners' sliding scale representatives advised the men to resume work, and between that date and the end of the month the great mass of the miners returned to work at the 1½ per cent. advance. Finally, on September 6th, the hauliers agreed to return to work if guaranteed against dismissal on account of the part taken by them in the dispute.

In many of the Federation districts proper the situation during the past fortnight has become acute. In Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Dean Forest and elsewhere the funds of the local unions are exhausted and strike pay has ceased, and the distress is said to be very serious, especially in Derbyshire. Yorkshire is financially the strongest district of the Federation, and large numbers of miners there have also funds invested in local co-operative societies. It is outside the scope of this report to describe in detail the riots which have recently taken place in Derbyshire and Yorkshire and elsewhere.

Meanwhile the effect of the stoppage on other trades throughout the country has become very marked. It has led to great activity in the Coal Trade in the North and Scotland, and in the district in South Staffordshire and Worcestershire subject to a Wages Board. The Report on Mines, given on page 114, shows that 27 collieries were opened or re-opened during August—a great increase on the figures for July. On the other hand, several locomotive and carriage works have been put on short time, and a large number of railway trains suspended throughout the districts affected. Many iron and steelworkers in various districts have been thrown out of work by the damping down of blast furnaces. Over 30,000 pottery workers are reported to be idle in North Staffordshire. Several glassworks in Lancashire and Yorkshire are closed; dyers are said to be greatly affected, and over 3,000 chemical workers in Widnes, St. Helens, and neighbouring districts have been thrown out of employment. Eighteen tinplate works in South Wales, employing 4,000 men, are reported to have stopped work. Several textile mills have been closed or put on short time, and many are expected to close shortly if the dispute continues. The effect of the stoppage on the employment of waterside labour at various ports has also been marked.

NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS.—From fuller information now at the disposal of the Department, it appears that in the second table published last month on p. 79, the number of days per quarter worked by Northumberland miners was somewhat understated as regards certain mines which made incomplete returns. The revised table is not ready for insertion in the present number, but will be printed in the next GAZETTE.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE Twenty-sixth Annual Trades Union Congress met in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, on Monday, September 4th, and five following days, under the presidency of Mr. Monro, of the Belfast Branch of the Typographical Association and Belfast Trades Council. The Congress is an assembly of delegates representing Trade Unions and Trades Councils in the United Kingdom. A Trade Society may send one delegate for every 2,000 members, and is expected to subscribe £1 for every 1,000 members and 10s. for each delegate. These rules have come into force for the first time this year, and the rule as to the amount of the subscription has not been strictly observed. Few of the larger societies sent the full number of delegates to which they are entitled, whereas many of the smaller ones were fully represented. Voting power was, therefore, still somewhat out of proportion to actual numbers represented. Trades Councils may send delegates, but their representation and payments are calculated in proportion to the number of their constituents not included in other societies represented. Delegates must be working, or have worked, at the trades they represent. The powers of the Congress are purely consultative, and the resolutions it passes are entrusted to an annually elected Parliamentary Committee to be carried into effect so far as practicable.

The Congress of 1893 has not been so largely attended as those of the two previous years, and the apparent number represented has fallen off. This is partly owing to the restrictive influence of the rule limiting the number of delegates and providing for proportionate payments; societies tending now to understate their membership rather than to overstate it as formerly when the amount of payment was voluntary. Owing, moreover, to the depressed state of trade, many smaller unions could not afford to send delegates to so great a distance as Belfast. On account of the double entries, caused by the presence of several trades councils and branches of societies in the list, it is not easy to fix precisely the total number represented. The official statement of the Standing Orders Committee shows that 380 delegates were present, claiming to represent 900,000 members. As, however, some societies returned not their full number of members, but only those subscribed for, the real total appears to have been about 1,000,000 individuals. A rough analysis of the list of delegates will give some idea of the chief industries represented, and of the comparative voting power of each. The following table is not exhaustive, but only includes the more important groups of trades represented:—

Trade.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members (approximate).	Trade.	No. of Delegates.	No. of Members (approximate).
Building ...	24	106,000	Textile ...	66	125,000
Mining ...	48	200,000	Clothing (including Lace and Hosiery) ...	27	81,000
Iron and Steel ...	10	165,000	Printing and Book-binding ...	17	35,000
Engineering, &c. ...	22	115,000	Cabinet Making ...	3	13,000
Shipbuilding (including Boiler-Making) ...	12	52,300	Gas, Chemical and General Labourers ...	34	65,000
Transport (including Railway Workers, Seamen and Firemen and Dock Labourers) ...	18	90,000	Butchers and Bakers ...	5	9,339
			Women ...	4	Less than 2,000
			26 Trades Councils ...	37	145,000

The Trades Council membership of course includes a large number already counted in the totals of separate societies. All these figures are merely approximate and subject to revision.

Not less than 60 resolutions were set down on the agenda for discussion, besides the Report of the Parliamentary Committee, and the Presidential address, which, with the election of officers, occupied the first two days. Several of the matters discussed (e.g. labour representation, payment of members, &c.) related rather to the politics of the labour movement than to matters of purely Trade Union policy. A motion in favour of a collectivist programme was adopted by 137 to 97 votes,

and the principle of a statutory eight hours' day with "trade exemption" was re-affirmed after little discussion by 197 votes to 18. Of all the items in the programme, however, the debate on the subject of Employers' Liability for accidents excited the greatest interest and was the best sustained. A whole afternoon was devoted to this matter, and a motion was carried unanimously against permitting workmen to contract themselves out of the benefits of the proposed measure.

A large part of Friday was occupied by the election of the new Parliamentary Committee. The ten delegates chosen included seven of the retiring members. Had it not been for the rule permitting only one member of any trade to sit on the Committee one more of the retiring members would have kept his seat. The trades represented on the new Committee are as follows:—Engineers, stonemasons, cotton spinners, miners, sailors, boot and shoe operatives, cotton weavers, iron moulders, dock labourers, and steel smelters.

During the Congress week many sectional trade meetings were held, the most important being a series of meetings held for the purpose of promoting organisations among the female textile workers of the district, with the aid of representatives of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Textile Unions.

AGRICULTURE IN AUGUST.

THE fine hot weather which prevailed in most districts during the greater part of August was favourable to harvesting operations, though in parts of Scotland they were impeded by thunderstorms and wind. Owing to the early season, harvesting was practically completed during the month. The result is said to be good in most parts of Scotland and the North, but in the Eastern and Southern counties, though better than was anticipated a few weeks ago, it is reported to be considerably below the average. In parts of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex the earnings of harvest labourers for five weeks are reported to have been from 10s. to 15s. less than last year, and the prospect of employment for the autumn in the Eastern counties is stated to be unfavourable. No disputes among agricultural labourers are reported, except an unsuccessful strike of hop pickers at Sittingbourne for an increased rate of wages.

At Preston, on August 7th, an agricultural labourer claimed under the Truck Act the sum of 8s. 5d. deducted from his wages for butter and eggs supplied by his employer. An order was made for the amount demanded.

During the month the Northumberland County Council has adopted a set of rules for the sale of small holdings, and the Cambridge, Lindsey (Lincoln) and Argyll County Councils have taken steps under the Small Holdings Act. The Wiltshire, Dorsetshire and Kesteven (Lincolnshire) County Councils are reported to have declined to purchase land to lease as small holdings. The London County Council is reported to be selecting plots of land in various outlying districts for small holdings.

The total imports of corn into the United Kingdom during August 1893 and 1892 were as follows:—

	August 1893.	August 1892.
Wheat	7,878,503	7,394,514
Barley	7,425,919	5,838,518
Oats	724,680	796,734
Maize	2,145,378	1,817,710
Beans		
Peas		
Wheatmeal and Flour		

The imports of hay during the month were 38,416 tons, compared with 18,636 tons in July, and 2,497 tons in August 1892. Of the amount imported during last month 11,362 tons came from the United States.

At the end of August the GAZETTE average prices of British corn per quarter were as follows:—Wheat 25s. 11d., barley 26s. 9d., oats 18s. 6d., compared with 26s. 5d. wheat, 23s. 1d. barley, and 21s. 7d. oats at the end of July.

The price of British wheat on the average of the four weeks ending 26th August was 26s. 2d. per quarter, compared with 29s. 7d. in the corresponding period of 1892.

PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

By the courtesy of the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office, the Department is able to give particulars of the number of paupers, both indoor and outdoor, in London and the chief industrial districts of the country, on one day in the second week in August 1893, together with the total number for the corresponding date in 1892.

The main (but not the only) consideration kept in view in the grouping of the Poor Law Unions or Parishes has been the character of the staple trades of the districts.

District.	Population in 1891.	Paupers on one day in second week of August 1893.			Total No. of Paupers on corresponding date in 1892.	
		In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
Metropolis.						
West District	740,735	9,323	1,712	11,035	149	10,628
North District	993,884	12,592	8,373	20,965	211	19,740
Central District	247,538	6,777	3,299	10,076	407	10,056
East District	705,114	11,821	4,499	16,311	231	15,092
South District	1,524,472	18,228	15,402	33,630	221	31,536
Total Metropolis	4,211,743	58,741	33,276	92,017	218	87,052
West Ham	365,134	1,506	6,084	7,590	208	6,289
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	330,005	1,438	4,215	5,653	171	5,302
Stockton & Tees District	182,909	1,059	5,336	6,395	350	4,399
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	689,210	2,827	7,200	10,027	145	9,327
Wigan District	350,206	1,196	6,750	7,946	227	7,630
Manchester District	799,024	6,932	5,925	12,857	161	12,527
Liverpool District	800,362	8,428	8,317	16,745	195	15,978
Bradford District	341,881	869	3,447	4,316	126	4,297
Halifax & Huddersfield	353,681	995	4,365	5,360	152	5,115
Leeds District	387,044	1,564	5,281	6,845	177	6,634
Barnsley District	187,233	700	3,068	3,768	201	3,422
Sheffield District	342,582	2,107	3,461	5,568	163	4,778
Hull District	213,689	1,017	4,608	5,625	263	5,786
North Staffordshire	307,803	1,507	5,806	7,313	240	6,786
Nottingham District	331,458	1,302	4,798	6,100	184	5,837
Leicester	174,624	979	2,333	3,312	190	2,900
Wolverhampton District	522,906	3,029	14,147	17,176	328	16,571
Birmingham District	504,408	3,769	17,795	21,564	110	5,469
Bristol District	326,217	2,328	8,169	10,497	322	9,851
Cardiff & Swansea	288,122	1,374	5,323	6,697	232	6,451
Total "Other Districts"	7,493,364	43,480	104,344	147,824	197	138,365
SCOTLAND.†						
Glasgow District	772,917	3,010	12,202	15,212	197	14,514
Paisley & Greenock Distr't	150,216	549	1,905	2,454	163	2,321
Edinburgh & Leith Distr't	332,655	1,615	3,971	5,586	165	5,381
Dundee & Dunfermline	186,026	823	2,226	3,049	164	2,994
Aberdeen	123,327	359	1,823	2,182	177	2,102
Coatbridge & Airdrie	78,476	226	903	1,129	144	1,119
Total for the above Scottish Districts	1,643,617	6,532	22,930	29,512	180	28,431
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	349,705	5,415	2,475	7,890	226	7,871
Belfast District	289,860	2,984	320	3,304	114	3,026
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick Districts	252,092	4,352	6,534	10,886	432	10,872
Galway District	38,719	342	334	676	175	687
Total for the above Irish Districts	930,376	13,093	9,663	22,756	245	22,456

* Hitherto the figures given in this column have been those published in the Preliminary Report on the 1891 Census: those now given are the Revised 1891 figures. It has also been arranged that they shall be regularly revised in accordance with the alteration in Poor Law areas. The only area in which a material alteration has so far taken place is Leicester.

† 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. The Vagrants in the Metropolis numbered 874 on one day in August 1893, and 976 on the corresponding date in August 1892.

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

SAVINGS BANKS.—The Return on Savings Banks for 1892 states that the amount due to depositors in 1892 in England and Wales, with a population of 29,000,000, was £29,810,067, or about £1 per head; in Scotland, with a population of 4,000,000, it was £10,018,053, or about £2 10s. per head; in Ireland, with a population of nearly 4,750,000, it was £1,986,113, or less than 9s. per head; and in Guernsey and Jersey, with a population of 92,272, it was £570,797, or over £6 per head. The average amount of receipts from depositors in money for the year 1892 was, in England £3 14s. 7d., in Scotland £3 3s. 2d., in Ireland £5 2s. 10d., and in Guernsey and Jersey £7 13s. 2d.

* Savings Banks.—P.P. No. 274 of 1893. Price 9d.

CO-OPERATION IN AUGUST.

THE most important co-operative event during the month has been the Annual Festival held at the Crystal Palace, on Saturday, August 19th, and the first four days of the following week.

Amongst other features of the Festival were an exhibition of goods produced by the productive societies which have adopted the principle of "co-partnership," and of profit sharing, and a series of conferences and meetings upon various labour questions.

At one of these the "International Co-operative Alliance," which had been suggested at the previous annual meeting, was formally inaugurated. Representatives from France, Italy, Germany and Belgium were present.

The report of the Scottish Wholesale Society for the quarter ended July 1st, states that the net turnover for the period amounts to £797,452, an increase over the corresponding period last year of 5.2 per cent. During the quarter 780 shares have been allotted to employees of the society.

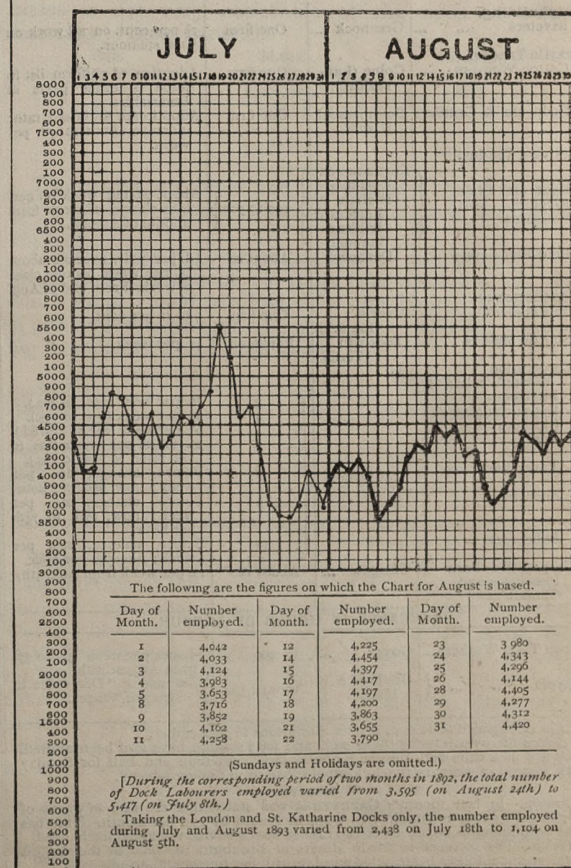
10,000 of the 15,000 members of the Barnsley Co-operative Society are directly affected by the coal dispute. At the annual meeting of the society, held on the 14th ult., it was stated by the chairman that the average share capital amounted to £16 10s. per member.

No new manufacturing societies have been registered during the month.

Two new distributive societies, in London, Sunderland and a Fish Friers' Society at Leeds, have been registered, and a new branch store has been opened at New Southgate. The following societies are in course of liquidation:—Liverpool Tailoring; Ferndale (Glamorgan); Long Melford Mat-makers.

DOCK EMPLOYMENT IN LONDON.

NOTE.—This chart is constructed in continuation of the charts prepared by Mr. Charles Booth for the Royal Commission on Labour, from figures supplied by the courtesy of the London and India Docks Joint Committee. It shows the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the month. The corresponding diagram for the previous month is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN AUGUST.

THE following Table is based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trades' Unions.

Employment.	Locality.	Approximate number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Increase.	Employment.	Locality.	Approximate number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Decrease.
INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.				DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.			
Building Trades.				Mining.			
Carpenters and Joiners	Oldham ...	400	3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.) from August 18th, and 3d. in January next.	Coal Hewers ...	Blyth, Northumberland	220	3d. per ton, equal to about 8d. per day, from August 1st.
	Sheffield ...	Not stated	3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.)	Ironstone Miners ...	Guisbro' (Cleveland)	10	3d. per ton from August 5th.
	Chatham and Rochester	Ditto	3d. per hour (7½d. to 7¾d.)				
Plumbers ...	Oldham ...	About 75	3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.) from August 4th.	Metal Trades.			
Plasterers ...	Spenn Valley	Not stated	3d. per hour.	*Railway Tyre Makers	Attercliffe, nr. Sheffield	91	5 per cent. from August 22nd.
Labourers ...	Jarrow-on-Tyne and Hebburn-on-Tyne	About 70	3d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.) from August 23rd and August 28th.	*Railway Axle Makers	Ditto	20	2½ per cent. from August 1st.
				Wagon Smiths, Body Men and Wheelers	Hull	50	10 per cent. from August 4th.
Mining.				Engineering.			
Coal Miners—Underground	West Cumberland	Several collieries	10 per cent. to hewers, and an increase to day wage men equal to reduction made last year.	Plumbers ...	Jarrow-on-Tyne	10	1s. per week off time rates (34s. to 33s.) from Aug. 18th.
"	South Wales: General	90,000	Sliding scale, 1½ per cent. from August 1st, placing wages 1½ per cent. above December 1892 standard.	Textile Trades.			
	Treherbert	One colliery	20 per cent. during the strike in the district.	Cotton Reelers ...	Droylsden, Lancs.	One firm	3d. and 3½d. per score, respectively, off certain counts.
	Llanogoydd	Ditto		Weavers (Worsted Coating)	Luddenden, Halifax	74	4½d. per cut from August 25th, equal to about 9d. per week (16s. to 15s. 3d.). Formerly time and half after 6 p.m. Now to work until 7 without extra pay; no overtime to be worked. 5 per cent.
	Rudry	Not stated		Dyers ...	Bradford & Halifax	About 1,500	
	Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, Dumbartonshire, Stirlingshire, and Linlithgowshire	About 50,000	1s. per day where reduction had previously taken place; 6d. per day in other centres, from August 15th, and further 1s. per day from August 24th.	Linen Operatives ...	Perth	One firm	
	Ditto	Not stated	4d. per shift from August 15th, and 2d. per shift from August 24th.	Miscellaneous.			
Aboveground workers, including Tradesmen, Engine Keepers and Labourers	Mid and East Lothian	4,000	10 per cent. (23s. 6d. to 25s. 7d.) from August 23rd.	Compositors (working Linotype machine)	Leeds	18	3d. per 1,000 ens (about 5s. per week), from Aug. 17th.
"	File and Clackmannan	Six collieries	25 per cent. (temporarily).*	Chemical Works: Leading firemen at Boilers	Middlewich	3	1s. 6d. per week (27s. to 25s. 6d.) from August 6th.
"	Ayrshire	1,000	10d. per day (3s. 3d. to 4s. 1d.) from August 10th.	Loaders ...	Ditto	5	2s. per week (20s. to 18s.) from August 19th.
Ironstone Miners	Mid & West Lothian	About 2,400	10 per cent. For 2,000 men from August 17th, and for 400 from August 24th.				
Shale Miners							
Metal Trades.							
Blast Furnacemen	Cumberland	250	1½ per cent.				
Shipbuilding.							
Riveters ...	Greenock	One firm	7½ per cent. on all work on one steamer.				
Textile Trades.							
Cotton Weavers	Colne (Lancashire)	One firm	Adoption of uniform list in force in other parts of Lancashire.				
Strippers & Grinders	Summerseat (Lancs.)	One firm	Adoption of standard rate; increase about 1s. 4d. per week.				
Clothing Trades.							
Boot and Shoe Riveters and Finishers	Northampton: Rushden, Higham, Ferring & Irthlingborough	400 to 500	About 2s. per week on certain classes of work from middle of August.				
Boot Finishers	Desboro'	About 20	3d. per pair, average about 1s. per week, on one class of work. From end of Aug.				
Miscellaneous.							
Sett Makers	Airdrie (Lanark.)	One firm	5 to 10 per cent.				
Shuttle Makers	Oakworth (Yorks.)	Few men	4s. per week.				
Corporation Water Works:—							
Engineers	Nottingham	3	1s. per week (35s. to 36s.).				
Deputy Engineers		4	2s. per week (33s. to 35s.).				
Cleaners		4	6d. per week (25s. to 25s. 6d.).				
Youths		5	2s. to 4s. per week (12s. to 14s. risen to 14s. to 18s.).				
Turncocks		9	Before change, 25s. per week; now, 6½d. per hour.				
Mainmen		3	Before change, 25s. per week; now, 6½d. to 7½d. per hour.				
Labourers		30	Before change, 24s. per week; now 6d. per hour.				
Corporation Park Labourers and Gardeners	Glasgow	About 120	1s. per week from Aug. 4th.				
INCREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.							
Iron Tube Workers	Govan	200	3 hours per week (54 to 57) from August 28th.				
Dyers	Bradford & Halifax	About 1,500	See under "Decreases in Rates of Wages."				

* See also special article, p. 105, for alterations in September.
† Rates for overtime for these men, and for 8 stokers, have also been altered. They are now time and quarter for week-days, and time and half for Sunday work, instead of ordinary time. Changes date from September 2nd.

Seamen.—In last month's GAZETTE it was stated that the rate of wages of sea-going firemen at Dublin had been increased by 15s. per month. This has since been found to be incorrect, the rate of wages having remained unchanged.
Miners.—The increase to Shale Miners at Broxburn reported in the August GAZETTE should have been stated as 2d. to 2½d. per ton, not 3d. to 4d.

WAGES IN H.M. DOCKYARDS AT HOME.—From a Parliamentary paper recently issued*, it appears that from 1st October next the standard rate for established unskilled labourers will be raised from 17s. or 17s. 6d. per week to 19s. per week at Deptford, and to 18s. in other Dockyards, and the standard rate for hired unskilled labourers will be raised at Deptford and Woolwich from a minimum of 17s. to 18s. for 1st year probationers; 19s. for 2nd year probationers, and 20s. for experienced men. At other establishments the pay for these men will be:—For 1st year probationers, 17s.; 2nd year, 18s.; experienced men, 19s. From April 1st, 1894, it is proposed to make the present minimum rate of 20s. a week for hired skilled labourers a probationary one for one year only; men now in receipt of that rate with more than one year of service will be advanced to 21s., rising to 27s. per week. Uniform rates of pay will be substituted for the graduated scales now in force for wood caulkers, joiners, plumbers, braziers, tinmen, riggers, sailmakers, shipwrights, and spinners (men), which will have the effect of increasing the pay of those at low rates. Shipwrights will receive extra pay for certain classes of very special work, hammermen the pay of skilled labourers, and boys, except apprentices, a man's probationary rate on arriving at 20 years of age, if able to do the full work of an adult. These proposals, and a few others of a minor character, will increase the wages of workpeople to the extent of £31,522 per annum. The pay of men at present receiving more than the proposed rates will remain unchanged.

* Naval Establishments (Wages), P.P. 386 of 1893. Price 1d.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Emigration.—The number of persons of British origin who left the United Kingdom during last month for places out of Europe, shows a marked increase when compared with the previous month, the figures having risen from 16,576 in July to 24,366 in August. The latter figure, however, is 927 less than that for the corresponding month in 1892, the number at that time being 25,293. Of last month's British emigrants, 16,593 were English, 2,863 Scotch, and 4,910 Irish; and 18,135 left for the United States, 3,182 for British North America, 1,130 for South Africa, 1,044 for Australasia, and 875 for other places. In addition, 7,782 foreigners and others whose nationality was not stated left during August, making the total number of emigrants for the month, 32,148, against 25,106 in the previous month, and 36,087 in August 1892. The total number of emigrants for the eight months ended August 31st has been 155,021 British and 81,321 of other nationalities, as compared with 148,492 British and 92,601 of other nationalities in the corresponding period of 1892.

Immigration.—The total number of aliens recorded in the Alien Lists as arriving in the United Kingdom from the Continent during August was 9,116, of whom 5,784 were stated to be *en route* to America, being decreases as compared with August 1892, of 4,255 and 3,883, respectively. Of aliens not stated to be *en route* to America, 1,659 landed in London, 500 at the Tyne ports, 382 at Hull, 141 at Leith, and 650 at other ports, while of those stated to be *en route* to America, 2,759 arrived at Hull, 1,612 at Grimsby, 1,235 at Leith, and 178 at other ports. Grouped according to port of embarkation, 2,008 came from Gothenburg, 834 from Christiania, Arendal and Christiansand, 575 from Hamburg, and 5,699 from other Continental ports. The total immigration for the eight months ending 31st August was 16,291 less than in the corresponding period of 1892, the total number being 93,539.

Foreign Trade.—Imports: The value of the imports in August shows an increase of £157,720 when compared with August 1892, the figures for the two periods being £35,002,085, and £34,844,365 respectively. The total value for the eight months ending August 31st was £265,917,577 against £281,019,613 in the corresponding period of 1892, a decrease of £15,102,036.

Exports: The value of the British and Irish produce and manufactures exported during last month was £19,530,178, and in August 1892, £20,051,330, a decrease last month of £521,152. For the eight months ending August 1893, the exports were valued at £146,959,492, a decrease of £4,416,437 when compared with £151,375,929 in the same period of 1892.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankrupts gazetted during August was 449, compared with 354 in August 1892. Of these, 30 were grocers, 25 publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 20 builders, 14 boot and shoe manufacturers, &c., and 13 tailors. The total number of bankruptcies for the eight months ending August 1893 was 3,252, compared with 3,054 for the corresponding period of 1892, an increase of 198. This increase is mainly made up as follows:—The number of bankrupt farmers has risen from 139 to 191; of tailors, from 55 to 86; of drapers, from 66 to 73; of bakers, from 77 to 87; of butchers, from 75 to 83; of tobacconists, from 22 to 34; of chemists, from 13 to 26; of greengrocers and fruiterers, from 30 to 51; of fishmongers, from 22 to 31; and of furniture dealers, from 15 to 26. On the other hand, among the grocers the numbers have fallen from 237 to 215, and among the boot and shoe manufacturers from 110 to 98.

Traffic Receipts on British Railways.—The receipts of 23 of the principal Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the five weeks ending September 2nd were £7,520,393, as compared with £8,144,994 in the corresponding period of 1892, a decrease of £624,601.

Cotton Statistics.—The number of bales of cotton imported in August was 132,993, and exported 32,387, as against 94,218 imported, and 38,238 exported, in August 1892. The total imports for the eight months ended August 31st were 1,673,489 bales, and the exports 303,481 bales, being decreases when compared with the corresponding period of 1892, of 562,570 and 7,253 bales respectively.

Fisheries.—The total quantity of fish (excluding shellfish) landed on the English and Welsh Coasts from the fishing grounds last month was 688,224 cwt., a decrease of 2,905 cwt. when compared with the figures for August 1892. The quantity for the eight months of 1893 was 3,927,766 cwt., against 3,669,966 in the corresponding period of 1892, an increase of 257,800 cwt.

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1891.*

THE final figures recently issued showing the population of England and Wales in 1891 do not materially differ from those published in the Preliminary Report soon after the census was taken. The total population is now stated to be 29,002,525, or 497 to the square mile, giving about 1½ acre per head.† Only 28 per cent. of the population (compared with 32 per cent. in 1881) lived in rural areas, the remaining 72 per cent. being in urban sanitary districts. The total population consisted of 14,052,901 males and 14,949,624 females, showing an increase of 3,028,086 over the total at the census of 1881, or a percentage increase in the ten years of 11.66. The rate of increase is much lower than in the previous decennial periods, the highest ascertained rate being 18.06 per cent. in 1811-21, and the lowest 11.93 per cent. in 1851-61.‡ The falling off in the rate of increase is due partly to the decline in the excess of births over deaths, and partly to an increase in the excess of emigrants over immigrants.

It will be noticed that the females exceed the males by 896,723, and the omission of those English and Welsh members of the army, navy, and merchant service who were abroad on the night of the census does not account for the difference. In England, as in all other countries, more males are born than females, but owing to the greater death rate among males, and the larger emigration of males than females, the final result is that at any given time the population as a whole includes more females than males. This is not inconsistent with the fact that in certain localities where men find special opportunities of employment the males exceed the females. The excess of old women over old men may be seen from the following figures:—

Age.	Males.	Females.
70-80	286,959	364,288
80-85	43,733	61,948
85-90	13,209	21,332
90-95	2,616	5,215
95-100	354	854
100 and upwards	42	104

Among the unmarried the excess of females over males is not very noticeable at the ages at which marriage is most general.

Age.	Males.	Females.
15-20	1,459,544	1,456,601
20-25	1,004,852	980,872
25-35	715,610	746,168
	3,180,006	3,183,701

The excess on the whole age-period (15-35) is only 3,695, and it occurs entirely in the last ten years (25-35).

Coming now to the occupations of the people it is found that persons of 10 years (the minimum age at which employment is allowed in the United Kingdom) of age and upwards may be grouped as follows, according to industries and professions:—

Class of Occupation.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Professional	597,739	328,393	926,132
Domestic	140,773	1,759,555	1,900,328
Commercial	1,364,377	35,358	1,399,735
Agricultural and Fishing	1,284,919	52,026	1,336,945
Industrial	5,495,446	1,840,898	7,336,344
Unoccupied	1,708,713	7,445,660	9,154,373

Total of 10 years and upwards 10,591,967 ... 11,461,890 ... 22,053,857

There are very great difficulties involved in the correct classification of the occupations of the people, and the above groups must be read in the light of the details on which they are built up. The unoccupied class, for instance, when analysed as regards age, is not so formidable as at first sight it would appear. Thus, no less than 1,191,649 of the unoccupied males are young lads under 15 years; of the unoccupied females 1,350,515 are under 15 years, and of the remainder very large numbers are, of course, married women whose domestic

* Ages, condition as to marriage, occupations, birthplaces, and infirmities—C. 7058 of 1893. Price 5s.

† In 1801 there were over 4 acres per head of population, and the number of persons per square mile was 153.

‡ The increase in population in the 90 years (1801-91) is 20,109,989 or 226 per cent.

functions are not regarded for census purposes as an occupation. Other deductions might be made both from the males and females, leaving the number of really "unoccupied" persons between 20 and 65 years of age comparatively small. A new distinction is attempted in the Occupation Tables between "employers," "employed" and "working on own account." A notice of the results of this classification, as well as a detailed examination of the numbers engaged in particular occupations, and the growth or decline of such occupations between 1881 and 1891, so far as true comparisons are possible, are held over until the issue of the General Report, which is expected shortly.

LABOUR CASES IN AUGUST.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

London, Westminster County Court, August 10th.—Workman injured by being struck on the head by an iron "ram," was awarded £70 and costs.

Leeds County Court, August 11th.—Youth employed in paper mills, injured in head through breakage of machine belt, claimed £25 damages, alleging that the belt was defective, and known to be unsafe. For the defence it was urged that accident was due to carelessness of engineman—who was not defendant's servant—allowing engine to run at too great a speed. Judgment for plaintiff, £15 and costs.

Bradford County Court, August 16th.—Painter, about to commence work in machine-shop, was taking off his coat when it caught in shafting, and he was whirled round several times, receiving very severe injuries, for which he claimed £234 compensation (three years' wages). Defence, contributory negligence, as plaintiff ought to have hung his coat in another building. Verdict for full amount claimed, with costs. Stay of execution refused.

Sheffield County Court, August 17th.—Trammer in mine claimed £50 damages for a broken leg, which he alleged was caused by negligence of defendants in omitting to provide proper stop-blocks on an incline in the pit. Judgment for defendants, on ground that plaintiff improperly uncoupled the corves. Costs were not pressed for.

Swansea County Court, August 18th.—Engine-driver sued for damages for injuries received on defendant's steam-tug by falling through hatchway, which, he alleged, was defectively fixed. The judge held that reasonable care had not been exercised by plaintiff, and gave judgment for defendant. Costs not applied for.

City of London Court, August 23rd.—Engineman claimed £300 damages for injuries received whilst lighting furnace fire owing to an explosion, which he alleged was due to the non-cleansing of a shaft that he had previously reported required sweeping. Defence was that plaintiff had sole management of furnace, and it was his duty to have it cleaned whenever necessary. Verdict for plaintiff, £150 damages.

(2) TRUCK ACT.

Preston Police Court, August 5th.—Agricultural labourer claimed 25s. wages in lieu of a week's notice, and 8s. 5d. deducted from his wages for butter and eggs supplied by his employer. The Bench decided against him as to the first amount, but made an order for the 8s. 5d. claimed.

(3) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.

Glasgow Small Debt Court, August 2nd.—A quartermaster sued for 7s. 6d., amount deducted from wages as a fine for disobedience on a voyage to Calcutta. The judge held that the case was covered by the 256th section of the Act of 1854, and gave judgment for defendants.

Board of Trade Prosecutions, August 1st.—The master of a vessel was convicted at Bow Street Police Court for allowing his vessel to be so loaded as to submerge in salt water the centre of her disc. Fined 40s. M.S. Act 1876, s. 28.

August 3rd.—The master of a vessel was convicted at Sunderland of unlawfully neglecting to keep his vessel marked as required. Fined £1 and 8s. costs. M.S. Act 1876, ss. 25, 26, 27 and 28.

August 11th.—The master of a vessel was convicted at Cardiff for submersion of load-line disc. Fined £10 and £1 9s. 6d. costs. M.S. Act 1876, s. 28, and M.S. Act 1890, and M.S. Act 1892.

August 14th.—A person was convicted at Cardiff for three different cases of harbouring deserters. Fined 20s., and 7s. costs in each case. M.S. Act 1854, s. 257.

(4) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN ACT.

Airdrie, August 1st.—Farm-servant sued for £17 15s. wages and board wages, alleging that she was engaged for a half-year from Whit Sunday. It appeared that she had to cease work for a fortnight through illness, and upon her recovery was not allowed to resume her duties. Defender pleaded that he had been compelled to hire another servant in her place. Decree for defender. Expenses not asked for.

Birmingham, August 2nd.—Stonemason claimed 4s. 10d.—viz., 3s. wages earned and 1s. 10d. two hours' work in lieu of notice. Plaintiff alleged that on re-commencing work after absenting himself for one day, he gave 2½ hours' notice as required by the rules agreed upon by employers and workmen at the conclusion of the builders' strike, whereupon defendant refused to allow him to start, and offered him 1s. 2d. for wages. Defendant submitted that as plaintiff did not commence work he was not entitled to the notice. Judgment for plaintiff.

Warrington, August 3rd.—A smith was summoned for leaving his work without notice, and was ordered to pay £2 damages (the amount claimed), with costs.

London, Worship Street Police Court, August 16th.—A workman employed by a cornice pole maker, sued for 24s., balance of a week's wages, at the rate of 32s. a week. The defendant asserted that owing to the irregular time kept by his workmen, the arrangement as to weekly wages had been tacitly rescinded, that the men accepted their wages less deductions for lost time, and he had offered complainant 24s. for his week's work, but it was refused. The magistrate held that the weekly hiring had been abrogated, and complainant must take his wages, less deductions for lost time. He made an order for 20s. to be paid.

London, Worship Street Police Court, August 23rd.—A carpenter sued for 9d., one hour's wages, in lieu of notice, alleging that he received notice at 11 a.m. to leave work at noon, but under a rule of the trade he was entitled to two hours' notice. Defendant stated that he was not a member of the Masters' Association, which had agreed to the rule in question. The magistrate said that workmen must ascertain what rules their employers had agreed to, and dismissed the summons.

Marylebone Police Court, August 24th.—A carpenter sued for £2 5s. 6d., money earned by him at a labour home. He alleged that he had worked in the home at carpentering at the rate of 4d. per hour, receiving a small portion only of the money earned, the balance being the amount claimed. In defence, it was stated that complainant had signed an agreement to be a total abstainer, and undertaking that if he was dismissed for breaking the pledge, for disobedience or for insubordination, he would forfeit any moneys placed to his credit. On the 12th inst. he returned to the home drunk and was ordered to leave, when he assaulted one of the officers and was given into custody. The magistrate held that in face of the agreement the summons must be dismissed.

(5) FRAUDS ON A FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

London, August 22nd.—A member of the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society pleaded guilty to having obtained the sum of £5 8s. 6d. from the Society by means of false pretences. Prisoner joined the Society some years ago, but after drawing about £26 in sick pay, he ceased to pay his contributions. He rejoined under another name, and after paying the fee entitling him to full benefits, drew sick pay amounting to £5 8s. 6d.; but it was alleged that instead of his illness being due to natural causes it was the result of drunkenness. He was sentenced to nine months hard labour.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY BILL.

In view of the interest taken by many workmen and employers in the question of Employers' Liability, it has been thought well to reprint in full the clauses of the Employers' Liability Bill now before the House of Commons, as amended by the Standing Committee on Law.

1.—(1.) Where, after the commencement of this Act, personal injury is caused to a workman by reason of the negligence of any person in the service of the workman's employer, the workman, or, in case of death, his representatives, shall have the same right to compensation and remedies against the employer as if the workman had not been a workman or nor in the service of the employer, nor engaged in his work.

(2.) A workman shall not be deemed to have accepted any risk incident to his employment by reason only of his having entered upon or continued in the employment after he knew of the risk.

2.—A contract whereby a workman relinquishes any right to compensation to himself or his representatives for personal injury caused to the workman by reason of the negligence of the employer or of any person in the service of the employer, shall not, if made before the accrual of the right, constitute a defence to any action brought for the recovery of such compensation.

3.—Where an employer has contributed to a fund providing any benefit for a workman or his representatives in case of injury or death, the court, or, where there is a jury, the jury, in assessing the amount of compensation payable to a workman or his representatives in case of injury or death, shall treat as a payment on account of the employer's liability so much of any money which has been or will be paid to the workman or his representatives out of the fund, as is in the opinion of the court or jury attributable to the employer's contribution.

4.—Any action by a workman or his representatives against the workman's employer for injury caused to the workman by reason of the negligence of the employer, or of any person in the service of the employer, whether brought under this Act or not, may be brought in a county court, but, if in any action so brought the amount claimed exceeds three hundred pounds, the action shall, on the application of either party, be removed into the High Court, in like manner, and on the same conditions, as any other action commenced in a county court may by law be so removed.

5.—(1.) This Act shall not apply to persons in the naval or military service of the Crown, but, subject as aforesaid, shall apply to a workman in the employment of the Crown in like manner as if the employer of the workman were a private person.

(2.) Where an action is brought under this section in respect of an injury to a workman—

(a.) The action may be brought against the Secretary to the Treasury by his official name, and shall not abate by reason of his ceasing to hold office; and

(b.) Any compensation awarded shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament; and

(c.) Any gratuity or allowance, and any expense in respect of assistance, which has been or will be paid out of public money in respect of the injury, or by reason of the workman being incapacitated for service by the injury, shall for the purposes of this Act be treated as a payment on account of the employer's liability.

(3.) The Treasury may, by warrant laid before Parliament, modify for the purposes of this Act the warrant made under section one of the Superannuation Act, 1887, in its application to workmen to whom this section applies.

6.—(1.) Where in any action tried in a county court compensation is awarded in case of the death of a workman under any injury sustained by him, and is payable to or for the benefit of any infant or person under disability, the judge may order such compensation, or any part thereof, to be invested in the Post Office Savings Bank by the registrar in his name as registrar.

(2.) Any sum so ordered to be invested may be accepted by the Postmaster-General as a deposit in the name of the registrar as such, and the provisions of any statute or regulations respecting the limits of deposits in savings bank, and the declaration to be made by a depositor, shall not apply to such sums.

(3.) No part of any money invested in the name of the registrar of any county court in the Post Office Savings Bank under this Act shall be paid out to any registrar except upon authority addressed to the Postmaster-General by the Treasury.

(4.) Any person deriving any benefit under any moneys paid into a Post Office Savings Bank under the provisions of this Act may, nevertheless, open an account in a Post Office Savings Bank, or in any other savings bank in his own name, without being liable to any penalties imposed by any statute or regulations in respect of the opening of accounts in two savings banks, or of two accounts in the same savings bank.

7.—In this Act—

(1.) The expression "workman" includes every person who has entered into or works under a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer in the United Kingdom or on board a British ship, whether the contract is express or implied, or is verbal or in writing;

(2.) The expression "employer" includes a body of persons corporate or unincorporate, and the representatives of a deceased employer;

(3.) The expression "ship" includes every description of seagoing vessel not propelled by oars;

(4.) The expression "representatives" means legal personal representatives, and expressions referring to the representatives of a deceased workman shall be construed as including the persons entitled to compensation in case of his death.

8. In the application of this Act to Scotland the following modifications shall be made:

(A.) The expression "county court" shall mean the "sheriff court"

(1.) Plaintiff shall mean "pursuer," defendant shall mean "defender."

(2)—(a.) When the amount claimed in an action brought in the sheriff court exceeds fifty pounds either the pursuer or the defender may require that the cause shall be tried by jury in the sheriff court;

(b.) The party so requiring shall within eight days after an interlocutor has been pronounced allowing a proof, lodge with the sheriff clerk a notice that he desires the cause to be tried by jury, and shall within the same time send by registered letter, or deliver a like notice to the agent of the opposite party;

(c.) The sheriff clerk shall forthwith lay the process in the cause before the sheriff, and the sheriff shall send the case to an early roll; and after hearing parties he shall determine whether the cause shall be tried by a jury or be disposed of in the manner heretofore in use, and such determination shall be final;

(d.) If the sheriff shall determine that the case should be tried by a jury, he shall further decide whether the trial shall be with or without issues, and if with issues he shall order issues to be lodged, and thereafter pronounce an interlocutor settling the same;

(e.) It shall be competent for either party to appeal from the sheriff substitute to the sheriff against the form of the issues settled by the sheriff substitute where issues are ordered, and such appeal shall be taken in the manner and under the conditions provided as to interlocutory appeals by the Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act, 1876;

(f.) The jury shall consist of eight common, and four special, jurors chosen in the manner set forth in section forty-four of the Court of Session Act, 1868, and the sheriff clerk or his deputies shall cite juries for trials under this Act;

A jury may at any time, being not less than an hour after it was enclosed, return a verdict by a majority of its number.

(g.) The remuneration of jurors in trials in the sheriff court shall be at the rate of five shillings to each juror for each day or part of a day, and travelling expenses to be paid in the same manner as the remuneration of jurors in civil cases in the Court of Session;

(h.) Sections thirty-four to forty, inclusive, of the Court of Session Act, 1868, shall apply with the necessary variations to the trial by jury in the sheriff court of actions under this Act. The word "court" in said sections, and in the Acts referred to in said sections, shall mean either division of the Court of Session, and the word "counsel" shall include, so far as regards the conduct of

the cause in the sheriff court, the enrolled law agents practising before such sheriff courts: Provided always, that any motion or other application made under the sections incorporated as aforesaid shall be competent only if made within ten days from the date of the verdict being returned, and if made with the view of obtaining the judgment of either division of the Court of Session, in which event the sheriff clerk shall thereon transmit the process to such division in the manner in which processes are in use to be transmitted in ordinary appeals against judgments pronounced on the merits of a cause in the sheriff court;

(3)—(a.) Where the amount claimed exceeds three hundred pounds, on the motion of either the pursuer or the defender within six days after the interlocutor closing the record has been pronounced, it shall be lawful for the sheriff, on special cause shown, to order the cause to be removed to the Court of Session with a view to jury trial;

(b.) If the motion for removal of the cause to the Court of Session is refused, the interlocutor refusing the motion may be appealed to the Court of Session within seven days after its date, and the Court of Session may on special cause shown order the cause to be removed to that court with a view to jury trial;

(c.) An action by a workman or his representatives against an employer for negligence brought in the sheriff court shall not be removed to the Court of Session, otherwise than as provided in this section, without prejudice to any right of appeal according to the existing law and practice in cases tried in the sheriff court otherwise than by jury;

(d.) Either party, if dissatisfied with the result of a trial by jury, may apply by motion to the sheriff for a new trial on any of the grounds on which such an application would be competent in the Court of Session. The sheriff shall dispose of the motion, and his decision shall be final;

(4.) The Court of Session may make acts of sederunt for giving effect to this section;

(5.) In Scotland the sheriff or the Court of Session when any of such actions are pending before that court may conjoin actions arising out of the same occurrence or cause of action though at the instance of different parties or in respect of different injuries.

9. Nothing in this Act shall prejudicially affect any right or remedy to which a workman is entitled independently of this Act.

10. Any contract existing at the commencement of this Act whereby a workman relinquishes any right to compensation to himself or his representatives for personal injury caused to the workman by reason of the negligence of the employer, or of any person in the service of the employer shall not, for the purposes of this Act, be deemed to continue after the time at which the workman's contract of service would determine if notice of the determination thereof were given at the commencement of this Act.

11. The Employers Liability Act, 1880, is hereby repealed as from the commencement of this Act.

12. This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four.

13. This Act may be cited as the Employers Liability Act, 1893.

SHIPPING CASUALTIES IN 1891-2.*

The figures relating to shipping casualties in 1891-2 show on the whole a slight improvement on those for the previous year, but a most decided change for the better when compared with the records of ten years ago. Notwithstanding the great increase of British shipping during the last ten years, the tonnage lost in 1891-2 was only 197,003 tons as compared with 290,287 tons lost in 1881-2, whilst the number of seamen lost by wreck in 1891-2 was only 1,320, against 3,014 lost in 1881-2.

A comparison between the averages for the 16 years ended June 1892 with the actual number for 1891-92 shows that, although the number of sailing vessels employed in that period has decreased from 17,101 vessels (tonnage 4,138,149) to 10,793 vessels (tonnage 2,965,326), the losses of sailing vessels only fell from an average of 524 vessels (tonnage 134,910) to an actual loss of 427 vessels (tonnage 102,460); whereas on the other hand, although the steam vessels employed have increased from 3,218 (tonnage 1,977,489) to 6,227 vessels (tonnage 5,484,186), the losses of steam vessels were 120 (tonnage 94,543) as compared with an average for 16 years of 125 (tonnage 88,712). The greater safety in sea transport arising from the transition from sailing to steam is still more apparent when it is noted that the carrying power of the steam ton is about four times as great as the carrying power of the sailing ton, which it has displaced. The average number of seamen lost in sailing vessels was 1,149, against 975 in 1891-92; the average number of seamen lost in steamships was 539, against 345 lost in 1891-92. The percentage of seamen lost at sea in 1891-2 by wrecks and casualties to registered trading vessels was 1.15 in sailing vessels, and only 0.24 in steam vessels.

The number of lives saved from shipwrecks, 9,977, testifies to the necessity for the various appliances for saving life on the coasts as well as to the value of the life saving appliances carried on board ship in conformity with a recent Act of Parliament. It should be remembered that the figures relating to lives saved include passengers, colonial seamen and the crews of foreign ships lost in British waters. The great majority of these 9,977 persons who were saved from imminent risk of life were, however, British seamen.

* Abstracts of the returns made to the Board of Trade of shipping casualties during the year 1891-92. (C.—7,069 of 1893). Price 4s. 6d.

TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST 1893.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Joiners ...	Leeds ...	Refusal to pay overtime rate arranged to come into force on 1st July	1	9	Aug 2	Aug.	Still in progress.
Carpenters and Joiners	Horwich ...	For abolition of piece-working system ...	1	40	5	...	Still in progress, but some have resumed under old conditions.
Joiners ...	Leeds ...	Refusal to pay overtime rate arranged to come into force on 1st July	1	7	16	...	Still in progress.
Ditto ...	Port Glasgow	To enforce payment of standard rate of wages ...	1	7	21	26	Employer agreed to pay standard rate, and recognise the union.
Masons ...	Edinburgh ...	For weekly payment of wages, and before 1 p.m. on Saturdays	1	12	21	23	Demands conceded.
Builders' Labourers	Jarrow-on-Tyne	For advance in wages...	2	30	22	23	Advance granted.
Builders (Electric Light Buildings)	Richmond, Surrey	Against dismissal of three men without reference to foreman	1	50	About 24	28	Work resumed unconditionally, the foreman and men in question no being reinstated.
Bricklayers ...	Lydd, Kent	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Mill Sawyers ...	Near Dublin...	For reduction in hours of labour ...	1	...	...	...	Still in progress.
Clothing Trades.							
Tailors ...	Perth ...	Employers locked out members of Scotch Union, who desired to include all members of the English Union in their ranks, refusing to work with them otherwise	Not stated	...	14	...	Ditto.
Kilt Makers	Stirling ...	Cause not stated ...	1	...	About 11	...	No details of settlement.
Tailors ...	London, E.C.	For advance in wages...	1	...	...	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Birkenhead ...	Against employment of out-workers ...	1	5	3	...	Still in progress.
Metal Trades.							
Pattern Makers...	Whitehaven...	For advance in wages of 2s. per week, the firm having worked short time for a long period	1	5	2	...	Ditto.
Tin-plate Workers	Pontardawe, Swansea	Against dismissal of a man for alleged disobedience	1	700 dir. and indir.	2	...	Ditto.
Engineers ...	Cardiff ...	Dissatisfaction of employers with proposed restriction of total hours worked (including overtime) to 74 per week, but with certain modifications in cases of urgency	9	175	3	15	Settlement effected at a conference, making 67 the recognised maximum actual hours worked, with modifications in urgent cases.
Steel Axle and Tyre Workers	Sheffield ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	111	5	23	Compromised by a present reduction of 5 per cent. on tyres, and 2½ per cent. on axles, with a sliding scale for future regulation of wages.
Ironworkers ...	Glasgow ...	For advance in wages of 5 per cent. ...	1	100	11	19	Work resumed, consideration of question being postponed for two months.
Furnacemen (Tube Works)	Govan...	For return of a 5 per cent. reduction occurring with a reduction in hours	1	60	15	19	5 per cent. restored on understanding that previous hours of labour—57 instead of 54—should be reverted to.
Loom Makers ...	Colne, Lanc...	Against proposed extension of hours by half an hour on Saturdays	1	30	21	...	Still in progress.
Mining.							
Putters ...	Near South Shields	Alleged over-working of ponies. Pit laid entirely idle one day	1	47	1	3 & 4	Summoned to police court and mulcted in damages claimed by owners.
Hauliers and Coal Miners	Parts of South Wales and Monmouthshire	Against postponement of the sliding scale award, and for an advance of 20 per cent. in wages. The miners struck about the 10th and 11th with same object	14	Estimated at 90,000	2	Sept. 4	Work resumed on advance of 1½ per cent. by sliding scale award. In some non-associated collieries the 20 per cent. advance was conceded.
Shale Miners ...	Loanhead, Midlothian	Having taken an idle day, which employers alleged to be an infringement of the agreement to work regularly	1	400	3	Aug. 14	Work resumed on an agreement to work 6 days per week. Idle days other than the quarterly holiday to be decided by ballot, and 3 days' notice thereof to be given to employers.
Coal Miners ...	Partsof Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Ayrshire	For advance in wages of 1s. per day ...	Not known	Estimated 9,500	Various dates	15	Advance granted.
Ditto ...	Bathgate ...	For an advance in wages of 6d. per day ...	1	300	3	9	Work resumed on previous terms.
Ditto ...	Ditto ...	For an advance in wages of 1s. per day ...	1	76	10	14	Advance conceded.
Ditto ...	East Stirlingshire	Ditto ...	4	...	13	...	Ditto.
Ditto ...	Near South Shields	Dispute as to "right of way" through colliery yard	1	1,400	14	18	Right of way through ground in question confirmed during certain hours.
Ditto ...	Fifehire and Kinross	For advance in wages of 25 per cent. ...	29	8,000	About 22	Sept. 5	Advance of 12½ per cent. accepted. Some employers had temporarily given the full 25 per cent.
Ditto ...	Clackmannanshire	For advance in wages of 25 per cent. ...	3	1,000	30	2	Advance of 12½ per cent. accepted.
Ironstone Miners	Cleveland District	Objection to system of working and mode of payment in connection with the "ratchet" or ironstone getting machine	3	400	21	...	Still in progress.
Slate Quarrymen	Luing Island, Argyshire	For payment every six weeks instead of quarterly	1	60	Beginning of month	...	No details of settlement.
Coal Miners ...	Mid and East Lothian	For a further advance in wages of 20 per cent. ...	19	2,600	31	4	Advance of 10 per cent. accepted in some cases. The whole question to be referred to arbitration.
Ditto ...	Bathgate ...	Failure to pay the advance promised on 14th Aug. of 1s. per day (see above)	1	76	20	...	Still in progress.
Shipbuilding.							
Platers' Helpers	Walker-on-Tyne	Against action of strikers in procuring the discharge of a member of their Union, who, being in arrears with his contributions, had joined the Labourers' Union, to which the platers' helpers belonged	1	320	21	1	Man to be re-instated, and question as to what Union he shall belong to be settled by a Conciliation Committee from both trades.
Rivet Heaters ...	Walker-on-Tyne	For re-instatement of a lad discharged for alleged misconduct	1	50 dir. 150 indir.	21	Aug. 23	Work resumed; the boy in question to appear before the manager.
Frame Setters ...	Greenock ...	Refusal by employer of price quoted by men on resumption of certain work	1	5	23	28	Satisfactory compromise.
Textile Trades.							
Bleachers ...	Elton, Bury	For advance in wages...	1	120	5	...	Still in progress.
Woolcombers ...	Bradford ...	Three men being required to look after 4 combs instead of 1 man to each	1	19	7	15	Men's contention granted.
Flax Dressers and Preparers	Strabane ...	For a reduction in amount of daily preparation of flax	1	108	8	...	Still in progress.
Beamers and Twistors	Bury ...	For advance in wages on a certain class of goods	1	...	18	...	Ditto.
Weavers ...	Earby ...	Grievance with respect to quality of material ...	1	...	21	21	Work resumed, the matter being left to the Union Executive.
Bleachers ...	Bolton ...	Against retention by employers of wages earned when manufacturing for "stock"	1	100	24	...	Still in progress.
Piecers ...	Bolton ...	Alleged alteration in system of promoting to position of spinner	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Belting and Hose-pipe Weavers	Pendleton, Lanc	Against proposed reduction in wages of about 25 per cent.	1	120	About 18	...	Still in progress.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN AUGUST 1893—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Reelers ...	Oldham ...	Being required to work reels by hand without compensation during a failure in machinery	1	...	Aug.	Aug.	No details of settlement.
Carpet Weavers ...	Near Leeds ...	Against proposed reductions in wages of 10 and 20 per cent.	1	13	About 1	...	Still in progress.
Woollen Weavers ...	Leeds ...	For re-instatement of a discharged tuner ...	1	...	...	...	Work resumed without attainment of desired object.
Warp Dressers...	Todmorden ...	Alleged excessive fining for short length in warps	1	35	25	Not stated	Men, with exception of six, resumed work after interview with employers.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Smiths, &c. (Wagon Works)	Hull ...	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	1	37	4	14	Reduction accepted.
Teasers (Glass Works)	Leeds ...	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	1	4	14	15	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Joiners (in Paper Works)	Greenock ...	Against proposed increase in hours from 9 to 10 per day, as worked by the papermakers	1	12	21	23	Agreement to work the extra hour per day, to be remunerated at time and a half-rate, or 1s. per hour.
Bakers ...	Drogheda ...	Cause not stated ...	1	...	...	...	Still in progress.
Hop Pickers ...	Sittingbourne	For advance in picking prices of 2d. per basket	...	...	24	24	Ringleaders discharged, the others resuming at previous rate.
Coopers, &c. ...	Peterhead ...	Against introduction of foreign made fish barrels	...	...	...	...	Vessels containing the barrels were unable to land their cargo.
Cabmen ...	London, N. ...	For reduction of 2s. per day in the price of cab hire	1	...	...	...	No details of settlement.
Chemical Workers	Morrison, Glam.	Cause not stated ...	1	...	28	...	Ditto.
Cabmen ...	Newport ...	Objection to regulations as to livery, conduct, &c.	1	5	30	...	Ditto.
Wagon Builders	Coalville ...	For reduction in hours from 54 to 53 per week ...	1	600	One day in August	...	Reduction in hours granted.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE AUGUST, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Plumbers (Shipbuilding)	Jarrow-on-Tyne	Against proposed reduction in wages ...	1	10	1893 28 June	Aug. 8	Referred to arbitration, which resulted in a reduction of 1s. per week to plumbers.
Shuttle Makers ...	Oakworth, Keighley	For advance in wages and reduction in hours ...	1	...	July	About 2	Advance of 4s. per week with reduction in hours from 58 to 56½ to some; others obtained work elsewhere.
Worsteds Weavers ...	Luddenden, Yorks.	Against reduction in wages and for a fixed price list	1	80	28 July	25	Reduction of 4½d. per cut accepted, and a price list granted.
Riveters (Shipbuilding)	Greenock ...	For advance in wages of 7½ per cent. ...	1	...	July (Lasted 5 weeks)	24	Advance granted.
Carpenters and Joiners	Oldham ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	Not stated	500	1 May	...	Immediate advance of 1d. per hour granted, with promise of remainder in next January.
Ditto ...	Chatham and Rochester	Ditto ...	Not stated	100	5 June	21	Advance of 1d. per hour granted and a code of working rules.
Coal Miners ...	Polmont, Stirlingshire	Against reduction in wages of 6d. per day ...	1	80	13 July	4	Notice of reduction withdrawn.
Painters (Shipbuilding)	Wallsend-on-Tyne	Against employment of "red leaders" or labourers in placing second coat of paint on ship's bottom	1	23	4 July	25	Work resumed pending conciliation meeting.
Coal Miners ...	Benhar, Lanarkshire	Against proposed reduction of 8 per cent. over and above a general reduction	1	400	20 May	10	Notice of reduction withdrawn.
Settmakers ...	Airdrie ...	For advance in wages ...	1	20	1892 29 Oct.	Not known	Advance of from 5 to 10 per cent. granted.
Builders' Labourers	Wakefield ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and improved working conditions	Not stated	103	1 May	14	Work resumed on previous terms.
Masons ...	Leith ...	Against importation of ready "dressed" stone	1	...	28 June	End of month	Job finished with non-union men.
Painters ...	Hartlepool ...	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour ...	14	100	1 April	Do.	Wages remain as before. Working conditions altered in one or two particulars.
Slaters ...	Edinburgh ...	Against employment of labourers upon slaters' work	4	24	20 May	11	Settled by conference. Board of conciliation to be formed.
Cable Chain Makers	Old Hill, Staffs.	Against reduction in wages ...	1	32	31 July	Not stated	Resumed on previous terms.
Brass Finishers and Moulders	Hull...	Ditto ...	1	35	21 July	14	Ditto

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN PREVIOUS TO AUGUST, AND WERE STILL IN PROGRESS AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in July are still in progress:—shipwrights, Clydebank; glass bottle makers, Scotland; cabinet makers, Greenock; masons, Halifax; coke-burners, Tingley, near Leeds; platers' helpers, Belfast; bricklayers and labourers, Derby; and coal miners, Miners' Federation Districts; as also strikes of 100 tin-plate workers at Maesteg for re-instatement of a discharged fellow workman, and 200 potters at Rutherglen, near Glasgow, against reduction in wages of 20 per cent., particulars of which came to hand too late for insertion in the issue.

The following, which began before July, were also in progress at the end of August:—bakers, Navan; boot and shoe operatives, Belfast; carpenters and tailors, Cork; tailors, Stirling and Dumfries; upholsterers and cabinet makers (one shop), Manchester; stove grate workers, Derby; bricklayers, Watford; joiners, Buxton; quarrymen, Festiniog; and joiners, Southampton. The two last-named have, however, terminated in the present month (September).

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING AUGUST 1893.

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

I.—FIVE TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

Birkenhead Operative House Painters' Society.
Newcastle and District French Polishers' Society.
Cigar Box Makers' and Paperers' Trade Union (London).
Retail Newsagents' and Booksellers' Union (London).
Lon. Soc. of Wood Cutting Machinists and Mill Sawyers.

II.—SEVEN TRADE SOCIETIES DISSOLVED, OR OTHERWISE CEASED TO EXIST:—

Caxton Printers' Warehousemen's Association (London).
Amalgamated Farriers' Society (Manchester).
Risca Colliery Workmen's Association (Mon.).
Abercarn Colliery Workmen's Association (Mon.).
National Union of Clickers & Rough Stuff Cutters (London).
East London Confectioners' Union for Women.
Newcastle and District Society of Drillers and Cutters.

III.—FIVE INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

(a) Two Co-operative Distributive Societies:—
Harrow Road and Queen's Park Indus. Co-op. Socy., Ltd.
Yorkshire Fish Fryers' Co-op. Socy., Ltd.
(b) Three Miscellaneous Societies:—
Plymouth & Dist. House Painting & Decorating Socy., Ltd.
Mutual Aid Training Society, Ltd. (London).
Haswell & Shotton Butchers' Socy., Ltd. (Sunderland).

IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—

(a) Thirty-Seven New Societies:—
Ordinary Friendly Societies ... 21
Working Men's Clubs ... 8
Dividing Societies ... 5
Specially Authorised Societies ... 3
=37
(b) Fifteen New Branches of Existing Societies:—
A.O.F. ... 1
G.U.O.F. ... 3
I.O.R.S.U. ... 5
Various ... 6
=15

SEAMEN.

I.—NUMBERS SHIPPED IN AUGUST 1893 AND 1892.

(Based on information supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

The following table gives the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in August 1893 and 1892, respectively. The total number shipped last month, was, as will be seen, 3,637 less than in August 1892. The number shipped at Cardiff was seriously diminished by the strike of coal miners in that district, and the supply of men at that port was much in excess of the demand. Supply also exceeded demand at London, Liverpool, Swansea and Sunderland, while men were plentiful at South Shields, Hull, Glasgow and Dublin; equal to the demand at Newcastle; fairly well employed at Leith; and demand quite equalled supply at Middlesbrough.

The rates of wages paid were generally the same as last month, though at one or two ports they showed a slight tendency to weaken.

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in August 1893.				In-crease.	De-crease.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total.	Total in August 1892.		
Tyne Ports	76	4,170	4,246	3,455	791	...
Sunderland	19	825	844	735	109	...
Middlesbrough	22	745	767	552	215	...
Hull	70	1,122	1,192	1,437	239	...
Grimsby	153	153	153	117	36	...
London	478	5,536	6,014	5,684	330	...
Southampton	6	1,226	1,232	1,192	40	...
Bristol	15	223	238	150	82	...
Newport, Mon.	20	490	510	711	201	...
Cardiff	322	2,304	2,626	4,388	1,762	...
Swansea	37	526	563	590	27	...
Liverpool	612	9,497	10,109	12,987	2,878	...
Kirkcaldy ... ..	...	74	74	83	9	...
Leith (Burntisland)	17	393	410	428	18	...
Grangemouth ... ..	...	77	77	81	4	...
Glasgow	97	2,646	2,743	2,988	245	...
Dublin	42	3	45	47	2	...
Belfast	78	94	172	227	55	...
Total for the above Ports in August 1893	1,911	30,104	32,015	...	3,637	...
Doitto, August 1892	2,876	32,778	...	35,652	...	...

* Including Barry and Penarth.

II.—LIVES LOST.

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

The following table shows the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of August 1893, and between January and August 1893, inclusive, as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Class of Vessels.	Sail or Steam.	Number of Deaths.*						
		By Wreck and Casualty.		By Acci- dents other than Wreck and Casualty.		Total.		
		Aug.	Jan. to Aug.	Aug.	Jan. to Aug.	Aug.	Jan. to Aug.	
<hr/>								
Vessels registered under Merchant Shipping Act:—								
Trading	{	Sail	6	287	25	204	31	491
		Steam	82	350	57	242	139	592
Fishing	{	Sail	2	20	2	34	4	54
		Steam	...	11	1	5	1	16
Vessels not so registered:—								
Trading	{	Sail	2	18	1	2	3	20
		Steam	...	2	...	...	...	2
Fishing	{	Sail	1	37	4	15	5	52
		Steam	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		Sail	11	362	32	255	43	617
Total		Steam	82	363	58	247	140	610
Total		...	93	725	90	502	183	1,227

* Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

MINES.

(The following information has been supplied by the Home Office.)

During the month of August 244 accidents were reported, causing 47 deaths, and injuries to 217 miners. Of these, 216 miners were killed and injured in England and Wales, and 48 in Scotland, as compared with 444 during July in England and Wales, and 43 in Scotland.

Twenty-three convictions have been obtained under the Mines Acts, viz., 8 against owners and managers, and 15 against miners. During the month, information was received of the opening or re-opening of 32 and the closing of 12 mines. Twenty-seven of the mines opened or re-opened and 9 of the mines discontinued or abandoned are collieries.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of August 1893.

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire-damp	11	1	1	...	...	...	1	12
Falls of ground	21	57	3	22	...	...	24	79
Miscellaneous in shafts	3	8	1	2	...	...	4	10
Miscellaneous underground	13	73	1	12	...	...	14	85
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous	2	28	2	3	...	...	4	31
Totals	39	177	8	40	...	...	47	217

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE MINES ACTS IN AUGUST.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Con-ventions.	Cases with-drawn.	Cases dis-mitted.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.—					£ s. d.
Fencing	3	3	...	...	15 0 0
Shafts and Manholes	4	3	...	1	2 16 0
Miscellaneous	4	2	...	2	8 12 0
By Workmen—					£ s. d.
Safety Lamps	3	3	...	...	3 10 0
Shot-firing and Explosives	6	6	...	...	4 2 0
Lucifer Matches, &c.	6	6	...	...	6 0 6
Totals	26	23	...	3	40 0 6

COAL:—

MINES OPENED IN AUGUST.

***Durham**—Durham Main (Hutton Seam) near Durham.
Yorkshire—Grange Lane (Barnsley Seam), near Rotherham; Brier Mill (Soft Coal), near Birstal; Dean Bottom (Thin), near Huddersfield.
Derbyshire—Hall Pits Plantation, Calow, near Chesterfield; Calow Green, near Chesterfield; Boothorpe (Stockings), Woodville, near Burton-on-Trent.
Staffordshire—Fibbersley (New Mine), Willenhall; James Bridge (Four-feet), near Walsall; Cowpasture (Thick), near Wednesbury; Moseley Hole (New Mine), near Wolverhampton; Ladymoor (Thick), near Bilston; Straits Green (Brooch), near Dudley.
Worcestershire—Parkhead (Thick), near Dudley.
Gloucestershire—Hopewell Drift and Hopewell Withy Level (Coleford High Delf Seam), Forest of Dean.
Flintshire—Tyn Twell, Mold (sinking).
Monmouthshire—Gwerna New Level (Mynyddislwyn), Maesycwmmer; Tyrrphil Ruis (Mynyddislwyn), Tredegar Junction.
Cardiff—Bryn, Brynaman; Morlais, Pontardulais.
Lanarkshire—Brownrigg (Kiltongue Seam), Greengairs; Greengairs (Drumgray and Virtuewell Seams); Gartsheugh (Splint and Virgin); Cleland No. 3 Pit (Ell).
Fife—Broomhead, Wellwood.
Tyne—Annagher, Coalisland, (sinking new Shaft).
OIL SHALE—Limefield No. 32 Mine, West Calder, Edinburgh.
SLATES—Pantywrach, Fishguard, Pembroke.
SOAPSTONE—Croy Head, Dungle, Co. Donegal.
ALUM CLAY—Irish Hill, Straid, Co. Antrim.
TILE CLAY—Haunchwood Brick and Tile Co., near Nuneaton.

COAL:—

MINES ABANDONED IN AUGUST.

Lancashire—Scot Lane (Bone Seam), near Chorley; Rosebridge (Wigan Five-feet and Pemberton Two-feet Mines), near Wigan.
Derbyshire—Holmwood (Tupton Three-quarter), Heath, near Chesterfield.
Monmouthshire—Waterloo (Mynyddislwyn Seam), Blackwood.
Glamorganshire—Dinas Clydach (No. 3 Rhondda), Tonypandy; Upper Clydach (No. 2 Rhondda), Tonypandy; Maesymarchog (Eighteen-feet), Onllwyn, Neath; Pentrefelin (Six-feet), Swansea.
Stirlingshire—Lodge No. 3 Pit, Slamannan.
OIL SHALE—Westwood (No. 30 Pit), Livingston, Linlithgowshire.
HÆMATITE IRON ORE—Clintz Pit, Egremont, Cumberland.
LEAD—Tonagh, Castleblaney, Co. Monaghan.

* Recommended work after a cessation of 6 weeks for the purpose of sinking the shaft deeper.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN AUGUST.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of August, 163 prosecutions were instituted and 153 convictions obtained. Of these 153 convictions, 30 were for employing children under 14 without school certificate, or young persons under 16 without surgical certificate, the average penalty and costs inflicted being £1 10s. 11d. per case. For employing persons at illegal hours or for illegal periods, 62 convictions were obtained, with an average penalty and costs of £1 17s. 10d. For neglect of rules as to registers, abstracts, notices, &c., 53 convictions were secured with an average penalty and costs of £1 4s.

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCES.	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Cases Withdrawn.	Cases Dismissed.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.	Total Amount of Penalties & Costs.
Insanitary and Uncleanly Conditions.					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to lime-wash	2	2	...	...	3 0 0	19 0	3 19 0
Danger from Machinery, &c.							
Neglecting to fence	6	5	...	1	23 1 6	2 18 0	25 19 6
Employment of Classes of Persons forbidden by Law.							
Under 14 without school certificates or under 16 without surgical certificates	30	30	...	...	22 17 6	23 9 0	46 6 6
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment.							
Before or after the legal hour	18	15	...	3	14 13 6	9 16 10	24 10 4
At night	2	2	...	...	2 0 0	1 13 6	3 13 6
During meal times, or without proper interval for meals	17	17	...	...	17 11 10	25 3 0	42 14 10
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted	20	18	2	...	18 8 6	19 7 10	30 16 4
On Sunday, holidays, or children on successive Saturdays (Children) Full time or otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	3	3	...	...	2 19 0	4 9 9	7 8 9
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.							
Not keeping registers	7	7	...	...	3 13 6	4 9 6	8 3 0
Making false entry in Register as to young persons employed	17	16	1	...	9 14 0	7 4 0	16 18 0
Not affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts	1	1	...	...	5 0	12 0	17 0
„ sending notices required by Act	35	32	...	3	31 8 6	10 4 2	41 12 8
Information laid under Section 24 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891.	4	4	...	...	2 11 6	1 13 0	4 4 6
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars	1	1	...	...	1 5 0	1 0 0	2 5 0
Totals for August 1893	163	153	3	7	153 9 4	105 18 7	259 7 11
Totals for July 1893	174	161	5	8	168 7 11	114 13 5	283 1 4

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

The number of fatal accidents to railway servants recorded during August was 37, as against 35 in July, while the number of accidents not resulting in death rose from 184 in July to 225 in August. The number of injuries necessitating amputations was 7.

I.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of August 1893.

Class of Service.	Killed.	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total of Injuries.
		Amputations.	Fractures.	Crushes.	Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.		
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	2	3	6	10	16	37	
Engine Drivers	2	...	1	2	14	14	31	
Firemen ... ..	...	...	5	6	8	13	32	
Guards (Passenger) ... ..	...	...	2	1	4	3	10	
Permanent Way Men (not including labourers)	10	1	1	2	2	3	7	
Porters	1	1	2	4	6	3	20	
Shunters	2	...	...	8	12	18	38	
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	19	3	2	11	10	24	50	
Total	37	7	16	38	66	98	225	
Total for Year ended Dec. 31st 1892	534	98	204	451	718	1,444	2,915	

II.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured as above, in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, distinguishing accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents, in August 1893.

	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
By Accidents from other causes*	29	200	5	19	3	3	37	222
Total	29	202	5	20	3	3	37	225
Total for year ended Dec. 31st 1892	426	2,615	89	274	19	26	534	2,915

* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.*

Reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons during August 1893. (Supplied by the Home Office.)

The number of fatal accidents in factories and workshops reported in August is 36, as against 34 in July, while the number of accidents not resulting in death fell from 729 in July to 657 in August. Of the 36 persons killed, 32 were men. Amputations were rendered necessary in 101 cases, as against 129 in July.

Nature or effect of Injury.	Adults (over 18).		Young Persons.		Children.		TOTAL.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males & Females.
Causing death	24	1	8	3	...	...	32	4	36
Amputation of right hand or arm	3	2	3	...	...	...	6	2	8
Amputation of left hand or arm	1	...	3	...	...	...	4	1	5
Amputation of part of right hand	20	6	12	7	1	...	33	13	46
Amputation of part of left hand	18	3	14	4	1	2	33	9	42
Amputation of any part of leg or foot ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Loss of sight of one or both eyes ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fracture of limbs or bones of trunk ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fracture of hand or foot	12	3	10	2	1	...	23	5	28
Injuries to head or face	16	4	14	1	...	...	30	5	35
Lacerations, contusions, or other injuries not enumerated above	31	8	12	6	2	...	45	14	59
Total	210	42	129	38	10	4	349	84	433
Total for 8 months ended 31st August 1893	2838	471	1436	455	142	58	4416	984	5400

* The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 66.

POOR RATES.*—It appears from the Poor Rate returns for 1891-92 that the rate per head spent in poor relief in the 11 Poor Law Divisions was less than 4s. 6d. per annum in the Northern, York, and North-Western divisions, less than 5s. 6d. in the North and West Midland and Welsh divisions, less than 6s. 6d. in the South Midland, Eastern, South-Western, and South-Eastern divisions, and was 11s. 8½d. in the Metropolis. The lowest rate per head for expenditure on poor relief was 3s. 9½d., in the West Riding of Yorkshire. The highest rate per head of the Poor Rates raised was in London, where it amounted to 21s. 2½d. per head; the lowest was in Nottingham, where it was 5s. 11½d. It must, however, be remembered that all the expenditure which now devolves upon the County Council of London in connection with the main drainage of the Metropolis, Street Improvements and Embankments, etc., has to be provided for out of the Poor Rates.

* Local Taxation Returns, Part I., P.P. No. 312. [Price 11½d.]

PROPOSED FEDERATION OF TRADES' COUNCILS.

DURING the past month, important action has been taken by the London Trades' Council, with the view to a federation of the various Trades' Councils throughout the country on the basis of mutual support. A sub-committee of the London Council has been appointed, in order to gauge the feeling of the other Trades' Councils on this subject, and provided the replies received are sufficiently favourable to the principle (which alone is at present submitted for consideration) a detailed scheme will be drafted for future discussion. One of the main objects contemplated by the promoters of federation is to watch legal cases which affect Trade Unionists, and to assist to carry them when necessary into a Higher Court. Thus, for example, it is stated that the case of *Temperton v. Russell*, in which an appeal to the House of Lords is now pending, though arising out of a local dispute at Hull, raises points of wider importance, since some of the Unions have been advised that if the statement of the law by the Appeal Court is confirmed, they will be unable in future to enforce certain of their existing trade rules, some of which have been agreed to by Employers' Associations. Another object of the proposed federation is to be able at short notice to raise a central fund for the purpose of an important trade dispute. It is further held that the creation of such a central fund, or the assured ability to raise a fund when necessary, would tend to prevent disputes arising.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES, TRANSVAAL, AND ARGENTINE.

(Monthly Report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official reports, answers from correspondents, and newspapers, mostly dated July and August last.)

Canada.—It is too late in the year for emigrants without money—other than female servants—to start, unless they go to friends or to take up engagements.

New South Wales.—The proprietors of the Newcastle mines have resolved to reduce the hewing-rate from 3s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. a ton, to meet the reduced price of coal. A report from Cooma (257 miles south-west of Sydney) states: "I cannot recommend that any person without some capital be sent at present to this district. The supply of labour is more than sufficient, but I think that persons with from £500 upwards could invest in farm land with benefit to themselves." Between February 1892 and July 1893 about 23,000 persons had registered their names at the Government Labour Bureau, Sydney, of whom 10,000 had been sent up country.

Victoria.—Some of the unemployed have been given work at clearing land on the Government farm at Dookie. Their wages average 19s. 6d. a week, their board, &c. costing them 8s. 6d. The standard rate of wages for bakers has been reduced from £2 10s. to £2 5s. a week.

South Australia.—A recent report from Adelaide states: "There is no demand for mechanics, for farm or station hands, or for bakers." The owners of the Junction Smelting Works, near Adelaide, have given notice of a reduction of 1s. a day in wages. Some 100 of the unemployed have been set to reclaim land at 6s. per 8 hours, 4 hours constituting a day.

Queensland.—Reports from Brisbane state: (1) "No demand in the Building Trades and great distress exists at the present time"; (2) "there is no special demand for female servants, there is not much demand for farm or station hands, wages of mechanics have been reduced in their various trades." From Gilbert River (a mining district in the north): "In consequence of the bank suspensions work here is at a standstill, and numbers of men are out of employment." The Sugar Industry is decidedly prosperous, but the local supply of labour seems to be sufficient.

Tasmania.—The wages of miners at the silver fields at Zeehan, on the West Coast, have been reduced about 10 per cent.

New Zealand.—The following is a summary of the monthly Report of the Department of Labour at Wellington, dated 21st June last: At Auckland the Building Trade is falling off; the Iron Trade is still dull; the supply of unskilled labour is in excess of the demand, owing no doubt to the large number of arrivals from the other Australasian Colonies. At Gisborne unskilled labour is still plentiful. At Napier trade is very good; very few unemployed in town; country districts well supplied with labour. At Wellington, the Building Trade is still fairly good, but the supply of labour is greatly in excess of the demand; iron workers and flax millers are very dull; Boot Trade is beginning to fall off; well supplied with unskilled labour, many have been sent inland for bushfelling. At Christchurch there has been a great falling off in the Building Trade, carpenters, painters, bricklayers, and stonemasons being affected; a large number of men in the Engineering, Blacksmithing Trades, &c., and of general labourers, are out of employment.

At Dunedin the Building Trade is fairly busy; Engineering and Flour-milling Trades are very busy; bootmaking shows a slight falling-off; tailors and outfitters report a large increase of business as compared with April; stock and station agents report a marked improvement in business. At Invercargill the labour market is well supplied in all its branches. At Palmerston North a number of unskilled labourers are out of employment, several flaxmills having shut down in consequence of the wet weather and the low price of fibre. At Wanganui carpenters are very busy in the country, but not in the town; there is a good demand for steady station hands.

Cape Colony.—A report from Oudtshoorn (65 miles from Mossel Bay by road), states that there is no demand for female servants or farm hands; that carpenters, plumbers, &c., must be very good men to get work; and that men in the building line must not confine themselves to one branch of the trade only, as painting, paperhanging, &c. Another report from Cape Town states that many carpenters, joiners, &c., have already arrived from Australia and elsewhere to supply any demand that might arise.

Natal.—Reports state: "(1) Trade is bad all round. A few weavers have been wanted for the Woollen Factory at Newcastle; the number of bricklayers and carpenters is sufficient; clerks are a drug in the market. There are very few stone and marble masons, but they are fairly well engaged; house-painting is slack; bakers, waiters and shoemakers are mostly coolies; tailors get good wages, and there are not too many of them, but clothes are dear; engineers are mostly employed on the railway as there are but few private shops, several have been discharged. Glass works are wanted badly, and it would be a good opportunity for a few working men in that line to start a co-operative place; paper mills are also wanted." (2) "Printing trade is very dull."

South African Republic or Transvaal.—A report states: "The labour market is over-stocked with miners, engine-drivers, fitters, shop assistants, clerks, book-keepers and painters."

Argentine Republic.—Intending emigrants should read Mr. Gastrell's valuable report to the Foreign Office of 6th June last, which may be obtained through any bookseller, price 8½d.

LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad. The small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

FRANCE.

The monthly strike return compiled by the French Labour Department, and forwarded through the British Embassy at Paris, records 32 fresh strikes as having occurred in July; the numbers for April, May and June respectively being 87, 80 and 53.

Disputes were most frequent in the Textile Industries, the number reported being 9, of which 5 were among weavers, 2 spinners, and 2 dyers and finishers.

There were 6 strikes in the Building Trades, 5 among miners and metal workers, 2 in the clothing, and 2 in the Fur and Leather Working Trades. The remaining 8 strikes occurred in various miscellaneous trades.

Franco-Italian Labour Disturbances.—The serious riots which broke out among the French and Italian salt workers at Aigues-Mortes on the coast of the Mediterranean on August 17th, as well as the demonstrations at Nancy and its neighbourhood on the 23rd and subsequent days, are indications of the feeling against the competition of aliens which has been growing for some time in parts of France. French workmen, it is alleged, are at a disadvantage as compared with foreigners, and especially Italians and Belgians, because they must pay taxes and suffer enforced idleness for 28 days in the year while undergoing military training, while the foreigner is both free from military service and often accepts lower wages. The Italian, if married, generally leaves his wife and family at home, and comes to France, where he spends very little beyond the bare cost of necessities. In this way a sum of money is accumulated which he takes back to his own country. With a view to checking to some extent the immigration of foreign workpeople, a law was recently passed providing for the registration of foreigners. (See LABOUR GAZETTE for August). Statistics just published by the French Labour Department show the number of aliens residing in France in 1891 to have been 1,130,211, or 3 per cent. of the population, as compared with 379,289, or 1.06 per cent in 1851. Most of the aliens are Belgians, viz., 465,860, after whom come the Italians with 286,042. Of the total number of aliens 131,347 are employers, 53,119 being either engaged in agriculture or industry. The number of foreign workpeople is said to have been 339,217, the proportion of men being

more than three times that of the women, and two-thirds of the whole being engaged in trade and industry. The *Journal des Débats* states that the number of Frenchmen who have availed themselves of the work vacated by nearly 1,000 Italians in consequence of the Aigues-Mortes riots is very small. This is said to be due to the unhealthy nature of the work.

Closing of the Paris Labour Exchange.—At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Labour Exchange and the managers of the irregularly constituted trades unions, held on August 14th, it was decided to appeal against the sentence pronounced against them.

GERMANY.

Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, reports under date of September 1st, that no changes took place in the leading branches of industry throughout the country during August.

The strike of furriers in Berlin is said to have ended early in August, terms having been agreed to by 50 employers in the fur coat branch, with 135 men and 250 women, and by 35 employers with 170 workpeople in the cap making branch; 21 hands were still out, and in receipt of strike pay from the employer.

The paper-hangers have held a meeting to consider the desirability of taking steps in the autumn for obtaining the eight hour shift.

A strike of joiners took place early in August at Geestmünde, owing, as alleged, to the paying off of two of the men who had negotiated with the master as to the reduction of working hours.

A general meeting of the German Union of Miners and Metal Workers took place on August 20th, at which 80 delegates were present. The chairman reported the result of his propagandist journey through Silesia and Saxony, and complained of the frequent objection of colliery agents to employ members of unions.

Encouragement of thrift in a Factory.—The chemical works in Lesum, district Blumenthal, established in 1889 a savings-bank system for their employees, under which each workman pays in at least one shilling weekly, which is deducted from his wages, and to which the factory adds a shilling. The money can only be drawn for the purpose of building or altering dwelling-houses, reducing mortgages on the same, for the outfit of children, or in cases of severe illness or death. The factory employs 17 persons, who have saved, in 2½ years, £425, including £160 from the factory. For building and improvement of dwellings £217 have been withdrawn. The staff, though small, is said to be carefully selected.

Stuttgart Municipal Labour Registry.—Mr. Victor Drummond, H.M. Minister at Munich, under date of August 10th, reports that the Municipality of Stuttgart have matured a scheme for establishing a Labour Bureau at the cost of the city. It will consist of separate departments for men and women, and will be controlled by a commission of 15 members presided over by the judge of the Commercial Court. Employment will be procured gratis. The working expenses are estimated at about £250 a year. Applicants for work will be referred to the Bureau, and if no vacancies exist, a certain number of people will be employed by the city. Assistance will not be given by the Poor Relief Authorities unless the departments of the city have no work to give.

TRADE MOVEMENTS.* Berlin.—The master bakers of Berlin decline to adopt the union label proposed by the men. The label is intended to show that the articles to which it is affixed have been produced under conditions considered fair by the Bakers' Union, and to be used as a means for redressing grievances where strikes are likely to fail. The felt-shoe makers of the capital have also decided to use it. A movement is in progress among the plasterers, painters and potters of Berlin, supported by the masons, against working in new buildings in which the windows are not glazed, or which are heated by coke basket grates. They have decided not to work in such buildings after October 1st.

Provinces.—Strikes of wood and bone turners in Barmen, of joiners in Hirschberg (Silesia), and of navvies at Oberöbblingen in Prussian Saxony, all on questions of wages, are also reported. A strike of

* The information as to trade movements is based on reports published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*. The other paragraphs are based on reports published in the *Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt*.

100 female spinning operatives in Mülhausen, province Alsace, in consequence of the too rapid working of the machinery, has concluded unfavourably for the operatives, all of whom have been dismissed (see last month's GAZETTE). The basket makers of Hamburg and Altona have been on strike since July 10th. No settlement has yet been arrived at. A strike in the same trade in Dresden, which commenced in May, was concluded in August, the result being unfavourable to the strikers. The stone-cutters at a Dresden establishment having struck, the Dresden and Pirna employers replied by a general lock-out, which affected 1,000 workmen. Work has, however, now been resumed on the old terms. The journeymen blacksmiths in Leipzig have asked for a 10-hour instead of an 11-hour day. The workers at a brewery in Plauen, near Dresden, are on strike in defence of the right of combination. A strike against reduced wages is in progress at Zeulenroda (Reuss-Greiz) affecting 200 female and 500 male operatives.

Condition of Workers in the Porcelain Industry.—The conditions of work in the Porcelain Industry were discussed at a recent meeting of the German Society for Public Hygiene. The average length of the life of porcelain workers was said to be 41 years, and in the State establishments, where the conditions of work are somewhat better, 43 years. For those engaged in turning porcelain the average is 38, and for the painters 36 years. Out of 100 workmen 40 were suffering from some lung complaint. Out of 3,066 cases of sickness 31 per cent. affected the respiratory organs (of these 54 per cent. were tuberculosis), and 16 per cent. affected the digestive organs. The low averages of life are said to be due to want of attention to hygiene in the works and to an insufficiency of food. The average wages among 386 male workers were about 18s. 5d. a week; working hours vary from 8 to 14, but the average for Germany is about 10. To raise the standard of health, various recommendations were made, including ventilators for carrying off the dust, the wearing of respirators by the work people, and the improvement of wages.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Vienna, reports under date of September 3rd, that a movement for an advance in wages was on foot amongst the Vienna shoemakers during August. An advance of 15 to 20 per cent. in wages was asked and acceded to, at first by three large firms, and afterwards by other large employers, without a strike. General strikes have taken place among the Vienna stone-cutters who demand an eight-hour day without reduction of wages, and the recognition of the workmen's delegates by the employers. Two hundred establishments joined the movement, and in 40 of these the demands were conceded; in the remainder 600 to 800 men went on strike, of whom only 350 still remain out. The tanners demand a 10-hour day, rest on Sundays, 10 to 20 per cent. increase of wages, and the abolition of overtime. The movement is extending.

In Vienna other disputes are in progress affecting 26 workmen in a lamp factory, 190 in a petroleum refinery, and 23 in a pen factory. In connection with the dispute at the petroleum refinery, somewhat serious riots occurred, but the workmen in general disavowed any connection with them. Disputes have also arisen in an engineering establishment, concerning the dismissal of a foreman, and the re-instatement of dismissed workmen; in several stone and pottery works, and in two leather factories, owing to wage disagreements.

At Bielitz-Biala differences have arisen among the carpenters regarding a rise in wages and the hours of labour. Meetings of workmen employed in various branches of trades connected with foods, drinks, &c., have taken place; they were largely attended and resolutions in favour of a 10-hour day in the larger trades, and the 8-hour shift system, weekly holidays, restriction in the employment of apprentices, control of insanitary workshops, and suppression of the system of board and lodging with employers, were carried.

ITALY.

The Hon. H. G. Edwardes, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, reports under date of August 28th that a strike of cabdrivers has been in progress in that city for the past week, their grievance being that the omnibus companies now run their vehicles till midnight, which is alleged to be contrary to their charters.

A somewhat similar movement has taken place at Naples, and some disturbances have occurred, which may in part be attributed to the strike and in part to the demonstrations connected with the Franco-Italian disturbances at Aigues-Mortes.

At Rome the labour market is stated to be in a very depressed condition, the general want of capital and the cessation of building enterprise having thrown large numbers of persons out of employment. Distress has been especially prevalent amongst the artisans; and many workmen of this class (builders, &c.) have been forced to labour in the vineyards, though it is generally very distasteful to Italians who have once accustomed themselves to town life to return to agricultural pursuits.

Truck System in the Italian Furniture Industry.—Some details are supplied by the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Milan regarding the workmen engaged in furniture-making in that district. The province contains no less than 10,000 workmen engaged in making furniture, chiefly the very cheap kinds for ordinary use. The great sub-division of the work combined with long practice and technical schools have made the people very skilful and rapid in the execution of the work. It is principally done by cottagers, with whom the manufacturers enter into contracts for long periods, and whom they supply with the necessary material and tools, as well as with wheat and maize flour, fat bacon, and rice. The value of this food does not exceed 70 lire (about £2 16s.) per annum, but the workpeople are charged retail prices, although the manufacturers buy wholesale.

BELGIUM.

Sir F. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels, under date of August 30th, reports that the introduction of the four-loom system, which has long been a subject of controversy between the Ghent manufacturers and their weavers, has just received a partial solution by the acceptance in great part of the operatives' demands by one of the largest manufacturing companies of the town and of Belgium. The chief condition of the agreement is that there shall be a minimum wage of 24 francs for 60 hours of labour per week. Other Ghent manufacturers will probably follow the example of this company, and the opposition of the operatives will cease, especially when some understanding has been arrived at respecting the two following propositions put forward by the weavers' syndicates: (1) No weaver to be dismissed on account of the four-loom system. (2) No old weaver, continuing to work two looms only, to have his wages reduced.

At Alost a firm of flax spinners has stopped work, throwing 400 hands out of employment, including 250 women and girls. This failure is partly attributed to the heavy entry duty in Germany on Belgian yarns.

At Grammont a strike was threatened in a lucifer match factory owing to the dismissal of two of the hands; the dismissal was, however, maintained, and the remaining hands returned to work. The newspapers continue their appeal to Belgians to use none but matches of Belgian manufacture, and thus cripple the competition of German matches.

Miners.—The Belgian National Miners' Federation issued, on the 15th inst., a manifesto, calling attention to the position of affairs in the English mining districts, and to the alleged intention of English coal merchants to import coal from Belgian mines, and declaring that it was the duty of every Belgian miner to prevent the despatch of Belgian coal to England. With this object in view they should demand an increase in wages proportionate to the increased price of the coal, and if this demand should not be conceded they should refuse to work. The manifesto wound up by calling upon dock labourers, stokers, engineers, &c., to refuse to work if any attempt were made to despatch coal to England from Belgian ports. On the 24th inst., a further manifesto was issued by the Miners' Federation advising the men to demand an increase of 10 per cent. on their wages, and to work under such conditions only as cannot be disadvantageous to their English comrades now on strike. Meanwhile, owing to the strike in England, the Borinage Collieries are increasing their production, many pits which had been provisionally closed for the off-season

either having been opened, or being about to be re-open with a view to exportation. The greatest activity also prevails in the collieries round Charleroi owing to the English strike, and some of the mine owners have been unable to obtain sufficient waggons from the State railways for the transport of their products. Indeed, the increase in mining activity may be said to be general throughout the country from the same cause.

A strike broke out about the 15th August in the stone quarries of Anthines owing to the dismissal of one of the men in consequence of his active propaganda as the president of the Syndicate of Quarrymen.

Strikes.—The colliers' dispute at Wasmes, against deductions from wages for a provident society, reported in last month's GAZETTE, has concluded, the directors undertaking to consider a revision of the society's constitution. Minor disputes are reported in Basècles, where the stonecutters employed in the quarries demand a new price list, and are said to receive 1s. 5d. a day strike pay from their union; and in La Prèlle near Liège, where the colliers refuse to work extra time in clearing the galleries without extra pay. Disputes of short duration also took place at a hatmaking works in Cureghem against a 40 per cent. reduction in the piece-work rate, work being resumed after five days, as the reduction was not maintained.—*Le Peuple.*

HOLLAND.

Sir H. Rumbold, H.M. Minister at The Hague, reports under date of 28th August as follows:—

Want of Employment.—The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the Queen's Commissioners in the Provinces instructing them personally to inquire into the "want of employment" existing in their respective jurisdictions, and to report on the prospects of work for the coming winter. The inquiry is to be conducted independently of the Burgomasters, the object being, no doubt, to ensure the receipt of more detailed reports than could be obtained through the ordinary official channels.

Wages and Working Hours.—The Central Committee of the General Union of Netherlands Carpenters have made an application to the Provincial States of North Holland, asking them to adopt rules and regulations, fixing a minimum wage and a maximum work time.

Workmen's Organisations.—Certain builders' associations at Amsterdam have determined on the appointment of a Labour Council. Various other bodies connected with the Building Trade, such as the Amsterdam branches of painters', furniture makers', bricklayers', carpenters' and metal-workers' associations, support the experiment which is to be made, in the first instance, in the interests of the Building Trade. The object of the Council is to promote the interests of all persons engaged in the Building Trade, resident at Amsterdam or in the neighbouring Communes, and to remedy prevailing defects existing in the trade by—

(a.) Removing such causes of difference as are considered by the Council to exist between the different categories of persons engaged in the Building Trade in Amsterdam or the neighbourhood.

(b.) Giving advice, asked or unasked, in matters or circumstances affecting the trade, and by suggesting the means of regulating or solving such questions.

The Council is to consist of twelve members, half masters, half men, with a chairman belonging to neither category, and a secretary-treasurer.

SWEDEN.

A report, dated August 25th, from H.M. Legation at Stockholm states that on July 31st a strike for an increase of 30 per cent. in wages broke out at Malmö and the neighbouring towns of Lund, Helsingborg and Halmstadt in the Glove-making Trade. About 130 persons went out, including all the men employed and the women cutters, but not the sewers and dyers. The strikers received strike pay from the German and Belgian Glove-makers' Trade Unions. Each married man got per week 11s. and 13d. for each child; unmarried strikers received 8s. 8d. per week. Fifteen of the chief employers in South-west Sweden offered a general increase of 2 öre (one farthing) per pair of gloves, and on August 16th the strike ended by a compromise.

At Malmö the furniture makers are asking for the abolition of contract work, and for the raising of the minimum weekly wage to 19s.

At Stockholm also there is a movement in the Furniture Trade, among the Upholsterers, on a question of pay and hours of labour. The men have proposed certain conditions to hold good for one year; and 16 employers out of 35 have agreed to them, but negotiations are not yet concluded.

At Gothenburg the masons' strike has been in progress for twelve weeks. On August 1st a meeting of the men took place, and 150 of them voted for the continuance of the strike against 14 for its conclusion. The employers have got back a good many men, but these have sometimes to be protected by the police on going home from their work.

At Stockholm, the strike of shoemakers, which has been in progress since last spring, has now ended, the men returning to work at the old wages. On July 19th, a shoemaker here who had taken work from one of the employers struck against was so badly beaten that he died on August 3rd.

In connection with the great strike at the Norberg Silver Mine in 1891, great disturbances took place, and the Supreme Court has now finally condemned one of the agitators to four months, and another to three months' hard labour. The new Law of June 1893 makes the prosecution of such men easier, as the Public Prosecutor can now take action against any person who forces another to take part in a strike, or prevents him from returning to work. Formerly the direct sufferer had to take steps himself, with the result that he was sometimes frightened into not prosecuting.

The "Society for Families in need of Help" has recently opened, by permission of the authorities, a "Work and Commission Bureau;" 1s. 7d. is to be paid by each man, and 1s. 1d. by each woman, on becoming members. One penny is to be paid for casual work (up to three days) obtained through the Bureau, and three pence for permanent employment thus obtained.

RUSSIA.

Employers' Liability in Finland.—A special commission appointed in November 1889 has submitted a scheme for amending the existing law as to the liability of employers in cases of accident to workpeople. The preamble states this to be necessary owing to the deficiency of the existing law on the subject and the large proportion of accidents which occur, entailing death or disablement, and arising out of the great development of Finnish industry. The latest statistics show that there are 3,267 industrial establishments in Finland, employing 44,933 persons. Of these establishments 1,889 are devoted to manufacturing industries. Of 953 accidents recorded in one year 63 were fatal, and 155 resulted in injury.

The scheme proposes that in the case of accidents for which the employer is held responsible, any workman who is incapacitated for more than six days shall be paid his medical expenses (not exceeding 100 marks, or about £4), and after the seventh day 60 per cent. of his average daily wage shall also be paid to him daily. In the case of permanent disablement the workman is to receive a pension at the rate of half his yearly wages; but this must not exceed £15, or be less than £7 10s. In case of death the employer must pay 5 per cent. of the yearly wages for burial expenses, and pensions equal to 20 per cent. of the same to the widow, and 10 per cent. (or 20 per cent. if motherless) to each child up to its fifteenth year. The united pensions of the widow and children must not exceed 40 per cent. of the yearly earnings of the deceased workman, the maximum of such earnings being reckoned at about £30. Sums accruing from an insurance or pension fund will be deducted from the employer's liability.—*Viestnik Finansoff.*

UNITED STATES.

Mr. Charles Clipperton, H.M. Acting Consul at Philadelphia, reports under date of August 28th that the trade depression, prevalent in practically all industries, is gradually affecting labourers and mechanics to a serious extent; and, although financiers appear hopeful of the future, no marked alleviation of the distress is yet visible. The scarcity of currency, partially caused by the private hoarding of coin by panic-stricken individuals during the existing financial stringency, has caused many firms to attempt to

pay wages in scrip of various kinds in preference to suspending their works; but considerable difficulty is experienced in putting this plan into successful operation. The tendency, noted in last month's GAZETTE, to discontinue the employment of foreigners while native-born Americans are out of work is resulting in many foreigners returning to their homes, especially Italians and Poles, who have hitherto formed the cheapest class of labour employed here. Such Europeans, despairing of finding work here during the coming winter, find it cheaper to return home, where living is less expensive. Many persons of all nationalities are endeavouring to enlist in the army, and the applications are unprecedented in number. The monotonous succession of shut downs and reductions in wages has gone on steadily during the past month, while the employees have in most cases preferred to accept reductions rather than attempt a strike at a time so unfavourable to their chance of success.

Working Hours in Brick-Yards.—Mr. Booker, H.M. Consul-General at New York, under date of August 28th, transmits copies of a law passed by the New York Senate and Assembly, and approved by the Governor on May 11th, fixing the hours of labour in brick-yards owned or worked by corporations at 10, excluding meal times, and forbidding the commencement of work before seven in the morning.

Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of August 21st, reports that owing to the financial disturbance which has ranged over the whole of this district during the last month, the labour market has been in a depressed condition, and in all quarters there is a scarcity of work and a surplus of hands. The position, already sufficiently trying owing to the failure of banks and other establishments entailing the discharge of many employees, has been accentuated by the closing of silver mines in Colorado and other parts of the West, which has thrown thousands of miners out of employ. Many of these idle hands have flocked to the towns at a time when they are overflowing with men for whom there is no employment, so many important enterprises having reduced their staff on account of the money stringency. This stringency is attributed to various causes, including uncertainty on the tariff question, the question of the repeal of the Sherman law, shortage of money *per capita*, and the withdrawal of money from circulation.

With regard to Chicago, even had there been no stringency in the money market, still there would have been a surplus of labourers. The gradual completion of work at the exhibition, or of structures connected with it, left, it is said, 40,000 idle men on the market, which was already overburdened with an equal or greater number of hands out of work, and there are now in the city a very large number of workmen in search of employment. The number appears to be still on the increase by fresh arrivals almost daily from the mining districts of the West, and unless a substantial improvement in the financial aspect takes place, the stability of the labour market will be for a long time menaced. Much distress seems likely to prevail during the autumn and winter. Since the Exposition works were commenced two years ago or more, the supply of labour has constantly exceeded the demand. The influx of seekers for employment of every description has been all along in excess of the work to be obtained; and though very high wages were paid for skilled labour during the rush to complete the work at Jackson Park by the date fixed for the opening of the Exhibition, many could not procure constant or remunerative employment. The industries of the city have no doubt greatly increased, but never in a ratio proportionate to the influx of work seekers. Wages are therefore on the decline, and reduction in rates seems the rule of the market. Hotels, which were forced to pay high wages in anticipation of the large profits expected to be derived from visitors, have reduced the rate. At one hotel the employees have lately struck on a reduction of their wages from 45 dols. to 30 dols. per month, while for the first six weeks from the opening of the Exhibition they were in receipt of 60 dols. per

month. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and the Eastern Illinois Railroad Companies have given notice of a reduction of 10 per cent. in wages, and the Missouri Pacific Company of a reduction on salaries of over 100 dols. a month. On the Northern Pacific system the reduction notified varies from 30 to 15 per cent. The working force of the Union Pacific, Illinois Central, and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas lines, and of the Great Northern system in Minnesota, has been reduced to a minimum. It does not seem likely that there will be any great strike in consequence of these reductions, as there are so many men idle, and traffic may shortly improve. Several manufacturing enterprises have reduced the number of their employees or the rate of wages, and this condition has extended beyond the city. One large watch company has discharged 1,500 men, or half its staff. A woodenware company and the Chair Company of Milwaukee have closed down, one firm throwing 900 and the other 400 men out of employ. There are few towns in this district which have not suffered from the tightness in the money market, and, in addition to their own unemployed, they are burdened with miners from the West. These miners have also been a burden to many farmers, and a trouble to the railway companies which have been forced to convey them East; and in many cities there are numbers seeking employment or transportation elsewhere.

Though many banks and enterprises may resume operations, and confidence be re-established, it will be a long time before the surplus labour now existing over the whole of this district can be absorbed. So many have come here under false ideas that it seems necessary to warn those who may imagine that labour is easily obtained in these parts, and that because wages are high they can benefit their position by leaving their work in Great Britain, that it is not a time to bring their labour to an overcrowded market. Societies and resources to meet the present condition are not organised to the same extent as in Europe, and the position of the workman, whose health may from any cause have given way, is a hard one; even if he be able and strong he may be a long time in obtaining constant or remunerative employment, and even then the increased rate of pay does not realise expectations, or enable him to make the savings he might imagine. The World's Fair has attracted numbers from all parts of the world, where labour is cheaper than in Great Britain, and the range of competition is now much wider than formerly.

Condition at Denver.—Stagnation and distress prevail in the silver mining districts of the West from the closing of mines. Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Pearce writes on the 15th August on the effect of the panic on labour in Colorado as follows:—

"The recent heavy fall in the price of silver has been followed by the closing down of a majority of the silver mines of this State, and the discharge of the miners employed in them. This sudden stoppage of Colorado's principal industry has affected the other industries dependent on it; amongst which may be mentioned, smelting works, manufactories of machinery, coal mining, and railroads, whose revenue is very largely dependent on the mines, and the prosperity of the mining towns. Those which have not suspended operations altogether have been compelled to reduce their working forces to such an extent as to greatly swell the army of unemployed men at present in the State.

"These men have been pouring into Denver during the last three weeks (the number being estimated at 8,000) for the purpose of leaving the State over the different railroads centering in the city. Such a condition of affairs was never before known in this locality, and the problem of dealing with these unemployed men, many of whom are absolutely destitute, has been rather a difficult one. Various methods of relief have been devised, and amongst them the organisation of a "Relief Camp" under the management and control of a department of the State Militia, and in this camp from 400 to 700 men have found shelter in tents, and have been given two meals a day for several days.

"The different railroads running to Eastern points have been compelled, for the protection of their property, to carry a great many men in freight cars, free of charge, to the agricultural districts of Kansas and Nebraska, and it is estimated that 6,000 men have availed themselves of this means of getting away to some point where they could get work.

"In a great many cases where mines and smelting works have attempted to keep in operation by reducing wages, they have, with few exceptions, been unable to make any satisfactory terms with their men, so strong is their allegiance to the principles of the Miners' Union and kindred labour organisations. Miners have up to the present time been paid 3.50 dols. per day, but in those few cases where they have consented to a reduction they are paid 2.50 dols. per day. Mechanics are taking what they can get, and the Labour Commissioner informs me that he knows Union carpenters working for 1.50 dols. per day instead of 2.50 dols., which they formerly commanded. There is little or no demand for common labour anywhere in the State, and it is estimated that there are over 50,000 persons out of employment."

Strike of Miners in Kansas.—The strike at the coal mines in Kansas referred to last month extended to about 10,000 men. The coloured labour which was imported caused trouble, and disturbances occurred which seem to have centered at Weir City, where stockades were erected for the protection of imported labour. The strike extended to some parts of the neighbouring State of Missouri; 400 coal miners at Ardmore, Macon County, and 1,200 miners in Ray County struck in sympathy with the Kansas men. Want and hunger, however, have sorely tried the strikers, and the rush of idle miners from Colorado has enabled owners to withstand their demands. At Leavenworth work has already been resumed, and at Pittsburg, Kansas, an arrangement has been made on a basis of 50 cents per ton with a certain premium for additional work.

LABOUR COMMISSION REPORT ON HOLLAND.*

The Royal Commission on Labour has published a report drawn up by the secretary on the labour question in Holland, after his mission to that country. The report, which is divided into three sections, on trade disputes, conditions of labour in certain special industries, and certain special subjects, is constructed on the same plan as the two previous volumes on the United States and the Colonies. An account is given of the Socialist movement, and use has been made of the information contained in the twenty folio volumes published by the Dutch Royal Commission, which was appointed in 1890 and published its first divisional report in August 1893. Special details are given in the report with regard to strikes, their development, organisation and conduct, and the means adopted for their prevention and settlement, and with regard to wages, hours, and the conditions of labour in the Mining, Transport, Textile, and miscellaneous Industries. Special sections are devoted to co-operation, profit-sharing, friendly societies, provision for the unemployed, elementary and technical education, and workmen's dwellings.

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