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STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE.

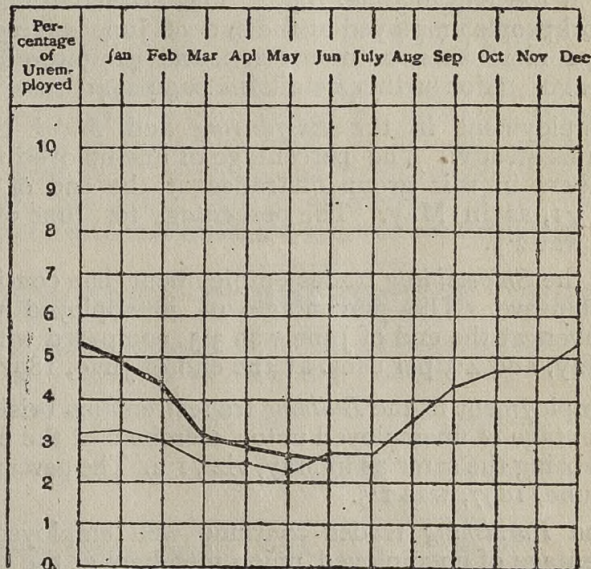
[Based on 2,389 returns, viz.: 1,715 from Employers, 556 from Trade Unions, and 118 from other sources.]

ON the whole, employment has slightly improved during June, except in the case of industries affected by the continued stoppage in the South Wales coal trade.

In the 116 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 465,143, 12,068 (or 2·6 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of June, compared with 2·7 per cent. at the end of May, and with 2·7 per cent. in the 113 unions, with a membership of 464,126 from which returns were received for June, 1897.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1897 and 1898. [The thick line applies to 1898, the thin line to 1897.]



The table below classifies the membership of the 116 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of June, 1898.		Corresponding Percentages for		
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Number.	Percentage.		
Under 1 per cent.	31	150,009	32·3	38·6	35·2
1 and under 2 per cent.	16	46,679	10·0	7·5	26·1
2 " 3 " "	25	53,568	11·5	6·5	3·7
3 " 5 " "	20	165,730	35·6	36·2	15·4
5 " 7 " "	7	30,025	6·5	8·2	14·6
7 " 10 " "	6	7,654	1·6	1·6	3·1
10 per cent. and upwards	11	11,478	2·5	1·4	1·9
Total	116	465,143	100·0	100·0	100·0

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.
—Employment in South Wales and Monmouthshire continues to be greatly affected by the coal dispute.

In other districts employment is better than a year ago. Excluding South Wales and Monmouthshire, returns relating to 1,147 pits, employing 369,566 workpeople, show that an average of 4.95 days per week was worked in the four weeks ended June 25th, as compared with 4.73 days a year ago. (For further details see page 203.)

Iron Mining.—Employment shows no appreciable change in June, 1898, as compared with June, 1897. At mines employing 17,105 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the mines during the four weeks ended June 25th was 5.68, as compared with 5.72 days per week in June, 1897. (For further details see page 203.)

Pig Iron Industry.—Returns relating to the works of 109 ironmasters show that at these works 345 furnaces were in blast at the end of June, being the same number as at the end of May, and 2 less than at the end of June, 1897. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces is estimated at 22,615, or 41 more than in May, and 485 more than a year ago. Outside South Wales and Monmouthshire, where many furnaces are idle owing to the coal dispute, the number of furnaces in blast shows an increase of 10 as compared with a year ago. (For further details see page 204.)

Employment in the **Iron and Steel Industries** shows little change. The number employed at the works of 211 employers at the end of June was 77,339, or 132 more than at the end of May. The average number of shifts worked, however, so far as shown by the returns, was 5.49 in the last week of June, as compared with 5.59 in the last week of May. (For further details see page 204.)

Timplate Trade.—Employment is somewhat affected by the dispute in the South Wales coal industry. The number of mills in operation at the end of June was 304, being 2 less than at the end of May, but 13 more than at the end of June, 1897. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the end of June was 15,865, or 151 more than a month ago, and 314 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 204.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades remains steady. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of June was 3.1, as in May. The percentage for June of last year was 2.3.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has continued to improve. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of June was 3.3, compared with 3.7 in May, and 4.5 per cent. at the end of June, 1897.

Employment in the **Building** trades remains brisk, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of June being the same as in May, viz., 1.2. The percentage for June, 1897, was 1.5.

The **Furnishing** trades continue well employed, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of June being 1.3, compared with 1.0 in May and 1.5 per cent. in June of last year.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades, though scarcely so good in London, is fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of June was 3.8, compared with 3.6 in May and 4.4 per cent. in June, 1897.

In the **Paper** trade employment remains fair, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of June being 3.3, compared with 3.2 in May and 2.7 per cent. in June of last year.

In the **Glass** trade the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of June was 10.2, compared with 10.6 in May and 11.4 per cent. at the end of June, 1897.

Employment in the **Leather** trades is not so good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of June was 4.7, compared with 3.7 in May and 3.0 per cent. in June of last year.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Boot** and

Shoe trade is good; in the ready made branch it is slack in nearly every centre.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade, although good, shows a decline; in the ready-made branch it continues fair on the whole, but is declining.

In the **Cotton** trade employment is fairly good in the **Spinning** and **Weaving** branches, and has improved in the former branch.

Employment in the **Worsted** trade, although still only moderate, has improved. Employment in the **Woollen** trade continues fair on the whole, and is not so slack in the heavy branches; in Scotland it has declined. In the **Hosiery** trade employment shows a further improvement, and is moderate.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 500 mills employing 82,500 women and girls shows that 78 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 75 per cent. in May, and 71 per cent. in June, 1897. (For further details see page 207.)

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment was, on the whole, worse in June than in May, and showed a marked falling off as compared with a year ago. The daily average number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves was 13,595 in June, 14,163 in May, and 15,164 in June, 1897. (For further details see page 206.)

Agricultural labourers were generally fully employed during the month of June at hay harvest and hoeing. In many districts employers found it very difficult to get sufficient men to harvest the hay crop, which is a heavy one. (For further details see page 205.)

Trade Disputes.—Forty-nine fresh disputes occurred in June, 1898, involving 12,087 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes for May was 56, involving 9,718 workpeople, and for June, 1897, 44 disputes, involving 13,291 workpeople. Thirteen disputes took place in the building trades, 14 in mining and quarrying, 6 in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 8 in the textile trades, 4 in the clothing trades, and 4 in other industries. Of the 45 new and old disputes, involving 6,321 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 19, involving 2,951 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 1,814 persons, in favour of the employers; and 17, involving 1,556 persons, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 220.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of about 42,000 workpeople were reported during June, of which number 36,000 received advances, and 6,000 sustained decreases. The increases were mainly in the building trades (10,103), and the engineering and shipbuilding trades (22,285). The net result was an increase estimated at about 1s. 2½d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. Changes affecting 1,250 workpeople, or 3 per cent. of the total number were preceded by strikes, arbitration being the mode of settlement in two of these cases affecting 725 workpeople. Changes affecting about 7,700 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales. The other changes, affecting about 33,050 workpeople, were brought about by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives. (For further details see page 216.)

Pauperism.—In the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom, 326,697 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of June. This number corresponds to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, or 5 per 10,000 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 223.)

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during June was 10,437 as compared with 10,200 in June, 1897. (For further details see page 222.)

OLD AGE PENSION SCHEMES.

THE Report of the Committee on Old Age Pensions* appointed by the Treasury on July 21st, 1896, has just been issued. The reference to the Committee was as follows:—

To consider any schemes that may be submitted to them for encouraging the industrial population, by State aid or otherwise, to make provision for old age; and to report whether they can recommend the adoption of any proposals of the kind, either based upon, or independent of, such schemes; with special regard in the case of any proposals of which they may approve, to their cost and probable financial results to the Exchequer and to local rates; their effect in promoting habits of thrift and self-reliance; their influence on the prosperity of the Friendly Societies; and the possibility of securing the co-operation of these institutions in their practical working."

The Committee availed themselves of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Aged Poor and the evidence taken by that Commission. They also examined fourteen witnesses, and considered over 100 schemes submitted to them, in addition to a scheme (referred to as "Scheme A") prepared by a member of the Committee.

These schemes the Committee classify as follows:—

1. Schemes involving compulsory contribution towards a pension fund, either by way of the German method of deduction by employers from wages paid by them, assisted by a contribution levied from the employers, or by way of an annual, or a lump, payment made by all young persons before a certain age, and accumulated at compound interest until the pension age.

2. Schemes providing a universal grant of pensions to all persons upon attaining a certain age, without requiring from them any direct contribution, or examining their merits and their needs. Various modifications were suggested, chiefly with the object of fixing the income above which there should be no grant.

3. Schemes providing special facilities and encouragement to voluntary insurance against old age, with material assistance from the State.

4. Schemes providing State aid towards old-age pensions for members of Friendly Societies only. Some of these proposed that members of Friendly Societies, as such, should, on arriving at a certain age, receive pensions from the public funds. Others proposed that pensioners should receive part of their pension from their society, and the rest from public funds.

The Committee considered that their terms of reference precluded them from recommending any scheme "(1) based on compulsion, as contrasted with encouragement; (2) confined to members of Friendly Societies or other cognate organisations as distinguished from the industrial population generally; (3) requiring no provision by the pensioners."

Accordingly, schemes enumerated in groups 1 and 2 were excluded, though for various reasons special inquiry was made into some of the schemes in the fourth group.

The schemes in the third group aiming at the encouragement by State aid of voluntary assurance against old age fell within the scope of the reference, and the most important and most typical of these schemes are examined in detail in the Report. The result of this examination, as well as of the inquiry into schemes submitted by or in connection with Friendly Societies, is the conclusion that there is not one of them, whatever its particular merits, which would not ultimately injure, rather than serve, the best interests of the industrial population.

The Committee also found that the greater number of the schemes are open to much objection on the ground that they would be of no advantage to the industrial population for a long period of years, and that they would involve the accumulation of great funds in the hands of the State to provide for distant and uncertain liabilities.

The Committee, however, were not limited to the task of approving or rejecting schemes submitted to them, and proceeded to consider "Scheme A," of which the final shape, as developed and modified in discussion, was as follows:—

(1) Any person, who, on attaining the age of 65, possesses an assured income of 2s. 6d., and not more than 5s. a week, may apply to the pensioning authority for a pension.

(2) It shall be the duty of the pensioning authority, unless it has reason to believe that the assured income of the applicant is either less than the smaller or more than the larger of these sums, to grant the applicant a pension if eligible.

(3) A person shall not be eligible for a pension who requires,

in the opinion of the pensioning authority, from his physical or mental infirmity, relief in an asylum, infirmary, or as inmate of a workhouse.

(4) A person to whom a pension may be granted shall receive the following sums from the pensioning authority:—
If his income be 2s. 6d., and less than 3s., an additional 2s. 6d. a week.

If his income be 3s., and less than 4s., an additional 2s. a week.
If his income be 4s., and less than 5s., an additional 1s. a week.

(5) "Assured income" means an income derived from one of the following securities:—

(a) Real estate.

(b) Leasehold property, the unexpired term of the lease being not less than 30 years.

(c) Any security in which trustees are authorised to invest either by statute, or by an order of the Court of Chancery.

(d) Any annuity purchased from the National Debt Commissioners, or through the Post Office, or from a registered Friendly Society, or from an insurance office.

(e) Or any other security from time to time approved by the Treasury.

No allowance of outdoor relief from the rates shall be "assured income."

(6) Subject to certain observations in the Report, the Poor Law Guardians of the district in which the pensioner resides shall be the pensioning authority.

(7) The pensions shall be payable from the local rates, and a proportion of not more than one-half of the cost shall be made good by the State.

(8) The receipt of a State-aided old-age pension shall not involve the forfeiture of any civil rights.

After a detailed discussion of "Scheme A," the Committee conclude that within the limits marked out by their reference, they have not received, and they are unable to construct, any scheme less open to objection, but they state their opinion that it is not free from objections. It (1) imposes on the State generally, and therefore on the industrial classes, a heavy charge for providing pensions for a portion only of these classes; (2) encourages that amount of thrift only which is required to ensure an income of 2s. 6d. a week at 65, but discourages any further thrift; and (3) by relieving the industrial poor from the obligation of wholly providing for their old age probably tends to depress the wage rate. But, on the other hand, (1) it is capable of being brought into immediate operation, at any rate to some extent; (2) it leaves the industrial classes free to save in their own way; (3) it requires no difficult investment of accumulated funds by the State; (4) it offers the public aid to all persons of the industrial classes who can make the required contribution.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES.

THE following is a list of the schemes certified by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies up to the 13th of July, 1898:—

Title of Scheme.	Nature of Employment.	Situation of Works.	Number of workpeople affected.
Garforth Colliery Accident and Compensation Fund	Mining	Near Leeds ...	700
Lilleshall Collieries Field Club	Coal and Ironstone Mines	Donnington and Priors Lee, Salop	1,485
Forest of Dean Mutual Insurance Accident Fund	Collieries and Iron Mines	Forest of Dean ...	4,919
Forth Banks Works Accident Compensation Fund	Locomotive Engineers	Newcastle-on-Tyne	*
Pearson & Knowles' Iron and Engineering Dept. Mutual Accident Insurance Society	Finished Iron and Steel Manufacture and Engineering	Warrington ...	2,330
St. Peter's Works Accident Compensation Fund	Marine Engineers	Newcastle-on-Tyne	*
Hebburn Shipbuilding Yard Accident Compensation Fund	Shipbuilders, &c.	Newcastle-on-Tyne	*
Elwell's Forge Accidental and Superannuation Society	Manufacture of Edge Tools, Spades & Shovels	Wednesbury ...	152
Rugby Portland Cement Company's Workmen's Insurance Scheme	Portland Cement Manufacturing	New Bilton, Rugby	291
Pilkington Brothers, Ltd. Sheet Glass Works Accident Fund	Glass Manufacture	St. Helens ...	3,185
Morgan Crucible Co. Benefit Scheme	Manufacture of Crucibles	Battersea, London	283
Bristol Sugar Refining Co.	Sugar Refining ...	Bristol ...	125
Great Eastern Railway Accident Fund	Railway Service ...	Various ...	24,000

The total number of persons affected by 10 of the above 13 schemes for which particulars are supplied is 37,470.

Note.—In addition to the above 13 certified schemes the Chief Registrar has received 19 schemes which are still under consideration.
* Not stated.

THE DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH WALES COAL TRADE.

In the June number of the *LABOUR GAZETTE* (p. 164) the account of the chief incidents in connection with the dispute in the South Wales coal trade was continued up to the 11th June. A conference had been held on that date between representatives of the parties to the dispute. The proposal of the employers for the establishment of an automatic sliding scale arrangement, and the workmen's counter proposal for establishing a conciliation board with an umpire were again brought forward, but not agreed to. The employers' representatives expressed their willingness to meet the delegates of the workmen whenever the latter were in a position to discuss any terms of settlement of a permanent character, based upon the selling price of coal.

On June 28th the dispute was the subject of a debate in the House of Commons on a motion for adjournment. On June 24th the following application was made to the Board of Trade:—

"Miners' Office, Pontypridd,
" June 28th, 1898.

"Right Hon. C. T. Ritchie,
" President of the Board of Trade, London.

"DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the Provisional Committee, held at Cardiff, yesterday, who are duly authorised to act on behalf of the Colliery Workmen of South Wales and Monmouthshire, who have now been idle for 12 weeks, in consequence of a difference with their employers, it was unanimously decided to appeal to you for the appointment of a Conciliator, in accordance with sub-Section (c) of Clause 2 of the Conciliation Act, 1896."

(Here follow the signatures of the members of the Provisional Committee.)

In reply to this application, the following communication was sent:—

"Board of Trade, Whitehall-gardens,
" 30th June, 1898.

"DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of an application from the Provisional Committee, who, it is understood, possess full powers to settle on behalf of the colliery workmen of South Wales and Monmouthshire affected by the present dispute, asking for the appointment of a conciliator. With reference thereto, I have to inform you that it is proposed to act on your request, and that a further communication on the subject will be addressed to you shortly. You will, of course, understand that a conciliator appointed by the Board of Trade would have no compulsory powers of any kind, and that the object of any action he would take would be to facilitate the arrangement of an amicable settlement between the parties themselves.

"I am, dear Sir,
" Yours faithfully,
" CHARLES T. RITCHIE.

"W. Abraham, Esq., M.P.,
" House of Commons, S.W."

In accordance with this letter, a copy of which was forwarded to the Coalowners' Association, the Board of Trade appointed the Right Hon. Sir Edward Fry, F.R.S. (late Lord Justice of Appeal), to act as Conciliator in the dispute.

On July 9th Sir Edward Fry met a number of the members of the workmen's Provisional Committee at Cardiff, the meeting being adjourned until July 13th, in order to enable the Committee to be present as a whole. Later in the day Sir Edward Fry addressed the following letter to the Provisional Committee:—

"Park Hotel, Cardiff,
" July 9th, 1898.

"DEAR SIR,—Since seeing the members of your Committee this morning Sir William Thomas Lewis called upon me at my request. He declined to recognise my position as conciliator in any way, and stated that he called merely out of courtesy. He further stated that the associated employers declined to admit any intervention of the conciliator or of any other person appointed by the Government, but otherwise that the associated employers are prepared to meet the authorised representatives of the men, but without the presence of the conciliator. Sir William T. Lewis placed me at liberty to make such use as I might think fit of this statement, and accordingly I communicate it to you for the information of your committee. It appeared to me that, notwithstanding the attitude assumed by Sir William Lewis, I should meet your committee on Wednesday as arranged. In the interval my postal address is Failand, Bristol, and my telegraphic address Failand, Abbots Leigh.

I am, yours faithfully,
" EDWARD FRY."

On July 13th the conference between Sir Edward Fry and the men's committee took place. At its conclusion the Provisional Committee wrote to the employers' Secretary to arrange a meeting between the parties, to discuss a proposed basis of settlement.

During the month there have been several conferences of enginemen and other auxiliary workmen employed at the associated collieries to consider whether twenty-four hours notice should be given to terminate their engagements. It was, however, resolved at a meeting held on June 30th, that it would be unwise, under existing circumstances, to tender such notices.

So far as the non-associated collieries not directly connected with the dispute are concerned, a conference of delegates, held on June 14th, decided to ask for a further advance in wages of 10 per cent., which would bring them to 32½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. A meeting of non-associated coal-owners was held at Swansea on June 18th, and it was resolved that no further advance of wages should be conceded. It is reported, however, that during the month further advances were obtained at several collieries.

MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES WITHOUT YELLOW PHOSPHORUS. INTERNATIONAL PRIZE COMPETITION.

A sum of £2,000 has been voted by the Belgian Government to be awarded as a prize to the inventor of a match-paste containing no yellow phosphorus, and capable of being ignited upon any surface, including cloth. The conditions to be fulfilled in the competition, which is open to all nations, are as follows:—

The paste must present such a resistance to the action of concussion and friction as to obviate the risk of dangerous explosions in the processes of manufacture, and must not contain any substance dangerous to the health of the workpeople.

The matches must strike upon any surface (even upon cloth); and when exposed alternately to damp and dryness, heat and cold, within moderate limits, must adequately retain their power of igniting, and not be liable to spontaneous deterioration. The matches, when igniting, must not throw off any substance likely to burn persons or cause a conflagration. They must not give off poisonous fumes. Preference will be given to matches, the paste used on which does not contain any poisonous substance.

The matches must be so far insusceptible to friction as not to be liable, under ordinary conditions, to ignite in the pocket, and as to admit of being safely transported and warehoused without the necessity of using any other than ordinary methods of packing, as usual in trade generally.

Inventors may compete up till January 1st, 1899, on the following conditions:—

1. They must forward, in a sealed envelope, a document stating their surnames and Christian names, their address, and also the motto which they have adopted, and which shall be also placed on the cases of samples referred to in (2) and (3).

2. They must furnish 250 grammes* of paste in a moist condition. This paste must be enclosed in a glass flask (with a ground-glass stopper) placed in a receptacle made of sheet-iron or tin-plate, surrounded by a wooden case, the sides of which must be at least 2 centimetres thick.† Between the sides of the receptacle and the outside of the flask there must be a clear space on all sides of at least 3 centimetres, completely filled up with some elastic substance, such as straw, hay, or artificial wool prepared from wood.

3. Competitors must furnish at least 10,000 matches, disposed in cardboard or paper boxes, each containing not more than 500 matches, and marked with the motto adopted by the sender. These boxes must be enclosed in a tin case hermetically soldered all round in order to preserve the matches from the effects of external moisture. This case must be enclosed in a wooden box with sides at least 1 centimetre thick.

All communications and parcels must be addressed to M. Woeste, Ministre d'État, Président de la Commission au Ministère de l'Industrie et du Travail, Rue Latérale, No. 2, Bruxelles.

The inventor, whose matches fulfil the conditions laid down, must prove that such matches can be made upon a practical manufacturing scale. For this purpose he must bind himself to undertake the manufacture of at least one million matches under the inspection of the Commission, or of a delegation of the same, on Belgian territory, in some place or places to be agreed upon between the inventors and the Commission.

* 1 gramme=15.432 grains. (avoird.)
† 1 centimetre=0.3937 in.

WAGES AGREEMENT IN THE COAL TRADE IN FEDERATED DISTRICTS.

At a conference of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, held in London, on April 26th, it was resolved that application should be made to the Federated Coal Owners for an advance of 10 per cent. Negotiations were at once entered into. While these were in progress it was ascertained by a ballot vote throughout the Federation area that the miners were almost unanimous in support of the application. It was arranged that a joint conference of the representatives of the employers and of the workmen should be held in London, on July 6th. At this meeting the following districts, in which upwards of 300,000 persons are employed in the coal trade, were represented on the side of the coal-owners:—South and West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Cannock Chase, North Staffordshire, Leen Valley, and North Wales. On the men's side representatives were present from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Bristol and Somerset, and Scotland, but it was understood that Scotland was not included in the negotiations. As a result of the discussion which took place the following proposals were adopted to be laid before the coalowners and workmen in the federated districts, for acceptance or otherwise:—

(1) That the present rate of wages be increased as from the 1st of October, 1898, by 2½ per cent. on the standard, and that the wages remain at that rate till the 1st of January, 1899.

(2) That for a period of two years from the 1st of January, 1899, the rate of wages shall not be below 30 per cent. above the rate of wages of 1888, nor more than 45 per cent. above the rate of wages of 1888.

(3) That from the 1st January, 1899, to the 1st of January, 1901, the rate of wages shall be determined by a Conciliation Board within the above-named limits.

(4) That the Conciliation Board to be formed shall be on the lines of the Conciliation Board under the Rosebery agreement.

The "Rosebery agreement," it may be explained, provided for a Conciliation Board "consisting of an equal number (14 each) of coalowners and miners' representatives. They shall, before the first meeting, endeavour to elect a chairman from outside, and should they fail, will ask the Speaker of the House of Commons to nominate one, the chairman to have the casting vote."

The maximum and minimum limits of wages provided for in the above agreement are identical with those agreed upon for the period August 1st, 1894, to August 1st, 1896 (see *GAZETTE* for July, 1894, page 211).

The votes of the workmen as to the above proposals are to be returnable by July 26th. So far as the South Yorkshire Coalowners' and the Lancashire and Cheshire Coalowners' Associations are concerned, the proposed settlement has been accepted.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead and Phosphorus poisoning and Anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during June, classified by industries [M.—Males, F.—Females]:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lead Poisoning—									
China and Earthenware	14	19	—	5	—	—	14	24	38
Glass Making	4	1	—	—	—	—	4	1	5
Lead Works	21	9	—	—	—	—	21	9	30
Paints and Colours	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Smelting	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron and other metals	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other Industries	23	1	—	—	—	—	23	1	24
Total Lead Poisoning	75	30	—	5	—	—	75	35	110
Corresponding Total for June, 1897	62	40	4	10	—	—	66	50	116
Phosphorus Poisoning ...	13	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	13
Ditto June, 1897	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Anthrax	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ditto June, 1897	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS.

Spring Hirings for Hinds in Northumberland and Durham.

Reports of the Spring yearly hiring fairs for hinds in Northumberland at Alnwick, Belford, Berwick, Cornhill, Morpeth, Newcastle, Rothbury, and Wooler, generally state that the wages obtained in 1898 were about the same as those in 1897, and that, on the whole, the supply of men was about equal to the demand, and of women workers rather less. The weekly rates of wages generally agreed upon in the case of men were at Alnwick, Belford, Berwick, and Cornhill, 16s. a week, and 17s. in some cases where there were two or three women workers in the family. At Rothbury the wages were 15s. to 16s.; at Morpeth, 16s. to 18s., and at Newcastle, 18s. to 21s. In addition to these weekly rates of cash wages the following perquisites are given:—free house and garden, 1,000 yards of potatoes planted, and coals carted free. The hirings take place in March, but the term of service does not commence until May. The hinds live in cottages close to the farm with their families, their sons and daughters being generally engaged to work on the same farm.

The women workers, who are usually the daughters of the hinds, obtained 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d. a day in winter, and 1s. 6d., sometimes 1s. 8d. a day in summer, and 2s. 6d. to 3s. for 20 days in harvest.

At the Spring yearly hiring for hinds in the County of Durham, the wages obtained were 16s. to 18s., a week at Darlington and Durham, and up to 19s., in some instances at Durham.

Wages were generally about the same compared with those paid in 1897, except in some cases where there was a rise of about 6d. a week. Generally the supply of men at these hirings was about equal to the demand, but women workers were rather scarce.

Whitsuntide Half-Yearly Hirings in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire.

Information has also been obtained as to the rates of wages paid for the half year at the principal hiring fairs held in Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire at Whitsuntide by a correspondent who visited them on behalf of the Department. It is reported that generally the wages agreed upon had an upward tendency compared with the corresponding period last year. In the case of best men, not many changes took place, but where new situations were obtained higher rates were generally paid. It is reported that second class men were fairly plentiful, but that big youths were somewhat scarce, many of them having been drafted on to large railway and contract works which are proceeding in the district.

As farm work was somewhat behindhand in these districts, particularly in the more northern portions, owing to broken weather in May, it is stated that farmers had to engage the more experienced men. In an early season boy labour often mainly suffices until after hay time, when an extra man or two can be procured who did not go to the Whitsuntide Hirings, but remain free to take monthly engagements at hay and corn harvest.

Dairy women are said to have been very scarce. Many of the best second women now prefer engagements in hotels and private residences to the heavier farmhouse work, and were asking high wages for service in farm-houses, especially at Penrith and Carlisle.

The principal hiring fair for a considerable portion of North Lancashire, West Cumberland, and South Westmorland, is Ulverston. The rates of wages obtained there for the half year (board and lodging in the farmhouse in addition) were, for best men £17 to £18, compared with £15 to £17 last year. In both years in a few exceptional cases £19 or £20 was paid for managing men. Second class men got from £12 to £16, compared with £12 to £14 last year. Youths obtained from £8 to £10 10s., and boys from £4 10s., to £7 10s., the rates remaining about the same as last year. Best women got £10 to £14, the maximum last year being £12. Second-class women got £8 to £9, and girls £4 10s. to £7.

Taking the hiring fairs of Carlisle, Penrith, Kendal, and Lancaster, the rates of wages generally obtained for the half year (board and lodging in addition) were as follows:—

Best men £13 to £17, and in a few cases £18. Second class men and youths £8 to £14 or £15. Boys £4 10s. to £7 10s. Best women £10 10s. to £13. Second class women £8 to £10, and girls £6 to £8.

Spring and Summer Hirings in Scotland.

Reports have been received from a correspondent in Scotland, based on information obtained from hiring fairs, and also from a number of representative employers, of the rates of wages obtained by farm servants at the principal hiring fairs which took place between the months of February and June.

Speaking generally, the rates of wages at the Spring hiring fairs in the Border Counties and the Lothians, and at the Summer hiring fairs in other parts of Scotland have, in the case of men with but few exceptions, remained almost stationary, compared with the corresponding period in 1897. But in the case of women workers and domestic servants their wages were frequently increased. Generally there appears to have been rather less than the usual amount of shifting places amongst farm servants this year, though this is said not to have been the case in the county of Wigtown in the extreme south, and in Ross and Cromarty in the far north.

At most of the fairs there is said to have been nearly an average attendance of both employers and farm servants, but at some the attendance was smaller, in consequence, it is stated, of the increasing tendency for engagements to be made privately, or through registry offices.

At the annual Spring hiring fairs in the Border Counties and in the Lothians ploughmen obtained between 15s. and 18s. a week with cottages free, allowances of meal and potatoes, and coals carted free, and frequently food and drink during harvest. Sometimes some milk is also given, and straw for pigs.

In some cases higher wages are given and fewer perquisites. There was a keen demand for men having women workers in their families. It is frequently the case that a man with several daughters can obtain higher wages than a more skilled man without any, or with only one.

Women workers in the Border Counties get from 8s. to 10s. a week, with 20s. to 30s. extra at harvest, and in the Lothians about the same weekly wages, and from 3s. to 5s. extra per week during potato lifting and grain harvest.

In the Border Counties and in the Lothians most of the farm servants are hired by the year, and live in cottages on or close to the farm. They are usually hired by families, the sons and daughters living at home with their parents and working together on the same farm. In a family where there are several sons and daughters their united earnings often amount to a considerable sum. In most of these counties there are districts where unmarried men are hired by the half-year, and live and board in the farm-houses; but they are not so numerous as in other parts of Scotland. Irishmen are also largely employed in some of these districts at thinning turnips, hay and corn harvest, and potato lifting.

In other parts of Scotland, at the half-yearly hirings, first horsemen as a rule got from £14 to £17 for the half-year, in some cases up to £18 or £19, with the usual perquisites; other horsemen got from £10 to £14, with the usual perquisites; and cattlemen from £10 to £19 for the half-year, with perquisites. In the counties of Aberdeen and Banff where at the autumn fairs last year there was a slight fall in wages, there has this year been a rise of about 10s. to 20s. for the half-year. In Inverness, and Ross and Cromarty, where wages have been comparatively lower than further south, there has been a similar advance to that in Aberdeen and Banff, but in the intervening counties of Elgin and Nairn little or no change has taken place,

while in Sutherlandshire wages are stationary. The only reports of lower rates in wages come from Forfar and Perth. In some parts of Forfarshire men have had to accept a very slight decline, seldom more than 10s. for the half-year. In certain parts of Perthshire the wages for young men and lads have fallen about 5s., or 10s. for the half-year.

The unmarried men, in addition to their cash wages, are boarded and lodged free in the farmhouses, or in the houses of the married men, or food is provided in the kitchen and they are lodged in a bothy, or food is provided by the farmer in a bothy, or else the men lodge in a bothy and find their own food. In the last case they usually receive a certain allowance of meal and milk, and sometimes of potatoes.

THE PRICE OF BREAD AND WHEAT.

By the courtesy of 74 of the more important co-operative societies, the Department has again been favoured with returns of the retail price of bread.

These returns relate to the 8th July, and as compared with a month ago, show a fall of nearly 1d. (0.91) per 4 lb. loaf, leaving the average price at 5.87d. In the Home Counties the fall was 1.06d.; in the North of England 1.05d.; in the Midland and Eastern Counties 0.77d.; in the South and South Western Counties 0.75d.; and in Scotland 0.92d. Thirty societies report a fall of 1/2d. per 4 lb. loaf, 39 societies a fall of 1d., 3 societies a fall of 1 1/2d., and 2 report no change since June 8th.

The average prices in various districts per 4 lb. loaf are given in the following table.

District.	1898.					Prices on July 8th compared with	
	April 5th.	May 10th.	June 8th.	July 8th.	June 8th.	April 5th.	
North of England	d. 5.82	d. 6.75	d. 6.88	d. 5.83	d. -1.05	d. +0.01	
Midland & Eastern Counties ...	5.37	6.46	6.41	5.64	-0.77	+0.27	
Home Counties	5.96	6.89	6.95	5.89	-1.06	-0.07	
Southern and South-Western Counties ...	5.48	6.48	6.50	5.75	-0.75	+0.27	
England	5.65	6.65	6.69	5.77	-0.92	+0.12	
Scotland	5.97	6.77	6.89	5.97	-0.92	—	
Great Britain	5.81	6.70	6.78	5.87	-0.91	+0.06	

The average price on July 8th was still, on the whole, slightly above that of April 5th, but it is stated by nine societies, that between July 8th and the date of publication of this Gazette (15th), the price of bread would be still further reduced by 1/2d. per 4 lb. loaf. In the majority of cases, however, the prices will not be again altered before July 15th.

The price of British wheat per quarter fell to 36s. 10d. in the week ending July 9th. This is still above the mean price in April (36s. 2d.); but is 5s. 9d. below the mean price in June, and 9s. 2d. below the mean price in May.

The following table summarises the changes in the prices of bread and British wheat since 1893, so far as returns as to bread have been collected. The rise or fall is given as between one date and the next.

Wheat (British).				Bread.			
Month and Year.	Mean Price per Quarter.	Rise (+) or Fall (-) in Price.	Date of Return.	Average price per 4 lb. Loaf.	Rise (+) or Fall (-) in Price.		
1893 (Average for year)	s. d. 26 4	s. d. —	1893 (Average for year)	d. 4.79	d. —		
1896 (Sept. ...)	23 9	- 2 7	1896 (12 Sept. ...)	4.22	- 0.57		
1896 (Oct. ...)	27 10	+ 4 1	1896 (10 Oct. ...)	4.45	+ 0.23		
1896 (Nov. ...)	32 4	+ 4 6	1896 (7 Nov. ...)	4.85	+ 0.40		
1897 (Aug. ...)	30 3	- 2 1	1897 (9 Aug. ...)	4.97	+ 0.12		
1897 (Sept. ...)	33 7	+ 3 4	1897 (6 Sept. ...)	5.68	+ 0.71		
1898 (April ...)	36 2	+ 2 7	1898 (5 April ...)	5.81	+ 0.13		
1898 (May ...)	46 0	+ 9 10	1898 (3 May ...)	6.16	+ 0.35		
1898 (June ...)	42 7	- 3 5	1898 (10 May ...)	6.70	+ 0.54		
1898 (July ...)	36 10*	- 5 9	1898 (8 June ...)	6.78	+ 0.08		
			1898 (8 July ...)	5.87	- 0.91		

* Week ending July 9th.

The imports of wheat and flour in June (1,750,000 quarters) were greater than in May (1,638,000 quarters),

but were below those of June, 1896 and 1897. The deficiency in the imports of breadstuffs, both in June and in the ten months since last harvest, is brought out in the following tables:—

I.—IMPORTS IN JUNE (1000'S OF QUARTERS.)

Countries from which Imported.	June, 1896	June, 1897	June, 1898	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of June, 1898 over	
				June, 1896	June, 1897
European Countries ...	633	534	159	- 474	- 375
United States ...	1,179	967	883	- 296	- 294
British North America ...	206	191	152	- 54	- 59
Other Countries ...	358	81	556	+ 198	+ 475
Total, June ...	2,376	1,793	1,750	- 626	- 43

II.—IMPORTS IN TEN MONTHS—SEPTEMBER TO JUNE. (1,000'S OF QUARTERS.)

Countries from which Imported.	1895-6	1896-7	1897-8	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of 1897-8 over	
				1895-6	1896-7
European Countries ...	5,680	6,211	2,832	- 2,848	- 3,379
United States ...	9,482	10,761	12,087	+ 2,605	+ 1,326
British North America ...	1,000	1,013	1,306	+ 306	+ 293
Other Countries ...	2,517	1,199	1,843	- 674	+ 644
Total, ten months	18,679	19,184	18,068	- 611	- 1,116

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

Strike of Coal Miners at Blantyre.

A FIRM of coal owners having abolished a scale of deductions for dirt raised with the coal at one of their collieries, proposed to work under a new system, with a deduction fixed temporarily at 3/4 cwt. per hutch. The men employed claimed that the deduction should be fixed by arbitration as provided in the Mines Regulations Act. They refused to continue at work with the reduction proposed by the firm, and early in May ceased work to the number of about 300. On June 1st an application was made to the Board of Trade by the Scottish Miners' Federation for intervention. Accordingly, an officer of the department visited the district, and on June 8th had interviews with representatives of the local Trade Union and the firm concerned. As a result of these interviews, certain proposals were made by the firm. These proposals were accepted by the men, and work was resumed on June 14th. The following is the text of the proposals in question:—

1st. Arbitration in terms of the Mines Act accepted. If the men desire that the pits be open pending arbitration, the deduction will be 3/4 cwt. for rubbish.

2nd. Deduction fixed by Arbitrator to apply back to the date of resuming work, and to the end of one month from that date.

3rd. After that period deduction for second and subsequent months to be based on amount of dirt in previous month, and check-weighman to be given every facility for ascertaining this amount.

Dispute in the Bristol Building Trade.

A dispute having arisen between the Bristol Master Builders' Association and the Bristol and District Building Industries' Federation, with regard to two points in a new code of rules, it was agreed by the two Associations on June 30th, to apply to the Board of Trade to appoint an Arbitrator. The points in dispute were in regard to proposals in connection with walking time, and the period when an advance in wages and the new rules were to come into operation. All the other points in the proposed rules had been amicably disposed of, subject to a condition imposed by the employers that the rules were not to come into operation until March 25th, 1899. Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, was appointed Arbitrator by the Board of Trade, and on July 12th he attended at Bristol and heard the representatives of the parties to the dispute, and gave his award, which was accepted by them. Walking time is to be allowed at the rate of three miles per hour

outside the boundary of Bristol, the boundary being specified in the award. This rate applies only to men sent from the shop inside such boundary, and not to men engaged and paid at the job. The new rules are to come into operation on September 1st, 1898. The branches represented on the Federation were the carpenters and joiners, plasterers, plumbers, painters and labourers. The bricklayers and masons who came out on strike on July 1st were not parties to the proceedings.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Awards in the Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade.

(a) STATEMENT FOR LASTING AND FINISHING MACHINE WORKERS.

MESSRS. J. Griffin Ward, and R. Potter, the umpires appointed, in accordance with the Board of Trade Settlement of April 19th, 1895, to determine certain points of difference arising in the course of the preparation of a piecework statement for workpeople employed in connection with lasting and finishing machinery in Leicester, issued their award on July 4th. The joint committee was unable to agree as to the prices for the various operations in the lasting department, and the fixing of these prices was referred to the umpires and dealt with in the award, which is to remain in force for three years at least, from August 8th next. In the event of any substantial improvement in machinery, the prices for the processes affected may be revised by the Local Arbitration Board.

(b) BOY LABOUR, MINIMUM WAGE, AND OVERTIME.

On July 4 Messrs. J. Griffin Ward, and R. Potter, the arbitrators to the Leicester Boot and Shoe Trade Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, issued their award on three questions—Boy Labour, Minimum Wage, and Overtime Payment—on which the Board was unable to agree. On the first question the workmen desired to revise Lord James's Award of August 22nd, 1892 (restricting the number of boys under 18 to one boy to three men), by substituting the proportion of one to five. The manufacturers desired to abolish all restriction, or, in the alternative, to make the proportion one boy to two men generally, and one boy to one man in the case of works or departments making low-priced goods. The arbitrators decided that Lord James's award shall remain in force for another term of three years. As regards the minimum wage, the workmen's representatives desired that the Board should consider the question of a minimum wage for all classes of operatives, and, if possible, devise a minimum for those between 18 and 20. The manufacturers' representatives asked that all minimum wages in force in the district should cease on the expiration of the various awards. The arbitrators decided that all minimum wages in force should continue for three years from July 1st, 1898, and declined to fix a minimum wage for youths between 18 and 20. As regards overtime, the workmen proposed that time and a quarter for day workers and 25 per cent. increase for piece-workers should be paid when a firm has worked more than its recognised number of hours per week. The arbitrators decided that for four weeks before or after, or partly before and partly after, the usual holidays, overtime to the extent of five hours per week may be made without extra payment, and that time lost by breakdown of machinery, or illness of a workman, may be made up without such payment. In other cases, workmen on weekly wages making more than 54 hours in any week to be paid time and a quarter; the award not to apply to piece-workers; and to remain in force for at least three years from July 1st, 1898.

Manufactured Iron and Steel Trade of the North of England.

The result of the ascertainment of the average net selling price of steel plates at Consett for the months of March, April, and May has been received from the accountant. In accordance with the agreement of May 30th, 1896, the wages of the steel men during the months of July, August, and September will be the same as during the preceding three months.

Wages Agreement in the Coal Trade in Federated Districts. (See page 197.)

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

Damages for Injuries caused owing to Unfenced Machinery can be recovered, notwithstanding that Employers are Liable to Penalties under the Act.—This was an appeal by the plaintiff, a boy employed in some ironworks, from a judgment given in a case heard at Assizes, the action having been brought to recover damages for injuries in consequence of certain machinery being unfenced. The plaintiff claimed under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, in consequence of a breach of duty in not maintaining the fencing of the machinery; and in the alternative for negligently allowing the machinery to become dangerous. It was admitted that the machinery in question, a steam winch, ought to have been fenced under Section 5 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1878. By Section 82 of the Act, a penalty by way of fine is imposed not exceeding £100 in case of a breach of any of its provisions with regard to the fencing of machinery causing loss of life or bodily injury. At the trial, the judge held that an action did not lie, and directed that judgment should be entered for the defendant. He also found that there was no evidence of negligence on the part of defendant. Damages were, however, assessed at £150 by the jury in case the Court of Appeal should reverse the decision of the judge.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal and entered judgment for the plaintiff for £150.

In giving judgment the Court of Appeal said, that the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, was passed by the Legislature in favour of the workmen, in order to compel the master to do certain things for their protection. Section 5 imposed an unqualified obligation to fence certain machinery and to maintain the fencing. It was conceded that the machinery came within the Section. It could not be doubted that, if Section 5 stood alone, a cause of action would have accrued to the plaintiff. Unless it could be found that upon the whole purview of the Act it was intended that the only remedy should be the imposition of a fine upon the master for the breach of his statutory duty, it was clear that the Act gave a right of action to the injured person upon proof of the breach of the statutory duty and the injury caused thereby. If a penalty was inflicted on an employer for a breach of duty, the fine should be proportionate to the character of the offence, and not proportionate to the injury inflicted on the workman. However, whatever penalty was inflicted, it would not necessarily go into the pocket of the injured workman, because by Section 82 the Home Secretary might, in his discretion, but was not bound to, apply the whole or any part thereof for the benefit of the injured person. Further, by Section 87 the occupier might be exempt from a penalty, and a workman, who was the real offender, might be fined instead, when he might not have a penny to pay the fine with, and yet the argument was that in such a case the injured workman must look to the fine as his sole possible compensation. The Court was of opinion that the plaintiff had a cause of action upon the statute. On the point of common employment the Court held that the plaintiff had only to prove a breach of the statutory duty and injury to himself therefrom, and that it was no answer to say that the injury was caused by the negligence of a fellow servant. The defendant could not delegate his statutory duty to another.—*Court of Appeal, June 28th.*

Experimenting with machinery preparatory to commencing manufacturing on premises not fully completed and equipped.—Held premises not a factory.—Plaintiff, who sued by his father, a builder and decorator, brought an action against the defendants under the Factory and Workshop Acts, and also at common law, for damages for injuries to his hand caused by his falling against an engine in motion, which was unfenced. Plaintiff had been painting one engine, and while stepping down from it he slipped and fell against another while it was being worked. He put forward his right hand to save himself, and it was caught in the machinery, and two of his fingers were cut off. His case was that there was a statutory obligation to fence the engines, and further that defendants had been guilty of negligence at common law.

The defendants denied that there was any statutory obligation to fence the engines as the premises in question were not at the time of the accident a factory within the meaning of the Acts, although they were going to be one. Contributory negligence was also pleaded. They called evidence to prove that at the time of the accident the premises were not fully equipped; that experiments were being made to see if the engine would run, preparatory to manufacturing, and that nothing was actually being manufactured.

The judge held that the premises were not at the time of the accident a factory within the meaning of the Acts, and that consequently there was no statutory obligation to fence. On the question of ordinary negligence the jury found for the defendants. The judge granted a stay with a view to an appeal.—*Queen's Bench Division, July 1st.*

Occupiers' Annual Returns of Persons Employed (required by Section 34 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1895).*—In addition to the cases referred to in the June number of the GAZETTE, twelve prosecutions of occupiers for failure to make the annual return of persons employed have since taken place. In ten cases the occupiers were fined sums varying from 6d. to £5, besides costs. In the other two cases costs only were imposed.

* The Home Office have found it necessary to proceed against several occupiers owing to the large number who have made default in sending to the Inspector of Factories the annual return for the year 1897, due on March 1st, 1898.

TRUCK ACTS, 1831-1896.

Making Deductions from Wages.—The occupier of a horsehair weaving workshop was fined £4 and £5 costs for making deductions from wages of eight employees without keeping a notice affixed and without giving written particulars of such deductions, and a firm of haircloth weavers was fined £2 and £1 1s. costs, for making deductions from wages of two employees without a contract or notice.—*Norwich County Police Court, May 21, and Norwich City Police Court, May 25.*

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1891.

[Special Rules.]

Failure to Provide Washing Accommodation.—A firm of lead smelters was fined £5 and £1 1s. costs, for failing to provide washing accommodation in accordance with Special Rules.—*Greenwich Police Court, May 26th.*

Failure to Provide Face Guards and Gauntlets.—An aerated water manufacturer was fined 5s. and 7s. 6d. costs, for failure to observe Special Rules, by not providing a face guard and gauntlets for a bottler. An aerated water manufacturer was fined £1 and 13s. 6d. costs, for not providing a face guard for a bottler.—*Mold County Petty Sessions, June 6th, and Colchester Borough Police Court, June 9th.*

Using Casting shop without a flue other than that used for furnace and employing a woman in casting shop.—A firm of brass casters was fined £2 and 15s. costs, for failure to observe Special Rules, by (1) using casting shop (under other shopping) without a flue other than that used for the furnace, and (2) employing a woman in casting shop.—*Victoria Courts, Birmingham, June 10th.*

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE results of the ascertainment of the average selling prices of coal and iron in certain districts, as ascertained at the last audits, are shown in the following table, in which are also included, for purposes of comparison, the results of the previous audits:—

Product and District.	Number of work-people.	Period over which prices were ascertained at last audit.	Date from which last audit affects wages.	Average ascertained selling price per ton.		
				According to last audit.	According to previous audit.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in price per ton.
Coal. Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Mar., Apl., May	—	s. d. 5 10'96	s. d. 5 2'96	+ 0 8'00
Pig Iron. Cumberland	1,350	Apl., May, June	July 1	50 3'264	48 11'850	+ 1 3'414
Cleveland	5,500	Apl., May, June	July 2	40 3'30	40 6'47	- 0 3'17
Manufactured Iron. North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	Mar., Apl.	May 30	102 9'42	102 3'93	+ 0 5'49
Midlands:— (Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)	20,000	Mar., Apl.	June 6	120 7'73	120 8'30	- 0 5'57

The average price of Cumberland pig iron shows an increase, which resulted in an advance to the blast-furnacemen under the sliding-scale agreement, while Cleveland pig iron shows a decrease resulting in a reduction in the blast-furnacemen's wages. (See p. 216.)

The advance in the average price of manufactured iron in the North of England brought about an advance in the rates of wages of the puddlers and millmen. (See p. 185, June LABOUR GAZETTE.) In the Midlands a slight decrease was shown, but the rates of wages were not affected.

THE CARPET INDUSTRY IN JAPAN.

A report drawn up for the Foreign Office by Mr. Playfair, First Assistant at H.M. Consulate at Hiogo, gives an account of the carpet industry at Sakai.

At the end of 1897 there were in Sakai 6,181 looms in 1,062 houses, giving employment to 18,554 persons, of whom 13,242 were females and 5,312 males.

The average working hours are ten a day, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the average wages range from 1½d. to 6½d. a day. The age of the workers varies from 8 to 17. Women on attaining the latter age generally marry, and having experience in the weaving business, set up looms, which are worked by children under their supervision.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, &c., mostly dated May and June last.)†

Canada.—There will be a good demand in Canada during the next few weeks for farm labourers and harvest hands. The Report of the Commissioners appointed by Government to inquire into the grievances of the working men on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway—which is being constructed for the Canadian Pacific Railway—has been issued. The Commissioners believe that breaches of agreement on the part of the Company and contractors took place; that in many instances the men suffered ill-treatment and unnecessary hardships; that exorbitant prices were charged for clothing; and that the wages were too low to admit of the men saving anything beyond a few dollars a year.

New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.—Plentiful rains have fallen in most parts of these Colonies after a long period of drought, and prospects are better than they were. There is, however, no demand for more mechanics and labourers, the local supply—especially that in South Australia—being sufficient.

Queensland.—The sugar crop this year is expected to be very large, and it is feared that it will be difficult to find sufficient labour to harvest it. Kanaka, or coloured, labour is rather scarce, and white men are often unwilling to undergo the heavy work of cutting and loading the cane. The tick pest is pressing heavily on the cattle industry, and the extent of the infested country has become greater. The Government is affording special facilities to agriculturists with a little capital to buy farms in the fine Darling Downs district.

Western Australia.—There continues to be in most districts, but not in the town of Coolgardie, a good demand for men in the building trades, farm and general labourers, miners, and female domestic servants. A considerable number of men, however, having completed their work on the Fremantle harbour, railway construction, and some other public undertakings, have been discharged, so that there is less demand for new arrivals than there was.

New Zealand.—With scarcely an exception the last reports from all parts of the Colony are favourable. They speak of there being plenty of work in almost every important trade in which mechanics are engaged. Unskilled labourers also were, generally speaking, in good employment, but two or three reports lay stress on the fact that there was no demand for outside labour. The least prosperous trade at the present time is, perhaps, that of gum-digging. The reason of this is that half the gum produced is in ordinary times shipped to America, and that that market is now closed owing to the war. It is feared that many diggers will be forced upon the general labouring market.

Cape Colony.—The severe drought under which the colony has been suffering for several years has broken up, and copious rains have fallen in all parts. The rinderpest scourge is being to a considerable extent held in check, and prospects for farmers are improving all round.

Natal.—The output of coal is increasing, and the number of miners is larger now than it was last year.

Transvaal.—The depression at Johannesburg does not seem to be getting less, in spite of the increased output from the mines. Many of the stores are closing, and there is a large number of empty dwelling-houses. All public works in the town have been stopped, with the exception of those actually in hand, and this stoppage will make it still more difficult for persons to find employment. The Relief Committee is finding work for over 300 of the unemployed.

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

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Employment in June.*—Employment continued good in the mining, quarrying, tanning, wood-working (carpentry and joinery), metal (smelting and manufacture), engineering and building trades; and has improved in glove-making and tin box-making; but has fallen off in the printing, leather-carrying, boot and shoe making, saddlery and textile (cotton, wool, silk and flax spinning and weaving) industries, and also in the garment-making trade (in which the busy season is nearing its end) and the hatmaking, carriage-building, watchmaking trades, and in porcelain manufacture.

Taken all round, employment is considered worse than it was last year; this is attributed to the causes mentioned in last month's GAZETTE, which still operate.

Five hundred and thirty trade unions supplied information as to the state of employment on June 15th. Thirteen per cent. of these unions, embodying 11 per cent. of the membership of the reporting unions, considered employment more plentiful than at the corresponding period of last year; 52 per cent. of the unions, with 57 per cent. of the total membership, considered it equal to last year; and 35 per cent. of the unions, with 32 per cent. of the total membership, reported it less plentiful.

In consequence of the fall in the price of wheat and of flour, a diminution, varying according to locality, but in some cases reaching 0.9d. per 4 lb. loaf, has taken place in the price of bread. An increase in the supplies of vegetables has caused a reduction in their price.

Labour Disputes in June.*—Twenty-three new labour disputes were reported to the French Labour Department in June. One coalition of tradesmen (bakers) against Municipal measures was also reported. The number of workpeople who took part in the 23 new industrial disputes was 2,779. The trades affected were as follows:—Textile trades, 7 disputes; building trades, 5; metal trades, 4; leather trades (including boot and shoe making), 3; transport, 2; there being 1 dispute each among miners and restaurant employees. Among the causes of the 23 disputes were 13 demands for higher wages (coupled in 1 case with a demand for shorter hours); in 3 cases the dispute was caused by resistance to reductions in wages; demands for the reinstatement of dismissed workpeople (accompanied in 1 case by resistance to the introduction of piecework) were made in 4 instances, and a demand for the discharge of a workman in 1.

The workpeople were successful in 4, unsuccessful in 7, and accepted compromises in 6 out of a total of 17 disputes (including 2 commenced before June) which terminated in that month.

Conciliation and Arbitration in June.*—The disputes of June gave rise to 2 attempts to put into operation the Conciliation and Arbitration Law. In one of these cases (a dispute of women upper-makers in a boot factory), the *juge de paix* summoned a meeting of employers and employed, to which the latter sent delegates, but the former declined to allow any mediation. In the other dispute (in the building trade) a meeting of the two parties was effected through the mediation of the *juge*, but no settlement was arrived at.

Coal Mining in May.†—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in May was 6.00 as compared with 5.68 in the previous month. In May full time (six days and over) was worked by 89 per cent., and from five to six days by 10 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 92 and 7 respectively. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000 men, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department.
† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, June, 1898.

GERMANY.

Labour Disputes in June.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the disputes reported as having begun in June numbered 35, and were fewer than those reported in any previous month in 1898. Some of the disputes, however, involved a considerable number of workpeople. Two thousand workpeople took part in a strike of miners in Saxony. The demands of the strikers, according to *Soziale Praxis*, included a 10 per cent. increase of wages, a working day of 10 hours, and 50 per cent. extra for overtime. At a meeting of strikers held on June 21st it was decided to return to work, none of the demands having been conceded. In a strike of journeymen bakers of Hamburg and the surrounding district, begun on June 22nd, some 700 persons took part. The main object of the journeymen is to procure the abolition of the system of boarding and lodging with their employers. The total number of workpeople stated to have participated in 16 out of the 35 new disputes was 4,085. The trades affected were as follows: Building trades, 12 disputes (compared with 26 in May); trades involving work in stone, clay, &c.,* 6; woodworking trades,† 4; metal, engineering, and allied trades, 3; there were two disputes in each of the following four groups: mining, smelting, &c., textile trades, clothing trades, and trades engaged in the preparation of foods, drinks, tobacco, &c.; 2 disputes occurred in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. One of these was a strike of migratory agricultural labourers, all of them Poles, who returned to their homes.

Chronic Lead Poisoning in Prussia.—The *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* of June 15th, contains some figures relative to the treatment of persons suffering from chronic lead poisoning, in public hospitals in Prussia, in 1895. The total number of persons treated is stated to have been 1,163, viz., 1,120 males and 43 females. There were 13 deaths. Of the total number treated, 355 (30.5 per cent.) were factory operatives chiefly employed in white-lead or red-lead factories. As regards the occupations of the remaining patients, it appears that 347 (29.8 per cent. of all patients) were painters; 200 (17.2 per cent.) were lead smelters, 41, metal-fitters, smiths, or flemishers; 32 compositors, 31 tinsmiths or pipelayers; 60 consisted of foundrymen, potters, lithographers, dyers, glaziers and enamellers, and 97 were persons belonging to various other occupations.

Operations of Public Labour Registries in June.—The total number of situations offered by employers in June at 51 of the municipal and other public labour registries which have sent returns to *Der Arbeitsmarkt* was 32,378 as compared with 29,111 in the preceding month, and 27,846 in June, 1897. The number of situations sought during the month was 36,828 compared with 34,302 in the previous month, and 30,245 in June, 1897. The number of situations found was 22,299 compared with 20,463 in May, and 19,157 in June, 1897.

SWITZERLAND.

Occupations Forbidden to Pregnant Women.—A decree of the Swiss Federal Council, dated December 13th, 1897, which came into operation on January 1st, 1898, forbids the employment of pregnant women in factories in certain branches of work. Among the occupations specified in this decree are those involving work in which the fumes of phosphorus are given off (in match factories mixing, dipping, emptying frames and filling boxes), work in which lead or lead compounds have to be handled, work carried on in the vicinity of pneumatic mercury pumps (in manufacturing incandescent lamps), work in which emanations of sulphuric acid or of carbon bi-sulphide or sulpho-chloride (in indiarubber manufacture) are given off, and cleaning with benzine, also all work involving the moving of heavy loads or liable to occasion violent shocks.

Occupations Forbidden to Children of 14 to 16.—By the same decree the employment in factories of children from the beginning of their 15th to the close of their 16th year is forbidden in certain kinds of work. The employment of children of the age referred to is thus made illegal in relation to the work of boiling substances under pressure, driving or otherwise attending to motors, dynamos, electrical installations, or any apparatus in which a strong electric current is used, and power transmission gear. Nor must such children be employed in cases in which certain machine cutting tools (saws, planes, &c.) are used, or where scutching, calendering or shearing machines are used, unless these be provided with efficient guards, or where pulping, &c., machines are used, or where explosive, or inflammable substances are worked up, or in certain processes in which a large amount of dust is generated or particles of material are driven off, unless the dust or other substance is effectually removed by suitable means, or where certain poisonous or injurious materials (e.g., mordants, lead glazes, &c.).

Regulation of private employment registries in Lucerne.—A new cantonal law regulating private employment registries of all sorts is to come into operation in the canton of Lucerne on July 1st.

* Includes quarrying, brick, tile, pottery, porcelain, glassworking, &c.

† Includes (in addition to work in wood) work in bone, ivory, and similar materials which admit of being carved.

Keepers of registries have to take out a licence, which must be renewed each year. They must have proper offices (not in a public-house), and be of good character. Their registers are subject to inspection by the police. They are strictly forbidden to board or lodge women or girls. The law fixes a maximum scale of fees payable on registration and on obtaining a situation.

A registry office keeper, who knowingly offers an applicant a situation not registered in the office as vacant will be deprived of his licence, and is liable to make good to the applicant any loss sustained in consequence.—*Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschafts und Social Politik*, May, 1898.

BELGIUM.

Yellow Phosphorus in Matches.—A Royal Decree, dated April 18th, 1898, contains special instructions to factory inspectors as to how they are to proceed when taking samples of match paste for the purpose of ascertaining the proportion of yellow phosphorus contained therein. The maximum proportion allowed is 8 per cent. The powers hitherto possessed by the Provincial Councils to permit departures from this rule are revoked by the present Decree.

Additions to list of trades classed as dangerous, &c.—By Royal Decrees, dated May 8th and 18th, the following additions are made to the list of trades classed as dangerous, unhealthy, or inconvenient:—(1) Manufacture of copper by the moist (or chlorine) process; (2) manufacture of hydrogen and oxygen gas by the electrolysis of water; (3) the concentration of sulphuric acid, and (4) maize-hulling.

Fencing of Machinery, &c.—A Royal Decree of April 18th amends the text of Article 10 of the Royal Decree of September 21st, 1894, concerning the sanitary condition of factories and workshops, and the protection of the people employed therein against accident. The article, as amended, gives more specific directions as to the fencing of dangerous parts of machinery. Persons not having business in the engine-room are in future not to be allowed to enter it, if it be situated in a part of the building not used for work. The means adopted for setting gas and petroleum motors in motion must be such that it will not be necessary for the workpeople to press the spokes of the fly-wheel.

HOLLAND.

Agitation amongst Dock Labourers.—In a report supplied by Mr. Henry Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, under date of July 1st, it is stated that an agitation is in progress amongst the dock labourers and kindred workmen in the Rotterdam district, and that a circular has been addressed to the employers in several branches of trade setting forth the terms on which the men are prepared to enter into contracts with their employers in future. The men's demands include a rise of 50 per cent. in wages, nine instead of ten hours to be a day's work, the abolition of work on Sundays and holidays, and work to cease at 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The employers are requested to reply before July 15th.

New rules relating to the manufacture and use of match-paste containing yellow phosphorus.—By Royal Decree dated June 24th, the employment of women and of young persons of either sex under the age of 16 years is absolutely forbidden in factories and workplaces where the manufacture or working-up of match-paste containing more than 5 per cent. of yellow phosphorus is carried on. When the proportion of yellow phosphorus contained in the paste is 5 per cent. or less, the employment of these classes of persons is permitted, on condition that the employer produces a medical certificate to the effect that their health is not likely to suffer in consequence.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes in June.—The most noteworthy of the labour disputes reported* to have begun in June occurred in the glass-bead and crystal ware industries of the district of Gablonz, in Bohemia, where general strikes took place, chiefly with the object of procuring the re-establishment of the minimum wage-scale which was in operation in 1890, and a working day of eight hours. The crystal-ware cutters of Morchenstern were the first to strike, and their demands are stated to have been promptly conceded. The glass-bead workers of Antoniwald and Marienburg-Marxdorf next struck, and on June 18th an agreement was arrived at providing (a), on behalf of the workpeople, not to make beads for any employer outside the Gablonz district; (b) on behalf of the employers, not to supply beads to any exporters other than those belonging to the Gablonz Exporters' Association, and (c), on behalf of the exporters, not to take beads direct from the workpeople. The strike in the crystal-ware branch was prolonged into the first week in July, when terms, agreed to on June 28th, at a conference of representatives of the workpeople, employers, and exporters, were finally accepted by the body of the workpeople.

* In Austrian employers' and workmen's papers, including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Association), *Das Handels-Museum*, *Die Gewerkschaft*, *Die Arbeiter-Zeitung*, and others.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—COAL AND IRON MINING.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN JUNE.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry (excluding the South Wales and Monmouthshire district) was better in June than a year ago. The number of days worked at the pits was, on the whole, less than in May, the Whitsuntide holidays being included in the June period. In Scotland, however, where these holidays are not observed, there is an improvement shown as compared with May.

In the following tables South Wales and Monmouthshire have been excluded throughout, the majority of the pits being idle owing to the continuance of the dispute in that district. Some particulars are, however, given below respecting employment at some of the non-associated Welsh collieries.

In the other districts 1,147 pits employing 369,566 workpeople worked on an average 4.95 days per week in the four weeks ended 25th June last, as compared with 4.73 days in the corresponding period of 1897, and 5.38 days per week in May last.

The following table shows the average number of days worked in these periods in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in June, 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		25th June 1898.*	19th June 1897.*	21st May 1898.
England and N. Wales ...	334,737	4.89	4.67	5.38
Scotland ...	34,184	5.55	5.28	5.41
Ireland ...	645	4.42	4.49	4.32
United Kingdom ...	369,566	4.95	4.73	5.38

In the next table, the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. These figures show an increase in the number of days worked, as compared with a year ago, in each class, the greatest improvement being in pits producing house and gas coals. As compared with a month ago, all classes show a falling off owing to the Whitsuntide holidays, but it may be noted that house coal pits show the greatest decline, and coking and steam coal pits the least.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in June, 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		
		June, 1898.*	June, 1897.*	May, 1898.
Coking Coal ...	28,104	5.54	5.52	5.77
Gas " ...	39,950	5.03	4.68	5.41
House " ...	88,295	4.47	4.09	5.11
Manufacturing Coal...	26,065	5.05	4.74	5.57
Steam " ...	99,835	5.16	5.01	5.44
Mixed " ...	87,307	4.96	4.74	5.37
All Classes of Coal ...	369,566	4.95	4.73	5.38

In the following table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 62.7 per cent of the workpeople were engaged at pits working 5 or more days per week in June, as against 53.7 per cent. in June, 1897.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	June, 1898.*		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	June, 1897.*	May, 1898.
24 days (full time) ...	17,462	4.7	2.2	17.7
20 and under 24 days ...	214,460	58.0	51.5	64.8
16 " " 20 " ...	96,868	26.2	25.7	31.1
12 " " 16 " ...	29,022	7.9	13.2	3.1
8 " " 12 " ...	8,871	2.4	6.3	0.8
Under 8 days ...	2,883	0.8	1.1	0.5
Total ...	369,566	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Whitsuntide is included in this period.

Comparison by Districts.—In each of the Scottish districts over 5½ days per week were worked on an average during the month. In North Wales, Cumberland and Durham the number of days was between 5½ and 5¾, the only other district working over 5 days per week being Northumberland. As compared with a year ago there is an improvement of between ¾ths of a day and 1 day in the Notts and Leicester, and Gloucester and Somerset districts; of about ¼ths of a day in North Wales and Fife, and of over ¼rd but less than ½ a day in the Salop, Worcester and Warwick, and Derbyshire districts. Smaller increases in the average days worked are seen in the remaining districts with the exception of Staffordshire, where there was no change, and Yorkshire, the Lothians, and the small Irish district, in each of which there is a trifling falling off.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN JUNE, 1898 AND 1897, AND IN MAY, 1898.

District.	No. employed in June, 1898, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in June, 1898 as compared with	
		25th June 1898.*	19th June 1897.*	21st May 1898.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & N. WALES						
Northumberland ...	34,591	5.11	5.09	5.44	+ .02	- .33
Durham ...	88,519	5.33	5.25	5.62	+ .08	- .29
Cumberland ...	6,102	5.41	5.25	5.82	+ .16	- .41
Yorkshire ...	47,848	4.68	4.69	5.60	- .01	- .92
Lancashire and Cheshire	44,961	4.72	4.57	5.23	+ .15	- .51
Nottingham and Leicester	24,344	4.21	3.51	4.66	+ .70	- .45
Derbyshire ...	36,765	4.61	4.18	5.05	+ .43	- .44
Staffordshire ...	24,804	4.45	4.45	5.08	...	- .63
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,309	4.88	4.43	5.62	+ .45	- .74
Gloucester and Somerset	7,696	4.91	4.07	5.28	+ .84	- .37
North Wales ...	10,798	5.44	4.72	5.67	+ .72	- .23
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	19,431	5.51	5.46	5.43	+ .05	+ .08
The Lothians ...	3,580	5.71	5.75	5.60	- .04	+ .11
Fife ...	11,173	5.57	4.87	5.30	+ .70	- .27
IRELAND.						
...	645	4.42	4.49	4.82	- .07	- .40
Grand Total & Averages	369,566	4.95	4.73	5.38	+ .22	- .43

With regard to the South Wales and Monmouthshire district returns relating to pits ordinarily employing 63,355 workpeople, show that 17,664 of these persons were employed at collieries unaffected by the dispute in the week ended 25th June. The pits employing these 17,664 workpeople, worked on an average 5.50 days per week.

Percentage of Unemployed.—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.4 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of June, the same percentage as in May. The percentage in June, 1897, was 0.6.

Exports of Coal.—The exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during June amounted to 2,916,975 tons, as compared with 2,691,020 tons in May, and 3,082,214 tons in June, 1897.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN JUNE.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows, on the whole, no appreciable change as compared with a year ago. The only district showing a marked change in the number of days worked is Scotland, with a decrease of .89 days per week, due to the continuance of a dispute at one of the mines. As compared with a month ago there is a slight falling off in employment, but this is more than accounted for by the Whitsuntide holidays, which fell within the June period.

Returns received relating to 135 iron mines and open-works, show that 17,105 workpeople were employed in June or 24.7 more than a year ago. The mines included in the returns worked during the four weeks ended 25th June, an average of 5.68 days per week, as compared with 5.72 days in June, 1897. Of the 17,105 persons employed, 86.2 per cent. were at mines which worked

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—AGRICULTURE; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

Midland Counties.—In *Cheshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Macclesfield, and Nantwich; in *Derbyshire* in the Unions of Ashbourne, Hayfield, and in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derbyshire*); the *Derbyshire* portion of the Worksop Union (*Notts*, *Derbyshire* and *Yorkshire, W.R.*); and the *Derbyshire* portion of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*). Reports of a favourable character come from *Shropshire* from the Unions of Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, (*Staffs* and *Salop*), Oswestry, Wellington, Wem, and Whitchurch; and from *Staffordshire* from the Lichfield, and Tamworth Unions.

Reports from *Warwickshire* state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon; and from the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants* and *Warwick*); and from *Leicestershire* in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Blaby, Hinckley, Market Bosworth, Market Harborough, Loughborough, Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*), and Melton Mowbray. Several reports from *Leicestershire* refer to a scarcity of labour. In *Nottinghamshire* agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Bingham, Southwell, and Retford; in *Rutland* in the Oakham Union; and in *Worcestershire* in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Shipston-on-Stour (Warwick and Worcester portions), and Tenbury. In the Evesham and Martley Unions, labour is said to be scarce.

Reports of a favourable character come from *Oxfordshire* from the Unions of Thame, Witney, and Wallingford (*Oxon* and *Berks*); and from the *Oxfordshire* portion of the Abingdon Union (*Oxon* and *Berks*). Employment is also said to be regular in *Northamptonshire* in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Potterspury, Towcester, and Wellingborough. Favourable reports also come from *Huntingdonshire* from the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neots (*Hunts* and *Beds*). In the *Bedfordshire* portion it is reported that extra hands who take piece-work lost some time owing to wet weather, but that they generally have work of their own to fall back on. Reports from *Bedfordshire* from the Unions of Bedford, and Leighton Buzzard, and from a district in the Luton Union, state that work is generally regular, and that labour is scarce.

Eastern Counties.—In *Essex* agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, Saffron Walden, and Tendring. In *Norfolk* labourers have been fully employed at turnip hoeing and hay harvest. Reports to this effect come from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Lauditch, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham.

In *Suffolk* work is said to be generally regular, with few exceptions, owing to showery weather, in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Matford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, and Thingoe. Reports from both *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* state that at the end of the month hay harvest was in full swing. Several reports say that some of the earlier cuttings were deteriorated by rain. From *Cambridgeshire* reports of a favourable character come from the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, and Wisbech, from the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Northants*, *Camb*, *Hunts* and *Lincoln*), and from the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Royston Union (*Herts* and *Camb*); also from *Lincolnshire* from the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford; and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Notts* and *Lincoln*). Some scarcity of labour for hay-making is reported in the Unions of Grimsby, and Sleaford.

Home Counties.—Reports from *Buckinghamshire* state that agricultural employment is regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, and Buckingham. In both these Unions labour is said to be scarce. In *Berkshire* work is reported as regular in the Unions of Bradfield, Pangbourne, and Wantage; in *Surrey* in the Unions of Farnham (*Surrey* and *Hants*), Godstone, and Hambleton; in *Kent*, in the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, and Hoo. Several reports from this county say that extra hands for hay-making are very difficult to obtain. Favourable reports come from *Hertfordshire*, in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, and St. Albans; and from a district in the Hemel Hempstead Union.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment in *Sussex* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Ticehurst. Nearly all the reports from *Sussex* state that extra hands are difficult to get for haymaking, and that the crop is a

heavy one. Reports of a favourable character come from *Hampshire* from the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Doxford, Fareham, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Lympington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and from the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surrey*). Extra labour for hay harvest is said to be very scarce in the county in the districts from which reports have been received. Agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in *Dorsetshire* in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wareham and Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne. Reports from several districts state that the supply of labour is not equal to the demand.

In *Wiltshire* the state of agricultural employment is said to be quite satisfactory in the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Westbury and Whorwellsdown, and Wilton. All the reports state that all available hands are fully employed getting in a heavy hay crop, and that extra men are most difficult to obtain. In some districts railway construction and building operations are said to account to some extent for this scarcity. An employer in the Bradford-on-Avon Union writes that, "work is very plentiful over the whole of this Union and the county. Hoeing and occasional work is getting in arrears through scarcity of labour, although good progress was made with hay-making during the fine days in mid-month." Another employer in the Chippenham Union writes: "The supply of labourers in this, and the neighbouring parishes, is not equal to the demand, consequently the wages are 1s. a week higher than in June, 1897. The hay crop, both seed and meadow, is exceptionally heavy this season."

Agricultural employment is said to be regular in *Gloucestershire* in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Thornbury; and in *Herefordshire*, in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (*Monmouth* and *Hereford*) and Ross. A report from the last-named Union states that the crops of clover and hay are heavy, and that hands are scarce. Reports of a favourable character come from *Somersetshire*, from the Unions of Chard, Clutton, Langport, Taunton, Wells, and Yeovil; from *Devonshire*, from the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, and Torrington. In this county the reports state that the hay crop is a heavy one; and that it has required additional men to harvest it. In *Cornwall* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, and Stratton.

(b) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN JUNE.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves declined week by week during June, and was worse, on the whole, than in May. There is also a marked falling off shown as compared with June of last year.

The daily average number of labourers employed at all the docks and at 115 of the principal wharves was 13,595 during the four weeks ended 25th June last, as compared with an average of 14,163 in the preceding five weeks, and with 15,164* in the corresponding period in June, 1897. The estimated number employed on any one day ranged from 14,630 on the 3rd to 12,315 on the 24th June.

Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

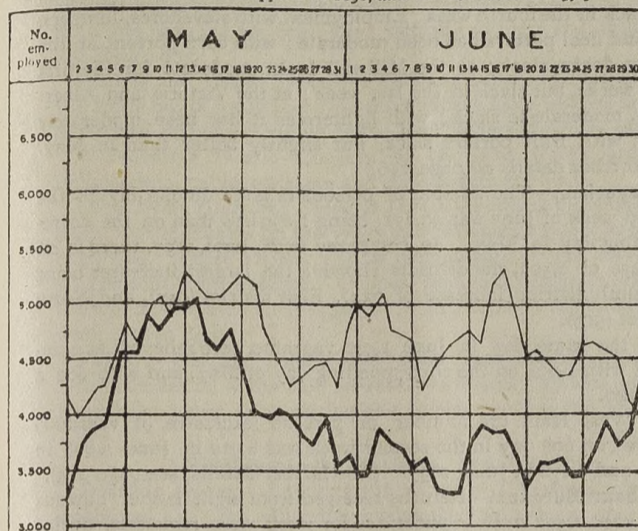
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of June ...	5,710	3,068	8,778	5,461	14,239
2nd " " " ...	5,595	2,647	8,242	5,600	13,842
3rd " " " ...	5,978	2,278	8,256	5,446	13,702
4th " " " ...	5,463	1,836	7,299	5,466	12,765
Average for 4 weeks ending June 25th, 1898	5,685	2,431	8,116	5,479	13,595
Average for June, 1897	7,263*	2,466	9,729*	5,445*	15,164*
Average for May, 1898	5,827	2,522	8,349	5,794	14,163

* Amended figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DOCK AND WHARF; SEAMEN; TEXTILE.

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during May and June is shown on the chart below. The numbers in June ranged from 3,284 on the 11th to 4,307 on the 30th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of May and June, 1898. The corresponding curve for May and June, 1897, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1898, and the thin curve to 1897.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for June, 1898 is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	3,460	11	3,284	22	3,602
2	3,480	12	3,692	23	3,446
3	3,861	13	3,859	24	3,474
4	3,731	14	3,824	25	3,707
5	3,689	15	3,847	26	3,946
6	3,588	16	3,655	27	3,721
7	3,604	17	3,357	28	3,836
8	3,304	18	3,572	29	4,307
9	3,288	19	3,574	30	4,307
10	3,288	20	3,574	31	4,307

Sundays and Holidays are omitted. During June, 1897, the total number of Dock Labourers employed varied from 3,278 on the 17th to 4,100 on the 30th. Taking the London and St. Katharine Docks only, the number employed during June, 1898, varied from 1,282 on the 10th to 2,325 on the 30th. Wool Sales were held from 3rd to 19th May, 1898, and recommenced on 26th June. In 1897, they were held from 4th to 22nd May, and recommenced on 7th July.

Employment in mid-stream is reported as moderately good during the first three weeks, but slack in the fourth week. Stevedores, lumpers, coal porters, and deal porters, have been moderately employed. With corn porters employment has been slack at the Surrey docks, moderate for the first three weeks, but slack in the last week at the Millwall docks, and moderate to slack at the Victoria and Albert docks. Lightermen have been moderately well employed.

With the fruit porters in Thames Street employment has been slack but slightly better than in May, the daily average number employed in June being 119, compared with 110 in May.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN JUNE.

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

The number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 34,170 in June, or 930 less than in June, 1897. Omitting Newport and Cardiff, the two ports principally affected by the disturbance in the South Wales coal trade, the totals show an increase as compared both with a month and a year ago. At most of the ports the demand for, and the supply of, men is reported as nearly equal. Men for sailing vessels were scarce at Leith, Glasgow and Dublin. The supply of seamen and firemen at Bristol and of seamen at North Shields exceeded the demand.

Particulars of changes in wages affecting able seamen and firemen at Sunderland, Newport, and Methil; able seamen on sailing vessels at Hull and Cardiff; and firemen at Swansea will be found in the table on page 218.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in June 1898 and 1897 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the six months ended June in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in June, 1898.*			Total in June, 1897.*	Total number shipped in six months ended June*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in June, 1898.		1898.	1897.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	142	4,699	4,841	3,469	21,733	19,621
Sunderland ...	—	624	624	587	3,791	3,616
Middlesbrough ...	74	359	433	446	1,869	2,658
Hull ...	130	1,508	1,638	1,319	7,807	6,369
Grimsby ...	5	152	157	168	600	499
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	—	214	214	204	1,279	1,171
Newport, Mon. ...	16	173	189	1,163	4,401	7,369
Cardiff ...	357	1,541	1,898	4,817	22,440	33,859
Swansea ...	211	668	879	732	3,648	3,949
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	419	10,080	10,499	10,461	60,259	56,503
London ...	582	6,260	6,842	6,468	38,264	35,481
Southampton ...	6	1,499	1,505	1,467	8,921	8,077
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth Glasgow ...	22	947	969	836	4,763	3,910
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	130	130	108	609	498
Belfast ...	16	271	287	251	1,561	1,397
Total, June, 1898 ...	2,175	31,995	34,170	—	194,459	—
Ditto, June, 1897 ...	1,784	33,366	—	35,100	—	199,332

(j) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN JUNE.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month showed a further improvement in the cotton trade, and an improvement in the woollen and worsted trades. Information has been received with regard to 500 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, employing about 82,510 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time.	Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.	
Cotton Trade—				
June, 1898 ...	81	16	1	2
May, 1898 ...	77	20	2	1
June, 1897 ...	70	22	3	5
Woollen and Worsted Trade—				
June, 1898 ...	71	24	3	2
May, 1898 ...	66	17	14	3
June, 1897 ...	74	23	2	1
Silk Trade—				
June, 1898 ...	61	12	27	—
May, 1898 ...	90	5	5	—
Total of above Trades—				
June, 1898 ...	78	18	2	2
May, 1898 ...	75	19	5	1
June, 1897 ...	71	22	3	4

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 58,300; of these 81 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 77 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in May, and with 70 per cent. in June, 1897); 16 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 1 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted

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

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

mills reported on is 20,290; of these 71 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 66 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in May, and 74 per cent. in June, 1897); 24 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 3 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in Various Industries.—On the whole, employment remained steady during the month. Returns from 418 branches of 110 unions, having an aggregate membership of 72,493, show that 2,081 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed, the percentage being the same as in May, compared with 3.5 per cent. at the end of June, 1897.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades slightly improved. Reports from 122 branches of 26 unions, with an aggregate membership of 20,765, show that 686 (or 3.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.8 in May. The percentage for June, 1897, was 3.6. Sailmakers reported no improvement.

The *Building* trades were still briskly employed. Returns from 179 branches of 6 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,073, show that 107 (or 1.0 per cent.) were unemployed, as in April and May, compared with 1.9 per cent. in June, 1897. The bricklayers, stonemasons, stonemasons, and mill-sawyers described employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; the painters and decorators and plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades was scarcely so good. Reports from 42 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,697, show that 139 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.7 in April and May. The percentage for June, 1897, was 2.7.

Coopers were busy. Two societies with a membership of 980 report only 2 (or 0.2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 0.5 in May, and 0.3 per cent. in June of last year.

Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights continued well employed. Returns from 13 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,359, show that 20 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.9 in May, and 1.3 per cent. in June, 1897.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades, though fairly well employed for the season, continued to show a slight falling off. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 22,287, show that 678 (or 3.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.2 in May and 3.5 per cent. in June of last year.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades was only moderate. The West End bespoke tailoring trade was good, but declined towards the end of the month; the East End bespoke trade busy; the contract trade fair; the wholesale trade quiet; the military uniform trade moderate; the ladies' tailors and mantle-makers trade slack. Employment with hat-makers continued dull; with cap-makers it was moderate. The fur skin dressers and furriers remained slack. Employment with silk-weavers was still fair.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment in the West End hand-sewn branch continued good, the ladies' trade being particularly busy. The East End sew-round trade still remained bad, few being fully employed; with boot and shoe operatives employment was quiet.

Employment in the *Leather* trades was not so good. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,692, show that 64 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 per cent. in May and 2.5 in June, 1897.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,473, show that 62 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.0 in May and 5.1 per cent. in June of last year.

Hair, Fibre and Cane workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 902, show that 14 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.4 in May and 2.5 per cent. in June, 1897.

Gold and Silver workers were better employed, though short time was still being worked in some branches. Returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,101, show that 21 (or 1.9 per cent.) were

unemployed, compared with 3.5 in May. The percentage for June, 1897, was 1.3.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades continued to improve. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,416, show that 137 (or 5.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of June, compared with 7.5 in May, and 8.0 per cent. in June, 1897.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The daily average number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves was 13,595 in June, as against 14,163 in May, and 15,164 in June, 1897. Work in mid-stream was moderately good in the first three weeks of the month, but slack in the fourth week. Employment with stevedores, lumpers, coal and deal porters has been moderate; with corn porters, at the Surrey docks, slack; at the Millwall docks, moderate for the first three weeks, but slack in the last week; at the Victoria and Albert docks, moderate to slack; with lightermen it has been moderately good; with fruit porters slack, but slightly better than in May. (For further details see page 206.)

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of June was 99,271, being 1,039 less than on the corresponding day in May. As compared with June, 1897, there is an increase of 2,502, the districts showing the largest increases being the South district (increase of 734), East district (652), and North district (513).

On the same day in June 1,071 vagrants were relieved, as compared with 1,074 on the corresponding day of May, and with 889 a year ago.

In West Ham the number of persons (exclusive of vagrants) relieved on one day in the second week was 8,910 in June, 8,808 in May, and 8,176 in June, 1897. (For further details, see page 223.)

Labour Bureaux.—Returns received from eight labour bureaux show that 1,592 fresh applications for work were registered during June, 1898, as compared with 1,112 in June, 1897. Of these, 533 in June, 1898, and 389 in June, 1897, were applications by women and girls. Work was found by these bureaux during June for 920 persons (including 153 women and girls), compared with 875 (including 120 women and girls) in the corresponding month of 1897. The number of persons on the register at the end of June, 1898, was 1757, or 307 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 223.)

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—*Northumberland.*—Employment at the collieries has been somewhat easier in June, steam coal pits having averaged 5.11 days, and house coal pits 5.17 days per week, as against 5.46 and 5.47 days in May. Of the 20,724 union miners, 32 (or 0.15 per cent.) are off work, the same percentage as in May. Colliery mechanics, deputies, enginemen and firemen are all fully employed. *Durham.*—Coking coal pits and those producing a mixed class of coal have been the best employed, the former averaging 5.62 days per week, and the latter 5.57 days. Manufacturing, house and gas collieries have averaged respectively 5.50, 5.43 and 5.12 days, as against 5.61, 5.50 and 5.45 days in May. Collieries employing 56,842 men and boys, from which returns have been received, have averaged 5.46 days per week, as against 5.54 days in May. The number of unemployed union miners is 318 (or 0.52 per cent.), as against 313 (or 0.51 per cent.) in May, in addition to which are 166 idle from other causes than depression. Of the 2,853 deputies, engine and fire men, 7 are unemployed. Coke yards are working full time.

Metal Mining.—Much activity prevails in one or two lead mines in the Weardale district. Iron ore miners are regularly employed.

Quarrying.—At Frosterley and Stanhope five lime and two whinstone quarries have worked full time; two others have worked irregularly. Stone quarries at Blyth continue steadily employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne.*—In all yards and engine shops employment continues full. One or two cycle works have discharged several men. Electrical, ordnance, and locomotive shops continue busy. Dock and pontoon work has been fair. Of the 12,675 union members of these trades, 210 (or 1.7 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 213 (or 1.7 per cent.) in May. *On the Wear.*—Fitters, turners, and pattern-makers are busy. In boiler shops much extra time is being worked. Iron shipbuilders continue brisk. Out of 4,645 members of these trades, 36 (or 0.8 per cent.) are off work, as against 33 (or 0.7 per cent.) at the end of May.

On both rivers the drillers and hole cutters, brass finishers, iron and steel moulders, pattern-makers, and enginemen have but few unemployed. At Consett, steel smelting shops, and plate and angle mills have worked full time; iron mills 5 days per week. On the Tyne mills have been idle one week, owing to holidays. Shipwrights on both rivers are all employed. Chainmakers have worked over five shifts per week.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—In Oldham and surrounding districts employment is reported as fair, the mills working full time. There is an improvement in Rochdale, Stalybridge, and Stockport, where employment is reported as good. In Mossley, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Dukinfield employment is reported as moderate. Ring frame spinners are fully employed; twiners report employment as fair; cardroom workers and winders as moderate; and reelers as slack. *Weaving.*—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as slack in velvets, bad in fustians, moderate in calicoes, and sectional and ball warping.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—There is no improvement in the state of employment in the woolen trade, which is reported as bad in Stockport, Rochdale, and Milnrow districts. Silkdressers report employment as slack, with much short time.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, tinplate-workers, and irongrinders and glazers report employment as moderate; plate and machine moulders, pattern-makers, boiler-makers, and gasmeter-makers as good; ironfounders and brassfounders as fair; toolmakers as slack in the cycle department, and fair in machine shops.

Building Trades.—Painters and bricklayers report employment as good; carpenters and joiners and plasterers as moderate; plumbers as fair.

Coal Mining.—Miners report employment as good in Royton and Crompton districts, six days per week being worked; as moderate in Oldham and Chadderton districts, with five days per week; and as slack in Ashton-under-Lyne.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning.*—Employment is reported as fairly active, all mills in the district working full time. Employment in Chorley, Bury, Farnworth, Walkden and Wigan is reported as fairly good. Employment with cardroom operatives in Bolton and immediate district is fair; in Bury, Chorley, Wigan, Farnworth and Walkden moderate. *Weaving.*—Employment in Bolton, especially in the plain goods trade, continues active. In Chorley employment in calico weaving is reported as busy; in coloured goods as exceptionally slack. In Wigan employment is reported as moderate; in Bury as slightly improved.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues exceptionally good. Iron machine making firms are reported as busy in nearly every department. Branches of the engineers with 2,365 members have 153 (or 6.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 159 (or 6.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May. Employment in the steel trades, is not active. In Bury engineers and machine makers are busy. In Wigan employment in the iron trade is moderate; in steel rolling quiet. Ironfoundry labourers are fairly well employed in Bolton, Bury, and Wigan; in Chorley employment is irregular.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as improved in Bolton; moderate in Bury; slack in Chorley; fair in Wigan.

Coal Mining.—Employment in Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Lever, Little Hulton, Walkden and Radcliffe continues fairly active, an average of five days per week being worked; in Wigan, Ince, Pemberton, Westhoughton and Hindley employment is reported as good, averaging five and a quarter days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Carters and lorrymen, printers, paper millworkers, harness-makers, coachmakers, and corporation servants are moderately well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving.*—Employment in the weaving industry in the Blackburn district continues fairly good, the looms being well employed; in Burnley employment is good, no looms being now on short time; in Preston moderate; in Darwen over 600 looms have stopped during the past month, and a few others are stopped for want of warps; the rest are on full time; in Nelson there is no material change, but in Colne employment is reported as worse. Hardwaste weavers are moderately employed. Employment in the coloured goods trade is reported as slack, with looms stopped for want of warps. Twisters and drawers are fully employed throughout the district. *Spinning.*—Employment is reported by spinners as good in Preston and Blackburn; fair in Padiham, Darwen, and Accrington; slack in Burnley. Cardroom workers are fully employed in all the districts. Branches of twisters and drawers and cotton spinners with 3,293 members have 129 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 166 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Quayside labour is reported as fairly good; Tyne watermen have had fuller employment; trimmers and teamers and coal porters continue to work full time; the demand for sailors and firemen is reported as good. On the Wear 5.6 per cent. of tugboat-workers are idle; sailmakers on the Tyne and at Sunderland report a slight decline.

Building Trades.—In Newcastle and district of the 1,492 union masons, bricklayers and plasterers none are idle; of 3,825 union joiners (house and ship) on both rivers all are employed; painters and decorators continue fairly busy; plumbers (house and ship) on the Tyne have 6.1 per cent. idle; slaters and tilers and lathrenders are improving.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—Five Tyne paper mills have worked 108 shifts out of a possible 230; three others have worked full time; letterpress printers continue quiet; bookbinders are fairly employed.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers in chemical works are slack; upholsterers, cabinet-makers and millsawyers are busy.

Other Metal, Glass and Chemical Trades.—Pressed glassmakers are slack; bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour are fully employed. These trades, with a membership of 932, have 66 (or 7.1 per cent.) unemployed. Copper, lead, and cement-workers, upon the whole, continue fairly steady. Four chemical factories stopped work for ten days.

Fishing.—Herring fishing has been considerably interrupted. Good catches of white fish, however, have been landed, but prices have been lower than during the earlier part of the year.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Employment with the Cleveland miners has continued fair, the miners having worked an average of 5.77 days per week during the four weeks ending June 25th, as compared with 5.72 days per week in the four weeks ending June 19th, 1897.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The finished iron works have been well employed. At the steelworks generally the mills are reported as busy. Blastfurnacemen report employment as fairly good. Employment at bridge works and foundries is good.

Engineering.—The engineers, ironfounders and pattern-makers report employment as good in all parts of the district. Branches with 3,482 members have 17 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 15 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May, overtime being worked.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is reported as brisk, every yard being busy. Shipwrights and shipjoiners report employment as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough and brisk at Hartlepool, but quieter during the last week. Dock labour is moderate at Middlesbrough, quiet at Hartlepool. Riverside labour is fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Miscellaneous.—The sawyers report employment as good; the printers as fair at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hartlepool, and fairly good at Darlington. Tailors are busy.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry is still good, although owing to the Whitsuntide holidays the average number of days worked shows a falling off as compared with May. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended June 25th at pits from which returns have been received was 5.41 per week, as compared with 5.82 in May, and 5.25 in June, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,102, an increase of 158 as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended June 25th at the 49 mines from which returns have been received was 5.73 per week, as compared with 5.75 in June, 1897. The number of workpeople employed was 6,290, as compared with 6,369 in the corresponding period of last year.

Big Iron Manufacture.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that at the works covered by the returns the number of furnaces in blast at the end of June was 47, as against 48 in May, and 42 in June, 1897. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 3,646, a decrease of 23 as compared with May, and an increase of 369 as compared with June, 1897.

Shipbuilding.—According to Lloyds' return the gross tonnage of merchant vessels under construction at the end of June in the Barrow, Maryport, and Workington district was 25,875 tons, showing an increase of 18,994 tons compared with June, 1897, and of 6,365 tons compared with March, 1898.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as quiet with masons, wallers, joiners, and plumbers; as fair with painters and decorators.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The several branches of these trades report employment as good; the fitters and erectors in the machine shops continue to be well employed.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coal miners in the Accrington district continues fair; in Burnley, about 70 men are on four days per week, the remainder being on full time; stone quarrymen are fully employed throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers report employment as quiet in Nelson and Colne, as fair in Burnley; tailors as fair; letterpress printers as moderate; calico printers and dyers are still slack.

W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches with 21,273 members return 783 (or 37 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 823 (or 39 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in Manchester report employment as good; machine workers, smiths and strikers as busy; engineers, boiler-makers, smiths and strikers in Northwich as bad; ironfounders and boiler-makers in Stockport as fair; in Macclesfield the iron trades in general are well employed; in Warrington wire drawers and wireweavers are fairly well employed; tin-plate workers are busy; file-smiths moderately so; other branches of the iron and brass trades are doing fairly well.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as fairly busy in Warrington and Stockport; as moderate in Northwich and Macclesfield; in Manchester plasterers report employment as moderate, plumbers as bad, other branches as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers and French polishers report employment as good in Manchester, fair in Stockport and Warrington; coachmakers are busy in both private and railway shops.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—Lithographic artists report employment as fair; lithographic printers and compositors as moderate; bookbinders and pattern card-makers as bad; in Stockport employment generally is slack; in Warrington it is moderate.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners in Manchester and Stockport report employment as moderate; doublers as fair. In Macclesfield cotton workers are fully employed; employment with silk weavers has been slack, with silk dyers moderate; in other branches of the silk trade, good. Fustian cutters are slack. Bleachers, dressers, dyers, and finishers report employment as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors continues fair, with a slight tendency to decline; with Jewish tailors in Manchester and Stockport it is good. Felt hat makers and trimmers report employment as bad; boot and shoe makers as slack. Wholesale garment, mantle, and cap makers remain fairly busy; umbrella makers and shirt makers moderately so.—G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as moderate; pattern-makers, turners, fitters, smiths, brassfounders, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, whitesmiths and hammermen as good; shipwrights as quiet; ship joiners as unsettled; ship painters as moderate. Branches with 4,279 members have 324 (or 7.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 155 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, French polishers, upholsterers, coachmakers, machine men and sawyers report employment as good; coopers as still dull.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen continue fairly well employed. Employment with dock labourers is moderate, with timber porters fair; with flatmen and lightermen good; with quay and railway carters quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as quiet; lithographic printers as moderate; stereotypers as fair; bookbinders as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in all branches of the tailoring trade continues good. The boot and shoe makers report employment as fairly good.

Building Trades.—The painters report employment as good; the plumbers as moderate; the joiners as fair. Other branches are fully employed.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report employment as fair; quarrymen as good.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers report employment as good; other branches of the glass trade as fair; chemical workers as moderate.—C. Rousg.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been dull. It remains normal in the chemical trade at Middlewich. In the building trades it is good. The fustian cutters in Winsford and Middlewich are working short time.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in these trades at Hull and Beverley is reported as good; at Grimsby as good with engineers, boiler-makers and smiths, fair with shipwrights, moderate with sailmakers; at Goole, as good with engineers, fair with smiths and boiler-makers, bad with shipwrights; at Doncaster as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good throughout the district except at Goole, where it is moderate.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and marine firemen report employment as good; employment for dock labourers engaged in coal shipments is good; with general dock labourers moderate at Hull, Grimsby and Goole. In the deal, timber, and grain trades, the arrivals have been large, and more men have found employment.

Fishing Industry.—The steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen report employment as fair at Hull and Grimsby; the trawl fishermen as moderate. Employment for fish market and curing house workers at Hull and Grimsby has been moderate.

Seed-crushing, Oil, Colour and Paint Trades.—Employment in the seed-crushing trade is reported as slack, with two-thirds of the workers unemployed. Employment in the paint and colour works is reported as fairly good.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers at Doncaster report employment as good, at Hull as moderate; the lithographic printers as moderate; the bookbinders and machine rulers as fair.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The cabinetmakers at Hull, the coachbuilders at Hull and Doncaster report employment as good; the coopers at Hull as moderate.

Leather Trades.—The tanners, lace-cutters and leatherbelt-makers at Hull, report employment as fair; the curriers and leather-dressers at Doncaster as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The bakers and confectioners at Hull report employment as good; the gasworkers and general labourers as fair; the brushmakers as bad; the tailors at Doncaster as good.

W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good in the Leeds engineering trade. The ironfounders, boiler-makers, pattern-makers, steel-workers, smiths and strikers, and stovegrate workers report employment as good; the spindle and flyer makers as quiet; brassworkers as busy in engineers' shops, dull in other branches. At Wakefield employment in the engineering and iron trades is good; at Stanningley crane makers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—In the ready-made clothing trade employment has been slack in factories and in workshops. Bespoke tailoring has been fair. In the Leeds boot and shoe industry work has continued quiet, but slightly improved at the end of the month; at Bramley it is only moderate.

Textile Trades.—Employment in these trades generally shows a slight improvement in Leeds, but varies considerably. Blanket raisers return employment as improved; linen workers as moderate; flax workers as fair; willeys and fettlers as moderate. At Wakefield employment in worsted and cloth mills is fair; at Yeadon employment continues bad.

Building Trades.—Except with plumbers, employment generally is good throughout the district.

Leather Trades.—Tanners report employment as fairly steady; leather shavers as slack, and in the fancy leather and calf kid departments as bad. Curriers as moderate; saddlers and harness-makers as busy.

Coal Mining.—At the Leeds pits employment is good, five days and full time being worked. At Wakefield, South Kirkby, and Pontefract most pits are on full time.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographers as moderate; bookbinders and machine rulers as quiet. Paper-mill workers are on short time.

Glass Trades.—Glass bottle-makers at Hunslet, Wakefield, and

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,395 members have 75 (or 1.0 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 68 or 0.9 per cent. of their membership, at the end of May.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good at the locomotive works, and in bridge, boiler, and girder yards. Ironfounders in Derby, Butterley, Somercotes and Chesterfield, report employment as good; brassmoulders and finishers in Derby and Burton as good; stove-grate workers in Derby, Belper, and Langley Mill as good; farriers in Derby as moderate; wire drawers in Ambergate, and pipe moulders and blastfurnacemen in Ilkeston as good; lace machine builders in Long Eaton as slack, but general engineers as good; cycle workers in Draycott and Long Eaton as bad.

Coal Mining.—At collieries employing upwards of 23,000 men, an average of 4½ days per week has been worked, as compared with 5.6 days in May, the decrease being due to the holidays.

Quarrying.—Employment in limestone quarries is reported as moderate. Chert quarrymen are still well employed in Bakewell.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton weavers and spinners continues good generally; with hosiery workers in Heanor it is still bad; in Belper and Ilkeston improving. Lace workers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton report employment as bad; calico printers in Hayfield as improving, at Dinting as fair; engravers at Dinting and New Mills as moderate; surgical bandage makers in Derby as good; elastic web weavers as bad; dyers and bleachers in Belper as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield are fully employed; employment with tailors and dress and mantle makers is reported as good.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment is good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long Eaton, and with carriage-builders in private shops. Cooperers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as bad.

Printing Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with letterpress printers; with lithographic printers and bookbinders and machine-rulers as good.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment in the curtain and plain net branch is fair; in the lever branch slack, with an increased number unemployed; with warp lace-workers, warpers and curtain readers, it is bad; with the auxiliary workers moderate; with card punchers quiet; with designers and draughtsmen fair; with female lace-workers slack; with dyers, moderate at Basford; slack at Nottingham. Reduced time is being worked at Beeston, Kimberley, Stapleford, and outside districts.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment with framework knitters is more regular; in the circular hosiery branch moderate; in the hand frame branch improving. Wool shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard show a decline. The hand frame branch at Kirkby, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Arnold, and Mansfield is moderately employed. The power machine branch at Mansfield report employment as regular; the trimmers at Basford, Bulwell, and Nottingham as moderate.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders are well employed at Nottingham, Mansfield, Retford, and Grantham. Engineers and machine-workers report employment as bad at Nottingham, moderate at Newark and Grantham, fair at Colwick, cycle workers as slack, with many unemployed at Beeston and Nottingham; boiler-makers as moderate at Grantham and Nottingham; tool machinists as quiet at Beeston and Nottingham, busy at Grantham; iron and steel dressers as fair; smiths and strikers as busy at Grantham; wheelwrights and smiths as good at Nottingham and Grantham; bobbin and carriage-makers as not so satisfactory; carriage-straighteners, brassworkers, and brassfounders, farriers, and blast-furnacemen as good. Branches with 2,881 members have 155 (or 5.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 145 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Building Trades.—Employment is unsettled owing to the labourers' dispute. Painters report employment as moderate; plumbers as slack; joiners as good; bricklayers and labourers at Newark and Grantham as moderate. Brickmakers are on short time.

Coal Mining.—Returns from pits employing over 17,000 men show an average of about 4½ days per week, a decline on the month of May. Pits in North Notts continue well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employ-

Castleford report employment as good; flint glass makers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with the cabinet-makers and coach-makers is good; with terra cotta workers fair.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsteds Trade.—Employment in the weaving branch in Bradford is still slack. The woolsorters report employment as good; the woolcombers as fair with day workers; irregular with night-workers. In the Worth Valley and in Halifax employment is still quiet; in Huddersfield it seems fairly good.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield is still fairly good, although there is not so much night work and overtime. In the heavy woolen district of Batley and Dewsbury employment is still poor, but the improvement reported last month has been maintained.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Brighouse is reported as only moderate, at Manningham as fairly busy, and at Halifax as improved. In the cotton trade it is worse at Brighouse, fairly good in other parts of the district. Employment in the carpet trade in Halifax and elsewhere has improved.

Metal Trades.—Employment with the engineers is reported as good in Halifax, Keighley and Dewsbury; moderate at Bradford and Huddersfield. The ironfounders report employment as good throughout the district; the wireworkers at Brighouse, Halifax and Lindley as moderate.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—The dyers report employment as bad at Huddersfield; moderate at Bradford; quiet in the heavy woolen district; the tailors as quieter; the rag-sorters as quiet.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Employment in the heavy branches of the iron and steel trade continues good, except with Bessemer steel workers. Iron and steel founders are exceptionally busy. Engineers, merchant iron rollers, coremakers, iron and steel dressers, and stove-grate workers are well employed. Railway springmakers, smiths and strikers, steam engine makers, and makers of cycle parts report employment as fair; boiler and girder makers as moderate; wireworkers as slacker. At Barnsley and Rotherham engineers and ironfounders are well employed. Railway carriage and wagon-builders are busy at Sheffield; quiet at Rotherham. Branches with 4,955 members have 53 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 51 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Cutlery and Tools.—Makers of engineers' and joiners' tools and edge tool-forgers and grinders report employment as good. Makers of all kinds of agricultural, horticultural and mining tools are busy. Table and butcher blade-forgers and grinders, haft and scale pressers and handle and scale cutters are quiet. Pen and pocket knife-makers, razor-forgers and grinders and sword and bayonet makers are slack; sawmakers are fairly well employed. The file-makers are quieter than for some time past.

Other Metal Trades.—Silversmiths report employment as fair; silver and metal stampers, platers and gilders are busy; silver and electro-plate finishers are fairly employed in the hollow-ware branch, but slack on spoons and forks. Spoon and fork filers report work as fairly good. Brassworkers in all branches are moderately employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 64 of the principal collieries give an average of 5.30 days per week worked during the month.

Building Trades.—At Sheffield, Rotherham, Normanton and Castleford all sections except plumbers are well employed. At Barnsley employment is reported as only moderate.

Glass Trade.—The bottle-makers at Barnsley, Mexborough, Rotherham, and Castleford report employment as good. Flint glass workers are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in bespoke tailoring is reported as good; in the ready-made branch as only moderate; in the boot and shoe trades as quiet in Sheffield, bad in Barnsley.

Linen Trade.—Employment is only moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair; lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders as good.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Cabinet-makers continue fairly well employed. Box and bobbin makers at Barnsley, and coachmakers report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Potters throughout the district are quiet; chemical workers at Castleford are moderately employed. Saddlers and harness makers report employment as good; general labourers as fair.—S. Utley.

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

ment as fair; lithographic artists and printers as moderate; bookbinders as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are slack. Employment with bespoke tailors is quiet for the time of year; in the ready-made department it is steady. Mantle makers are fairly busy.

Wood Working and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet-makers report employment as busy; boxmakers as moderate; coachmakers as fair at Nottingham and good at Newark; upholsterers and French-polishers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Silk-dressers are on short time; female cigar-makers are fairly busy; enginemen and cranemen are on full time; bakers and confectioners are slack.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—At Leicester, Northampton, Kettering and Rushden, operatives in all branches are only partially employed. In the Wollaston district there is an improvement, and shoemakers engaged on army contracts are in full work.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment continues regular in the wholesale tailoring trade, but is rather quiet with bespoke tailors; corsetmakers, milliners and dressmakers are not so fully employed, and work is not quite so good in many branches of the hatting trade.

Hosiery and Wool Spinning Trades.—A further improvement in the state of employment in the hosiery trade at Leicester is reported this month; it is also fairly good in the circular rib branch at Loughborough; dyers and trimmers are more regularly employed; work is not so full with the woolspinning operatives.

Elastic Web Trade.—The improvement reported has scarcely been maintained, and employment in most branches is less satisfactory.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Most branches of engineers report employment as quieter; with boot and shoe machinery-makers the decline is more marked; employment continues good with boiler-makers, ironfounders and cyclemakers and repairers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Miners at the South Leicestershire coal pits have not been so fully employed; stone quarrymen are still busy, and employment is good with ironstone and limestone workers.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Work is not so brisk with letterpress printers at Leicester, Loughborough and Rugby; it is fairly good at Northampton; lithographic printers and bookbinders are regularly employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good with bricklayers, builders' labourers, stonemasons and plasterers; rather quieter with joiners, except at Northampton; fairly good with painters and plumbers.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—In most branches of the cabinet and upholstering trades work is slack; carriage and wagon-builders are generally in full work; road car and tramcar builders are very busy.

Leather Trades.—With tanners and curriers at Northampton and Leicester employment is slack.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with railway workers, basket-makers, bakers and brickmakers; moderate with mill-sawyers and farriers; slack with cigar-makers, brushmakers and gas stokers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Employment in the pottery trades shows a further decline in all branches except the electrical department, which continues exceptionally busy. Hollow-ware pressers and flat pressers are averaging less than three days per week. Sanitary pressers are moderately busy. Encaustic tilemakers keep busy. Ovenmen and dippers report employment as scarce, many being totally out of work, and the remainder averaging less than three days per week.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Puddlers continue fairly employed, averaging fully 5 days per week. Rollers in the steel and merchant iron mills are averaging 4½ days per week. Blastfurnacemen continue busy.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers and boiler-makers in North Staffordshire report employment as good; moulders have a large percentage out of work. At Crewe and Stafford most branches are well employed, overtime being general. Agricultural engineers are busy.

Coal Mining.—At Talk-o'-th-Hill and district miners continue busy at all pits. In the Potteries, both in the coal and ironstone seams, miners average 4½ days per week. At Cheadle an average of 5 days per week is reported.

Textile Trades.—At Leek trimming weavers are fairly busy, but there are still a number on short time. Dyers, throwsters, and

twisters report a slight improvement. At Congleton trimming weavers report employment as slack; silk dressers and throwsters as improved, both branches working full time; the fustian cutters report a decline, fully two-thirds being totally unemployed and the remainder on short time; towel weavers keep busy. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors in the Potteries and Crewe are well employed; at Stafford a slight decline is reported. Boot and shoe makers at Stafford report employment as quiet, two-thirds of the operatives working short time; at Stone an improvement is reported, full time being general; at Uttoxeter corset-makers continue busy.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good throughout the district.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a further decline. At Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers are well employed; bookbinders and machine-rulers are fairly busy.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington is good; with basket-makers in the Potteries fair; with railway workers moderate.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire, East Worcestershire, and South Shropshire employment generally is good.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment with engineers, moulders, and boiler, bridge, girder and tank makers is good. Railway workers at Wolverhampton are on short time through the coal dispute. The malleable iron workers at Walsall are quiet. Employment in the cycle trade is slack.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of iron fences, hurdles, axles and springs, nuts and bolts, hinges, hollow ware, builders' ironmongery, edge tools, tips, cut nails, and black castings, and is fairly good with brassworkers. Filesmiths, grinders, tube-makers, stampers and piercers, and makers of tacks, keys, locks, latches, and gunlocks are moderately employed. Makers of electrical castings, cycle castings, malleable nails, and protectors and spectacle frames are slack. Makers of wrought nails in Halesowen and district report employment as not so good. Employment in the ironplate trade at Wolverhampton and the Lye is fair; at Bilston an average of 5 days per week is being worked. In Dudley and district employment with anvil and vice-makers is slack, with anchor-makers quiet, with chainmakers and strikers fair.

Coal Mining.—The pits on Cannock Chase are working less than half time. The pits at Oldbury and Tipton are working on the average 4½ days per week; those in Old Hill and district average 5 days per week. In South Shropshire and Tamworth the pits are making full time.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Glass Trade.—The flint-glass makers, cutters and bevellers at Wordsley and Stourbridge, and the glass bottle-makers at Brierley Hill are moderately employed.

Leather Trades.—Black saddlers and harness-makers, chain, cart gear, case and hame-makers report employment as good; brown saddlers as improved.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster employment continues moderate in the carpet trade; it has improved with spinners, but many wool-staplers are out of work. Employment in the carpet trade at Bridgnorth is good. The Tamworth tape mills are working full time.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments are busy. The improvement in the boot and shoe trade has been maintained.—*C. Anthony.*

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,645 members have 384 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 281 (or 1·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Engineering.—In Birmingham five branches of engineers return employment as bad, four as moderate, one as fair and one as good; the toolmakers and machinists as moderate, the smiths and strikers and the pattern-makers as good; in Coventry and West Bromwich the engineers are fairly busy; in Redditch employment is quieter; in Birmingham, Coventry and Redditch employment in the cycle trade is quiet, and men are being discharged in most factories.

Brass and Copper Trades.—The brass-workers return employment as fairly good, but are beginning to feel the effects of the return of men to the trade from the cycle industry; the tube-makers and metal-rollers are moderately employed; the fender and fire brass-makers

EMPLOYMENT IN JUNE—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—EASTERN AND S.W. COUNTIES.

report employment as quiet; the Dudley fender-makers as fairly good.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—The jewellers report employment as quiet; the makers of ladies' chains and curb bracelets have been well employed; electro-platers return employment as quiet, and Britannia metal workers as moderate.

Other Metal Trades.—Employment with ironfounders, file cutters, and ironplate workers is moderate. Bedstead makers return employment as good. The gun-makers return employment as bad. Employment in the machine rivet trade has been busy; in the cut nail trade fairly good; in the wire nail trade quiet; in the wrought iron hinge trade quiet with Australian orders, but fairly busy with South American markets. Employment in the steel and wrought iron, rivetted and welded tube trade is busy; in the cycle tube trade quiet. Employment is reported as steady in the watch trade in Coventry; as good in the needle and fish-hook trades in Redditch. In West Bromwich employment in the spring, hollow-ware, and iron trades is returned as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment throughout the district is good.

Glass Trades.—The flint glassmakers return employment as moderately good; the flint glasscutters as rather quiet; the glass-bevellers and silverers as fair. At West Bromwich employment in the glass trade is reported as good.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers and coachmakers return employment as good; the mill-sawyers as fairly busy; the coopers as slack. In the railway and wagon shops employment continues good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe makers report employment as quiet; the tailors as fair.

Miscellaneous.—In the printing trade employment is returned as moderate in Birmingham; as fair in West Bromwich. It is returned as quiet with brushmakers, saddlers, and harness-makers; as good with gasworkers and general labourers. In Coventry the ribbon-weavers are reported as quiet.—*A. R. Jephcott.*

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.**Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are busy in Norwich, Yarmouth, Lynn, and Cambridge. In the ready-made department the Norwich factories are working full time. Boot and shoe makers at Cambridge are fairly well employed. Employment in the boot and shoe trade in Norwich is bad, many men being suspended for days together, others being on half and three-quarter time.

Building Trades.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical engineers in Norwich are fairly busy. Engineers generally in all parts of the district are well employed. Boiler-makers are fairly busy. Shipwrights at Yarmouth are not busy; shipwrights and boat builders at Lowestoft are fully employed.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting weavers at Diss are well employed. Silk and crape factories are running full time at Yarmouth and Norwich.

Printing Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers at Norwich is good; at Fakenham and Wisbech fair. Lithographic printers are fairly well employed; bookbinders are working full time.

Fishing Industry.—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft the herring fishing has not been very good. Trawl fishing has been somewhat slow at both ports. At Yarmouth some of the trawl vessels are laid up.

Miscellaneous.—Corset-makers are slack. Brush-makers are fairly busy. Horticultural builders are busy.—*G. Cloverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment in the engineering trade is reported as good at Bury, Colchester, Halstead and Earl's Colne; moderate at Beccles; fair in general work and good in railway work at Ipswich. The boiler-makers, shipwrights and moulders at Ipswich are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as dull at Ipswich and Colchester; in the wholesale tailoring trade as slow at Colchester, moderate at Ipswich on specials, but good on stock work; with corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury as moderate.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the mat and matting industry is good at Hadleigh, Lavenham, and Long Melford; moderate at Sudbury and Glemsford; with horse-hair weavers at Lavenham good. Employment in the silk trade is good at Halstead and Earl's Colne; moderate at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Southend; moderate at Colchester and Bury; dull at Ipswich and Beccles; lithographers as busy; bookbinders as dull.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour at Ipswich improved towards the close of the month; gasworkers and general labourers have been well employed.—*R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol and District.**

General.—Societies and branches with 7,433 members report 97 (or 1·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 94 (or 1·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of May.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fair. Plasterers at Bath and Weston-super-Mare are slack.

Coal Mining.—Employment is unusually brisk in the Forest of Dean. A slight improvement is reported from Radstock, and from the collieries in the Bristol district that are working.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Branches of the engineers, ironfounders, coachmakers, smiths and strikers, toolmakers and machinists, and shipwrights describe employment as good; the boiler-makers as quiet; the brassmoulders as fair; the finishers as slack; sheet-iron workers as dull; galvanisers as busy.

Clothing Trades.—The hatters report employment as good; the wholesale garment-makers as fair, but quiet in some factories. The prolonged slackness among boot and shoe operatives is more acute, and nearly all are on short time.

Textile Trades.—Employment in Trowbridge has improved, and is reported as good, except on fancy woollens. The West Somerset cloth mills are busy, except in one district. The silk mills at Tiverton are running overtime.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In Bristol employment is good with letterpress printers; fair in the lithographic branch; and quiet with bookbinders and machine-rulers. Employment is good in Gloucester and Hereford.

Transport Trades.—Employment with the dock and harbour labourers is fair. It is less regular with some of the railway workers, owing to the South Wales dispute.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with the polishers and upholsterers is busy; with cabinet and chairmakers fair; with coopers and basket makers slack; with wood cutting machinists and packing-box makers good.

Glass Trades.—The glass bevellers and cutters and glass bottle makers report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—The curriers report employment as quiet; the sailmakers as unsteady; the stone potters as fair; the brushmakers as slack.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Employment in tin mining has slightly improved in the western part of the district. Near Calstock a mine has been restarted, but at another in the same neighbourhood nearly 100 men have been dismissed. In the granite and limestone quarries the workers are busy; in the slate quarries and also among china clay workers employment is fair.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineers report employment as moderate in the Three Towns, Exeter, and Newton, and good at Hayle; the brass and tin plate workers as good in Exeter and Plymouth; the ironfounders, boiler-makers, and shipwrights as good. Branches with 2,194 members have 9 unemployed, as compared with 6 at the end of May.

Building Trades.—In Torquay and Tiverton building work has been disturbed by the dispute; employment at Exeter is dull with the bricklayers, otherwise employment generally is good throughout the district. Branches with 2,561 members have 7 unemployed, compared with 11 at the end of May.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment in the ready-made tailoring department is moderate; in the bespoke branch it has declined. With boot and shoe makers it continues fair. The lace-makers are busy.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—Among letterpress printers work is reported as bad in Plymouth and Devonport, dull in Torquay, and fair in Exeter; lithographic printers are busy; with bookbinders and paper rulers an improvement is reported; at paper mills work is steady.

Dock Labour.—Employment at the docks has been up to the average. Bargemen and lightermen are well employed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers and upholsterers report employment as fair; mill-sawyers and machinists as good.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JUNE, 1898.

Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.

Summary.—The changes in wages reported during June affected about 42,000 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an increase of about 1s. 2½d. per head. About 36,000 received advances averaging 1s. 5¼d. per head, and 6,000 sustained decreases averaging 3½d. per head.

Increases.—The increases affecting the largest number of persons were the advance of ½d. per hour to 4,000 stonemasons in Glasgow and District, and of ¼d. per hour to 11,750 mechanics in the shipbuilding yards and engineering workshops in the Clyde District.

Decreases.—The principal decrease was that of ¾ per cent. under sliding scale to 5,500 blast furnacemen in the Cleveland District.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 40,750, or 97 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected, were settled without cessation of work, including 7,700 where wages are regulated by sliding scales. Changes affecting 1,250 persons, or 3 per cent. of the total number affected, were preceded by strikes; in two of these cases affecting 725 workpeople arbitration was resorted to for settlement.

Totals for First Six Months of 1898.—For the six months, January to June, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 423,400, compared with 354,550 for the corresponding period of 1897. The net effect of all the changes in the weekly wages of these workpeople is estimated at an increase of about 1s. 7d. per head, as compared with 1s. 1d. in the first six months of 1897.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES and MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JUNE—(continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1898, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in full week exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE, METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, and MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. § New work. ¶ Old work.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JUNE—(continued).

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during June, Particulars of Change, May, June, Increase, Decrease. Includes sub-sections for SEAMEN and 11 Decreases—100 Workpeople.

Changes in Agricultural Wages.—Details of some changes in the weekly rates of wages of agricultural labourers in certain English counties during June will be found in the article on Agricultural Employment on page 205.

DIVIDENDS ON PURCHASES PAID BY CO-OPERATIVE DISTRIBUTIVE SOCIETIES.

RETURNS, showing the rates of dividend on purchases paid to members for the first quarter of 1898, have been received from 919 co-operative distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,256,944 as compared with 1,162,126 in the 914 societies making returns for the corresponding period of 1897.

The rates of dividend shown are those paid upon the main volume of trade. In a few cases higher or lower dividends were paid upon purchases from minor departments, such as butchery, drapery, etc.

The returns show an average dividend of 2s. 7.24d. in the £1 on purchases, as compared with 2s. 8.57d. for the first quarter of 1897.

In England and Wales the average dividend paid by 723 societies with a total membership of 1,057,458 was 2s. 6.74d. in the £1, as compared with 2s. 7.36d. in the corresponding quarter of 1897.

In Scotland and Ireland the average dividend paid by 196 societies with 199,486 members was 2s. 9.94d. in the £1, compared with 2s. 11.81d. in the first quarter of 1897.

With few exceptions, the societies paid a dividend to non-members at one half the rates paid to members.

Table showing the number and membership of Co-operative Distributive Societies paying the undermentioned rates of dividend per £1 of purchases in the first quarter of the year 1898:—

Table with columns: Rates of dividend per £1 of purchases, Number of Societies, Membership of Societies making returns in 1st quarter of 1898, Percentage for corresponding period of 1897.

Information for Intending Emigrants.—The free quarterly circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office were issued on July 1st, and contain information useful to intending emigrants as to the demand for labour, the rates of wages and cost of living in the various British Colonies.

country. Price twopence. The quarterly circulars can be obtained free, on application to the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JUNE, 1898.

THE changes in hours of labour reported in June affected 2,319 workpeople, their working hours being reduced on the average by about four hours (4.1) per week. The principal change was the adoption of the eight hours day in a Dublin brewery, which has been effected gradually since February. The changes were, with one exception, decreases, and were brought about, except in that one case, without cessation of work.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Before change, After change, Extent of change per week.

Table with columns: INCREASES, DECREASES. Lists localities like Blackburn, South Shields, Bolton, Leamington, Nunneaton, Wellington, Chatham and District, Marazion and Dist., Liversedge, Wandsworth, Dundee, Glengarnock, Dublin.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate number of workpeople affected, Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime), Before change, After change, Extent of change per week.

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are the result of averaging the hours for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JUNE.

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

THE total number reported as killed during June was 250, or 20 less than in May, and 92 less than in June, 1897. In the first group of industries shown in the summary table below, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,280,942 persons (according to the latest available figures), 233 persons were returned as killed, and 4,965 as injured by accidents in June as compared with 327 killed and 4,550 injured in June, 1897. These figures give 1 death in June, 1898, for every 22,665 persons employed in these industries.

During the first half of the year 1898, 1,805 persons were reported killed and 30,387 injured, as against 2,134 killed and 29,272 injured in the corresponding six months of 1897. In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 17 persons were reported as killed, and 653 injured last month, compared with 15 killed and 422 injured in June, 1897.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed (June 1898, June 1897), Injured (June 1898, June 1897), Number Employed according to latest Returns. Includes Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, Under Factory Act, 1895, Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.

DETAILED TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total. Includes Railway Service, Mines, Quarries over 20 feet deep, Explosives or Blasting, Falls of ground, In shafts, Miscellaneous.

Table with columns: Industry, Inside, Outside, Total. Includes Quarries over 20 feet deep, Explosives or Blasting, Falls of ground, Miscellaneous.

Table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total. Includes Shipping, On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, Total for June, 1898, Total for 3 months April, 1898, to June, 1898, Total for 3 months April, 1897, to June, 1897.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Includes Factories, (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, (b) Other Accidents, Total Factories—June, 1898, June, 1897.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Includes Workshops, Adults, Young Persons, Children, Total Workshops—June, 1898, June, 1897.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Includes Factories & Workshops (classified by trades), Textiles, Non-Textiles, Extraction of Metals, Founding and Conversion of Metals, Machines, Engines and Engineering, Ship and Boat Building, Wood, Chemicals, &c., Other Non-Textile Industries, Total June, 1898, Total June, 1897.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total. Includes Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23, Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, Laundries, Total for June, 1898, Total for June, 1897.

Table with columns: Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total. Includes Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tramway, Tunnel, Other Works, TrACTION Engines, Total for June, 1898, Total for June, 1897.

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 5,000, of the fishing vessels, of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1896, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year. † Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894. ‡ Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. § Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.

TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information, obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.) Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate number of working days lost exceeded 100.

Number and Magnitude.—Forty-nine fresh disputes were reported as beginning in June, 1898, compared with 56 in May, and 44 in June, 1897. In these 49 disputes 5,865 workpeople were directly, and 6,222 indirectly affected, a total of 12,087 which compares with 9,718 in May, and 13,291 in June, 1897. The large proportion of workpeople indirectly affected by disputes in June is mainly due to the strikes of pit lads and hauliers in coal mines.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 13 disputes took place, involving 1,618 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 14 disputes, involving 7,429 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 6 disputes, involving 587 workpeople; textile trades, 4 disputes, involving 1,817 workpeople; and in the miscellaneous group of industries, 4 disputes, involving 271 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 49 new disputes, 31 were chiefly on wages questions, 1 on the matter of working hours, 8 on questions of working arrangements, 2 were sympathetic disputes, and 7 arose from other causes.

Results.—Thirty new disputes, involving 6,688 workpeople, and 15 old disputes, involving 1,998 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 45 new and old disputes terminated, 19 involving 2,951 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople; 9 involving 1814 persons, in favour of the employers; and 17, involving 1556 persons, resulted in a compromise. At the end of June there were 25 unsettled disputes, involving about 106,000 workpeople (including 100,000 Welsh miners).

Number of Working Days Lost.—The number of working days lost in June owing to labour disputes, new and old, was about 2,445,000, compared with 2,844,300 in May, and 231,000 in June, 1897.

Total Disputes for First Six Months of 1898.—For the six completed months of 1898 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 306 disputes which commenced in those months was 170,855, as compared with about 112,240 in the 519 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1897. The number of working days lost was about 9,339,000, as compared with 1,995,500 for the same period of 1897. The engineering trade dispute, which continued through January of the present year, and the present coal mining dispute in South Wales largely account for the preponderance of working days lost in the first six months of 1898 over those of 1897.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE, 1898.

Table under heading '13 Disputes. BUILDING TRADES. 1,618 Workpeople affected.' listing disputes in places like Berwick, Bishop Auckland, Bolton, Warrington, Loughborough, Nottingham, Oxford, Chatham, Newport, Hawick, Johnstone, Londonderry.

Table under heading '14 Disputes. COAL MINING. 7,429 Workpeople affected.' listing disputes in places like Whitehaven, Nr. Barnsley, Burnley, Mansfield, Hednesford, Mangotsfield, Aberdare, Near Bridgend, Benhar, Ormiston.

Table under heading '6 Disputes. METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 587 Workpeople affected.' listing disputes in places like Newcastle-on-Tyne, Greenock and Port Glasgow, Aberdeen, Glasgow.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected." The statement of cause and result does not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JUNE—(continued.)

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date when Dispute began, Alleged Cause or Object, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JUNE, 1898.

Table under heading '8 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES. 1,817 Workpeople affected.' listing disputes in Huddersfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Fararworth, Padiham, Macclesfield, Halstead, Dundee, Strabane.

Table under heading '4 Disputes. CLOTHING TRADES. 365 Workpeople affected.' listing disputes in Newcastle-on-Tyne, Leeds, Northampton, Lurgan.

Table under heading '4 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 271 Workpeople affected.' listing disputes in Glasgote, Notingham, Llanelly, Dundee.

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

Table under heading 'BUILDING TRADES.' listing disputes in Hartlepool, Sunderland, Barnsley, Holmfirth and District, Hull, Ulverston, Bichfield, Alloa, Falkirk.

Table under heading 'METAL TRADES.' listing disputes in Cleveland and Lackenby, Barrow-in-Furness, Llansamlet.

Table under heading 'MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.' listing disputes in Chorley, Hamilton, Lurgan.

* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected." The statement of cause and result does not apply to those persons.

III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JUNE, 1898, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 25 disputes which have been previously reported were still unsettled at the end of June. The number of workpeople then involved was about 106,000, including 100,000 Welsh miners. The month in which each dispute commenced is stated in brackets.

FOREIGN TRADE.

THE monthly accounts of trade and navigation show that the imports from foreign countries and British possessions into the United Kingdom for the month ended 30th June last amounted in value to £39,032,305, as compared with £36,321,809 for June, 1897, showing an increase of £2,710,496, or 7.4 per cent.

Table showing foreign trade data with columns for Month ended June 30th (1897, 1898), Increase, and Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Metals; Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances; Oils; Raw Materials for Manufactures; and Total.

The principal increase in the value of the imports for June, 1898, as compared with June, 1897, is in foodstuffs, wheat showing an increase of £622,082 in the value imported, though the quantity has decreased by 385,830 cwt.

Exports.—With regard to the exports for the month, the following table shows the values for June, 1897, and June, 1898:—

Table showing export data with columns for Month ended June 30th (1897, 1898), Increase, and Decrease. Rows include Animals living; Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; and Total.

The decrease in the yarns and textile fabrics is to a great extent to be accounted for by the falling off in the quantities of jute piece goods, linen piece goods, and worsted tissues, the decrease in the latter being 6,216,100 yards in the quantity, and £314,240 in the value exported.

Taking the trade of the first half of 1898 as compared with the corresponding period of 1897, the imports show an increase in

value of £10,750,505, principally due to articles of food and drink (duty free) which increased by £10,513,409.

Manufactured articles during the same period increased by £984,559, and oils by £453,817, but imports of raw materials for textile manufactures show a decrease of £1,038,248, and chemicals, dye stuffs, and tanning substances of £479,937.

The exports for the first six months of 1898, as compared with those for the same period of 1897, show a net decrease of £4,902,273; exports of yarns and textile fabrics have decreased by £3,076,838; metals and articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery), by £670,028; chemicals and chemical and medicinal preparations, by £239,859; machinery and mill work, by £214,421; apparel and articles of personal use, by £211,721; raw materials, by £208,287; and articles of food and drink, by £193,778.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports of the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions during June amounted to 2,906,308 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,315,423 tons, as compared with 3,087,442 tons entered and 3,319,936 tons cleared in June, 1897. The tonnage of vessels entered coastwise amounted to 2,544,990 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,521,387 tons, as against 2,515,345 tons and 2,513,447 tons respectively in June, 1897.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during June was 15,318, as compared with 14,930 in June, 1897.

British and Irish.—Of the 15,318 passengers, 10,437 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 237 as compared with a year ago. There was a decrease in the number bound for the United States which, however, was balanced by an increase in the number en route to British North America. The total number of British and Irish passengers for the first six months shows a decrease of 1,694 when compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The figures for the different periods are given in the following table:—

Table showing emigration data by Destination (United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places) with columns for June 1898, June 1897, and Total for six months ending June 1898 and June 1897.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 15,318 passengers in June, viz., 4,881, were foreigners or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 151 more than in May, 1897.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during June was 7,073. Of these those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 4,596 (including 944 sailors), the corresponding figure for June, 1897, being 4,705 (including 859 sailors). The figures for June, 1898, and 1897, and also for the six months ended June 30th in each year are as follows:—

Table showing alien immigration data with columns for June 1898, June 1897, and Total for 6 months ending June 1898 and June 1897. Rows include Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom and Total.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 944 in June, 1898, 859 in June, 1897; and 6,232 and 5,590 respectively in the six months ended June 30th, in each year.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JUNE.

DURING June, the 13 bureaux furnishing returns, registered 2,379 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,567 in June, 1897, an increase of 812. Work was found for 1,187 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 1,050 in June, 1897. The number remaining on the registers of the 13 bureaux at the end of June, 1898, was 2,411 (including 1,423 men, lads, and boys, and 988 women and girls) compared with 2,123 a year ago.

(I.) Work Done in June.

Table showing work done in June by various bureaux (London, Provincial) with columns for Name and Address, Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during June 1898 and 1897, No. of Situations offered by Employers during June 1898 and 1897, and No. of Workpeople found by Private Employers and Engaged by Local Authorities.

(II.) Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of June.

Table showing occupations of men on registers at end of June by Name of Labour Bureau and Men (Build-ing, Eng-in-eer-ing, Car-men, etc., Clerks, Porters, General Labour-ers, Other Occupa-tions, Total Men).

Table showing occupations of women and girls on registers at end of June by Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Servants, Dress-makers and Temp-servants, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total.

* Permanent employment. † Temporary employment. ‡ These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. § Women and Girls are not registered.

PAUPERISM IN JUNE.

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

THE number of persons relieved in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of June was 326,697. This number corresponds to a rate of 2c6 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1898.

Compared with May, 1898, a decrease is shown of 2,362 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000. Twenty-five of the districts show decreases in the rate, those in which the falling off is most marked being Aberdeen (11 per 10,000), and Central London (10). In three districts the rate is unchanged, and in 7 there are increases. In the Galway district the increase amounts to 37 per 10,000 of population.

Compared with June, 1897, the number relieved has increased by 11,227, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 5. The largest increases are in the Galway district (276 per 10,000), Dublin (26), Leicester (21), Belfast (20), Cardiff and Swansea district (18), Central London (15), Stockton and Tees district (14), and Manchester (13). In two districts there is no change in the rate, while in 10 districts there are decreases amounting in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district to 13 per 10,000, in North Staffordshire to 11, and in the Paisley and Greenock district to 10 per 10,000.

Table showing pauperism data for England & Wales, Metropolis, Other Districts, Scotland, and Ireland. Columns include Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of June 1898 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with Month ago, and Year ago.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. † Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN JUNE.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*†

Nature of Offence.	Informations laid.	Convictions.	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c. :—				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	8	8	£ 15 0	£ 15 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	27	27	69 2 0	20 13 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	55	52	56 4 6	23 4 8
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	117	117	73 10 0	57 8 4
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	19	19	14 2 0	7 14 2
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	63	62	44 13 6	19 3 6
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays ...	7	7	0 17 6	3 4 0
At night ...	22	20	28 11 6	10 0 8
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. ...	4	4	1 7 6	1 4 6
Illegal employment by Jew of Jewish persons ...	2	2	0 15 0	1 1 6
Employment in factory or workshop, and in shop beyond total legal period ...	6	6	3 14 6	3 0 0
Employment outside factory or workshop, after employment therein before and after dinner ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 12 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers ...	36	35	15 11 0	14 19 4
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	12	12	7 1 0	3 13 6
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	8	8	22 12 6	7 15 0
Failure to send correct Annual Return ...	16	14	21 15 6	3 17 6
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ...				
Prosecutions under Truck Acts... ..	10	10	6 0 0	6 1 0
Other offences ...	2	1	1 0 0	0 16 6
By Workmen :—				
Allowing Children to clean machinery in motion, &c. ...	1	1	0 5 0	1 18 6
Total for June, 1898 ...	422	412	368 13 0	194 7 2
<i>Total for June, 1897†</i> ...	<i>255</i>	<i>2831</i>	<i>191 0 0</i>	<i>117 18 7</i>

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.*†

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Cases withdrawn.	Cases dismissed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :—					
Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children ...	1	1	—	—	£ 0 0
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c. ...	4	4	—	—	3 18 0
Fencing ...	1§	1	—	—	51 4 6
Ventilation ...	3	1	—	2	2 0 0
Miscellaneous ...	6	1	2	3	15 5 0
By Workmen :—					
Safety Lamps ...	2	2	—	—	0 19 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	12	9	1	2	6 15 0
Timbering ...	5	5	—	—	4 19 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c. ...	7	7	—	—	6 12 6
Miscellaneous ...	7	7	—	—	7 17 0
Total for June, 1898 ...	48	38	3	7	100 10 6
<i>Total for June, 1897</i> ...	<i>47</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>50 16 6</i>
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c. :—					
Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children ...	2	2	—	—	1 8 0
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c. ...	2	2	—	—	1 12 0
Fencing ...	4	4	—	—	18 12 10
By Workmen :—					
Explosives and Blasting ...	1	1	—	—	0 8 0
Total for June, 1898 ...	9	9	—	—	22 0 10
<i>Total for June, 1897</i> ...	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>—</i>	<i>13 4 4</i>

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offences.	Prosecutions.	Convictions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships :—				
Not exhibiting lights ...	1	1	£ 2 7 0	£ 2 13 0
Total for June, 1898 ...	1	1	2 7 0	2 13 0
<i>Total for June, 1897</i> ...	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>25 10 0</i>	<i>1 18 6</i>

IV.—Under the Building Societies and Friendly Societies Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecutions.	Withdrawn on compliance with Act.	Convictions.	Fines and Costs.
Failure to send Annual Returns or Statements.	12	10	2	£ 13 10 0

* Supplied by the Home Office.

† The figures relating to Prosecutions under the Mines and Quarries Acts for June, 1898, include prosecutions by H.M. Inspectors of Mines under the Factory and Workshop Acts in factories and workshops connected with Metalliferous Mines and Quarries. In the figures for June, 1897, given in the above tables, such prosecutions are included in the Table of Prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts. The difference owing to the change of tabulation is not, however, very material.

‡ In this case the number of convictions is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice being in Scotland to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

§ For not fencing mill-gearing whereby one person was injured.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

DURING June one new distributive society was registered in England, and one in Scotland, and in Ireland three agricultural and dairy societies, two poultry societies, and one home industries society. A co-operative cotton weaving society at Mytholmroyd (Yorks.) was dissolved.

The annual meeting of the Women's Co-operative Guild was held at Derby on the 21st and 22nd of June, when 235 delegates (representing 123 branches), and 28 officials were present. A representative of the Labour Department, of the Board of Trade, was also present.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JUNE.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in June it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 2 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 6 Co-operative Associations for Production, 20 new Friendly Societies, 34 new branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 3 Building Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during June. One Trade Union, 3 Industrial and Provident Societies, 19 Building Societies, and 20 Friendly Societies (including 2 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registry cancelled during the month, while one branch of a Friendly Society is reported as having been dissolved in May.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—North of England Brass Turners, Fitters and Finishers' Trade and Friendly Society, 2, Sanitary-place, Shieldfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Amal. Soc. of Cricket-ball Makers, Mitre Hotel Rooms, Hadlow-road, Tonbridge. *Scotland.*—United Operative Masons and Granite Cutters, Trades Buildings, Belmont-street, Aberdeen. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Attleborough Co.-op. Soc. Ltd., New North-road, Attleborough. *Scotland.*—Airdrie and District Co.-op., Fleshing, Graham-street, Airdrie. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Three Co.-op. Agricultural and Dairy Societies at Drumquin, Killyman and Curglassan, co. Tyrone; two Co.-op. Poultry Societies at Clonbrock and Castlegar, Aseragh, co. Galway, and at Glassan, co. Westmeath; and one Co.-op. Home Industries Society at Killian, Mt. Bellew, co. Galway.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Dividing, 2; Medical, 1; Order, 1; Collecting, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 5. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1. *Ireland.*—Specially Authorised, 2.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—29. *Scotland.*—3. *Ireland.*—2.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—3. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Amal. Soc. of Journeymen Beef and Pork Butchers, Butcher's Arms Inn, Leigh, Lancashire. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Copy of Order to wind up received:—Bull's Head Inn, George-street, Permanent Money Soc., Ltd., George-street, Oldham. Registry cancelled by request:—Barrow Co.-op. Building and Land Soc., Ltd., 8, Paradise-street, Barrow-in-Furness. Dissolved by instrument:—Mytholmroyd Manufacturing Soc., Ltd., Square Shed, Mytholmroyd, Manchester. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 13 (including 2 branches); registration cancelled, 4; dissolved otherwise, 2. *Scotland.*—Dissolved otherwise than by instrument, &c., 1. *Ireland.*—By instrument, 1 branch (dissolved in May).

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 9; notice of commencement of dissolution, 5; notice of termination of dissolution, 3. *Scotland.*—By instrument of dissolution, 1; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

NOTICE.

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