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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN JULY.

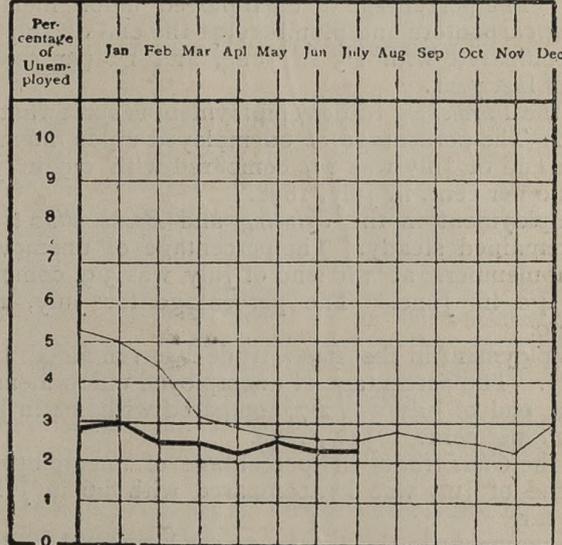
[Based on 2,440 returns, viz.: 1,717 from Employers, 567 from Trade Unions, and 156 from other sources.]

The general state of employment during July continued steady and good, the percentage of unemployed being still lower than at any similar period since 1890. There has been a marked upward movement of wages during the month, particularly among coal miners and iron and steel workers.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 500,169, 11,305 (or 2.3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of July, the same percentage as in June, compared with 2.6 per cent. in the 117 unions, with a membership of 464,764, from which returns were received for July, 1898.

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 1898 and 1899. [The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line to 1898.]



### Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.

—The average number of days worked in this industry shows a falling off as compared with June, owing in a great measure to local holidays. As compared with a year ago it shows no appreciable change. At collieries at which 386,781 workpeople were employed, the average time worked during the four weeks ended July 22nd was 5.18 days per week, as compared with 5.34 days in June and 5.13 days per week in July 1898. The above statements do not include pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire, where a dispute was in progress in July 1898. (For further details see page 236.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good on the whole, the number of days worked showing a slight falling off when compared with a month ago, chiefly due to local holidays. As compared with a year ago there is practically no change. At mines employing 17,091 workpeople the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended July 22nd was 5.72,

as compared with 5.86 days in June and 5.71 days a year ago. (For further details see page 236.)

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment continues good in this industry, and is much better than a year ago, when the South Wales coal dispute was in progress. Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that they had 372 furnaces in blast at the end of July, or 3 less than at the end of June and 29 more than at the end of July, 1898. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 24,830, or 45 less than at the end of June, and 2,234 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 237.)

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment has remained good during July and continues considerably better than a year ago. At the 219 works from which returns have been received, 80,068 workpeople were employed in the week ended July 29th, 79,833 in the week ended June 24th, and 74,828 in the week ended July 30th, 1898, the average number of shifts worked in these three weeks being 5.53, 5.54 and 5.49 respectively. (For further details see page 237.)

**Timplate Trade.**—The improvement in employment continues. It is much better than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of July was 396, employing an estimated number of 19,614 workpeople, compared with 391 mills at work employing 19,422 workpeople at the end of June, and 288 mills with 15,095 workpeople at the end of July, 1898. (For further details see page 237.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has remained good in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of July was 2.5, compared with 2.3 in June. The percentage for July, 1898, was 3.3.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment has continued brisk, and has still further improved, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of July being 1.4, compared with 1.7 in June, and 3.3 per cent. in July, 1898.

Employment in the **Building** trades has continued good. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of July was 1.1, compared with 1.5 in June, and 1.0 per cent. in July of last year.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment is somewhat less brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of July was 1.9, compared with 0.9 in June and 1.6 per cent. in July, 1898.

Employment in the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has remained steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of July was 3.9, compared with 4.0 in June. The percentage for July, 1898, was 3.0.

Employment in the **Paper** trade has remained fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of July was 2.7, compared with 2.4 in June, and 2.8 per cent. in July, 1898.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed at the end of July was 6.7, compared with 8.6 in July of last year.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has remained fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of July was 3.1, compared with 2.9 in June, and 4.8 per cent. in July, 1898.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade shows a further seasonal decline in the principal centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade has fallen off. In the ready-made branch it continues fairly good.

Employment continues very good in the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade. Information respecting **Cotton** factories employing about 77,000 women and girls, shows that 98 per cent. of those in **Spinning** mills, and 92 per cent. of those in **Weaving** factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 96 and 90 per cent. respectively in June, and with 90 and 72 per cent. a year ago. (For further details see page 239.)

Employment in both the **Woolen and Worsted** trades continues good. In the **Hosiery** trade also it remains good.

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—During the five weeks ended July 29th an average number of 14,486 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with averages of 13,862 in the preceding four weeks and 13,950 in July, 1898. (For further details see page 239.)

**Agricultural Labourers** were generally well employed throughout England during the month of July at hay-making, hoeing and singling roots, and towards the end of the month in a number of counties at corn harvest. The weather was generally very favourable for outdoor employment. (For further details see page 237.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Fifty-one fresh disputes occurred in July, 1899, involving 10,022 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes in June was 59, involving 14,254 workpeople, and in July, 1898, 33, involving 8,753 workpeople. Of the 51 fresh disputes in July, 1899, 6 occurred in the building trades, 9 in mining and quarrying, 7 in the metal, engineering and ship-building trades, 17 in the textile trades, 3 in clothing trades, 4 in transport trades, and 5 in other industries. Of the 63 new and old disputes, involving 14,378 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 18, involving 3,053 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 19, involving 4,426 workpeople, in favour of the employers; 23, involving 6,394 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining 3 disputes, involving 505 workpeople, the points involved are still under consideration. (For further details see page 252.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of about 320,400 workpeople were reported during July, all of whom received advances, the average amount of the advance being 6½d. per head per week. The increases were mainly in mining (262,028), iron and steel manufacture (35,666), and textile trades (10,158). Changes affecting about 2,500 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 159,200 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales, and changes, affecting 2,600 workpeople, were brought about by conciliation and arbitration. The remaining changes, affecting about 156,100 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or were conceded voluntarily by the employers. (For further details see page 248.)

**HOURS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS IN HOLLAND, 1897 AND 1898.**

The following statement is based on figures contained in the Report for the years 1897 and 1898 on the Inspection of Factories and Workshops in Holland, and shows the number of hours worked in the summer, as a regular working day (exclusive of intervals), by the 20,333 persons employed in the 1,966 factories and workshops in the provinces of Gelderland and Overijssel visited in those years by the Factory Inspector:—

Group of Trades.	Number of persons whose regular working day in the Summer was:						Total.
	9 hours or less.	Over 9 up to 10 hours.	Over 10 up to 11 hours.	Over 11 up to 12 hours.	Over 12 up to 13 hours.	Over 13 hours.	
Building trades ... ..	40	8	23	493	304	—	868
Metal trades ... ..	24	505	543	124	79	9	1,084
Manufacture of machines, tools, &c. ... ..	—	685	366	190	—	—	1,241
Shipbuilding, coachbuilding, &c. ... ..	—	4	16	127	64	6	217
Textile trades ... ..	—	1,919	5,012	7	2	—	6,940
Clothing trades ... ..	238	797	428	81	25	15	1,584
Printing and allied trades ...	100	156	101	9	2	2	370
Paper trades ... ..	5	62	174	27	—	—	268
Wood, cork & straw working	33	178	150	229	53	9	632
Work in earth, stone, &c. (including diamonds and glass) ... ..	40	886	1,627	44	2	—	2,599
Food, &c., trades ... ..	1,023	869	1,415	580	298	206	4,399
Other trades ... ..	3	107	73	5	13	—	201
All trades together ... ..	1,506	5,916	9,506	1,916	842	247	20,333

Of the 20,333 workpeople included in the table, 6,089 were children and young persons under 16, or women; the rest being males of 16 years of age or more. For the former, the Factory Act fixes a maximum working day of 11 hours, interrupted by a rest of one hour. Of the 6,089 children, young persons and women, 3,535 worked over 10 up to 11 hours, 2,208 worked over 9 up to 10 hours, and 346 worked 9 hours or less per day in summer.

**PROFIT-SHARING IN 1898-9.**

In continuation of the Report on Profit-sharing, published by the Department in 1894 (C.—7,458 of 1894), and of the statements on this subject contained in the GAZETTE, July 1895, p. 207, July 1896, p. 208, September 1896, p. 275, July 1897, p. 195, and August, 1898, p. 228, the following details, obtained by correspondence with the firms concerned, are submitted, bringing the information previously published up to date.

Returns have been received from 83 out of the 93 firms with which profit-sharing was, at the date of the statements made in the GAZETTE of 1898, known to be in force (78 in the United Kingdom, 5 in British Colonies). In regard to 9 cases\* profit-sharing has ceased to be in operation, the particulars being returned by the firms as under:—

**Profit-sharing Schemes that have ceased to exist.**

Date of Profit-sharing.	Name.	Business.	No. of Em-ployees.	Cause of cessation of Profit-sharing.
1881-1899	Holmes & Co. (Lichfield branch)	Coachmakers ...	14	No profits earned for some years past. Factory being closed.
1888-1899	Richard Binns ...	Fruit farming ...	4-34	Profits did not suffice for payment of bonus.
1889-1899	New Welsh Slate Co. Ltd.	Quarry owners...	231	Liquidation.
1889-1897	Lee & Hunt ...	Engineers' machine tool makers	55	No profit to divide.
1890-1898	Cardiff Milling Co., Ltd. (formerly James Tucker, Ltd.)	Millers ... ..	120	Liquidation.
1890-1898	Robert McVitie ...	Baker and confectioner	65-70	Business converted into limited company, a number of employees taking shares.
1891-1898	R. H. & S. Rogers, Ltd.	Shirt and collar manufacturers	1,000	Apathy of employees, and liabilities imposed by Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897.
1893-1899	William Parnall & Co., Ltd.	Shopfitters, &c.	45	Liquidation.
1894-1898	William Cussons, Ltd.	Grocers, provision merchants, etc.	150-200	Dissatisfaction with results.

Particulars have been received as to 3 firms not previously known to practise profit-sharing, and as to 3 cases in which profit-sharing has been adopted since July 1898:—

**Additional Cases of Profit-sharing.**

Date of Adoption of Profit-sharing.	Name.	Business.	No. of Em-ployees.	How Bonus Treated.
1881	B. & S. Massey, Openshaw, near Manchester	Manufacturing Engineers	198	Cash†
1889	Birmingham Dairy Co., Ltd., Birmingham	Dairymen and Restaurant Proprietors	130	Cash;
1897	Wm. Latimer, Carlisle	Joiner & Contractor	11	Cash
1898	Britannia Works Co. Ltd., Ilford, E.	Manufacturers of Photographic Plates and Papers	235	Cash
1898	Meath Home Industries Association, Ranelstown, Navan, Co. Meath	Needlework, Embroidery, Weaving and Knitting	152-220	Cash
1899	Jno. E. Nelson, Sunderland	Slater and Slate Merchant	25	Cash

The total number of persons employed by the 85 firms now known to practise profit-sharing (varying according to seasons, &c.), is *minimum* 50,647, *maximum* 53,010 (49,220—51,487 employed by 79 firms in the United Kingdom, 1,427—1,523 by 5 firms in British Colonies). The number of employees of one Colonial firm is not known). The corresponding number of firms a year ago was 93, with 48,258—50,476 employees (46,846—49,039 employed by 87 firms in the United Kingdom, 1,412—1,437 by 5 firms in British Colonies).

\* Messrs. Waltham Eros, Ltd., of Stockwell, brewers, who employ 133 persons, have given notice that the profit-sharing scheme, which they introduced in 1891, will be discontinued at Michaelmas next, because they do not find the results satisfactory.

† Employees are allowed to invest money with the firm, their deposits being entitled to share in gross profits.

‡ Ratio of bonus to wages paid in 1890-98, inclusive, was 3 per cent.

The number of employees of one Colonial firm was not known.\*

With respect to the addition made to the wages of the participating employees by the bonus allotted in 1898, details in regard to 75† cases (72 with 23,399 employees in 1898 in the United Kingdom, 3 with 523 employees in British Colonies) are available, and are as shown below:—

**Ratio of Bonus to Wages in 1898.**

Ratio of Bonus allotted in 1898 to Wages.	No. of cases in which the Bonus in col. 1 was paid.	No. of Em-ployees (mean between minimum and maximum) in 1898.	Number of Participants in 1898.
Nil ... ..	17	2,309	—
Under 1 per cent. ... ..	3	1,966	1,949
1 and under 3 per cent. ...	8	770	622
3 " " 5 " " ... ..	7	1,394	923
5 " " 7 " " ... ..	15	4,133	1,820
7 " " 9 " " ... ..	6	5,100	4,068
9 " " 11 " " ... ..	11	1,793	711
11 " " 13 " " ... ..	2	67	55
13 " " 15 " " ... ..	2	218	147
15 " " 16 " " ... ..	1	290	216
17 " " 18 " " ... ..	1	395	361
18 " " 19 " " ... ..	1	1,550	1,034
32 per cent. ... ..	1	3,257	2,832

The figures show a mean bonus of 5.5 per cent. on wages paid in the above 75 cases (compared with 7.2 per cent. in 1897). Excluding 17 cases in which no bonus was earned, the bonus allotted in the remaining 58 cases was (taking into account the number of participants in each case) at the mean rate of 11.8 per cent. (compared with 11.4 per cent. in 1897).

**REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGED DESERVING POOR.‡**

THE Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed "to consider and report upon the best means of improving the condition of the Aged Deserving Poor, and of providing for those of them who are helpless and infirm; and to inquire whether any of the Bills dealing with Old Age Pensions, and submitted to Parliament during the present Session, can with advantage be adopted, either with or without amendment," have issued their report.

The Committee investigated and discussed the provisions of seven different Bills, but instead of adopting, either with or without amendment, any one of these measures, endeavoured to formulate for themselves "the general principles upon which any measure dealing with the question might be framed." They base their opinion as to the practicability of a workable system of old age pensions for the United Kingdom chiefly on evidence tendered as to the working of the existing system in Denmark, and of the many pension schemes (about 250) at present in operation under the auspices of the Charity Commissioners.

They make the following recommendation with regard to the class who should be entitled to a pension:—

- Any person who satisfies the Pension authority that he—
1. Is a British subject;
  2. Is sixty-five years of age;
  3. Has not within the last twenty years been convicted of an offence and sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment without the option of a fine;
  4. Has not received poor relief other than medical relief, unless under circumstances of a wholly exceptional character, during twenty years prior to the application for a pension;
  5. Is resident within the district of the Pension authority;
  6. Has not an income from any source of more than ten shillings a week; and
  7. Has endeavoured to the best of his ability, by his industry

\* In regard to 12 firms, the number of employees is stated according to figures supplied by the firms in previous years, no information on this point having been supplied in 1899; the same course was adopted in regard to 19 firms in 1898. In addition to the firms (85 in 1899, 93 in 1898) known to practise profit-sharing, there are at present 12 firms (7 in 1898) which are known to have adopted profit-sharing, but as to which it has not been found possible to obtain information.

† In two cases (both in the United Kingdom) in which the bonus is calculated separately for distinct branches of a business, the ratios are stated separately for each branch. The 75 cases include 6 (all in the United Kingdom) in which profit-sharing ceased to be in force after the date in 1898 for the distribution of bonus.

‡ P.P. 296, price 5d.

or by the exercise of reasonable providence, to make provision for himself and those immediately dependent on him;

shall receive a certificate to that effect and be entitled to a pension.

With reference to the exercise of reasonable providence, we think that the authority should be bound to take into consideration whether, and how far, it has been shown, either by membership of a benefit society for a period of years, or by the endeavour of the applicant to make some provision for his own support by means of savings or investments, or some other definite mode of thrift.

The expression "person" means either man or woman.

With regard to the machinery for payment of pensions and their amount, they make the following recommendations:—

1. That a Pension authority should be established in each Union of the country, to receive and to determine applications for pensions.
2. That the authority for this purpose should be a Committee of not less than six or more than twelve members appointed by the guardians from their own number in the first instance.
3. That the Committee, when so appointed, should be independent of the Board of Guardians, and that other members should be added to it, subject to Regulations to be made by the Local Government Board, and that it is desirable that other public bodies within the area should be represented on the Committee, and that a majority of the Committee shall be members of the Board of Guardians.
4. That the cost of the pensions should be borne by the Common Fund of the Union, and that a contribution from Imperial sources should be made to that fund in aid of the general cost of the Poor Law administration, such contribution to be allocated not in proportion to the amount distributed in each Union in respect of pensions, but on the basis of population, not to exceed one-half of the estimated cost of the pensions.
5. That the amount of the pensions in each district should be fixed at not less than 5s. or more than 7s. a week, at the discretion of the Committee, according to the cost of living in the locality, and that it should be paid through the medium of the Post Office.
6. That the pension should be awarded for a period of not less than three years, to be renewed at the end of that period, but subject to withdrawal at any time by the Pension authority, if in their opinion the circumstances should demand it.

In order to facilitate the inquiries of the Pension authority, and to prevent as far as possible attempts at fraudulent misrepresentation, we think that applications for a pension should be made on a prescribed form, and should be signed before a justice of the peace on oath, without fee.

The machinery which we propose for the administration of a Pension scheme in England and Wales may not, in some respects, be possible or equally suitable for Ireland and Scotland, and our recommendations are subject to such modifications as to machinery as may be necessary or desirable in the case of either of these countries.

With regard to the amendments of the Poor Law, without which, in the opinion of the Committee, any scheme for old-age pensions would be incomplete, they are prepared, after consideration of the report of the Cottage Homes Committee, to generally endorse that report, including their recommendations for the provision of separate cottages in connection with the workhouse, available for old and deserving couples who are infirm, and their suggestions with regard to classification.

With regard to the cost of the Pension scheme to the Exchequer and the local rates, they suggest that this branch of the subject should be further investigated during the recess by competent experts.

A report suggested by Mr. Lecky, one of the members of the Committee, is also printed. It gives reasons which, in his opinion, militate against any scheme that has been suggested for the provision of old-age pensions from Government sources, and concludes that "it is by an extended and more clearly defined system of Poor Law classification that the problem before us seems to me to be best met."

## PROVISION FOR OLD AGE BY GOVERNMENT ACTION IN CERTAIN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

A REPORT on "Provision for Old Age by Government Action in Certain European Countries" has been issued by the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. It describes the nature, and gives, so far as possible, the results of the working in each country of the laws under which provision for old age is either encouraged or declared obligatory. The countries dealt with are Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Austria, and Roumania. Of these eleven countries, Germany and Denmark alone can be said to have adopted a general system of pensions or relief in old age.

The German Law of 1889 (in operation since January 1st, 1891) embraces practically all wage-workers (other than those entitled to pensions in their capacity of public servants) above the age of 16 and earning not more than £100 per annum. It fixes the scale of contributions to be paid by them and by their employers, and places the responsibility for the payment of those contributions on the latter, whom, however, it allows to deduct half the amount from wages. It provides for the addition of a sum of £2 10s. per annum, at the cost of the State, to each pension acquired under the law. The old-age pension becomes payable after the completion of the 70th year, and is given simply for old age, irrespective of physical fitness; while the invalidity pension becomes payable, after the completion of 235 weeks of contribution, to any person who, irrespective of age, is permanently unable to earn one-third of his or her previous wages. In the year 1897 (the most recent for which statistics have been published) over 400,000 persons drew pensions amounting to no less than £2,750,531, of which £1,079,823 was provided by the State. Of these amounts about one-half was expended on invalidity, and one-half on old-age pensions. It has been officially estimated that 12,144,530 persons out of 52,279,901, representing the total population of the German Empire (census of December 2nd, 1895), are liable to insurance under the law.

In Denmark the system adopted is very different, the Law of 1891 (in operation since July 1st, 1892) providing for a special form of old-age relief to any necessitous person of good character who is over sixty years of age. There are no direct contributions by the recipient, and the amount of the pension is not fixed by the Law, though it must be sufficient for the needs of the applicant and his family. Receipt of this relief does not impose electoral disabilities. In 1896 36,246 persons, with 14,223 dependents, were receiving pensions in Denmark under this Law to the amount of £216,317, of which, roughly, half was paid by the State and half by the Communes.

The Report mentions a system of compulsory subscription to old-age relief funds in force in Iceland under a law of 1890, but states that no relief has yet been paid under that law.

In France, provision for old age is obligatory for seamen and miners, and the Government grants £440,000 per annum in support of the seamen's fund (which dates from the year 1681). It also makes annual grants to encourage persons to purchase old-age annuities from the *Caisse Nationale des Retraites pour la Vieillesse*, either directly or through the medium of Friendly Societies. It also makes grants in aid of pensions established for necessitous persons by Departments and Communes. The total expenditure of the State on behalf of old-age provision in France is probably not less than £600,000 per annum.

In the other countries less has been done by the State. In Belgium the Government and certain Provincial Authorities make grants to encourage Friendly Societies to induce their members to subscribe to the *Caisse Générale d'Épargne et de Retraite* through their medium. In some districts of Belgium

\* [C. 9414.] Price 3d.

old-age pensions are granted to persons formerly engaged in mines, out of the funds to which mine-owners are compelled to subscribe. In Austria there is a system of compulsory contributions by mine-owners and miners to funds from which pensions are granted to aged workmen. In Russia old-age insurance only extends to Government Mining Establishments, and in Roumania, where compulsory insurance in mines and quarries was enacted by a law of 1895, the law is not yet operative, owing to the fact that no enterprises to which it applies have been started.

In Sweden, Norway, and Holland the question of Government action in the matter of old-age pensions has not gone beyond the stage of projects, and in Italy the Law of 1898 to establish a National Pension Fund will not come into force until a month after the publication of a Royal Decree approving the rules by which the Fund is to be governed.

## THE SITUATION IN THE BUILDING TRADES.

In the June GAZETTE reference was made to the negotiations for a conference between the National Association of Master Builders and various Trade Unions connected with the Building Trades. At the suggestion of the Master Builders, the Trade Unions met in Manchester to draw up a basis for a conference. The meetings were held on June 12th and 19th, and resulted in proposals for Conciliation being drafted as a basis of discussion.

The Conciliation Scheme presented by the Unions included proposals for district committees of both sides, who should endeavour to settle disputed questions, which, failing a settlement, should then be referred to a Central Board, representative of the National Association of Master Builders and the other societies parties to the agreement. If this board did not settle the question it should have power to refer it to three referees selected from a standing list of twelve appointed by the board and approved by both sides.

The Master Builders agreed to a Conference to discuss these proposals, among other matters, which was held in London on July 27th, representatives of the following Trade Unions being present:—The Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, the General Union of Carpenters and Joiners, the Associated Joiners, the Operative Bricklayers (London and Manchester Orders), the Amalgamated House and Ship Painters and Decorators, the Amalgamated House Decorators and Painters, the Operative Stonemasons, the Operative Plumbers, the Woodcutters, Machinists and Sawmill Workers, the United Builders' Labourers, the United Order of General Labourers, and the Gasworkers and General Labourers.

After some discussion, in the course of which several amendments were agreed to, the further consideration of these proposals was adjourned.

This conference also occupied itself with the discussion of the situation in the Yorkshire building trades. In order to understand the position of affairs in that county, it is necessary to go back to the month of May, when 25 per cent. of the members of building trade unions were locked out in certain Yorkshire towns in order to compel certain alterations in the working rules and the policy of the unions, the lock-out being followed during the course of the month in the case of the Operative Bricklayers (London Order) by a strike of the remaining 75 per cent. The principal towns affected were Hull and Leeds. On July 12th the carpenters and joiners at Leeds also decided to strike unless the lock-out of 25 per cent. of their number were withdrawn on or before July 21st. On July 21st the acting committee of the Yorkshire Federation of Master Builders, at the suggestion of the National Association, and in view of the approaching conference, decided to withdraw the Yorkshire lock-out. Owing to some misunderstanding with regard to the official intimation of this withdrawal, the carpenters and joiners at Leeds put their resolution into force, and on July 24th, struck work to the number

of 388. On the misunderstanding being removed they resumed work on July 26th.

Previous to this withdrawal of the lock-out, a conference had been held on July 13th, at the request of the London Order of Bricklayers, between their society and the Yorkshire Federation, and a provisional agreement arrived at subject to the ratification of their society. This agreement has, however, not come into force, a vote of the members having resulted in a large majority against its acceptance. On July 24th a meeting was held at Hull, between the Hull Master Builders' Association and representatives of various trade unions, at which the employers suggested that the bricklayers should at once resume work on the terms arrived at on July 13th, and that the other trades should return to work without rules, pending the London conference of July 27th. These suggestions were not accepted by the men's representatives.

The conference of July 27th did not arrive at any definite understanding with regard to the situation in Hull, but after its adjournment the representatives of the London Order of Bricklayers and one of the master builders present agreed to have an interview with representatives of the Yorkshire Federation, with a view to its discussion.

On August 8th a conference was held at Leeds between representatives of the Yorkshire Federation and the London Order of Bricklayers, when proposals for a settlement were discussed. A similar conference with the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners was held on August 9th. It was agreed that the recommendations for a settlement resulting from these meetings should be dealt with locally in the different towns still affected.

The agreement between the National Association of Master Builders and the National Association of Operative Plasterers, by which the plasterers' lock-out was terminated, was referred to on page 163 of the June GAZETTE. On July 26th a further conference between these Associations was held in London at which various points arising out of the settlement, chiefly of a local character, were discussed.

## HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

### Meal Hours in Factories and Workshops.—Extension of Special Exceptions to the Spinning of Artificial Silk.

An Order under Section 52 of the Factory and Workshop Act 1878, was issued from the Home Office on July 20th, and came into force on August 1st. This extends the special exceptions to the provisions with regard to a single time for meals for all children, young persons, and women in a factory or workshop in which is carried on the spinning of artificial silk. The conditions of this extension are that one set of meal hours shall be appointed for all children, young persons, and women whose ordinary employment in the factory is the spinning of artificial silk, and another set for all other children, young persons, and women; that lists of the persons whose ordinary employment in the factory is the spinning of artificial silk, with the times of their meal hours, shall be posted in the factory; and that in every room in which any child, young person, or woman is employed in spinning artificial silk there shall be at least 1,000 cubic feet of air space to each person employed.

### Explosives in Coal Mines Order.

A new Order was issued from the Home Office on July 24th, under Section 6 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, in substitution for previous Orders under this section. This Order makes certain modifications in the schedule of "Permitted Explosives," viz., the omission of Argus Powder, and the addition of three new explosives; and also contains the following new clause:—

"On and after the 1st day of October, 1899, no detonator shall be used in any mine unless the following conditions are observed:—

"(a) Detonators shall be under the control of the owner, agent, or manager of the mine, or some person specially appointed in writing by the owner, agent, or manager for the purpose, and shall be issued only to shot firers or other persons specially authorised by the owner, agent, or manager in writing.

"(b) Shot firers and other authorised persons shall keep all detonators issued to them until about to be used in a securely locked case or box separate from any other explosive."

Except for the provisions of the above clause, the Order came into force on August 1st.

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.

Generally speaking, 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, been well maintained, compared with the corresponding period in 1898, though in some districts slight increases took place. Women workers and domestic servants were, however, scarce, which has been the case for some years, and their wages are tending upwards.

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. 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 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 some of the Forfarshire fairs a rise of wages took place, specially good men getting advances of from 10s. to 40s. for the half-year. In some of the numerous fairs in Aberdeenshire, and also in the County of Banff, slight increases are reported. As a rule, in the counties north of the Spey there were generally very few changes in wages. In some instances, usually in the case of men changing their places, there were slight advances, and in a very few cases, notably at Elgin, small reductions from the rates paid twelve months ago.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following table shows the number of cases of lead poisoning (classified by industries) and of anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during July. Of the 98 cases of lead poisoning reported, 85 affected males and 13 females, as compared with 95 cases affecting males and 36 affecting females in July 1898. Lead works accounted for 38 cases, and the china and earthenware industry for 14 cases in July last, the figures for July, 1898, being 37 and 51 respectively.

Included in the 98 cases of lead poisoning are 5 deaths (4 males and 1 female). No deaths are, however, included, in the 3 cases of anthrax. The fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>									
China and Earthenware	5	7	—	2	—	—	5	9	14
Glass...	35	3	—	—	—	—	35	3	38
White, Red, and Orange	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lead Works	13	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	13
Paints and Colours	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3
Smelting	5	1	—	—	—	—	5	1	6
File Making	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Coach Making, &c.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	21	—	1	—	—	—	22	—	22
<b>Total Lead Poisoning</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>98</b>
Corresponding Total for July, 1898	90	33	6	3	—	—	95	36	131
<b>Anthrax</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>
Ditto, July, 1898	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3

NOTE.—No cases of phosphorus, arsenic or mercurial poisoning have been reported in July, 1899. In July, 1898, there was one case of phosphorus poisoning affecting a woman.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION ACT, NEW SOUTH WALES.

By the New South Wales "Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1899," assented to on April 22nd, 1899, provision is made with respect to the settlement of disputes between employers and employed, or between different classes of employees.

In case of any difference of this nature arising, or being apprehended, power is given to the Government (a) to direct inquiry into the causes and circumstances of the difference; (b) to take steps to enable the parties to meet, under the presidency of a chairman mutually agreed on, or nominated by the Government, with view to the settlement of the difference; (c) if no settlement is arrived at, to direct a public inquiry into the causes and circumstances of the difference on the application of either party, such inquiry to be conducted by a judge of the Supreme or District Courts, or the President of the Land Court; (d) on the application of either the employers or the employees concerned, or both, to appoint a conciliator or a board of conciliation; and (e) on the application of both parties, to appoint an arbitrator.

Any arbitrator or person authorised by the Government to conduct a public inquiry may summon witnesses to give evidence on oath, failure to attend and submit to examination being punishable by imprisonment; and any such arbitrator or person (also any person authorised in writing by an arbitrator) may enter and view any premises wherein or in respect of which any work is being, or has been done or commenced, or any matter or thing is taking or has taken place, which has been made the subject of a reference, but this power does not extend to inspection of accounts.

All expenses connected with the administration of this Act, including the expenses of witnesses attending on summons otherwise than at the instance of a party or parties, and the remuneration of persons appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act, are to be paid out of such annual appropriations as shall be made by Parliament.

This Act came into force on May 1st.

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896.

THE second report\* of the Board of Trade on the proceedings under the Conciliation Act covers the two years from July 1st, 1897, to the end of June, 1899. In this period action was taken or invited in the case of 32 disputes, the number for the first ten months during which the Act was in operation (the period covered by the first report) being 35. The following table gives particulars of the action taken by the Board, and its results in the periods covered by the two reports:—

	Aug. 1896 to June 1897.	July 1897 to June 1899.	Total.
Disputes settled under the Act—			
By appointment of a Conciliator	2	4†	6
By negotiation by Board of Trade	12	8	20
By arbitration	5	10	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>41</b>
Disputes settled between the parties during negotiations...	4	3	7
Failure to effect a settlement	5	2	7
Applications refused by the Board of Trade	7	5	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>67</b>

In twelve of the thirty-two disputes the application came from both sides, in four from the employers only, and in fourteen from the workpeople only, the remaining two being cases of action by the Board of Trade without application from either side.

As will be seen from the table above, twenty-two disputes were settled under the Act in the two years.

\* Second Report of Proceedings under the Conciliation (Trades Disputes) Act, 1896, P. P. 275, of 1899.  
† In one of these cases the conciliator was subsequently requested by both parties to act as arbitrator.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Tailoring Dispute at Co-operative Works.

On May 1st the tailors employed by two co-operative societies at Oldham, to the number of 21, struck work for the adoption of new working rules, including one providing that there should be a minimum number of one trousers and one vest hand (men) to every four coatmakers. It was contended by the societies that this would involve a displacement of female labour. The rules had been generally accepted by other employers.

On June 9th a strike commenced at a clothing factory, near Manchester, belonging to the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which had continued to supply goods to the two societies at Oldham. This strike affected 65 men (directly employed by the Society), 378 women and 20 young persons.

In the course of July 21 tailors, employed by a Bolton co-operative society, also struck work, alleging that this society had made goods for one of the Oldham societies. This allegation was denied by the Bolton society.

After some negotiation the matters at issue in these three towns were referred to the joint committee of trade unionists and co-operators, who met on July 21st. It was agreed that work should be resumed, pending the reference of the matter to four persons, viz., two members of the joint committee, one representative of the trade unions, and one of the co-operative societies involved.

Proposed Re-Establishment of Durham Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

Pursuant to a resolution of the Council of the Durham Miners' Association a vote has been taken on the question of re-establishing the Conciliation Board. The result of the ballot was announced on July 1st. There voted for the re-establishment 20,149, and against, 19,569.

Proposed Scottish Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

After a number of conferences between the committee appointed by the coal owners of Scotland and representatives of the Scottish Miners' Federation, the following arrangements were agreed to at the meeting on July 20th:—

1. That the present rate of miners' wages shall continue in force for a further period of six months from 1st August next.
2. That miners' wages shall not be reduced below a point 3¼ per cent. over the 1888 basis, nor be advanced above a point 75 per cent. over the 1888 basis for one year from 1st August next.
3. The coal owners shall forthwith appoint twelve of their number to meet an equal number of representatives of the miners as a Conciliation Board on the lines indicated at former conferences, to fix wages from time to time in terms of Articles 1 and 2 hereof.

The Conciliation Board when formed will govern the wages of about 80,000 workpeople. The framing of the draft rules for the Conciliation Board has been remitted to the secretaries of the two parties.

Bedstead Trade Wages Board.

The Wages Board in connection with the alliance between the employers and workpeople engaged in the Birmingham Bedstead Trade has increased the bonus paid to the workmen by 5 per cent., making a total bonus on wages of 35 per cent. About 2,500 workpeople are affected.

TRADE GUILDS IN BULGARIA.

MR. F. ELLIOT, H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Sofia, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated July 13th, states that the law for the establishment of trade guilds in Bulgaria (see GAZETTE, January, 1898, page 10) was repealed in the extraordinary session of the Sobranje, which closed on July 10th. It is stated to have been generally recognised that the law required amendment, especially as regards the treatment of foreigners under it, and that, as there was no time to spend upon it during this session, it was thought better to repeal it altogether, and to bring in a new Bill in November.

The law just repealed made membership of a trade guild compulsory for persons practising certain specified trades.

In twelve of these disputes a stoppage of work took place, the remaining ten being disputes likely to lead to stoppage. Of the twenty-two disputes, nine were in the building trades, six among coal miners, two in the metal trades, and two in the textile trades, the remaining three affecting sanitary pressers, papermakers and lath splitters respectively.

During the period covered by the report, four additional Conciliation Boards have been registered in accordance with the first section of the Act, thus bringing up the total number of registered Boards to nineteen.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN FRANCE IN 1898.\*

THE number of workpeople who took part in disputes in France shows a considerable increase in 1898 as compared with previous years, though the number of disputes occurring in that year only slightly exceeded the number for 1897 and fell considerably short of the average for the five years 1893-7. This will be seen from the following table:—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Number of Disputes ..	634	391	407	476	356	368
Number of Work-people who took part in Disputes ...	170,123	54,576	46,089	49,851	68,875	82,065

Of the 82,065 workpeople who took part in disputes in 1898, 42,800, or more than half, were concerned in two great strikes of navvies and other workpeople which took place in Paris in September and October of that year (see GAZETTE, October and November, 1898, pp. 296 and 329).

The total number of working days lost in 1898 by workpeople directly and indirectly affected by disputes was 1,216,306 more than in any year since 1893. This will be seen from the following statement which also shows the extent to which the principal groups of trades were affected by disputes in each year:—

Group of Trades.	Number of working days lost by all workpeople affected by disputes in					
	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Building trades ...	244,300	39,960	69,053	61,870	305,794	722,142
Mining and quarrying	1,528,015	192,180	60,916	115,197	174,161	42,620
Metal trades ...	239,939	94,171	41,118	153,921	50,637	144,109
Textile trades ...	510,678	358,749	195,575	135,154	120,287	235,137
Seafaring, dock labour and transport ...	162,940	2,464	23,162	1,681	6,093	6,530
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing ...	158,920	23,003	53	32,735	65,095	3,875
Miscellaneous trades...	329,208	351,953	258,912	143,610	58,877	61,893
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>3,174,000</b>	<b>1,062,480</b>	<b>618,789</b>	<b>644,168</b>	<b>780,944</b>	<b>1,216,306</b>

Demands for an increase, or opposition to a reduction, of wages, were amongst the objects or causes of 223 disputes, participated in by 41,720 workpeople and entailing a loss of 727,343 working days in 1898.

On the whole the workpeople were not so successful in 1898 as in 1897, as the following table will show:—

Result.	Percentage of workpeople engaged in disputes of which the results were as stated in col. 1.	
	1897.	1898.
In favour of workpeople ...	28.80	12.91
In favour of employers...	29.43	47.43
Compromise ...	41.77	39.66

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Midland District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. William Saunders, 67 Wilson-street, Derby.

\* Based on Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus pendant l'Année 1898 (Paris, Government Printing Works, 1899) and corresponding volumes for previous years.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in France.**

THE particulars which follow, and which are based upon information contained in a report\* recently published by the French Labour Department, relate to the operation of the French Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Under this Act, passed in December, 1892, either party to a dispute between employers and employed (whether the dispute be accompanied by a strike or lock-out, or not) may apply to the Justice of the Peace of the Canton with a view to having the matter settled by conciliation or arbitration. The application must give the names of not more than five delegates chosen for this purpose. The Justice of the Peace then informs the other party of the application. If the proposal be accepted, the other side in their turn name delegates (not more than five), and the justice of the peace urges the parties to meet or to form a committee of conciliation. The deliberations take place in his presence, and, if he be so requested, under his chairmanship, but he has no voting power. If an agreement be arrived at, its terms are set down in a report drawn up by the justice of the peace, and signed by the parties or their delegates. Failing such agreement, the justice of the peace invites the parties to appoint an arbitrator or arbitrators. If such arbitrators differ, and cannot agree upon an umpire, an umpire is named by the president of the Civil Tribunal. In default of initiative on the part of those concerned in a strike, the justice of the peace, of his own motion, invites the parties to state whether they are willing to submit the matter to conciliation or arbitration, and, if so, to name delegates for that purpose. The demand for conciliation or arbitration, the refusal or failure of the opposing party to reply, and the decision of the committee of conciliation, or of the arbitrators, are communicated by the justice of the peace to the mayors of the communes affected by the dispute, by whom these matters are made public by placard.

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
No. of strikes and lock-outs	634	391	405	476	356	368
No. of cases in which the Act was put into operation before the commencement of any strike or lock-out	7	8	5	6	3	2
<b>No. of cases in which the Act was put into operation.</b>						
By initiative of employers	5	4	2	4	4	3
" " " workpeople	56	51	46	57	46	57
" " " both sides	2	2	3	4	1	2
" " " Justice of the Peace	46	44	34	39	37	32
Total ... ..	109	101	85	104	88	94
<b>No. of strikes and lock-outs settled before formation of Conciliation Committees</b>	13	8	4	7	9	4
<b>No. of refusals to settle by conciliation:</b>						
By employers ... ..	34	24	29	41	20	32
" " " workpeople ... ..	6	4	—	3	2	1
" " " both parties ... ..	2	1	2	—	3	5
Total ... ..	42	29	31	44	25	38
<b>No. of Conciliation Committees formed</b>	55	65	53	53	54	52
<b>No. of Committees which settled disputes:</b>						
By conciliation ... ..	28	31	24	21	25	18
" " " arbitration ... ..	5	2	3	1	5	2
Total ... ..	33	33	27	22	30	20

Out of the 31 cases in six years in which the Act was put into operation before the commencement of a strike or lock-out, a stoppage was averted in 14 cases.

\* Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus pendant l'Année 1898. On sale at establishment of M.M. Berger-Levrault et Cie, Paris.  
 † In a few cases there have been several distinct committees in relation to the same dispute.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

**(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.**

**"ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT."**  
 The widow of a carter employed by a railway company claimed compensation from the company, her husband having met with a fatal accident under the following circumstances: While he was engaged at the general terminus, his horse, from some unexplained cause, started, and he ran forward to stop it. As he caught at the horse's head it gave a jerk forward, and he was crushed between his own lorry and another, sustaining injuries which caused his death. The sheriff-substitute awarded the pursuer and her children damages. The defenders appealed, and the Court of Session affirmed his judgment, holding that the accident arose out of and in the course of the deceased's employment on or in a railway within the true intent of the Act.—*Devine v. Caledonian Railway Company, Court of Session, reported July 12th.*

**DISABLEMENT FROM EARNING FULL WAGES: POSTPONEMENT OF ASSESSMENT OF COMPENSATION.**

The Act provides that the employer shall not be liable "in respect of any injury which does not disable the workman for a period of at least two weeks from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed." A workman, employed by a firm of carpet manufacturers as foreman of the weaving department, at a weekly wage of £3, lost his thumb owing to an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment. After the accident he was taken to the infirmary, but he returned to the factory the same day, going home, however, after the dinner hour, and staying there. On the following days he returned to his work, and remained at the factory during working hours, except that from time to time, during four weeks, he attended, for about an hour each time, at the infirmary, to have his hand dressed. Since the accident, the workman was unable to adjust machinery—a part of the work formerly done by him—and another man was employed to do that, but he was employed in supervision, and received £3 per week as before, and the employers said they had no intention of parting with him. It was admitted that his earning power in any factory where he might seek employment, should he leave his present employers, was materially decreased, but the employers contended that there was no evidence that he had been disabled for at least two weeks, in the manner contemplated by the Act, from earning full wages, and said that he was not entitled to compensation, because he was earning, and able to earn, the same wages as before the accident. The County Court judge found that the wages after the accident were paid, not as a matter of grace, but in performance of the contract of service; that the workman had not been disabled for a period of two weeks from "earning full wages at the work at which he was employed," and that, therefore, the Act did not apply.

The workman appealed, and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, and sent the case back to the County Court judge, for him to make a declaration of the liability of the employers to pay compensation, the question of the amount or duration of the compensation to be adjourned. The Court held that, although a finding of fact of a County Court judge binds the Court of Appeal, and it is only on a matter of law that there is an appeal, yet if a County Court judge decides a fact where there is no evidence upon which he could find it, this is a matter of law, for in such a case the judge has misdirected himself. In a case like the present, where a substantial part of the work cannot be done at all, the provision in the Act exempting the employer from liability does not apply at all. With respect to the assessment of compensation, the workman would not, under the Act, be entitled to anything, unless it could be truly said that there was a difference between the amount of his average weekly earnings before the accident and the amount which he was able to earn after the accident. In a case like the present (in which the workman was earning the same wages after as before the accident) it seemed better to postpone the assessment of compensation, rather than award him one penny a week, with a view to reviewing the amount later on if he ceased to earn the same money.—*Chavaler v. Smith and Son, Court of Appeal, June 24th and July 14th.*

**COMPENSATION RECEIVED UNDER COMPENSATION ACT NOT A BAR TO OTHER PROCEEDINGS.**

A railway lampman sued the company by which he was employed for damages at Common Law for personal injuries. While he was lighting the lamps of a passenger train at a station, the train was jerked forward. He tried to descend from the roof, but fell to the ground, sustaining such injuries that his left arm had to be amputated. Fault was denied by the defenders, who averred that the pursuer was warned, or should have been aware, that the train was about to be moved, and that he attempted to descend before it was brought to a stand. The defenders pleaded that the pursuer, having claimed and received from the defenders compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the defenders being still willing to pay compensation under the Act, the pursuer was barred from claiming damages from them at common law. The jury gave a verdict for the pursuer, and fixed the damages at £260.—*Walter B. Campbell v. Caledonian Railway Company, Court of Session, July 15th.*

**COMPENSATION TO DEPENDANTS: SCOTLAND.**

With respect to compensation to "dependants," the Act provides that in Scotland this word shall mean "such of the persons entitled according to the law of Scotland to sue the employer for damages or solatium in respect of the death of the workman, as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of his death." A railway company was sued by the father, mother, and other relatives of a painter, who, while in their employment, had met with a fatal accident. The sheriff found that in respect of the limited dependence of the pursuers upon the deceased, the full compensation allowed by the Statute was not justly due, but that the pursuers were entitled jointly and severally to £75, and gave decree for that sum, with expenses. The pursuers appealed, and the questions of law stated for the opinion of the Court of Session were, (1) Is the mother of a son, his father being alive, entitled, according to the law of Scotland, to sue his employers for damages or solatium in respect of his death? (2) Is it competent, under the Act, to decree in favour of the father and mother of the deceased, jointly and severally, for a sum of compensation? (3) Were the father and mother of the deceased, or either of them, upon the facts found by the sheriff, in part dependent upon the earnings of their deceased son at the time of his death, within the meaning of the Act?

The Court held that the father was the proper person to sue, that questions (1) and (2) must accordingly be answered in the negative, and as to (3), the finding of the Court would be that, on the facts stated, the father was, in part, dependent upon the earnings of the deceased, and remitted the case to the sheriff to grant decree for £75 in favour of the father alone.—*John Barrett v. North British Railway Company, Court of Session, reported July 12th.*

**COMPENSATION WHERE SOME DEPENDANTS ARE WHOLLY, AND OTHERS PARTIALLY, DEPENDENT.**

The father of a man, who had been fatally injured while in the employment of a builder, claimed compensation from his employer, as being partially dependent upon his deceased son. The widow of the deceased, who was entirely dependent on him, had received from the employer a sum of money in full settlement of her claim. The sheriff substitute having found for the pursuer and awarded him £25 and expenses, the case came, on a stated case, before the Court of Session, which recalled that decision, finding that the fact, that the deceased left a dependant wholly dependent on him, excluded the claim of the pursuer as a part dependant on the deceased.—*Robert Murdoch v. Patrick Fagan, Court of Session, July 18th.*

**(2) Employers' Liability for Accidents.\***

**CONTRACTING OUT.**

A labourer, who, on January 31st, 1898, had been injured while in the employment of a firm of contractors, brought an action against his employers to recover £500, or alternatively, £170. The defenders, in addition to contesting the pursuer's claim on other grounds, stated that they had an arrangement for insurance whereby, in consideration of a payment by themselves and a contribution by their servants, certain benefits were assured to their employees in the event of disablement through injuries sustained in the course of their employment. The deductions provided for were duly made from the pursuer's wages. By the notice which the pursuer had of the arrangement it was provided that, by accepting the payments therein provided, a workman of the defenders discharged his claims at Common Law or under the Employers' Liability Act against the defenders. The pursuer had received sundry payments under the scheme. The defenders pleaded that the pursuer had discharged any claim competent to him. The sheriff-substitute sustained this plea and assuaged the defenders with expenses and the sheriff adhered. The pursuer appealed, and the Court of Session also adhered, holding it to be conclusively proved that the pursuer had accepted the benefits under the scheme in the distinct understanding and in the knowledge that it would bar him from making any claim at law.—*Curran v. McAlpine & Sons, Court of Session, reported July 6th.*

**INJURY TO SERVANT: NEGLIGENCE OF MASTER TO PROVIDE PROPER APPLIANCES.**

The widow of a workman, who had been killed while in the service of a company, brought an action against his employers under Lord Campbell's Act. The company carried on business at a refinery, connected with a canal by a tramway, which, at the canal end, was about 11 ft. above the ground. There was no appliance to enable the workmen to get down from the tramway, and the deceased, in trying to descend, slipped and fell and was killed. The plaintiff alleged that the defendants were guilty of personal negligence in not providing proper means for workmen to descend from the tramway. The defendants pleaded that the alleged defect and want of a ladder were known to the deceased, and that he was guilty of contributory negligence. At the Assizes (see GAZETTE, September, 1898, p. 264) the questions left to the jury, and the jury's answers were as follows:—(1) Did the defendants exercise due care to have the tramway in a safe and proper condition so as to protect their servants working upon it against unnecessary risks?—Answer: No. (2) Was it dangerous to descend from the tramway without the means of a ladder?—Answer: Yes. (3) Had the deceased the same means of knowing that this was dangerous as the defendants had?—Answer: Yes. (4) Did the deceased know that it was dangerous?—Answer: Yes. (5) Was the deceased guilty of contributory negligence?—Answer: No. The jury assessed the damages at £130. Upon these findings

\* Under this heading are included all actions other than those under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

the judge gave judgment for the defendants. The plaintiff appealed, and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal, holding that, upon the findings of the jury, judgment must be entered for the plaintiff.—*Williams v. Birmingham Battery and Metal Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, July 6th.*

**MASTER AND SERVANT: LIABILITY OF EMPLOYER FOR NEGLIGENCE OF CONTRACTOR.**

A telephone company were sued for damages under the following circumstances: The company, with the consent of the Local Authority, were laying down wires under a street. They employed a plumber, who undertook to make certain connections at so much apiece to the satisfaction of their foreman. A man, who was sent by this plumber to do the work, used a benzoline lamp which had its safety-valve out of order, and which he dipped into a pot of molten solder standing on the highway, with the result that the lamp exploded, scattering the molten solder, which injured the plaintiff who was passing along the highway. The County Court judge found that the work was being done as a joint operation by the defendants and the plumber; that what the workman did was done in the usual and ordinary way of doing the work; and that the workman was negligent; he therefore held the defendants liable, and gave judgment for the plaintiff for £25. The defendants appealed, and the Divisional Court (see GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 41) allowed the appeal, holding that the defendants were not liable, since the relationship which the plumber bore to them was that of contractor, and that as the work was not an interference with the rights of others, and was not in the ordinary course dangerous to others, the defendants were not liable for the negligence of the contractor or his servant. The plaintiff appealed; and the Court of Appeal, reversing the judgment of the Queen's Bench Division, held that the County Court judge was justified in finding the defendants liable.—*Holliday v. The National Telephone Company, Court of Appeal, July 17th.*

**PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.**

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 workpeople.	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.
<b>Coal.</b>						
Northumberland:— (Average for all classes of coal at pit's mouth)	30,000	Mar., Apr. May	—	s. d. 6 11'91	s. d. 6 4'31	+ 0 7'60
South Wales and Monmouth:— (Average for certain classes of coal, free on board)	125,000	May, June	1st Aug.	10 8'57 to 10 10'29	10 6'86 to 10 8'57	+ *
<b>Pig Iron.</b>						
Cumberland ... ..	1,350	Apr., May, June	1st July	65 4'487	59 1'370	+ 6 3'117
Cleveland ... ..	5,500	Apr., May, June	1st July	47 11'70	44 10'08	+ 3 1'62
<b>Manufact'rd. Iron.</b>						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)	6,000	May, June	1st Aug.	120 6'25	117 2'17	+ 3 4'08
Midlands:— (Bars, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips)	20,000	May, June	7th Aug.	137 10'69	132 7'42	+ 5 3'27
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)	3,500	May, June	31st July	123 11'60	118 6'40	+ 5 5'20

A considerable increase is shown in the average selling price of manufactured iron in each district, and as a result the wages of the puddlers and millmen have been increased 3d. per ton and 2½ per cent. respectively under the sliding scales in operation in the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland. As compared with the corresponding period in 1898 the price of manufactured iron shows a large advance—in the North of England of 16s. 3d. (104s. 3d. to 120s. 6d.), in the Midlands of 16s. 9d. (121s. 2d. to 137s. 11d.), and in the West of Scotland of 19s. (104 11d. to 123s. 11d.). In South Wales and Monmouthshire the wages of the coal miners have been increased 1½ per cent. under sliding scale as the result of a slight advance in the average selling price of coal. No ascertained prices have been made since the last publication of the table of the average price of Northumberland coal, and of Cleveland and Cumberland pig-iron. These figures, therefore, are repeated unaltered.

\* The exact amount of the difference cannot be stated.

## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

**Canada.**—A report from British Columbia states that there is a real need for men who will settle upon the land. There is no special demand for mere wage-earners, but during the open season miners at Roosland and in other parts are busy.

**New South Wales.**—The supply of labour in Sydney is quite sufficient. The Lithgow coal miners have struck work, as their demand for a hewing rate of 1s. 10d. per ton has not been granted. Some miners at Newcastle have also struck on a proposed reduction of wages. Reports from Bourke, Jerilderie, Young, Walyett, and Lithgow state that there is very little demand for mechanical or general labour. The opal fields near Wilcannia are furnishing work for a large number of miners, but there does not seem to be any room for more men.

**Victoria.**—A considerable number of persons at Melbourne continue to complain of inability to find work; many of these have been given employment by the Government on railway construction and improvements, and on other works. The special Board appointed under the Factories and Shops Acts has fixed 4d. an hour as the lowest rate of wages to be paid in the manufacturing of underclothing. Ironmoulders have been fairly busy, and the trade is improving. Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, chairmakers, and polishers have also been well employed. For the 387 vacancies to be filled in the Railway Department, there were nearly 14,000 eligible candidates; the pay for men varied from 5s. to 8s. a day to begin. It is stated that the adoption of a minimum wage in the boot, clothing, baking and other trades has raised the average earnings of those employed, but that many, who by age or otherwise have not been worth such minimum wage, have been thrown out of employment. In future, men employed by the Railway Department will be paid not less than the men engaged on contract work. There is a fair demand for farm and station hands at Horsham at 10s. 6d. to 20s. a week, with board and lodging. There has been some scarcity of labour at Warragul in Gippsland, and there is a good opening in that district for labourers and settlers.

**South Australia.**—Miners have been busy, especially those engaged in copper mining. The total number of miners is reckoned at 4,500.

**Queensland.**—The timber trade is very brisk, and all the mills are busy. The wages of railway employes, which were reduced during the period of retrenchment, have now been restored to the old rates. There is a good demand for farm labourers and married couples for farms, and a fair demand for engine fitters, wheelwrights, and country carpenters and blacksmiths.

**Western Australia.**—Miners have been well employed on the goldfields, and to an increasing extent on the coal and tinfields. A considerable number of hands are being employed on such public works as are in progress, but there seems to be no lack of local labour. There is a scarcity of farm hands and female servants. Sawmill hands continue to be busy.

**New Zealand.**—There continues to be plenty of work in the building trades, except at a few places of which Wellington and Christchurch are the most important. The engineering trades have been busy at Christchurch, Nelson, Napier, Dunedin, and Invercargill, but at Wellington they have been very dull, and in other places work has fallen off. Unskilled labourers have been fairly well employed in most parts of the colony, but at this season of the year they are not so busy as at other times.

**Cape Colony.**—A good many men have recently been discharged from the Cape railways. There do not seem to be many unemployed persons in any of the trades at Cape Town; but there is considerable

\* 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.

difficulty in obtaining employment for unskilled men. A labour Bureau is being organised by private enterprise, with the object of helping really deserving cases.

**Transvaal.**—A large number of men, female shop assistants, female teachers, and others are out of work at Johannesburg, and many persons have left the country.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.

**Employment in July.**—Employment continued good in July in the building and accessory trades, in mining, in the metal (smelting and manufacture) and engineering trades, in watchmaking and jewellery manufacture, in food, etc., preparation, hide and skinworking (including boot and shoe making and glovemaking), coachbuilding and coopering. The improvement in the cotton, flax, and woollen trades was maintained. Garment-making was in its slack season.

**Coal Mining in June.**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in June was 5.93 (compared with 5.92 in the previous month, and 5.93 in June, 1898). In June, full time (6 days and over) was worked by 81 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 18 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 79 and 20 respectively. The above particulars are supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the coal mines).

## GERMANY.

**Employment in July.**—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, employment continued very satisfactory in July in the principal branches of industry. The proportion which applications for work bore to offers of situations at the public employment registries making returns to the journal rose, however, from 93.6 per cent. in June to 100.7 in July. The latter proportion still compares favourably with that of July, 1898, which was 112.5.

**Labour Disputes in July.**—Forty-eight disputes are noted in the same journal as having begun in July (four less than in June). Of these 15 were in the building trades (compared with 18 in June); 9 in the metal and engineering trades (the same number as in June); 7 in the glass-pottery, etc., group (compared with 1 in June); 5 in the woodworking, etc., trades (compared with 8 in June); 3 in the textile trades (compared with 5 in June); 2 in the clothing, etc., group (compared with 5 in June), and 7 (compared with 6 in June) in trades not coming within any of the foregoing groups.

**Conciliation in the Building Trades in Berlin.**—*Soziale Praxis* publishes the text of an agreement concluded before the Berlin Industrial Court, on June 24th, by which a serious dispute, involving 7,000 masons and bricklayers (3,000 being locked out, and 4,000 having struck in consequence) was terminated.

The agreement arrived at was as follows:—

I. Work to be resumed on the morning of June 27th, 1899; the employers to put an end to the lock-out on the same day.

II. The rates of wages to be as follows:—

Up to and including December 31st, 1899, 7.2d. per hour; from January 1st, 1900, up to and including September 30th, 1900, 7.3d. per hour; and from October 1st, 1900, up to and including March 31st, 1901, 7.8d. per hour. The rate of wages payable to persons whose working powers are impaired through accident, old age or invalidity, also to youths during the first year after completing their apprenticeship and working for the master to whom they served their apprenticeship, is to be settled by free agreement between the parties concerned.

The working day is to be 9 hours, exclusive of intervals.

The labour contract to be terminable by either party at any time without notice.

III. A Board to be appointed, consisting of 9 employers and 9 workmen, the former elected by the employers, the latter by the workmen's unions. The workmen members to include at least one representative from the Central Committee of Trade Unions, one from the Masons' and Bricklayers' Central Union, and one from their local Union. The Board to determine its own business procedure. The Chairman of the Berlin Industrial Court, or, in his absence, the Chairman of the third chamber of that court to act as Chairman of the Board.

\* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department.  
† Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, June and July, 1899.

## UNITED STATES.

## BOSTON CONSULAR DISTRICT.

**Wages in Cotton and Woollen Mills in Maine in 1898.**—Mr. Acting Consul Stuart's report on the trade of Boston and district for the year 1898 (recently published by the Foreign Office)\* contains a summary of returns received for that year by the Commissioner of Industry and Labour for the State of Maine, from 10 of the 16 cotton mills in that State. The average number of operatives employed in these 10 mills was 9,588, viz., 3,938 men, 5,025 women, and 625 children, their average weekly wages being £1 10s., £1 2s. 4d., and 11s. respectively, and the average number of weeks during which the mills were in operation during the year, 47.2.

With respect to 8 cotton mills from which returns were received both for 1897 and 1898, it was found that in the latter as compared with the former year, the average weekly wages of men had fallen by 7d., and that of women by 9d., while those of children had risen by 3d.

Returns were received from 22 woollen mills, in which there were employed on an average, 2,555 operatives in 1898, 1,710 being men, 823 women, and 22 children. The average weekly wages were £1 12s. for men, £1 4s. 1d. for women, and 15s. 7d. for children, and the average number of weeks during which the mills were in operation, 49.7. A comparison with 1897 (possible in the case of 21 mills) showed the average weekly wages to have fallen by 1s. 0d. in the case of men, and 11d. in the case of women, while in the case of children they had risen by 6d.

## NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

**Brooklyn and New York Tramway Strikes.**—Sir Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, in reports to the Foreign Office, dated July 18th, 20th, and 21st, gives particulars of strikes of employees of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company and the Metropolitan Company of New York. The employees of the former company went on strike on July 16th, having on July 3rd represented their grievances and submitted a document to the manager of the company.

The terms of the agreement, which the men requested the manager to sign, were as follows:—

1. That the time-tables be arranged upon all lines, so as to comply with the ten hour workday law.
2. That the prevailing rate of wages shall be 8s. 4d. for each full day's work, and trips and overtime be paid at the rate of 10d. per hour.
3. That two-thirds of the cars shall be full-day cars.
4. That the Company shall receive committees of their employees representing the men; that no employee shall be discriminated against for acting on such committee.
5. That no man shall be discharged without just and sufficient cause, and only after he has had an impartial hearing.
6. Extra brakemen on the main line: first fifteen to report for work at 4.30 a.m., balance at 5.30 a.m. All brakemen to be paid from fifteen minutes after their reporting time when marked up for runs. When extra brakemen be held for Rockaway or Coney Island runs, that they be paid for all time over one hour. That all brakemen, agents, gatemen and platform men be paid 10d. per hour or any fraction thereof.

The lines involved in this strike are about 178 miles long, employ from 8,000 to 9,000 men, and have 3,000 cars in use. The strike began very quietly, most of the men leaving the cars as they reached the depôts early in the morning, where placards were posted warning them that any man who failed to take out his car on the regular run assigned to him would be considered as having left the service. During the first day of the strike, from half to two-thirds of the regular number of cars were running under strong police protection; the traffic was stopped at night. On the following day the principal lines were working with little delay or inconvenience, but minor lines were neglected or abandoned, and all traffic was again stopped at night. There have been scenes of disorder and occasional acts of violence. On July 19th an attempt was made to blow up one of the stations of the Fifth Avenue Elevated Railway. It is stated to have been due to the strikers having failed to get the men employed on the elevated railway to join their ranks. On the same day a strike was declared in New York among the employees of the street cars, who complain of having to work more than 10 hours per day, owing to the fact that the time spent by them in waiting

\* Foreign Office Report, No. 2314, Annual Series (c. 9044-140). Price 24d.

IV. The above Board to regulate working hours, intervals of rest, wages, arrangement of the work and similar matters.

V. In the event of differences arising at a particular works, the first step to consist in the appointment of a committee of 3 workmen, whose duty it will be to endeavour to dispose of the differences. Should they fail in their endeavours to do so, the Board referred to under III. to decide. Appeal against this decision may be made (but only within 3 days of its pronouncement) to the Conciliation Board of the Industrial Court.

VI. Pending a final decision by the Board or by the Conciliation Board of the Industrial Court, no strike or lock-out to be declared under any circumstances. Nor may a strike or lock-out be declared after such decision except in the case of either party failing to observe its terms.

VII. The Board referred to under III. to meet each year in the autumn and fix the conditions of work and wages for the ensuing building season. Employers and workmen must submit to the conditions so fixed. The first meeting for this purpose to take place in the autumn of 1899, to decide the changes to be made (if any) in the wages as fixed for the period, from October 1st, 1900, to March 31st, 1901.

VIII. Both the Central and Local Unions of masons and bricklayers, as well as the Central Trade Union Committee bind themselves to use all their influence to ensure the observance of the foregoing terms, and not to support any strike which may be declared in opposition thereto.

IX. No workman to be discriminated against for taking part in the strike now terminated.

## BELGIUM.

**Law Concerning the Health and Safety of Persons Employed in Industrial and Commercial Establishments.**—

Under a law dated July 2nd, 1899, a translation of which has been furnished through the Foreign Office by Mr. A. S. Raikes, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Brussels, the Belgian Government is authorised to take suitable measures for ensuring the health and safety of persons employed in industrial and commercial establishments which present dangers, even when the occupations carried on in those establishments do not figure on the list of occupations expressly described as "dangerous, unhealthy, or unpleasant." The Government is also authorised to direct that a declaration shall be made of accidents which may occur in these establishments.

## AUSTRIA.

**Labour Disputes: July 4th to August 2nd.**—*Die Gewerkschaft* (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee) publishes notices of 22 disputes begun between July 4th and August 2nd. Seven of these were in the metal and engineering trades; 4 in the textile trades; 2 each in the building, clothing, and woodworking, etc., trades; and 5 in trades not coming within any of the foregoing groups. Of the disputes in connection with which particulars are given as to the number involved, the most serious was a strike, begun on July 24th by 800 workpeople belonging to the building trades in Jungbunzlau in the province of Bohemia, owing to the employers' failure to reply to demands for a ten hours' day, increased wages, and free Sundays.

## SPAIN.

**Further Strikes at Ironworks in Bilbao District.**—According to a dispatch to the Foreign Office from Mr. C. S. Smith, H.M. Consul at Bilbao, under date of July 18th, strikes had begun at the Altos Hornos Works at Desierto and at the Vizcaya Works in Sestao, both on the Nervion river.

It appears that at the Altos Hornos Works the dispute arose from the refusal of a claim on the part of certain labourers for increased pay for discharging a cargo of coke. They refused work on July 14th and on the next day the strike became general.

At the Vizcaya Works the questions pending are demands for increased wages by labourers employed in loading and discharging coals, and also by the plate-rollers, and a further grievance is an insufficient water supply, which prevents certain processes being carried on. About 500 men remain at work, the remainder, some 1,200 in number, have struck.

A strike occurred at the Altos Hornos Works in June (see last month's GAZETTE, p. 202.)

for cars to arrive, or on cars when a block occurs, is not reckoned or paid for. On July 24th Mr. Clive-Bayley, Acting British Consul-General at New York, reported to the Foreign Office that both strikes appeared to have failed entirely, and that the men were returning to duty. The various lines were, however, still nominally under the official boycott of the Central Federated Labour Union.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN JULY.

THE average number of days worked in this industry (excluding the South Wales and Monmouthshire District\*) shows a falling off in July as compared with June, owing in a great measure to local holidays. As compared with a year ago it shows no appreciable change.

Returns, relating to 1,138 pits, at which 386,781 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5.18 days per week was worked by these pits during the four weeks ended 22nd July, as compared with 5.34 days in June and 5.13 days per week in July 1898.

The following table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified:—

District.	No. employed in July, 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		22nd July, 1899.	23rd July, 1898.	24th June, 1899.
England and N. Wales	350,532	5.23	5.16	5.36
Scotland	35,678	4.69	4.85	5.21
Ireland	571	5.20	4.44	4.72
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	<b>386,781</b>	<b>5.18</b>	<b>5.13</b>	<b>5.34</b>

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 74.0 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week, as against 81.2 per cent. in June and 73.9 per cent. a year ago.

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.	July, 1899.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	July, 1898.	June, 1899.
24 days (full time)	47,660	12.3	12.1	15.3
20 and under 24 days	238,579	61.7	61.8	65.9
16 " " 20 "	71,439	18.5	17.6	14.8
12 " " 16 "	20,474	5.3	4.9	2.9
8 " " 12 "	6,531	1.7	2.2	0.8
Under 8 days	2,998	0.5	1.4	0.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>386,781</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The next table, in which detailed particulars are given for the different mining districts, shows that the falling off in days worked as compared with June last extended to most districts. The decline is most marked in West Scotland, Fife, and Staffordshire, where local holidays were held in July. As compared with a year ago there is an increase in days worked in districts including about two-thirds of the total number of workpeople covered by the returns. The improvement amounts to three-quarters of a day per week in the small Irish district, and from one-fifth to a quarter of a day in Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire. On the other hand there is a falling off of nearly a quarter of a day in North Wales and West Scotland, and of nearly half a day per week in the Gloucester and Somerset district.

The highest averages worked during the month were in Cumberland (5.71 days per week), and the Lothians (5.61 days). In Staffordshire, Nottingham and Leicester, Fife, and West Scotland, less than five days per week was worked, while in the remaining

\* In July of last year the dispute in the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal trade was in progress, and as this circumstance would disturb the general comparison with July, 1899, this district has been excluded from the general remarks and tables. A separate account is, however, given at the end of the report as to employment in this district.

districts the average was between 5 and 5½ days per week.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN JULY, 1899 AND 1898, AND IN JUNE, 1899.

District.	No. employed in July, 1899, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1899 as compared with	
		22nd July, 1899.	23rd July, 1898.	24th June, 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; N. WALES</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	35,082	5.34	5.26	5.28	+ .08	+ .06
Durham	88,243	5.48	5.42	5.56	+ .06	+ .08
Cumberland	6,121	5.71	5.79	5.67	+ .08	+ .04
Yorkshire	60,772	5.36	5.11	5.44	+ .25	+ .08
Lancashire and Cheshire	45,742	5.12	5.14	5.31	- .02	- .19
Derbyshire	39,682	5.12	4.90	5.21	+ .22	- .09
Nottingham and Leicester	24,685	4.52	4.54	4.84	- .02	- .32
Staffordshire	23,929	4.80	4.60	5.24	+ .20	- .44
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	6,745	5.14	5.08	5.48	+ .06	- .34
Gloucester and Somerset	8,100	5.09	5.54	5.23	- .45	- .14
North Wales	11,431	5.38	5.60	5.49	- .22	- .11
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
West Scotland	20,516	4.62	4.86	5.27	- .24	- .65
The Lothians	3,537	5.61	5.45	5.53	+ .16	+ .08
Fife	11,625	4.53	4.67	5.02	- .14	- .49
<b>IRELAND.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Ireland	571	5.20	4.44	4.72	+ .76	+ .48
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages*</b>	<b>386,781</b>	<b>5.18</b>	<b>5.13</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>+ .05</b>	<b>- .18</b>

Returns relating to 155 pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire, at which 63,650 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked per week at these pits during the four weeks ended July 22nd was 5.70 days, as against 5.87 days in June, the decrease being mainly attributable to holidays.

If this district be included with those dealt with in the preceding tables, the average for the United Kingdom in July is raised to 5.25 days per week, as compared with 5.42 days in June.

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during July amounted to 3,993,942 tons, as compared with 3,901,804 tons in June, and 2,953,336 tons in July, 1898.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN JULY.

EMPLOYMENT continues good in this industry, the slight falling-off in the average number of days worked per week, as compared with June last, being accounted for by local holidays. In Scotland, employment has been considerably affected by the annual holidays, which are observed in July. As compared with July, 1898, employment on the whole remains unchanged.

Returns received relating to 130 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked by these mines in the four weeks ended July 22nd, 1899, was 5.72 per week, as compared with 5.86 days per week in June, and 5.71 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed in July was 17,091, of whom 88.2 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 93.8 in June, and 90.8 per cent. a year ago. The number employed in July, 1898, was 17,100.

The following table summarises the returns received:

District.	No. employed in July, 1899, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1899, as compared with	
		22nd July, 1899.	23rd July, 1898.	24th June, 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND—</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	6,104	5.87	5.94	5.92	- .07	- .05
Cleveland	6,717	5.68	5.76	5.81	- .08	- .13
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	692	5.86	5.87	5.98	- .01	- .12
Northamptonshire	653	5.95	5.94	5.96	+ .01	- .01
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,353	5.67	5.31	5.70	+ .36	- .03
<b>Other places in England</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
England	293	5.66	5.35	5.46	+ .31	+ .20
Scotland	1,164	4.95	4.40	5.93	+ .55	- .98
Ireland	115	5.85	5.93	5.94	- .08	- .09
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,091</b>	<b>5.72</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>5.86</b>	<b>+ .01</b>	<b>- .14</b>

\* See footnote to preceding column.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—PIG IRON, IRON AND STEEL, AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN JULY.

EMPLOYMENT continues good in this industry, and is much better than a year ago when the South Wales coal dispute was in progress.

Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that 372 furnaces were in blast at these works at the end of July, employing an estimated number of 24,830 workpeople, being 29 more furnaces and 2,234 workpeople than a year ago, and 3 furnaces and 45 workpeople less than at the end of June.

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	July, 1899.	July, 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1899.	July, 1899.	June, 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1899.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>						
Cleveland	98	94	+ 4	98	98	...
Cumberland & Lancs.	48	47	+ 1	48	51	- 3
S. and S.W. Yorks.	19	19	...	19	19	...
Lincolnshire	16	14	+ 2	16	16	...
Midlands	99	93	+ 6	99	99	...
Glamorgan and Mon.	19	3	+ 16	19	19	...
Other districts	8	9	- 1	8	8	...
<b>Total England and Wales...</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>+ 28</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>- 3</b>
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>+ 29</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>- 3</b>

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all parts of the United Kingdom during July amounted to 146,281 tons, as compared with 135,157 tons in June, and 97,083 tons in July, 1898.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS\* IN JULY.

EMPLOYMENT has remained good during July and continues considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received from 219 works show that they were employing 80,068 workpeople in the week ended July 29th, being 235 more than at the end of June and 5,240 more than a year ago. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ending			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1899, as compared with	
	July 29th, 1899.	July 30th, 1898.	June 24th, 1899.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales	68,627	63,425	67,760	+ 5,202	+ 867
Scotland	11,441	11,403	12,073	+ 38	- 632
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,068</b>	<b>74,828</b>	<b>79,833</b>	<b>+ 5,240</b>	<b>+ 235</b>

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to about 88 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.53 during the week ended July 29th, 5.54 in the week ended June 24th and 5.49 in the week ended July 30th, 1898.

Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Number employed in July, 1899, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in July, 1898.
Under 5 per week	3,308	4.7	5.9
5 " "	25,750	32.3	36.7
5 1/2 " "	1,250	1.7	2.1
6 " "	39,864	50.3	53.9
Above 6 " "	730	1.0	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,832</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Including iron puddling and rolling, and steel making and rolling.

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first table may be estimated at 443,087 in the week ended July 29th, 442,562 in the week ended June 24th and 410,598 in the week ended July 30th, 1898.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN JULY.

THE improvement in employment in this industry continues. It is much better than a year ago.

At the end of July, 53 works with 252 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 28 others with 208 mills were giving partial employment, 144 of these mills being at work. Thus in all 396 mills were working and giving employment to an estimated number of 19,614 workpeople, as compared with 391 mills employing 19,422 workpeople at the end of June, and 288 mills employing 15,095 workpeople a year ago.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,\* at each of the three periods:—

Works giving full employment	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.			Estimated No. of Workpeople employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
Works giving full employment	53	252	—	252	12,449
Works giving partial employment	28	144	64	208	7,165
<b>Total at end of July, 1899*</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>19,614</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for June, 1899*</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>19,422</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for July, 1898*</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>369</b>	<b>15,095</b>

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table were as follows:—

	Tinplates. Tons.	Blackplates. Tons.
July, 1899	21,190	9,294
June, 1899	22,101	5,809
July, 1898	22,010	5,917

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN JULY.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 218 returns from all parts of England, reports as follows:—Agricultural labourers were busily employed throughout the month of July at haymaking, hoeing and singling roots, and towards the end of the month at corn harvest in a number of counties.

In many districts correspondents state that root crops were very backward, and in some cases a failure, and that they had frequently to be sown twice or even three times. This brought hoeing and singling roots and the hay harvest on at about the same time, and caused a great demand for labour. But though a number of employers refer to a difficulty in getting labour, in many districts the supply of labour appears to have been just sufficient for requirements. This is attributed to the long period of dry weather, which enabled all outdoor work to continue without interruption. The hay crop and, in a number of districts, the root crops, entailed less work than usual. Again, a number of correspondents state that more self-binding machines are being used at harvest this year, and, as generally speaking the crops are not much, if at all, laid, there is less demand for hand labour.

\* The figures in the table relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates. It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures in the table are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Changes in the weekly cash wages, amounting to an increase of about 1s. a week, took place in July in certain districts in the counties of Cumberland, Cheshire, Kent, Norfolk, Nottingham, Suffolk, and Sussex. In the month of July a large number of men are employed at piece work or at special rates for hay and corn harvest instead of being paid the ordinary weekly cash wages.

**Northern Counties.**—Agricultural employment in Cumberland is reported as regular in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Longtown, and Penrith. A large employer of labour in the Carlisle Union writes: "In the first half of July there was no scarcity of labour in consequence of the early sown turnips being almost a failure. But in the latter half of the month I never, in the course of thirty years, experienced so much difficulty; the hoeing of turnips and the hay harvest being on at the same time, hands could not be found." Reports from the Cockermouth and Penrith Unions state that there was very little employment in connection with the root crops before the rain came, but that since then men and women have been in demand for hoeing. A correspondent in the Penrith Union writes that many farmers have bought self-binders, so that they are almost independent of manual labour for reaping and binding. In South Westmorland and North Lancashire it is stated that labour at hay-time was very scarce, and for cleaning turnips almost unobtainable. At the hay hirings held at Bentham, in West Yorkshire, for the north-western side of Lancashire and for the Bolland valley of the Ribbles, the wages agreed on for the month were £6 to £7 10s. for best men; £5 to £6 for ordinary hands, and £2 15s. to £4 10s. for youths. In addition to the rates quoted, lodging, food and beer is provided. Best men at the hay hirings at Kirkby Stephen obtained from about £5 10s. to £7 10s. per month.

In Durham a correspondent states that in the Chester-le-Street Union it was very difficult to get turnips singled as they were a month late owing to the drought, and therefore after the rain fell, singling and hay harvest came on about the same time. A report from the Darlington Union states that labour is very scarce. Regularity of employment is reported from Yorkshire from the Unions of Easingwold, Guisborough, Great Ouseburn, Howden, Malton, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. In a number of districts it is stated that men were difficult to get for hoeing and singling turnips, and also for hay harvest.

**Midland Counties.**—Employment in Cheshire is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Macclesfield, Nantwich, and Tarvin. In the last named Union the Board of Guardians state that agricultural labourers are scarce and declining in number. In the Macclesfield, and Nantwich Unions labour is also said to be scarce, and in the last-named Union it is said that fewer Irishmen have come to the district than last year. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in Derbyshire in the Unions of Ashbourne, and Hayfield, in the Derbyshire portion of the Mansfield Union (Notts and Derby), and in the Derbyshire portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Staffs and Derby). Regularity of employment is reported in Shropshire in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (Salop and Staffs portions), Oswestry, Wellington, Wem, and Whitchurch. Some scarcity of labour is reported in this county. In several districts the first sowing of roots failed, so that turnip hoeing and hay harvest came on together. There is said to be full employment in the Tamworth Union of Staffordshire, and that no extra labour can be obtained.

In Warwickshire agricultural employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). Several reports from this county refer to a difficulty in getting extra hands. Agricultural labourers are said to be in regular work in Leicestershire in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, Market Harborough, and Lutterworth (Warwick and Leicester). Employment in Worcestershire is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Shipston-on-Stour (Gloucester, Warwick, and Worcester), Tenbury, and Upton-on-Severn. A report from the Martley Union states that extra hands for turnip hoeing and hay-making are difficult to obtain. In the Oakham Union of Rutland the supply of labour is also said to be short. Reports from Nottinghamshire state that employment is regular in the Unions of Bingham, Southwell, and Retford. In the last-named Union turnip hoeing and singling and haymaking came on about the same time.

Agricultural labourers in Oxfordshire are reported to be well employed in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the

Oxfordshire portion of the Wallingford Union (Oxon and Berks). A correspondent in the Thame Union writes: "The extreme drought has enabled the farmers to economise labour, otherwise the scarcity of men would be felt." In Northamptonshire employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Towcester, and Wellingborough, and in the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants and Warwick). Reports from this county generally state that labour is scarce. Regularity of employment is reported from Huntingdonshire from the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds), and from Bedfordshire from the Unions of Biggleswade, and Luton. A report from the Biggleswade Union states that "the extremely fine weather has enabled farmers to gather their hay at little expense, and to obtain sufficient labour to clean their roots thoroughly." An employer in the Luton Union writes: "I have had no difficulty to get sufficient labour for hoeing, and have secured sufficient for the harvest."

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment in Essex is said to be regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, and Tendring, and in Suffolk in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lotingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. A number of reports from Essex and Suffolk refer to a scarcity of labour. Reports from the Cosford, and Samford Unions state that corn crops are much laid, involving much labour. A large employer of labour in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes, "About men enough to get everything well in hand. A dry season has favoured getting on with work, and somewhat balanced a short supply of labour." He adds that he has arranged for the harvest with nearly 100 men on exactly the same terms as last year.

In Norfolk agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Gaultcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. A good many reports refer to a scarcity of labour.

Employment in Cambridgeshire is said to be regular in the Unions of Caxton and Arrington, Chesterton, North Witchford, and in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Royston Union (Herts and Cambs), and in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union (Northants, Cambs, Hunts, and Lincoln). Reports from Lincolnshire state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Boston, Brigg, Gainsborough, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Lincoln and Notts). Labour is said to be scarce in the Unions of Boston, Grimsby, Lincoln, Sleaford, and Spilsby.

**Home Counties.**—In Buckinghamshire reports state that employment is regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. A large employer of labour in the Aylesbury Union writes that "A few men have called for harvest work during the last week. This is in consequence of so many self-binders being used." In Berkshire agricultural labourers are said to have regular work in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage, and in Surrey in the Unions of Godstone, and Hambledon, and in the Surrey portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). A report from the Farnham Union states that hands were much wanted for hay-making, while an employer in the Godstone Union states that there were more men in want of corn cutting than usual. Reports from Kent state that labourers were in demand in the Unions of Cranbrook, Elham, Faversham, Hoo, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden, and in Hertfordshire in the Unions of Hatfield, Hertford, Hemel Hempstead, and Hitchin.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Reports from Sussex state that employment is regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. A scarcity of labour is referred to in reports from the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Hailsham, Horsham, Petworth, and Uckfield. In Hampshire agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Fareham, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Lymington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). There is said to be some scarcity of labour in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Farnham, Hartley Wintney, and Petersfield. A correspondent in the Havant Union writes: "We are in the thick of harvest, and carting is much delayed by scarcity of hands." In the Hartley Wintney Union it is stated that the difficulty of obtaining men was not felt so much in July owing to the lack of root-hoeing, due to the dry weather, and also to the use of self-binding machines at harvest. A report from

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TEXTILE TRADES.

the Christchurch Union states: "Labour scarce, but sufficient in consequence of the practical failure of the root crop."

Agricultural labourers are said to be in regular work in Dorsetshire in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne and Cranborne. In the Bridport and Dorchester Unions the supply of labour is said to be sufficient. In Wiltshire there is said to be regularity of employment in the Unions of Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. Several reports state that though labour is scarce employers have not been inconvenienced, as less labour was required owing to the lack of root hoeing, to a light hay crop, and to the use of the self-binder at harvest. A report from the Westbury and Whorwellsdown Union states that labour is very short, and that farmers have had a difficulty in getting sufficient hands for hay harvest. Reports from Gloucestershire state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Barton Regis, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Thornbury, Stow-on-the-Wold, Wheatenhurst, and Winchcombe. An employer in the Barton Regis Union writes: "The hay crop has been light, the weather hot and dry, and the swede crop nearly a total failure, and there has been no difficulty in getting hands for all kinds of work." In Herefordshire there is said to be regularity of employment in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (Hereford and Monmouth), Ross, and Ledbury. In most of these districts there is said to be a scarcity of labour.

Agricultural labourers in Somersetshire are said to be in regular work in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wincanton, Wells, and Yeovil. An employer in the Clutton Union writes:—"The hay crop being light and the weather dry it has been put together with the minimum of labour. Self-binders for the corn crops are also much more generally used this year, and the bulk of straw being small, much less labour will be required to harvest it." Regularity of employment is also reported from Devonshire in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, and Tavistock, and from Cornwall in the Bodmin, and Camelford Unions.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN JULY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was steady throughout the month, and was better than either a month or a year ago.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended July 29th was 14,486, as compared with an average of 13,862 in the preceding four weeks, and 13,950\* in the corresponding period of last year.

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

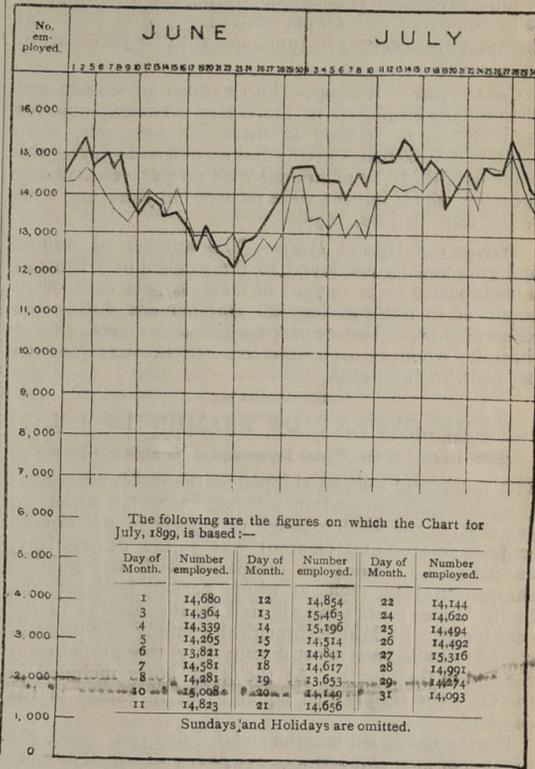
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total		
Week ending July 1	6,355	2,366	8,721	5,415	14,136
" " " 8	6,279	2,469	8,748	5,527	14,275
" " " 15	6,588	2,810	9,398	5,578	14,976
" " " 22	6,586	2,118	8,704	5,639	14,343
" " " 29	6,306	2,627	8,933	5,765	14,698
Average for 5 weeks ending July 29th, 1899	6,423	2,478	8,901	5,585	14,486
Average for July, 1898	6,290*	2,385*	8,675*	5,325*	13,950*
Average for June, 1899	5,560	2,753	8,313	5,549	13,862

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and the principal wharves during June and July is shown on the chart below. The numbers in July ranged from 15,463 on the 13th to 13,653 on the 19th.

During July, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 15,063 on the 28th to 12,956 on the 9th.

\* Amended figures.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of June, and July 1899. The corresponding curve for June and July, 1898, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1899, and the thin curve to 1898.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," p. 240.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN JULY.

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month continued very good in the textile trades with a further improvement in each branch. Information has been received with regard to 562 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 96,460 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.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
July, 1899	98	1	1	—
June, 1899	95	1	1	2
July, 1898	90	5	2	3
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
July, 1899	82	7	1	—
June, 1899	90	9	1	—
July, 1898	72	26	1	1
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trades—</b>				
July, 1899	97	1	2	—
June, 1899	96	4	—	—
July, 1898	69	24	6	1
<b>Total of above Trades—</b>				
July, 1899	95	4	1	—
June, 1899	93	6	1	—
July, 1898	76	20	3	1

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—TEXTILE TRADES; SEAMEN; LONDON.

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 25,910; of these, 98 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 96 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in June, and with 90 per cent. in July, 1898.

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton weaving factories reported on is 50,820; of these, 92 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 90 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in June, and with 72 per cent. in July, 1898.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 19,730; of these, 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 96 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in June, and 69 per cent. in July, 1898.

(i) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN JULY.

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

THE number of seamen shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 39,242 during July, an increase of 1,094 as compared with the number shipped in July, 1898, at which period, however, the South Wales ports were affected by the dispute in the coal trade. At Middlesbrough the supply of seamen is stated to have been short during July, though better at the end of the month. At the other ports included in the table the supply was equal to or in excess of the demand.

During the seven months ended July 31st, 1899, the number of men shipped was 238,502\*; of which number 35,745 (or 15.0 per cent.) were foreigners, as compared with 14.2 per cent. in the first seven months of 1898. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

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 July, 1899 and 1898 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the seven months ended July in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in July, 1899.*			Total in July, 1898.*	Total number shipped in 7 months ended July†	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in July, 1899.		1899.	1898.
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	122	3,758	3,880	5,394	22,296	27,122
Sunderland ...	—	833	833	897	3,432	4,658
Middlesbrough ...	24	599	623	644	2,375	2,513
Hull ...	64	2,094	2,158	2,078	9,345	9,585
Grimsby ...	—	164	164	365	620	964
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	—	568	568	546	3,221	3,851
Newport, Mon. ...	15	1,116	1,131	359	7,636	4,740
Cardiff ...	326	4,562	4,888	1,901	36,710	24,341
Swansea ...	47	561	608	1,179	4,272	4,827
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	339	11,196	11,535	11,043	73,682	71,904
London ...	285	6,847	7,132	6,762	41,475	49,019
Southampton ...	46	1,363	1,409	1,916	9,930	10,837
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	86	2,602	2,688	2,577	16,227	17,491
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	—	156	156	155	783	764
Belfast ...	16	242	258	494	1,989	2,065
<b>Total, July, 1899</b>	<b>1,371</b>	<b>37,871</b>	<b>39,242</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>238,502</b>	<b>—</b>
Ditto, July, 1898	1,460	36,658	—	38,148	—	231,053

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

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—Mainly owing to seasonal causes there has been some falling off in employment in certain industries, but on the whole employment remains good for time of year. Returns from 448 branches of 110 unions having an aggregate membership of 74,447, show that 2,310 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of July, compared with 2.5 in June, and 3.4 per cent. in July, 1898.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding* trades has remained good, and has continued to improve steadily. Reports from 148 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,498, show that 352 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.8 in June, and 3.3 per cent. in July, 1898.

The *Building* trades still continue brisk. Returns from 180 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,849, show that 72 (or 0.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.8 in June, and 0.9 per cent. in July, 1898. The bricklayers and stonecarvers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, stonemasons and plasterers as fair; the plumbers and painters and decorators as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades is not so good, though quite up to the average for the season. Reports from 48 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,246, show that 178 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.7 in May and June, and 2.9 per cent. in July, 1898.

*Coopers* remain busy. Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, show that 6 (or 0.6 per cent.) were unemployed, as in June. The percentage for July, 1898, was 0.8.

*Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights* continue well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,396, show that 12 (or 0.9 per cent.) were unemployed, as in June. The percentage for July, 1898, was 1.9.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades are not so well employed. Returns from 22 unions with a membership of 23,329, show that 1,185 (or 5.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.6 in June, and also in July of last year.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has fallen off, as is usual at this season. The West-end bespoke tailors have been busy, but were quieter at the close of the month; the East-end bespoke trade is becoming slack; the stock trade is good; the contract trade quiet; the military uniform tailors and tailoresses have only been partially employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle-makers employment has been bad. With hatters employment has fallen off; with capmakers it is moderate; with fur skin dressers slack; with silkweavers fair.

*Boot and Shoe Trades.*—Employment in the West-end handsewn trade has been fairly good, but fell off towards the end of the month; in the East-end sewround trade it has been moderate; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained fair. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,650, show that 36 (or 2.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 in June and 4.1 per cent. in July, 1898.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,482, show that 60 (or 4.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.5 in June and 5.5 per cent. in July of last year.

*Hair, Fibre, and Cane-Workers.*—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 917, show that 16 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.9 in June and 3.5 per cent. in July, 1898.

*Gold and Silver Workers* are better employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,122, show that 2 (or 0.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.7 in June and 1.9 per cent. in July of last year.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades has fallen off. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,498, show that 187 (or 7.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.6 last month, and 6.0 per cent. in July, 1898.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 14,486 in the five weeks ended July 29th, as compared with 13,862 in the preceding four weeks, and 13,950 in July, 1898. Employment in mid-stream has been moderately good, improving towards the end of the month. Lightermen, stevedores, deal porters and lumpers have had good employment; coal porters and winchmen moderate employment. Corn porters have been slack in the Surrey Docks and moderately well employed in the docks on the north side. The fruit porters in Thames Street have been moderately well employed, the average daily number employed being 294, compared with 338 in June.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—DISTRICT REPORTS—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.—Northumberland.**—Steam and house coal miners have averaged 5.23 and 5.33 days per week respectively for the four weeks ending July 22nd, as against 5.26 and 5.16 days in June. Of the 22,173 union miners, and the 2,244 union colliery mechanics, deputies, enginemen and firemen, none are idle. *Durham.*—The pits have not worked quite so well; gas, manufacturing, coking, and house coal collieries have averaged 4.64, 5.40, 5.58, and 5.32 days per week respectively, as compared with 5.33, 5.48, 5.69, and 5.46 days in June. At the 133 pits, employing 63,113 men and boys, an average of 5.23 days per week has been worked, as against 5.36 days in July, 1898. There are 113 (or 0.18 per cent.) union miners unemployed, as against 153 (or 0.25 per cent.) in June. The 4,973 union deputies, colliery mechanics, and enginemen have 8 idle. *Cokeyard workers* continue exceptionally brisk.

**Metal Mining.**—Two lead mines in Weardale remain closed, one or two others are fairly employed. Iron ore mines have worked full time.

**Quarrying.**—At 8 quarries in the Gateshead district employment is good. Lime and whinstone quarries at Stanhope and Frosterley with two exceptions have been fully employed. At Haswell and Blyth quarries are brisk.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.**—At most of the engine shops double shifts are still continued. Repair work in the lower reaches of the river has been generally slack. The ordnance works and boiler shops are well employed. Platers, caulkers, and angle-smiths are not quite so busy. Rivetters are in good demand. Of the 12,694 members of these trades 293 (or 2.3 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 465 (or 3.6 per cent. of their membership) in June. *On the Wear.*—Two or three engineering firms have ceased working night shifts; at one or two other shops extra fitters have been started. Forgemens and shipsmiths are steadily employed. In the yards and boiler shops activity still prevails. These trades with 5,148 members have 70 (or 1.4 per cent.) off work, the same number as in June. Sailmakers on both rivers are slack. Shipwrights have a few men idle. Drillers and hole-cutters are fairly busy on new, although slack on old work. Shipjoiners report employment as unsettled; plumbers as moderately good. Branches of brassfinishers, pattern-makers, steel and iron moulders, and (house and ship) joiners and plumbers with 7,809 members have 133 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed. Steel-smelting shops and plate mills have worked full time; angle mills at Consett four shifts per week; chain and anchor-makers six shifts.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment generally has been good. The demand for sailors and firemen has been fairly active. **Building Trades.**—House-building is reported as brisk. Plumbers continue quiet. **Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers at Sunderland are busy; on the Tyne employment is but moderate. Bookbinders and machine-rulers are not so busy. **Woodworking Trades.**—Coopers and mill-sawyers report employment as good; lathe-renders as fair; cabinet-makers as scarcely so brisk; upholsterers are fully employed. **Other Metal, Chemical, and Glass Trades.**—Employment in chemical factories has been fairly steady. In copper works double shifts still prevail. White lead and cement factories are busy. Bottle-makers at Seaham Harbour are all employed; on the Wear one or two are stopped for repairs. Pressed glassmakers are improving.

**Fishing.**—Trawl and line boats have landed good catches, prices have varied, being below the average during the earlier part, but improving at the close of the month. The supply of herring has been poor.—*J. Rawcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

**Ironstone Mining.**—Cleveland miners report employment as good. The average number of days worked by 21 mines reported on was 5.68 per week during the four weeks ended July 22nd as compared with 5.81 days in June, and 5.76 days per week in July, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,717, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,735.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment continues good at the finished ironworks, steelworks, and bridgeworks. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration and Conciliation Board wages will be advanced from July 31st 3d. per ton on puddling and 2½ per cent. on all other forge and mill work. Blast furnacemen have been well employed. Metal expansion works and pipe foundries are brisk; general foundry work is good; employment in chair foundries is moderate.

**Engineering.**—Employment with the engineers continues good at Stockton and Bishop Auckland; it is fairly good at Middlesbrough

and Hartlepool, and moderate at Darlington and South Bank. Ironfounders report employment as good, patternmakers as fairly good throughout the district. Branches with 3,737 members have 43 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of June. Employment continues good with the smiths and strikers.

**Shipbuilding.**—All the yards are reported as fairly full of work. Shipwrights and shipjoiners report employment as good throughout the district.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough and fair at Hartlepool. During the month employment at the Middlesbrough docks has been slack; at Hartlepool fair. Riverside labour is good all along the river.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good throughout the district.

**Miscellaneous.**—Printers, tailors, cement-workers, pulp-workers, mill-sawyers and cabinet-makers report employment as good. *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 continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended July 22nd at the twenty pits covered by the returns was 5.71 per week, as compared with 5.67 days in June, and 5.79 in July, 1898. The number of workpeople employed in July, 1899, at these pits was 6,121, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,186.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment is good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended July 22nd at the forty-four mines from which returns have been received was 5.87 per week, as compared with 5.92 days in June, and 5.94 in July, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at these mines in July, 1899, was 6,104, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,044.

**Fig Iron Manufacture.**—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces from which returns have been received shows a slight decline at the end of July as compared with June, but is somewhat better than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of July was 48, as compared with 51 in June, and 47 in July, 1898. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces was 3,865, or 114 less than in June, and 44 more than a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment in Oldham and the surrounding districts continues good. It is also reported as good in Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield, Droylsden, Stockport, and Rochdale. The cardroom workers, ring frame spinners, and throstle frame tenters report employment as good. Employment in the twining trade continues slack. **Weaving.**—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as good in calicoes, moderate in velvets, and bad in fustians. Winders are only moderately employed. Reelers report employment as slack. Employment in beam and sectional warping is reported as moderate; with ball warpers as good.

**Woollen and Silk Trades.**—Employment in the woollen mills of Rochdale and Milnorw districts is reported as good; in Stockport district as moderate. The silk-dressers of Rochdale report employment as bad.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is reported as moderate with the engineers and iron-grinders; as fair with the ironfounders; and as good with the pattern-makers, plate and machine moulders, brassfounders, tinplate workers, gasmeter makers, toolmakers and boiler-makers.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers and plasterers report employment as good; the painters and decorators as fair; and the plumbers and carpenters and joiners as moderate.

**Coal Mining.**—The coal miners in Oldham, Chadderton, Royton, and Shaw report employment as good, full time being worked at all the pits.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment continues exceptionally good in Bolton, and is fairly good in Leigh, Farnworth, Bury, Ramsbottom, Heywood, Chorley, and Wigan. Cardroom operatives are reported to be fairly well employed in Bolton, Farnworth, Chorley, Walkden, and Hindley; at Wigan and Bury employment continues good. **Weaving.**—Employment is reported as fairly steady in Bolton, Bury, and Chorley, and moderate in Ramsbottom, Heywood, and Leigh.

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

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment at Bolton is reported as good with engineers, machine fitters, plate and machine moulders, brass-finishers and range fitters. In Wigan the iron-rolling mills and steel-plate mills are reported as fairly busy. In Leigh, Heywood and Chorley employment in all branches of the iron trade is moderately busy.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with painters and decorators, slaters and plasterers, is reported as good in Bolton, fairly busy in Wigan and Bury, and somewhat irregular in Chorley and Heywood.

**Coal Mining.**—In Bolton and immediate district colliers are working an average of 5 days per week. In Wigan, Ince, Hindley, Westhoughton, and Chorley employment continues good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Leather workers and belt-makers, carters and lorrymen, cloggers, tailors, shoemakers, and printers are steadily employed.—R. Tootill.

**Blackburn, Burnley and District.**

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—Employment continues good in the Blackburn, Burnley, Preston, Nelson and Accrington districts; in Colne an improvement is reported, good weavers being scarce. Hardwaste weavers, twistors and drawers, are fully employed. Warp dressers in the Colne, Nelson, and Brierfield districts are busy. **Spinning.**—Spinners report employment as good at Blackburn, Accrington, Preston and Darwen; fair at Burnley. Ring frame spinners and cardroom workers as good in all these districts. Branches of spinners, twistors and drawers, and wardressers, with 3,677 members, have 77 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 75 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment continues good, especially in the machine shops.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners report employment as good in the Accrington, Burnley and Townley districts. Stone quarrymen are fully employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Tailors are busy; cabinet-makers are well employed; woollen block printers and calico printers fairly so. Letterpress printers are in full employment. Paper-stainers at Darwen report a slight falling off.—W. H. Wilkinson.

**Manchester and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 21,448 members, have 41.4 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 51.7 (or 2.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers and smiths and strikers in Northwich report employment as moderate; boiler-makers as good. Ironfounders are busy throughout the district. Boiler-makers and engineers in Manchester report employment as moderate; brassfounders, braziers and sheet metal-workers and machine workers as good. In Stockport and Macclesfield the iron trades are moderately well employed. In Warrington engineers, wire-drawers, wire-weavers, boiler-makers and blacksmiths are fully employed; sheet metal-workers moderately so.

**Building Trades.**—In Manchester employment is reported as good with stonemasons, bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, decorative glass workers, and concreters; fair with carpenters and joiners; moderate with plasterers and painters; and bad with plumbers. In Northwich, Macclesfield, and Stockport employment is moderate; in Warrington good.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade has been fairly good. Cotton spinners report employment as moderate. Cotton operatives in general are in full work. Fustian cutters and dressers, dyers and finishers, report employment as moderate; the bleachers, dyers, and finishers as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors, and ready-made tailoring operatives are moderately well employed. The Jewish tailors report employment as good; the boot and shoe operatives as moderate; hatmakers and trimmers are busy on ladies' felts, quiet on men's felts. Capmakers are busy; ready-made mantle and waterproof garment makers are quiet; shirtmakers are fully employed.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—The cabinet-makers in Manchester are quiet. Coachmakers in all departments, and French polishers and upholsterers in Manchester, and wheelwrights and cabinet-makers in Warrington are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers are busy in Manchester; quiet in Stockport and Macclesfield. Stereotypers, lithographic artists, lithographic printers, and pattern cardmakers report employment as moderate; and bookbinders and machine-rulers as dull.—G. D. Kelley.

**Liverpool and District.**

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Boilermakers and iron-shipbuilders, engineers, drillers and whitemiths report employment as fair; brass and iron founders, shipwrights and hammermen as good; shipjoiners and painters as moderate.

**Transport Trades.**—Sailors and firemen, Mersey flatmen and dock labourers report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as steady; coal and salt-heavers as moderate.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, French polishers, upholsterers, coachmakers and woodworking machinists report employment as fair; cooperers as moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as good; boot and shoemakers as fair.

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

**Building Trades.**—All branches are well employed, in Liverpool. Employment with joiners is moderate, in St. Helens and Birkenhead.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners report employment as steady, with the former as good.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—Glass bottle-makers and all branches of glassmakers report employment as fair; chemical workers as dull.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has been quite up to the average. The moulders report employment as good; the building trades as dull at Winsford, good at Middlewich; the boat builders and repairers and the fustian cutters as good in both towns; chemical workers at Middlewich as normal.

**YORKSHIRE.****Hull and District.**

**Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment continues good in the ship-yards building the smaller class of vessels, and is fair in the yards building the larger class. The engine and boiler shops are well employed. Employment on repair work is only moderate. The sailmakers report employment as bad. Employment is good at Beverley and Selby, and at Doncaster, except for brassworkers. At Grimsby smiths, engineers, platers, and riveters report employment as good, boilermakers as moderate; at Goole boilermakers and smiths as good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in Hull and Selby is slightly affected by the dispute. The majority of the men have found employment. The slaters, tilers and plumbers report employment as bad; the painters and lathrenders as moderate. Employment at Beverley, Driffield, Doncaster, and Grimsby is good; at Goole it is good with joiners and masons, moderate with bricklayers.

**Transport Trades.**—The railway workers report employment as good; dock labourers as fair and improving; the seamen and firemen at Grimsby as good; at Hull and Goole as fair.

**Fishing Industry.**—The trawl fishermen and steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull report employment as good; the engineers and firemen at Grimsby as fair; the curing house workers and general labourers in the fishing industry as good.

**Seed Crushing, Paint, Oil and Colour Trades.**—Employment in the seed crushing trade continues slack. The paint and colour workers continue to be fully employed.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as good; the lithographic printers as moderate; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as quiet.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—The coachbuilders and cabinetmakers report employment as good; the mill sawyers and wood machinists, cooperers, and brushmakers as moderate.

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

**Miscellaneous.**—The bakers and confectioners at Hull, and the tailors at Doncaster, report employment as good; the Jewish tailors, pressers, and machinists at Hull as moderate.

W. G. Millington.

**Leeds and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 6,763 members have 20.4 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 19.4 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—In Leeds the engineering trade continues busy, with the exception of the toolmaking and textile machinery departments, which are quiet. Other metal trades are well employed, with the exception of spindle and flyer makers. At Wakefield the engineering and iron trades are brisk, overtime being worked in most shops.

## EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE; MIDLAND COUNTIES.

**Clothing Trades.**—The ready-made clothing industry has been fairly well employed throughout the month. Jewish operatives report employment as moderate; bespoke tailors as fairly good. Boot and shoe operatives in Leeds continue steadily employed. At Heckmondwike employment is brisk; at Bramley fair.

**Textile Trades.**—In Leeds the improvement in employment is maintained, most mills running full time, some with night shifts. Blanket raisers, spinners and linen workers report employment as good; wilayers and fettlers as moderate; dyers as quiet. At Wakefield worsted and cloth mills are working full time. At Bramley employment is good.

**Building Trades.**—The dispute in Leeds has adversely affected all branches. At Harrogate all sections are well employed; at Castleford moderately so.

**Coal Mining.**—In Leeds and district full time is being worked at most pits.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners have not been so well employed; curriers are slack; saddlers and harness-makers are busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with printers has been fair; with lithographers slack; with bookbinders and machine rulers moderate.

**Glass Trades.**—At Leeds, Castleford, and Wakefield employment in the glass bottle trade is good; with flint glass-makers fair.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Employment with cabinet-makers and shop-fitters is good; with coach-makers busy; with mill-sawyers fair.—O. Connellan.

**Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.**

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment in Bradford and district is now good. Work is fairly plentiful in the weaving trade; woolsorters describe employment as extraordinarily good; woolcombers as good. In Huddersfield, Halifax, Keighley, and the Worth Valley employment continues good.

**Woollen Trades.**—Employment in and around Huddersfield continues fairly good, overtime being worked by several firms. In the heavy woollen districts employment is also fairly good.

**Other Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham and Halifax is about the same; at Brighouse it is busy. Employment in the cotton trade is fairly good in Huddersfield; moderate in Brighouse and Halifax. Carpet-weavers are fairly employed.

**Dyeing Trades.**—The dyers in the Bradford district report employment as busy; the Huddersfield dyers and finishers as fair.

**Metal Trades.**—The engineers in Bradford, Halifax and Dewsbury report employment as good; in Huddersfield as moderate; at Keighley as declining. Ironfounders at Dewsbury, Huddersfield Bradford and Halifax report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues good, though affected by the joiners' dispute at Huddersfield.

**Miscellaneous.**—Glassworkers are fairly employed; tailors and printers are quiet; ragworkers are fairly employed on the better rags, quiet on the coarser kinds.—A. Gee.

**Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.**

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—Throughout the district most branches are exceptionally busy, and overtime is being made, especially by engineers and machine-workers. Branches with 6,032 members have 41 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 70 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—Engineers' joiners' and horticultural toolmakers are well employed. Sawmakers, agricultural implement-makers and all branches of the file trade are busy. Razor and sheep shear-makers report employment as fair; haft and scale pressers as moderate; table and butcher knifemakers as quiet; pen and pocket knife cutlers as slack.

**Silver, Electro-plate and Brass Trades.**—Employment has improved, and for the time of the year is fairly good.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 52 of the principal collieries show an average of 5½ days per week worked. A dispute affecting 1,000 men has terminated.

**Building Trades.**—At Barnsley the masons' dispute still continues. In Sheffield and other parts of the district the trade continues busy.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, coach-makers, railway carriage and wagon builders, box and bobbin makers, and wheelwrights are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers, lithographers and bookbinders are well employed.

**Glass Trades.**—Bottle-makers and flint glass workers at Barnsley, Mexboro' and Rotherham, are busy.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives are busy; the boot and shoe makers are well employed.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment is fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Down quiltmakers are better employed; paper-makers are busy; brickmakers, quarrymen, and general labourers are well employed; potters moderately so.—S. Uttley.

**ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.****Derbyshire District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal-miners) with 7,189 members, have 109 (or 1.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 98 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Engineering and kindred Trades.**—Employment continues good at the locomotive works, in bridge girder and boiler yards, and with ironfounders, brassmoulders and finishers, wire drawers, merchant iron rollers, makers of railway materials, malleable iron workers, farriers, iron and steel dressers, and blast furnace men and pipe moulders. Lace machine builders report employment as moderate; cycle workers in Long Eaton and Draycott as bad.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 79 collieries employing 36,000 men show an average of 5½ days' work per week, against 5½ days in June.

**Quarrying.**—Limestone and chert quarrymen continue well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield are well employed. Bespoke tailors report employment as good; dress and mantle makers and wholesale garment makers as fair.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment continues good with the cotton operatives and surgical bandage makers. Elastic web weavers report employment as bad; lace workers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton as dull; calico printer and engravers, silk and merino workers, dyers and bleachers as fair.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

**Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in Derby continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders; in Long Eaton it is moderate; it is fair with carriage builders in private shops. Cooperers at Burton-on-Trent report an improvement; timber yards are well employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers, lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as moderate.—C. White-Deacon.

**Nottingham and District.**

**Lace Trade.**—Employment has declined in the lever and curtain branches. It is moderate in the warp lace branch. Warpers report employment as good for the time of year; curtain-readers and correctors as irregular; designers and draughtsmen as fair; card punchers as good; auxiliary lace workers as having declined female lace workers as quieter; dyers as rather slack; bleachers at Basford and Bulwell as moderate. In Beeston and outside districts employment has improved and is reported as good and regular.

**Hosiery Trade.**—The wool shawl branch report employment as bad at Hucknall Torkard and Kirkby-in-Ashfield. Otherwise employment on the whole continues good throughout the district.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Lace and hosiery machine and cycle builders are well employed. General mechanics and engineers report employment as bad. In other branches employment is good throughout the district. Branches with 2,973 members have 81 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 75 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment at house coal pits has declined. At steam coal pits in North Notts full time is more general. Returns from 25 collieries, employing about 15,000 men, show an average of 4½ days worked per week.

**Building Trades.**—Plumbers and painters report employment as dull, labourers as rather quiet. Other branches are well employed.

**Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in these trades is fairly good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as good; bookbinders, lithographic printers, and lithographic artists as moderate; printers' cutters as fair.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe makers report employment as good; tailors as rather quiet. Mantle-makers and ready-made factory tailoring operatives are busy.

## EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

*Miscellaneous.*—Colliery enginemen, stationary engine-drivers, and engine and cranimen are well employed. Female cigarmakers are not so well employed; general labourers are fully employed.

W. L. Harstaff.

## Leicester and Northampton District.

*Boot and Shoe Industry.*—Employment with boot and shoe operatives is steady at Northampton, Kettering, Higham, and Rushden; quiet at Leicester and Hinckley. Clickers and pressmen report employment as moderate throughout the district.

*Other Clothing Trades.*—Employment is good with ready-made clothiers, dull with bespoke tailors, felt hatters and capmakers. It is good with corsetmakers, dressmakers, and milliners.

*Hosiery and Woolspinning.*—Employment in all branches of the hosiery trade in the district is good. Dyers and trimmers are busy at Leicester, fairly so at Hinckley. In the woolspinning factories operatives are working full time.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—Boot gusset web-weavers report employment as quiet; cord and braid-workers as good.

*Engineering Trades.*—Engineers at Leicester, Northampton, and Rugby are fairly well employed. Boilermakers and ironfounders at Leicester and Northampton report employment as fairly good. It is moderate with cyclemakers and toolmakers. At Loughborough all branches are busy.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment with ironstone workers, lime and cement workers, and stone quarrymen is good. Employment has slightly improved with colliers.

*Printing and Bookbinding.*—Letterpress printers and bookbinders at Leicester, Northampton, and Rugby report employment as good. Lithographic printers as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in all branches at Leicester and Wellingborough is still unsettled owing to disputes. Employment in Northampton, Kettering, and Hinckley is fairly good, except with bricklayers, who are slack at Kettering and Hinckley.

*Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.*—At Leicester, Northampton, and Rugby coachmakers are fully employed, cabinet-makers are quiet. Wagon-builders at Loughborough report employment as good.

*Leather Trades.*—Tanners at Northampton are busy. Curriers at Leicester, Northampton, and Market Harborough report a slight decline.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is regular with railway servants at Leicester, Wellingborough, and Kettering; slack in the locomotive department at Northampton. It is good with bakers, basket-makers, and brushmakers; fair with cigar-makers.—T. Smith.

## Potteries District.

*Pottery Trades.*—Employment fell off slightly towards the end of the month. Hollow-ware pressers have averaged five days per week. Sanitary pressers are fairly busy; flat pressers moderately so. Printers and transferers are working exceptionally well. Women gilders and decorators report a slight decline. In the general open trade throwers, turners, and handlers are working well, and in the furniture trade no further improvement is noted, but in the electrical branches all classes are indifferently employed. Designers, modellers, and mouldmakers are less busy. Stilt and spur-makers, packers and crate-makers, and oven workers are all working well.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Iron and steel workers are exceptionally busy, but a number of turns have been missed owing to the heat.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—In North Staffordshire engineers, boilermakers and moulders are busy. At Stafford a slight decline is reported. At Crewe general activity prevails. Copper and brass workers at Oakamoor and Froghall are well employed. Agricultural engineers at Rugeley and Uttoxeter continue busy.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Except at Cheadle, where miners are only averaging three days per week, night and day shifts are working full time. Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue busy.

*Textile Trades.*—At Leek the improvement in employment in the silk trade is well maintained. At Congleton silk dressers and throwsters are busy; fustian cutters moderately so. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers continue busy. At Rokester cotton operatives report a decline.

*Clothing Trades.*—Throughout the district tailors are busy. In the boot and shoe trade employment has slightly declined at Stafford, but is busy at Stone. Corsetmakers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne are working well.

*Building Trades.*—Full time is general in all branches.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers is better in the Potteries, good at Stafford. Lithographic artists and printers are fairly busy. Bookbinders and machine rulers are fully employed.—I. S. Harvey.

## Wolverhampton and District.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good in all branches of the iron and steel trades. The mills and forges in Shropshire are fully employed.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment is good with engineers, moulders, and boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers. Cycle shops are only averaging half-time. At Walsall employment in the malleable iron trade is fair. At Madeley and Coalbrook-Dale employment is good.

*Hardware Trades.*—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, axles, springs, coach iron-work, stamped hollow-ware, black castings, gunlocks, builders' ironmongery, tips, cut nails, malleable nails, and protectors, hinges, and edge tools; moderate with makers of electrical and cycle castings, traps, files, locks, keys, latches, and spectacle frames, and with galvanisers and tinsplate and ironplate workers. At Halesowen the wrought nail makers continue dull. The chain-makers and strikers at Old Hill and the block chain makers at Cradley Heath report employment as good; the anchor smiths at Cradley as slightly improved. At Dudley the anvil and vice makers are not busy. At Wednesbury the iron and steel forgers continue busy.

*Coal Mining.*—On Cannock Chase the average time worked is three days per week; at Dudley, Tipton, and Oldbury four days per week; in the Old Hill district five days. The pits in Shropshire are working full time; the Tamworth pits are fairly well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is good with bricklayers, and moderate with other branches.

*Glass Trades.*—At Stourbridge and Wordsley the flint glass cutters, makers, etchers, bevellers, engravers, and intaglio workers are well employed. The glass-makers at Brierley Hill report employment as good.

*Leather Trades.*—At Walsall the harness-makers and gig saddlers are busy. The brown saddlers are fairly well employed. The buckle, chain, cart gear, case hame and spring hook makers all report employment as good.

*Textile Trades.*—At Kidderminster employment in the carpet trade has slightly improved; at Bridgnorth it continues good. The Tamworth tape mills are working full time.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments is good, but shows a decline. The boot and shoe makers are fully employed.—C. Anthony.

## Birmingham and District.

*General.*—Branches with 20,510 members have 438 (or 2.1 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 395 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

*Engineering.*—In the engineering industry eight branches return employment as moderate, two as good, and two as bad. The tool-makers report employment as moderate; the ironfounders and smiths and strikers as good. In West Bromwich employment is good; at Coventry and Redditch moderate. The motor industry at Coventry continues fair. Employment in the cycle trade throughout the district is getting quiet.

*Brass and Copper Trades.*—Employment is reported as good in the brass trade; as quiet in the fender and fire brass trade. At Dudley the fender-makers are reported as fairly well employed.

*Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.*—Jewellers report employment as rather quiet. Electro-plate workers and Britannia metal workers are fairly well occupied. Plate glass bevellers and silverers return employment as good.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Bedstead makers return employment as good. Nail and oddside casters, steel toy makers, and finishers, iron and steel tube makers in gas, water, and steam report employment as good; makers of matchettes, edge tools, scale beams, and hinges, and iron and tinsplate workers as moderate; file cutters by hand as quiet; cut nail makers as fair. At West Bromwich the nut and bolt makers are fully employed. Hollow-ware and spring makers are fairly occupied. At Redditch the needle and fish-hook makers are well employed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is generally good, except at Coventry and Redditch, where it is moderate.

## EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—E. AND S.W. COUNTIES; WALES.

*Glass Trades.*—The flint glass makers and flint glass cutters still return employment as good. At West Bromwich glass-makers continue fully employed.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, woodworkers and machinists, and coachmakers return employment as good; coopers as fair. In the railway and waggon shops employment is improving.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe makers report employment as fair; bespoke tailors as quiet; the Jewish tailors as rather slack.

*Miscellaneous.*—Gasworkers and general labourers report employment as good; letterpress printers as moderate; saddlers as quiet; harness and bridle-cutters as busy. At Coventry employment in the watch and weaving trades continues quiet.—A. R. Jephcott.

## ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

## Norfolk and neighbouring District.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives are fairly busy. Ready-made tailoring departments in all parts of the district are on full time; bespoke tailors are busy; dressmakers and corset, shirt and blouse makers are busy.

*Building Trades.*—Employment continues good.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Engineers are busy in all parts of the district, and overtime is being worked. Shipwrights at Lowestoft are busy; at Great Yarmouth employment is not quite so good. Sailmakers are slack.

*Fishing Industry.*—At Yarmouth the fishing trade is slack. At Lowestoft the trawl fishing is dull. Shell fishing at Wells, Cromer, Lynn and Sheringham is fair.

*Printing and Bookbinding.*—Letterpress printers in all parts of the district are fairly busy. Lithographic printers are not so well employed. Bookbinders are well employed.

*Textile Trades.*—Mat and matting weavers are busy. Silk and crape manufactories are working full time. Horse-hair weavers are fairly busy.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Steam joinery works are busy; cabinet makers, gate and hurdle makers, and upholsterers are in full swing; organ builders are busy; coachmakers are well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Steam flour, oil cake and saw mills and mineral water and confectionery works are making full time. Brickmakers are busy. Electrical workers, horticultural builders and tramway constructors are fully occupied. Navvies and riverside workers generally are in full work.—G. Cloverley.

## Suffolk, Essex and District.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Employment is reported as good with the engineers. Boilermakers and moulders are well employed; shipwrights moderately so.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as dull; in the wholesale branch of tailoring employment has been moderate at Ipswich, fair at Colchester. Corset-makers report employment as fair at Sudbury, good at Ipswich.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment is reported as good with silk workers at Halstead and Sudbury; as quiet at Braintree. The mat weavers report employment as good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally is satisfactory.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; bookbinders and lithographers continue fairly well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—At Ipswich shipping and dock labour has been fair; at Harwich and Parkeston good. Brickmakers and general labourers report employment as good. Horticultural builders are well employed.—R. W. Mather.

## ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

## Bristol and District.

*General.*—Branches with 9,531 members, have 109 (or 1.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 164 (or 1.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade continues good, but some bespoke branches show a falling off. Corset makers are well employed. Silk hatters are quiet. Employment in the Bristol boot and shoe trade has further declined, the factories generally being on half time. In the Kingswood district employment is fairly good.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Employment is good with pattern makers, tool makers, tinsplate workers, smiths, and brass and iron founders. Shipwrights report employment as slack; fitters and boilermakers as fair.

*Coal Mining and Quarrying.*—In the Forest of Dean employment

continues brisk, but in the Bristol and Radstock districts some of the collieries are again on short time. In the stone quarries employment is good.

*Building Trades.*—The plasterers, joiners, bricklayers, and walling masons, report employment as good; the plumbers, and house decorators as dull.

*Woodworking Trades.*—The cabinet makers, turners, wood-cutting machinists, and lath-renders report employment as good; the railway coach-builders and the coopers as fair; the shop and bar fitters as quiet; the upholsterers and polishers as brisk.

*Printing Trades.*—The letterpress printers are exceptionally busy. Other branches report employment as fair.

*Textile Trades.*—In the Trowbridge and Stroud districts all the mills are working full time. Cotton operatives in Bristol are busy. At Twerton-on-Avon the weavers report some slackness.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is good with earthenware and stone potters, tobacco workers, cocoa and chocolate makers, glass bottle makers, and sailors and firemen. Dock employment has been fair on the whole during the month.—J. Curle.

## Plymouth and South Western District.

*Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.*—Employment with tin and copper miners is good, and continues to improve, more men being wanted. From the granite and slate quarries employment is reported as good throughout the district, and in limestone quarries as fair. China clay workers are regularly and fully employed.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Engineers are well employed in Plymouth, Devonport and Exeter, fairly so at Newton and in the Western towns. With boilermakers and ironfounders work is good. Shipwrights report employment as good in Plymouth and Devonport, fair at Falmouth, quiet at Dartmouth and Brixham. In the Government establishments work continues brisk, some overtime being worked. Branches with 2,131 members have 10 unemployed, compared with 8 at the end of May.

*Building Trades.*—Stonemasons report work as good in Plymouth and Devonport, and fair in the rest of the district. Bricklayers are quiet in Barnstaple and Torquay. Carpenters and joiners report employment as good; painters, plumbers, and plasterers as fair.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment is moderate among letterpress and lithographic printers. Bookbinders and paper-rulers are steadily employed. Work at paper mills continues regular.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Mill sawyers and machinists continue well employed, and work is fair in cabinet factories and joinery works. French polishers and upholsterers are steadily employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailoring in the bespoke department is rather quiet; in the ready-made branch it is fair; factory operatives are fully employed. Boot and shoe makers are fairly employed. Operatives in the lace factories are busy.

*Dock and Quayside Work.*—Employment has been quiet all round.

*Fishing Industry.*—Fishing has been light and irregular along the whole coast, mackerel boats in particular doing very little.

*Miscellaneous.*—Government labourers are busy; general labourers, excavators, brickyard workers, and artificial manure workers are well employed. Bakers and brushmakers report work as quiet. In market and fruit gardens there is less doing.—W. Hedge.

## WALES.

## North Wales District.

*Mining.*—Employment at the coal mines continues good except at a few collieries producing house and gas coal. It continues good at the lead mines.

*Quarrying.*—Employment at the slate, sett, limestone, roadstone, and freestone quarries is reported as good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment at Wrexham is fairly good. Carpenters and joiners report employment as fair at Rhyl, slack at Colwyn Bay.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers at Oswestry report employment as moderate, at Ruabon as fair, at Cefn as brisk. Steelworkers, ironworkers, and coachmakers continue well employed.

*Clothing and Textile Trades.*—The tweed and flannel makers of Montgomeryshire have been fully occupied. Employment with the bespoke tailors is quiet at Bangor and Oswestry, moderate at Wrexham, good at Rhyl.

*Brick and Terra Cotta Industries.*—Employment is reported as fully maintained.—G. Rowley.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—WALES; SCOTLAND.

South Wales District.

**Coal Mining.**—Blaenavon, Rhymney Valley, Dowlais, and Cyfarthfa collieries have worked regularly. Ebbw Vale collieries have averaged about five days a week, stoppages being due chiefly to want of clearance. The Aberdare, Merthyr, and Rhondda Valleys collieries have not worked so regularly, and collieries in the Western District have worked irregularly, with several disputes pending.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Coal shipments have not been so good; the iron ore, pit wood, and timber trades have been brisk; the corn trade has been quiet. The dock hoblors have had a slack month, and the shipment of crews a low average.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—With but few exceptions works are going at their fullest capacity, with overtime in the mechanics' departments.

**Ship-repairing and Engineering.**—All branches report employment as bad. Branches of engineers with 2,626 members have 112 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 101 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June. Shipwrights return 50 per cent. as unemployed, and boiler-makers 35 per cent. Fitters' helpers, boiler-makers' helpers, ships' painters and cleaners, and general labourers have not been so well employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment shows a slight improvement throughout the district. Branches of carpenters and joiners with 1,499 members, return 10 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 40 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June. Masons, bricklayers, and plasterers report employment as moderate; painters and paper-hangers and decorators have been well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Fuel workers have again been busy; metallurgical and chemical works are quiet; lithographers and letterpress printers report employment as good.—T. Davies.

**Timplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.**—The improvement in employment continues. At the end of July 383 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), giving employment to an estimated number of 19,064 workpeople, as compared with 379 mills at work, employing 18,882 workpeople, at the end of June, and 274 mills, employing 14,537 workpeople at the end of July, 1898. The output is reported to have been interfered with by the drought in the case of a number of mills worked by waterpower. A scarcity of millmen is also reported.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies with 16,365 members have 191 (or 1.2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 175 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good.

**Shale Miners and Oilworkers.**—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,034 workpeople (as compared with 3,019 in July, 1898) show that 1,484 of these workpeople were in mines working 24 days in the four weeks ending July 22nd, 1899, 1,385 in mines working 22 and under 24 days, the remaining 165 being in pits working 20 and under 22 days.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches with 2,266 members have 40 (or 1.8 per cent.) idle, as against 31 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June. Branches in Falkirk with 3,912 members have 9 idle as against 18 at the end of June.

**Shipbuilding.**—Branches with 616 members have 51 (or 8.3 per cent.) idle, as against 25 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers is good in Hawick, Selkirk, and Galashiels. Employment in the hosiery industry is good in Selkirk and Hawick. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—The disputes have terminated, but the plasterers have still 50 unemployed; otherwise employment generally is good.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,216 members have 10 (or 0.8 per cent.) idle, as against 12 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Employment with the coal porters and dock labourers has been good. The seamen and firemen report employment as fairly good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 2,281 members have 44 (or 1.9 per cent.) idle, as against 32 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Miscellaneous.**—The saddlers, shoemakers, glassmakers, set makers, and glass-cutters report employment as good; the curriers as fair; the tailors and bakers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment generally has been fairly good, though affected by holidays. Branches with 14,079 members have 198 (or 1.4 per cent.) idle, as against 140 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment continues good. The ironmoulders and range and stove-fitters are affected by disputes. Other branches with 28,895 members have 574 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 532 (or 1.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues fairly good.

**Mining.**—In Stirlingshire 5 days per week is the average since the holidays. In Dumbartonshire employment is plentiful. In Ayrshire coal and ironstone miners are busy. In Lanarkshire employment has been steady since the holidays. In Renfrewshire employment is well maintained.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors, mantle makers, machinists, and pressers are fairly employed. Ready-made tailoring operatives are busy. Boot and shoe operatives and curriers are busy; knee boot and shoemakers are well employed.

**Textile Trades.**—In Glasgow weavers are well employed; calendermen, warpers and beamers are fairly busy. In Newmilns, Darvel, and surrounding districts employment has improved. In Kilbirnie it continues good. In Greenock, Port Glasgow, and Paisley the operatives are busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as unchanged; lithographers as quiet; electrotypers and stereotypers as fair; bookbinders as still dull.

**Glass Trades.**—Flint glassmakers and cutters and decorative glass workers are hardly so busy; bottlemakers continue busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Spindle and flyer makers, calico engravers, scale beam makers, potters, brushmakers, sett makers, paviors, saddlers, gilders, cork cutters, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, and labourers are well employed; seamen have been dull; carters, railway, and tram men busy.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment has been interrupted by the annual summer holidays. In the jute industry it continues good on the whole. In the linen trade looms are still fully employed.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in Fifeshire has been interrupted by the holidays. Returns from collieries, employing 11,237 workpeople, show an average of 4.6 days per week worked during the four weeks ending July 22nd, as compared with 5.0 days per week in June.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment in most branches of the engineering industry continues only moderate. At the shipbuilding yards work is still plentiful. Branches with 2,309 members have 117 (or 5.1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 101 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in the building trades shows some improvement; in the woodworking and furnishing trades it continues good. Branches with 1,759 members have 8 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 24 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Dock Labour.**—Shore labour has been well employed at the docks and jetties.

**Fishing Industry.**—Little has been done at the white fishing. Herring and salmon fishing have improved during the month.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the printing and allied trades continues good on the whole; with tailors it is quiet, with boot and shoemakers fair; with bleachers and floor-cloth and linoleum makers brisk.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies with 6,877 members have 71 (or 1.0 per cent.) idle, as against 81 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June.

**Quarrying.**—The masons, granite polishers, quarrymen, and setmakers report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters and joiners, masons, and painters report employment as good; plumbers and slaters as moderate; plasterers as quiet.

**Transport Trades.**—The carters, dock labourers, and railway servants report employment as good.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Branches of societies with 1,466 members have 27 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 15 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of June. [All branches report employment as good.]

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—The boot and shoe operatives, boot and shoe makers, and mill and factory workers report employment as good; tailors and carpet weavers as fair.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN JULY.

DURING July 431 fresh applications for work were registered by seven bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 572 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 140 persons, of whom 76 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency (by correspondence only) and the Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the seven bureaux during July:—

WORK DONE IN JULY.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Work-people seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.
<b>Summary by Bureaux.</b>			
Central Bureau—			
60, Chancery-lane ... ..	36	51	17
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—			
22, Berners-street ... ..	27	33	19*
Y. W. C. A.—			
26, George-street (1) ... ..	430	247	74
Hanover-square (2) ... ..	50	56	25
Other Bureaux ... ..	29	44	7
Total of 7 Bureaux ... ..	572	431	140
Total in June ... ..	670	488	149
<b>Summary by Occupations.</b>			
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc...	35	51	12
Shop Assistants ... ..	7	4	6
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ...	35	46	23
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ...	30	38	14
Apprentices and Learners ...	6	9	3
Domestic Servants ... ..	423	173	76
Miscellaneous ... ..	36	110	6
Total Number in July ... ..	572	431	140
Total Number in June ... ..	670	488	149

The demand for dress makers, &c. has subsided; in this group only 35 situations were offered, compared with 92 in June; 46 workpeople applied for such work, compared with 15 in June.

WORKING HOURS IN FACTORIES IN AUSTRIA.

THE Report on Factory Inspection in Austria in 1898† contains a statement showing the length of the regular working day (intervals excluded) in the 4,723 establishments ranking as factories visited by the inspectors in 1898. The table which follows is based on this statement:—

Group of Trades.	Number of factories where regular working hours (exclusive of intervals) were					Total number of factories.
	9 hours or less.	Over 9 up to 10	Over 10 up to 11	11½	12	
Metalworking ... ..	9	249	252	31	16	557
Engineering, shipbuilding, &c.	5	248	112	—	—	365
Textile trades ... ..	7	119	887	—	2	1,015
Clothing trades ... ..	9	74	105	—	—	188
Papermaking ... ..	3	49	113	43	26	234
Printing and allied trades ...	121	43	4	—	—	168
Woodworking and furnishing ...	16	99	283	7	—	405
Glass, pottery, brick, &c., making ...	14	128	350	9	25	526
Chemical trades ... ..	14	67	206	14	9	310
Food, &c., preparation ...	14	63	338	37	—	752
Other trades ... ..	4	61	111	15	12	203
All trades in which factories were inspected	216	1,200	2,761	456	90	4,723

Thus it appears that in 4,177 (88.4 per cent.) of the factories visited, the regular working day was of or under 11 hours, while in 546 (11.6 per cent.) this limit was exceeded. The law forbids more than 11 hours to be worked in factories, except in certain trades in which 12 hours are allowed to be worked, and of which the list is subject to revision every three years.

\* In addition to 10 temporary engagements as waitresses in private houses.  
† Bericht der K.K. Gewerbe-Inspektoren über ihre Amtstätigkeit im Jahre 1898. Vienna Government Printing Office, 1899.

P. O'Shea.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JULY, 1899.

(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 rates of wages reported during July were all increases and affected about 320,400 workpeople. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 6½d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 260,380 miners and other colliery workpeople in South Wales, Durham and Northumberland, to 29,500 iron and steel workers in the Midlands, North of England and the West of Scotland, to 2,500 bedstead workers in Birmingham district, to 2,295 engineers, &c. at Liverpool and Birkenhead, and to 8,000 cotton weavers, winders and warpers at Ashton-under-Lyne.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 2,500 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 159,200 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and changes affecting 2,600 workpeople were brought about by arbitration or conciliation. The remaining changes, affecting about 156,100 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or were conceded voluntarily by the employers.

Summary for First Seven Months of 1899.—For the seven months, January to July, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 955,300. Of these, 953,000 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 3d. per head, and 2,300 sustained a net average decrease of 1s. 4½d. per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 1s. 2½d. per week in the wages of the 955,300 affected.

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 1899, 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, MINING AND QUARRYING TRADES, and EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer 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 JULY—(continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1899, 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 IRON AND STEEL TRADES, METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, and TEXTILE TRADES.

\* Exclusive of Overtime.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Rise in Agricultural Wages.—In some of the districts of Cumberland, Cheshire, Kent, Norfolk, Nottingham, Suffolk, and Sussex, wages of agricultural labourers were increased by about 1s. per week.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN JULY, 1899.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during July, affected about 6,650 workpeople, whose hours were reduced on the average by 2.49 hours per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of change per week.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the hours for five summer and two winter weeks.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of July, and the seven completed months of the year 1899, with comparative figures for 1898.

Table with columns: Month of July, Seven months ended July, Bales, 1899, Bales, 1898.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended August 5th, amounted to £9,399,304, an increase of £289,166 (or 3.2 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1898.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

Table with columns: Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during July, amounted to £802,806, a decrease of £71,382 as compared with July, 1898.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during July numbered 294, being 76 less than in July, 1898, 84 less than in July, 1897, and 83 less than in July, 1896.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—During July 20,397 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, as compared with 15,843 in July, 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 20,397 passengers, 11,161 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 297 as compared with a year ago.

Table with columns: Destination, July, 1899, July, 1898, Total for seven months ending—

Foreign.—The remainder of the 20,397 passengers in July, viz., 9,236, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 4,257 as compared with July, 1898.

Alien Immigration.—During July 10,360 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 3,935 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom.

Table with columns: Destination, July, 1899, July, 1898, Total for seven months ending—

\* The figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 919 in July, 1899; 1,120 in July, 1898; and 7,860 and 7,337 respectively in the seven months ended July in each year.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JULY.

(Based on information furnished by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during July was 300, being 12 more than in June, and 37 more than in July, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,372,424 persons (according to the latest available figures), 280 persons were killed, and 6,675 reported injured by accidents in July, as compared with 250 killed and 5,981 reported injured in July, 1898.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 20 persons were reported killed, and 870 injured, as compared with 13 reported killed and 724 injured in July, 1898.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Number Employed according to latest Returns.

DETAILED TABLE.

Table with columns: Industry, Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Killed, Injured, Total.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total.

Table with columns: Males, Females, Total.

Table with columns: Construction or repair, Use or Working, Total.

\* 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.

† One of this number was included in the number of non-fatal injuries in the return for January last, and one in the return for March last.

‡ Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894.

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 duration exceeded 100 working days.

Number and Magnitude.—Fifty-one fresh disputes were reported as having begun in July, 1899, compared with 59 in June, and 33 in July, 1898. In these 51 disputes 7,699 workpeople were directly affected and 2,323 indirectly affected, a total of 10,022, compared with 14,254 in June, and 8,753 in July, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 6 disputes took place, involving 759 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 9 disputes, involving 2,440 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 7 disputes, involving 1,399 workpeople; textile trades, 17 disputes, involving 3,666 workpeople; clothing trades, 3 disputes, involving 285 workpeople; transport trades, 4 disputes, involving 984 workpeople; and in other industries, 5 disputes, involving 489 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 51 new disputes, 30 arose chiefly on wages questions, 8 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 6 on questions of working arrangements, and 7 from other causes.

Results.—Thirty-nine new disputes, involving 8,672 workpeople, and 24 old disputes, involving 5,706 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 63 new and old disputes terminated, 18, involving 3,053 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 19, involving 4,426 persons, in favour of the employers; 23, involving 6,394 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining 3 disputes, involving 505 workpeople, the points in dispute were still under consideration. At the end of July, 25 old disputes were reported to be unsettled, involving altogether about 3,000 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total duration in July of all the disputes, new and old, was about 190,000 working days, compared with 250,000 in June, and 2,527,000 in July, 1898.

Summary for the First Seven Months of 1899.—For the seven completed months of 1899 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 447 disputes which commenced in those months was 90,379, as compared with 181,051 in the 358 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1898. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 1,550,000, as compared with 11,900,000 for the corresponding period of 1898, which included the South Wales coal dispute.

Table with 5 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JULY, 1899.

Table for Building Trades (759 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

MINING AND QUARRYING.

Table for Mining and Quarrying (2,440 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

Table for Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (1,399 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

TEXTILE TRADES.

Table for Textile Trades (3,666 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table with 7 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN JULY, 1899.—(continued).

TEXTILE TRADES.—(continued).

Table for Textile Trades (continued) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

CLOTHING TRADES.

Table for Clothing Trades (285 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

TRANSPORT TRADES.

Table for Transport Trades (984 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

OTHER TRADES.

Table for Other Trades (489 Workpeople affected) with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE JULY, 1899, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table for Disputes terminated in July 1899 with columns for Disputes, Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishment where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued.)

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Includes entries for Barnsley, Oldham, Manchester, Derby, Port Talbot, and Alloa.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or lock-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade:—

The trade returns for the month of July last show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the value of imports from foreign countries and British Possessions, and in the exports both of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for July, 1899, were valued at £39,935,372, showing an increase of £4,032,333 or 11.2 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £28,637,446 as against £25,332,879 in July, 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £23,195,958 in July, 1899, and £20,089,878 in July, 1898, an increase of £3,106,080 or 15.4 per cent.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for July, 1899, as compared with July, 1898, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table with columns: Month ended July 31st, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Metals; Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances; Oils; Raw Materials for Manufactures; Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles.

In the imports of food, drink and tobacco there was an increase in both the quantities and values of wheat meal and flour, peas, beans, and Indian corn, but the imports of wheat, barley, oats, oatmeal, Indian corn meal, and all other kinds of corn and meal decreased.

The increase in the imports of metals is chiefly made up of larger importations of tin, iron ore, and copper, the only two articles showing a decrease in July, 1899, as compared with July, 1898, being pig and puddled iron, and zinc.

imports of machinery in July, 1899, increased in value £71,395, as compared with July, 1898.

Exports.—The following table shows the value of British and Irish produce and manufactures exported during the month ended 31st July, 1899, as compared with a like period of 1898, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table with columns: Month ended July 31st, Increase, Decrease. Rows include Animals living; Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured; Yarns and Textile Fabrics; Metals and Articles Manufactured therefrom; Machinery and Millwork; Ships; Miscellaneous.

The exports of coal, coke and fuel, have increased £616,395 in value. Cotton piece goods show an increase of £349,448, and other cotton manufactures of £105,739. Larger shipments of piece goods have been sent to Egypt, the East i.e. British and Dutch East Indies (except Strait Settlements), China and Japan.

In the seven months ended 31st July, 1899, the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £276,639,107, as compared with £271,881,490, for a similar period of 1898, showing an increase of £4,757,617, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £149,717,852 (including the value of ships, new, not registered as British, not recorded prior to 1899), as compared with £132,598,057 for the first seven months of 1898, showing an increase of £17,119,795.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared, with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions during July, 1899, amounted to 3,449,317 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,789,646 tons, as compared with 3,039,054 tons entered and 3,328,043 tons cleared in July, 1898.

\* Includes the value of new ships (not registered as British) not recorded prior to 1899.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN JULY.

THE ten bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,547 fresh applications for work during July last, as compared with 1,680 in July, 1898. Work was found by these bureaux for 903 persons, a decrease of 38 as compared with a year ago.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of July, 1899, was 1,127, as against 1,346 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in July.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Bureaux. Includes London, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Total of 10 bureaux.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during July, 1899.

Table with columns: Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities, Grand Total. Includes Men, Women and Girls, Lads and Boys.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of July, 1899, July, 1898. Includes Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls, Grand Total.

\* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

PAUPERISM IN JULY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of July was 314,859. This corresponds to a rate of 197 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with June, 1899, the number of persons relieved has decreased by 2,388, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 1. Of the 35 districts 24 show decreases, while 7 show small increases and 4 have an unaltered rate.

Compared with July, 1898, there is a falling off of 8,863 in the total number relieved and of 7 in the rate per 10,000 of population. The most marked decreases are shown in the Galway district (276 per 10,000), Bristol (39), Stockton and Tees district (35), Newcastle (21), Wolverhampton (17), Cardiff and Swansea (15), and North Staffordshire (14).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of July, 1899, Rate per 10,000 of population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with month ago, Year ago.

Table with columns: ENGLAND & WALES\*, Metropolitan, West Ham, Other Districts, Total "Other Districts". Includes West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District, Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea.

Table with columns: SCOTLAND\*, IRELAND†, Total for above Irish Districts, Total for above 35 districts in July, 1899. Includes Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock District, Edinburgh & Leith District, Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District.

\* 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 JULY.

### I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office).

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.		Amount of Costs.			
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>								
Neglecting to Limewash ...	3	3	4	0	0	1	8	0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	7	6	10	5	0	6	17	6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	32	31	22	11	6	12	3	8
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>								
Before or after the legal hour ...	99	96	56	6	0	34	17	8
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	43	42	21	8	0	20	7	6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	42	41	9	11	6	8	7	4
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays ...	12	12	6	10	0	2	5	0
At night ...	35	34	21	16	6	17	4	0
Other ...	5	5	1	15	6	3	12	6
<b>Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c.—</b>								
Not keeping Registers ...	22	22	17	7	6	6	16	6
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	6	6	5	5	6	2	10	8
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	1	1	0	5	0	0	14	6
Not sending correct Annual Return ...	4	3	0	8	0	0	10	0
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars ...	8	8	2	0	0	5	15	6
Other Offences ...	8	7	12	1	0	2	11	2
<b>By Workmen:</b>								
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ...	2	2	0	15	0	0	10	6
Employment at night ...	5	5	8	0	0	3	4	6
<b>By Parents:</b>								
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	1	1	—	—	—	0	2	6
<b>Total for July, 1899</b> ...	<b>335</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total for July, 1898</b> ...	<b>355</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

### II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office).

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.		
					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
<b>UNDER THE MINES ACTS.</b>							
<b>By Workmen:</b>							
Safety Lamps ...	3	3	—	—	3	13	0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	3	3	—	—	4	8	6
Timbering ...	5	5	—	—	6	1	0
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c ...	10	10*	—	—	11	13	0
Riding on Trams ...	1	1	—	—	0	13	6
Miscellaneous ...	19	19	—	—	17	3	0
<b>Total for July, 1899</b> ...	<b>41</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total for July, 1898</b> ...	<b>66</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.</b>							
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. ...</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>By Workmen:</b>							
Explosives and Blasting ...	4	4	—	—	1	10	6
<b>Total for July, 1899</b> ...	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total for July, 1898</b> ...	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>

### III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.		Total Costs.			
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships:</b>								
Submerging Disc ...	1	1	50	0	0	10	6	
Net Lettering and Numbering Vessel and Mainsail ...	2	2	2	0	0	1	7	0
<b>Total for July, 1899</b> ...	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total for July, 1898</b> ...	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>

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

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Withdrawn on compliance with Act.	Convic- tions.	Fines and Costs.		
				£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
<b>Under the Friendly Societies' Acts:</b>						
Failure to send Annual Returns ...	17	8	9	61	8	6
<b>Under the Building Societies' Acts:</b>						
Failure by Trustee to make Statutory Return ...	1	1	—	3	3	0
<b>Total for July, 1899</b> ...	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>

\* In one case the defendant was admonished.

## INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JULY.

(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 July, it will be seen that 5 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 1 Co-operative Association for Production, 7 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 3 Building Societies, 26 Friendly Societies, and 37 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during July. Five Trade Unions, 7 Industrial and Provident Societies, 14 Building Societies, and 16 Friendly Societies (including 2 branches) are reported to have ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registration cancelled.

### ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—**Amal. Soc. of Anchor-smiths and Shackle-makers, Red Lion Inn, Cradley Road, Cradley Heath; Manchester and District United Operative Mosaic and Tile Fixers' Protective Soc., Cambridge St. Coffee Tavern, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester; *Scotland.*—Clyde Steam Tug Boatmen's Soc., Rue End St., Greenock. *Ireland.*—Clonmel Working Men's Protective Union, 19, Sarsfield St., Clonmel; Clonmel Operative Bakers' Trade Union, 18, Irishtown, Clonmel.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—**Road and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Roade, Northampton; Tottington Equitable Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Bury-road, Tottington. *Scotland.*—Provident Co-op. Soc., Ltd., South-street, Leven; Lithuanian Provident Soc. Sandard, Ltd., 148, Main-street, Wishaw. *Ireland.*—None. **(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.—**None. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Tartaraghar Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc. Ltd., Clantilew, Loughgall, co. Armagh. **(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—**Rye Park Liberal and Radical Club, Ltd., The Bungalow, Rye Park, Hoddesdon; Bethnal Green Co-op. Bank, Ltd., 17, Victoria Park-square, London, N.E.; British Agric. Organisation Soc., Ltd., 24, Castle Gate, Newark-on-Trent; Long Eaton Mutual Land Soc., Ltd., 5, Park-st., Long Eaton; Metropolitan Window Cleaners, Ltd., 5, Curlew-st., Horsleydown, London, S.E.; Associated Jewellers, Ltd., 13, Bow-lane, London, E.C. *Scotland.*—Multitubular Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Newbie, Annan. *Ireland.*—None.

**Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—**Ordinary Friendly, 10; Dividing, 4; Specially authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 9; *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Specially authorised, 8. **(B) New Branches of existing Societies.—England and Wales.—**34. *Scotland.*—3. *Ireland.*—None.

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

### ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—**Registrations cancelled:—Amal. Protection Union of Hammermen, Enginemen, Machinemen, Helpers, and General Labourers, 7, Ida-street, Poplar; Liverpool Amal. Hollow-ware Casters and Turners Trade Assoc., 32, Hawkstone-street, Liverpool; Nottingham Timber and Deal Carriers, Carters, and Saw-mill Labourers' Soc., New House, Leenside, Nottingham; Liverpool Jewish Tailors Machinists' and Pressers' Trade Union, 126, Brownlow-hill, Liverpool. Notice of dissolution registered:—Swindon and District Master Bakers' and Confectioners' Assoc., Rifleman's Arms Inn, Regent-street, New Swindon. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—**Resolutions to Wind-up received: Aspley Guise Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Aspley Guise, Beds; Peoples' Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 99, Leman-street, London, E. Registration cancelled: St. Rose Profit-Sharing Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 2A, High-street, Wincanton. Copy of Order to Wind-up received: Sheffield Operative Tailors Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 21, Change-alley, Sheffield. Liquidator's Return of Final Meeting received: Brownfields Guild Pottery Soc., Ltd., Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent; Uttoxeter Co-op. Ind. Soc., Ltd., High-street, Uttoxeter. *Scotland.*—Dissolved by Instrument: Paisley Livingstone Co-op. Building Soc., Ltd.

**Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—**By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 7; Dividing, 1; Specially authorised, 2; Branch, 1. Registry Cancelled:—Order, 1; Working Men's Club, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 2. *Scotland.*—By instrument of dissolution: Branch, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

**Building Societies.—England and Wales.—**By instrument of dissolution, 5; notice of commencement of dissolution, 2; notice of termination of dissolution, 6. *Scotland.*—Notice of termination of dissolution, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

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