

THE  
**LABOUR GAZETTE**

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

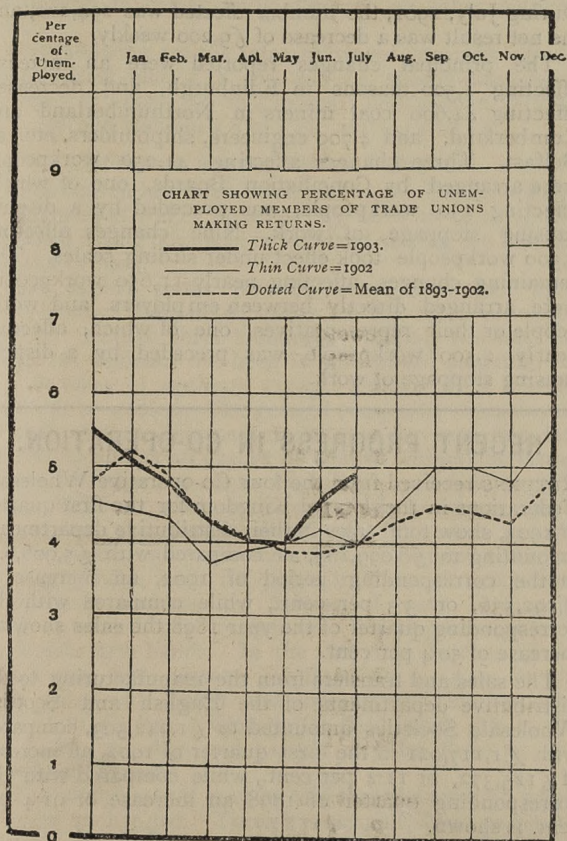
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AUGUST, 1903.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

**EMPLOYMENT CHART.**



**STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JULY.**

[Based on 3,383 returns, viz.: 2,087 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,231 from Trade Unions, and 65 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT continued to show a falling off in July, as compared both with June, 1903, and with July, 1902, the decline being most marked in the case of the cotton trade, in which employment has been greatly affected by the high price of raw cotton.

In the 226 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 555,743 making returns, 27,394 (or 4.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 4.5 per cent. in June, and 4.0 per cent. in the 222 Trade Unions, with a membership of 550,169 from which returns were received for July, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of July during the past decade was 4.0.

**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment declined slightly during the four weeks ended July 25th, and was not so good as a year ago. At collieries employing 480,466 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 4.84 days per week, as against 4.64 days in June (when employment was interrupted by the Whitsuntide holidays) and 4.82 days in July, 1902, for which month the average was affected by disputes. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns were received for both periods was 2 per cent. greater than a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continues good. In the 131 mines and open works covered by the returns, and employing about 15,750 workpeople, the average number of days worked in the four weeks ended July 25th was 5.69 per week, as compared with the same average in June and 5.68 a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment continues fairly good in this industry, there being little change as compared with June, but a falling off as compared with July, 1902. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 321 furnaces, employing about 22,100 workpeople, were in blast at the end of July, as compared with 320 at the end of June, and 325 a year ago.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—In this industry employment shows a falling off both as compared with a month and a year ago. At 201 works covered by the returns received from employers 73,530 workpeople were employed during the week ended July 25th, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows a decrease of about 3 per cent., both as compared with June and with the corresponding week in 1902.

**Tinplate Manufacture.**—Employment in this industry again shows a falling off as compared with a month and a year ago. At the end of July 342 mills were working, as compared with 362 at the end of June, and 399 in July, 1902. The number of workpeople employed at the mills was about 17,100.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment generally is fair, and shows little change as compared with a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 3.9 at the end of July, as compared with 4.0 in June and 4.4 in July, 1902.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment generally is slack, rather worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of July was 10.5, as compared with 9.1 in June and 6.6 in July, 1902.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues moderate, and shows little change as compared with either a month or a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 3.3 at the end of July, compared with 3.4 at the end of June, and 2.9 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 6.7 at the end of July, as compared with 7.6 in June, and 6.5 in July, 1902.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment shows a general decline in these trades, except with coopers, who report a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, though they are not so well employed as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of July was 4.0, as compared with 3.0 in June and 3.4 in July, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades remains quiet. The usual seasonal improvement occurred among letterpress printers in the Provinces, but in London employment declined. Employment on the whole was much the same as a month and a year ago, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of July being 4.3, as compared with 4.4 at the end of June, 1903, and July, 1902.

Employment in the *Paper* trade remained fairly good. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members

at the end of the month was 2.6, against 2.8 at the end of June and 2.2 in July, 1902.

Employment in the *Glass* trades is slack. In the *Pottery* trades it has improved. In the *Brick* and *Tile* trades it continues fair.

Owing to the high price of raw cotton, employment in the *Cotton* trade is bad; it is worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 99,800 women and girls shows that 48 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 47 per cent. in June, and 89 per cent. in July, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 32 per cent. during July, compared with 38 per cent. in June and 81 per cent. in July, 1902.

Employment in the *Woolen* trade is moderate generally. In the *Worsted* trade it is quiet and worse than a month and a year ago. Information respecting woolen and worsted factories in Yorkshire employing about 30,700 women and girls shows that only 61 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, to be compared with 80 per cent. among those reported on in June, and with 88 per cent. in July, 1902.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trades shows a further decline as compared with a month ago. Employment in the *Jute* trade continues moderate. In the *Flax* trade it is fair.

*Leather Trades*.—The general condition of employment continues dull and is worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 6.7, as compared with 6.0 per cent. at the end of June, and 3.6 in July, 1902.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade is quiet generally, and slightly worse than in June, though better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 63,496 workpeople show a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed at the end of July, as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives reported on, 62 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout July, compared with 64 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in June.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade is reported as bad. In the ready-made branch employment generally has been moderate.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade has been slack generally, and worse than a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of July was 3.5, compared with 2.9 per cent. at the end of June, and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

*Agricultural Labourers* were well employed in July at haymaking and at hoeing and weeding root-crops, until the latter part of the month, when outdoor work was a good deal interrupted by wet weather, and a number of casual labourers lost time in consequence.

*Dock and Riverside Labour*.—Employment in July was fair generally and showed little change as compared with a month ago. In London, however, it was better than in June, but not so good as in July, 1902. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ending July 25th, was 13,524, an increase of 9.2 per cent. as compared with the average for the previous month, but a decrease of 10.4 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in July during the six years 1897-1902 was 15,090.

**Trade Disputes**.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during July, 1903, was 10,100, compared with 12,314 in June, 1903, and 116,814 in July, 1902.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 130,800 working days, compared with 175,000 in the previous month, and 803,000 in the corresponding month of last year.

Fourteen disputes began in July, involving 5,132 workpeople, compared with 17 in June, 1903, and 25 in July, 1902.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 12 disputes, new and old, affecting 5,393 workpeople. Of these disputes, 4, involving 2,426 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 5, involving 234 persons, in favour of the employers; and 3, involving 2,733 persons, were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages**.—The changes in rates of wages reported during July affected about 59,400 workpeople, of whom 3,900 received advances and 55,500 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of about £1,900 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 116,500 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £6,500 weekly. During July, 1902, the number affected was 294,000, and the net result was a decrease of £9,200 weekly.

The principal changes reported were an increase affecting 1,500 masons in Edinburgh, and decreases affecting 44,600 coal miners in Northumberland and Cumberland, and 4,700 engineers, shipbuilders, etc., at Belfast. Three changes affecting 41,250 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, one of which, affecting 250 workpeople, was preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work. Nine changes affecting 6,500 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting nearly 11,650 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, one of which, affecting nearly 2,500 workpeople, was preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

### RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from the four Co-operative Wholesale Federations in the United Kingdom for the first quarter of 1903, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,099,163, as compared with £5,906,627 in the corresponding period of 1902, an increase of £192,536, or 3.3 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of the year 1898 the sales show an increase of 50.4 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,242,393, compared with £1,117,021 in the first quarter of 1902, an increase of £125,372, or 11.2 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1898 an increase of 91.4 per cent. is shown.

The following Table shows separately the particulars returned by each Federation for the first quarter of 1903, together with the figures for the corresponding quarters of 1902 and 1898:—

Societies.	Member-ship.	Sales.					
		In 1st quarter of			Percentage increase of 1903 as compared with		
		1903.	1902.	1898.	A year ago.	Five years ago.	
ENGLAND AND WALES:— Distributive Depts. Manufacturing Depts.	1,116	1,394,713	£ 4,558,024 812,981*	£ 4,413,708 716,417*	£ 2,932,892 390,059*	3.3 13.5	55.4 108.4
SCOTLAND:— Distributive Depts. Manufacturing Depts.	285	285,612	£ 1,497,579 429,412*	£ 1,457,622 400,604*	£ 1,112,360 258,027*	2.7 7.2	34.6 65.8
IRELAND:— Butter Agency— Distributive Depts. Agricultural (Distribution)	not stated	28	14,865 28,697	12,899 22,398	9,611 Nil.	15.2 28.1	54.6 —

\* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.  
† Figures for butter making not available.

### AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS.

#### Whitsuntide Hirings in Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire.

INFORMATION as to the rates of wages agreed upon at the half-yearly hiring fairs held at Whitsuntide in Cumberland, Westmorland and North Lancashire has been received from a correspondent who made special inquiries on behalf of the Department. Wages showed no marked change when compared with those for the corresponding period of 1902. The supply of labour of all classes is stated to have been scarce, and some men stood out for higher wages or remained unhired, preferring to seek engagements for hay and corn harvesting, which bring in as much wages as a half year's ordinary agreement for second class men or boys. It is stated to be increasingly difficult to obtain women and girls who will attend to calves, milk cows, or do other outdoor work.

The following are the rates of wages generally agreed upon:—Best men, £18 10s. to £22; second-class men, £16 to £18; boys, £6 to £10 10s.; best women, £12 to £15; second women, £8 to £11; girls, £4 to £7.

#### Spring and Summer Hirings in Scotland.

Information has been received by the Department as to the rates of wages obtained by farm servants at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland during the first six months of 1903.

The report states that for some time past very little change has taken place in the rates of wages paid to Scottish farm labourers. During the last few years the tendency has been in an upward direction, yet for no class of servants except women can a marked advance be quoted. The general complaint of employers is that women become scarcer year by year, and this applies to almost all grades of women workers on farms. It is stated that the ranks of milkers and field workers have thinned most seriously, and in many parts farmers are now perplexed for want of women to work on the fields and milk the cows. Frequent advances in wages have been inevitable in these circumstances, and many farmers are finding it very hard, even with increased pay, to procure the requisite number of female farm hands. In the dairying districts of the south-west byre women get from £7 to £12 for the half year, with board and lodging, and kitchen girls get £1 to £3 less. Women for field work get 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per day, and 3s. per day for three or four weeks in harvest.

For ploughmen it may be said that the rates of wages remain unchanged. There has certainly been no general movement either the one way or the other. From two or three counties, notably Berwickshire and Aberdeenshire, isolated cases of advance in wages have been reported. The advances, however, were trifling, and did not affect large areas. In the north the chief cause of this upward tendency in wages was the backwardness of farm work, coupled with an unusual scarcity of men, due mainly to emigration to Canada; in the south the advances were most largely due to the eagerness of farmers to secure men who could bring female workers with them.

In the South-East Border Counties married ploughmen with women-workers have this year been getting 17s. to 18s. per week, sometimes a trifle more, with allowances, such as free house and garden, some fuel, and 900 to 1,800 yards of potato drills. In other parts common rates for married men are from £35 to £45 a year in cash, with free house and allowances of oatmeal, milk, and potatoes. In some cases the men get from £48 to £50, with free house and garden. With unmarried men the rate is very generally from £13 to £16 per half-year with board and lodging. Exceptionally capable men sometimes get from £2 to £3 more.

Young lads are scarce, and in most cases get relatively higher wages than men. The same remark applies to young girls. Capable and experienced cattlemen are even scarcer than high-class ploughmen, and as a rule command slightly higher wages.

Shepherds are also in demand, and have easily

obtained the old wages—in some cases securing small advances. For the past lambing season men readily got about £7, and boys from £4 to £5 10s. per month with board and lodging.

### PRICES OF IRON.

THE results of the last ascertainment of the selling prices of pig iron in the West of Scotland, and of manufactured iron in the North of England, Midlands and Scotland are given in the Table below.

The selling price of West of Scotland pig iron, as shown by the last audit, is lower than that in the February—April period or in the corresponding period of last year. In the manufactured iron trade the variations shown are slight, either as compared with a month or a year ago.

The only change in wages resulting from these ascertainment was a reduction of 5 per cent. affecting blast-furnacemen in the West of Scotland (see p. 232).

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) of last Audit as compared with	
		Last Audit.*	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
<b>Pig Iron.</b>		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
West of Scotland:—	May-July	52 5.40	53 10.60	54 5.26	-1 5.20	-1 11.86
<b>Manufactured Iron.</b>						
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars and angles)		124 11.80	123 4.71	123 3.47	+1 7.09	+1 8.33
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, hoops, sheets, plates, and strips, etc.)	May-June	137 1.82	137 4.35	137 9.89	-0 2.53	-0 8.07
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, angles, tees, hoops and rods)		124 2.41	125 1.70	123 3.91	-0 11.29	-0 10.50

### CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

#### Stonemasons at Bradford.

Differences having arisen at Bradford between the Master Builders' Association and the Operative Stonemasons' Society, the Board of Trade, at the request of the Mayor of Bradford, have appointed Sir William Markby, K.C.I.E., to act as arbitrator to deal with the matters in dispute.

### CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS.

THE following Table, showing the membership, capital, business and profits of Co-operative Credit Associations in the United Kingdom during the years 1900 and 1901 is based mainly upon returns and balance-sheets supplied to the Department by the societies concerned, supplemented in the case of some Irish societies by statistics published by the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

The particulars for 1901 relate to 81 associations compared with 64 at work in 1900. The total capital (share, loan, and reserve) of the associations shows an increase of £10,824 over 1900, the amount of loans advanced to members an increase of £2,083, and the profit on the year an increase of £75.

Twelve of the associations (10 in England and 2 in Scotland) are registered with share capital, and limited liability, these with one exception being all town societies. The remaining 69 associations are in agricultural districts, and registered as "Specially Authorised Societies" under the Friendly Societies' Acts without shares, their capital consisting entirely of deposits and loans (upon which a fixed interest is paid) and reserve funds. They are worked upon the Raiffeisen system, the main features of which are that loans are advanced to members only for reproductive purposes, that the liability of members is unlimited, and that the profits are carried to reserve funds and not distributed in dividends.

These associations are making most progress in Ireland, where increases in 1901 over 1900 are shown of

\* Under the various sliding scale agreements, changes in wages, if any, resulting from these audits take place in the pig iron industry immediately after the period to which the audit relates, while in the manufactured iron trades they follow one month later.

15 in the number of associations, of 992 in membership; of £3005 in loan and reserve capital; of £2915 in loans advanced, and of £26 in net profit after paying all expenses and interest on loans.

Table showing the membership, capital, business, and other particulars relating to the Co-operative Credit Associations in the United Kingdom for the year 1901, together with the corresponding totals for 1900.

Table with 7 columns: No. of Societies making Returns, No. of Members, CAPITAL (Share and Loan, Reserve), Amount granted in loans during the year, Amount of loans repaid during the year, Working Expenses, and Profit after interest on Capital. Rows include England & Wales, Ireland, and United Kingdom.

PRICE OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

BREAD.

The returns as to the price of bread furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of August and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of the bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period.

As compared with a month ago the price per 4 lbs. has remained unchanged in all the towns given in the following Table, with the exception of Plymouth, where a reduction of 1/4d. per 4 lbs. has taken place.

Table with 8 columns: Place, 1902 (5th Aug, 1st Sept, 1st Oct), 1903 (2nd Feb, 2nd April, 1st June, 1st July, 1st Aug). Shows prices for various towns like London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, etc.

\* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 3rd November, 1st December, 1902, 1st January, 2nd March, or at 1st May, 1903.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the colonies from 1st September, 1902, to 31st July, 1903, amounted to 76,965,322 cwt., compared with 67,869,422 cwt. in the corresponding eleven months of 1901-2.

Table with 4 columns: Month, British Wheat (Mean London Gazette Price), Imports (Wheat, Wheat-meal and Flour). Includes monthly data for 1902 and 1903.

The price per cwt. of British wheat in July (6s. 7 1/2d.) was lower by 7 1/4d. than a year ago, but was higher than in any of the ten months September, 1902—June, 1903. The average declared value of wheat imported in July was 6s. 9 1/4d per cwt., as compared with 6s. 9 1/2d. a month ago, and 6s. 9 1/4d. a year ago.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Special Exceptions—Meal Hours—Iron and Steel Foundries in Scotland.

By Section 33 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, it is provided that with respect to meals the following regulations shall (save as in the Act specially excepted) be observed in a factory and workshop:—(1) All women, young persons and children employed therein shall have the times allowed for meals at the same hour of the day; and (2) a woman, young person or child shall not, during any part of the times allowed for meals in the factory or workshop, be employed in the factory or the workshop, or be allowed to remain in a room in which a "manufacturing" process or handicraft is then being carried on.

- (a) An exception permitting young persons employed in a factory or a workshop to have the times allowed for meals at different hours of the day; and
(b) An exception permitting young persons during the times allowed for meals in the factory or workshop to be allowed to remain in a room in which a manufacturing process or handicraft is being carried on;

\* Import Duty commenced in this month.
† Import Duty ceased on the 30th of this month.
‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1903. No. 566. (Eyre & Spottiswoode.)

MINERAL STATISTICS, 1902.

A REPORT\* issued by the Home Office, an advance proof of which was noticed on p. 83 of the GAZETTE for March, gives statistics of the persons employed, output, and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom in 1902, arranged according to the Inspection Districts.

The total number of persons employed at mines and at quarries under the Quarries Act was 952,711 in 1902, as compared with 933,366 in the preceding year. The numbers employed at coal mines increased by about 18,000 and at quarries by 3,000, while those at metalliferous mines decreased by 1,600. This is seen in the following Table, which shows the distribution of the numbers employed in 1902 and 1901:—

Table with 5 columns: Class of Mine or Quarry, Employed underground or inside Quarries, Employed above ground or outside Quarries, Total in 1902, Total in 1901. Rows include Under Coal Mines Act, Metalliferous Mines Act, Quarries Act, and Total.

Of the surface workers at coal mines 5,353, or 3.3 per cent., were females, and of the underground workers, 45,588, or 6.9 per cent., were boys under 16.

The total output of coal in 1902 was 227,085,042 tons, an increase of over 8,000,000 tons on that of the previous year. Of iron ore the output was 13,426,217 tons, an increase of over 1,000,000 tons. As regards certain other minerals the total output in tons was as follows:—clays and shale, 15,304,136; oil shale, 2,107,534; limestone, 12,172,851; sandstone, 5,483,130; igneous rocks, 5,466,964; chalk, 4,395,673; gravel and sand, 2,067,745; salt, 1,893,881; slate and slate slabs, 517,363.

The following Table shows for each Inspection District the numbers employed under and above ground at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, and the output of coal from such mines, for the years 1901 and 1902:—

Table with 5 columns: Districts, Numbers employed in Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act (1902, 1901), Total output of Coal (in thousands of tons) (1902, 1901). Lists districts like Newcastle, Durham, Yorkshire, etc.

As is seen from the Table the output has increased in every district, but the numbers employed, although they have increased generally, show a slight decrease in the Liverpool district and a considerable proportional decrease in Ireland.

The output of coal has increased in greater proportion than the numbers employed. Taking into account all the minerals produced at these mines the average output of mineral per person employed underground was 362 tons, compared with 357 tons in 1901. The increase in the output per person was greatest in Ireland, Scotland and South Wales. In the case of Durham and Staffordshire the figures show a decrease.

In 1902 there were 919 separate fatal accidents at coal mines, causing 1,024 deaths, a decrease of 32 accidents and 77 deaths compared with 1901. At metalliferous mines there were 29 deaths from accident and at quarries 119 deaths.

\* Mines and Quarries: General Report and Statistics for 1902. Part I. (Cd. 1601.) Price 61d. Eyre and Spottiswoode.
† Cardiff and Swansea Inspection Districts.

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 Acts.

NOTICE OF ACCIDENT: WHAT IS AN "ACCIDENT"?

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, that proceedings under the Act for the recovery of compensation for an injury "shall not be maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given, as soon as practicable after the happening thereof, and before the workman has voluntarily left the employment in which he was injured, and unless the claim for compensation with respect to such accident, has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident causing the injury.

Provided always that the want of such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings, if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the want of such notice... or that such want was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause."

A miner who had been for twenty-eight years in the employ of a coal company, in October, 1901, strained his heart in the course of his work. On the advice of his medical man he rested for a few days, and then resumed work, but of a lighter kind. At the end of a fortnight he was obliged to rest again, but soon returned a second time to light work. He was obliged to rest a third time, and rested for some months; after which he returned to the service of the company and continued to do light work. On March 24th, 1902, he first gave formal notice of injury under the Act, accounting for the delay by the fact that he had been advised that his injury did not come under the term "accident."

In April, 1902, his application for compensation came before the Sheriff-Substitute, who refused an award on the ground that the straining of the man's heart in the course of his employment was not an accident arising out of his employment within the Act. The man appealed, but the employers did not contest the appeal, and admitted that the injury was an accident. In February, 1903, therefore, the case again came before the Sheriff-Substitute, who again dismissed the case, on the ground that notice of the accident had not been given till March, 1902. The Sheriff-Substitute was then asked to state a case in order that the workman might raise the question whether the want of notice was not due to mistake or other reasonable cause.

RIGHT AGAINST EMPLOYER AND OTHER PERSON; EXERCISE OF OPTION.

The Act provides that where the injury for which compensation is payable under the Act was caused under circumstances creating a legal liability in some person other than the employer to pay damages in respect thereof, the workman may, at his option, proceed, either at law against that person to recover damages, or against his employer for compensation under the Act, but not against both, and if compensation be paid under the Act the employer shall be entitled to be indemnified by the said other person.

A man in the employ of a ship-repairing company was working in the way of his trade, on November 26th, 1901, on board a steam ship belonging to the defendant company, when he was seriously injured by the negligence of a servant of the latter company. His wages were at the rate of £2 1s. a week. On December 2nd, 1901, he wrote to his employers from a hospital informing them of his injuries. On January 8th, 1902, an agent of the insurance company, with whom the employers were insured against liability under the Act, called upon the man at the hospital. The agent called again on January 15th and paid the injured man £4 13s. 4d., calculated at the rate of £1 a week to January 11th. At the agent's request the man signed a receipt for this sum, which stated that the money was received by him "on account of compensation which may be or become due to me under the Act."



Daylesford the demand for labour, except for female servants, is very slight.

**South Australia.**—A report from Adelaide states that there are "great numbers of unemployed among artisans and labouring classes generally." Only workmen of exceptional ability, who have a little money to live on at first, can hope to succeed; unskilled labourers are not wanted. The only demand is for female servants and, when the harvest is good, for farm labourers.

**Queensland.**—Recent reports state that there is no demand for labour in Brisbane, but that in agricultural districts the demand is improving.

**Western Australia.**—The building trades at Perth have been active, and workmen have been well employed. At the Coolgardie and neighbouring mines considerable numbers of workmen and labourers are out of employment, and emigrants should avoid those districts.

**Tasmania.**—A report from Ulverstone states that there is a good demand for skilled ploughmen and farm labourers, for station hands and female farm servants, but not for mechanics. At New Norfolk there is a demand in summer from January to April for fruit and hop-pickers.

#### New Zealand.

The last reports from New Zealand show that employment was generally good in almost all branches of labour, but that, as harvesting was practically over and winter was coming on, work was beginning to become slacker. Amongst those who were doing well in many places were saddle and harness makers, saw millers, flax millers, plumbers and tinsmiths, and at Christchurch carpenters and plasterers. A report from Taranaki states that there is a good demand for milkers at 15s. to 25s. a week and found, and for bricklayers and carpenters at 10s. to 12s. a day—and a very good demand for female servants at 8s. to 15s. a week with board and lodging.

#### South Africa.

**Cape Colony.**—There is a demand for a limited number of skilled carpenters, painters, bricklayers, and masons, and a few electrical fitters, coachsmiths and plumbers, principally at Cape Town. Printers have been well employed in most places; the minimum wage at Cape Town has been fixed at 66s. a week. Employers domiciled in Cape Colony can obtain cheap passages at £3 a head for male or female servants engaged by them in England.

**Natal.**—Government has fixed the lowest wages to be paid to Railway and Harbour able-bodied workmen at 8s. a day. The building trade continues good, and there is a demand for skilled carpenters and joiners, charge men, bricklayers and plasterers. The following are wanted for the Government Railways:—(1) a few good platelayers, between 25 and forty years, with at least five years' experience, wages, £12 per month, rising to £14 and £16; three years' engagement; third class passage provided free from London, and half-pay during voyage. (2) a few good boiler makers and one angleiron smith, must have had five years' experience in locomotive workshops after completing their apprenticeship; wages, 13s. a day, rising to 14s.; first engagement three years; free passage, and half-pay during voyage. All candidates must apply to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoria-street, London, S.W., stating experience, age, height, whether married or single, and enclosing testimonials or name of superintendent to whom the Agent-General should write, and medical certificate.

**Transvaal.**—No one can enter the Transvaal without a permit. There is a fair demand for men in the building trades, but there is no room whatever for any but first-class hands. Wages are high, but the cost of living is from two to three times as much as it is in England. Female servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages; they must apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

**Orange River Colony.**—No one can enter the Colony without a permit. There is a fair demand for skilled artisans, but the cost of living is very high. Residents can obtain reduced passages for persons from England by

application in the Colony, the lowest fare to Bloemfontein is £9 19s. 3d.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

### FRANCE.\*

**Employment in June.**—Although the state of the labour market, on the whole, was better than a year ago, it was not quite so favourable as in May. The hay harvest and viticultural labour took up the greater part of the month, but both were impeded in certain districts by wet weather. In the textile trades employment was satisfactory as regards cloth weaving in the west, south-west and Ardennes, and normal in the cotton manufacturing centres of the east; in Normandy and the Roanne district, on the other hand, many cotton mills worked short time to the extent of one or two days per week, owing to the high price of cotton; no change was reported in the Nord centres. The garment-making trades were passing through their slack season, but at Paris they were exceptionally busy; hatmaking, bootmaking, glove-making and the furnishing trades were also undergoing their seasonal slackness. The building trades were fully employed. Employment continued to improve in the metal trades, save in the case of the tin-box makers of Finisterre and Morbihan, who were still adversely affected by the failure of the sardine fisheries. Most of the glass works closed down until the end of the summer, as has been customary for some years. The pottery trades were constantly well employed, as were also wooden-shoe making and coachbuilding.

Of 169,512 members of 1,109 Trade Unions (exclusive of those of the miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments) which made returns as to the state of employment in June, 1903, 14,999, or 8 per cent., were stated to be out of work, as compared with 7 per cent. in the preceding month and 9 per cent. in June, 1902.

**Coal Mining in June.**—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in June last was 5.48, as compared with 5.84 in the preceding month, and 5.80 in June 1902. Taking all workpeople together (surface and underground) 1.26 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 37.37 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, as compared with 73 and 26 per cent. respectively in May. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 140,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

**Labour Disputes in June.**—Forty-five fresh disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in June, the number of workpeople taking part being 3,763. In the preceding month 46 disputes took place, 5,152 workpeople taking part, while in June, 1902, there were 56 disputes, 55 of these involving 5,905 workpeople. Of the 45 disputes of June last, 7 occurred in the building trades, 5 in mining, 6 in the metal trades, 10 in the textile trades, 1 in the clothing trades, 4 in transport, 3 in woodworking, 2 in the printing trade, 5 in hide and skin-working, and 2 in trades not included within the foregoing groups. Forty-one new and old disputes came to an end in June, 6 terminating in favour of the workpeople, 25 in favour of the employers, and 10 in a compromise.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in June.**—Seven cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in June, the initial steps being taken in 4 cases by the workpeople, and in 3 cases by the Justice of the Peace. Committees of Conciliation were formed in the case of 2 disputes, resulting in the settlement of 1 of them—the other being afterwards concluded by the representatives of the strikers agreeing to the terms offered by the masters at the meeting of the Conciliation Committee. As to the remaining 5 disputes, the employer granted the strikers' demands in one case, in a second the strikers abandoned their demands and resumed work, in a third the committee had been agreed to, but had not yet met, and in the two remaining cases the dispute was still going on at the time of reporting, efforts to bring about conciliation having failed.

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

### GERMANY.

**Employment in June.\***—Employment in the principal trades in June remained on the whole in about the same fairly satisfactory condition as in May. The threatened decline in employment in the textile trades became a fact in June, as a result of the high prices of raw material. In certain trades—the ready-made clothing trades, printing, bookbinding, and others—the summer slackness prevailed to a greater degree than usual. The improvement in the metal trades continued during June.

### AUSTRIA.†

**Employment in June.**—The statistics of the labour registries (public and private) which furnished returns to the Austrian Labour Department for June, show that, on the average, 178 applications were made for every 100 situations offered in that month, as compared with 171 in the previous month, and 192 in June, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 225 applications on an average for every 100 situations, as against 218 in the previous month and 260 in June, 1902; while in the case of women there were 95 applications, as compared with 91 in the previous month and 92 in June, 1902.

**Labour Disputes in June.**—Twenty-five disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in June, the number of workpeople taking part in 20 of these being 2,582. Six of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 2 in mining, 4 in the metal and engineering trades, 5 in the textile trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 2 in the wood-working, etc., trades, and 1 each among pottery workers, printers, transport workers and shop assistants.

### RUSSIA.

**Strikes at Odessa.**—A telegram from Mr. C. S. Smith, H.M. Consul-General at Odessa, dated July 30th, reported that a strike of grain porters at that port was delaying vessels in loading. A despatch from the same source, dated July 30th, and received through the Foreign Office, states that the strike movement had become general, all classes of employees being called out by the strikers except railway and domestic servants and cab-drivers, while the loading of ships came to a standstill. Reporting on August 1st, H.M. Consul-General stated that the strike, especially in the Port of Odessa, seemed to be over.

Newspaper reports add that the estimated number of workmen idle in Odessa on July 30th was 25,000. The bulk of the factories in and around that town were idle.

### PORTUGAL.

**Strike in the Cotton Trade at Oporto.**—With reference to this dispute, as to which some particulars were given in last month's GAZETTE (p. 188), a memorandum drawn up by Mr. H. Grant, Acting British Consul at Oporto, is enclosed in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated July 2nd. Mr. Grant reports that on June 13th the employers agreed to make certain concessions which the men rejected. On June 24th, negotiations were resumed, and on the 29th a final meeting was held, with the result that the mills resumed work on the following day. In the case of the handloom weavers the strike was not quite at an end on that date, because the allowance made to them by many of the employers had not been agreed to by all.

The conditions as finally agreed upon were as follows:—(1) Ten per cent. on wages paid up to present, as a provisional measure; unified tariff to be drawn up on basis of highest wages at present paid, with the addition of 10 per cent., the committee to agree as to any price which may prove excessive in regard to coloured goods, the unification of the tariff for piece-work to be made before July 15th; (2) No dismissals on account of strike; (3) Fines to revert in favour of operatives sick or injured and not to be enforced until inquired into and confirmed by masters personally; (4) Ten minutes' law in entering

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

† Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.

the factories, and an extra five minutes for women with children at breast; (5) Hours, Monday to Friday, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., one hour for dinner; Saturdays, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., with half an hour for breakfast, after stopping the mills at 2, the time indispensable for cleaning up; (6) Preference in admittance of operatives to be given to those who have left owing to sickness; (7) Appointment of a permanent mixed committee to discuss questions arising between masters and men, the committee to have, *inter alia*, the following purposes in view:—

(a) To discuss the matter of professional certificates (admission of Union men and women only), and make representations for the creation of apprenticeship schools, (b) To make representations to Government as to regulations of working hours, as a general measure for the whole country,

(c) To come to an agreement as to the benefit to be granted to the operatives as soon as the Customs Tariff alterations which have been claimed have been decreed.

Handloom weavers to have an increase of 5 reis per metre (about ¼d. per yard) of goods, until a uniform tariff is made.

### SPAIN.

**Strike of Coal Porters at Barcelona.**—H.M. Acting Consul-General at Barcelona, in a telegram to the Board of Trade, dated July 22nd reports, that the strike of quay labourers at that port (see July GAZETTE, p. 188) has terminated, and that work has been resumed.

According to later newspaper reports the masons and newspaper compositors were still on strike on August 3rd.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

### NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

**Dispute in the Building Trades.**—In continuation of the despatches referred to in the account of this dispute given in the LABOUR GAZETTE, July, 1903, p. 189, Sir P. Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, in a further despatch to the Foreign Office, dated July 7th, reports that a conference between the representatives of the Building Trades Employers' Associations and those of the various labour Unions employed in building operations in New York was held on July 3rd, and an agreement was arrived at. The plan agreed to by the representatives of the Unions (which has yet to be ratified by the Unions themselves) provides for a trade arbitration board, a general arbitration board for the settlement of differences between employers and employees, eliminates the walking delegate, and places unskilled labour in a subordinate position to skilled labour.

The conference was arranged by the Conciliation Committee of the New York Civic Federation, and the Board of Building Trades (formerly the governing body of the Unions) was not consulted in the matter. This latter body has repudiated the agreement.

One point which appears to be of importance in the terms of the agreement is that the employers bind themselves to employ nothing but Union labour unless under exceptional circumstances, thus admitting a principle which has been resisted hitherto, and as a consequence the Labour Party claim to have gained a substantial victory.

### PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

**Strike of Marine Engineers at Philadelphia.**—With reference to this dispute of engineers of the ferry and tug-boats (see GAZETTE, July, 1903, p. 189), a despatch has been received through the Foreign Office from Mr. C. Clipperton, Acting-Consul at Philadelphia, dated July 30th, in which it is stated that the strike, which began on June 2nd, had terminated in the early part of July. The engineers of the ferry and river excursions did not stop work, having come to an arrangement with their employers before the day set out for the strike. The engineers of the tug boats returned to work, having failed to obtain recognition from their employers of any of the demands which they had made, except in a very few instances, where an increase of from 5 dollars to 10 dollars (£1 os. 10d. to £2 1s. 8d.) in monthly wages was granted.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—BUILDING TRADES.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES. BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 81 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ nearly 91,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 194,000, employment in the building trades generally continues moderate, and shows no marked change as compared with either a month or a year ago.

The returns from Employers' Associations show employment to have been good with 16 per cent. of the workpeople reported on, fair or moderate with 20 per cent., and dull or bad with 64 per cent.

Employment with bricklayers is reported as fair and better than a month ago. It is about the same as a year ago. With masons it is fair and about the same as a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. Employment with carpenters and joiners is fair and about the same as a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of July was 3.3, compared with 3.4 in June, and 2.9 a year ago. With painters employment is moderate, and not so good as a month or a year ago. Employment with plasterers is dull. With plumbers it is reported as fair and better than a month ago, but about the same as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union plumbers was 6.7 at the end of July, compared with 7.6 at the end of June, and 6.5 a year ago. The slaters and tilers report employment as dull in England and good in Scotland.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Table showing employment in Building Trades. Columns include Districts, No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1903, and Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended (July, 1903; June, 1903; July, 1902; and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for July, 1903, as compared with a Month ago; and Year ago.)

London.—Employment remains quiet, but shows a slight improvement as compared with a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 68 employers show that in the last week of July they paid wages to 16,136 men, as compared with 15,965 in June, and 14,926 in July, 1902.

Masons, bricklayers and painters report employment as moderate; with carpenters and joiners it is very dull; with plasterers bad, but improving.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

Northern Counties.—Employment in the Tyne and Wear district is unsettled with carpenters and joiners, dull with slaters and tilers, and bad with painters, plasterers and plumbers. With bricklayers an improvement is shown, and stonemasons are fully employed. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment is fair or moderate in most branches, and about the same as a month ago.

Lancashire.—At Liverpool employment is generally dull, but a slight improvement is shown with carpenters and joiners; at Manchester it is fair with carpenters and joiners and painters, slack with masons and bricklayers, and bad with plumbers. In the Blackburn, Burnley and Bolton district employment is not so good as usual at this season of the year. Employment is moderate at Oldham.

Yorkshire.—Employment is quiet and not so good as a month ago. At Hull it is good with masons and painters, but with other branches a general slackness is shown. At Sheffield masons and plasterers are fairly busy; other branches slack. At Leeds the improvement with carpenters and joiners is maintained; with masons and bricklayers employment is moderate, with painters and plumbers it is slack. In the Bradford and Huddersfield district employment is quiet.

East Midland Counties.—Employment has continued quiet in this group of counties. At Derby it is moderate with painters, dull with other branches. Employment has improved with bricklayers and plasterers at Nottingham; with painters and plumbers it is bad. At Leicester employment with bricklayers has declined; it is moderate with plumbers, dull with painters and bad with masons and carpenters and joiners.

West Midland Counties.—Employment remains dull and about the same as in June, but is better than a year ago. It is moderate with all branches at Wolverhampton and Walsall, but brisk at Tamworth and Stourbridge. At Birmingham employment with carpenters and joiners is quiet but better than a month ago; with bricklayers it is bad, with plasterers moderate, and with plumbers quiet. In North Staffordshire employment is reported as quiet.

Eastern Counties.—Employment is dull and worse than a month and a year ago. Employment is slack at Norwich, except in the case of masons and plasterers, with whom it is fair. It is fairly good at Colchester. At Ipswich employment is fair with bricklayers, dull with carpenters and joiners, slack with painters, and bad with plasterers.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment is about the same as in June. It is stated to be dull at Chatham and fair at Portsmouth. At Bristol employment is fair with bricklayers, masons and painters, improving with carpenters and joiners, and slack with plasterers. At Plymouth it is fairly good with masons and painters, moderate with bricklayers and carpenters and joiners, slack with plasterers, and bad with plumbers.

Wales.—In South Wales employment with masons is generally good. With carpenters and joiners it is bad in the seaports, but fairly good inland. In North Wales employment is moderate with bricklayers and slack generally with painters, plasterers and carpenters and joiners.

Scotland.—Employment is generally fairly good and shows little change compared with a month ago. In Glasgow employment is generally fair with the exception of plasterers, with whom it is bad. At Edinburgh it is good with masons, bricklayers and painters; fair with joiners, and quiet with plasterers and plumbers. At Dundee employment is bad with masons and plumbers, with other branches moderate.

Ireland.—Employment continues fair in Dublin, although with painters a decline is shown. At Belfast it is good with painters, moderate with bricklayers and carpenters and joiners, and dull with plasterers and plumbers. At Cork employment with carpenters is fair, with masons dull, and with plumbers moderate.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—COAL MINING; OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

COAL MINING.

[NOTE.—The following Tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

RETURNS received relating to 1,265 pits employing 480,466 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries included in the returns during the four weeks ended 25th July was 4.84, compared with 4.64 in June, and 4.82 in July, 1902. In comparing these figures, however, it should be borne in mind that the average for June was lowered by the Whitsuntide holidays, and that for July 1902 by disputes.

Taking all the facts into consideration employment in the coal mining industry during July showed a slight decline as compared with both a month and a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for both periods was 2.0 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The following Table gives for the different mining districts a comparison of the average number of days worked by collieries in July, 1903 and 1902, and in June, 1903.

Table showing employment in Coal Mining. Columns include District, No. employed in July, 1903, at the Collieries included in the Table, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended (25th July, 1903; 27th July, 1903; 26th July, 1902; and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1903, as compared with a Month ago; and A Year ago.)

The above Table shows that in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, South Wales and Monmouth, and the Lothians over 5 days per week were worked by the collieries in July, the highest average being in South Wales and Monmouth (5.70 days). The lowest average (3.92 days) occurs in the Nottingham and Leicester district. The remaining districts show that between 4 and 5 days per week were worked. The averages for Scotland are lowered by holidays.

Of the total number of workpeople included in the returns 57.5 per cent. were employed in collieries working not less than 20 days during the four weeks ended 25th July, compared with 58.4 per cent. in July 1902.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland steam coal and house coal pits averaged rather more than 5 days per week, some time being lost on account of the annual fête. In Cumberland employment was slack. Employment in Durham was fair; manufacturing, house, gas, and coking coal pits averaging 5.3, 5.0, 5.3, and 5.4 days per week respectively. Employment in the Leeds district was slack; at South Kirkby (Yorks) it was good. In the Sheffield district the weekly average was 4.4 days. At Wigan employment was fair. At Burnley the weekly average was 5 days; at Accrington and Bolton employment was fair; and at Oldham slack. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire employment was moderate. In

\* The Whitsuntide holidays are included in this period.

Derbyshire about 4 days per week were worked. In North Staffordshire short time was general. At the Cannock Chase and the Old Hill, Tipton and Dudley collieries much short time was worked; in Shropshire employment was fair. In the Forest of Dean employment continued bad, and from the Radstock and Bristol coalfields slackness of employment is reported. In North Wales employment was irregular, short time being worked in the majority of the pits.

In Stirlingshire employment was irregular, but in Lanarkshire it was fairly steady. In the West Lothian there was no change as compared with June. In Mid and East Lothian time has been lost on account of holidays.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during July amounted to 4,341,998 tons, as compared with 3,829,293 tons in June, and 4,132,743 tons in July, 1902.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing about 18,450 workpeople, from 5 Employers' Associations and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in iron mines has been good; in tin and copper mines, quiet; in slate, limestone, granite and other stone quarries fairly good on the whole.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, showing little change compared with a month and a year ago. During the four weeks ended July 25th the average number of days worked per week at the 131 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.69, the same average as for June, and almost the same as that for July, 1902, when the average was 5.68 days. In each of these months employment was affected by holidays.

The following Table summarises the returns received:

Table summarizing returns received in Mining. Columns include District, No. employed in July, 1903, at the Mines included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended (25th July, 1903; 27th July, 1903; 26th July, 1902; and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1903, as compared with a Month ago; and A Year ago.)

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,749, or 3.6 more than a year ago. During the four weeks ended July 25th, 85.0 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at mines working 22 or more days as compared with 84.9 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners in the Lothians has been fairly good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that 2,702 workpeople were employed in July, compared with 2,700 in June and 2,664 in July, 1902. The average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended 25th July was 5.53 per week, compared with 5.81 in the four weeks ended 27th June, and with 5.56 in July, 1902.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—In Durham employment with lead ore miners has been fair. In Cornwall employment in tin and copper mines continues dull in



EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—ENGINEERING.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage unemployed for July, 1903, as compared with a	
		July, 1903.	June, 1903.	July, 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ... ..	13,653	6.2	7.4	5.4	− 1.2	+ 0.8
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,218	3.0	3.2	5.3	− 0.2	− 2.3
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District	10,980	4.6	4.9	4.9	− 0.3	− 0.3
West Riding Towns ... ..	11,834	4.6	5.2	4.8	− 0.6	− 0.2
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,234	3.5	2.5	3.9	+ 1.0	− 0.4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District	5,933	2.1	2.1	2.3	...	− 0.2
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,009	3.4	3.4	3.5	...	− 0.1
London and Neighbouring District	12,482	3.2	3.0	4.2	+ 0.2	− 1.0
South Coast ... ..	3,752	1.6	1.6	0.9	...	+ 0.7
South Wales and Bristol District	5,675	3.7	2.4	3.3	+ 1.3	+ 0.4
Glasgow and District ... ..	13,918	5.1	4.8	7.0	+ 0.3	− 1.9
East of Scotland ... ..	3,553	6.7	6.0	8.6	+ 0.7	− 1.9
Belfast and Dublin ... ..	3,299	4.7	5.4	3.4	+ 0.7	+ 1.3
Other Districts ... ..	4,962	3.4	3.2	2.4	+ 0.2	+ 1.0
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	<b>140,182</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>− 0.1</b>	<b>− 0.5</b>

As compared with a month ago the principal changes indicated are an improvement on the North-East Coast and a decline in the Hull and Lincolnshire and South Wales and Bristol districts. As compared with a year ago most districts show an improvement, the chief exceptions being the North-East Coast, the South Coast, and Belfast and Dublin district.

**North-East Coast.**—Employment generally is moderate, and is worse than a year ago. Patternmakers on both the Tyne and Wear are busy. With ironfounders employment is good in the Newcastle and Wallsend districts and on the Tees, fair at Blaydon, moderate in the Shields and Hartlepool districts. Engineers report employment as bad at Durham and Hartlepool, moderate in most of the other districts. Employment in boiler shops has been steadier on the Tyne and Wear, good at Darlington, moderate on the Tees. In the Tees district employment continues good with bridge builders.

**Manchester and Liverpool District.**—Employment on the whole shows little change as compared with June. It is better than a year ago. At Liverpool ironfounders report employment as good, but other classes as dull or moderate, especially on repair work. At Manchester employment is reported as good with ironfounders and machine workers, fair with boilermakers; electrical engineers also are busy. Engineers at Stockport, Macclesfield and Northwich report employment as slack. At Crewe all branches are well employed.

**Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.**—Employment generally continues quiet. At Oldham employment is reported as bad with engineers, moderate with patternmakers, ironfounders and boilermakers. At Blackburn ironfounders report employment as good, engineers as improving. In the Bury district employment is stated to be fairly good on the whole.

**West Riding.**—Employment has improved somewhat as compared with June. It is also slightly better than a year ago. At Leeds employment is reported as moderate in most branches; at Stanningley as slack with engineers and boilermakers; at Wakefield as fair with engineers. At Bradford ironfounders and patternmakers report it as good, engineers as moderate, boilermakers as bad. Employment with engineers is stated to be quiet at Sheffield, but with patternmakers and some sections of ironfounders as good.

**Hull and Lincolnshire District.**—Employment though better than a year ago is not quite up to the level of the

previous month. At Hull engineers report it as good, patternmakers, machine workers and blacksmiths as fair, ironfounders as moderate. At Doncaster employment is reported as moderate with boilermakers, bad with engineers. At Grantham it continues good generally.

**East Midlands.**—Employment on the whole is moderate, and shows little change as compared with the previous month or a year ago. At Nottingham ironfounders, fitters and mechanics on general work report employment as bad, lace and hosiery machine builders and motor cycle builders as fair, bobbin and carriage makers and carriage straighteners as good. At Derby employment is reported as bad with ironfounders, moderate with engineers, good with boilermakers and brassfounders. Railway carriage and wagon builders at Derby and Long Eaton are well employed. Employment is quiet at Leicester, Northampton and Rugby.

**West Midlands.**—Employment continues fairly good, and is slightly better than a year ago. Toolmakers at Birmingham and Coventry report employment as fair. In the cycle trade at Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton and Redditch it is reported as quiet, except in the motor section, where it is good. Employment at Birmingham is fairly good in the railway and wagon shops, fair with sporting gun makers, quiet with military gun makers. At Wolverhampton employment is good with ironfounders, moderate with boilermakers.

**London and Neighbouring District.**—On the whole, employment is fair, and though not quite so good as in the previous month, it is better than a year ago. Electrical workers report employment as fair, brassfounders as moderate, brassfinishers as dull, hammermen as bad. At Dartford and Erith employment with ironfounders is reported as good.

**South Coast.**—Employment generally is about the same as in the previous month, but not up to the level of a year ago. At Southampton it is fair generally for both engineering and boiler work. Ironfounders report employment as good at most places, but bad at Southampton. With engineers it is good at Cowes, moderate at Weymouth.

**South Wales and Bristol District.**—As compared with June, employment has declined, and it is also slightly worse than a year ago. Engineers report employment as bad at Cardiff, Newport, Gloucester and Neath, moderate in most other centres. At Swindon they are well employed. With ironfounders employment is good at Gloucester, moderate at Cardiff and Bristol.

**Glasgow and District.**—Employment continues fair and is better than a year ago. It has declined slightly as compared with June. Patternmakers report it as good at Glasgow and Partick, fair at Greenock, quiet at Motherwell and Paisley. With brassfinishers it is good; with iron, steel and brass dressers moderate.

**East of Scotland.**—Employment has declined as compared with the previous month, but is better than a year ago. Engineers report it as good at Edinburgh, moderate at Leith; brassfounders, patternmakers and blacksmiths as fair. At Falkirk, ironfounders and patternmakers report it as fair. At Dundee employment generally is dull, but patternmakers report it as fair. Engineers report it as fair at Aberdeen, ironfounders as bad.

**Belfast and Dublin.**—There has been a slight improvement in employment as compared with June, but it is still worse than a year ago. It has been affected at Belfast by disputes with the boilermakers and the patternmakers. At Dublin employment continues dull.

**Other Districts.**—At Barrow employment is worse than a month or a year ago. At Norwich it is reported as slack with engineers, good with boilermakers. At Ipswich it is good with ironfounders and boilermakers, moderate with engineers. Engineers report it as bad at Colchester. Employment is fair generally at Cork.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &C., TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

HARDWARE, CUTLERY, AND MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 2 Employers' Associations and 17 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

**Brasswork.**—Brassworkers report employment as not quite so good as a month ago, but generally as fair for the time of year, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being still small. In Birmingham, London, Leeds and Exeter employment is reported as quiet; in Sheffield and Nottingham as moderate; in Manchester, Hull and Doncaster as fair. It is also fair in Birmingham in the bedstead and fire brass branches.

**Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.**—In the Birmingham district employment is reported as still moderate with nut and bolt makers; in the Wolverhampton district it has improved. In Birmingham workers on machine-made rivets and on cut and wire nails report employment as rather quiet. Makers of spikes, rivets and wrought nails are slack.

**Tubes.**—In Birmingham makers of brass and copper tubes report employment as fairly good, makers of cased tubes as good, other branches as moderate. In the Wolverhampton district employment with tube makers is quiet.

**Chains, Anvils, Vices, Anchors, etc.**—The cable, dollyed and side-welded chain makers at Cradley Heath report employment as moderate; on the Tyne chain makers report it as good; and at Winlaton (Durham) as fair, but rather worse than a month ago. Makers of anvils and vices in the Dudley district report employment as fair and better than a month and a year ago. At Wednesbury makers of railway springs and axles report employment as good.

**Locks, Keys and General Hardware.**—At Willenhall and Wolverhampton makers of locks, keys and latches report employment as fair; with makers of other builders' ironmongery employment is good. Hollow-ware makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich report employment as quiet; in the Wolverhampton district cast and light hollow-ware makers report it as good. In the Wolverhampton district it is good with stampers and piercers and makers of hoes; moderate with makers of iron fences and hurdles.

**Files, Edge Tools, etc.**—Employment in the file trade is reported as moderate at Birmingham, quiet at Wolverhampton. In Sheffield it is moderate with file forgers (hand), and file cutters (hand and machine), fair with file hardeners, and slack with file forgers (machine). With file smiths at Warrington it is good. With edge tool makers employment is reported as moderate at Birmingham; good at Wolverhampton; slack at Sheffield with edge tool and saw grinders.

**Stoves, Grates, etc.**—In this branch employment is quiet at Sheffield, Leeds and Langley Mill; good at Derby; bad at Nottingham and Mansfield.

**Sheet Metal.**—In London employment is reported as still fairly good with tinsplate workers. With tin and iron plate and sheet metal workers, gas meter makers, tin canister makers and tinnen it is bad, short time being worked; with zinc workers it has improved, and is fair. Iron-plate workers are slack at Wolverhampton, Bilston, the Lye and Birmingham. Tinsplate workers at Oldham are slack; at Nottingham, Norwich, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dublin they are fairly well employed; at Birmingham moderately so. Sheet metal workers at Manchester, Hull, Leeds and on the Tyne are fairly busy.

**Cutlery, etc.**—At Sheffield table blade forgers and strikers, table knife hafters, pen and pocket blade grinders, haft and scale pressers, and the various branches of the razor trade are slack; pen and pocket blade forgers are fairly employed.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—In London employment is quiet with small silver workers, silver-plate polishers, and electro-plate workers; good with silver spoon and fork finishers and makers; fair with silversmiths

and diamond workers; with goldsmiths and jewellers employment is bad, and short time fairly general. In Birmingham employment with silversmiths, jewellers (gold) and electro-platers is quiet; with jewellers (silver) it is improving slightly; with Britannia metal workers it is fair. At Coventry employment with watchmakers is fair. In Sheffield employment with silver-platers and gilders is reported as good, silver and electro-plate finishers and Britannia metal smiths quiet, silversmiths as bad.

**Wirework.**—In this branch employment is reported as good at Birmingham, slack at Sheffield and Manchester, fair with wire workers, dull with wire weavers, at Glasgow. In London employment is bad both with wire workers and wire weavers, short time being made.

**Farriers.**—Employment generally is rather quiet. In Nottingham, on the Tyne, and in Aberdeen and Dublin it is good; in London, Derby, Leicester, Ipswich and Glasgow fair; at Sheffield and Edinburgh it is quiet.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 221,800. Reports have also been furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to 551 spinning and weaving factories, employing about 99,800 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that much short time is being worked owing to the high price of raw cotton. Employment was worse in July than in June, and much worse than a year ago.

Employment in the *Spinning* branch during July continued bad, much short time being worked. Of the 27,200 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 48 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 47 per cent. in June and 89 per cent. in July, 1902.

In the *Weaving* branch employment has been bad and worse than in June; much short time was worked during the month, and many looms have been standing. Of the 72,600 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 32 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 38 per cent. in June and 81 per cent. in July, 1902.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls, and 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 throughout the Month.*		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
July, 1903 ... ..	48	7	34	11
June, 1903 ... ..	47	10	33	10
July, 1902 ... ..	89	3	5	3
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
July, 1903 ... ..	32	28	31	9
June, 1903 ... ..	38	22	29	11
July, 1902 ... ..	81	15	2	2

COTTON SPINNING.

**Ashton District.**—Employment in Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden is reported as still bad, much short time being worked.

**Stockport and Manchester District.**—In the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Compstall districts most mills are

\* Excluding annual holidays.



## EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—TEXTILE TRADES.

running short time, and trade is reported as bad. In the Manchester district fine spinners are working full time, but employment on coarse counts is irregular.

*Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.*—Employment is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; short time has been general.

*Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).*—Employment is reported as bad, and as worse than in June and much worse than a year ago; short time has been general, most mills running 4 days a week. Several mills are closed for an indefinite period.

*Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).*—Employment is only moderate; the number working short time has increased. Employment with cardroom workers is irregular.

*Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.*—Employment in Bury is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; some mills have been closed during the month, and nearly all have been running short time. In Rochdale and Milnrow a good deal of short time has been worked and employment is reported as slack. In Heywood it is reported as bad, and as worse than in June and much worse than a year ago; short time has been worked.

*Preston and District.*—Employment in Preston is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; the majority of the mills have been running short time. In Blackburn and Burnley short time has been worked, and employment is worse than a month and a year ago.

## COTTON WEAVING.

*Preston District.*—Employment is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; the majority of the factories are working short time or giving only partial employment.

*Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington District.*—In Blackburn irregular time has been worked and many looms are standing; employment is reported as worse than a month and a year ago. In Darwen and Accrington employment continues bad and is worse than a year ago; many looms are standing.

*Burnley, Nelson and Colne District.*—In Burnley and Padiham irregular time has been worked. In Colne employment is reported as only moderate, and rather worse than a year ago. In Nelson it continues irregular.

*Other Districts.*—In Bury much short time has been worked, and employment is reported as worse than a month and a year ago; many looms are standing. In Rochdale irregular time has been worked. In Bolton, Radcliffe and Chorley short time has been worked, and employment is worse than a month and a year ago.

## WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions and Local Correspondents, and also from women correspondents with regard to 188 factories in Yorkshire employing about 30,700 women and girls.

Employment in the woollen trade is moderate generally. In the worsted trade it is quiet and shows a decline as compared with a month and a year ago. Of the women and girls usually employed in the Yorkshire woollen and worsted factories reported on, 61 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, and 36 per cent. in factories running full time but only giving partial employment, to be compared with 80 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively of those reported on in June, and 88 per cent. and 11 per cent. in July, 1902.

*Bradford District.*—Employment in the worsted trade is reported as rather worse than in June, the factories generally running full time but in many cases with only partial employment. With woolcombers employment is reported as fair with women and bad with men, a good deal of short time being worked. With woollers it is

slack. At Keighley employment is reported as rather worse than in June; at Halifax as quiet.

*Huddersfield District.*—Employment in the worsted trade is reported as quiet, a large number of looms standing for warps. In the woollen trade in the Huddersfield district it shows a slight decline as compared with June, and is much worse than a year ago. In the Colne Valley employment shows a decline, though a few firms continue to work overtime. In the heavy woollen trade in Dewsbury and Batley employment continues fair; the factories have been running full time, but in some cases have given only partial employment.

*Other Districts.*—Employment at Leeds is reported as only moderate; at Guiseley as fair; at Wakefield as moderate. With woollen workers at Rochdale and Milnrow it is slack. Employment at Trowbridge is reported as fair. In Montgomeryshire it is fairly good. In Selkirk and Hawick employment continues good in all branches of the woollen industry; in Galashiels spinners and weavers are not so well employed as in June.

## OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

## Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from one Employers' Association, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute trade shows a slight decline but is still moderate. Employment in the flax trade in Ireland continues fair.

In Dundee employment shows a slight decline. In the spinning branch it is good; in the weaving branch employment has been good in most factories, but in a few large firms there has been some slackness. Information has been received with regard to 50 jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 21,400 women and girls. From this it appears that of the 19,300 persons employed in spinning mills 82 per cent. were employed in mills running full time and giving full employment throughout the month, and 18 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment until the general closing of the mills and factories for the annual holiday, compared with 85 per cent. and 15 per cent. respectively of those for whom returns were received for June. Of the 11,100 employed in weaving factories, 59 per cent. were employed in factories running full time and giving full employment, and 35 per cent. in factories running full time but giving only partial employment, compared with 65 per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively of those for whom returns were received for June. The weavers in Forfar report employment as still slack, and worse than a year ago. At Alyth employment is moderate.

In Belfast and neighbourhood employment in the flax spinning mills is reported as fair. The women workers' Trade Union, the power loom tenters, the power loom yarn dressers and the linen lappers report employment as good; the hackle and gill makers as improved; the beetlers as quiet; the flax dressers and the flax roughers as dull.

Employment in the linen trade at Barnsley is reported as slack; in Leeds short time is reported.

## Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent of the Department, from one Trade Union and from Local Correspondents employment in the hosiery trade is worse than in June.

*Leicester District.*—Returns received from hosiery manufacturers employing 7,814 workpeople in their factories at the end of July show a decrease of 1.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of June, but an increase of 0.8 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, 1902. Employment at Leicester is reported as moderate on plain hosiery, slack in the hose and half-hose branches. At Loughborough it is reported as slack in the fashioned hose departments. Employment generally is worse than a month or a year ago.

*Nottingham and Derby District.*—Employment on the

## EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—TEXTILE TRADES; TAILORING TRADE; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

whole shows a further decline, and is much worse than a year ago. In Nottingham employment is reported as dull with knitters, much short time being worked. In the hand frame branches in the country districts it is slack with few exceptions. With hosiery workers at Belper and Ilkeston employment is slack.

*Scotland.*—Employment with hosiery workers at Selkirk and Hawick continues good.

## Lace Trade.

According to information from the Employers' Association and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham lace trade is worse than a year ago. In the levers section it continues bad, and is worse than a year ago; in the plain net section it remains fair, but is not so busy as a year ago; in the curtain section it continues fair, and is about the same as a month and a year ago. In the finishing and making up departments employment has declined and is very irregular. Employment is reported as bad at Long Eaton and Ilkeston, moderate at Bulwell, Kimberley and Stapleford, and quiet at Beeston.

## Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions and Local Correspondents. Employment with dyers and finishers in the West Riding is reported as bad; one Trade Union reports that four-fifths of its members worked short time during July. Employment with blue and black dyers in Leeds is reported as moderate. At Bury and Colne, employment is reported as slack; at Middleton, Barnsley and Burnley as good; at Bolton as bad.

Employment with dyers, trimmers and finishers at Leicester is reported as moderate; at Loughborough and Hinckley as slack. The dyers at Nottingham and Basford report employment as moderate; bleachers at Basford and Bulwell as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. Employment with calico printers in Manchester is fair; with bleachers, dyers and finishers it is slack; with silk dyers in Macclesfield it is bad. In the Dundee district employment is reported as fair in the finishing branch, good in the dyeing branch, but worse generally than a year ago; as bad with bleach- field workers; calender workers and calico printers in Glasgow have worked overtime.

## TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents and Trade Unions.

*Bespoke Branch.*—Employment in London in the West End is reported as bad; in the East End the clothiers' cutters report it as bad. In the provinces employment generally is slack.

*Ready-made Branch.*—Employment generally has been moderate. Employment in London, although reported as fair by some employers, on the whole showed a decline with factory workers; with outworkers it is reported as having improved towards the end of the month. The clothiers' cutters report employment as bad during July.

In Leeds, according to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 9,000 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during July was good or fair in firms employing 56 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, poor or bad in firms employing 21 per cent., and moderate in firms employing 23 per cent. As compared with June, firms employing 48 per cent. report employment as improved, and firms employing 43 per cent. as worse. As compared with a year ago firms employing 23 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 16 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 61 per cent. as worse. The clothiers' operatives' Trade Union reports employment as bad.

In Manchester, employers making returns report employment as fair, but worse than a month ago. The Jewish tailors report employment as slack. In Bristol employment is good, and better than a year ago.

In the ready-made tailoring factories in Norwich full time is being worked generally; outworkers are not fully employed. Employment in Ipswich is reported as fair, in Colchester as slack.

In Glasgow employers return a decline in the number employed, and the clothiers' operatives' and tailors and machinists' Trade Unions report short time.

## BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 535 firms employing 63,496 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment generally is quiet, and slightly worse than in June, but better than a year ago. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of July was 63,496, compared with 64,237 at the end of June, and 61,400 a year ago, a decrease of 1.2 per cent. during the month, and an increase of 3.4 per cent. during the year. Of the total number of operatives, 62 per cent. were employed by firms working at least full time throughout July, to be compared with 64 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for June.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various districts at the end of July with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:—

District.	No. of firms making returns	No. employed by these firms at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on	
		July, 1903.	June, 1903.	July, 1902.	June, 1903.	July, 1902.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
London ... ..	71	4,674	4,738	4,581	- 1.4	+ 2.0
Leicester and District ... ..	89	12,659	13,048	12,367	- 3.0	+ 2.4
Northampton and District ... ..	140	16,611	16,919	15,900	- 1.8	+ 4.5
Kettering ... ..	31	3,597	3,582	3,463	+ 0.4	+ 3.9
Stafford and District ... ..	17	2,599	2,619	2,581	- 0.8	+ 0.7
Norwich and District ... ..	31	4,862	4,863	4,694	...	+ 3.6
Bristol ... ..	22	3,066	3,058	2,854	- 0.4	+ 6.4
Kingswood ... ..	20	1,686	1,644	1,506	+ 2.6	+ 12.0
Leeds and District ... ..	41	3,660	3,646	3,487	+ 0.4	+ 5.0
Manchester and District ... ..	16	2,583	2,536	2,392	+ 1.9	+ 8.0
Birmingham and District ... ..	5	632	639	606	- 1.1	+ 4.3
Other parts of England & Wales ... ..	27	2,135	2,145	2,133	...	+ 0.1
Total, England and Wales ... ..	510	58,744	59,437	56,574	- 1.2	+ 3.8
<b>SCOTLAND</b> ... ..						
IRELAND ... ..	23	4,317	4,376	4,461	- 1.3	- 3.2
...	2	435	424	395	+ 2.6	+ 19.2
Total, United Kingdom ... ..	535	63,496	64,237	61,400	- 1.2	+ 3.4

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

*London.*—Returns covering 4,674 workpeople show that 77 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 69 per cent. in June. Employment amongst the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as quiet; the clickers' Trade Union reports it as dull. With hand-sewn boot makers it continues good.

*Leicester District.*—Returns covering 10,517 workpeople in Leicester and 2,142 in country districts show that 24 per cent. of the former and 52 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 47 and 38 per cent. respectively in June. Employment with clickers and with rivetters and finishers is reported as bad; a large proportion of the operatives are working short time.

*Northampton District.*—Returns covering 8,281 workpeople in Northampton and 8,330 in country districts show that 51 per cent. of the former and 77 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 70 and 85 per cent. respectively in June. Returns covering 3,597 workpeople in Kettering show that 59 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 69 per cent. in June. Employment with rivetters and finishers engaged on men's work at Northampton, Rushden and Kettering is reported as quiet; with clickers and pressmen as bad. It has

## EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—HAT AND OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING, &amp;C., TRADES.

declined with army bootmakers. It is much slacker at Desborough and Wellingborough.

*Stafford, Stone and Nantwich.*—Returns covering 2,599 workpeople show that 27 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 62 per cent. in June. Employment at Stafford and Stone is quiet, with much short time, and is worse than a month ago.

*Eastern Counties.*—Returns covering 4,862 workpeople in Norwich, Ipswich, Colchester and Braintree show that 89 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 86 per cent. in June. Employment at Norwich is reported as fairly good with clickers and pressmen and with those engaged on men's dress shoes; as moderate in the turn shoe branch, and rather slack with the makers of machine sewn goods. It is irregular with hand finishers. At Ipswich employment is bad.

*Bristol and Kingswood.*—Returns covering 3,046 workpeople in Bristol show that 69 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 65 per cent. in June. Employment at Bristol continues bad. Of the 1,686 workpeople in Kingswood covered by the returns, 79 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 90 per cent. in June. Employment at Kingswood is slack.

*Leeds and District.*—Returns covering 3,660 workpeople show that 79 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 64 per cent. in June. Employment is reported as moderate on men's light and medium goods, bad on heavy men's and boys' work, and in the slipper trade.

*Other Districts in England.*—Employment at Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Derby is reported as bad; at Nottingham as moderate; at Mansfield as slack; at Kendal as good; at Newcastle as quiet.

*Scotland.*—Returns covering 4,317 workpeople show that 86 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 88 per cent. in June. In Edinburgh employment continues good. In Aberdeen it is reported as quiet; at Glasgow as bad. The boot and shoe operatives' Trade Union at Maybole reports it as improving.

## HAT TRADE.

REPORTS have been received from three Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment has been slack generally, and worse than a month and a year ago. Trade Unions with 5,376 members have 189 (or 3.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.9 per cent. at the end of June and 3.4 per cent. a year ago.

Employment with silk hatters in London is bad and worse than a month and a year ago; short time has been worked in most shops during July. In Denton employment is reported as slack, and as worse than a month and a year ago; some short time has been worked during July. In Bristol employment is reported as quiet; in Glasgow as slack; in Edinburgh as bad.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton is reported as bad and as slightly worse than a month and a year ago; nearly all the Trade Union members worked short time during July. In Stockport employment is reported as moderate and slightly better than in June; in Bury as fairly good, and better than in June, but rather worse than a year ago; in Bredbury as bad. In Warwickshire employment is reported as on the whole better than in June, though worse than a year ago.

## OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

*Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.*—In London returns from retail firms chiefly in the West-end district, employing 2,090 dressmakers at the end of July, show a decline of 13.6 per cent. on the number employed

at the end of June, and of 1.5 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, 1902. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades shows the usual seasonal slackness, and is bad; it is reported as slightly worse than a year ago. Employment with mantle makers in the retail firms reported on has been fair. Employment with milliners in wholesale and retail firms is reported as fairly good and better than a year ago; but compared with a month ago the number employed at the end of July shows a considerable decline.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show a decreased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month and a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers has been fairly good, and better than a month or a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade it is fair; returns from manufacturers employing 2,154 workpeople in their factories at the end of July show an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed at the end of June, and a decrease of 2.3 per cent. on the number employed a year ago.

In Glasgow employment during July with mantle makers has been quiet, the numbers employed at the end of July showing a decline compared with a month ago.

*Shirt and Collar Trade.*—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland employing 8,192 workpeople in their factories at the end of July show a decrease of 3.3 per cent. on the number employed at the end of June, and of 0.5 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, 1902. In London employment generally is reported as quiet; in Manchester as fair; on shirts and slops in Glasgow it is moderate. In Belfast and Londonderry in shirt and collar factories employment is quiet; some short time is reported.

*Corset Trade.*—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,888 workpeople in their factories at the end of July, show a decline of 3.9 per cent. on the number employed at the end of June, and of 11.2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, 1902. Employment generally continues dull; short time is reported by most firms.

## PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been supplied by 24 Employers' Associations, by 32 Employers, by Trade Unions with over 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents. The information thus obtained shows that employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* at the end of July was on the whole much the same as a month and a year ago. During the latter part of the month the usual seasonal improvement occurred among letterpress printers in the Provinces; but in London employment declined.

Employment in the *Paper Trade in England* remained fairly good during July, though not quite equal to a year ago. In *Scotland* employment remained fairly good generally, and much the same as a year ago.

The following Table shows the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed as compared with a month and a year ago:—

	United Kingdom.			London.				
	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of		No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			
		July, 1903.	June, 1903.		July, 1902.	July, 1903.	June, 1903.	July, 1902.
Letterpress Printing	40,021	4.1	4.2*	4.5	19,072	5.0	3.9	5.1
Lithographic Printing	6,393	4.2	4.3	3.8	1,958	5.6	5.5	4.5
Bookbinding ...	6,970	5.8	6.0	4.7	3,905	6.7	6.9	4.5
Total Printing and Bookbinding	53,384	4.3	4.4*	4.4	24,935	5.3	4.5	4.9
Paper Manufacture	2,340	2.6	2.8	2.2	...	...	...	...

\* Revised figures.

## EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; GLASS, POTTERY, &amp;C., TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

The percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* in the principal districts were as follow:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of July, 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage unemployed for July, 1903, as compared with a	
		July, 1903.	June, 1903.	July, 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	24,935	5.3	4.5	4.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.4
Northern Counties ...	1,543	1.9	4.9	1.3	− 3.0	+ 0.6
Lanes. and Cheshire ...	6,492	4.9	5.8	4.7	− 0.9	+ 0.2
Yorkshire ...	4,041	4.6	4.1	3.6	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
East Midlands ...	1,987	2.1	4.5	3.4	− 2.4	− 1.3
West Midlands ...	2,361	3.0	4.9	3.2	− 1.9	− 0.2
Eastern Counties ...	365	4.4	0.8	9.3	+ 3.6	− 4.9
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,362	1.7	3.0	3.3	− 1.3	− 1.6
Wales and Mon. ...	791	1.0	3.8	2.0	− 2.8	− 1.0
Scotland ...	6,100	2.1	2.7*	3.0	− 0.6	− 0.9
Ireland ...	2,607	6.5	7.9	7.4	− 1.4	− 0.9
United Kingdom ...	53,384	4.3	4.4*	4.4	− 0.1	− 0.1

Percentages unemployed for London are shown in the first Table for the Letterpress and Lithographic Printing and Bookbinding Trades respectively. Employment has declined during the month, and is now quiet.

*Northern Counties.*—Employment in this district remains fairly good.

*Lancashire and Cheshire.*—Letterpress printers are fairly well employed generally; lithographic printers and bookbinders are slack.

*Yorkshire.*—Letterpress printers report employment as bad at Leeds, with short time general; as quiet at Halifax and Huddersfield; as good elsewhere. Employment is moderate with lithographic printers. Bookbinders report employment as bad at Leeds and Hull, moderate elsewhere. Papermill workers at Leeds report employment as fair; at Barnsley as moderate.

*East Midland Counties.*—Employment is good with letterpress printers; fairly good with lithographic printers; quiet with bookbinders.

*West Midland Counties.*—Employment is good, except with letterpress printers at Walsall and Wolverhampton and with bookbinders, who report it as quiet.

*Eastern Counties.*—Employment is fair in this district.

*Southern and South-Western Counties.*—Employment with letterpress printers is reported as good at Bristol, Plymouth and St. Albans; fairly good at Portsmouth, Tonbridge and Gloucester; quiet at Oxford, Reading, Aylesbury, Watford and Brighton. Lithographic printers are fairly well employed.

*Wales and Monmouthshire.*—Employment in this district is fairly good on the whole.

*Scotland.*—In Edinburgh employment is fairly good with letterpress and lithographic printers; quiet with bookbinders. In Glasgow it is quiet with letterpress and lithographic printers; fairly good with bookbinders. At other towns in Scotland employment remains fairly good generally.

*Ireland.*—Employment is moderate on the whole at Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

## GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 11 Employers' Associations, 11 Trade Unions with 5,045 members, Local Correspondents and Employers.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continues bad in the bottle making branch, and is worse than a year ago; in other branches it is slack generally. In the *Pottery* trades it has improved. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it continues fair.

*Glass Trades.*—Employment with glass bottle makers in the North of England continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the St. Helens and Newton-le-Willows district it is reported as fair by the Employers' Association, but a large percentage of the Trade Union members are unemployed. In Yorkshire employment with glass bottle makers is reported as fair and slightly better than a year ago, but in the medical

glass bottle branch it is reported as bad. In the Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello district it is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago.

In London, glass blowers report employment as bad, and much worse than a month and a year ago. In Birmingham flint-glass makers report it as bad; flint glass cutters as improved; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as fair. Employment in the sheet glass trade at West Bromwich is reported as moderate. In all branches of the flint glass trade at Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge it is reported as quiet. At St. Helens the sheet glass flatteners and sheet glass makers' Trade Unions report employment as good. The pressed glass makers at Gateshead report it as bad, with a large number unemployed. In Edinburgh employment with glass makers is fair; with glass cutters it is good.

*Pottery Trades.*—In the Staffordshire Potteries employment is reported as fair, and better than a year ago. Some factories are working full time, but short time is still the rule. In the Glasgow and Portobello district employment continues fair.

*Brick and Tile Trades.*—In the brickyards in the Plymouth district employment is reported as moderate. In the brick and tile trade in the Leicester and Northampton district it is good generally. With brick-makers in Birmingham it is reported as moderate; in West Bromwich and Oldbury as fair. In the Nottingham district employment is reported as fair. In the Stockton and Hartlepool district employment continues fair. In North Wales it continues good. In the Glasgow district it is good, and about the same as a month and a year ago.

**FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.** INFORMATION has been received from 6 Employers' Associations, from 35 Trade Unions with 35,629 members, and from Local Correspondents. Employment, on the whole, shows a general decline in these trades, except with coopers who report a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, though they are not so well employed as a year ago.

The percentage of unemployed Trade Unionists in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of July was 4.0, compared with 3.0 in June, and 3.4 in July, 1902.

## MILLSAWYERS AND WOODWORKING MACHINISTS.

Employment with millsawyers is moderate on the whole. Three unions, with a membership of 4,397, show 167 (or 3.8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 2.7 per cent. in June, and 3.0 per cent. in July, 1902.

Employment is moderate in London; it is fair at Newcastle, Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, Hull and Bradford. At Leeds it is moderate; at Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham, quiet; at Nottingham, slack; at Norwich and Bristol, fair; at Cardiff, quiet; at Glasgow and Edinburgh, fair; at Aberdeen, good; at Dublin, improving; at Belfast, quiet.

## FURNISHING TRADES.

Employment in the furnishing trades is very quiet. As compared with a month ago it has declined in all branches; as compared with July, 1902, there is little change on the whole. Of the 15,377 members of 15 Trade Unions making returns, 647 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of July, compared with 2.4 per cent. at the end of June, and 4.2 per cent. at the end of July, 1902.

In London employment has been quiet in all branches. It is quiet at Newcastle; fair at Manchester and Liverpool; good at Leeds; quiet at Leicester and Nottingham; moderate at Birmingham; fair at Bristol. At Glasgow, Beith, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen it is fairly good; at Dublin dull; at Belfast fair.

## COOPERS.

Employment among coopers remains dull, and worse than a year ago, though again showing an improvement as compared with the previous month. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,222 report 224 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 4.8

\* Revised figures.

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—WOODWORKING TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

in June and 3.0 per cent. a year ago. Employment is reported as dull in London; fair at Manchester; quiet at Liverpool; improving at Burton-on-Trent; good at Glasgow, Greenock, and Dublin; fair at Cork and Bristol. At other centres employment is still described as dull or bad.

Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry remains moderate, showing little change on the whole as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, etc., with a membership of 7,622 report 218 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.6 per cent. at the end of June, 1903, and 2.6 in July, 1902.

In London employment has been quiet. At Manchester it is fair with coachmakers; moderate with wheelwrights and smiths. At Liverpool it is moderate with wheelwrights and smiths, bad with coachmakers. At Bolton, Sheffield and Birmingham it is moderate. Employment is good with tram and railway car body builders at Loughborough. Employment is good at Glasgow; quiet at Dublin; good at Belfast and Cork.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment generally shows a considerable decline, and is now quiet on the whole. Unions with a membership of 1,765 report 98 (or 5.6 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 3.6 per cent. in June, and 2.7 per cent. in July, 1902. Employment in London is reported as quiet; in Hull as bad; in Leeds as quiet; in Bristol as slack; in Glasgow as fair; in Edinburgh as good.

Basket Makers.—Employment is bad in London, and worse than a year ago. At Leicester it is good, with much overtime; at Warrington it is slack, with short time.

Other Trades.—Packing case makers and stick makers and mounters in London report employment as fair; the former as fairly good in Nottingham, Glasgow and Belfast, and bad in Birmingham; with lathrenders employment is described as fair in London.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades, see p. 225.)

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of July was 6.7, as compared with 6.0 at the end of June and 3.6 in July, 1902. The general condition of employment remains dull, and short time continues to be worked in some places.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, etc.—The skinner report employment as bad in London and Leeds, but improving in Birmingham. Employment with curriers and leather dressers is slack on the whole, but there is some improvement at Dundee. The fancy leather workers and leather finishers report employment as fair. The leather shavers at Leeds continue fairly well employed.

Saddlers.—Employment in London is reported as about the same as last month; as bad in Bristol; quiet at Nottingham, Sheffield, Walsall and Birmingham; moderate at Edinburgh; fair at Leeds, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dublin. The brown saddlers at Walsall and Birmingham report employment as moderate.

Harness Makers, etc.—Employment with harness makers is reported as bad in London and in Walsall (where many are still on short time); quiet at Sheffield and Birmingham; fair in Aberdeen and Dublin. The horse collar makers in London and Manchester report employment as fair; as bad at Birmingham and Walsall; good at Leeds, with some overtime. Female harness-stitchers in the Walsall district are still slack.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London the pocket-book and leather case makers report employment as bad. With the London portmanteau and trunk makers it is fair, and better than a month ago.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the condition of employment in Agriculture has been received from 211 correspondents in various parts of England. The first two or three weeks of the month were generally fine, and the hay crop furnished full employment to farm labourers in all districts where it was ready to be cut. When the rainy weather set in it greatly hindered outdoor work, and caused loss of time to many casual labourers. The supply of this class of men has been fair on the whole, and rather better than a year ago.

Northern Counties.—In Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland employment has been plentiful, but interrupted by occasional wet days. There was some scarcity of casual labourers for turnip-hoeing and haymaking. In Lancashire employment has been fairly regular on the whole, and the supply of labour was about equal to the demand. Haymaking was somewhat interfered with by rain in the latter part of the month. Reports from Yorkshire show that extra labour for haymaking and turnip-hoeing was in demand in most parts, and high wages were demanded. A scarcity of good men for attending to horses and stock is reported.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents in Derbyshire and Cheshire report that employment has been regular with farm labourers. The supply of labour, owing to the arrival of Irish migratory labourers, has been about equal to the demand. Reports from Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire state that odd men were for the most part regularly employed during the month, the demand for extra men being about equal to the supply. There is some difficulty in getting good men for permanent situations. Reports from Staffordshire state that the demand for labour has been less than usual, the fine weather having permitted a more extensive use of machinery. Casual labourers were plentiful; many are said, however, to be miners from the neighbouring coal-pits, and not adapted for farm work. Some irregularity of employment, owing to wet weather, is reported from Shropshire. The supply of labour has generally been just about sufficient. Men for permanent situations are scarce, and good men are said to get immediate employment. Work on the land in Worcestershire and Warwickshire is reported to have been somewhat interrupted by wet weather, particularly in the latter part of the month. The supply of casual labour has been sufficient. Some scarcity of waggons and cowmen is reported. In Northamptonshire casual labourers and men on piecework are reported to have been irregularly employed in some parts through wet weather at the end of the month. Reports from Oxfordshire state that hoeing and haymaking have been hindered latterly by wet weather. There has been no great demand for extra labour, and the supply has been generally sufficient. Farm labourers have been regularly employed in most districts of Buckinghamshire, work being found for them as a rule in wet weather. Men engaged at hoeing on piecework and other casual labourers, however, lost some time towards the end of the month. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire haymaking was somewhat interrupted by wet weather, and casual labourers were not much required. A continued demand is reported for good steady men as horsekeepers, stockmen, etc.

Eastern Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Huntingdonshire have been regularly employed, with the exception of casual men, who lost some time through the wet weather. In most districts extra labour has been in demand for haymaking and cleaning roots. Work on the land is reported to have been delayed in Cambridgeshire by wet weather, and hoeing is much in arrear. Casual labourers have been fairly well employed on the whole. In Lincolnshire there have been several wet days which prevented carting and haymaking. Work on the root crops is plentiful. The arrival of some Irish migratory labourers is reported in the Brigg and Lincoln Unions. Agricultural labourers in Norfolk were for

EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

the most part in regular employment during the first half of the month, but field work was interrupted in the latter half by wet weather, and some men lost time in consequence. The supply of labour has generally been equal to the demand. Reports from Suffolk and Essex state that farm labourers were well employed in haymaking in the first fortnight of the month. Field work, however, was subsequently delayed a good deal by wet weather, and casual labourers could for the most part then be only employed on such work as yard-clearing and cutting grass on the road sides. The supply of labour was generally sufficient, except in some parts remote from towns.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Correspondents in Kent state that employment was plentiful in the earlier half of the month, and the supply of casual labour was not equal to the demand. During the latter part, however, there was but little demand for odd men, outdoor work being much interrupted by wet weather. Farm labourers in Surrey were fully employed at the beginning of the month, the weather being fine and the hay crop heavy. Some considerable slackness was afterwards caused by wet weather. Reports from Sussex mention a short supply of casual labour during the first three weeks of the month, when haymaking was in progress. Wet weather then ensued, and caused many casual men to lose time. In Hampshire the fine weather at the early part of the month caused all farm labourers to be fully employed in haymaking, and the hoeing of roots consequently got somewhat in arrear. A few casual labourers were out of work at the end of the month through bad weather. Agricultural labourers in Berkshire are reported to have been in regular work, with the exception of some casual men who lost time through wet weather. The supply of extra labour is said to be rather better than last year, and sufficient for the demand. Correspondents in Wiltshire and Dorsetshire state that there was a demand for casual labour in the early part of the month for haymaking, but the supply, on the whole was sufficient. Employment was interrupted at the end of the month by wet weather. Employment in Somersetshire was plentiful during the first three weeks of the month, the weather being dry and haymaking in active progress. The weather afterwards became unfavourable, and greatly hindered the hoeing of roots and other outdoor work. The supply of casual labourers was about equal to the demand. In Herefordshire and Gloucestershire haymaking was general in the early part of the month, and the demand for extra men was in excess of the supply. Wet weather then set in, and casual labourers lost time in consequence. In Devon and Cornwall farm labourers are said to have been fairly well employed, at first in haymaking and latterly in hoeing and sheepshearing, although some interruption has been caused by wet weather. The supply of labour has been sufficient in most districts, but there is a scarcity of good men for permanent situations.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation and Trade Unions. As regards other principal ports, information has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, Local Correspondents of the Department, and Trade Unions.

Employment in July was fair generally and showed little change as compared with a month ago. In London, however, it was better than in June, but not so good as in July, 1902.

LONDON.

Employment at the docks and wharves during July showed an improvement as compared with a month ago, but it was not so good as a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended July 25th was 13,524, an increase of 9.2 per cent. as compared with

the average for the previous month, but a decrease of 10.4 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in July during the last six years, 1897-1902, was 15,090.

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

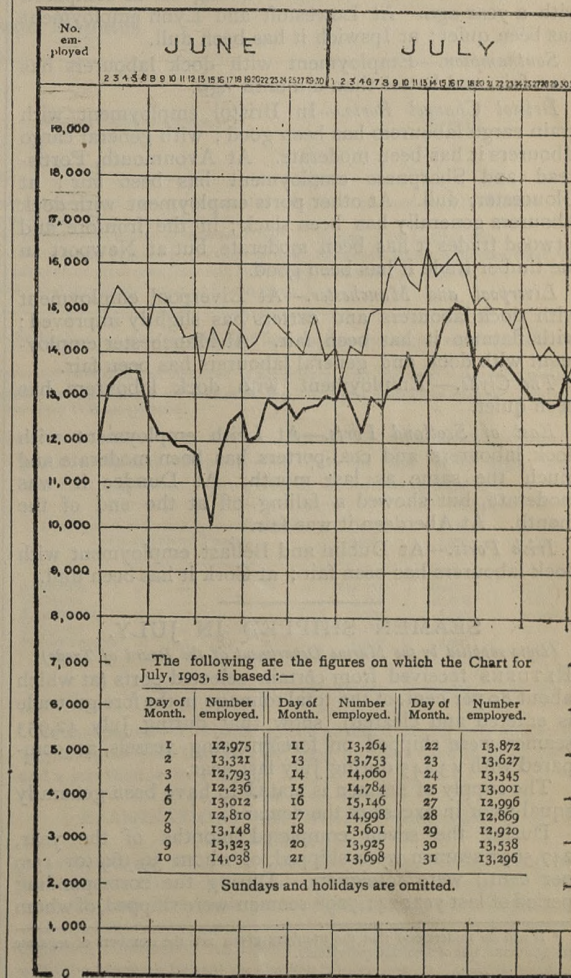
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended July 4th	5,387	2,325	7,712	5,151	12,863
" " " 11th	6,283	1,808	8,091	5,175	13,266
" " " 18th	6,870	2,357	9,227	5,163	14,390
" " " 25th	6,225	2,190	8,415	5,162	13,577
Average for 4 weeks ended July 25th	6,191	2,170	8,361	5,163	13,524
Average for June, 1903	5,168	2,123	7,291	5,102	12,393
Average for July, 1902	7,199	2,473	9,672	5,425	15,097

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in July ranged from 12,236 on the 4th to 15,146 on the 16th.

During July, 1902, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,297 on the 3rd to 16,334 on the 14th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of June and July, 1903. The corresponding curve for June and July, 1902, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1903, and the thin curve to 1902.]



EMPLOYMENT IN JULY—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; SEAMEN; FISHING.

Employment in mid-stream and with lightermen and stevedores has been fair; with deal porters and lumpers it has been good, and with coal porters, winchmen and corn porters moderate. With fruit porters in Thames-street employment has been fair, the average daily number employed being 298, compared with 295 in June, 1903, and July, 1902.

Of the 3,414 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London, during July, 1903, 56 per cent. on the average were employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 61 per cent. in June, and 77 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER PORTS.

North-East Coast.—In the Tyne, Blyth and Wear district employment with coal porters and shippers has been steady; with trimmers and teamers good. Employment with dock and quay side labourers has been fair, but not so good as a month ago; with Tyne watermen it has been quiet and worse than a month ago. With steam packet men on the Tyne employment has been steady and with tug boatmen on the Wear fair. At Middlesbrough employment with dock labourers has been fair. At Hartlepool it was moderate. With riverside labourers employment generally was fair.

Hull and Grimsby.—At Hull employment in the timber trade has been good; with lightermen and coal porters it has been fair and with general dock labourers moderate. At Grimsby with general dock labourers and in the timber trade employment has been good; in the coal trade moderate.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—At Yarmouth employment generally with dock and riverside labourers has been fair, but in the timber trade there is a falling off as compared with a year ago. At Lowestoft and Lynn employment has been quiet; at Ipswich it has been dull.

Southampton.—Employment with dock labourers has been fair, and better than a month ago.

Bristol Channel Ports.—In Bristol employment with grain cargo labourers has been good; with general cargo labourers it has been moderate. At Avonmouth, Portishead and Sharpness employment has been fair; at Gloucester, dull. At other ports employment with dock labourers generally has been slack; in the iron-ore and pitwood trades it has been moderate, but at Newport in the timber trade it has been good.

Liverpool and Manchester.—At Liverpool employment with dock labourers and carters has slightly improved; with flatmen it has been fair. At Manchester employment with dock and general labourers has been fair.

The Clyde.—Employment with dock labourers has been quiet.

East of Scotland Ports.—At Leith employment with dock labourers and coal-porters has been moderate and much the same as last month. At Dundee it was moderate, but showed a falling off at the end of the month. At Aberdeen it was fair.

Irish Ports.—At Dublin and Belfast employment with dock labourers has been fair; at Cork it has been dull.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN JULY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during July 42,953 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, as compared with 43,445 during July last year.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been generally equal to or in excess of the demand.

During the seven completed months of the year, 247,563\* seamen were shipped, of whom 39,369 (or 15·9 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 241,729\* seamen were shipped, of whom

39,594 (or 16·4 per cent.) were foreigners. 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, 1903 and 1902, respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the seven months ended July in each of these years:—

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, 1903 and 1902, respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the seven months ended July in each of these years:—

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Collectors of Fishery Statistics in England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; and also from Local Correspondents.

Employment in the fishing industry during July was generally fairly good. Both the total weight of fish landed and the total value, however, were less than a year ago. The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed:—

Table showing the quantity and value of fish landed in July 1903 and July 1902.

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that trawl fishing boats have landed good supplies of fish during the month, but that the catches of herring have only been moderate and of poor quality.

At Hull, Grimsby, Yarmouth and Lowestoft employment was fair on the whole with fishermen and fish dock labourers; with curers it was only moderate.

Off Plymouth and Brixham fishing has been fairly successful and more regular; fish packers, carters and curers have been regularly employed.

Reports supplied by the Fishery Board for Scotland show that at Aberdeen employment has been good with drift-net and line fishermen, but bad with trawlers. At Peterhead employment was good in all branches and better than a month ago. At Fraserburgh it was good, and better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. At Macduff employment was fair, and better than either a month or a year ago.

\* 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. § Cannot be stated.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.\*

Number and Magnitude.—Fourteen new disputes began in July, 1903, compared with 17 in June, and 25 in the corresponding month of last year. By the 14 disputes 4,197 workpeople were directly and 935 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before July, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, give a total of 10,100 workpeople involved in trade disputes during July, 1903, compared with 12,314 in June, and 116,814 in July, 1902.

New Disputes in July, 1903.—In the following Table the new disputes in July are summarised by trades affected:—

Table summarising new disputes in July 1903 by trades affected, showing number of disputes and workpeople affected.

Causes.—Of the fourteen new disputes, one arose on a demand for advance in wages, three on objections to reductions, and three on other wages questions, four on details of working arrangements, and three from other causes.

Results.—Nine new disputes, affecting 4,811 work-

people, and four old disputes, affecting 667 workpeople, were reported as having terminated in July. Of these thirteen new and old disputes, four, involving 2,426 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; five, involving 234 persons, were decided in favour of the employers, and three, involving 2,733 persons, were compromised. In the case of the remaining dispute, involving 85 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in July of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 32,400 working days. In addition, 98,400 working days were lost in July owing to disputes that began before that month and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in July of all disputes, new and old, was 130,800 working days, which compares with 175,000 in the previous month, and 803,000 in the corresponding month of last year.

Summary for the First Seven Months of 1903.—For the seven completed months of 1903 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 191 disputes which commenced in these months was 49,228, as compared with 188,132 in the 244 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1902.

The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 1,444,000 as compared with 1,714,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table of Principal Trade Disputes showing Occupation, Locality, Number of Workpeople Affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

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

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended August 1st amounted to £8,157,975, an increase of £117,992 (or 1·5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £4,407,865, an increase of £87,251, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,750,110, an increase of £30,741.

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 also during the seven completed months of 1903, with comparative figures for 1902 and 1901:—

Table showing cotton statistics (imported, forwarded, exported) for July, and seven months ended July, for 1903, 1902, and 1901.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from

ports to inland towns during July in the years 1903, 1902 and 1901 respectively, are given in the following Table:—

Table showing descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns for July 1903, July 1902, and July 1901.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during July numbered 405, being 80 more than in July, 1902, 75 more than in July, 1901, and 4 less than in July, 1900.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

An examination for First Class Certificates of competency as Manager of a Mine will be held at Bristol on 1st September next. Intending candidates must, on or before 24th August, communicate with the Secretary to the Board of Examinations, Mr. S. J. Thomas, Coleford, Gloucester. An examination for Second Class Certificates will take place at Bristol on the 8th September. Candidates must send their names to the Secretary on or before 1st September.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Changes Reported in July.

The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in July was a decrease of £1,901 per week, as compared with a decrease of £6,492 in June, and a decrease of £9,221 in July, 1902. The number of workpeople affected was 59,419, of whom 3,855 received advances amounting to £285 per week, and 55,564 sustained decreases amounting to £2,186 per week. The total number affected in June was 116,525, and in July, 1902, 293,911.

The principal changes reported were an advance affecting 1,500 masons at Edinburgh, and decreases affecting 44,600 coal miners in Northumberland and Cumberland, and 4,728 engineers, shipbuilders, &c., at Belfast.

Three changes affecting 41,250 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, one of which affecting 250 workpeople was preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work. Nine changes affecting 6,512 workpeople took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes affecting 11,657 workpeople were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, one of which, affecting 2,515 workpeople, was preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for First Seven months of 1903.

For the first seven months, January to July, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have had their wages changed was 383,332 as compared with 793,851 in the corresponding period of 1902. Of these 17,477 obtained a net increase amounting to about £824 per week, and 251,915 sustained a net decrease of £13,171 per week, whilst the remaining 113,940 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £12,347 per week compared with a decrease of £69,732 per week in the corresponding period of 1902.

Summarised by trades the number of workpeople affected and the net results of the changes in the principal groups were as follows:—

Table with 3 columns: Trade, No., £. Rows include Building Trades, Coal Mining, Other Mining and Quarrying, Iron and Steel Trades, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Printing, &c., Trades, Glass Trades, All other trades.

DETAILS OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JULY, 1903.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.) 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 5 columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1903, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes sub-sections for BUILDING TRADES and COAL MINING.

Table for BUILDING TRADES. Rows: Edinburgh & Leith Stonemasons, 27 July, 1,500, Advance of 1/4d. per hour (8 1/2d. to 9d.).

Table for COAL MINING. Rows: Northumberland (Underground Workers and Banksmen, Other Surface Workers, Deputies, Enginemen and Mechanics, Firemen), Cumberland (Coal Miners, Underground Workers), Rhymney Valley (Daywagemen).

Table for PIG IRON MANUFACTURE. Rows: Millom and Askan, Barrow-in-Furness, Ulverston, South Lancashire (two firms), Wellington (near...), North Wales (one firm), Scotland.

Table for IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. Rows: Eston, Middlesbrough, Leeds.

\* Durham Coal Mining.—Early in August it was arranged that the Durham Miners' wages should be reduced 1 1/2 per cent., leaving their wages 3 1/2 per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the September GAZETTE.

DETAILS OF CHANGES REPORTED IN JULY, 1903—(continued).

Main details table with 5 columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1903, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes sub-sections for ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND OTHER METAL TRADES; OTHER TRADES; EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.

No Changes in the Hours of Labour were reported during the month.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN JULY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in July was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 19; under the Friendly Societies Act, 119 (including 84 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 4; in all, 144.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—2, viz., Egremont and Dist. Iron Ore Miners' Union, Market Hall Ante-room, Egremont, Cumb.; National Seamen's Protective and Benefit Soc. of Gt. Britain and Ireland, 10, Custom House-street, Cardiff. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution.—1, viz., St. Andrew's, Peckham, Co-op. Indus. Soc., Ltd., Parish Room, Glengall-road, Peckham, S.E. Co-operative Societies mainly for Production.—5, viz., Walsall Harness Makers, Ltd., Holtshill-lane, Walsall; North Wales Quarries, Ltd., 168, Temple Chambers, Fleet-street, E.C.; Leicester Carriage Builders and Wheelwrights, Ltd., 17, Gopsal-street, Leicester; No. 3 Caeran Builders' Soc., Ltd., 10, Bridge-street, Maesteg, Glam.; Morning Star Sundries, Ltd., 121, Highcross-street, Leicester; Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—3, viz., Midland Counties Agric. Supply Assoc., Ltd., 7, Bridge-street, Stourport; Fakenham Poultry Soc., Ltd., Station-yard, Fakenham; Farnham, Alton and Districts Farmers and Hop-growers' Co-op Assoc., Ltd., 10 and 11, West-street, Farnham. Miscellaneous Societies.—2 Workmen's Clubs and 4 others. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—4, viz., Cross-borry Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Crossborry, Upton, co. Cork; Dromara Co-op. Dairy, Dromara, co. Down; South Fermanagh Co-op. Beekeepers, Kinawley, co. Fermanagh; Killowen Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Killowen, co. Cork.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—33, viz., Ilbert Loan and Investment Soc., Queen's Park, W.; Unity Perm. Money Soc., Oldbury, Birmingham; Glamorganshire Perm. Money Soc., Cardiff; Mardy Working Men's Brass Band Inst., Mardy, Glam.; Burnham Working Men's Club and Inst., Burnham, Maidenhead; Cambridge Friendly Societies' Inst. and Working Men's Club, Cambridge; Clayton-le-Moors Working Men's Club and Inst., Clayton-le-Moors, Accrington; Deptford and Greenwich Trades Council Working Men's Club and Inst., Deptford, S.E.; Putney Artisans' Club, London, S.W.; United Working Men's Club and Inst., Earls Barton, Northampton; Cheam Working Men's Club and Inst., Cheam, Surrey; Walton Working Men's Club and Inst., Walton-on-Thames; Oldbury Brass Band, Oldbury, Birmingham; Ystrad Rhondda Liberal Working Men's Club, Ystrad Rhondda, Pentre, Glam.; Ocean Iron-works Sick and Accident Benefit Soc., Salford, Manchester; Derwent Valley Benefit Friendly Soc., Blackhill, co. Durham; Hartington-road P.S.A. Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Richmond P.S.A. Dividing Soc., Liverpool; Bootle No. 6 Friendly Tontine Soc., Bootle, Liverpool; Liverpool Farriers' Friendly Soc., Liverpool; Independent Dr. Herzl Friendly Benefit Soc., Mile End New Town, E.; Murdock Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Handsworth, Birmingham; New Greyhound Inn Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Edgbaston Albion Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Birmingham and Midland Counties Licensed House Managers or Tenants' Friendly Soc., Birmingham; Union Working Men's United Sick and Dividend Soc., Lozells, Birmingham; Thimble Mill Provident, Sick and Dividend Soc., Nechells, Birmingham; Borough Sick and Dividend Friendly Soc., Birmingham; White Hart Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Hazelwell Tavern Sick and Dividend Soc., Stirlchley, Birmingham; Stourbridge Honest Intention Oddfellows Friendly Soc., Stourbridge; Zion Congregation Friendly Soc., Ossett, Yorks; Rossett and Dist. Tontine Soc., Rossett, Denbighshire. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—2, viz., Royal Irish Constabulary Pensioners' Benefit Soc., Limerick; Galbally Agric. Bank, Galbally, co. Limerick.

(2) DISSOLVED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in July, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 4; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 16; under the Friendly Societies Act, 58 (including 34 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 9; in all 87.

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



## 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 July was 340,171, corresponding to a rate of 201 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with June there was a decrease of 2,658 in the number relieved, and of 1 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-one districts show decreased rates, the decreases amounting to no more than 5 per 10,000 of population with the exception of Central London (14 per 10,000). In six districts there are slight increases, and in the remaining eight districts no change is indicated.

Compared with July, 1902, there was an increase of 8,457 in the number relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-two districts show increased rates, the greatest increases being in the Leicester district (20 per 10,000), East London (16), North Staffordshire (14), Aberdeen (13), and Newcastle (10). Decreases are shown in eleven districts, the decreases being most marked in the Stockton and Tees, and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (10 per 10,000 each). Two districts show no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of July, 1903.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<b>Metropolises.</b>						
West District ... ..	10,201	3,078	13,279	162	- 4	+ 2
North District ... ..	14,233	8,071	22,304	210	- 1	+ 5
Central District ... ..	6,412	2,865	9,277	458	- 14	+ 7
East District ... ..	13,292	5,261	18,553	258	- 4	+ 16
South District ... ..	21,750	18,001	39,751	222	- 5	- 1
Total Metropolises ... ..	65,888	37,276	103,164	224	- 5	+ 3
West Ham ... ..	2,736	8,987	11,723	188	- 4	- 1
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District ... ..	1,847	4,367	6,214	149	...	+ 10
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,068	3,723	4,791	227	- 4	- 10
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ... ..	3,569	7,868	11,437	152	- 2	+ 5
Wigan District ... ..	1,893	6,176	8,069	266	...	- 2
Manchester District ... ..	8,272	7,916	16,188	176	- 2	- 4
Liverpool District ... ..	10,407	8,307	18,714	187	...	+ 7
Bradford District ... ..	1,378	2,763	4,141	115	...	...
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,123	3,638	4,761	131	- 1	+ 1
Leeds District ... ..	2,018	5,912	7,930	171	...	+ 2
Barnsley District ... ..	614	2,773	3,387	145	- 2	- 7
Sheffield District ... ..	2,734	3,528	6,262	148	- 1	+ 6
Hull District ... ..	1,316	5,179	6,495	246	- 1	- 5
North Staffordshire ... ..	1,875	7,029	8,904	244	+ 4	+ 14
Nottingham District ... ..	1,774	4,968	6,742	170	...	+ 1
Leicester District ... ..	1,153	3,226	4,379	200	- 4	+ 20
Wolverhampton District ...	3,262	13,012	16,274	258	...	+ 4
Birmingham District ... ..	4,421	3,124	7,545	133	- 2	+ 4
Bristol District ... ..	2,629	6,671	9,300	246	+ 1	+ 1
Cardiff & Swansea ... ..	1,653	7,531	9,184	255	- 2	- 2
Total "Other Districts" ...	53,006	107,711	160,717	184	- 1	+ 2
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District ... ..	4,100	16,910	21,010	223	+ 4	+ 5
Paisley & Greenock District...	593	2,423	3,016	176	+ 4	+ 6
Edinburgh & Leith District...	1,573	5,453	7,026	179	...	+ 2
Dundee & Dunfermline ... ..	968	2,781	3,749	190	- 1	- 4
Aberdeen ... ..	547	2,843	3,390	212	+ 1	+ 13
Coatbridge & Airdrie ... ..	307	1,330	1,637	177	- 1	+ 4
Total for the above Scottish Districts ... ..	8,088	31,740	39,828	204	+ 3	+ 5
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District ... ..	6,874	4,884	11,758	305	+ 4	+ 8
Belfast District ... ..	3,004	226	3,230	84	- 5	...
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ... ..	4,264	4,795	9,059	368	- 4	- 10
Galway District ... ..	365	327	692	192	- 4	- 4
Total for the above Irish Districts ... ..	14,507	10,232	24,739	235	- 2	- 1
Total for above 35 Districts in July, 1903	144,225	195,916	340,171	201	- 1	+ 3

\* 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.

## FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

## Summary for July.

The trade returns for July, 1903, show an increase in the value as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 of the Imports into the United Kingdom, but a decrease in the Exports of British produce, and also of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in July, 1903, was £45,653,320, an increase of £1,566,360 or 3·5 per cent., as compared with those in July, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £31,541,063, showing a total decrease of £522,636. The Exports of British produce alone show a decrease of £153,625, or 0·6 per cent., as compared with July, 1902, whilst there is a decrease of £369,011, or 6·1 per cent. in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

**Imports.\***—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for July, 1903, as compared with the corresponding months of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month of July.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 18,511,998	£ 19,019,184	£ 21,770,834	+ 2,751,650	+ 3,258,836
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	13,680,971	13,517,022	12,699,681	- 817,341	- 981,290
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	10,604,869	11,267,147	10,993,705	- 273,442	+ 388,836
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	230,984	283,607	189,100	- 94,507	- 41,884
Total value of Imports	43,028,822	44,086,960	45,653,320	+ 1,566,360	+ 2,621,498

**Exports.†**—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of July, 1903, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month of July.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 1,576,147	£ 1,672,563	£ 1,455,185	- 217,378	- 120,962
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	3,295,980	3,079,515	3,174,607	+ 95,092	- 121,373
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	19,222,294	20,967,373	20,942,012	- 25,361	+ 1,719,718
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	291,350	309,719	303,741	- 5,978	+ 12,391
Total value of Exports of British produce	24,385,771	26,029,170	25,875,545	- 153,625	+ 1,489,774

## Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.

—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended July, 1903, amounted to 3,660,294 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,315,417 tons, as against 3,595,772 tons entered and 4,134,613 tons cleared in the month of July, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during July, 1903, amounted to 2,787,632 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,727,536 tons, as against 2,747,341 tons entered, and 2,741,989 tons cleared in July, 1902.

\* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.  
† The value of the Exports represents the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

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