

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

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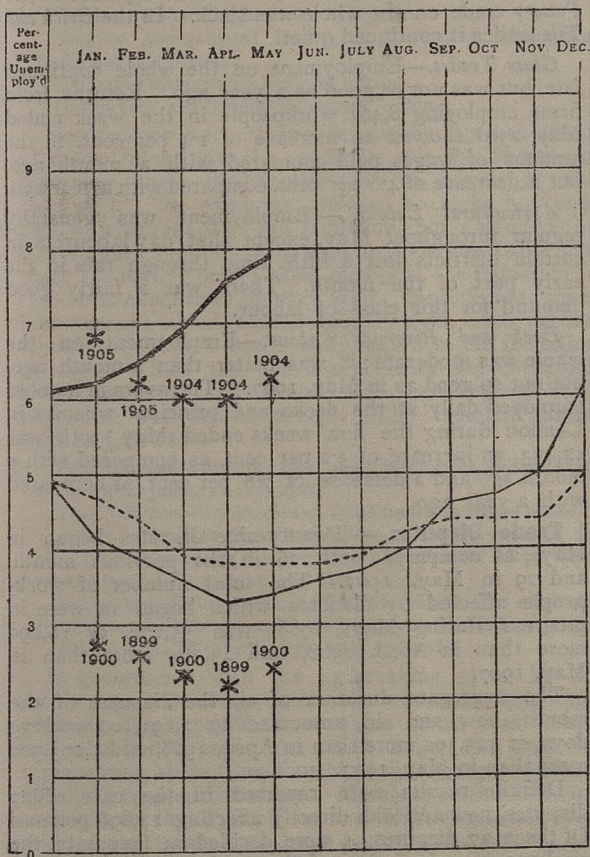
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

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

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



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For May, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 627,613 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 56,386	Printing & Bookbinding 56,189
Coal Mining 128,226	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering 154,355	nishing 34,960
Shipbuilding 46,267	Miscellaneous 21,345
Other Metal Trades ... 31,989	
Textiles 97,896	Total 627,613

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MAY.

[In addition to the 2,560 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,744 were received from employers relating to 1,095,908 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,304 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in May was not on the whole so good as in April. It was considerably affected by the disputes in the shipbuilding and engineering trades, which have rendered idle a large number of workpeople not directly concerned.

As compared with a year ago there was a decline in employment in most industries.

In the 268 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 627,613, making Returns, 49,515 (or 7.9 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, 1908, compared with 7.5 per cent. at the end of April, 1908, and 3.4 per cent. at the end of May, 1907.

Coal Mining.—Employment continued good during May, but there was a slight decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended May 23rd was 5.48, as compared with 5.57 a year ago. Comparison with a month ago is affected by holidays.

Iron Mining.—Employment remained fair, but was not so good as a year ago. The weekly average number of days worked during the four weeks ended May 23rd at the mines respecting which returns were received was 5.74, as compared with 5.88 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during May was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with April. It was considerably worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing nearly 22,000 workpeople showed 286 furnaces in blast at the end of May, as compared with 293 in April, 1908, and 346 in May, 1907.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed a further decline, and was worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended May 23rd, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 1.6 per cent. less than in the week ended April 18th, 1908, and 13.9 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during May continued good. It was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 438 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of May, as compared with 437 both a month ago and a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued to be slack on the whole, and was adversely affected by the dispute on the North-East Coast. It was somewhat worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 9.5, as compared with 8.6 a month ago and 2.9 a year ago.*

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was bad, worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. It was much affected by the strike on the North-East Coast and by the lock-out at other shipbuilding centres. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 26.1, as compared with 23.2 in April, 1908, and 6.7 in May, 1907.†

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* branch was moderate on the whole, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the *Weaving* branch it remained slack, and was much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 124,415 workpeople in the week ended 23rd May showed a decline in the amount of wages paid of 2.7 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 8.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woolen Trade.—Employment was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,640 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd, showed a decrease of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,489 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd, showed a decrease of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment during May was dull, worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,002 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 18.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment on the whole was fairly good and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,091 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,245 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd, showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was bad, worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,883 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 5.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 23.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment on the whole remained moderate, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,483 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was about the same as a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was fairly good, and better than a month ago, but not quite so good as a year ago.

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

* Members on strike are not included in these figures.

† Members on strike or locked out are not included in these figures.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was fairly good, but slightly worse than a month ago; it showed little general change as compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 64,286 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,568 had 8.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with the same percentage in April, and 5.7 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment continued dull with printers, and bad with bookbinders. It was worse than a year ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 5.2, as compared with 5.6 a month ago and 4.0 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 7.9, 8.7, and 6.2 respectively.

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

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.8 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.4 per cent. a month ago, and 2.9 per cent. in May, 1907.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Pottery* trade on the whole was slack. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it continued quiet.

Glass Trades.—Employment on the whole continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,464 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 4.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment was generally regular throughout May, except that day labourers in certain districts lost a little time through rain in the early part of the month. There was a fairly good demand for this class of labour.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment on the whole was moderate; it was better than a month ago, but not so good as in May, 1907. The average number employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended May 30th was 12,433, an increase of 3.2 per cent. as compared with a month ago and a decrease of 7.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-nine disputes began in May, as compared with 26 in the previous month, and 29 in May, 1907. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during May, 1908, was 55,276, or 18,490 more than in April, 1908, and 43,364 more than in May, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 1,191,100 working days, or 425,300 more than in April, 1908, and 1,003,500 more than in May, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 27 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 17,896 persons. Of these 27 disputes, 4 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 9 in favour of the employers, and 14 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in May affected 147,600 workpeople, of whom 5,400 received advances and 142,200 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were reduced included 124,000 coal miners in Northumberland and Durham, 3,500 blastfurnacemen in Scotland, and 11,000 steel workers in various parts of Great Britain. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net decrease of about £3,600 per week.

SHIPBUILDING DISPUTE, NORTH-EAST COAST.

ON December 2nd, 1907, the associated Shipbuilding Employers of the North-East Coast gave notice to their employees (with the exception of certain trades on the Wear, in which wages were regulated by a Conciliation Board), for a reduction in wages of 5 per cent. off piece prices and 1s. 6d. per week off time rates for skilled men, and 1s. or 6d. in the case of those in lower paid grades, the reduction to take place on Jan. 8th, 1908.

Members of the following Trade Unions were affected by this notice:—

United Society of Boilermakers and Iron and Steel Shipbuilders.
Associated Blacksmiths' Society of Scotland.
Co-operative Smiths' Society.
United Kingdom Society of Amalgamated Smiths and Strikers.
Amalgamated Society of Engineers (Shipsmiths).
United Patternmakers' Association.
General Union of Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers.
Amalgamated Union of Cabinetmakers.
National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association.
Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.
Associated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.
General Union of Carpenters and Joiners.
Amalgamated Society of Mill Sawyers, Woodcutting Machinists and Wood Turners.
National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators.
United Operative Plumbers' Association.
Amalgamated Society of Drillers and Hole Cutters.
Associated Shipwrights' Society.
Wear Shipwrights' Society.
Northern United Enginemen's Association.
National Amalgamated Society of Enginemen, Cranemen, Boilermakers and Firemen.
National Amalgamated Union of Labour.
Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union.

Negotiations were at once opened by representatives of these Unions with the employers, for the purpose of obtaining some modification in the terms of the reduction. The employers refused to make any concession with regard to the reduction, but extended the notices until January 14th, 1908, to allow the Unions to place the matter before their members, the reduction to come into effect from January 22nd. Negotiations were, however, continued, and on January 15th, 1908, certain modifications were made with regard to the reduction of wages, which the men's representatives undertook to recommend, and advise the members of their respective societies to accept. The modified terms were as follows:—

Piece Reduction.—Five per cent. off all piece rates, to take effect on and from January 22nd, 1908.

Time Reduction.—In the case of those trades to whom notice of 1s. 6d. reduction was given, a reduction of 1s. per week off the time rates on and from January 22nd, and a further 6d. per week on and from the first full pay in March, 1908.

In the case of all the other trades the reduction as originally notified to take effect on and from January 22nd, 1908.

No reduction off rates 24s. per week and under.

In accordance with the undertaking given by the men's representatives, a circular recommending and advising the acceptance of these terms was issued with the ballot paper, the result being that societies representing about three-fourths of the aggregate number affected accepted the terms. Members of the following societies on the Tyne, Tees and Hartlepool, however, rejected the terms by a large majority and some 5,000 ceased work on January 21st, 1908:—

Associated Shipwrights' Society.
Wear Shipwrights' Society (Hartlepool District).
Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.
National Amalgamated Furnishing Trades Association.
Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners.
Associated " " "
General Union " " "
Amalgamated Cabinetmakers.
Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers.

On December 26th, 1907, the Wear Conciliation

Board agreed that the shipwrights, joiners, drillers and painters belonging to the Board should have a reduction of 1s. per week. On January 20th, the employers gave three months' notice to terminate this Board, in order that the questions in dispute should be dealt with on a national basis.

The strike of the woodworkers continued without change until February 1st, when the following notice was posted at the federated yards on the Tyne, Tees, and Wear, and at Blyth and the Hartlepoons:—

Owing to the impossibility of carrying on work in consequence of the stoppage by shipwrights, joiners, cabinetmakers, wood-working machinists, etc., it is hereby notified that the services of all workmen in this shipbuilding yard will be dispensed with at stopping time on Saturday, February 15th, 1908.

The President of the Board of Trade had from the commencement of the difficulty kept himself fully informed of the proceedings, and during February and March had several interviews in London with the representatives of both sides.

On February 14th the employers conferred at Newcastle with a deputation from the workpeople on strike, and as a result passed the following resolutions:—

1. The employers are prepared to meet in conference on Friday next if the deputation will pledge themselves to do their best to obtain full power to settle the present dispute.
2. That in consideration of the great distress that would result from total suspension of work, and in the hope that a conference would result in a settlement, the employers have decided to postpone the closing notices for a week.

In reply to the first resolution the men wrote stating their inability to assent to the proposals made by the shipbuilders, but were prepared to meet them to see if some definite basis could be arrived at whereby the difference might be adjusted. The employers then made an appointment for a joint conference on February 21st.

After the termination of this conference the employers issued the following resolution:—

That, in view of the fact that the trades concerned have intimated that they withdraw all their previous offers, and have asked for a counter proposal from the employers, we intimate to the deputation that our counter proposal is that in future in the North-East Coast associated shipyards the trades now on strike will be paid the same rates and work under the same conditions as on the Clyde.

This resolution was a demand for a reduction of double that originally sought in the case of shipwrights, while in the case of joiners, millsawyers and cabinetmakers the proposed reduction became 2s. 6d. instead of 1s. 6d.

At the same time the employers issued the following further resolution:—

That, in view of the existing distress through the depression in shipbuilding, the employers will continue to employ men of the trades with which they have no dispute, as circumstances will permit.

Further complications arose at this time through the ship repairers becoming involved, resulting in a considerable increase in the number idle through the dispute.

On March 25th a conference took place between representatives of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and of the men at Edinburgh.

At this conference the employers submitted the following statement, and requested a reply by April 25th:—

The Executive Board of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation after hearing your views, and after carefully considering the whole circumstances under which the Tyne and the Tees and the Hartlepool Employers claimed a reduction, equal to the amount of the last advance, namely:—

- 1/6 per week reduction in the wages of shipwrights, joiners, cabinetmakers, and wood-cutting machinists in the Tyne and Tees and Hartlepool districts, and 1/- and 5 per

Shipbuilding Dispute—cont.

cent. reduction in the wages of drillers in the Tyne district, consider that the reduction is fully justified and should be accepted.

In the event of the Societies concerned not accepting the reduction the Federation will take extreme steps in support of the two Associations.

This was placed before the North East Coast members of all the societies involved, the ballot paper admitting the following alternatives:—

1. For agreeing to the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation proposition.
2. For empowering the Central Committee to endeavour to secure the best terms possible.
3. Against both the above propositions, which means a continuation of the dispute.

The result of the ballot was published on April 5th as follows:—

For acceptance of reduction	304
For giving plenary powers to central committee ...	914
For continuance of strike	5,284

A meeting of the executives of the Unions affected was then held at Manchester on April 8th, when it was resolved that a national vote of the members be taken on the following propositions:—

1. For agreeing to the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation's demand—"That the North-East Coast men accept the reduction notified."
2. For referring the reduction demanded to arbitration, including an arrangement to prevent future stoppages. (It being understood that if this proposition is carried, the threat of the Employers' Federation may be put into effect.)

The result was made known to the employers at a conference at Carlisle on April 24th, and showed a very large majority in favour of the second proposal.

The employers, however, adhering to their former attitude, declined to submit matters to arbitration, and decided to lock out the members of the Unions involved from all the Federated Yards, embracing the North-East Coast, the Clyde, the Humber, East Scotland, Barrow and Birkenhead. The Wear yards were also now included, as the notice given by the employers to terminate the Conciliation Board had expired.

In accordance with this decision the following notice was posted at all Federated Yards on April 25th:—

The societies representing the trades at present on strike in certain yards of the federated employers, having rejected the proposals made by the Federation at the recent conference in Edinburgh for a settlement of the sectional wages strike in the Tyne, Tees and Hartlepool districts, the Federation has resolved that the services of the members of the following societies employed in the federated shipyards be dispensed with after Saturday, May 2nd, 1908.†

On April 29th, the President of the Board of Trade had interviews with certain representatives of both parties, and proposals were made which were considered by the employers at a meeting of the Executive Emergency Committee at Newcastle on April 30th.

A further meeting of the Executive Board of the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation was held at Carlisle on May 1st, at which Mr. Wilson Fox, of the Board of Trade, was present. It was not, however, found possible to effect a settlement, and the lock-out came into operation on May 4th. It was then arranged that representatives of both sides should meet the President of the Board of Trade in London; accordingly meetings took place at the Board of Trade offices on May 6th and May 11th, and on the latter date the men's representatives agreed to submit the following proposals to a vote of their members.

1. The men to return to work at a reduction of 1s. 6d. per week.
2. Within two weeks after resumption of work a joint conference to be held between the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation and representatives of the various branches of the shipbuilding trade, with a view to the setting up of permanent machinery, fair to both employers and employees, to deal with all future questions that may arise in the shipbuilding trade. Both parties to be free to make any proposal as to constitution of their machinery. Each side to have their own chairman, selected from among themselves.

† The names of the Trade Unions concerned were appended.

If any branch of the shipbuilding industry declines to be represented at the conference for the creation of the permanent machinery above mentioned, this fact shall in no way prevent the conference being held, or render it in any way abortive.

Addendum—Should a deadlock unfortunately arise at the conference with regard to any question of procedure, the President of the Board of Trade would address a friendly invitation to the parties before the conference is broken off to discuss the difficulty with him with a view to arriving at a solution.

The result of the ballot was as follows:—
24,145 in favour of acceptance, and
22,110 against acceptance

On May 27th the President of the Board of Trade had interviews with representatives of both sides for the purpose of making arrangements for the immediate resumption of work. It was then arranged that the men's representatives should meet the employers on May 28th, at Carlisle, and at this meeting arrangements were made for opening the yards on June 1st.

Some difficulty in connection with the resumption of work occurred on the Wear and on the Clyde; work has been resumed on both rivers, but on the Wear further negotiations are in progress. A further meeting of the parties was held on June 11th, at Edinburgh, to give effect to the second paragraph of the agreement arrived at, and steps are now being taken to draft proposals for the prevention of stoppages of work in the future.

RECENT CONCILIATION CASES.**Boot and Shoe Operatives, Kettering.**

On February 18th, the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe Trade of Kettering and Rothwell (No. 2 Section, clickers and pressmen) applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to determine points of difference in the compilation of a piecework or quantities statement for clickers; and on March 23rd the Board of Trade appointed Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act in that capacity.

Sir Alfred Bateman issued his award on June 1st, fixing the prices to be paid for certain operations. No date was fixed for the award to come into force, as the piecework statement of which the award is to form part has not yet been completed.

Joiners, Glasgow.

As stated in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* for May, p. 135 Mr. A. A. Hudson was appointed as "conciliator" in this case, on the application of the Conciliation Board for the Joiner Trade of the Glasgow district. The rules of this Board provide that the decision of the "conciliator" shall be final. Such "conciliator" therefore has virtually the powers of an arbitrator.

The operatives claimed an eight hours' day all the year round and the limitation of apprentices; while the employers claimed a reduction in wages from 9½d. to 8½d. an hour, and that throughout the winter the men should have breakfast before starting work.

Mr. Hudson issued his award on June 1st, reducing the rate of wages by ¼d. an hour, and limiting the number of apprentices; he also altered the rule as to meal hours, deciding that the men should take breakfast before starting work during a part of the winter, viz., from December 9th to January 8th.

Carpenters and Joiners, Blackburn.

Differences having arisen between the Blackburn Master Builders' Association and the carpenters and joiners in their employment, a joint application was made by the parties to the Board of Trade on May 22nd, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the matters in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on May 30th, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in that capacity.

Painters, Blackburn.

On April 1st about 200 painters at Blackburn struck work to enforce a demand for an advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and other alterations in the working rules. The strike terminated on April 21st, when an agreement was arrived at that all matters in dispute should be referred to arbitration under the Conciliation Act, 1896.

On May 22nd the Board of Trade received a joint application from the Blackburn Master Painters' Association and the Blackburn Branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Operative Painters, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator; and on May 27th the Board appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in that capacity.

Painters, Oldham.

On April 1st a strike of painters, to the number of about 350, began at Oldham, in support of a demand for an increase in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and for other alterations in the working rules.

On May 21st the Board of Trade received a joint application from the Oldham Master Painters' Association and the National Amalgamated Society of Operative Painters (Oldham Branch) for the appointment of an arbitrator to decide the questions at issue.

The Board of Trade, on May 27th, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in that capacity.

Painters, Burnley.

On May 1st, 195 operative painters at Burnley struck work in support of a demand for an advance in wages from 8d. to 9d. per hour, and other alterations in the working rules.

On June 9th, the Burnley Master Painters' Association and the Burnley Branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Operative Painters addressed a joint application to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an arbitrator to whom the questions in dispute should be referred for settlement.

The Board of Trade, on June 13th, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in that capacity.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Northampton.

On May 23rd, application was made to the Board of Trade, by the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the boot and shoe trade of Northampton, for the appointment of an umpire to decide certain questions arising out of the compilation of a quantities statement for clickers at Northampton.

The Board of Trade, on May 30th, appointed Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act in that capacity.

Boot and Shoe Trade, East of Scotland.

On May 13th, application was made to the Board of Trade by the East of Scotland Arbitration Board (Boot Trade) for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with certain matters in dispute mainly in reference to the minimum wage question.

The Board of Trade, on May 26th, appointed Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G., to act in that capacity.

Dyers and Printers, Bury.

On April 29th, application was made to the Board of Trade by the National Society of Dyers and Finishers asking for the assistance of the Board in bringing about a settlement of the dispute affecting some of their members employed by a firm at Bury. After some negotiations the firm agreed to meet representatives of the workpeople on strike at a conference, which was held on May 29th, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. B. Yates, appointed by the Board of Trade. At this meeting terms of settlement were arranged under which the rates of wages for labourers were fixed, and a scale of wages was fixed for boys, rising according to age; an advance of 2d. per 20 pieces was granted to dyers; and the hours of labour were fixed at 55½ per week. The new maximum rates are to come into force within twelve months. The firm agreed to reinstate as many as possible of their former workpeople, but are to have liberty to engage further boys for work if the present supply is insufficient.

Tube Workers, Landore.

Differences having arisen at a tubeworks at Landore as to the rates to be paid for certain operations, the matter was referred for settlement to the Conciliation Board which exists at this works.

No agreement having been arrived at by the Conciliation Board, application was made to the Board of Trade on June 1st, in accordance with the rules of the Conciliation Board, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle the questions in dispute.

On June 5th, the application was extended to cover disputed questions in certain sections of the works other than those in respect of which the original application had been made.

The Board of Trade, on June 13th, appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act as arbitrator.

Hyde, Cotton Weavers.

With reference to the dispute in the Cotton Weaving Mills of Ashton Bros. & Co., Ltd., at Hyde, a meeting of the representatives of the parties concerned was held at Manchester on May 15th at the suggestion of the Board of Trade, but no settlement was arrived at.

On May 29th a joint application was made by the representatives of the parties to the Board of Trade asking them to convene a further meeting, and to appoint an independent chairman to preside. The Board appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C., to act as chairman, and meetings were held on June 3rd and 4th, and adjourned for the purpose of obtaining a ballot of the weavers on one particular point. The result of the ballot was against accepting the terms suggested, and consequently no further meeting has been held.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.**LIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED.**

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

LONDON AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. District No. 1.—William Smith, signalman, Queen's Road; Lewis Percival Fripp, passenger guard, Waterloo. District No. 2.—George Woodiss, signalman, Walton; Harry Vincent, goods guard, Southampton. District No. 3.—Charles Newton, brakesman, Queen Street, Exeter; Alfred Edward Trickey, signalman, Barnstaple Junction.

Sectional Board B. District No. 1.—Alfred Welsh, porter, Waterloo; Walter Williams, checker, Nine Elms. District No. 2.—Zebulun Andrews, warehouseman, Bishop's Waltham; Frederick Charles Read, ticket collector, Richmond. District No. 3.—William Henry Duell, head porter, Bournemouth West; Percy Rufus Gayton, office porter, Queen Street, Exeter.

Sectional Board C. District No. 1.—Aaron Fouracre Densley, engine driver, Nine Elms; Walter Ernest Hensby, fireman, Nine Elms. District No. 2.—Charles Henry Blaney, engine driver, Guildford; Frederick Giles, engine driver, Fratton. District No. 3.—Fred William Coombes, engine driver, Exeter (Exmouth Junction); Stephen Wills, engine driver, Bournemouth (Central).

Sectional Board D. District No. 1.—Benjamin Wicks, assistant ganger, Clapham Junction; Edward David Osborne, platelayer, Nine Elms. District No. 2.—Edward Holton, foreman platelayer, Chiswick; William Parker, platelayer, Northam. District No. 3.—Walter Rickman, platelayer, Lymington Town; Henry Salter, platelayer, Lapford.

ALEXANDRA (NEWPORT AND SOUTH WALES) DOCKS AND RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. Locomotive. Edward J. Thomas, locomotive driver, Newport; William Walters, locomotive driver, Newport; Thomas Wood, fireman, Newport.

Sectional Board B. Traffic. Ernest John Hookway, shunter, Glyntaff, Pontypridd; Henry Hughes, signalman, Bassaleg Loop; Thomas Edwin Robinson, guard, Newport; Edward Tomkins, stocktaker, Newport.

Sectional Board C. Permanent Way. James McCarthy, ganger, Alexandra Dock; Albert Thomas, platelayer, Alexandra Dock.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A. District No. 1.—John F. Bromley, engine driver, Southall. District No. 2.—Alan Davies, engineman, Wolverhampton. District No. 3.—George Wride, engineman, Cheltenham. District No. 4.—Cecil George Skillern Ruck, fireman, Bristol. District No. 5.—Richard Henry Bowden, engineman, Plymouth. District No. 6.—Thomas William Hill, engineman, Newport (Dock Street).

Sectional Board B. District No. 1.—Philip Hewlett, signalman, Subway Junction, Westbourne Park. District No. 2.—John Evan Woollam, signalman, Wellington. District No. 3.—Herbert Alfred Palmer, signalman, Kemble Junction. District No. 4.—Edwin Thomas Billett, signalman, Swindon. District No. 5.—Charles Edwin Blackmore, relief signalman, Exeter. District No. 6.—Edward Charles, signalman, Llancaiach.

Sectional Board C. District No. 1.—John William Gordon, goods shunter, Old Oak Common. District No. 2.—Charles Alonzo Beck, goods guard, Bordesley Junction. District No. 3.—Albert William Hall, goods guard, Worcester. District No. 4.—Frank Eyres, goods guard, Swindon. District No. 5.—Albert Edward William Law, goods guard, Exeter. District No. 6.—Thomas John Robinson, goods guard, Newport (Dock Street.)

Sectional Board D. District No. 1.—Albert Edward Knight, passenger guard, Reading. District No. 2.—Ernest Edwards, passenger guard, Wolverhampton. District No. 3.—Robert Aldington, passenger guard, Worcester. District No. 4.—Hugh Charles Foote, passenger guard, Bristol. District No. 5.—Frederick James Lee, passenger guard, Plymouth. District No. 6.—Thomas Williams, parcels foreman, Whitland.

Sectional Board E. District No. 1.—John Mitchell, packer, Westbourne Park. District No. 2.—Harry Walker, packer, Salney. District No. 3.—Robert Biggs, platelayer, Kemble Junction. District No. 4.—John Snelgrove, packer, Frome. District No. 5.—Herbert Walter Charters, packer, Par. District No. 6.—John Forsey, ganger, Llantrisant.

Sectional Board F. District No. 1.—Charles Richard Pizzy, checker, Paddington (Goods). District No. 2.—John Simpson, carman, Hockley. District No. 3.—Daniel John Bishop, goods foreman, Gloucester. District No. 4.—Joseph Tugwell, goods foreman, Bristol. District No. 5.—Arthur Jeffery, carman, Ilfracombe. District No. 6.—Henry Prance, carman, Cardiff.

PORT TALBOT RAILWAY.

Sectional Board (A)—Locomotive Department. Edward Haycock, engine driver, Duffryn Yard (Port Talbot); William Meredith, engine driver, Duffryn Yard (Port Talbot).

Sectional Board (B)—Permanent Way Department. William Henry Davies, ganger, Copper Works Junction (Port Talbot); Henry Golledge, ganger, Pontyrhyll.

Sectional Board (C)—Traffic Department. Allan Edward Bayliss, signalman, Port Talbot; John Rees, goods guard, Duffryn Yard (Port Talbot).

LONDON, TILBURY AND SOUTHEAST RAILWAY.

Sectional Board for Locomotive Department. Herbert W. Collins, engine driver, Shoeburyness; James Charles Ryder, fireman, Tilbury; Henry James Pidgeon, engine driver, Plaistow.

Sectional Board for Traffic (Passenger and Goods) Department. Arthur Liggins, passenger guard, Plaistow; Charles Browne, shunter, Plaistow; J. C. Armour, porter, East Ham; H. Burton, goods guard, Plaistow.

Sectional Board for Way and Works Department. George William Key, platelayer, Plaistow; T. Godfrey, labourer, Hornchurch; George Little, platelayer, Bromley.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A.—Locomotive Department. Frederick Jones, engine driver, Cardiff (Cathays Yard); David T. John, engine driver, Aberdare; John Tristram, fireman, Pontypridd (Coke Ovens).

Sectional Board B.—Permanent Way Department. Sidney Cale, platelayer, Roath Dock; John Howells, platelayer, Taff's Well.

Sectional Board C.—Traffic Department. Charles Edward Ashton, goods guard, Cardiff (Cathays Yard); John Henry Carter, signalman, Treherbert; George Beadon, goods guard, Cardiff (Cathays Yard); William Sowden Angove, passenger guard, Penarth.

RHYMNEY RAILWAY.

Sectional Board A.—Locomotive Department. Daniel Clements, engine driver, Cardiff; William Cule, engine driver, Cardiff; Walter Gerrish, fireman, Cardiff.

Sectional Board B.—Permanent Way Department. John Evans, packer, Caerphilly; John Jones, foreman platelayer, Quaker's Yard; Daniel Thomas, foreman platelayer, Penyrheol.

Sectional Board C.—Traffic Department. Thomas Davies, guard, Senghennydd; William Morgan, signalman, Bargoed; Henry Niblett, guard, Cardiff.

SOMERSET AND DORSET JOINT RAILWAY.

Sectional Board No. 1.—Locomotive Department. Thomas Brodribb, fireman, Bath; John Lynham Porter, engine driver, Highbridge; William Samuel Upward, fireman, Bath; George William White, engine driver, Bath.

Sectional Board No. 2.—Engineers' Department. Charles Mahoney, platelayer, Chilcompton; Charles Norris, ganger, Glastonbury; Thomas Courage, platelayer, Spettisbury; William Merrick, platelayer, Bridgwater.

Sectional Board No. 3.—Traffic Department. Albert Ashman, relief signalman, Evercreech Junction; David George Lumber, goods guard, Bath; Samuel Warren, signalman, Radstock; Thomas Penny Wigmore, signalman, Wellow.

NEW SCHEMES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

The following additional Schemes have been arranged in accordance with the Agreement of November 6th, 1907:—

BELFAST AND COUNTY DOWN RAILWAY.

Three Sectional Conciliation Boards will be established, as follows:—

Board A.—Traffic staff, including guards, junior guards, ticket collectors, motor conductors, signalmen, shunters, porters, lampmen and watchmen.

Board B.—Permanent way staff, including gangers, milesmen, platelayers, fencers, signal-fitters, and labourers engaged under the permanent way inspectors.

Board C.—Locomotive drivers, firemen, cleaners, carriage and wagon examiners and greasers.

Each of the Sectional Boards will consist of eight members, viz., four of the company's servants, elected by the Section to which they belong, and an equal number of Representatives appointed by the Directors.

The Central Conciliation Board will consist of six employees chosen from the three Sectional Boards (two from each Board) and an equal number of the company's representatives.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

Four Sectional Conciliation Boards will be established as under:—

Sectional Board A, for locomotive engine drivers, fireman and cleaners, examiners, greasers, fuelmen, crane-men, and shed labourers.

Sectional Board B, for platelayers, relaying and extra gangs, fencers, slip and drainage men, road and yardmen, ballast train men, point oilers, telegraph and block instrument linesmen, signal linemen and locking frame fitters, flagmen and watchmen.

Sectional Board C, for signalmen, guards, brakemen, shunters, pointsmen, capstanmen, scotchmen, and mineral porters.

Sectional Board D, for porters (passenger, parcels and goods), lampmen, carriage cleaners, ticket collectors, checkers, loaders, sheetmen, callers-off, number-takers, carmen and stablemen.

For electoral purposes the railway is divided into five districts, viz.:—

- (1) London District, to Potters Bar.
- (2) Main Line, Hatfield to Shaftholme.
- (3) Eastern District.
- (4) Western District.
- (5) West Riding District.

The number of employees' representatives on each Sectional Board is to be five, one of whom is to be elected from each of the above districts.

There will be a Central Conciliation Board, which will be composed of employees chosen from the men's side of the Sectional Boards.

The Company's representatives on each Sectional Board and on the Central Board are not to exceed in number the employees' representatives.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

The employees affected by the scheme on the Glasgow and South-Western Railway have been grouped in six sections, as follows:—

Section I.—Locomotive Department, embracing locomotive engine drivers, firemen, cleaners, coalmen, carriage and wagon examiners and greasers.

Section II.—Traffic Department (coaching), embracing signalmen, porter signalmen and gatekeepers (excluding women).

Section III.—Traffic Department (coaching), embracing goods and mineral guards, yardsmen, porter-yardsmen and goods shunters.

Section IV.—Traffic Department (coaching), embracing passenger guards, porter-guards, passenger shunters, ticket collectors and examiners, passenger porters (including those employed as joint passenger and goods porters), parcel porters, carriage cleaners (excluding women), greasers, and lampmen.

Section V.—Traffic Department (goods), embracing checkers, crane-men (excluding those at harbours), number takers, porters, wagon ticketers, weighers, and watchmen.

Section VI.—Permanent Way and Telegraph Departments, embracing platelayers or surfacemen, signal fitters, telegraph linesmen and telegraph workmen.

For electoral purposes the line is divided into two districts, No. 1 (North) and No. 2 (South), and the number of employees' representatives on each Sectional board is to be four, two to be elected in district No. 1 and two in district No. 2.

The number of employees' representatives on the Central board will be eight, of whom one is to be elected by and from each of the Sectional boards, Nos. II, III, IV, and V., and two by and from Nos. I. and VI. Sectional boards.

MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1907.

The Home Office have recently issued a Report* on the number of persons employed at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom during 1907, the number of accidents, and the output of the various minerals.

Number of Persons Employed.

The total number of persons employed at mines, and at quarries more than 20 feet deep, in 1907, was 1,060,034; as compared with 1906 there was an increase of 59,644 at mines, but a decrease of 3,702 at quarries. Eighty-nine per cent. of the total number were employed at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act; the mines under this Act, however, include the great majority of mines producing ironstone, as well as mines producing fireclay, oil shale, and other minerals, in addition to coal mines proper.

Mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act.—The following Table shows the number of persons employed at mines under this Act in the various inspection districts in 1906 and 1907:—

District.	No. employed in		District.	No. employed in	
	1906.	1907.		1906.	1907.
E. Scotland ...	58,659	64,662	Midland ...	106,814	114,695
W. Scotland ...	57,030	60,094	Stafford ...	55,648	57,568
Newcastle ...	96,308	101,731	Cardiff ...	89,706	96,255
Durham ...	97,877	102,549	Swansea ...	41,366	47,179
York and Lincoln	115,597	124,012	Southern ...	57,192	61,267
N. & E. Lancs. and	45,395	46,723			
Ireland			Total ...	882,345	940,618
Liverpool and	60,833	63,963			
N. Wales					

It will be seen that there was an increase for the year in every district. The greatest increases were in the Swansea district (14 per cent.), in E. Scotland (10 per cent.), and in the Yorkshire, Midland, Cardiff, and Southern districts (7 per cent. each). On the other hand, North and East Lancashire and Ireland showed an increase of only 3 per cent., and Stafford of 3½ per cent. The increase for the United Kingdom as a whole was 6½ per cent.

Of the 940,618 persons employed, 758,000, or rather more than 80 per cent., were underground workers; and of these, 6,000 were boys between 13 and 14 years of age. The surface workers included 2,665 boys under 14, and 5,650 women, of whom 762 were not more than 16 years of age. The number of these female workers (who are mostly employed in Scotland and in Lancashire) shows an increase of 189 as compared with the previous year.

The total number of boys and lads employed was 64,563, distributed as follows:—

Underground:		Above-ground:	
Boys, aged 13-14 ...	5,989	Boys, aged 12-14 ...	2,665
Lads " 14-16 ...	41,750	Lads " 14-16 ...	14,159

The total number of persons employed at mines under the *Metaliferous Mines Regulation Act* was 31,602; of whom 1,142 were boys and lads under 16, and 214 were females. The number employed at quarries under the *Quarries Act (i.e., quarries more than 20 feet deep)* was 87,814; of whom 2,379 were boys and lads under 16, and 25 were females.

Fatal Accidents.

The total number of fatal accidents in or about mines and quarries in 1907 was 1,283, resulting in 1,368 deaths. Taking mines alone the number of fatal accidents was 1,195, resulting in 1,279 deaths. This is an increase of 97 accidents and of 101 deaths as compared with 1906. The principal classes of fatal accidents at mines were as follows:—

Classes of Accidents.	Number of		Proportion of Deaths due to each cause.
	Fatal Accidents.	Deaths.	
Underground:—			
Falls of Ground ...	567	586	45.8
Explosions of Fire Damp or Coal Dust ...	18	44	3.4
Other Accidents ...	462	500	39.1
Accidents on Surface ...	148	149	11.7
Total ...	1,195	1,279	100.0

* Mines and Quarries: General Report and Statistics for 1907. Part I. Cd. 4,105: Price 7d.

Falls of ground (roof or side) are, as usual, responsible for the largest number of fatal accidents, the death-rate from this cause being 75 per 100,000 of persons employed underground. This rate is, however, slightly lower than in 1906, when it was 77 per 100,000. The death-rate from this cause has varied very little since 1890. The death-rate from explosions of fire-damp or coal dust, on the other hand, has fallen from an average of 128 per 100,000 in the quinquennial period 1851-5, and 41 per 100,000 in 1881-5, to 12 per 100,000 in 1901-5, and to 8 and 6 per 100,000 respectively in 1906 and 1907. There has also been a great decline in shaft accidents, from 130 per 100,000 in 1851-5 to 13 per 100,000 in 1907.

The principal class of "other accidents" included in the Table is due to men run over or crushed by trams or tubs; these accidents caused 213 deaths in 1907, equal to a death-rate of 27 per 100,000 underground workers.

The death-rate from all classes of accidents, underground and on the surface, was 132 per 100,000 persons employed; this compares with an average of 430 per 100,000 in the quinquennial period 1851-5, and of 201 per 100,000 in the period 1881-5. The rate in 1906 was 129 per 100,000.

Output of Minerals.

The following Table shows the output of the principal minerals in 1905, 1906, and 1907:—

Minerals.	Output (in thousands of tons).		
	1905.	1906.	1907.
Coal ...	236,123	251,068	267,831
Iron Ore ...	14,591	15,500	15,732
Clays and Shale ...	15,135	15,291	14,828
Limestone and Chalk ...	17,037	17,508	17,289
Sandstone ...	5,641	5,261	5,012
Slate ...	55	493	444
Igneous Rocks (Granite, &c.) ...	5,937	6,166	5,674
Oil Shale ...	2,497	2,547	2,690
Salt ...	1,890	1,995	2,005

QUANTITIES AND PRICES OF COAL EXPORTED DURING 1907.

Quantity Exported.

ACCORDING to a Return* recently issued by the Board of Trade, the total exports of coal from the United Kingdom during the year 1907, exclusive of bunker coal, amounted to 63,601,000 tons, an increase of 8,001,000 tons (or 14 per cent.) as compared with 1906, and of 16,124,000 tons (or 34 per cent.) as compared with 1905. The principal increase was in the export of coal to Germany, viz., 2½ million tons. The total increase to "Northern Europe" (Russia, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Holland, etc.) was 4½ million tons; the exports to France, Southern Europe, and the Mediterranean amounted to 30 million tons, as compared with 27 million tons in 1906; and the exports to all other countries (principally South America) amounted to 7 million tons, as compared with 6½ million tons in 1906.

The principal exporting district is South Wales and Monmouthshire, which exported 25,672,000 tons in 1907, or 40 per cent. of the total. The port of Cardiff alone shipped 17,356,000 tons, or 27 per cent. of the total exports from the whole country. The North-East coast district comes second, with 19,383,000 tons, of which Newcastle and North and South Shields shipped 11,284,000 tons. Each of these two districts showed an increase of about 2½ million tons; while the Humber ports (Hull, Goole, and Grimsby) showed an increase of 1½ million tons (from 5 to 6½ millions), and the Eastern Scottish ports an increase of 1 million tons (from 7½ to 8½ millions).

The South Wales ports ship about 70 per cent. of their total exports to France, Southern Europe, and the Mediterranean; 6 per cent. to Northern Europe; and 17 per cent. to South America. The North-Eastern ports ship about 57 per cent. of their total exports to Northern Europe, 41 per cent. to Southern Europe, and 1½ per cent. to South America. The remaining districts ship their coal mostly to Northern Europe.

* Coal Exports: H. C. 100 of Session 1908: price 4d.

The following table shows the exports, by districts and groups of countries, for the years 1906 and 1907:—

Districts.	Northern Europe.		France and Mediterranean.		Other Countries.	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
Bristol Channel	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
N. E. Coast	1,173	1,594	16,668	18,212	5,572	5,866
Humber Ports	9,700	11,093	6,589	7,930	409	561
East Scotland	3,871	5,171	958	1,116	223	274
West Scotland	477	7,189	1,054	1,943	61	112
Other Ports	397	970	387	686	181	242
Total	21,735	26,479	27,114	30,081	6,751	7,041

In addition to the quantity exported, 18,619,000 tons were shipped as bunker coal for ships' use on foreign voyages, as compared with 18,590,000 tons in 1906. 3,121,000 tons were so shipped at Liverpool, 2,995,000 tons at Cardiff, and 2,004,000 tons at the Tyne ports. These quantities, added to the quantities of the exports properly so-called, give gross totals of 74,190,000 tons for 1906, and 82,220,000 tons for 1907, an increase of 8,030,000 tons, or 11 per cent.

Prices of Coal Exported.

ANOTHER RETURN (†) which has recently been issued shows the prices of coal exported from the United Kingdom in 1907. The following Table summarises the information given in this Return, particulars from a similar return for 1906 being given for comparison:—

Price per ton.	Bristol Channel.				North-East Coast.	
	Cardiff.		Newport, Swansea, &c.		1906.	1907.
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.		
Not exceeding 6s. ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Over 6s. and up to 8s. ...	844	69	1,160	268	1,899	158
8s. " 10s. ...	879	272	150	426	2,798	1,486
10s. " 12s. ...	1,087	1,721	453	950	10,021	5,568
12s. " 14s. ...	2,408	1,918	2,349	645	2,269	5,651
14s. " 16s. ...	8,761	2,482	2,373	1,655	96	4,108
16s. ...	1,836	6,180	647	1,943	74	2,311
Total ...	15,945	17,356	7,468	8,316	17,098	19,382

Price per ton.	East Scotland.		Other Ports.		Total.	
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.
Not exceeding 6s. ...	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Over 6s. and up to 8s. ...	1,151	205	890	73	5,924	773
8s. " 10s. ...	2,930	440	355	570	6,412	3,194
10s. " 12s. ...	524	2,089	4,374	1,538	19,182	12,156
12s. " 14s. ...	324	3,590	1,912	3,741	9,468	14,673
14s. " 16s. ...	29	1,381	232	2,966	11,494	12,182
16s. ...	21	405	11	1,007	2,529	11,848
Total ...	7,261	8,243	7,828	10,304	55,600	63,631

CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Share of Employees and others in the Membership, Capital, and Management, 1906. OUT of a total of 419 co-operative associations established primarily for production for which returns for 1906 were received, 400, with 97.6 per cent. of the total sales of the 419 societies, give figures showing the extent to which the workpeople employed by them share in the membership, capital and control of the societies by which they are employed.

From these returns it appears that in 1906 5.4 per cent. of the members were employees, and that 38.6 per cent. of the employees were members. Employees held 6.4 per cent. of the share and loan capital, and 6.6 per cent. of the total number of seats on the management committees of the societies.

Compared with the previous year, as also with 1904, there was no change in the proportion of members who were employees, but a decline in the proportion of employees who were members and in the proportion of committee members who were employees, while the proportion of capital held by employees showed a slight increase.

As regards the proportion of the production which is

† H.C. 97 of Session 1903. Price 2jd.

under the direct control of the employees, in 308 societies (with 78.0 per cent. of the total sales) out of the 400 societies the employees were not represented on the managing committees; in 63 societies, with 9.0 per cent. of the sales, some of the committeemen, but less than a majority, were employees; while in 29 societies, with 13.0 per cent. of the total sales, employees formed the majority of the managing committee. Thirteen of these 29 societies were engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes.

The Returns for 1906, giving full particulars as to membership, capital and control are summarised in the following Table, which gives also the comparative figures for 1905:—

	1905.		1906.	
I.—Number of Societies* to which particulars relate ...	389		400	
II.—Membership: The total membership consisted of:—	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
1. Employees ...	3,727	5.4	3,837	5.4
2. Other Individuals ...	61,517	88.5	62,076	88.2
3. Societies ...	4,774	6.1	4,147	6.4
Total Membership ...	69,518	100.0	70,110	100.0
III.—Employees: The persons employed consisted of:—	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
1. Members ...	3,727	39.7	3,837	38.6
2. Non-members ...	5,654	60.3	6,092	61.4
Total Employees ...	9,381	100.0	9,929	100.0
IV.—Share and Loan Capital: The Share and Loan Capital was held by:—	£	Per cent.	£	Per cent.
1. Employees ...	80,659	6.2	84,930	6.4
2. Other Individual Members ...	435,004	33.2	428,375	32.0
3. Societies ...	548,930	41.8	586,799	43.8
4. Non-Members (Loans) ...	247,188	18.8	238,404	17.8
Total Share & Loan Capital ...	1,311,781	100.0	1,338,504	100.0
V.—Management: The Management Committees consisted of:—	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
1. Employees ...	336	6.8	337	6.6
2. Other Individual Members ...	4,338	87.8	4,404	87.2
3. Representatives of Societies ...	269	5.4	318	6.2
Total Number of Committeemen ...	4,943	100.0	5,119	100.0

In addition to the societies dealt with above, there were 6 corn milling societies at work at the end of 1906, with a total membership of 4,259, of whom 16 were employees. These 16 employees held £482 out of a total share and loan capital of £271,277, and none of them were members of committees.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

CO-OPERATIVE Credit Societies at work in the United Kingdom increased in number in 1906 to 238, as compared with 221 at the end of 1905. Of these the greater number are in Ireland, where 211 were reported to be at work in the year 1906.

These Societies or banks are combinations of small farmers, labourers and artisans, formed for the purpose of raising capital to be advanced at a reasonable rate of interest to members requiring temporary loans for the purpose of reproductive undertakings.

With few exceptions, the societies are in agricultural districts, and are organised on the "Raiffeisen" system, the main features of which are that the capital is raised by entrance fees, subscriptions, and deposits and loans bearing a fixed rate of interest, the liability of members being unlimited, and every member being jointly and severally responsible for any losses that may be incurred by the society. The loans are advanced for reproductive purposes only, the borrower being required to satisfy the managing committee that the purpose for which the loan is required is one that affords a reasonable security for his being able to repay it at the date agreed upon. The operations of the societies are confined to small areas, in order that the personal character and needs of the applicants for loans may be known to the members and committee.

The loans are usually advanced to enable the borrower to purchase a few pigs, or poultry, or a cow, and it is claimed that by this means many labourers have been

* Excluding Corn Mill Societies

enabled to make considerable additions to their income, and that as yet no bad debts have been incurred in rural districts.

With the exception of 16 (14 of which are town societies) all the 238 societies are registered under the Friendly Societies Acts as specially authorised societies, and in these no dividends are paid, the profit, after working expenses and interest on loans and deposits have been provided for, being carried to reserve funds and used as working capital. The 16 societies referred to above are registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, with share capital and limited liability.

The following Table* shows the number and progress of the societies during each of the nine years (1898-1906) for which the statistics are available:—

Year.	Number of Societies making Returns.	Total Number of Members.	Total Capital (Share Loan and Reserve).	Amount of Loans.		Working Expenses, including Interest on Capital.	Profit after allowing for Interest on Capital.
				Advanced during year (including renewals).	Repaid during year (including interest).		
1898	31	2,559	42,245	14,955	11,734	£ 212	
1899	48	3,472	47,511	17,773	12,772	1,398	
1900	64	5,015	53,922	17,975	14,651	309	
1901	81	6,014	61,746	20,658	19,777	493	
1902	114	7,921	77,607	31,107	23,279	568	
1903	154	10,509	90,128	33,758	27,194	813	
1904	191	13,680	114,328	50,389	39,347	652	
1905	221	16,545	131,764	65,668	55,734	419	
1906	238	18,283	150,001	77,629	65,443	954	

Comparing 1906 with 1898 it will be seen that the number of societies has increased sevenfold, the amount of capital threefold, and the amount of loans advanced or repaid fivefold.

Comparing 1906 with 1905 the number of societies has increased by 17 or 7.7 per cent., the membership by 1,743 or 10.5 per cent., and the amount of loans advanced or repaid by £20,670 or 16.9 per cent., while the total capital shows a decrease of £1,703 or 1.3 per cent.

Of the 238 societies for which returns for 1906 were received, 26 with a membership of 2,763 and a total capital (share, loan and reserve) of £18,723, and granting loans to the amount of £9,567, were in England and Wales; one society, with 367 members and £61,603 capital, and making advances amounting to £16,191, was in Scotland; and 211, with a membership of 15,158 and capital amounting to £49,735, and granting loans amounting to £51,871, were in Ireland. Fourteen of the societies in England and the society in Scotland were in town districts; while all the Irish societies and the remainder of the English ones were in agricultural districts.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN 1907.

DURING the year 1907 the number of cases of lead poisoning was 578, being 54 less than in 1906, and 25 less than the mean number of cases for the five years 1903-1907. The percentage of deaths to cases was 4.5 in 1907, as compared with 5.2 in 1906. In addition to the cases of lead poisoning contracted in factories and workshops, 174 cases of lead poisoning affecting house painters and plumbers were reported in 1907; the number of deaths from lead poisoning reported among painters and plumbers was 39, a slight increase on the number in 1906.

Of the 578 cases of lead poisoning, 103 occurred in the china and earthenware industry, 71 at white lead works, and 70 in coachmaking works. Of the total number, 95 (including 51 in the china and earthenware industry) occurred among females, and 483 among males; the mortality of the former being 3.2 per cent., and of the latter 4.8 per cent.

Taking the period 1903-1907, the death-rate in cases in which lead poisoning was entered as directly or indirectly the cause was highest in the printing trades, where it was 12.4 per cent., followed by file cutting, 7.4 per cent. In china and earthenware works the per-

* Compiled from returns and balance-sheets furnished by the societies, supplemented by particulars furnished by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society.

centage was 4.6, and in white lead works it was 2.4; for all industries together the percentage was 4.2.

The cases of other forms of industrial poisoning (mercurial, phosphorus and arsenic) numbered 17 in 1907, as compared with 9 in 1906. The mean for the five years 1903-1907 was 12. In 1907 there were 3 deaths, 1 due to phosphorus poisoning and 2 due to arsenic poisoning.

The number of cases of anthrax in 1907 was 58, a decrease of 8 as compared with the previous year. The number of deaths during 1907 was 11, being 10 less than in 1906. The number of deaths in the five years 1903-1907 was 72.

The following Table shows the number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus, and arsenical poisoning, and of anthrax reported in 1903-1907, classified according to the industries affected. The statistics are extracted from the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories, with the exception of the figures for 1907. The number of cases shown for any one year is the same as the number of persons attacked, second notifications of persons already included in a return within the preceding twelve months not being regarded as fresh cases. Such cases numbered 26 in 1907.

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	Cases.					Deaths.				
	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907
Lead Poisoning.										
Smelting of Metals ...	37	33	24	38	28	2	1	1	1	2
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	11	7	9	7	6	—	—	—	—	—
Printing ...	13	15	19	16	26	2	—	4	2	3
File Cutting ...	24	20	12	15	10	2	4	—	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron										
Hollow-ware ...	14	10	14	18	25	—	—	1	1	—
White Lead Works ...	109	116	90	108	71	2	2	1	7	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	6	11	10	6	7	—	—	—	—	—
China and Earthenware ...	97	105	84	107	103	3	4	3	4	9
Litho Transfer Works ...	3	3	5	5	10	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	4	—	3	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	4	3	2	4	6	—	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	23	33	27	25	21	—	—	—	—	—
Paints and Colours ...	39	32	57	37	35	1	1	1	—	1
Coach Making ...	74	49	56	85	70	5	4	3	7	3
Shipbuilding ...	24	48	32	25	22	1	—	2	1	1
Paints used in Other Industries ...	46	27	49	37	49	1	3	2	3	2
Other Industries ...	81	84	59	93	95	—	—	—	—	—
Total, Lead Poisoning* ...	614	697	692	632	578	19	26	23	33	26
House Painting and Plumbing† ...	201	227	163	181	174	39	39	28	36	39
Other Forms of Poisoning.										
Mercurial Poisoning—										
Barometer and Thermometer										
Making ...	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	1	—	3	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	4	2	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	8	3	8	4	7	—	—	—	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—										
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	1	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Total ...	—	1	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—										
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic ...	3	3	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	2	2	1	3	5	—	—	—	—	2
Total ...	5	5	1	5	9	—	—	—	—	2
Total, Other Forms of Poisoning ...	13	9	12	9	17	1	1	1	1	3
Anthrax.										
Wool ...	20	12	34	24	23	5	1	12	8	3
Handling of Horsehair ...	7	12	7	10	17	1	4	1	5	4
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	12	18	17	18	12	1	3	4	5	2
Other Industries ...	8	8	1	14	6					

Of those returned on June 23rd 5,725 were men, 1,921 women, and 1,609 children. Of the 9,255, 303 were found in prisons or police cells; 667 in houses of refuge, hospitals, or poor's houses; 3,612 in common lodging and other houses; and 4,673 in public parks, gardens, or streets, in outhouses, sheds, or barns, or about pits, brickworks, or other works.

The total for December included 5,211 men, 1,477 women, and 1,082 children. The number found in prisons, &c. was 266; in houses of refuge, &c., 710; in common lodging and other houses, 4,004; and in parks, streets, barns, brickworks, &c., 2,790.

During the ten years 1898-1907, the number of vagrants at the June census varied from 8,252 in 1902 to 9,784 in 1904; and the number at the December census from 6,654 in 1899 to 7,948 in 1904. The average figures for the ten years were 9,090 in June, and 7,263 in December.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN AUSTRIA IN 1906.

ACCORDING to a report* recently issued by the Austrian Labour Department, the number of strikes occurring in 1906 was greater than in any year during the period 1894-1905. As compared with 1905, in which the next largest number of strikes occurred, the number of workpeople involved was considerably larger, while the loss in working days showed an increase of 90 per cent. The number, extent and duration of strikes in 1906, as compared with 1905, are shown in the following Table, according to the principal groups of trades affected.

Group of Trades.	Number of Strikes.		Number of Strikers.		Number of Working Days Lost by Strikers.	
	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1906.	1905.
Building Trades ...	189	192	16,309	35,123	357,199	341,899
Mining ...	68	43	38,795	10,100	296,465	44,454
Metal, Engineering, &c., Trades.	136	110	22,014	12,066	334,081	172,900
Textile Trades ...	130	54	28,970	5,866	513,477	121,478
Clothing Trades ...	105	46	13,018	7,525	202,156	82,962
Transport and Communication.	24	21	3,341	4,359	20,548	9,654
Woodworking, India-rubber, and Furnishing Trades.	118	53	5,598	2,756	104,602	62,572
Chemical, Glass, Pottery, &c. Trades.	123	86	12,295	11,043	218,950	251,479
Food and Tobacco Trades	82	50	6,924	4,442	38,878	7,643
Leather Trades ...	35	15	2,244	397	61,792	4,036
Miscellaneous ...	73	56	4,260	5,934	45,667	52,983
Total ...	1,083	686	152,688	99,591	2,191,815	1,151,310

The aggregate loss in working time in 1906 exceeded that of 1905 by 1,040,505 days. Large increases in this respect were shown in the mining metal, and engineering, textile and clothing groups.

The figures in the above Table do not include 13,098 persons in 1906 (as compared with 11,340 in 1905) who suffered enforced idleness owing to strikes, although not themselves on strike.

The results of the strikes appear to have been less favourable for the workpeople in 1906 than in 1905, as is shown by the following table:—

Result.	1906.			1905.		
	No. of Strikes.	Strikers.		No. of Strikes.	Strikers.	
		No.	Per cent.		No.	Per cent.
In favour of Workpeople ...	241	18,377	11.96	150	13,991	14.05
Employers ...	329	33,705	21.60	185	14,318	14.38
Compromised ...	513	102,106	66.44	351	71,282	71.57
Total ...	1,083	153,618	100.00	686	99,591	100.00

The lock-outs are separately tabulated in the report. In 1906 these numbered 50, including 2 in the Vienna building trades affecting 32,498 and 7,334 persons respectively, and one affecting 7,000 textile workers in Silesia.

* Die Arbeitseinstellungen und Aussperrungen in Oesterreich während des Jahres 1906. Vienna, 1907: Alfred Hölder, 1, Rotenturmstrasse 13. Price, 2s.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, etc.)

Canada.

The only classes of emigrants wanted in Canada at the present time are experienced farm labourers, farmers financially able to take homesteads or purchase lands, and female domestic servants. The Regulation now in operation in Canada requiring every emigrant 18 years of age or over to have in his possession at least 25 dols. cash at the time of landing, besides ticket to destination, is enforced strictly and impartially in the case of all emigrants outside of the classes above mentioned. All emigrants sent out by British Charitable Societies or Public Funds must be certified as suitable by the Canadian authorities in London. No more men are wanted for work on railway construction. Coal mining has been brisk in Nova Scotia, and gold and other mining at Rossland, B.C. Mechanics and unskilled labourers are recommended not to emigrate to Canada now, unless they have means of their own or go to assured work, or to friends; they should first apply to the Emigrants' Information Office. Hundreds of girls have been thrown out of employment at the mica factories at Hull (Quebec), but have found work elsewhere. Disputes at the cotton mills in the Province of Quebec have led to a stoppage of work. Some of the large rail mills at Sault Ste. Marie (Ont.) have closed down.

Australia.

It is easy for farm labourers and female servants to get to Australia now, as the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia are all assisting emigrants in some degree. There is an excellent demand for these classes in most parts. The demand for mechanics and miners is not so good, but competent carpenters, blacksmiths and others can get work in many country districts, and skilled miners at the Broken Hill Mines in New South Wales. In Queensland the mining industry, with the exception of coal mining, shows little progress, and there is no demand for miners there. Coal-mining, however, has done well in Queensland, modern machinery and new methods of hauling coal have been introduced, and "some difficulty is now experienced in procuring an adequate supply of skilled labour." It is not advisable for a new arrival in Queensland to take up work on the sugar farms in the north, as the climate there is hot and the work is very trying; he should at all events wait until he has become acclimatised by residence. In South Australia the building trade is busy, and there are openings for competent men. In Western Australia an Immigration Depot has recently been opened for the reception of immigrants; three days free board and residence are provided; nominated immigrants are not admitted. In Tasmania a Government Labour Bureau has just been opened in Hobart.

New Zealand.

Special attention is drawn to the fact that persons suffering from consumption are prohibited from landing in New Zealand. Farmers and agricultural labourers with a capital of £25, and female servants with £2, are eligible for reduced passages at £10 to £12 a head. There is an excellent opening for these classes. There has been plenty of employment in the various trades, but there is no demand for more mechanics or labourers. Many flax mills have been closed down owing to the low price of fibre. There is still a demand at Christchurch and elsewhere for female machinists, knitters and weavers in the clothing factories, and for female machinists in the boot factories. In several country districts men have been wanted for railway and road work, bush felling, and ditching.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—The engineering trade showed great temporary improvement in Cape Town during April, but otherwise the supply of men in the building and

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

engineering trades, and in factories, exceeds the demand in all the principal towns of the Colony and especially in Kimberley.

Natal.—The local supply of labour is ample for all requirements.

Transvaal.—Emigrants are warned against going to the Transvaal in search of work. No one is allowed to enter the Colony without a permit. Considerable numbers are unable to obtain employment, and there are many cases of distress.

Orange River Colony.—Applications for permits to enter the Orange River Colony must now be addressed to the Colonial Secretary, Bloemfontein. There is no demand whatever for more workmen at the present time.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 165 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in April.—The improvement in employment in the building and allied trades continued, except at Paris owing to the lock-out of masons (see May GAZETTE, p. 140). In the metal trades, especially in the automobile branch at Paris, employment continued to decline. In the textile trades the decline continued in most of the Nord centres, and at Flers and St. Quentin, but in the Vosges and Ardennes employment continued fair. In the smaller centres of Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres it was still moderate. Among silk weavers in the St.-Etienne and Lyons districts there was no improvement. In the garment making and printing trades employment was good. There was still much unemployment among tin box makers on the Atlantic coast and among diamond workers, but among leather dressers employment improved. Employment among vineyard workers in the South was worse than in March, and much below the level shown for April in previous years. The woodcutting season having terminated, forestry workers, while awaiting the bark peeling season, found employment chiefly in agricultural work. Gardeners in the Paris district and agricultural workers in the Seine-et-Marne were well employed.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in April were received by the French Labour Department from 1,027 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 211,731. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 9.6 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 10.5 per cent. in the previous month, and 7.1 per cent. in April, 1907.

Coal Mining in April.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during April was 5.99, as compared with 5.76 in March, and 6.00 in April, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 95.88 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 4.12 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 53.81 and 45.91, and in April, 1907, 97.1 and 2.9.

Labour Disputes in April.—One hundred and fourteen disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in April, compared with 147 in the previous month and 192 in April, 1907. In 101 of the new disputes 8,626 workpeople took part, as compared with 8,622 workpeople who took part in 139 of the disputes in April, 1907. The trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were building (41), textile (16), mining and quarrying (11), pottery (10), transport and warehousing (9), and woodworking (7). Of 98 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 11 terminated in favour of the workpeople and

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

51 in favour of the employers, while 36 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in April.—Four instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in April. Conciliation committees were formed in all four cases, and these succeeded in settling two of the disputes.

GERMANY.*

Employment in April.—The general state of the labour market, which in recent months has shown a marked change for the worse as compared with last year, presented little uniformity in April. On the one hand a certain improvement was noted. This was of the kind usually expected in the spring, and was mainly due to the resumption of work in the building trades. A certain degree of recovery was also to be observed in the coal mining industry, except in Silesia, and up to the time of reporting the electrical trades had been but little affected by the decline. On the other hand, employment was less favourable in certain branches of the textile trades and in the printing and paper trades. In the clothing and cleaning and the food preparation trades there was decreased employment for female workers, partly due to weather conditions. A certain falling off was also observed in the chemical trades. In the metal trades conditions were more favourable in the south of Germany than in the north. The engineering trades showed symptoms of decline. On the whole it may be said that in April employment generally was considerably below the very high level of the spring of 1907.

BELGIUM.†

Employment in April.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 3.1 per cent. of the 43,241 members of the 213 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 6.0 per cent. in March. The disparity between these percentages is principally due to the fact that in the earlier month the figure was largely influenced by lack of work among diamond workers at Antwerp. Excluding these persons the March percentage was 3.5. In April the diamond workers voluntarily ceased work for four weeks, and are not included in the April statistics as unemployed. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" above.)

Labour Disputes in April.—Eleven strikes, affecting 1,767 workpeople (1,240 directly and 527 indirectly), and one lock-out of 482 painters, were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in April. In addition 7 disputes, affecting 1,691 workpeople, which began before April 1st, were in progress during the month. The termination of 11 strikes was reported. Two of these (involving 53 strikers) ended in favour of the workpeople, and 6 (involving 562 strikers) in favour of the employers, while 3 (involving 323 strikers) were compromised. The termination of 3 lock-outs was also reported. One, involving 482 persons, terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 2, involving 1,028 workpeople, were compromised.

HOLLAND.‡

Employment in April.—The seasonal revival of employment in the building trades experienced in March became more marked in April. In the larger metal and engineering establishments (especially those engaged in machine construction) and in shipbuilding employment continued satisfactory. Employment in the textile trades was still slack, but in the garment-making trades there was a marked revival, and in the boot and shoe trades (except in the province of Brabant) employment was satisfactory. With the exception of coopers persons in the woodworking trades were generally better employed than in March. In the printing trades employment showed no change. In bulb growing employment was regular, but, owing to the weather, workers were not so busy as in previous years. The general slackness in breweries and distilleries continued.

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department). † Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department). ‡ Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

Labour Disputes in April.—Nineteen strikes, 14 of which directly affected 3,921 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in April. Fifteen strikes came to an end during the month, including 5 which had begun in previous months. The results were known in 13 cases. Four of these resulted in favour of the workpeople, and 5 in favour of the employers, while 4 were compromised.

SPAIN.

New Law to Restrict and Control Emigration.—The January issue of the journal of the Spanish Labour Department contains the text of a law published on December 22nd last, the object of which is to regulate and control the emigration of Spanish subjects. An emigrant is defined as a person who leaves the country as a 3rd-class passenger for America, Asia, or Australasia. Persons liable to be called up for continuous military service are not allowed to emigrate, nor may married women do so without the consent of their husbands. Freedom to emigrate in the case of minors above the age of 15, who have not fulfilled their term of military service, and of those who belong to the 1st and 2nd reserve, may be suspended at any time by Royal Decree.

The law establishes a Higher Council of Emigration under the Ministry of the Interior. Besides attending to certain special duties, such as the drawing up of regulations for the execution of the present law and the granting of permits to emigrant vessels, the Higher Council is to make to the Ministry of the Interior such suggestions regarding the regulation of emigration as it considers advisable. The Council will also study the causes and effects of emigration from Spain in relation to emigration from other countries, and publish statistics and other information on this point. It will present an annual Report on its operations.

On the proposal of the Council the Ministry of the Interior will establish Emigration Committees at those ports selected for this purpose by the Council. These Committees will be under the supervision of the Council.

UNITED STATES.

Strike of Coal Miners in Central States.—A despatch from H.M. Consul-General at Chicago dated May 11th reported that the strike of some 200,000 coal miners in the central States (see GAZETTE for April, p. 109) had come to an end, and that the whole of the miners concerned had returned to work on that date under the old conditions.

Reduction in Wages of Cotton Operatives at Fall River.—According to a despatch from H.M. Consul-General at New York, dated May 26th, a new wages agreement between the cotton manufacturers and the textile council at Fall River, Mass., came into force on May 25th, and is to remain in force until November. Under this agreement 25,000 operatives receive a reduction in wages of 17.9 per cent. The mills at Fall River have been running on short time for several months. (See also GAZETTE, April, p. 109, and May, p. 141.)

Liability of Railway Companies in case of Accidents to Employees: New Law.—A despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Washington, dated April 30th, transmits the text of a law approved on April 22nd, establishing the liability of common carriers by railroad in the United States. The new law enacts that railway companies shall be liable in damages to any person suffering injury while employed by them, or in the case of death to the personal representative or next-of-kin of such employee, for such injury or death resulting from the negligence of any of the officers, agents, or employees of such companies, or by reason of any defect or insufficiency, due to their negligence, of cars, engines, appliances, machinery, track, permanent way, works, boats, wharves, or other equipment. The fact that the employee has been guilty of contributory negligence shall not be a bar to the recovery of damages, but these shall be diminished

by the jury in proportion to the amount of negligence attributable to such employee. In any action to recover damages for injuries to, or the death of, an employee, such employee shall not be held to have assumed the risks of his employment in any case where the violation by the railway company of any statute enacted for the safety of employees contributed to the injury or death.

Any contract, rule, regulation or device whatsoever for the purpose of enabling any common carrier by railroad to exempt itself from any liability created by this Act shall to that extent be void, but account shall be taken of any sum already paid by the company as indemnity or as insurance contributions.

This Act applies to all railway companies over which the Federal Government of the United States has jurisdiction, including those in the Panama Canal Zone and other possessions of the United States.

Illegality of Boycotting: Action by Trade Unions.—A despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Washington, dated April 21st, states that owing to recent decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States on labour questions (see MARCH GAZETTE, p. 73), a meeting of Trade Union representatives was held at Washington, at which a protest was drawn up, dated March 19th, in the form of a Memorial to Congress. This document urges the necessity of immediate action for relief from the crisis brought about by the decision of the Supreme Court against boycotting by Trade Unions of a firm which employed non-Union labour. The decision was given on the ground that such a boycott was an organisation in restraint of trade in the meaning of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.*

Law relating to Employment of Women and Children.—A law dated September 30th, 1907, regulates the conditions under which women and children may be employed in the Argentine Republic. Ten is the minimum age at which children may be employed, but those over ten who are of school age and who have not completed the obligatory course of instruction can only be employed where such work is necessary for their subsistence, or for that of their parents or brothers and sisters, in which case authorisation must be obtained. Children under 16 may not do night work or work likely to be prejudicial to their health, instruction or morals. The local authority may order the medical examination of children employed in commercial or industrial establishments, and the withdrawal of those whose health or normal development is affected by the work. The local authority is required to regulate the work of women and children in the interests of their health, safety, instruction and morals. Owners and directors of factories and workshops, machinery, &c., are required to organise the work in such a manner that women and children employed may be safeguarded as far as possible from all danger to health and morals.

Special regulations, which came into force on August 14th, are laid down for Buenos Aires, the capital of the Republic. In this town no children of 12 or under may be employed in industrial establishments, and neither children under 16 nor women may work at dangerous or unhealthy trades designated as such by the Executive, or do night work (from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.). The maximum number of hours per day for children is 8, and a mid-day rest of two hours must be allowed for these and for women in cases where work is carried on both morning and afternoon. Seats must be provided for women where the work permits. Women workers in factories shall be permitted to absent themselves for thirty days after childbirth, and their employment shall be kept open for them.

Penalties for infraction of the law are from 50 to 500 dollars, or imprisonment in default. Every person causing children under 16 to go through dangerous exercises of feats of strength, &c., is liable to a fine of 100 to 1,000 dollars, or an equivalent term of imprisonment.

* Based on despatches to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Buenos Aires

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN MAY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 488 Returns—443 from Employers, 28 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued good during May, but there was a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,369 pits employing 640,850 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended May 23rd, 1908, was 5.48, as compared with 5.05 in April, 1908, and 5.57 in May, 1907. In April, 1908, however, 0.65 of a day per week was lost on account of holidays.

Of the 640,850 workpeople covered by the Returns 556,729 (86.9 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended May 23rd, 1908, while 416,472 (65.0 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest averages were in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 5.86 days; South Yorkshire, 5.74 days; and North Wales, 5.66 days: the lowest averages were in the Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire district (4.96), and in West Scotland (4.99). In Ireland employment was affected by a dispute.

The following Table shows the average number of days per week worked by the pits during the four weeks ended May 23rd, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in April, 1908, and May, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in May, 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with	
		May 23rd, 1908.	April 25th, 1908.*	May 18th, 1907.	A m'nth ago.*	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	44,530	5.45	5.20	5.49	+ .25	- .04
Durham	115,188	5.47	5.21	5.53	+ .26	- .08
Cumberland	7,522	5.26	4.90	5.60	+ .36	- .34
South Yorkshire	65,532	5.74	5.08	5.77	+ .66	- .03
West Yorkshire	24,388	5.47	4.86	5.48	+ .61	- .01
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,962	5.15	4.84	5.41	+ .31	- .26
Derbyshire	40,098	5.22	4.86	4.63	+ .36	+ .59
Nottingham and Leicester	33,459	4.96	4.44	5.11	+ .54	- .15
Staffordshire	28,301	5.43	4.95	5.45	+ .47	- .02
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop	11,451	5.57	4.91	5.53	+ .66	+ .04
Gloucester and Somerset	8,131	5.12	5.12	5.27	...	- .15
North Wales	11,495	5.66	5.03	5.66	+ .63	...
South Wales and Mon. ...	141,685	5.86	5.18	5.90	+ .68	- .04
ENGLAND AND WALES	889,602	5.51	5.04	5.88	+ .47	- .07
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland	26,897	4.99	5.10	5.33	- .11	- .34
The Lothians	4,466	5.17	4.98	5.71	+ .19	- .54
Fife	18,995	5.35	5.20	5.51	+ .15	- .19
SCOTLAND ...	50,368	5.14	5.13	5.45	+ .01	- .31
IRELAND ...	690	4.46	5.15	4.71	- .69	- .25
United Kingdom ...	840,850	5.48	5.05	5.87	+ .43	- .09

Compared with April (after making allowance for the holidays in that month), there was on the whole a slight decline during May. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease in the average number of days worked per week in nearly every district. The decreases were greatest in the Lothians (0.54 of a day per week), West Scotland and Cumberland (0.34 of a day per week each), and in Lancashire and Cheshire (0.26 of a day per week). In Derbyshire there was an improvement, amounting to 0.59 of a day per week.

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

† Easter Holidays are included in this period and affect the comparison made in col. 6.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. At pits employing 207,959 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the description "mixed." Compared with a year ago there was a slight decline of employment at pits producing all classes of coal except anthracite, which showed an improvement amounting to 0.30 of a day per week.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in May, 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with	
		May 23rd, 1908.	April 25th, 1908.*	May 18th, 1907.	A m'nth ago.*	A year ago.
Anthracite	7,835	5.71	5.11	5.41	+ .60	+ .30
Coking	32,530	5.54	5.19	5.69	+ .35	- .15
Gas	40,599	5.39	5.16	5.54	+ .23	- .13
House	83,224	5.19	4.88	5.25	+ .31	- .07
Manufacturing and Steam	268,722	5.61	5.07	5.69	+ .54	- .08
Mixed	207,959	5.43	5.04	5.56	+ .39	- .13
All Descriptions ...	640,850	5.48	5.05	5.87	+ .43	- .09

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in May, 1908, amounted to 5,990,144 tons, or 826,236 tons more than in April, 1908, and 303,831 tons more than in May, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 84 Returns—71 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in iron mines remained fair, but was not so good as a year ago. In shale mines it continued good.

Employment continued fair in tin and copper mines, and good in lead mines. In quarries it remained moderate on the whole.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended May 23rd, 1908, the average number of days per week worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.74, as compared with 5.54 days in April, and 5.88 days in May, 1907. The April figures are, however, affected by the Easter holidays, the time lost through these amounting to 0.26 of a day.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in May, 1908, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with	
		May 23rd, 1908.	April 25th, 1908.*	May 18th, 1907.	A month ago.*	A year ago.
Cleveland... ..	7,176	5.80	5.60	5.94	+ 0.20	- 0.14
Cumberland and Lancashire	4,986	5.75	5.45	5.62	+ 0.30	- 0.17
Scotland	743	5.08	5.64	5.52	+ 0.56	- 0.44
Other Districts ...	2,496	5.72	5.49	5.78	+ 0.23	- 0.06
All Districts ...	18,401	5.74	5.54	5.88	+ 0.20	- 0.14

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 83.0 per cent. worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended May 23rd, as compared with 95.3 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,363 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended May 23rd, as compared with 3,304 a month ago, and 3,205 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked in the four weeks ended May 23rd, 1908, was 5.70, as compared with 5.74 a month ago, and 5.64 a year ago.

* Easter holidays are included in this period and affect the comparison made in col. 6.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued fair on the whole in Cornwall.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in North Wales and in Weardale.

Quarrying.

Slate.—In North Wales employment was slack, short time being worked in the Festiniog district. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) it continued fair.

Granite.—Employment continued good in Leicestershire. It was fair, though not so good as a month ago, on Dartmoor, and was bad in the Penryn district. In Aberdeenshire it was reported as fairly good, and better than a month ago.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Weardale. In Cumberland employment continued bad; in North Wales it was fair; it continued dull in the Plymouth district and bad in the Somerset blue lias quarries.

Other Stone.—Employment in the Portland building stone quarries was fair. It continued dull in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries, and was slack in the Bath stone quarries. Employment continued good in the Cleve Hill road-material quarries, and with chert quarrymen at Bakewell. It was fair in sandstone quarries in North Wales. It was moderate in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. In freestone quarries in the Gateshead district employment was fair. It was fair, on the whole, at Barnsley, Wickersley, and Normanton. In Forfarshire it continued bad.

Sett-making.—Employment continued fair at Aberdeen, Glasgow and Airdrie. It was fair in certain districts in North Wales, but slack in others. At Rowley Regis it was good. It was bad in Leicestershire, and dull in the Cleve Hill district.

China Clay.—Employment remained fair, and was better than in the previous month, in the St. Austell district, and was moderate at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during May was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with April. It was considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing nearly 22,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of May, 1908, was 286, as compared with 293 in April, 1908, and 346 in May, 1907. During May, 3 furnaces were re-lit (1 in Cumberland, 1 in South Yorkshire, and 1 in Lincolnshire), while 4 were damped down (1 each in Derbyshire and Lincolnshire and 2 in Staffordshire), and 6 were blown out (4 in Yorkshire and 2 in Staffordshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in May, 1908, as compared with	
	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	78	78	87	...	- 9
Cumberland & Lancs. ...	25	24	38	+ 1	- 13
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	11	14	16	- 3	- 5
Derby & Nottingham ...	34	35	42	- 1	- 8
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton ...	26	26	27	...	- 1
Stafford & Worcester ...	30	34	36	- 4	- 6
S. Wales & Monmouth ...	13	13	16	...	- 3
Other districts ...	6	6	6
England & Wales	223	230	268	- 7	- 45
Scotland ...	63	63	78	...	- 15
Total ...	286	293	346	- 7	- 60

The Imports of iron ore in May, 1908, amounted to 511,868 tons, or 31,099 tons more than in April, 1908, but 119,365 tons less than in May, 1907.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in May, 1908, amounted to 114,623 tons, or 3,902 tons more than in April, 1908, but 76,771 tons less than in May, 1907.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 212 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 6 from Trade Unions; and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed a further decline, and was worse than a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended May 23rd, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received, was 1.6 per cent. less than in the week ended April 18th, 1908, and 13.9 per cent. less than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended May 23rd, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns, was about 461,400, as compared with 469,000 a month ago, and 536,100 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.	
	In week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) as compared with A month ago.
IRON:				
Puddling Forges ...	9,711	- 104	4.45	- 0.16
Rolling Mills ...	3,726	- 164	4.21	- 0.04
Forging ...	438	- 12	5.54	+ 0.02
Founding ...	1,814	+ 1	5.96	+ 0.09
Other Departments ...	614	- 47	5.91	+ 0.38
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,687	...	5.45	- 0.05
Total, Iron ...	17,990	- 328	4.71	- 0.07
STEEL:				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	7,616	- 129	5.82	+ 0.03
Crucible Furnaces ...	525	- 22	4.77	+ 0.59
Bessemer Converters ...	1,419	+ 130	5.06	- 0.73
Rolling Mills ...	13,793	- 104	5.00	- 0.19
Forging and Pressing ...	2,934	- 17	5.18	- 0.29
Founding ...	7,465	+ 31	5.81	- 0.11
Other Departments ...	6,569	- 58	5.75	- 0.09
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,566	+ 214	5.94	+ 0.10
Total, Steel ...	47,797	- 8	5.82	- 0.07
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills ...	10,711	+ 77	4.89	- 0.09
Forging and Pressing ...	740	+ 12	5.48	+ 0.04
Founding ...	719	- 22	5.82	- 0.13
Other Departments ...	2,849	- 53	5.80	- 0.05
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,245	+ 25	5.77	- 0.04
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,264	+ 39	5.32	- 0.06
Grand Total ...	87,051	- 292	5.30	- 0.07

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of		Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in May, 1908, as compared with	
	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	A month ago.
Northumberland & Durham	10,311	+ 375	- 1,812	5.06
Cleveland ...	7,977	+ 151	- 63	5.78
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	16,659	+ 256	- 215	5.47
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,508	- 26	- 36	5.32
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	7,533	- 242	- 2,488	4.77
Staffordshire ...	9,921	- 62	- 116	5.35
Other Midland Counties ...	4,694	- 205	- 422	5.25
Wales and Monmouth ...	9,755	+ 281	- 1,068	5.47
Total, England and Wales	71,368	+ 529	- 6,250	5.32
Scotland ...	15,683	- 821	- 2,088	5.18
Total ...	87,051	- 292	- 8,338	5.30

Compared with a month ago there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in the Northumberland and Durham, Cleveland, Sheffield and Rotherham, and Wales and Monmouth districts; while there were decreases in the other districts, most marked in Scotland and in Cumberland and Lancashire. The number employed was less than a year ago in all districts, the decline being most marked in Cumberland and Lancashire and in Scotland. As regards departments the decline as compared with a month ago and a

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 983 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 931 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 41 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 154,355 show that at the end of May the percentage unemployed was 9.5, as compared with 8.6 a month ago, and 2.9 in May, 1907. The increase as compared with a month ago was common to all districts, except Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, the South Coast, and the Bristol and South Wales districts, where there was a slight improvement in the percentage. As compared with a year ago there was an increase in the percentage unemployed in all districts, which was greatest on the North-East Coast, Glasgow and district, and the East of Scotland.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of May, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage Returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in percentage unemployed for May, 1908, as compared with a	
		May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	4,790†	30.7†	28.3†	4.8	+ 2.4	+ 25.9
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,744	8.3	6.9	2.7	+ 1.4	+ 5.6
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,580	7.1	5.8	2.2	+ 1.3	+ 4.9
West Riding Towns ...	13,218	10.9	12.2	3.4	- 1.3	+ 7.5
Hull and Lincolnshire District	4,044	6.4	6.5†	1.4	- 0.1	+ 5.0
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,647	7.8	6.6	2.2	+ 1.2	+ 5.6
Nottingham and Leicester District	4,259	8.5	7.6	2.9	+ 0.9	+ 5.6
London and Neighbouring District	12,250	6.6	6.2	3.7	+ 0.4	+ 2.9
South Coast ...	4,343	3.6	4.2	2.5	- 0.6	+ 1.1
South Wales and Bristol District	7,200	4.1	4.5	1.8	- 0.4	+ 2.3
Glasgow and District ...	16,413	18.3	16.1	3.2	+ 2.2	+ 15.1
East of Scotland ...	4,064	16.7	14.9	4.6	+ 1.8	+ 12.1
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,510	12.1	11.2	3.9	+ 0.9	+ 8.2
Other Districts ...	6,161	8.1	6.6	2.4	+ 1.5	+ 5.7
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	154,355	9.5	8.6	2.9	+ 0.9	+ 6.3

On the North-East Coast employment was generally very slack, being greatly affected by the disputes in the engineering and shipbuilding trades. At Darlington, however, employment was reported as good with boiler-makers and wagon makers, moderate with engineers and ironfounders. The railway shops at Gateshead have also been fairly busy.

In Lancashire employment was still good in textile machinery works, a good deal of overtime being worked, especially at Oldham. In general engineering employment was only moderate, and showed a decline on the whole as compared with April. In the Manchester district employment was quiet generally, but fair with smiths and strikers at Gorton.

In Yorkshire employment was dull generally, especially at Sheffield and at Keighley. Engineers, ironfounders and boiler-makers at Sheffield all reported employment as bad. At Leeds, however, it was moderate, and showed some prospect of improving. Employment at Lincoln and at Grantham was good, with some overtime at Lincoln.

The cycle and motor trade was reported as very unsteady in the Birmingham and Coventry district, and as declining at Wolverhampton and at Nottingham. General engineering was slack on the whole at Birmingham and in the Potteries, moderate at Wolverhampton. Shoe machinery works at Leicester were fairly busy, but otherwise employment was slack in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire. The railway works at Derby were very slack, short time being worked; but railway carriage and wagon builders at Derby were well employed. At Ipswich employment was good in agricultural machinery works.

year ago was fairly general, though in a few instances there were slight increases.

The average number of shifts per man per week was 5.30, as compared with 5.37 a month ago, and 5.62 a year ago. Compared with a month ago the average number of shifts worked showed an increase at the crucible furnaces amounting to 0.59 of a shift per week. There were decreases in nearly all other departments, especially in the Bessemer converting and in the steel forging and pressing departments. Cleveland was the only district in which there was an improvement in the number of shifts worked.

Compared with a year ago there was a decline in nearly all departments. As regards districts there was an improvement in Cleveland; all other districts showed a decline, which was greatest in Cumberland and Lancashire, and in Northumberland and Durham.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during May, 1908, amounted to 78,751 tons, or 16,440 tons less than in April, 1908, but 5,860 tons more than in May, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during May, 1908, amounted to 225,540 tons, or 8,094 tons more than in April, 1908, but 14,160 tons less than in May, 1907.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

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

EMPLOYMENT during May continued good. It was about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

At the works covered by the Returns, 387 tinplate mills were working at the end of May, as compared with 386 both in April, 1908, and May, 1907. The number of sheet mills working was 51 in all three months.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of May, 1908, April, 1908, and May, 1907. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,000 workpeople.

	May, 1908.		April, 1908.		May, 1907.	
	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	75	387	74	386	76	386
Sheet Mills ...	9	51	8	51	8	51
Total ...	84	438	82	437	84	437

Exports.—The Table below shows the quantity of tinned plates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, exported during the months stated:—

	May, 1908.			April, 1908.			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.								
To United States ...	7,692	7,426	6,222	+ 266	+ 1,470			
British East Indies ...	3,748	3,965	4,912	+ 217	- 1,164			
Germany ...	3,612	2,622	3,664	+ 990	- 52			
France ...	2,594	2,745	3,174	+ 151	- 580			
Netherlands ...	2,133	2,601	2,679	- 468	- 546			
Other Countries ...	16,328	16,425	14,628	- 97	+ 1,700			
Total ...	36,107	35,784	35,279	+ 323	+ 528			
Black Plates for Tinning.								
Total ...	6,981	4,283	6,802	+ 2,728	+ 179			

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

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

In London employment continued very quiet, with some short time; it was slightly worse on the whole than in April. It was fairly good at Southampton, with overtime. It was moderate at Bristol, and bad at Swindon, where short time was being worked. Employment in South Wales was moderate.

In the Glasgow district employment was reported as bad, and worse than a month ago, with brassfinishers and with ironmoulders; iron, steel, and brassdressers reported it as moderate, with 10 per cent. on short time. Employment in the electrical trades was fair. At Falkirk all the foundries were working from four to five days a week. Employment at Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen was quiet. At Belfast, all branches of the engineering trades reported employment as very bad. It was dull at Dublin, with short time in most shops.

The Imports of machinery in May, 1908, amounted to £481,933, as compared with £540,885 in April, 1908, and £561,136 in May, 1907; and the Exports for the same months to £2,898,925, £2,713,987, and £2,814,928 respectively.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 277 Returns—4 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 257 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at the end of May was bad, worse than a month ago, and much worse than in May, 1907. It was much affected by the strike on the North-East Coast, and by the lock-out at other shipbuilding centres.

Branches of Trade Unions with 46,267 members (excluding members on strike) had 12,065 (or 26.1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, 1908, as compared with 23.2 in April, 1908, and 6.7 in May, 1907.

Compared with a month ago there was an improvement at Stockton and Hartlepool, on the Thames and Medway, on the South Coast, and at the Bristol Channel Ports, but a further decline in all other shipbuilding districts. Compared with a year ago, employment showed a decline in every district except the Bristol Channel; the decline was greatest on the North East Coast, but was severe also on the Clyde, on the Mersey, and on the East Coast of Scotland.

Table with 7 columns: District, No. of Members at end of May, 1908, included in the Returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for May, 1908, as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago.

Employment on the Tyne, Wear, and Tees continued to be very bad on account of the dispute. At Hull it was moderate on repairs, bad on ship and trawler building. It was also moderate at Barrow.

Employment was very quiet in London. It was fair at Lowestoft, Ipswich, and Wyvenhoe. At Southampton it was fair on yacht work, and fairly good on ship work. It was moderate in South Wales, and slack on the Mersey. Employment was good generally at all the Royal Dockyards.

On the Clyde employment was greatly affected by the dispute, but a good deal of overtime was worked on Admiralty work. At Leith and Aberdeen employment was slack, and at Dundee work was almost at a standstill owing to the lock-out.

At Belfast, employment showed a great decline at the end of the month, owing to the completion of an important contract. At Cork, an improvement in the state of employment is reported.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members. † Members on strike or locked out are excluded from these figures.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES

(Based on 92 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 64 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May continued slack generally, and was rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 16,455 had 4.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.5 per cent. at the end of April, and 3.3 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers at Birmingham and at Wolverhampton was quiet. In London it was bad. It was fair on the whole at other centres. With bedstead workers at Birmingham it continued bad, with much short time.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment was slack with makers of rivets and nails; it was quiet in the bolt trade. With nut and bolt makers at Darlaston it continued good generally; at Birmingham it was moderate. With wire nail and shoe rivet makers at Birmingham employment was fair; with cut nail makers moderate.

Wire.—Employment at Glasgow was fairly good; elsewhere it continued slack, with much short time.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad, and short time was general. In the hollow-ware trade it continued slack at Wolverhampton, and quiet at West Bromwich. It was also slack with hollow-ware stampers and bad with hollow-ware buffers at Sheffield.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Edinburgh employment was fair. At Rotherham it was slack, with much short time; at Falkirk it was bad.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment at Sheffield was, on the whole, slack. It was moderate in the saw-making trades, and fair in the file trades. At Birmingham employment in the edge tool trade continued quiet; at Wednesbury it was bad. At Redditch employment with needle makers was quiet.

Tubes.—Employment was reported as good in South Wales, slack in South Staffordshire, and bad at Birmingham.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—Employment with chain makers at Cradley Heath was slack. At Wednesbury it was fair with railway axle, wheel, and spring makers; at Sheffield employment continued slack with railway spring fitters and vicemen. At West Bromwich it was fair with spring makers, and moderate with axle makers. At Dudley anvil and vice makers worked much short time. With anchor smiths it was quiet at Cradley Heath, and bad on the Wear.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was quiet at Manchester and Bolton, and showed a decline compared with a month ago. It was fair at Leeds, bad at Aberdeen. With tinplate workers it was bad at Nottingham, quiet at Birmingham, and fair at Edinburgh. With ironplate workers at Birmingham it was bad.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—Employment in London continued bad with goldsmiths and jewellers. In Birmingham it was bad with jewellers and Britannia metal workers, and quiet with silversmiths. It was bad with silversmiths at Sheffield, and quiet with watchmakers at Coventry.

Farriers.—Employment continued fair generally.

Imports and Exports.

Table with 7 columns: Description, May, 1908, April, 1908, May, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago.

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 477 Returns—378 received from Employers, 90 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch was moderate on the whole, but some short time was worked, and a decline was shown compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the Weaving branch employment remained slack, with a good deal of short time, and was much worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 124,415 workpeople, and paying £113,244 in wages in the week ended 23rd May, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table with 10 columns: Departments, Workpeople (No. paid Wages on pay day in week ended May 23rd, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended May 23rd, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Year ago).

In the preparing and spinning departments employment was moderate, and showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the weaving branch there was much slackness, and employment was considerably worse than a year ago; short time or standing for warps was reported from most of the principal districts.

As compared with a month ago the amount of wages paid showed a decline in eight districts, the most marked decline being in the Burnley and Oldham districts. In four districts there was an improvement, which amounted to over 5.0 per cent. in the Stockport and Manchester districts. As compared with a year ago there was a decline in every district except Bolton, where there was a slight increase. The decline was greatest in the Burnley and Preston districts.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of May the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.04d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.66d. per lb. and the lowest 5.30d. The price for April, 1908, was 5.52d. per lb., and for May, 1907, 6.88d. per lb. For the period from June 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "middling American" was 6.42d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during May averaged 7.04d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.7d., and the lowest 6.1d. per lb. The price for April, 1908, was 7.12d. per lb., and for May, 1907, 9.89d. per lb. For the period from June 1st to 10th, 1908, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.1d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on June 5th, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 608,130 bales, as compared with 1,131,720 bales on June 7th, 1907.

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

Table with 6 columns: Description of Cotton, May, 1908, April, 1908, May, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

The Table below shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Table with 6 columns: Description, May, 1908, April, 1908, May, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 416 Returns—393 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 15 from Trade Unions, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Table with 10 columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Year ago).

Firms employing 29,640 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 1.0 per cent. in

the number employed, and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district employment showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago; very little overtime and some short time was worked. In the Leeds district employment showed a further decline, and was considerably worse than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district it was moderate, and worse than a year ago. Employment was reported as fairly good at Selkirk, and quiet at Hawick and Galashiels.

Worst Trade.

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

Returns from firms employing 48,489 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.9 per cent. in the amount wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,286	+ 0.8	- 9.0	4,885	- 5.2	- 16.3	3.2	6.3
Spinning ...	25,425	- 1.2	- 2.1	14,030	- 3.2	- 13.0	5.4	13.7
Weaving ...	9,700	- 3.1	- 9.8	8,131	- 5.4	- 13.0	4.2	13.7
Other Departments ...	5,592	+ 0.3	+ 1.5	5,658	+ 2.9	- 3.9		
Unspecified ...	1,486	- 0.8	- 0.4	958	- 4.2	- 13.7		
Total ...	48,489	- 1.4	- 4.1	33,672	- 3.1	- 9.9		

In the Bradford district employment was quiet, and much worse than a year ago. In the Keighley district it continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. In the Halifax district it showed a further decline. In the Huddersfield district a good deal of slackness was reported.

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

Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	46,367	51,765	26,694	+ 5,398	+ 19,673
British Exports "	1,670	3,273	1,996	- 1,603	- 346
Yarn:					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	231	139	283	+ 82	- 61
Worsted ...	3,570	3,793	4,933	- 220	- 1,363
Alpaca & Mohair "	950	971	1,607	- 21	- 657
Total, Yarn "	4,741	4,900	6,823	- 159	- 2,082
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	5,122	4,103	6,322	+ 1,019	- 1,400
Worsted ...	4,423	4,113	7,066	+ 280	- 2,643
Total, Piece Goods "	9,545	8,246	13,388	+ 1,299	- 4,043

Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS').

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	46,367	51,765	26,694	+ 5,398	+ 19,673
British Exports "	1,670	3,273	1,996	- 1,603	- 346
Yarn:					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	231	139	283	+ 82	- 61
Worsted ...	3,570	3,793	4,933	- 220	- 1,363
Alpaca & Mohair "	950	971	1,607	- 21	- 657
Total, Yarn "	4,741	4,900	6,823	- 159	- 2,082
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	5,122	4,103	6,322	+ 1,019	- 1,400
Worsted ...	4,423	4,113	7,066	+ 280	- 2,643
Total, Piece Goods "	9,545	8,246	13,388	+ 1,299	- 4,043

Prices of Raw Material.

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

	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	88	93	13
40's Crossbred tops	92	82	16
60's Super Botany tops	22	22	27
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	82-84	102-104	13
40's Crossbred tops	8-10	8-8	16-16
60's Super Botany tops	21-23	22-21	28-28

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 117 Returns—106 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 6 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during May was dull, worse than a month ago and much worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 48,002 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago the number employed showed a decrease of 4.3 per cent., and the amount of wages paid of 18.1 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Preparing ...	6,528	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	3,157	- 1.6	- 9.8	1.3	10.2
Spinning ...	12,387	- 0.1	+ 3.6	5,854	- 5.8	- 2.9	3.4	9.2
Weaving ...	15,156	- 1.3	- 1.1	7,737	- 3.4	- 9.2	1.4	19.4
Other ...	7,280	- 0.5	- 2.4	5,322	- 1.4	- 19.4		
Not specified ...	6,651	+ 1.4	- 1.8	3,331				
Total ...	48,002	+ 0.1	- 4.3	24,801	- 3.2	- 18.1		

As compared with a month ago the decline was most marked in the weaving branch; as compared with a year ago it was chiefly in the preparing and spinning departments. In the Belfast district employment was bad, the majority of mills working only 37 hours weekly. In other parts of Ireland there was also much short time. In Scotland employment was moderate and worse than a year ago; some short time was reported.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods, for the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	13,093	11,395	12,118	+ 1,697	+ 975
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	11,267	11,964	17,164	- 6,727	- 5,897
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	91,835	99,069	152,312	- 6,234	- 59,477

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 34 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fairly good, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 18,091 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the number employed decreased 0.4 per cent., while the amount of wages paid increased by 0.4 per cent. Of the 18,091 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,586 (86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with a month ago the amount of wages paid showed decreases in the preparing and weaving departments. Compared with a year ago the weaving department showed a decrease, while the other departments showed increases.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Preparing ...	4,227	- 0.7	+ 1.3	2,817	- 1.4	+ 1.8	1.4	1.8
Spinning ...	4,960	- 0.3	+ 0.5	3,129	+ 0.7	+ 2.2	0.1	1.8
Weaving ...	6,035	- 0.7	- 1.9	4,522	- 0.1	- 1.8	1.7	0.4
Other ...	1,969	+ 1.7	- 2.2	2,044	+ 0.1	+ 1.1		
Not specified ...	900	+ 1.0	+ 0.6	673				
Total ...	18,091	- 0.2	- 0.4	13,185	+ 0.1	+ 0.4		

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the months stated.

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	23,846	25,459	10,299	- 2,613	+ 13,547
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	34,514	45,852	49,068	- 11,338	- 14,551
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	130,094	113,724	173,291	+ 16,370	- 43,197

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 96 Returns—90 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 8,883 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd, and paying £7,546 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there were decreases of 6.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 23.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was bad in the levers section, slack in the plain net section; in both sections there was short time, and employment was much worse than a year ago. In the curtain section at Nottingham employment was reported as fair, and better than a year ago. Employment continued bad in the Long Eaton district, and was slack in the West of England. It was bad, and worse than a month ago, in Scotland, where short time was worked.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Levers ...	2,352	+ 0.6	- 12.6	2,049	- 12.5	- 47.5		
Curtain ...	2,814	- 2.1	- 3.1	2,662	- 5.0	- 3.7		
Plain Net ...	2,882	- 0.3	- 1.4	2,289	- 0.4	- 7.2		
Others ...	835	- 3.2	- 10.7	516	- 5.5	- 20.1		
Total ...	8,883	- 0.9	- 6.0	7,546	- 5.9	- 23.1		

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

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	
Imports:—					
Silk Lace ...	£ 9,955	£ 22,512	£ 19,214	- 12,557	- 9,259
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	249,740	290,908	422,219	- 41,168	- 172,479
Silk Lace ...	1,165	5,425	2,251	- 4,260	- 1,086

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 106 Returns—99 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole remained moderate, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 18,483 workpeople, and paying £13,566 in wages in the week ended May 23rd, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the wages paid.

In Leicester employment on the whole was moderate; at Hinckley and Loughborough it was slack, with some short time. At Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment was generally slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. It continued good at Hawick and Selkirk.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Leicester ...	8,160	+ 0.2	+ 3.0	6,336	- 1.8	- 0.5		
Leicester Country District ...	2,759	- 0.4	+ 4.6	1,983	- 4.4	- 2.8		
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	4,451	- 0.6	- 1.1	3,177	- 1.5	- 8.8		
Scotland ...	2,198	- 0.1	+ 3.0	1,519	- 2.3	+ 4.6		
Other Districts ...	935	+ 4.6	+ 3.9	561	+ 0.4	- 4.3		
Total, United Kingdom ...	18,483	+ 0.1	+ 2.3	13,566	- 2.0	- 2.6		

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in May, 1908, amounted to £26,744 and £102,898 respectively, as compared with £30,103 and £119,235 in April, 1908, and £24,279 and £100,297, in May, 1907.

The **Exports** of woollen and cotton hosiery in May, 1908, amounted to £70,116 and £27,783 respectively, as compared with £78,951 and £32,959 in April, 1908, and £87,856 and £34,551 in May, 1907.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 57 Returns—54 from Employers, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,245 workpeople, and paying £5,443 in wages on pay-day in the week ended May 23rd, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there were decreases of 3.0 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 4.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Throwing	945	- 4.1	372	- 7.2	- 13.7
Spinning	2,794	+ 0.8	2,096	+ 1.0	+ 2.2
Weaving	3,286	- 1.6	2,069	- 2.0	- 9.7
Other	1,089	+ 1.6	839	+ 2.9	+ 3.5
Not specified	131	- 3.0	67	- 1.5	...
Total	8,245	- 0.7	5,443	- 0.5	- 4.8
Districts.					
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,037	+ 1.5	2,367	+ 2.6	+ 1.4
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	940	- 2.2	668	- 2.1	- 1.0
Eastern Counties	2,389	- 2.2	1,277	- 4.3	- 12.8
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,879	- 1.5	1,131	- 1.5	- 8.8
Total	8,245	- 0.7	5,443	- 0.5	- 4.8

Employment was good with spinners and throwsters at Macclesfield, Leek, and Congleton. With trimming weavers it was fair at Leek, moderate at Congleton. It was moderate with powerloom weavers at Macclesfield, and bad with handloom weavers. In the Bradford district there was a decline, and short time was worked. In the Eastern Counties employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

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

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:—	
Raw Silk Lbs	91,936	86,717	65,863	+ 5.2	+ 26.0
Thrown Silk	53,076	44,198	57,138	+ 8.8	+ 9.8
Spun Silk Yarn	36,415	14,634	38,719	+ 21.8	+ 2.3
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,949,390	6,202,822	6,634,960	- 253,434	- 705,570
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk Lbs	4,354	4,017	2,069	+ 3.0	+ 2.8
Spun Silk Yarn	56,714	95,646	93,173	+ 1,068	+ 1,459
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	304,169	292,363	672,184	+ 11,806	+ 368,013

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 39 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 24 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

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

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

Silk Dyers.—Employment at Macclesfield was fair, but not so good as a month ago and a year ago. At Leek it was good.

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

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester a further slight improvement was reported. At Hinckley employment continued slack. At Loughborough it was fairly good. With dyers at Nottingham employment was fair; with bleachers at Basford and with dyers at Basford and Bulwell it was bad; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was fair; on the whole employment was worse than a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. In Dundee it was fair with bleachfield workers and calender workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 112 Returns—82 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 26 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was about the same as a year ago. In the *ready-made* branch it was fairly good, and better than a month ago, but not quite so good as a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during May showed the usual seasonal improvement, and was about the same as a year ago.

Firms paying £13,657 in wages to their workpeople during the four weeks ended May 23rd showed an increase of 17.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 1.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

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

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment was fairly good, and slightly better than a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment was fair, better than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. Firms employing 6,321 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended May 23rd showed an increase of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 2.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester continued fairly good, but was not so good as a year ago. At Bristol it was fairly good, and some overtime was reported. At Norwich it continued fairly good. At Glasgow it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in May, 1908, were valued at £241,540, as compared with £211,667 in April, 1908, and £299,629 in May, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months at £291,009, £319,937 and £369,623 respectively.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 11 from Trade Unions.)

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

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 11.3, compared with 14.6 a month ago, and 7.3 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May was 2.8, compared with 2.1 a month ago and 2.5 a year ago. Employment was reported as bad at Denton and Stockport, with much short time. In Warwickshire employment was reported as fairly good, and better than a month ago, though some short time was still worked.

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

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports:	
All kinds	33,250	27,580	50,650	Dozens.	Dozens.
Exports:					
Felt	29,686	49,251	31,461	- 19,565	- 1,775
Straw... ..	40,065	37,247	45,673	+ 2,838	+ 5,608
Other Sorts... ..	5,307	5,835	2,787	+ 528	+ 2,520
Total	75,058	92,313	79,921	- 17,255	- 4,863

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 510 Returns—494 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, but slightly worse than a month ago; it showed little general change as compared with a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 64,286 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.1 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was fairly good, but showed a decline compared with a month ago; it was slightly better than a year ago. At Northampton it continued good, and was better than a year ago; at Kettering it was moderate; with army bootmakers it was fairly good. At Bristol employment was moderate. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood employment was still quiet, but better than a month ago and a year ago. At Leeds it was slack, but showed a slight improvement. In Scotland employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.					
London	2,103	+ 0.5	2,419	- 3.1	- 11.4
Leicester	13,976	- 0.4	15,639	- 2.9	+ 1.7
Leicester Country District	3,304	+ 0.2	4,311	- 5.7	- 13.0
Northampton	9,606	+ 0.9	9,411	+ 0.6	+ 7.0
Northampton Country District	9,138	+ 1.0	8,515	- 3.0	- 1.1
Kettering	3,833	+ 0.7	3,911	- 2.2	- 3.6
Stafford & District... ..	2,677	+ 1.1	2,640	+ 2.5	+ 7.0
Bristol & District	3,395	- 0.7	2,971	+ 1.1	- 2.0
Bristol & District	2,059	- 0.4	1,838	- 0.5	- 2.6
Kingswood	1,758	+ 1.1	1,663	+ 6.7	+ 7.7
Leeds & District	2,255	+ 1.3	1,907	+ 2.7	- 3.9
Manchester & District	2,482	+ 0.2	2,063	- 6.2	- 23.1
Birmingham & District	840	...	709	- 1.7	- 5.1
Other parts of England and Wales	2,671	+ 1.1	2,279	+ 1.6	+ 0.7
ENGLAND & WALES	60,157	+ 0.4	58,986	- 1.5	- 1.0
SCOTLAND	3,851	+ 1.6	3,666	+ 1.6	+ 7.4
IRELAND	278	+ 5.7	190	- 0.5	- 4.0
UNITED KINGDOM	64,286	+ 0.5	62,782	- 1.3	- 0.6

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

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Imports (less Re-Exports)	
Quantity	27,089	23,666	25,503	+ 3,463	+ 1,586
Value	72,817	80,238	85,510	- 7,421	- 12,693
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity	70,491	69,637	74,368	+ 514	- 3,877
Value	163,031	161,720	169,998	- 1,689	- 6,967

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see under "Other Leather Trades," p. 186.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 182 Returns—173 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the West-End dressmaking trade was fairly good, but not so good as a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades it was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the corset trade it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,844 dressmakers in the week ended May 23rd, showed an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 7.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Court dressmakers, employing 1,285 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd, showed an increase of 7.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 3.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Employment with milliners in the West-End showed a seasonal improvement.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,656 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 6.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed an increase in the demand for, and a slight decrease in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,799 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd showed a decrease of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade continued fairly good.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,642 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,552 in wages, in the week ended May 23rd, showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 10.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was moderate.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,231 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended May 23rd, showed an increase of 4.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 39 Returns—23 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,568 had 8.0 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with the same percentage in April, and 5.7 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.—Employment with skinner was quiet at Birmingham and Leeds; fair in London. With curriers it continued bad generally. With leather workers generally it was fair at Bolton, Bury, Wigan and Manchester; it was slack at Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment continued bad in London; it was also bad and worse than a month ago at Walsall; at Glasgow and Dublin it was fair.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad, but in London it was good with fancy and morocco leather finishers. With portmanteau and trunk makers it continued fair in London, but was bad and worse than a month ago at Manchester.

Imports and Exports.

The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	27,505	22,039	35,420	+ 5,466	- 7,915
Ditto, wet	57,608	52,446	44,924	+ 5,162	+ 14,684
Total, hides, dry and wet	85,113	74,485	78,344	+ 10,628	+ 6,769
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	928,221	809,932	2,085,657	+ 118,289	- 1,157,436
Sheep skins, (value) £	167,351	193,744	262,282	- 26,393	- 94,931
Leather*					
cwt.	88,028	99,041	81,069	- 11,013	+ 6,959
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	31,533	35,317	52,285	- £ 784	- £ 20,752

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 445 Returns—141 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 284 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. Returns received from firms employing 22,385 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

Description.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of May, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,896	+ 0.3	+ 4.1
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,158	+ 0.6	+ 4.7
Southern Counties	6,607	+ 0.9	+ 4.3
Scotland	5,553	- 1.1	+ 0.6
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,114	+ 0.1	+ 3.3
Hand-made Paper	871	+ 0.1	+ 0.3
Total	22,385	+ 0.1	+ 3.2

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

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade, with 1,868 members, had 1.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 2.1 per cent. a month ago, and 2.4 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of paper in May, 1908, amounted to £474,557, as compared with £493,792 in April, 1908, and £441,647 in May, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods amounted to £194,828, £189,068, and £207,949, respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment continued dull generally, and was worse than a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	20,481	4.8	6.3	3.6	- 1.5	+ 1.2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,307	5.6	4.9	5.6	+ 0.7	...
Lancashire and Cheshire	6,630	5.8	5.3*	5.2	+ 0.5	+ 0.6
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,407	3.5	4.5	3.8	- 1.0	- 0.3
West Midlands	2,524	5.3	5.2	5.4	+ 0.1	- 0.1
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,836	3.3	3.2	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Scotland	5,527	4.8	4.6	2.4	+ 0.2	+ 2.4
Ireland	2,480	9.4	9.2	5.4	+ 0.2	+ 4.0
United Kingdom	49,192	5.2	5.6*	4.0	- 0.4	+ 1.2

London.—Employment with compositors was reported as slack, better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Correctors of the press reported it as good. With lithographic artists employment was quiet; with lithographic printers it was slack. At the end of May, 1908, 4.8 per cent. of the Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 6.3 per cent. a month ago and 3.6 per cent. a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers continued dull on the whole, worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was, however, good at Oxford and at Nottingham, and fair (except in the machine department) at Edinburgh. With lithographic printers it was dull, about the same as a month ago. Lithographic artists, electrotypers and stereotypers continued to be fairly well employed.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment continued bad, and worse than a year ago. In London it was better than a month ago; in other districts about the same on the whole.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,638	8.9	10.4	8.5	- 1.5	+ 0.4
Other Districts	3,389	6.9	6.9	3.8	...	+ 3.1
United Kingdom	6,997	7.9	8.7	6.2	- 0.8	+ 1.7

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,666 Returns—748 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 863 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from 724 firms employing 44,283 workpeople at the end of May are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was an increase in the total number employed of 2.7 per cent., while compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 7.9 per cent. The increase compared with a month ago was common to all districts except Scotland. The decrease compared with a year ago was most marked in the London district and in the Northern Counties and Yorkshire district.

* Revised figures.

District	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London	9,086	8,872	10,264	5,905	5,863	6,705
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,246	2,111	2,644	1,573	1,687	2,328
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,773	3,478	3,624	3,340	3,031	2,955
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,222	2,249	2,356	1,770	1,670	1,880
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,887	2,847	3,117	1,690	1,565	2,211
England and Wales	20,194	19,537	22,005	14,578	13,816	16,079
Scotland	3,031	3,119	3,080	1,443	1,502	1,618
Ireland	507	567	800	955	942	797
United Kingdom	23,822	23,243	25,885	16,976	16,360	18,494
District	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.
	London	563	560	588	13,584	13,298
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	522	544	612	4,821	4,342	5,084
Lancashire and Cheshire	871	871	881	7,984	7,380	7,460
Midland & Eastern Counties	284	281	314	4,278	4,200	4,880
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	451	449	493	5,028	4,861	5,821
England and Wales	2,691	2,705	2,888	37,463	36,078	40,972
Scotland	718	727	744	5,162	5,448	5,442
Ireland	76	71	73	1,028	1,580	1,070
United Kingdom	3,485	3,503	3,705	44,283	43,106	48,084

Employment with painters was fair, and continued to improve. With slaters it remained moderate, but was rather better than a year ago. In other branches employment was slack, and worse than a year ago.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of May was 7.5, as compared with 8.1 a month ago and 4.4 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, 14.3, 13.4, and 7.7 respectively.

London.—Employment continued slack generally, but showed a slight improvement compared with a month ago. It was, however, much worse than a year ago. Painters reported employment as fair. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 12.3 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 9.9 per cent. a month ago and 8.9 per cent. in May, 1907. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 16.2, 14.8, and 12.5 respectively.

Other Districts.—Employment continued slack in nearly all districts, and was worse than a year ago. With painters it was, however, fair.

Employment with bricklayers at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Hull was moderate; carpenters and joiners at Hull reported an improvement. At Oldham employment was moderate generally, and fair at Macclesfield, Leek and Congleton. An improvement was reported by carpenters and plasterers at Blackburn. Employment was fair with bricklayers at Wolverhampton, and good with carpenters and joiners at Buxton. Some improvement was reported at Nottingham, and also at Bath, Cheltenham and Bristol. Employment with masons was fair at Norwich, Aberdeen and Edinburgh, and in North Wales. It was also fair with carpenters and joiners at Aberdeen and Edinburgh, and moderate at Cork.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 184 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 145 from Trade Unions, and 34 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades continued bad on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,960 reported 6.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.4 per cent. a month ago, and 2.9 per cent. in May, 1907.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued bad generally, and was considerably worse than a year

ago. At Edinburgh, however, employment was reported as good; and as fairly good at Beith, Dundee, Aberdeen, Manchester and Bristol, and in South Wales. Trade Unions reported 7.7 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 7.7 per cent. a month ago, and 3.2 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in May, 1908, were valued at £40,171, as compared with £46,616 in April, 1908, and £46,855 in May, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods at £50,812, £43,686, and £55,509, respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodworking machinists was bad generally; it was about the same as a month ago, and worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of April, as compared with the same percentage a month ago, and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

Imports.—The Table below shows the quantities of hewn and sawn timber, and the values of house frames, &c., imported for the months stated.

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	Loads. 87,564	Loads. 71,008	Loads. 73,096	+ 16,556	+ 14,468
" sawn	303,277	200,164	372,047	+ 103,113	- 68,770
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value) £	13,409	17,147	15,326	- £ 1,738	+ £ 83

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was, on the whole, dull. It was reported as fair at Dublin and Hull, and considerably improved at Bristol, but was bad at Burton and Edinburgh.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachbuilders was moderate on the whole. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 4.2 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 5.5 per cent. a month ago, and 1.8 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions reported 3.6 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 3.3 per cent. a month ago, and 2.6 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment on the whole was dull, but better than in the previous month. With basket-makers it was generally moderate; it continued good with skipmakers at Oldham.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in May, 1908, were valued at £32,258, as compared with £32,423 in April, 1908, and £33,585 in May, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £14,366, £15,916, and £16,174 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 89 Returns—64 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 14 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued fair, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,464 workpeople in the week ended May 23rd, and paying £10,309 in wages, showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago.

Compared with a year ago there were decreases of 3.3 per cent. in the numbers employed and of 4.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended May 23rd, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Glass Bottle ...	5,598	+ 2.7	- 2.0	7,104	+ 2.7	- 3.0
Plate Glass ...	734	- 2.8	- 13.2	821	- 5.0	- 17.2
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	1,753	+ 0.1	- 1.6	1,924	- 0.4	- 4.1
Other Branches ...	379	- 0.3	- 7.6	460	+ 1.1	- 6.5
Total ...	8,464	+ 1.5	- 3.3	10,309	+ 1.4	- 4.6
Districts.						
North of England	733	+ 9.4	- 6.0	895	+ 14.0	- 10.9
Yorkshire ...	4,620	+ 1.9	+ 1.2	5,816	+ 2.0	- 0.6
Lancashire ...	645	- 1.5	- 25.8	750	+ 1.1	- 26.0
Worcester and Warwick	1,230	+ 0.4	- 5.7	1,466	- 2.1	- 6.3
Scotland ...	860	- 2.4	+ 2.6	1,060	- 5.9	+ 1.4
Other parts of the United Kingdom	326	...	- 0.9	322	+ 1.9	- 3.3
Total ...	8,464	+ 1.5	- 3.3	10,309	+ 1.4	- 4.6

Employment with glass bottle makers was generally moderate in Yorkshire, but rather better than a month ago; it remained good at Bristol and moderate in the North of England and in Scotland. Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago, in Lancashire. With medical glass bottle makers employment was good at Rotherham and moderate at Leeds. With flint glass makers employment was fairly good at Birmingham, in the Wordsley district, and in Yorkshire. It was good at Edinburgh and fair at Glasgow. Employment was generally fairly good with flint glass cutters. With London glass blowers it was fairly good. With plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham employment remained bad. It continued fair with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it continued bad, with short time general.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the months stated:—

Description.	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	86,773	96,569	104,859	- 9,796	- 18,086
Plate ...	23,851	23,727	38,674	+ 2,124	- 12,823
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	51,811	57,485	72,322	- 5,614	- 20,511
Manufactures, other sorts...	1,355	298	1,691	+ 1,057	- 336
Bottles ...	126,172	143,831	133,714	- 17,659	- 7,542
Exports:					
Plate ...	13,462	10,939	14,281	+ 2,523	- 819
Flint ...	4,624	5,302	5,526	- 678	- 1,302
Manufactures, other sorts ...	41,516	45,947	55,494	- 4,391	- 13,938
Bottles ...	73,200	62,250	80,001	+ 10,950	- 6,801

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 30 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade on the whole was slack. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued quiet.

Pottery Trade.—Employment in Staffordshire was slack on the whole, and short time was worked in many factories. It was fair in Devonshire, at Bristol, at Swadlincote, and at Newcastle-on-Tyne. In Scotland employment was generally moderate, with some short time. It continued slack with earthenware makers in the Potteries, and dull in the South Yorkshire and River Aire districts. In the insulator trade in the Potteries employment was bad. It was dull with tobacco-pipe makers at Glasgow.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was good in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and at Stourbridge and Oldham, and fair and better than a month ago in North Wales. It was also fair in Bedfordshire. It was moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and at Nottingham. Employment continued quiet in the Eastern Counties and in Devonshire; it was also quiet at Birmingham. It was slack in the Sheffield district, in Leicestershire and at Peterborough. It continued bad in South Staffordshire and at Glasgow.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in May, 1908, were valued at £88,315, as compared with £91,634 in April, 1908, and £88,268 in May, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £195,179, £213,186 and £227,616, respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 233 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was generally regular throughout May, except that day labourers in certain districts lost a little time in the early part of the month through rain. Hoeing and weeding, potato planting, preparing the land for root crops, and sowing spring corn caused a fairly good demand for this class of labour, which was usually fully met. A scarcity of men for permanent situations was reported from several districts.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland report that employment was generally regular throughout May, and the demand for extra labour was fairly good. Employment for day labourers was slightly interrupted by wet weather in Lancashire. In Yorkshire also day labourers lost a little time on account of the wet weather; men of this class were in demand in certain districts for preparing the land for green crops, hoeing, &c. There was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in this county.

Midland Counties.—Rain caused a little loss of time to day labourers in Cheshire. In Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire employment was generally regular, and the supply of labour about equal to the demand. There was a fair demand for extra labour in Leicestershire, as farm work was somewhat behindhand; men for permanent situations were reported as rather scarce. Day labourers in Staffordshire and Shropshire were in somewhat irregular employment at the beginning of the month on account of rain, but afterwards this class of labour was in fairly good demand for such work as hoeing corn, potato planting, preparing the land for root crops, and sheep shearing. There was generally a full demand for day labourers in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, with an adequate supply; men for permanent situations, however, were rather scarce in the latter county. Wet weather caused some interruption to employment in Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, where, when the weather permitted, hoeing, threshing, and other work generally provided sufficient employment for extra labour. A demand for shepherds, waggons, and cowmen is reported from the Wellingborough Union (Northamptonshire). Employment was fairly regular in Buckinghamshire. Extra labour was in some demand for hoeing and threshing in Hertfordshire. In Bedfordshire wet weather caused day labourers to be in irregular employment during the early part of the month; the supply of this class of labour was generally about equal to the demand.

Eastern Counties.—Employment in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire was hindered by rain to some extent. Outdoor work was somewhat in arrear at the commencement of May, but good progress was made towards the end of the month. The backward state of the crops occasioned a demand for extra labour in Lincolnshire, and several correspondents reported an insufficient supply. Wages at the May hirings generally remained unaltered. Some day labourers lost a few days through rain in Norfolk and Suffolk. The supply of, and demand for, labour were generally about equal, work being plentiful

in hoeing, carting and spreading manure, and threshing. Employment in Essex was generally reported as regular. A correspondent in the Chelmsford Union reports that day labourers were in demand during May owing to the previous wet weather and to the great growth of weeds.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—The supply of extra labour in Kent was more than sufficient for the demand, and there was some irregularity of employment in consequence in certain districts. Hoeing and weeding, potato planting, &c., generally provided regular employment in Surrey and Sussex. Similar reports come from Hampshire and Berkshire. Some scarcity of men for permanent work was reported in certain Unions. There was generally regularity of employment in Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, with the supply of labour about balanced by the demand. There was a good demand for labour in Herefordshire, but some day labourers were in irregular work at the beginning of the month through rain. Employment was fairly regular in Gloucestershire; day labourers were in some demand for hoeing corn and roots, but the supply was in general quite sufficient. Employment was plentiful in Devonshire and Cornwall in hoeing, sowing mangels, and preparing land for other crops, but the supply of extra labour was usually equal to the demand.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in May, 1908, showed a decrease in both quantity and value as compared with May, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports during May was fair generally. At Yarmouth it was good with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. At Grimsby and Hull it was fair with all classes, but not so good as a year ago. At Lowestoft it was moderate generally; at Aberdeen it continued good; at Peterhead bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Fraserburgh was good with fishermen and fish curers, and fair with fish dock labourers. At Macduff it was fair, and better than a month ago. Off the South-Western Coast of England there was some improvement on the previous month. Off the Southern Coast of Ireland only moderate catches were made.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	May, 1908.	May, 1907.	May, 1908.	May, 1907.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	1,933,677	1,168,997	£ 612,317	£ 640,001
Scotland ...	572,226	638,360	175,307	208,358
Ireland ...	148,316	108,08	55,173	46,037
Total ...	2,654,219	1,915,445	£ 842,797	£ 894,397
Shell Fish ...	—	—	36,581	39,307
Total Value ...	—	—	£ 879,378	£ 933,704

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in May, 1908, were valued at £41,177, as compared with £30,996 in April, 1908, and £28,238 in May, 1907.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 134 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was moderate. It was better than a month ago, but not so good as in May, 1907.

London.*—Employment generally was moderate; it was better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago. The average number employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended May 30th was 12,433, an increase of 3.2 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 7.8 per cent. as compared with May, 1907. The daily numbers in May, 1908, ranged from 11,168 on the 21st to 13,324 on the 1st. During May, 1907, the numbers ranged from 11,960 on the 31st to 15,270 on the 15th.

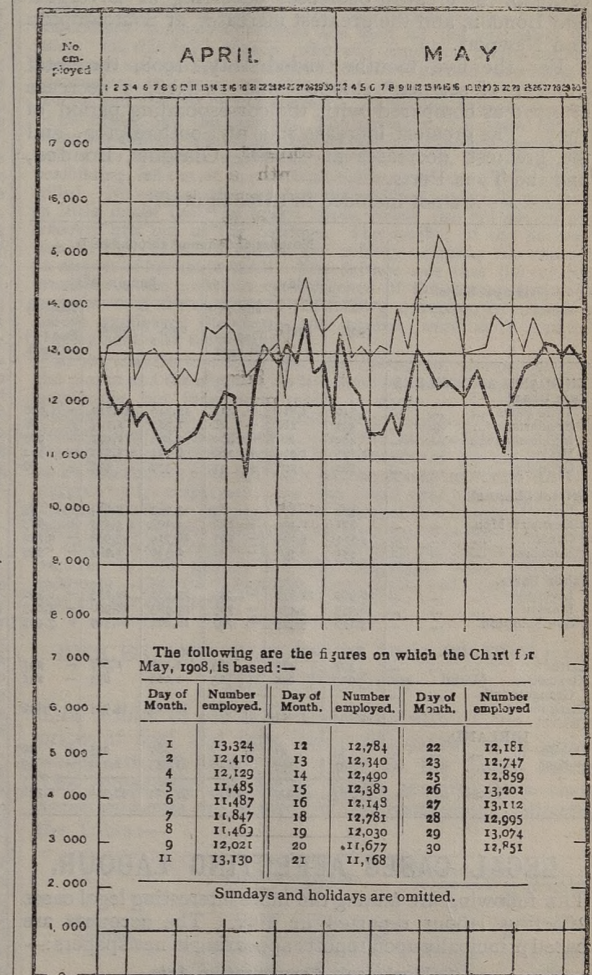
* Exclusive of Tilbury.

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

Period.	In Docks*			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended May 2nd	4,349	2,637	6,986	5,778	12,764
" " " 9th	3,978	1,983	5,961	5,779	11,740
" " " 16th	4,472	2,334	6,806	5,730	12,535
" " " 23rd	4,554	1,933	6,487	5,610	12,097
" " " 30th	4,770	2,702	7,472	5,537	13,016
Average for 5 weeks ended May 30th, 1908	4,425	2,319	6,744	5,689	12,433
Average for April, 1908	3,926	2,470	6,396	6,687†	13,083†
Average for May, 1907	4,450	2,896	7,346	6,141†	13,487†

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

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



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

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,077 during May, as compared with 1,120 during April, and 1,140 a year ago.

At Liverpool employment continued slack with dock labourers. With quay and railway carters it was reported as moderate.

Other Ports.—Employment on the Tyne and Wear was generally fair. It was better than a month ago with dock labourers. At Middlesbrough employment continued fairly good; at Hartlepool it was moderate. At Hull employment was bad with dock labourers; moderate, but somewhat improved, with coal porters. Employment was generally moderate at Grimsby. It was fair at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. At Southampton it was reported as moderate, but better than a month ago. At Plymouth employment was fair and rather

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

† Revised figures.

better than a month ago. At the Bristol Channel ports it was fair generally, though not so good as a month ago. With dock labourers at Manchester employment continued bad. At Leith employment was, on the whole, dull, and worse than a month ago. There was some improvement at Dundee, where it was reported as fair. At Dublin and Belfast employment continued dull.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MAY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during May 40,979 seamen*, of whom 4,371 (or 10·7 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with May, 1907, there was a net decrease of 2,810, the greatest decreases occurring at Liverpool and London, and the greatest increases at Southampton and Newport.

For the five months ended May, 1908, the total number of seamen* shipped was 195,348, a decrease of 1,776 as compared with the corresponding period of 1907. The greatest increase was at Southampton, and the greatest decreases at Cardiff, Glasgow, London, and the Tyne Ports.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	May,			January-May,		
	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.	1907.	1908.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1908.
ENGLAND AND WALES						
East Coast						
Tyne Ports	3,140	2,722	- 418	12,748	11,740	- 1,008
Sunderland	347	261	- 86	1,782	1,704	- 78
Middlesbrough	480	100	- 380	2,108	1,141	- 967
Hull	1,128	1,294	+ 166	6,024	5,312	- 712
Grimsby	160	201	+ 41	378	438	+ 60
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	589	503	- 86	3,047	2,984	- 63
Newport, Mon.	771	1,404	+ 633	4,205	4,891	+ 686
Cardiff	5,575	5,282	- 293	26,714	23,942	- 2,772
Swansea	531	500	- 31	2,316	1,967	- 349
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	16,960	14,970	- 1,990	73,037	72,785	- 252
London	6,259	5,474	- 785	29,983	28,970	- 1,013
Southampton	3,178	3,975	+ 797	12,884	20,329	+ 7,445
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	307	470	+ 163	2,128	1,867	- 261
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	229	242	+ 13	1,066	835	- 231
Glasgow	3,204	3,337	+ 133	17,123	14,974	- 2,149
IRELAND.						
Dublin	34	41	+ 7	267	255	- 12
Belfast	197	197	...	1,233	1,214	- 19
Total	43,789	40,979	- 2,810	197,124	195,348	- 1,776

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT: DISOBEDIENCE TO RULE OF MINE.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, that if it is proved that an injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of such injury shall be disallowed, unless the injury results in death or in serious and permanent disablement.

A workman was employed as a bottomer in a coal mine. His duty was to put on and take off hutchers from the cage in the shaft at a seam which is a mid-working. On August 22nd, 1907, he called at the bottomer at the main seam, which was below the seam in which he was working, to send up the cage. The cage came up, and expecting it to stop at his level, he opened the gate of the shaft and pushed a hutch towards the shaft. The cage, however, did not stop, but went on to a higher seam. He, notwithstanding, pushed the hutch and fell with it to the bottom, suffering severe injuries. There was in force a Special Rule of the mine forbidding a bottomer at a mid-working to open the gate of the shaft until the cage was stopped at his level. He had acted in direct disobedience to this rule.

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

The injured man claimed compensation in respect of his injuries; but the Sheriff-substitute held that he had not been seriously and permanently disabled, and that his injuries were attributable to his serious and wilful misconduct in deliberately breaking the rule. The claim for compensation was therefore disallowed, and the claimant appealed against the decision.

The Court of Session refused to interfere with the findings of fact of the Sheriff-substitute, and affirmed his decision that in the circumstances of the case the deliberate breaking of the rule amounted to serious and wilful misconduct within the meaning of the Act. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*George v. Glasgow Coal Co., Ltd., Court of Session, May 27th, 1908.*

RECORDED AGREEMENT: ALLEGED RECOVERY: REFUSAL TO PAY AGREED COMPENSATION: ENFORCING AGREEMENT.

It is provided by the Act that where the amount of compensation has been ascertained by agreement or otherwise a memorandum thereof shall be sent by any party interested to the officer of the local court, who, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, must record such memorandum in a special register, and thereupon the memorandum is for all purposes enforceable like a judgment. Any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished or increased.

A miner was in March, 1906, totally incapacitated for work by an accident which happened in his employers' pit. An agreement was made between the injured man and his employers that he should be paid compensation at the rate of 9s. per week during his total incapacity. This payment was made down to June, 1907. The employers then obtained a medical man's report, which in their opinion showed the respondent to be fit to resume work. They accordingly refused to make any further weekly payments. The injured man then, in August, 1907, caused a memorandum of the agreement to be duly recorded. In November, 1907, the man took proceedings against his employers to enforce payment for 22 weeks' compensation. The employers sought to suspend the charge and prevent the agreement being enforced. The Court of Session, however, refused to suspend the charge, either for the period prior to the date of the recording of the agreement or for the period subsequent, and held that the employers were not entitled without review to stop payment of compensation of their own accord.—*Court of Session, May 28th, 1908.*

(2) Employers' Liability Act.

WHO IS A "WORKMAN"? : STAGE MANAGER: MANUAL LABOUR.

The expression "workman," for the purposes of the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, includes any person who, being a labourer, servant in husbandry, journeyman, artificer, handicraftsman, miner, or otherwise engaged in manual labour, has entered into or works under a contract with an employer.

A man was engaged by the proprietors of a theatre as their "stage manager." One evening, during the performance at the theatre, while he was working the lever by which the curtain was controlled, the curtain fell and killed him. The mother of the deceased man then brought an action for damages against his employers under the Act, and the jury found a verdict in her favour for the sum of £150. The judge, however, decided that the deceased man was not a workman within the meaning of the Act, and gave judgment for the defendants.

The plaintiff appealed, and it was contended on the defendants' behalf that substantially the work of the deceased man was not manual labour, he was not a "workman," and, therefore, the plaintiff was not entitled to recover in the action. The Court held that they could not say he was not a workman merely because in the contract of employment he was called a "stage manager"; the evidence showed that it was part of his duty to shift the furniture and the scenery, to do some rough carpentering, and to do certain work in connection with the electrical plant, and further, that he actually did perform these duties. Therefore the deceased man was employed in manual labour, and was a workman within the meaning of the Act. The plaintiff therefore was entitled to the benefit of the verdict of the jury for £150, and to judgment for that amount. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Rushbrook v. Grimsby Palace Theatre Co., King's Bench Division, May 14th, 1908.*

(3) Trade Disputes Act.

TRADE DISPUTES ACT: "CONTEMPLATION" OF DISPUTE: THREAT TO CREATE DISPUTE.

It is provided by the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, that an act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable on the ground only that it induces some other person to break a contract of employment, or that it is an interference with the trade, business, or employment of some other person, or with the right of some other person to dispose of his capital or his labour as he wills. The expression "trade dispute" is defined to mean any dispute between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen, which is connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of employment, or with the conditions of labour, of any person, and the expression "workmen" means all persons employed in trade or industry, whether or not in the employment of the employer with whom a trade dispute arises.

A workman employed as a boiler scaler whilst a member of a trade union was ordered by the union to pay a fine of 10s., which he refused to do. Some time later he became an employer, and ceased to be a member of the union. In 1907 he ceased to be an employer, and again, after an interval of some years, became a member of the union, the fine imposed upon him still remaining unpaid. In these circumstances a delegate of the union went to see the foreman at the works where the workman had obtained employment, and told the foreman that he had better stop the

(5) Miscellaneous.

COMMON EMPLOYMENT: MINER KILLED ON PRIVATE RAILWAY: NEGLIGENCE OF MASON.

By the common law of England a servant who is injured by the negligence of a fellow servant in a common employment with him has no right of action against his employer in respect of such injuries.

A colliery company owned a railway upon which they ran trains to take miners in their employment from their homes in a neighbouring town to the pits and back again. The men paid nothing for the conveyance, nor was anything deducted from their wages, and they either used the train or walked, as they chose. The train was used exclusively for the conveyance of men working at the colliery. The railway belonged to the colliery company, and was entirely managed by their servants. On June 17th, 1907, a miner arrived at the platform adjoining the pit where he had been at work, just as the train was about to start. He jumped into a carriage which was already over full, although there were other carriages which were not full. He probably chose this carriage because some of his friends were in it. At first he stood up, but after the train had started he sat on the floor of the carriage with his feet and legs outside, his feet resting on the step, which was a narrow one. On its way the train had to pass under a bridge on the colliery company's premises and used for the purpose of the mine. On this day a mason, who was employed by the colliery company, and worked underground or above ground, according to instructions, had been ordered to strengthen the supports of the bridge, and to do so he had erected a scaffolding between the wall of the bridge and the railway. The carriages of a train passing along the railway would clear the scaffolding, although there were only a few inches to spare. The mason, as the train passed the scaffolding, fell out of the carriage, rolled under the train and was killed. No one actually saw how the accident happened, but there is little doubt that the man's boots struck the scaffolding and knocked him out of the carriage. The mother of the deceased man brought an action against the colliery company for damages in respect of her son's death. The defence was that the accident was due to the contributory negligence of the deceased himself, and also that the servants of the colliery company, by reason of whose negligence the death was caused, were in a common employment with the deceased.

At the trial the jury found that the defendants' servants (that is, the mason and the engineer under whom he worked) were guilty of negligence, but they were unable to agree as to whether the deceased man was guilty of contributory negligence. The judge decided that at the moment when the accident happened the deceased was a servant engaged in the course of his employment, as he was coming from his work by the means provided for that purpose by his employers. He also found that the engineer and mason were fellow servants of the deceased in a common employment with him, and negligence on their part was one of the risks of employment accepted by him. Therefore the plaintiff could not recover in the action, and the defendants were entitled to judgment.—*Coldrick v. Partridge, Jones & Co., Ltd., Cardiff Assizes, May 2nd and 23rd, 1908.*

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

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

Product and District.	Period covered by last Audit.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with	
		Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.	
Coal.		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Durham:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).	1908. Jan.-Mar.	9 13	10 3	+ 1	3 68
Pig Iron.	Feb.-April	56 8 855	56 2 419	- 5	6 045
Manufactured Iron. North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)		137 6 11	137 4 9 63	- 3	8 98
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheels, plates, hoops, strips, etc.)	Mar.-April	140 3 34	140 4 8 07	- 6	9 41
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)		150 5 95	150 6 3 17	- 10	10 71

Coal.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Durham coal, it was decided at a meeting of

workman, or else there would be trouble with the men, as there was trouble between the workmen and the union about money matters. The workman was accordingly dismissed from his employment, and thereupon brought an action in the County Court against the delegate to recover damages from him on the ground that he had maliciously, by threats and coercive acts, procured his dismissal from the employment. The defence was that the defendant had not been guilty of the acts complained of; and further, that if he had, there was a trade dispute, and he was protected by the Act. In answer to questions left to them by the judge, the jury found: (1) that there was not a trade dispute existing or contemplated by the men; (2) that the delegate had uttered a threat to the plaintiff's employer; (3) that what he did prevented, or was intended to prevent, the plaintiff from getting or retaining employment; (4) that it was done in order to compel the plaintiff to pay arrears of the fine; (5) that it was done in order to punish the plaintiff for not paying such arrears; (6) that what the defendant did was not done only to warn the employers that the union men would leave in consequence of their being unwilling to work with the plaintiff; (7) that it was not done in consequence of the men objecting to work with the plaintiff; and (8) that the defendant did something more than act on behalf of the men employed along with the plaintiff. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff for £50 damages, and the County Court judge refused to order a new trial. The defendant appealed to the High Court.

On behalf of the defendant it was argued that the facts proved did not support the verdict of the jury, or show any cause of action; and that if they did the facts showed that there was a trade dispute either in existence or in contemplation, and that therefore the defendant was entitled to the benefit of the Act.

The Court dismissed the appeal. They held that to obtain the protection of the Act the defendant must have shown that what he did was either in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute. "Furtherance" obviously refers to an existing dispute. "Contemplation" refers to a dispute which has not yet arisen. A dispute may either be between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen; and although there was some evidence as to the attitude of the other men towards the plaintiff, it was clear that the jury did not altogether trust the evidence of the defendant on this point, and had come to the conclusion that the whole thing was done to punish the plaintiff for not having paid the fine, and to compel him to pay it. The jury were justified, if they saw fit, in coming to the conclusion that the dispute was a bogus one got up for this purpose. If they were of that opinion they were not bound to find that the defendant had acted in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute. The Act does not cover a threat to create a trade dispute which was not in existence at the time. Hence the Court could not interfere with the finding of the jury. Leave to appeal was granted.—*Conway v. Wade, King's Bench Division, May 8th, 1908.*

(4) Shop Hours Acts.

CLOSING ORDER: ONE DAY OF WEEK ONLY MENTIONED IN ORDER: POWERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

It is provided by the Shop Hours Act, 1904, that an order made by a local authority and confirmed by a Secretary of State, may fix the hours on the several days of the week at which, either throughout the area of the authority or within any specified part thereof, all shops, or shops of any specified class, are to be closed for serving customers. The hour fixed by such order shall not be earlier than 7 p.m. on any day of the week, except that on one specified day it may be an hour not earlier than 1 p.m. Where several businesses are carried on in the same shop, and some of the businesses are affected by an order and others not so affected, the shop may be kept open after the closing hour for the latter businesses only, subject to such conditions as are specified in the order. Such an order cannot be made unless two-thirds of the shops to be affected approve of the order in manner provided by the Act.

The corporation of a borough made an order providing that every shop within the borough wherein the business of a hairdresser or barber was carried on should, so far as such shop was used for such business, be closed on Thursdays at 2 p.m.; and that where any other business was carried on in any shop as well as that of hairdresser, the shop might be kept open for such other business, provided a notice was conspicuously exhibited to the effect that the shop was not open for the business of hairdresser. This order was made with all due formalities, approved by two-thirds of the shops concerned, and confirmed by the Home Secretary.

One hairdresser then, on the relation of the Attorney-General, brought an action against the corporation claiming an injunction to restrain them from proceeding with the order or spending public money in enforcing it, and a declaration that the order was ultra vires the Act.

It was argued on the plaintiff's behalf that the corporation could not make an order referring to only one day of the week, as the Act provided that the hours might be fixed "on the several days of the week"; also that no provision was made for distinguishing different classes of hairdressers' businesses, and that the order was unreasonable. The judge held that there was nothing in connection with the order which the defendants could be restrained from doing; that the order was perfectly reasonable; that barbers and hairdressers were a sufficiently specific class; that it was not necessary to mention each day of the week in the order, as the omission to mention days implied that there was to be no restriction on those days; and that the objection to the order was purely technical, and the injunction should be refused.

Against this decision the plaintiff appealed, but the Court of Appeal upheld it and dismissed the appeal.—*Attorney-General v. Mayor and Corporation of Brighton, Court of Appeal, May 20th, 1908.*

the Durham Conciliation Board (on May 1st) that the wages of underground and surface workers should be reduced by 2½ per cent.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland were reduced by 2½ per cent.

Manufactured Iron.—In the Midlands and in the West of Scotland the wages of puddlers were reduced by 3d. per ton, and those of millmen by 2½ per cent., whilst in the North of England the wages remain unchanged, as a result of the ascertainments of the selling prices of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies and Master Bakers' Associations in Great Britain, and from local correspondents, showing the price of household bread per 4 lbs. on June 1st, 1908.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 234 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 132 in Scotland:—

Table showing prices of bread per 4 lbs. by district for 1st June 1908, last quarter (28th Feb. 1908), and a year ago (1st June 1907).

The mean of the prices for June 1st, 1908, shows a decrease of 12d. per 4 lbs. as compared with that for February 28th. As compared with a year ago, an increase of 1½d. per 4 lbs. occurred in England and Wales, and of 62d. in Scotland.

The figures in the following tables are based on Returns received from Master Bakers' Associations and from other sources.

Table showing predominant prices of bread per 4 lbs. by district for 1st June 1908, 1st May 1908, and 1st June 1907.

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

Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.

Table showing price of bread in 28 large towns, including London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Huddersfield, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Potteries, Wolverhampton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin.

The above Table shows that, compared with a month ago, the predominant price of the 4 lb. loaf has fallen ½d. in Aberdeen. In Birmingham the predominant price is now 5d. and 5½d. per 4 lb.; a month ago it was 5½d. As compared with a year ago, 23 of the towns show increases. In 5 of the towns the rise amounted to 1d., in 16 (including London) to ½d., and in 2 to ¼d. per 4 lbs. In Oldham, however, a decrease of 1d. per 4 lbs. occurred, and in Birmingham, Huddersfield, Wolverhampton, and the Potteries no change is shown.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September, 1907-May, 1908, amounted to 70,847,810 cwts., or 6,092,010 cwts. more than during the corresponding period of 1906-7. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1907-May, 1908, amounted to 11,089,826 cwts., or 780,407 cwts. more than in September, 1906-May, 1907.

The following Table gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, the average declared value of wheat and flour imports, and the market price of London flour (Town Households) for the periods stated.

Table showing British Wheat, Imports (Average Declared Value), and Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) for May 1907 and May 1908.

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

Returns received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom, for the first quarter of 1908, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £8,154,178, an increase of 9.6 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1907, and of 34.0 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1903 (i.e., five years ago).

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish

Wholesale Societies amounted to £2,126,724, an increase of 10.8 per cent. on the first quarter of 1907, and of 66.4 per cent. on that of 1903.

The following table gives details for the three societies:—

Table showing sales of English, Scottish, and Irish Wholesale Societies for the first quarter of 1908, 1907, and 1903, along with percentage increase and decrease.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON THE USE OF LEAD, &C., IN THE MANUFACTURE OF EARTHENWARE AND CHINA.

THE Home Secretary has appointed the following Committee on the use of lead, and other dangerous processes, in the manufacture of earthenware and china:—

- Mr. E. F. G. Hatch, chairman.
Mr. W. Burton, director and manager of Pilkington's Tile and Pottery Company, Clifton Junction, near Manchester.
Mr. Noel Buxton.
Mr. Bernard Moore, consultant potter, of Stoke-on-Trent.

Mr. Noah Parkes, secretary, North Staffordshire Trades and Labour Council.

Dr. George Reid, Medical Officer of Health for Staffordshire.

- Miss Tuckwell.
Mr. A. Vernon-Harcourt, F.R.S., and
Mr. John Ward, M.P.

The terms of the Committee's reference are:—

- To consider the dangers attendant on the use of lead in the various branches of the manufacture of china and earthenware, and in the processes incidental thereto, including the making of transfers, and to report how far these can be obviated or lessened by improved appliances and methods in the lead processes, or by conducting any of those processes in separate rooms, or by limitation of the use of lead, or by substitution of harmless lead compounds for raw lead, or by substitution of other materials for lead, or by controlling the employment of susceptible persons in lead processes, or by precautions for detection of lead poisoning in the earlier stages,

Or otherwise, and how far such precautionary measures are reasonably practicable generally, and with regard to the several branches of the said manufacture.

To consider whether the danger or injury to health arising from dust or other causes in the said manufactures can be further obviated or lessened, and by what means, and how far such means are reasonably practicable generally and with regard to the several branches of the said manufacture.

To consider the existing special rules for the manufacture and decoration of earthenware and china, and the making of transfers, and to report what amendments, if any, are desirable for the better protection of the workers from lead poisoning and other diseases.

And to consider and report what modifications, if any, are desirable in the application of the said special rules, so amended, to particular branches of the manufactures named above, in the

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.
† This Society has no manufacturing departments.
‡ Revised figures.

form of regulations under Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

Correspondence may be addressed to the secretary, Mr. E. A. R. Werner, Factory Department, Home Office.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM. Summary for May.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE. NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

Table showing imports of foreign and colonial merchandise for May 1906, 1907, 1908, and percentage increase/decrease.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Table showing exports of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom for May 1906, 1907, 1908, and percentage increase/decrease.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,116,655 in May, 1906; £8,451,766 in May, 1907; and £6,431,654 in May, 1908.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended May 30th, 1908, amounted to £4,306,104, an increase of £85,895 (or 2.0 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the twenty-two weeks ended May 30th, 1908, the receipts amounted to £23,298,743, a decrease of £532,910 (or 2.3 per cent.) as compared with the first five months of 1907.

Table showing railway goods and mineral traffic receipts for 4 weeks ended May 30th, 1908, and 22 weeks ended May 30th, 1908.

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c., hides and skins.
§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, 1908, was 227, an increase of 5 as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 4 as compared with May, 1907.

The mean number for May in the years 1903-1907 was 215, the maximum year being 1907 with 231 deaths, and the minimum year 1904 with 195 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in May, 1908, was 112, as compared with 95 in April, and 89 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during May, 1908, was 79, as compared with 91 in the previous month, and 100 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 34, 34, and 41 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during May, 1908, was 59, as compared with 133 in April, 1908, and 92 in May, 1907.

During the five months ended May, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 1,291, as compared with 1,219 in the corresponding period of 1907. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 545 in 1908, and 634 in 1907.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1908, as compared with a	
	May, 1908.	April, 1908.	May, 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	3	3	1	...	+ 2
Engine Drivers	1	2	2	- 1	- 1
Firemen	1	3	2	- 2	- 1
Guards (Passenger)	6	1	1	- 1	- 1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	3	4	+ 3	+ 2
Porters	5	4	5	+ 1	...
Shunters	2	3	5	- 1	- 3
Miscellaneous	15	13	18	+ 2	- 3
Contractors' Servants	1	2	3	- 1	- 2
Total, Railway Service	34	34	41	...	- 7
Mines—					
Underground	95	75	73	+ 20	+ 22
Surface	7	15	10	- 8	- 3
Total, Mines	102	90	83	+ 12	+ 19
Quarries over 20 feet deep	10	5	6	+ 6	+ 4
Factories (including Workshops)					
Textile—					
Cotton	3	4	5	- 1	- 2
Wool and Worsted	2	3	2	- 1	- 1
Other Textiles	1	...	2	+ 1	- 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	7	4	1	+ 3	+ 6
Founding and Conversion of Metals	7	3	14	+ 4	- 7
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	...	1	4	- 1	- 4
Ship and Boat Building	4	15	15	- 11	- 11
Wood	1	...	2	+ 1	- 1
Chemicals	3	2	4	+ 1	- 1
Laundries	1	2	...	- 1	+ 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	21	34	28	- 13	- 7
Total, Factories	50	68	77	- 18	- 27
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	10	11	10	- 1	...
Warehouses	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	17	11	12	+ 6	+ 5
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	29	23	23	+ 6	+ 6
Accidents reported under Notice of Accident Act, 1894	2	2	1	...	+ 1
Total, exclusive of Seamen	227	222	231	+ 5	- 4
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	18	71	38	- 53	- 20
Steam	39	54	48	- 13	- 9
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	...	3	2	- 3	- 2
Steam	2	7	4	- 5	- 2
Total, Seamen	59	133	92	- 74	- 33
Total, including Seamen	286	355	323	- 69	- 37

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during May was 72, consisting of 58 cases of lead poisoning, 5 of arsenic poisoning, and 9 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 13 cases of lead poisoning (none of which were fatal) were reported during May among house painters and plumbers.

During the five months ended May, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 307, as compared with 209 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 19, as against 16 in 1907. In addition there were 75 cases of lead poisoning (including 11 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first five months of 1908, as compared with 57 cases (including 17 deaths) in the first five months of 1907.

(Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.)

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of May, 1908.	Five Months ended May, 1908.	Month of May, 1908.	Five Months ended May, 1908.
	Lead Poisoning.			
Smelting of Metals	4	28	4	1
Brass Works	1	3	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	—	5	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	5	12	7	—
Printing	—	7	9	1
File Cutting	—	5	2	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	—	1	12	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	9	31	22	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	5	3	—
China and Earthenware*	16	57	28	5
Litho-transfer Works	—	—	3	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	1	2	1	1
Enamelling of Iron Plates	1	3	1	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	2	13	7	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	15	7	—
Coach Making	—	4	21	1
Shipbuilding	—	1	4	11
Paint used in other Industries	4	16	14	—
Other Industries	7	29	19	3
Total in Factories and Workshops	58	261	171	6
House Painting and Plumbing	13	75	57	11
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	13	75	57	11
	Other Forms of Poisoning.			
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	—	2	—
Furriers' Processes	—	—	1	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	1	2
Phosphorus Poisoning—				
Lucifer Match Works	—	—	1	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	1	1
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	4	13	4	1
Other Industries	1	1	1	—
Total	5	14	5	1
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	5	15	8	1
	Anthrax.			
Wool	2	10	13	1
Handling of Horsehair	3	10	7	1
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	4	7	5	—
Other Industries	—	4	5	—
Total, Anthrax	9	31	30	1

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

* Of the 16 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 5 were females.
† Including 3 dock labourers.

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-nine disputes began in May, 1908, as compared with 26 in April, 1908, and 29 in May, 1907. By the 29 disputes, 3,997 workpeople were directly and 193 indirectly affected; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 55,276 workpeople involved in trade disputes during May, 1908, compared with 36,786 in April, 1908, and 11,912 in May, 1907.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	5	737	...	737
Mining and Quarrying	9	2,116	76	2,192
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	5	400	5	405
Textile Trades	1	30	...	30
Clothing	2	190	18	202
Transport	3	120	...	120
Other Trades	4	434	100	534
Total, May, 1908	29	3,997	193	4,190
Total, April, 1908	26	4,062	1,628	5,690
Total, May, 1907	29	4,511	1,374	5,785

Causes.—Of the 29 new disputes, 10 arose on demands for increased wages, 4 on objections to reductions in wages, 3 on other wages questions, 4 on details of working arrangements, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 2 in sympathy with other workpeople on strike, and 2 on questions of Trade Union principle.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 14 new disputes, directly affecting 2,043 persons, and 13 old disputes, directly affecting 15,853 persons. Of these 27 new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 905 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople;

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.‡				
Building Trades—							
Painters and Decorators	Burnley	195	...	1 May	...	For advance in wages and other alterations in working rules	Disputes submitted to Mr. A. A. Hudson, arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1896.
Painters	Oldham	350	...	1 April	32	For advance in wages from 8½d. to 9d. per hour.	No settlement reported.
Slaters	Glasgow	325	...	15 May	...	Against proposed alteration in rules as to taking on men at country jobs	No settlement reported.
Coal Mining—							
Coal Miners	Neath	800	...	1 May	5	To compel non-unionists to join the South Wales Miners' Federation	Non-unionists joined the Federation
Shipbuilding—							
Shipwrights, Drillers, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Machinists, Shipbuilders, Engineers, Labourers, &c.	North-East Coast, Humber, Barrow, Birkenhead, Clyde, & East of Scotland	15,000	20,000	22 Jan.	109	Strike on the Tyne and Tees against proposed immediate reduction of 1s. per week, with a further reduction of 6d. per week in March, followed by general lock-out in other districts on May 4th	Reduction of 1s. 6d. per week accepted; system of conciliation to be set up.
Boot and Shoe Manufacture—							
Bootmakers (handsewn)	Glasgow	170	...	4 May	...	For advance in wages	No settlement reported.

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

LEGAL POSITION OF SEAMEN IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

A RETURN* which has recently been published gives particulars as to the legal obligations of the owners of merchant vessels to their officers and seamen in each of the principal European countries, and in Japan. The subjects dealt with include old age pensions, pensions to widows and orphans, compensation for accidents, hours of labour at sea and in port, payment for overtime, Sunday labour, medical treatment, accommodation, relief and repatriation of distressed seamen, and maintenance of discipline.

* H. L., 14 of Session 1903: price 9d.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON RAILWAY SUPERANNUATION FUNDS.

THE President of the Board of Trade has appointed the Right Hon. R. K. Causton, M.P. (chairman), Mr. G. B. Bayley, Mr. D. C. Fraser, Mr. G. S. Fry, Mr. T. Hall Hall, Mr. R. H. Selbie, and Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P., to be a Committee to inquire into the constitution, rules, administration, and financial position of the superannuation and similar funds of railway companies.

Mr. J. G. Bell, of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade, is secretary to the Committee

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages. Changes taking effect in May.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in May, 1908, was a decrease of £3,624 per week, as compared with a decrease of £10,571 per week in April, 1908, and an increase of £22,932 per week in May, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 147,566, of whom 5,354 received advances amounting to £290 per week, and 142,212 sustained decreases amounting to £3,914 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 204,255, and in May, 1907, 499,783.

Three changes, affecting 277 workpeople, were settled by arbitration; two changes, affecting 124,500 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and four changes, affecting 8,562 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 14,227 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 67 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the five completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the five months ended May 31st, 1908, was 824,788, as compared with 1,004,294 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 400,792 workpeople a net increase of £20,986 per week, and 417,996 workpeople a net decrease of £20,145 per week, whilst the remaining 6,000 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the

beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £841 per week, as compared with an increase of £90,334 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

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

Table showing Groups of Trades, January-May, 1907 and 1908. Columns include No. and £ for both years, with a Total row at the bottom.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour taking effect in May, 1908, affected 683 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 1,468 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the five months ended May 31st, 1908, was 6,005, the net decrease in their working hours being 9,655 per week.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MAY.

Large table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1908, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected, Particulars of Change. Includes sub-sections for Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour.

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in June it was arranged that the wages of miners in the Forest of Dean should be reduced by 5 per cent., and in Scotland by 12½ per cent. Iron and Steel Manufacture.—A reduction of 2½ per cent. took effect early in June in the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen in South Staffordshire.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in May, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 220 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with April, 1908, the total number of paupers decreased by 772 (0·2 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 1. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 2,110 (1·2 per cent.), while the number of outdoor paupers increased by 1,338 (0·6 per cent.). Increases took place in 12 districts, most noticeably in the Stockton and Tees district (29 per 10,000). Nineteen districts showed decreases, of which the most marked was Galway (20 per 10,000). Four districts showed no change.

Compared with May, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 8. The number of indoor paupers increased by 9,974 (6·0 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 8,332 (4·0 per cent.). In 24 districts there were increases, of which the most marked were Stockton and Tees (115 per 10,000) and East London (28 per 10,000). Nine districts showed decreases, and two no change.

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1908. Columns: Selected Urban Districts, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000.

Table showing ENGLAND & WALES. Metropolis. Columns: District, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000.

Table showing Other Districts. Columns: District, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000.

Table showing SCOTLAND. Columns: District, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000.

Table showing IRELAND. Columns: District, In-door, Out-door, TOTAL, Rate per 10,000, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000.

* 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.

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

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MAY.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 198.

THE following Table shows the number of applicants to Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of May, by those Committees whose registers were still open at that date. The following additional Distress Committees closed their registers for the receipt of fresh applications during May:—Leyton, Birmingham, Bury, York, Paisley, and Dublin.

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

Table showing Distress Committees, No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of May, 1908, and No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of May, 1907.

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

Table showing Distress Committees, No. given Employment-relief, Aggregate duration of Employment-relief, and Total Amount of Wages paid.

It will be seen that the average number of days' employment-relief given was between 10 and 11, and the average amount of wages paid was about 34s. 3d., or 3s. 3d. a day.

* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number on the "unemployed register" was 632.

† Including some not registered by the Distress Committees. ‡ Including 34 on piecework. § Including 11 on piecework. || All on piecework.

Metropolitan Police. Accounts showing the sums received and expended for the purposes of the Metropolitan Police and Police Pension Funds between April 1st, 1907, and March 31st, 1908. Shows strength of the force, pay, &c. [H.C. 128 : pp. 23 : price 2½d.]

Annual Summary of Marriages, Births and Deaths in England and Wales, and in London, &c., 1907. [Pp. xlix. + 75 : price 1s. 6d.]

Aliens Act, 1905. Return of Alien Passenger Traffic between the United Kingdom and Ports in Europe, &c., during the three months ending March 31st, 1908; together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during the period. Home Office. [Cd. 4073 : pp. 8 : price 1½d.]

Report for 1907. Part I. Second Annual Report of H.M. Inspector. Part II. A Statement with regard to the Expulsion of Aliens. Home Office. [Cd. 4102 : pp. 76 : price 8d.]

Index and Digest of Evidence to the Report from the Select Committee on Home Work. Session 1907. [H.C. 290—Ind.: pp. 50 : price 4½d.]

Fifty-first Report, for the year 1907, of the Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools of Great Britain. Part I. List of Schools and Detailed Reports. Home Office and Scottish Office. [Cd. 4052 : pp. 280 : price 1s. 2d.]

Royal Commission on Congestion in Ireland. Eleventh Report. [Cd. 4088 : pp. 4 : price ½d.] *Appendix to Eleventh Report. Minutes of Evidence taken in London, January 22nd to 24th, 1908.* [Cd. 4089 : pp. xi. + 129 : price 1s. 2d.] *Final Report.* [Cd. 4097 : pp. xiii. + 222 : price 3s. 7d.]

Irish Land Commission. Return of Proceedings under the Land Law Acts, Labourers (Ireland) Acts, &c., during December, 1907. [Cd. 4043 : pp. 15 : price 2d.] *During January, 1908.* [Cd. 4061 : pp. 15 : price 2d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Colonial Office Reports—Miscellaneous. No. 50. British Cotton Cultivation. Reports by Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S. [Cd. 3997 : pp. 46 : price 2½d.]

No. 51. Report on the Forest Administration of Southern Nigeria for 1906. [Cd. 3999 : pp. 90 : price 5d.]

Canada. The Labour Gazette, April, 1908. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during March, 1908; Manitoba and British Columbia legislation affecting labour; Fair Wages in Government Contracts, &c.

Eighth Report of the Bureau of Labour of the Province of Ontario for the year ending 31st December, 1907. Labour organisations, wages and hours of labour, statistics of manufactures, strikes, labour laws, &c. [Toronto, L. K. Cameron, King's Printer : pp. 261.]

Western Australia. Report of Proceedings by the Registrar of Friendly Societies under the Friendly Societies and other Acts for the year ended December 31st, 1906. [Perth : F. W. Simpson, Government Printer : pp. 34.]

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, April, 1908. Condition of employment and trade, cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Egypt.

Reports by H.M. Agent and Consul-General on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of Egypt and the Soudan in 1907. Foreign Office. [Cd. 3966 : pp. vi. + 68 : price 7½d.]

United States.

State of New York Labour Bulletin, March, 1908. The state of employment, July to December, 1907; statistics of disputes, October to December, 1907; factory inspection; Supreme Court decisions on Oregon Ten-Hour-Law for Women, Federal Employers' Liability Act, and Hatters' Boycott case, &c.

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, April, 1908. Report on the application of the law of March 27th, 1907, on Conseils de Prud'hommes. [Paris : Berger-Levrault et Cie : price 2d.]

Report on the Application of French Factory Laws in 1906. French Labour Department. [Paris : pp. ccxviii. + 560.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, April and May, 1908. Report on cigar-making as a home industry; the recent agreement in the building trade; prices of various articles in 1907 and previous years in German and other towns. Also, as supplement, index to 1903-1907. [Berlin : Carl Heymann : price 1d.]

Factory Inspection in Baden. Report for 1907. Baden Ministry of the Interior. [Karlsruhe : pp. 139 : price 3s.]

Report for 1907 of Workmen's Secretariats of Nuremberg and of United Trade Unions of Nuremberg. [Nuremberg : Selbstverlag des Arbeiter-Sekretariates : pp. 116.]

Forestry Statistics of Wurtemberg, 1906. Contains rates of wages paid to woodcutters in State forests. Forestry Board, 1908. [Stuttgart : Chr. Scheufele : pp. 92.]

Austria.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, March, 1908. Wages, &c., in Austrian salt works and on Austrian railways; trade unions in Hungary. [Vienna : A. Holder : price 2d.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, April, 1908. Wages and hours of miners and metal workers in 1907. [Rome : Officina Poligrafica Italiana : price 3d.]

List of Articles relating to Labour Questions in the Reviews of Italy and other Countries in 1907. Italian Labour Department. [Rome, Officina Poligrafica Italiana : pp. vii. : 58 : price 4d.]

Proceedings of the Italian Higher Council of Labour. Tenth Session, November, 1907. Italian Labour Department. [Rome : Officina Poligrafica Italiana : pp. 250.]

Bill presented to the Italian Chamber of Deputies on November 28th, 1907, relating to the Institution of Inter-Regional Labour Registries for Workpeople engaged in Agriculture and Public Works. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome : Officina Poligrafica Italiana : pp. 59.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, April 30th and May 15th, 1908. Labour disputes in March and employment in April. [Brussels : F. Vanbuggenhoudt : price 1d.]

Holland.

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

Statistical Yearbook of Amsterdam, 1907. Statistics of population, trade union unemployment benefit, and municipal unemployment subventions. [Amsterdam : Johannes Müller : pp. 81 : price 8d.]

Wages of Workpeople employed by the Municipality of Amsterdam and the Charity Bureau on May 1st, 1907. [Amsterdam : Johannes Müller : pp. 39 : price 5d.]

Sweden.

Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, March, 1908. Disputes in 1907; unemployed benefit in Swedish trade unions. [Stockholm : P. A. Norstedt & Söner : price 2d.]

Report on the Post Office Savings Bank of Sweden for 1906. [Stockholm : K. L. Beckman : pp. 17.]

Population Statistics of Sweden, December 31st, 1907. Central Statistical Office. [Stockholm : P. A. Norstedt & Söner : pp. 18.]

Denmark.

Miscellaneous Statistics of Denmark. Contains report on employment, &c., in hotel and restaurant service, accidents in agriculture and forestry, and savings banks, 1896-7 to 1905-6. Danish Statistical Office. [Copenhagen : Gyldenalske Boghandel Nordisk Forlag.]

Russia.

Industrial Accidents in Finland, 1904, 1905 and 1906. [Helsingfors : Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri.]

Industrial Statistics of Finland, 1905, Part 2. Factory workers and artisans, 1908. [Helsingfors : Helsingfors Central-Tryckeri och Bokbinderi Aktiebolag.]

Industrial Statistics of Finland, 1906. Part 1. Mining, engineering &c. works, 1908. [Helsingfors : Osakeyhtio Weilin & Goos Aktiebolag.]

Statistics of Savings Banks in Finland. Deposits in and withdrawals from savings banks in 1900, and sums invested at end of years 1900 and 1905. [Helsingfors, 1908 : Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri.]

Labour Statistics of Finland. Inquiry relating to children attending Elementary Schools. I. Helsingfors, Abo, Tammerfors and Viborg. Employment out of school hours, 1908. [Helsingfors : Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, April, 1908. Labour disputes reported in March, and in the first quarter of 1908. [Madrid, Calle Mayor 93 : price 2½d.]

Bulgaria.

Foreign Commerce and Navigation of Bulgaria, and Prices in the Principal Bulgarian Towns in the Second Quarter of 1907. Contains wages of masons and agricultural labourers. Statistical department of Bulgaria, 1908. [Sofia : Imprimerie de l'Etat : pp. 97.]

Argentine Republic.

Journal of the Argentine Labour Department. March 31st, 1908. Law of October 14th, 1907, regulating labour of women and children. Labour conditions in Buenos Ayres. [Buenos Ayres : Imprenta, Calle de Mexico, 1422 : 1s. 9d.]

CONSULAR REPORTS.

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

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3982. Trade of the Consular District of Baltimore, 1907. Statistics of industries, immigration, unemployment, &c. [Cd. 3727-65 : pp. 48 : price 2½d.]

No. 3986. Trade of Consular District of Savannah, 1907. Cotton crop, prices, exports, spindles working, &c. [Cd. 3727-69 : pp. 23 : price 1½d.]

No. 3987. Trade of the Consular District of Rome, 1907. Statistics of industries, emigration, housing difficulties, &c. [Cd. 3727-70 : pp. 23 : price 1½d.]

No. 3988. Trade and Agriculture of Poland and Lithuania, 1907. Industries, agriculture, agricultural societies, emigration, &c. [Cd. 3727-71 : pp. 31 : price 3½d.]

No. 3997. Trade of Norway for the year 1907. Statistics of industries, number employed, &c. [Cd. 3727-80 : pp. 53 : price 3d.]

No. 3998. Trade of the Consular District of San Francisco for the year 1907. Statistics of industries, strikes, immigration, unemployed, &c. [Cd. 3727-81 : pp. 55 : price 3d.]

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