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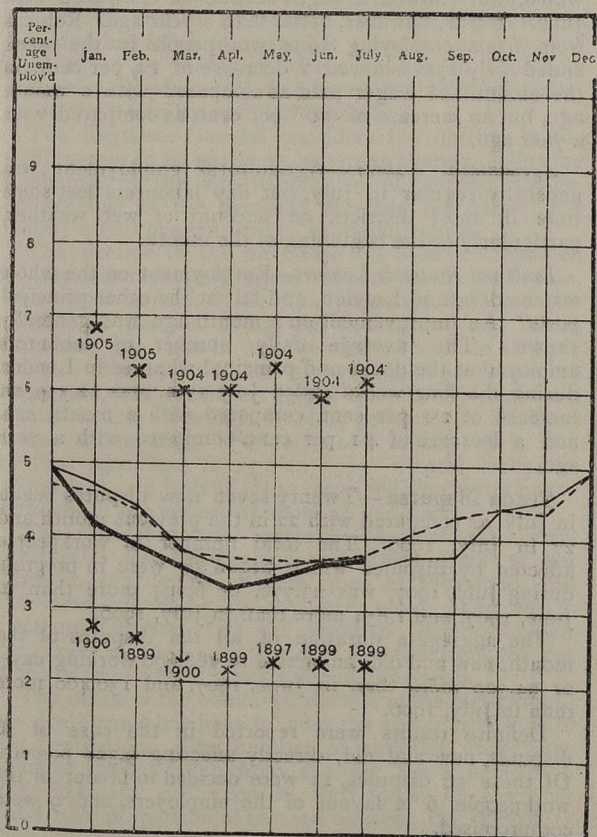
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1907. ——— Thin Curve=1906.
..... Dotted Curve=Mean of 1897-1906.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, 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 July, 1907, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 631,158 members in the following trades:—

Building...	64,697	Printing & Bookbinding	54,693
Coal Mining	121,294	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering	161,371	nishing	35,105
Shipbuilding	58,433	Miscellaneous	21,713
Other Metal Trades	30,529	Total	631,158
Textiles	83,323		

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN JULY.

[In addition to the 2,680 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,682 were received from employers relating to 1,067,758 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 6,362 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

THERE was but little difference in the state of employment in July compared with June.

As compared with a year ago, most of the principal industries showed some improvement. There was, however, some decline in the engineering and ship-building trades.

There was a net weekly rise in wages during July of £12,500 per week.

In the 273 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 631,158, making Returns, 23,291 (or 3·7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of July, 1907, compared with 3·6 per cent. at the end of June, 1907, and 3·6 per cent. at the end of July, 1906.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry remained very good, and was better than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended July 20th was 5·38, as compared with 4·99 a year ago. Comparison with a month ago is affected by holidays, which were more numerous in July than in June, especially in Scotland.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good, and showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during July continued good. It was better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 25,000 workpeople, showed 347 furnaces in blast at the end of July, as compared with 348 in June, and 338 in July, 1906.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works was brisk; it was not quite so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended July 20th, 1907, at the 202 works from which Returns were received, was 1·1 per cent. less than in the week ended June 22nd, 1907, but 4·1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment continued very good during July, and was much better than in July, 1906. At the works covered by the Returns 446 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of July, as compared with 451 a month ago, and 402 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in July was good on the whole, but not so good as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 3·5, compared with 3·4 at the end of the previous month and 2·5 a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was fair on the whole, but not so good as a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 7.2, as compared with 6.4 in June, and 5.7 per cent. in July, 1906.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very good in the Spinning branch, and was better than a year ago; in the Weaving branch it was good, but owing to the scarcity and high price of yarn some short time was worked, by agreement, during the month.

Woolen Trade.—Employment showed a slight decline, but was good, and better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 24,839 workpeople in the week ended July 27th showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment showed a slight decline, but was good, and better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,741 workpeople in the week ended July 27th showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 7.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment, though still good, showed a decline as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,561 workpeople in the week ended July 27th, showed a decrease of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but an increase of 6.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,114 workpeople in the week ended July 27th showed increases in the amount of wages paid of 1.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 6.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was fairly good generally; it was not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,632 workpeople in the week ended July 27th, 1907, showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 7.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment on the whole was fairly good; it showed a decline on the previous month, but was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,731 workpeople in the week ended July 27th showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but an increase of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was fairly good in England, good in Scotland; on the whole it showed little change compared with a month ago and was better than a year ago. Firms employing 13,242 workpeople in the week ended July 27th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoke branch showed the usual seasonal decline in London, but was better than a year ago; in the provincial centres it was fair. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during July in the Silk Hat branch was quiet; in the Felt Hat branch fairly good; in both branches it was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of July in the Silk Hat trade was 8.8, compared with 6.9 at the end of June, and 13.6 a year ago. The corresponding percentages in the Felt Hat trade were 2.0, 2.6, and 3.0.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment showed a further decline as compared with June, and was slightly worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 58,791 workpeople showed a decrease of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued moderate, but was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,708 had 4.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, as compared with the same percentage in June, 1907, and 5.2 per cent. in July, 1906.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment remained fair on the whole. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of July was 3.6, as compared with 4.1 in June, and 3.5 in July, 1906. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 6.2, 6.4, and 5.4 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in July continued dull. It showed little general change compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in the furnishing and woodworking trades was fair on the whole, but not so good as a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,105 reported 4.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 3.3 per cent. a month ago, and 4.4 per cent. in July, 1906.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued slack, and was worse than a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, but showed a slight decline as compared with June. It was, however, better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,692 workpeople in the week ended July 27th showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, but an increase of 7.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Agricultural employment was generally regular in July, but day labourers lost some time in most districts on account of wet weather, particularly at the beginning of the month.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment on the whole was moderate in London, and fair at the other principal ports. An improvement on a month ago was generally shown. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended July 27th, was 12,359, an increase of 2.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-seven new disputes began in July, as compared with 22 in the previous month and 27 in July, 1906. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during July, 1907, was 23,776, or 6,094 more than in June, 1907, and 1,854 more than in July, 1906.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 288,600 working days, or 94,500 more than in June, 1907, and 130,400 more than in July, 1906.

Definite results were reported in the case of 26 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 9,328 persons. Of these 26 disputes, 11 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 6 in favour of the employers, and 9 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in July affected 199,900 workpeople, of whom 199,600 received advances, and 300 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 110,000 coal miners in Scotland, and 38,000 in Northumberland, 20,000 iron puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, and 10,000 blastfurnacemen in various parts of England and Wales. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net advance of about £12,500 per week.

* The comparison with a year ago is affected to some extent by an advance in rates of wages in the glass bottle-making trade, which took effect in January-February, 1907.

DECLINE IN BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND ABROAD.

ACCORDING to recent Reports* of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, both the birth-rate and the death-rate have shown a remarkable decline during the last thirty or forty years in almost all countries. The only conspicuous exceptions are Ireland, where both birth and death rates have been nearly stationary for many years; and Japan, where the birth-rate has risen continuously from an average of 26.0 per thousand in 1881-5 to 32.5 per thousand in 1901-3.

In England and Wales the mean annual birth rate reached its maximum in the decade 1871-80, when it was 35.4 per 1,000 of the population; it fell to 32.5 in the next decade, and to 29.9 in the decade 1891-1900, and in the year 1905 it had fallen to 27.2 per 1,000, a total decline of 23 per cent. In Scotland the rate in the decade 1871-80 was 34.7 per 1,000, since when it has fallen to 30.1 in the decade 1891-1900, and to 28.1 in the year 1905; a total decline of 19 per cent. In Ireland the decline has been only from 26.5 per 1,000 in 1871-1880 to about 23 per cent. from 1881 to 1905.

In some respects the birth-rate, *i.e.*, the proportion of births to the total number of persons living, is less important than the fertility-rate, *i.e.*, the proportion of births to the total number of married women of child-bearing age (taken as from 15 to 45 years). Adopting this standard, it appears that the "fertility-rate" in England and Wales has fallen from 292.5 per 1,000 (married women) in 1870-2 to 235.5 per 1,000 in 1900-2, a decline of 19.7 per cent. The decline has been greatest in Sussex, Westmorland, Surrey, Devonshire, and Bedfordshire; and least in South Wales and Monmouthshire and in Durham. The "fertility-rate" of Scotland has fallen from 320 per 1,000 (married women aged 15 to 45 years) in 1870-2 to 272 in 1900-2, a decline of 15 per cent.; but there has been an actual rise in the "fertility-rate" of Ireland.

The Registrar-General considers the decline in the fertility-rate to be partly an apparent change, following a change in the age-distribution of married women, on account of the decrease in early marriages; but mainly a real change, due to volitional causes.

The decline in the birth-rate has been accompanied by an approximately equal decline in the death-rate. The mean annual death-rate (proportion of deaths to number of persons living) fell in England and Wales from 21.4 per 1,000 in the decade 1871-80 to 18.2 per 1,000 in 1891-1900; it has since fallen at an even more rapid rate, and reached 15.2 per 1,000 in the year 1905, a total decline since 1871-80 of 29 per cent. In Scotland it has fallen from 21.6 per 1,000 in 1871-80 to 18.4 in 1891-1900, and to 15.9 in 1905—a total decline of 26 per cent. In Ireland it has remained nearly stationary throughout the period, at about 18 per 1,000.

The rate of natural increase (*i.e.*, birth-rate minus death-rate) fell, in England and Wales, from 14 per 1,000 in 1871-80 to 11.7 per 1,000 in 1891-1900; but recovered in 1901-5 to 12.1 per 1,000. The rate in Scotland fell from 13.1 per 1,000 in 1871-80 to 11.7 per 1,000 in 1891-1900; and in Ireland from 8.2 per 1,000 in 1871-80 to 4.8 per 1,000 in 1891-1900.

The result of the combined decline in the birth and in the death rates has been to alter the age-distribution of the population. The number of children under five years of age has fallen from 133 per 1,000 persons in 1851-60 to 119 per 1,000 in 1891-1900. On the other hand, the proportion of persons between the ages of 15 and 45 has risen from 455 per 1,000 in 1851-60 (446 per 1,000 in 1871-80) to 469 per 1,000 in 1891-1900. After allowing for this change in age-distribution, it is estimated that the decline in the death-rate which is attributable to actual improvements in "sanitary, educational, and other remedial agencies," in England and Wales, has been from 21.5 in 1861-70, and

* Annual Summary of Births and Deaths in England and Wales: price 1s. 6d. Sixty-eighth Annual Report of the Registrar-General for England and Wales: Cd. 3279; price 2s. 6d. [The corresponding volume for Scotland is Cd. 2790; price 3s.; and for Ireland, Cd. 209; price 1s. 8d.] Supplement to the 65th Report of the Registrar-General for England and Wales: Cd. 2618; price 4s. 3d.

20.5 in the following decade, to 18.2 in 1891-1900, an improvement of 15 per cent. in 40 years, and of 11 per cent. in 30 years. There has been a gratifying decrease (42 per cent. in 40 years) in the death-rate from tuberculosis; but the infant mortality (*i.e.* deaths of children within twelve months of birth), after falling in the two decades 1871-80 and 1881-90, actually rose in the decade 1891-1900, returning to the same level (181 per 1,000) as it stood at thirty years ago.

In foreign countries and in British colonies the greatest recorded decline, both in the birth and in the death rate, has taken place in Australia. The decline in the birth-rate in the undermentioned countries in the last twenty years is shown below:—

Countries.	Birth-rate per 1,000.		Decrease, per cent.
	Average, 1881-5.	Average, 1901-5.	
England and Wales	33.5	28.1	16.1
Denmark	32.4	29.0	10.5
Germany	37.0	34.7	6.2
Netherlands	34.8	31.6	9.2
Belgium	31.1	28.1*	9.6
France	24.7	21.3	13.8
Italy	38.0	32.5	14.5
Austria	38.2	36.0*	5.8
Hungary	44.4	37.2	16.2
New South Wales	37.7	26.7	29.2
Victoria	30.8	24.0	19.2
South Australia	38.5	24.5	36.4
New Zealand	36.3	26.6	26.7

There has been a decrease in the "fertility-rate" of all the countries making returns, except Ireland, Austria and Spain. In the Australasian colonies there have been heavy decreases, ranging from 23.2 per cent. in Queensland to 30.6 per cent. in New South Wales.

The death-rate has also declined, at almost the same rate as the birth-rate; and here again the decrease has been greatest in Australia (except Victoria), varying from 27 per cent. in South Australia and Western Australia to 32 per cent. in Tasmania. The decline in New Zealand has not been so great, but it is to be noted that that colony has throughout the period had the lowest death-rate of any country in the world. The following statement shows the death-rates of the undermentioned countries in 1881-5 and in 1901-5:—

Countries.	Death-rate per 1,000.		Decrease, per cent.
	Average, 1881-5.	Average, 1901-5.	
England and Wales	19.4	16.0	17.5
Denmark	18.4	14.8	19.6
Germany	25.8	19.9*	22.9
Netherlands	21.4	16.1	24.8
Belgium	20.9	17.1*	18.2
France	22.2	19.6	11.7
Italy	27.3	21.8	20.1
Austria	30.2	24.0*	20.5
Hungary	32.9	26.2	20.4
New South Wales	15.7	11.2	28.7
Victoria	14.7	12.7	13.6
South Australia	14.7	10.8	26.5
New Zealand	10.9	9.9	9.2

The rate of natural increase (*i.e.*, birth-rate minus death-rate), is only 1.7 per 1,000 in France: in the other countries mentioned above the rate is 11 per 1,000 in Belgium, Italy, and Hungary; 12 per 1,000 in England and Wales, Austria and Victoria; and 14 per 1,000 or over in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, New South Wales, S. Australia, and New Zealand. The rate has fallen in the 20 years between 1881-5 and 1901-5 in England, France and Hungary, and in Australia and New Zealand; has been stationary in Italy; and has risen in Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Austria.

In this connection the effect of emigration should be noted, not only in transferring population from one country to another, but also in changing the age-distribution of the population in the several countries. Emigrants are mainly men and women in the prime of life, among whom the largest proportion of births occurs.

* Average 1901-4.

CONCILIATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Boot and Shoe Operatives, Leeds.

The clickers and pressmen in the boot and shoe trade of Leeds having made a demand for an advance in their minimum rate of wages to 30s. per week, the matter was referred by the local Conciliation Board to two arbitrators, who were, however, unable to agree.

Accordingly under the rules of the Board application was on July 15th made to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to settle the question in dispute. On July 18th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

Mr. Askwith issued his award on July 29th, deciding that the minimum rates shall be 30s. a week for clickers, 28s. per week for pressmen (sole makers), and 26s. per week for pressmen (ordinary); these rates to come into force in the third full week in August. The rates in force previous to the award were: clickers 28s., and pressmen 25s. per week.

Painters, Manchester.

In connection with his award of March 28th in this case (see GAZETTE for April, p. 100), Mr. Hudson was, on June 28th, 1907, asked by the parties to the previous arbitration to clear up certain difficulties arising out of a disputed interpretation of the rule relating to walking time. Having obtained the concurrence of the Board of Trade, he issued a further award on July 22nd, consisting of explanatory notes interpreting the rule in question, and determining other points of detail which had not been brought forward at the previous arbitration.

Biscuit Manufacture, Carlisle.

On August 13th a joint application was made to the Board of Trade by Messrs. Carr & Co., Ltd., Carlisle, and the Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union, for the appointment of an arbitrator to settle a number of questions on which the parties had been unable to agree.

On August 15th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in that capacity.

(b) COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT.

Engineers, United Kingdom.

On January 28th, 1898, an agreement terminating the great dispute in the engineering trades, and known as the Terms of Settlement, was made at a conference between the Engineering Employers' Federation and the allied Engineering Trade Unions (the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Steam Engine Makers' Society, and the United Machine Workers' Society.) This agreement dealt with the following matters:—Freedom of employers in management of works; freedom of employment; piecework; overtime; rating of workmen; apprentices; selection, training, and employment of operatives; and provisions for avoiding disputes. It continued in force up to the present year.

In 1906 negotiations were entered into between the parties for a revision of the Terms of Settlement, and eventually a revised agreement was signed by representatives of the parties on March 22nd, 1907. Recently a ballot has been taken of the members of the allied Trade Unions as to its acceptance, which resulted in a majority in its favour.

The principal changes made in the various sections are as follows:—

Freedom of Employment.—The right of employers and of workmen to belong or not to the Federation, or to a Trade Union, respectively, is confirmed; and workmen are not to be called upon, as a condition of employment, to declare whether they are Trade Unionists or not.

Piecework.—The pieceworker is guaranteed day rates irrespective of his piecework earnings, and obtains all the conditions attaching to the timeworker when working overtime, night shift, &c.

Overtime.—The amount of overtime permitted, except under certain specified conditions, is reduced from 40 to 32 hours per month.

Rating of Workmen.—In fixing rates for skilled men, employers agree to have regard to the rates prevailing in the district.

Apprentices.—Employers agree to afford apprentices facilities for acquiring practical knowledge of the branch of trade adopted, and to encourage them to obtain a theoretical knowledge thereof.

Selection, Training, and Employment of Operatives.—The right of employers to obtain the most economical production, whether by skilled or unskilled workmen, is guaranteed; but employers are recommended to secure work for men displaced by changes in methods of work.

Provisions for Avoiding Disputes.—The right of local Trade Union officials to approach the local representatives of the Employers' Association for the discussion of differences is expressly guaranteed. Local conferences, if asked for by either party, must be held within 12 days after application has been made.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR SOLDIERS

THE War Office have published a Report* on the steps taken to provide technical instruction for soldiers, to fit them for civil life. The scheme is not intended to equip soldiers on service with a complete training as skilled tradesmen, but to provide (a) advanced instruction to those who already have some knowledge of a trade; and (b) elementary instruction, such as would be useful to men intending to emigrate, or to seek employment as "handy men" about country houses.

It is found that instruction is, or can readily be made, available for a greater number of men than are likely to make use of it. Such instruction may be either (i.) provided in the regimental workshops, which are not always very suitable for the purpose, but have the advantage of accompanying units in their movements from place to place; or (ii.) locally provided in departmental workshops, garrison classes, &c.; or (iii.) locally provided from civilian sources. Civilian instruction is sometimes available in the form of technical classes: these are occasionally too advanced and technical to be suitable for the purpose in view; but one new technical school is to be started primarily for the benefit of soldiers. Private employers are also sometimes found able and willing to give instruction to soldiers on payment of a reasonable fee. Thus, the Plymouth Automobile Engineering Company gave a course of 40 lessons to a class of men at a charge of £4 1s. 2d. a head, paid by the men.

The courses of instruction which appear to have been most successful are those in gardening, and in motor-car driving. Gardening has proved popular in the Eastern Command where it has been tried; and the report is accompanied by an account of the very successful experiment of teaching the science and practice of agriculture to soldiers which has been made in the Italian Army. As regards motor-car driving, instruction has been given in the London district and at Aldershot, and at Portsmouth, Plymouth, Newport, and Edinburgh, where an officer provides instruction and the use of his car.

Only capital expenses are charged to public funds, and the soldiers themselves pay the fees for their instruction, and any payments for materials used.

The chief difficulties in the way of the success of the scheme have been the interruption of the courses of instruction owing to the military duties of the men, and in some cases owing to the men's removal to other stations. To obviate these difficulties it has been suggested that men receiving technical instruction should be granted certain exemptions from military duties during the latter part of their service.

* Cd. 3511. Price 2½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

A PARLIAMENTARY Paper* has recently been issued by the Local Government Board containing "a collection of various statistics bearing upon different aspects of the question" of old age pensions. A preliminary memorandum, dealing with the subject generally, reviews briefly the recommendations with regard to schemes of State or State-aided pensions which have been made by the various Committees and Commissions which have considered the question, beginning with the Aged Poor Commission under Lord Aberdare in 1893, and ending with the Select Committee on the Aged Pensioners Bill, 1903. It is pointed out that earlier proposals in favour of pensions to be granted universally on the attainment of a certain age, and schemes based on the principle of "assisted insurance," have each in turn been rejected; in the case of universal pensions, principally on the ground of the great cost entailed, and in the latter case, for various reasons, one of which appears to be the probability that too small a section of the population would be benefited. The only scheme which, after consideration by a Parliamentary Committee, has attained a definite shape, is that propounded by the Select Committee of 1899 on the Aged Deserving Poor (Mr. Chaplin's), which was virtually adopted by the Select Committee of 1903.

Under Mr. Chaplin's scheme, pensions would be awarded by a committee of each Board of Guardians to persons 65 years of age or upwards, being British subjects, who had not an income of more than 10s. a week, who had not received poor relief or been sentenced to penal servitude or imprisonment without the option of a fine within 20 years before attaining the age of 65, and who could show some evidence of having exercised thrift. The number of persons who might become pensionable under this scheme is estimated (on the lines of certain calculations made by a Departmental Committee in 1900) to be at the present time 686,000 out of a total population, over 65 years of age, of 2,116,000. Some considerations affecting the value of this estimate are noticed, and it is pointed out that the numbers who might become pensionable some time after the scheme had been in operation, might be materially increased owing to inducements offered by the scheme itself.

The immediate cost of Mr. Chaplin's scheme of pensions for persons of 65 and over is estimated at £10,780,000, being calculated at an average pension of 6s. a week; and it is shown that, assuming one-half of the cost of pensions in each Union to be met out of local rates, the burden would fall more heavily on rural than on urban districts, owing to the relatively larger number of the aged in the former than in the latter class of districts. In this connection it is also pointed out that the saving in Poor Law expenditure would probably be slight, the cost of indoor relief, the most costly form of Poor Law relief, being practically unaffected.

A feature of interest in the paper is an attempt to estimate the number of persons who are already in receipt of pensions or superannuation allowances, including Army, Navy, and Civil Service pensioners; superannuated officers of Local Authorities; police pensioners; pensioners of local endowed charities; and superannuated members of Friendly Societies and Trade Unions. It is estimated that about 250,000 persons can thus be accounted for; but as the figures take no account of persons receiving pensions or allowances from former private employers, nor of those benefiting under superannuation schemes of business firms or companies, the true number is probably far in excess of 250,000.

Seven sets of tables are appended, giving the estimated numbers pensionable and the cost of pensions under Mr. Chaplin's scheme; tables bearing on the mortality and expectation of life among the industrial classes; tables relating to the numbers of persons over 65 in receipt of poor-law relief; tables showing the amount of funds in the hands of Friendly Societies and Trade Unions, and of Savings Banks; and other statistics bearing generally on the subject of old age pensions.

* Cd. 3618. Price 5½d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE SERVANTS.

THE Select Committee appointed to inquire into the wages and position of the principal classes of Post Office servants, and also of the unestablished sub-postmasters, have presented their Report.*

The number of different classes of Post Office employees is very large, and the Committee, being directed to examine into the conditions of employment of the "principal" classes, have excluded the evidence of all such classes as could not conveniently be combined or were less than 100 in number. It is, however, considered by the Committee that such of their recommendations as may be adopted for the larger classes now specifically dealt with, should be applied with the necessary modifications to the smaller classes. The Report deals in detail with a considerable number of classes both in London and in the Provinces. The recommendations in regard to the largest of these are referred to below.

Postmen are numerically the most important class of Post Office servants in London, there being about 7,700 established and 2,900 assistant and auxiliary postmen. The committee recommend that postmen in London should be paid according to three scales, graded by the three divisions into which they recommend that the Metropolitan area should be divided. The minimum at age 18 (19s. per week) and the scale up to age 23, are the same for the three divisions, after which age there are slight differences in the scales, while the maxima are 35s. in the case of Division I. (the Central London area), 33s. in Division II. (the area lying between Central and Outer London), and 31s. in Division III. (the Outer London area). The interval of service between each stripe after the first stripe should, it is recommended, be reduced from 5 to 4 years. This recommendation applies to all other stripe-bearing classes, as well as to postmen.

For **Sorters**, who are employed exclusively in London or in travelling post offices, and who number 5,644, the Committee recommend a revised scale of wages with an increase in the minimum, but no alteration in the present maximum. An increase in the "trip allowance" of "travelling sorters" is recommended, graduated according to the time absent.

For **Male and Female Telegraphists** (London), who number 2,030 and 1,060 respectively, increased scales of pay are recommended, that for male telegraphists being the same as for sorters, with a higher maximum (65s. per week instead of 62s.) It is recommended that the immunity from Sunday duty hitherto enjoyed by female telegraphists should be discontinued. The scale proposed for female telegraphists and the liability for Sunday duty are also recommended for **Female Counter Clerks and Telegraphists** (Metropolitan area), of whom there are 835.

Male Counter Clerks and Telegraphists (metropolitan area), of whom there are 628, are to be paid on the same scale as **Sorters**.

In regard to the wages of Provincial **Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists** and **Postmen**, who are numerically very important, the Committee formulate revised scales of wages applicable to five classes of offices, and recommend a re-classification of the various towns and districts for the purpose of assigning to each its proper scale of wages, the position of each town or district in one or other of the five classes to be determined by (i.) the volume of work, and (ii.) the cost of living.

For Provincial **Female Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists**, who number about 5,000, the Committee recommend five revised scales of pay, applicable respectively to the same five classes of offices as are proposed in the case of male sorting clerks and telegraphists and postmen. As in the case of female telegraphists in London, it is recommended that the existing exemption from Sunday duty enjoyed by some of the female staff should be discontinued.

* H.C. 266/07. Price 1s. 2d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

Technical Allowance.—A technical allowance of 3s. a week in excess of the regular wages is recommended for any telegraphist (male or female) employed in London or in the Provinces who passes, subsequently to the age of 25, a technical examination in telegraphy.

For London *Telephonists* (female) an increased scale is recommended.

For Provincial *Telephonists* (female), who number about 1,330, three revised scales of pay are recommended, the telephonists to be divided into five classes, in accordance with the principle laid down for male and female sorting clerks and telegraphists. The first scale of pay is applicable to offices in Class I., the second scale to offices in Classes II. and III., and the third scale to offices in Classes IV. and V.

An increase in wages is recommended for London *Postal Porters* and *London Bagmen*, of whom there are together about 1,480.

Head Office Assistants, numbering 274, and *Salaried Sub-Office Assistants*, numbering 1,127, are un-established officers (male and female) employed some for full time and some for only part time; and the Committee recommend revised rates of wages for the two classes, the rates being graded according to the five classes of Provincial offices already proposed. Separate rates are suggested for those employed only part time. It is recommended that the full-time officers of this class shall after five years' adult service be given opportunity of becoming established as sorting clerks and telegraphists.

Provincial Overseers, who number 1,828, are at present paid on 14 different scales of pay. The Committee recommend a simplification of these scales, the overseers to be grouped according to the five suggested classes of provincial offices, with eight scales of pay (varying according to the numbers to be supervised and the quality of the work required to be done), viz., two scales in each of Classes I., II. and III., and one scale each for Classes IV. and V.

Women Clerks, of whom there are 1,770, are employed in London, Dublin and Edinburgh, and are divided at each centre into two classes, with scales of pay varying for each city and for each class. The Committee recommend revised scales of pay, with increased minima and maxima.

Revised scales of wages, in the application of which in some cases discretionary power is vested in the superintending engineers, are recommended for employees on the *Construction, Maintenance and Mechanics* staff in the engineer-in-chief's department—London and Provinces—for the *Electric Light staff*, the *Factories Department*, and the *Stores Department and District Dept Stores*. The employees in these departments number together about 7,000 and are divided into numerous classes. It is recommended that "Tradesmen" should be paid the wages which are from time to time agreed upon in the various districts by the organised masters and men, adjusted where necessary.

Commission Sub-Postmasters, of whom there are 21,601, receive an inclusive payment, based on the business transacted, which covers personal service and indoor assistance, office accommodation, fuel, light, materials, and fittings. They act as agents for the Post Office and are allowed to carry on a private business. They are not on the establishment. The Committee recommend a scheme for the simplification of the basis upon which the remuneration of sub-postmasters is fixed, increased minima for the different classes of offices, and a scale for application at the triennial revision.

An extension of "night" hours, which count one-seventh more than day hours, is recommended, viz., from 8 p.m., instead of from 10 p.m., to 6 a.m.

Various important recommendations are made in regard to details of administration.

MINING AND QUARRYING IN 1906.*

Coal Mining.

THERE was a considerable increase both in the numbers employed at, and in the output of, mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts in 1906, the total number employed showing an increase over that of 1905 of 2.8 per cent., and the output an increase of 6.2 per cent.

The following Table shows the total number of persons employed above and below ground at mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts (†), the accident death rates, and the output of coal for the period 1902-6:—

Year.	Total Persons employed.	Accident Death Rate per 1,000 persons employed.	Output of Coal.
1902	824,791	1.21	227,084,871
1903	842,066	1.27	230,321,295
1904	847,553	1.24	232,411,724
1905	858,573	1.35	236,111,150
1906	882,345	1.29	251,050,819

Of the 882,345 persons working at the mines under the Coal Mines Act, 709,545, or over 80 per cent., were employed below ground. Of the 172,800 surface workers, 5,461, or 3.16 per cent., were females. There is a decrease of 468 females as compared with 1905. The number of young persons under 16 employed below ground was 44,923, and above ground 16,958.

Including 16,819 tons obtained from open quarries, the total output of coal in 1906 was 251,067,628 tons, an increase of 14,938,692 tons on that of the previous year.

In 1906 there were 1,065 separate fatal accidents, causing 1,142 deaths. Compared with 1905 there is an increase of 102 in the number of accidents and a decrease of 17 in the number of deaths. Of the 1,142 persons killed, 66 were under 16 years of age, as against 87 in the preceding year. The death rate of the underground workers was 1.42 per 1,000 persons employed, which is lower than in 1905 when it was 1.49. The death rate of the surface workers was .78 per 1,000 employed, as against .75 for the previous year. The death rate of the underground and surface workers taken together was 1.29, whilst that for 1905 was 1.35. The death rate per 1,000 young persons under 16 years of age was: underground employees 1.22; surface workers .65; underground and surface workers taken together, 1.07, for the year 1906. The corresponding figures for 1905 were 1.75, .62, and 1.45 respectively.

Other Mining and Quarrying.

The figures in the following Table relate to mines under the Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts, i.e., all mines other than those under the Coal Mines Regulation Acts, and to quarries under the Quarries Act, 1894; i.e., all quarries more than 20 feet deep.

Year.	Numbers employed.		Accident Death Rate per 1,000 employed.		Output.	
	Other Mining.	Quarrying.	Other Mining.	Quarrying.	Other Mining.	Quarrying.
1902	30,812	97,108	0.94	1.23	3,322,820	44,250,894
1903	29,823	98,155	0.84	0.97	3,243,633	45,600,775
1904	29,504	97,577	1.19	1.15	3,246,336	45,701,818
1905	29,151	94,819	1.58	1.04	3,444,478	46,144,912
1906	30,231	91,516	1.19	1.06	3,712,436	46,926,443

There was a decrease in 1906 in the numbers engaged in quarrying, whilst the steady decrease in previous years in "other mining" has been arrested—an increase being recorded over each of the three previous years. The output in both industries for 1906 was higher than in 1905, and that of the quarrying industry was the highest ever recorded.

The accident death rate in mines under the Metalliferous Mines Acts was the same as in 1904, but lower by .39 per 1,000 than in 1905; whilst in the quarries it was about the same as in 1905.

* Mines and Quarries: Home Office General Report and Statistics for 1906. Part I.—District Statistics. Cd. 3478. Price 7d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.
† Including a certain number of persons engaged in mining ironstone, shale, fireclay, &c.

CHANGES IN WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1906.

England and Wales.—Information has been obtained, mainly from the chairmen of Rural District Councils, as to the current rates of weekly cash wages in January and June, 1906 and 1905, of ordinary agricultural labourers in most of the Rural Districts in England and Wales.

The Returns show that, on the whole, wages in 1906 were slightly above those paid in 1905, though in the great majority of Rural Districts there was no change. The increases were reported chiefly from the Midland and South-Western Counties in England, and from Wales.

In the following Table the changes in wages disclosed by the Returns are given in combination with the estimated number of agricultural labourers in the Rural Districts affected.* The corresponding figures for the 10 years 1896-1905 are added for comparison.

Year.	Estimated Total Number of Labourers in Districts in which the predominant rates of wages		Computed amount of change in aggregate weekly cash wages of the Labourers in Districts affected.		
	Increased.	Decreased.	Increase.	Decrease.	Net Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
1896 ...	No. 52,721	No. 36,676	£ 1,858	£ 1,573	+ 345
1897 ...	72,559	4,340	2,232	110	+ 2,122
1898 ...	183,987	2,356	6,227	47	+ 6,180
1899 ...	163,960	208	5,438	4	+ 5,434
1900 ...	230,615	...	8,150	...	+ 8,150
1901 ...	127,565	10,469	3,559	308	+ 3,151
1902 ...	51,949	41,705	1,609	1,297	+ 312
1903 ...	51,095	24,953	1,449	893	+ 556
1904 ...	23,779	9,569	1,032	451	+ 581
1905 ...	6,059	12,438	252	442	- 190
1906 ...	14,758	8,744	704	322	+ 382

The figures show that in the period 1897-1901 there was a decided upward tendency in agricultural wages. In the following years, 1902-4, and in 1906, the upward movement was much less marked, while in 1905 there was a very slight downward tendency.

In districts for which Returns have been received the estimated number of agricultural labourers whose wages were reported to have changed in 1906 was 23,502, while the number whose rates of wages were reported as unaltered was 382,203. Of the 23,502 labourers whose wages were changed, 14,758 were in districts where wages were increased, and 8,744 in districts where wages were reduced.

The estimated net increase in 1906, in the districts in which changes were reported, amounted to a total rise of £382 per week in the wages of those affected, as compared with a fall of £190 per week in 1905.

Returns have also been received from 174 correspondents in England which afford some indication of the course of agricultural wages in the present year. The Returns give a comparative statement of the rates of wages most generally paid to ordinary agricultural labourers in June, 1907 and 1906 in the Poor Law Unions in which the correspondents reside. Of the 174 Returns, 161 show no change between the two periods, 7 show an upward tendency, and 6 a downward tendency (5 from Southern Counties).

Scotland.—Information as to the rates of wages agreed upon at hiring fairs in Scotland was obtained by the Department from a correspondent who made special inquiries on the subject.

The correspondent reported that at the hirings held in 1906 wages of male farm servants varied but slightly compared with those agreed upon at the corresponding hirings of 1905. There was, however, a downward tendency in a few districts in the North, North-East, and Centre, though the reduction in wages applied chiefly to some of the men who changed situations. Men who remained in their old places generally obtained the rates of wages previously paid. In no part of the country was there any serious scarcity of men, and the hirings were generally fairly well

* Further particulars respecting the method of computing changes in agricultural wages are given in Report on Changes in Wages and Hours of Labour. Cd. 3172 of 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 7d.

attended. Women remained scarce, however, and their wages firm, in some cases showing an upward tendency. Men with wives, or other women workers in their families, were always in good demand. In some districts of Ayrshire the long continued scarcity of dairymaids has led to men being more largely employed in cheese making.

Ireland.—Returns were received by the Department from 133 correspondents in various counties in Ireland, showing the rates of wages most generally paid to the several classes of agricultural labourers in 1906, in comparison with the corresponding rates in 1905. In many districts a scarcity of labour was reported, and wages on the whole showed an upward tendency.

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.

There is a large demand for harvest workers in the North-West. Work in all trades is still very active in Canada, but those who go now must bear in mind that operations will be greatly restricted in outdoor trades after October. Female servants are in demand. The *Dominion Labour Gazette* states that a pronounced increase in industrial activity took place throughout Canada during June as compared with May, and there was an improved tone in the manufacturing industries as the result of the more favourable agricultural outlook in Western Canada. Railway construction operations were being pushed forward to the fullest extent possible with the men and material available. Gangs were largely augmented during June, and there was a widespread demand for men, especially in the North-West Provinces. In the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Ontario, the month was one of pronounced activity in the lumber mills. Production and shipments in the Nova Scotia collieries were on a heavy scale, and labour was in demand in some localities. In the building trades the month was a very active one for all classes, and trades generally were busy. Wages continued upward in general tendency with the increased demand for labour. At Lethbridge (Alberta) a two years' agreement affecting coal miners in the Alberta Coal Mining and Irrigation Company, involving an increase in wages, was signed in June. Among other increases in wages were those of machine men and blacksmiths' helpers (Rossland, B.C.), carpenters (St. Catherine's, Ontario), painters and decorators (Hamilton, Ontario), painters (Maisonneuve, Quebec). Printers at Montreal and Toronto signed five year agreements involving a substantial increase in wages. The number of trade disputes which occurred during June was 40, as compared with 30 in June, 1906.

Commonwealth of Australia.

Passages to suitable emigrants are granted at reduced rates by the New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australian Governments. There is a good demand in country districts for farm labourers, for dairymen, for men on sheep and cattle stations, and in New South Wales for miners. The demand for mechanics is not so general, but a competent man, such as a carpenter who is not too specialised, should have little difficulty in getting work. In South Australia there is a good demand for cabinet makers. The free passages lately offered by Queensland to men willing to work on sugar farms are suspended for the present. There is an excellent demand almost everywhere for female servants. In Western Australia there has been a serious strike in the timber trade on the question of wages, which has lasted some weeks, and is only just settled.

New Zealand.

The building trades have been busy in most districts, and there has been a demand for carpenters at Napier and Hastings, but in most cases the local supply of labour has met the demand. In the engineering, boot, and clothing trades conditions generally were good, and

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

there was a shortage of hands reported in the clothing trades at Auckland, Napier, and Dunedin; in the boot trade at Palmerston North, New Plymouth, Wellington, and Dunedin; in the furnishing trades at Wellington, Dunedin, and Invercargill. Reduced passages are given under certain conditions to agriculturists and female servants.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one should go to Cape Colony now in search of work. The supply of labour exceeds the demand, which on the whole still tends to decrease. Several of the municipalities have discharged numbers of labourers. Several hundred Australian artisans and others have returned to Australia from South Africa owing to the scarcity of work.

Natal.—The supply of labour is ample.

Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—No one is allowed to enter either of these Colonies unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment. All persons are strongly warned against going there at the present time, as a large number of those already on the spot are unable to find work.

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. 225 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (See also p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in June.—In the building and allied trades and in the metal trades employment continued good. In the textile trades it was generally satisfactory in the Nord and Vosges departments, but in the cotton centres of Normandy and the Roanne district short time was still worked, and hand-loom weavers were unemployed in other districts. In silk manufacture, employment in the Lyons and St. Etienne districts was not so good as in May, except with power-loom weavers at and near Lyons. In the garment-making trades employment was not quite so good as in May, and a considerable number of leather dressers were out of work. Having regard to the season of the year, employment in the printing and bookbinding trades was satisfactory. Coachbuilders at Paris were not so well employed. There was no appreciable change in the situation among vineyard workers in the south of France. Bark-stripping having terminated, woodmen had no difficulty in finding employment in hay-harvesting and other agricultural work. Gardeners and agricultural workers in the Seine-et-Marne department were fully employed.

Coal Mining in June.—The average number of days per week worked by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during June was 5.98, as compared with 5.66 in the previous month and in June, 1906. Taking surface and underground workers together, 93.51 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 6.30 per cent. from five to six days. The corresponding percentages for the previous month were 10.67 and 89.33, and for June, 1906, 6.20 and 93.25 respectively.

Labour Disputes in June.—One hundred and five disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in June, compared with 148 in the previous month, and 95 in June, 1906. In 100 of the new disputes 13,677 workpeople took part, as compared with 18,056 workpeople who took part in 142 of the disputes in May, and 17,796 who took part in 89 of the disputes in June, 1906. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the building (36), textile (17), transport and warehousing (10), and metal (10). Out of 99 new and old disputes which came to an end in June, 22 resulted in favour of the workpeople, and 37 in favour of the employers, while 40 were compromised.

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

Conciliation and Arbitration in June.—Seven instances of recourse to the law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred during June.

HOLLAND.*

Employment in June.—With few exceptions employment in the building trades was unsatisfactory. Employment in the greater metal and engineering establishments was, on the whole, good, but varied with locality; it continued good in shipbuilding. The slackness in the textile trades still continued. In the printing and allied trades employment was good. The bad weather had a depressing influence on employment in the garment making trades; in the boot and shoe and saddlery trades, however, it continued satisfactory. Woodworkers, with the exception of carvers, continued moderately well employed. Employment in the baking, cocoa and chocolate trades was fair, but there was a seasonal decline in the confectionery trades. With tobacco workers and margarine makers employment varied greatly with different localities. With bulb growers employment showed the usual seasonal activity.

Labour Disputes in June.—Ten strikes, 7 of which directly affected about 144 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in June.

GERMANY.

Employment in June.—Seasonal influences affected employment in the clothing and printing trades, and in agriculture. Apart from this, the state of employment continued good in June. Employment in the building trades in Berlin was affected by labour disputes; in other districts it varied somewhat according to locality. Coalminers were again busily employed, but production was somewhat hindered by a shortage of trucks. The metal and engineering trades and, with few exceptions, the textile trades were busy, and employment in the chemical and in the electrical trades continued satisfactory. There was some migration of labour to the holiday resorts in the latter part of the month.

Returns relating to the state of employment during the second quarter of 1907 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership at the end of the quarter of 1,338,148. From certain branches of the Unions reporting, however, no returns of the numbers unemployed were available, and, allowing for these, the membership covered was 1,315,299, of whom 17,482 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed on April 27th, as compared with 17,939 (or 1.4 per cent.) on May 25th, and 18,408 (or 1.4 per cent.) on June 29th. The percentage for June 30th, 1906, was 1.3, but this figure is not strictly comparable with that for the corresponding date of 1907; and neither figure is strictly comparable with the unemployed percentage for the United Kingdom, given on p. 225. (See GAZETTE for November last, p. 327.)

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal Unions for which figures are available, the number of members to whom the returns as to unemployment relate and the percentage of such numbers unemployed:—

Name of Union.	Number of Members to whom Returns as to Unemployment relate.		Percentage of such Membership Unemployed on		
	June 29, 1907.	June 30, 1906.	June 29, 1907.	May 25, 1907.	June 30, 1906.
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	357,195	301,183	1.0	1.0	0.9
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker) ...	43,147	46,720	0.8	0.7	0.9
Woodworkers ...	150,279	145,873	1.7	2.1	1.5
Miners ...	110,421	103,100	§	§	§
Printers ...	50,199	42,396	4.4	2.6	4.6
Transport Workers ...	88,288	59,389	0.7	0.7	0.6

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau of Holland)
 † Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).
 ‡ Compiled on old basis, and therefore not strictly comparable.
 § Less than 0.1 per cent.

Dispute in the Berlin Building Trades.—In the GAZETTE for June, p. 168, some account was given of an extensive dispute in the building trades of Berlin which began on May 18th and originally affected from 55,000 to 60,000 workpeople. A recent despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Ambassador states that the strike came to an end on the 12th inst., the workpeople being unsuccessful in their demand for an 8-hour day.

BELGIUM.*

Employment in June.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 1.8 per cent. of the 43,315 members of the 153 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.4 per cent. in the previous month, and 1.1 per cent. in June, 1906. (As regards these figures, which do not include particulars relating to miners, home workers, or agricultural labourers, see note under "Labour Abroad," on page 232.)

Labour Disputes in June.—Nineteen strikes, involving approximately 1,664 workpeople (1,540 directly and 124 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in June. In addition to these, 19 strikes which had commenced in previous months were in progress during part or the whole of the month. Of the workpeople directly affected by the 38 strikes in progress during June, 2,380 were employed at collieries, 1,916 in the textile trades, and 720 in the building trades.

NORWAY.†

Employment in June.—Of 16,501 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 1.5, or 0.9 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of June. The figures for May and June, 1907, and for June, 1906, for certain Unions which made Returns for each of these months, are given for comparison. (As regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 232.)

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of month.		
	June, 1907.	May, 1907.	June, 1906.	June, 1907.	May, 1907.	June, 1906.
Metal Workers and Moulders	5,945	6,001	4,807	0.5	0.8	0.8
Carpenters, etc.	772	794	851	3.1	5.9	4.5
Cabinet Makers	245	250	195	1.2	4.0	1.5
Painters	600	600	325	...	2.8	...
Printers	1,953	1,285	995	2.2	2.9	1.1
Boot and Shoe Makers	288	304	229	0.3	0.3	...
Wood Pulp Makers	145	146	126
Sawyers and Planers	518	505	214
Food Preparation (Tinned Goods)	243	219	310	0.8	5.5	0.3
Total	10,009	10,104	8,053	0.9	1.7	1.1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Strike of Telegraph Operators.—A telegraphic despatch reports that the strike of unionist telegraph operators employed by the Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies extended to New York on August 12th. The men demanded a working day of eight hours, 15 per cent. increase in wages, equality of pay for men and women, and that the companies should furnish type-writing machines.

[From other sources it appears that the strike movement referred to above began some six weeks ago at San Francisco, where a demand was made for improved conditions as regards wages and hours of labour. On August 9th a strike of telegraphists broke out at Los Angeles, and the movement then became general, affecting Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore and other towns in the United States. Many towns in Canada are also affected. It is reported that the employers concerned have declined State arbitration.]

* Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
 † Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.
 ‡ From H.M. Consul General at New York to the Board of Trade, dated August 13th.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN JULY.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 520 Returns—450 from Employers, 53 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during the four weeks ended July 20th, and was better than a year ago, especially in the Midland Counties, and in West Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.

Returns relating to 1,383 pits employing 607,279 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended July 20th, 1907, was 5.38, as compared with 5.49 in June, and 4.99 in July, 1906. The average time lost per week by holidays amounted to 0.18 of a day in July, 1907, 0.08 of a day in June, 1907, and 0.17 of a day in July, 1906.

Of the 607,279 workpeople covered by the Returns, 490,693 (or 80.8 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ending July 20th, 1907, and of these 358,456 (or 59 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in July was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.75), and the lowest was in the Fifeshire district (4.51), where the average was very much reduced by holidays.

The comparison with a month ago is affected by holidays in July, the marked apparent decline in Scotland being entirely due to this cause.

Compared with a year ago there was an almost universal improvement, the increase in the average number of days worked per week in the Midlands and in West Yorkshire being very noticeable.

In the following Table the average time* worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in July, 1907, 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 July, 1907, as compared with	
		July 20th, 1907.†	June 22nd, 1907.	July 21st, 1906.†	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	44,772	5.26	5.45	5.31	−.19	−.05
Durham ...	114,870	5.56	5.50	5.30	+ .05	+ .25
Cumberland ...	7,927	5.72	5.72	5.42	...	+ .30
South Yorkshire ...	61,711	5.63	5.64	5.40	−.01	+ .23
West Yorkshire ...	21,196	5.16	5.30	4.13	−.14	+ 1.03
Lancashire and Cheshire	55,898	5.21	5.35	4.52	−.14	+ .69
Derbyshire ...	39,974	5.21	5.32	4.05	−.11	+ 1.16
Nottingham and Leicester	31,406	4.98	5.07	3.86	−.09	+ 1.12
Staffordshire ...	27,325	5.18	5.20	4.08	−.02	+ 1.10
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	9,911	5.12	5.20	3.89	−.08	+ 1.23
Gloucester and Somerset	7,228	4.85	5.09	4.06	−.24	+ .79
North Wales ...	11,850	5.64	5.70	5.14	−.06	+ .50
South Wales and Mon. ...	121,515	5.75	5.86	5.60	−.11	+ .06
ENGLAND AND WALES	858,523	5.44	5.51	5.00	−.07	+ .44
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	25,305	4.68	5.28	4.58	−.61	+ .10
The Lothians ...	5,618	5.12	5.39	5.29	−.27	−.17
Fife ...	20,193	4.51	5.04	5.05	−.53	−.54
SCOTLAND ...	51,116	4.66	5.20	4.86	−.54	−.20
IRELAND ...	640	5.11	4.87	4.53	+ .24	+ .58
United Kingdom ...	607,279	5.38	5.49	4.99	−.11	+ .39

Northern Counties.—Employment was very good generally, but in the Leeds district a slight decline was reported as compared with June, owing to a falling off in the demand for house coal. Colliery mechanics in Northumberland reported that overtime was regularly worked.

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (short days being counted as fractions of a day) 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.
 † Affected by Holidays.

Midland Counties.—Employment was good, and much better than a year ago; but as compared with June a slight decline was reported in some parts of Staffordshire. In Leicestershire employment was reported as fair.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment continued good generally.

Scotland.—Employment was good, and better than a year ago. As compared with June the number of days worked, as shown in the above Table, was affected by holidays.

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 employed. At pits employing 195,847 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in employment at all classes of pits, especially at pits producing house coal.

Table with 13 columns: Description of Coal, No. of Workpeople employed in July 1907, Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended (July 20th, June 22nd, July 21st, A month ago, A year ago), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with A month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with A year ago.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in July, 1907, amounted to 6,328,757 tons, or 809,443 tons more than in June, 1907, and 1,088,825 tons more than in July, 1906.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 84 Returns—69 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good in iron mines, and fairly good in shale mines, and generally showed little change compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

Employment continued good in tin, copper, and lead mines, and fair on the whole in quarries, with the exception of slate quarries, in which it was slack.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended July 20th the average number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.76, as compared with 5.86 a month ago and 5.73 a year ago. These comparisons, however, are affected by holidays in July of each year, amounting to 0.17 of a day per week in 1907, and 0.21 of a day in 1906.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with 13 columns: Districts, No. employed in July 1907, Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended (July 20th, June 22nd, July 21st, A month ago, A year ago), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with A month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with A year ago.

* This period was affected by holidays.

Of the 15,836 workpeople covered by the Returns 14,322, or 90.4 per cent., worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended July 20th, as compared with 92.7 per cent. a month ago, and 93.1 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,148 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended July 20th, as compared with 3,224 a month ago, and 3,112 a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended July 20th was 5.48, as compared with 5.43 both a month ago and a year ago. In July 1907, 0.29 of a day per week was lost through holidays, as compared with 0.28 of a day in July, 1906.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued good in Cornwall.

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

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment remained slack in North Wales, particularly in the Festiniog district, where some short time was worked. A dispute interrupted employment in the Ballachulish quarries (Argyllshire).

Granite.—Employment continued good in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire it was good in the macadam branch, but at certain other quarries short time was worked. Employment was moderate, and a little better than a month ago, in the Penryn district, but bad, and worse than a month ago, on Dartmoor.

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

Other Stone.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago, in the Clee Hill road-material quarries. It was also good in chert quarries in the Bakewell district, and much overtime was worked. In grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district it was fair. Employment was also fair in the Gateshead district, and in sandstone quarries in North Wales. It was moderate in the Barnsley district, and in the Forest of Dean pennant stone quarries; slack in the Bath stone quarries; and bad in Forfarshire.

Sett-making.—Employment was good in the Clee Hill district, and fairly good in North Wales. It was moderate in the Sheffield district. In Leicestershire employment was bad. It was dull, and worse than a month ago, at Glasgow, and irregular at Airdrie.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell and Lee Moor districts.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 60 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good during July, 1907, and was much better than in July, 1906. As compared with June, 1907, there was a decrease of 5 mills, due mainly to a stoppage for repairs at one of the works. The demand for, and supply of, labour continued fairly equal. It is reported that hot weather interrupted work in one or two places.

At the works covered by the Returns, 391 tinplate mills and 55 sheet mills were working at the end of July, as compared with 393 and 58 respectively in the previous month, and 355 and 47 respectively a year ago.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of June and July, 1907, and July, 1906. The works to which these figures relate are chiefly in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and employ about 22,300 workpeople:—

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 216 Returns—202 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 2 from Trade Unions; and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works in July was brisk; it was not quite so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended July 20th, 1907, at the 202 works from which Returns were received, was 1.1 per cent. less than in the week ended June 22nd, 1907, but 4.1 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 550,000, as compared with 556,100 a month ago and 528,500 a year ago.

Table with 7 columns: Item, July 1907, June 1907, July 1906, Number of Works open, Number of Mills in operation.

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

Table with 10 columns: Item, Tons, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Year ago.

Table with 6 columns: Item, Tons, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Year ago.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 115 Returns—108 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during July continued good. It was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 25,000 workpeople, showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of July was 347, as compared with 348 in June, and 338 a year ago. During July, 5 furnaces were re-lit (one each in Cumberland, Lancashire, Staffordshire, Flintshire and the Cleveland district), while six were damped down or blown out (one each in Cumberland, Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Staffordshire, and 2 in Lanarkshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with 8 columns: Districts, Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of July 1907, June 1907, July 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Year ago.

The Imports of iron ore in July, 1907, amounted to 822,610 tons, or 225,412 tons more than in June, 1907, and 51,403 tons more than in July, 1906.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in July, 1907, amounted to 183,553 tons, or 15,988 tons less than in June, 1907, but 21,258 tons more than in July, 1906.

* Revised figure.

Table with 10 columns: Department, Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Year ago.

Table with 10 columns: Department, Number of Workpeople, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Year ago.

Table with 10 columns: Districts, Number of Workpeople, Average Number of Shifts worked per man, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a Year ago.

As compared with a month ago there was no great change in the number employed. The principal increase was at steel rolling mills, and the most marked decreases at iron puddling forges and at open hearth steel furnaces. In four districts increases were shown, while in the other five there were decreases, the greatest change being an increase of 2½ per cent. in the number employed in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire district. With three unimportant exceptions there was an increase in the number employed in every department and in every district compared with a year ago.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was generally slightly less than a month ago. The decline was most marked at iron rolling mills and at puddling forges, in which departments it amounted to 0.21 and 0.18 of a shift respectively. Compared with a

year ago there was little change in the average number of shifts worked, the greatest variation being an increase 0.14 of a shift at steel crucible furnaces.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during July, 1907, amounted to 86,646 tons, or 13,790 tons more than in June, 1907, but 4,008 tons less than in July, 1906.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during July, 1907, amounted to 247,761 tons, or 9,937 tons more than in June, 1907, and 18,168 tons more than in July, 1906.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 928 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 882 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 36 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole. With pattern makers, however, employment was only fair. Employment was not so good as a year ago.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 161,371, and shows that at the end of July the percentage unemployed was 3.5, as compared with 3.4 a month ago and 2.5 a year ago. Compared with a month ago, no district showed any decided change in the percentage unemployed. Compared with a year ago the most noticeable changes were the increases in the numbers unemployed on the North-East Coast and in the Birmingham and Belfast and Dublin districts.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of July, 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for July, 1907, as compared with a	
		July, 1907.	June, 1907.	July, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,645	6.2	6.0	4.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.0
Manchester and Liverpool District	19,066	2.7	2.5	2.2	+ 0.2	+ 0.5
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,435	2.2	2.3	1.6	- 0.1	+ 0.6
West Riding Towns ...	12,608	3.6	3.1	2.7	+ 0.5	+ 0.9
Hull and Lincolnshire District	2,879	1.6	1.2	2.0	+ 0.4	0.4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,558	3.7	3.6	1.9	+ 0.1	+ 1.8
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,238	3.4	2.4	2.8	+ 1.0	+ 0.6
London and Neighbouring District	12,319	4.1	4.7	4.3	- 0.6	- 0.2
South Coast ...	3,865	1.9	1.7	1.9	+ 0.2	...
South Wales and Bristol District	7,021	2.4	3.0	2.9	- 0.6	- 0.5
Glasgow and District ...	15,932	4.7	4.2	3.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
East of Scotland ...	3,927	4.4	4.4	3.7	...	+ 0.7
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,577	9.5	10.1	3.2	+ 0.8	+ 4.3
Other Districts ...	6,120	2.5	3.2	2.6	- 0.7	- 0.1
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	161,371	3.5	3.4	2.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.0

Employment on the North-East Coast continued fairly good, but showed a decline compared with a year ago.

On the Tyne employment generally was fairly good, and overtime was worked. In Newcastle, however, some slackness was reported, as also on repair work in the lower reaches of the river. On the Wear employment showed a decline on the previous month, with a diminution in night shifts. With ironmoulders employment continued good on the Tyne, and was fairly good on the Wear; with brassmoulders generally it improved, and some overtime was worked. In the Tees district employment continued fairly good on the whole. With ironmoulders it continued good, except at Stockton, where it was still bad, but rather better than a month ago.

Employment in Lancashire continued good, especially with textile machinery makers, with whom overtime was general. With patternmakers, however, employment was only moderate. At Liverpool employment in general engineering shops was fair, as also at Blackburn and Preston. With ironmoulders at

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.
† Excluding members on strike, but including men in other occupations thrown idle on account of ironfounders' dispute.

Liverpool employment was still affected by a dispute. At Barrow employment was moderate with engineers, and good with patternmakers and ironmoulders.

In the West Riding district employment generally continued good, except with patternmakers, with whom it continued to decline. At Sheffield, employment was only moderate, and showed a further decline; and at Leeds a decline was reported by ironfounders. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment continued good, and considerable overtime was reported.

At Birmingham employment was generally moderate, but with ironfounders it was good, and overtime was general. At Coventry employment was quiet; at Wolverhampton it continued moderate with boiler-makers and ironmoulders, and good in other branches. The cycle industry in these districts was slack, with short time; in the motor trade employment continued fair. Employment on the whole was not so good as a year ago.

At Nottingham employment showed a decline on the previous month. It continued good in general engineering shops and with lace and hosiery machine makers, but was bad in the motor and cycle trade, and with toolmakers. At Derby employment continued good in railway shops; in other shops it was quiet; with boiler-makers and ironmoulders it continued good. In the Leicester district employment showed some decline with engineers, but an improvement with ironmoulders. In the Potteries district it continued fair.

Employment in the Norwich district continued good, but with less overtime; it also continued good with agricultural implement makers at Ipswich.

In London employment continued quiet, but showed an improvement on the previous month.

At Southampton employment on marine engine and boiler work continued good, overtime being worked. At Plymouth and Devonport employment was fair. At Bristol it was moderate with engineers and slack with ironmoulders. At Swindon a little short time was reported by engineers. At Gloucester employment continued good. In South Wales it was fair with engineers and good with ironmoulders.

In the Glasgow district employment continued good, and overtime was again reported. At Greenock, however, employment was slack. Employment was better than a month ago with brassfinishers, but a slight decline was reported in the case of irongrinders, moulders, patternmakers, and toolmakers. At Edinburgh employment was good with patternmakers, bad with brassfounders, and fair in other branches. At Falkirk employment continued bad with patternmakers and moulders, and short time was general. At Dundee employment continued good, with considerable overtime. At Aberdeen employment generally was good.

At Belfast employment was considerably affected by disputes. It was better than a month ago but worse than a year ago. At Dublin employment was generally dull; at Cork it continued to improve.

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

Description.	July, 1907.	June, 1907.	July, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Steam Engines ...	£ 12,828	£ 6,660	£ 6,926	+ 4,168	+ 5,902
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	494,946	495,183	435,389	+ 88,863	+ 158,657
Exports:					
Steam Engines ...	809,470	643,874	601,606	+ 165,596	+ 207,864
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	2,359,234	1,846,213	1,828,571	+ 463,021	+ 480,663

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 366 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 343 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,433 members had 4,207 (or 7.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of July, as compared with 6.4 per cent. at the end of June, and 5.7 per cent. at the end of July, 1906.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago there were increases in the percentages unemployed in the Tyne, Wear, Tees, Clyde and East of Scotland districts, the greatest increase, as compared with a month ago, being in the Clyde district, and the greatest increase, as compared with a year ago, in the Tyne and Wear districts. At the smaller centres of the industry there was an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

District.	No. of Members at end of July, 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for July, 1907, as compared with a	
		July, 1907.	June, 1907.	July, 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,867	9.4	9.2	1.8	+ 0.2	+ 7.6
Wear ...	5,281	7.3	6.7	1.7	+ 0.6	+ 5.6
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,135	6.9	6.0	5.4	+ 0.9	+ 1.5
Humber ...	2,655	2.1	3.6	8.0	- 1.5	- 5.9
Thames and Medway ...	4,469	6.5	6.5	7.7	...	- 1.2
South Coast ...	3,954	2.0	2.6	4.3	- 0.6	- 2.3
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,586	11.4	20.0	18.1	- 8.6	- 6.7
Mersey ...	3,764	3.5	2.2	11.6	+ 1.3	- 8.1
Clyde ...	12,906	8.6	4.8	4.7	+ 3.8	+ 3.9
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,132	9.1	6.2	6.1	+ 2.9	+ 3.0
Belfast ...	2,693	4.3	4.5	8.2	- 0.2	- 3.9
Other Districts ...	2,991	8.7	7.5	4.4	+ 1.2	+ 4.3
United Kingdom ...	58,433	7.2	6.4	5.7	+ 0.8	+ 1.5

On the Tyne, Wear and Tees, employment showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, and a considerable decline (especially on the Tyne and Wear) compared with a year ago. Employment with shipwrights was reported as fair generally, but slack at Shields. With riveters and caulkers at Newcastle and Gateshead it was good, a considerable amount of overtime being worked. With platers and frame benders at Jarrow employment showed a decline. On repair work in the lower reaches of the Tyne and at Blyth employment was bad, and worse than a month ago. On the Wear employment declined with riveters, caulkers, drillers and hole cutters; a number of drillers and cutters from the Wear finding work at Newcastle. On the Tees employment was fairly good generally, but some iron shipbuilders at Hartlepool were badly employed.

On the Humber employment continued good on marine boiler making, and on merchant shipbuilding it showed an improvement. On trawler building there was some falling off; on repair work employment was moderate. Shipwrights were well employed. Employment was better on the whole than a month ago and a year ago.

On the Thames employment was quiet on the whole, though some yards were busy; with shipwrights employment was fair. On the South Coast employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago. At the Bristol Channel ports it was dull, with some short time, but there was a considerable reduction in the percentage unemployed compared with both a month ago and a year ago. On the Mersey employment was fair, and better than a year ago, though not quite so good as in June.

On the Clyde employment was reported as fairly good, except at Greenock, where it was still dull, though better than a month ago. Employment was affected, however, by annual holidays, and at the end of the month the percentage unemployed showed a considerable increase compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Leith continued good; at Dundee it declined, and was dull.

At Belfast employment continued fairly good, and was

better than a year ago. Employment was good at Cork, but dull at Dublin. At Barrow it continued moderate. With shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft it was good.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 56 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 24 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during July continued moderate. It was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,724 had 575, or 3.7 per cent., out of work at the end of July, the same percentage as for June. In July, 1906, the percentage unemployed was 2.6.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers was moderate at Birmingham, bad in London, fair at Wolverhampton and Manchester, and good at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan. At Birmingham it was bad with bedstead makers, with whom there was much short time.

Tubes.—Employment continued good in South Wales, and fair in South Staffordshire. It was fair at Birmingham.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was slack with cable chain makers and strikers; moderate in other branches of chain-making. At Dudley it continued good with anvil makers, but there was a falling off with vice makers, who were on short time. It continued fair with railway spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield, and with spring and axle makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich. With anchor smiths on the Wear it was fair.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers continued good at Manchester. With sheet metal workers it was bad in London, very fair in Glasgow, and good at Oldham. With iron plate workers it was quiet at Birmingham and in the Lye district. With tin-plate workers it was bad at Edinburgh and fair at Nottingham.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment continued good with bolt, rivet, etc., makers at Birmingham and at Blackheath, and with nut and bolt makers at Darlaston.

Wire.—Employment continued good generally.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad. In the hollow-ware trade employment was good at Wolverhampton, and quiet at West Bromwich.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment was quiet at Rotherham; fair at Falkirk and Glasgow.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield district employment was quiet with cutlers generally; good with sawmakers and in the file trades. At Birmingham it was fairly good with file cutters and in the edge tool trade. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trades was good.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment was slack with goldsmiths and jewellers, and worse than a month ago; it was slightly better with silver workers. At Birmingham it was moderate with jewellers, silversmiths and electro-platers. At Sheffield it continued slack with silversmiths, hollow-ware stampers and buffers. At Coventry it was fair in the machine-made watch trade; fairly good in the hand-made watch trade.

Farriers.—Employment was fair generally.

Description.	July, 1907.	June, 1907.	July, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery ...	£ 16,858	£ 11,246	£ 6,938	+ 5,612	+ 9,920
Hardware ...	89,494	71,386	75,728	+ 18,108	+ 9,766
Exports:—					
Cutlery ...	74,345	53,329	64,417	+ 21,016	+ 9,928
Hardware ...	231,176	191,948	205,760	+ 39,228	+ 45,416
Implements and Tools ...	210,664	169,827	178,322	+ 40,837	+ 32,342

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 483 Returns—393 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 80 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very good in the Spinning branch, and was slightly better than a year ago; in the Weaving branch it was good, but by agreement some short time was worked during the month, and employment was therefore slightly worse than a year ago.

The average price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool during July was 7.19d. per lb., or .03d. less than in June, but 1.11d. more than in July, 1906. The average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 10.34d. per lb., or .31d. more than in June, and .59d. more than in July, 1906.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended July 27th was 126,166, being 0.1 per cent. less than a month ago, and 1.5 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, but an increase of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the preparing and spinning departments employment was slightly better than a month ago and a year ago, the considerable increase in wages compared with a year ago being mainly due to the recent advance in the rates of wages. In the weaving branch in several districts short time was worked, the factories in some cases being closed for a whole week, in others stopping one or two days a week or running shorter hours. The decline in earnings due to this cause was therefore greater than appears in the returns, as, with few exceptions, the firms which closed for a whole week worked full time in the week ended July 27th—the week for which figures are given below.

Every district showed a decline in earnings in this branch compared with a month ago, and most districts showed a slight decline compared with a year ago; Bolton and Manchester, however, showed increases, the improvement at Bolton being marked.

In the spinning branch little change was shown in any district compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago earnings were higher in every district, and showed an increase of more than 5 per cent. in the Ashton, Bury, Manchester, Bolton, Preston and Burnley districts.

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople (No. paid wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)). Rows include Spinning, Weaving, Other, and various Districts.

Exports of Cotton Goods.

The following Table shows the quantity of exported

cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Table with columns: Description, July 1907, June 1907, July 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a year ago.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of July the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 7.19d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.42d. per lb., and the lowest 7.06d. The price for June was 7.22d., and for July, 1906, 6.08d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th August, 1907, the average price of "middling American" was 7.34d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during July averaged 10.34d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 10.3d., and the lowest 10.2d. per lb. The price for June was 10.3d., and for July, 1906, 9.75d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th August, 1907, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 10.34d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 9th August, 1907, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 773,080 bales, as compared with 413,660 bales on 10th August, 1906.

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

Table with columns: Description of Cotton, July 1907, June 1907, July 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a year ago.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 388 Returns—352 received from Employers, 25 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was good, and better than a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

Employment showed a slight decline, but was still good, and better than a year ago.

Firms employing 24,839 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms during the week ended July 27th showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district showed a slight decline, but was still good; a number of firms worked overtime, or ran two shifts. Employment in the heavy woollen district continued very good. In the Leeds district it was good.

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)), Earnings (Aggregate amount of Wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)). Rows include Wool Sorting, Spinning, Weaving, Other Departments, Unspecified, and various Districts.

Worsted Trade.

Employment showed a slight decline, but was still good, and decidedly better than a year ago.

Firms employing 46,741 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of people employed by these firms in the week ended July 27th, showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 7.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in Bradford, Huddersfield, and Halifax showed a decline compared with a month ago, but employment was still good. In the Keighley district employment was very good.

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by returns (No. employed, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)), Earnings (Aggregate amount of Wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)). Rows include Wool Sorting & Combing, Spinning, Weaving, Other Departments, Unspecified, and various Districts.

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

Table with columns: Description, July 1907, June 1907, July 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a year ago.

*The comparison with July, 1906, is affected by an advance in rates of wages which took place in February—March, 1907.

Table with columns: Yarn, Piece Goods, July 1907, June 1907, July 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a year ago.

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 115 Returns—106 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 5 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT, though still good, showed a decline as compared with a month ago. It was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 48,561 workpeople in the week ended July 27th showed decreases of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there were increases of 1.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

From the following Table it will be seen that, as compared with a month ago, there were decreases in the wages paid, in every department, the most marked being in the weaving department. As compared with a year ago, there were increases, except in the weaving department, where there was a slight decrease. As regards the districts, the most noticeable changes as compared with a month ago were decreases in the amount of wages paid in Ireland and England. In Scotland there was little change. As compared with a year ago there was a general increase.

Table with columns: Departments, Districts, Workpeople covered by returns (Number paid wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages, Increase (+) or Decrease (-)). Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, Other, and various Districts.

Imports and Exports.

Table with columns: Description, July 1907, June 1907, July 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July 1907, as compared with a year ago.

*The comparison with July, 1906, is affected by an advance in rates of wages which took place in February—March, 1907.

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 37 Returns—35 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 19,114 workpeople in the week ended July 27th, showed increases of 0·4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 1·0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 1·3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6·6 per cent. in the wages paid. Of the 19,114 workpeople covered by the Returns, 16,603, or 87 per cent., were employed in the Dundee district.

The returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by Returns (Number paid wages on pay-day, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with), Earnings (Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with), Per cent., Per cent. Includes sub-tables for 'Workpeople covered by Returns' and 'Earnings'.

From the above Table it will be seen that, compared with a month ago, there were increases in the amount of wages paid in the preparing, weaving, and "other" departments. As compared with a year ago there were increases in the amount of wages paid in every department.

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.

Table with 6 columns: Description, July, 1907, June, 1907, July, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1907, as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Imports (Jute), Exports (Jute Yarn, Jute Piece Goods).

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 85 Returns—81 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good in England, good in Scotland. On the whole it showed little change compared with a month ago, and was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 13,242 workpeople, and paying £10,468 in wages in the week ended July 27th, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was a decrease of 0·7 per cent. in the number employed, but an increase of 0·7 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, and of 2·9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was fair in the heavy goods branch, but showed a decline in the light and fancy goods department owing to the cold season.

* Where the holiday period occurred during the week ended 27th the returns relate to another week in the month not affected by holidays. † The comparison with July, 1906 is affected by an advance in rates of wages which took place in February, 1907.

At Hinckley and Loughborough it was fair. At Nottingham employment was reported as bad with power framework knitters; with hand frame-workers on fancy goods in the Nottingham country districts there was some slight improvement; on the whole employment was worse than a year ago. In Derbyshire employment was good, and better than a year ago. In Scotland it was good, and better than a year ago.

Table with 6 columns: District, Workpeople covered by Returns (No. paid wages in week ending July 27th, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ending July 27th, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with), Per cent., Per cent. Includes sub-tables for 'Workpeople covered by Returns' and 'Earnings'.

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in July, 1907, amounted to £31,939 and £126,262 respectively, as compared with £25,939 and £94,853 in June, 1907, and £36,404 and £110,993 in July, 1906.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in July, 1907, amounted to £177,135 and £57,399 respectively, as compared with £109,180 and £39,625 in June, 1907, and £128,327 and £52,532 in July, 1906.

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 79 Returns—74 from Employers, 1 from an Employers' Association, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good in England, not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. In Scotland it was dull, rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,731 workpeople in the week ended July 27th, and paying £8,711 in wages, showed an increase of 0·4 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 0·8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3·6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Table with 6 columns: District, Workpeople covered by Returns (No. paid wages on pay-day in week ending July 27th, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ending July 27th, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with), Per cent., Per cent. Includes sub-tables for 'Workpeople covered by Returns' and 'Earnings'.

At Nottingham employment was good in the levers and plain net branches, fair in the curtain branch. In the Long Eaton district it was fair, but not so good as a month ago and a year ago; in the West of England it continued good. In Scotland employment continued dull in the curtain branch, but showed an improvement on the previous month. Some short time was reported from the Newmilns district.

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

Table with 6 columns: Description, July, 1907, June, 1907, July, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1907, as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Imports (Silk Lace), Exports (Cotton Lace, Silk Lace).

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 53 Returns—50 from Employers and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good generally; it was not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,632 workpeople and paying £5,755 in wages on pay-day in the week ended July 27th, 1907, show that, compared with a month ago, there were decreases of 0·4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 1·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 5·7 per cent. in the number employed and of 7·1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Several of the returns reported a deficiency of labour.

The returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with 6 columns: Districts, Workpeople covered by Returns (No. paid wages on pay-day in week ending July 27th, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with), Earnings (Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended July 27th, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with), Per cent., Per cent. Includes sub-tables for 'Workpeople covered by Returns' and 'Earnings'.

At Macclesfield employment continued good with spinners and bad with hand-loom weavers. At Leek employment was fairly good generally. At Congleton it was good with throwsters and spinners, but only moderate with trimming weavers. In the Bradford district employment continued fairly good, and in the Eastern Counties it continued fair.

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

Table with 6 columns: Description, July, 1907, June, 1907, July, 1906, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in July, 1907, as compared with a, Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Imports (Raw Silk, Thrown Silk, Spun Silk Yarn, Silk Broad-Stuffs), Exports (Thrown Silk, Spun Silk Yarn, Silk Broad-Stuffs).

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was reported as moderate, and showed little change compared with a year ago. About one-third of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-sixth worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment on the whole was fair, but slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment continued good at Macclesfield, and was much better than a year ago.

Calico Printers, etc.—Employment with calico printers was fairly good, but rather worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Glasgow it was fair with calico printers, and good with engravers to calico printers and with block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—Employment at Leicester was moderate, and showed a decline compared with a month ago. At Loughborough it was not so good as a month ago; trimmers were reported to be working about three-quarter time. With dyers at Nottingham employment was slack; with bleachers at Basford it was fairly good; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was not so good as a month ago, and about the same as a year ago.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment continued good. At Dundee it was good with calender workers, and better than a month ago; employment with bleach-field workers was fair, but was still affected by a dispute.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 118 Returns—90 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London showed the usual seasonal decline, but was better than a year ago; in the provincial centres it was fair. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment showed the usual marked seasonal decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £11,770 in wages during the four weeks ended July 27th showed a decrease of 15·7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but an increase of 5·0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as fair in Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin, quiet in Edinburgh.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and slightly better than a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as better on shipping work, fair on contract and stock work.

Leeds.—Employment continued fairly good, and was about the same as a year ago. Firms employing 7,309 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended July 27th showed a decrease of 2·0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0·1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment in the Jewish workshops was reported as good.

Other Centres.—Employment was fairly good in Manchester, and better than a year ago. In Bristol it was moderate, and better than a year ago. At Norwich employment showed a decline. In Glasgow it was good, and better than a year ago.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in July, 1907, were valued at £230,578, as compared with £254,507 in June, 1907, and £235,721 in July, 1906; and the Exports for the same months at £603,597, £350,438 and £514,540 respectively.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

Returns showing the predominant prices of bread on August 1st, 1907, have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources, and the figures are summarised in the following Tables.

Table showing predominant prices of bread for 1st August, 1907, 1st July, 1907, and 1st August, 1906. Columns include High est., Low est., and Mean for each date. Locations listed include London, N. & N.W., E. & N.E., S.E., S.W., W. & W.C., N. Counties & Yorks., Lancs. & Cheshire, Midlands, Eastern Counties, Southern Counties, S. Western Counties and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

It will be seen that the mean of the prices for August 1st shows a slight decrease compared with that of the previous month. As compared with a year ago, there was a slight increase.

PRICE OF BREAD IN 29 LARGE TOWNS.

Table showing the price of bread in 29 large towns for August 1st, 1907. Columns include Place, Predominant Price at August 1st, 1907, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A Month ago and A Year ago, Last Change, Date, and Am't per 4 lbs.

From the above Table it will be seen that, compared with a month ago, no change has taken place in the price of the 4lb. loaf. As compared with a year ago, rises of 3d. are shown in eleven towns (ten in England and one in Scotland) and in London.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat from September 1st, 1906, to July 31st, 1907, amounted to 85,916,100 cwts., or 965,678 cwts. more than in the corresponding period of 1905-6. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during the same period amounted to 12,296,301 cwts., or 1,171,099 cwts. less than in September-July, 1905-6.

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, and Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) for July 1906, June 1907, and July 1907. Columns include Month, Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales), Average Declared Value (Wheat, Wheat-meal and Flour), and Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households).

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

WHO ARE "DEPENDANTS"? WIFE DESERTED BY HUSBAND. When a workman is fatally injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, his "dependants" are entitled to compensation. Certain members of the deceased man's family are included amongst his "dependants," provided they were "wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of his death."

A man was married in 1885, and there were several children of the marriage, three of whom were alive at the time of their father's death. In March, 1904, the man left his family in the town where they had lived for seventeen years, and went to look for work. His family never heard of him again until 1906, when they heard that he had been killed by an accident whilst working for a steel company. After the man left his wife, she and her children were for a time in the workhouse, and for a time she maintained herself and them by her work. Later she went to live with her mother, and earned small sums by casual work. She claimed compensation under the Act from her husband's employers, but the County Court judge refused to make an award in her favour on the ground that she was not dependent upon the earnings of the deceased at the time of his death, either wholly or in part.

On appeal the Court of Appeal reversed the decision of the County Court judge, holding that the widow was entitled to compensation, as there is a presumption of dependency of the wife upon the husband, which had not been rebutted.—Stanland v. North Eastern Steel Co., Ltd., Court of Appeal, December, 1906 (reported July 31st, 1907).

(2) Merchant Shipping Acts.

RIGHT OF SEAMAN TO REFUSE TO RUN WAR RISKS: WRONGFUL CONVICTION FOR REFUSAL TO SAIL: TIME TO WHICH WAGES PAYABLE.

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, that the owner or master of a foreign-going ship shall pay each seaman the whole of the wages due to him within two days of the time when he lawfully leaves the ship at the end of his engagement; and that in the event of his wages, or any part of them, not being paid as provided, then, unless the delay is due to the act or default of the seaman, or to any reasonable dispute as to liability, or to any other cause not being the wrongful act or default of the owner or master, the seaman's wages shall continue to run and be payable until the time of the final settlement thereof.

In December, 1904, a crew signed articles to serve on board the steamship "Franklyn," on a "voyage of not exceeding three years' duration to any ports or places within the limits of 75 degrees north and 60 degrees south latitude, commencing at Glasgow, proceeding thence to Hong Kong via Barry, and (or) any other ports within the above limits, trading in any rotation, and to end at such port in the United Kingdom or Continent of Europe (within home trade limits) as may be required by the master." They sailed from Cardiff with a cargo of coals, and reached Hong Kong on February 20th, 1905. War had been going on between Russia and Japan for more than a twelvemonth. At Hong Kong the men were told for the first time that the "Franklyn" was to proceed with her cargo of coal to Sasebo, a naval base of Japan. Coal had been declared contraband of war by both belligerents, and accordingly a vessel carrying coal to Sasebo was liable to be captured, if the Russians could capture her, and to be sent to a Russian port for adjudication. More than that, under the practice adopted by Russia in that war, she ran the risk of being sunk instead of being taken into port. If, therefore, the men had gone on with the ship to Sasebo they ran the risk of losing their employment and their kit, of being cast adrift in a Russian port during war, and of their ship being destroyed on the high seas, and themselves exposed to whatever danger that might involve. The master claimed that the men were bound to go on to Sasebo. The men refused, but offered to go if the captain would make good their wages and clothes till the time they arrived in the United Kingdom in the event of the ship being taken or sunk. The master said his owners would not allow him to do that. Upon this the master threatened the men that if they refused to proceed he would take them before the harbour-master, who is also port magistrate. That was done. The men still refusing to sail for Sasebo, the harbour-master sentenced them to ten weeks' imprisonment, and they were imprisoned accordingly, with circumstances of much hardship and indignity. The wages they had already

earned were not paid to them. After serving their sentence they were sent home as distressed seamen, and reached London on July 15th, 1905. They then brought an action against the owners of the "Franklyn" for malicious prosecution, wages and maintenance, and damages.

In the King's Bench Division the men obtained judgment for their wages, but only up to the time they arrived in England; and it was held that they could not recover for malicious prosecution. There were cross-appeals; and the Court of Appeal decided that the men were justified in refusing to proceed to Sasebo, and that they were entitled to wages from the date of their engagement up to the final settlement of their claims by the decision of the Court of Appeal, i.e. December 21st, 1906, and also to maintenance from February 20th, 1905, up to the same date. The claim in respect to malicious prosecution was abandoned.

The owners appealed to the House of Lords. The House of Lords held that the treatment of the men had been illegal throughout; that the master had no right whatever to require the seamen to take war risks, or to proceed on any voyage other than a commercial voyage with commercial risks; that the sentence of imprisonment passed upon them was illegal; that the refusal to pay them their wages at Hong Kong was illegal; that the seamen had lawfully left their ship at Hong Kong, for they were compelled by law against their will to leave it; and that consequently the decision of the Court of Appeal should be upheld.—Palace Shipping Company v. Caine and Others. House of Lords, May 30th, June 3rd and 5th, and July 29th, 1907.

END OF VOYAGE: RIGHT OF MASTER TO CHOOSE PORT OF DISCHARGE.

By the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, the agreement made by the crew to serve on a ship must contain either the nature, or as far as practicable the duration of the intended voyage or engagement, and the places or parts of the world, if any, to which the voyage or engagement is not to extend. Agreements may be made for a voyage, or if the voyages of the ship average less than six months in duration, may be made to extend over two or more voyages.

A fireman signed articles of agreement to serve "on a voyage not exceeding one year's duration to any ports or places within the limits of 75 degrees north latitude and 60 degrees south latitude, commencing at Cardiff, proceeding thence to Malta, thereafter trading to ports in any rotation, and to end at such port in the United Kingdom or Continent of Europe (within home-trading limits) as may be required by the master."

The ship sailed to Malta, thence to the Black Sea, where she loaded a cargo of grain to be wholly discharged at Southampton, and then sailed to Southampton. At the place last named the cargo was completely discharged, and the fireman claimed his wages and discharge on the ground that the voyage and the engagement were at an end. The master, however, required him to go on to Cardiff, and refused to pay his wages or give him a discharge at Southampton. The fireman then summoned the master for his wages and compensation, and the magistrates referred the matter to the High Court. The High Court decided in favour of the fireman, but on appeal the Court of Appeal over-ruled that decision, and held that the master was entitled to require the man to go on to Cardiff. There was a further appeal to the House of Lords, and that tribunal affirmed the decision of the Court of Appeal.—The Scarsdale, House of Lords, July 29th, 1907.

(3) Miscellaneous.

PREFERENTIAL PAYMENTS IN BANKRUPTCY: WHAT ARE WAGES? OPERATIC SINGERS.

It is provided by the Preferential Payments in Bankruptcy Act, 1888, that in the distribution of the property of a bankrupt, or of an insolvent company, all wages or salary of any clerk or servant, in respect of services rendered to the bankrupt or the company during four months before the commencement of proceedings, not exceeding the sum of £50, shall be paid in priority to other debts.

A company formed for the production of opera became insolvent, and was ordered to be wound up. Certain persons who had been engaged as singers, on the terms of being paid a certain sum (varying with the individual) for each performance in which he or she took part, claimed to be entitled to be paid the arrears due to them at the commencement of the winding up in priority to other debts. It was argued on behalf of the general creditors that these singers were not "servants" within the Act, and that the remuneration agreed to be paid to them was not "wages."

It was decided by the judge in the Chancery Division that "wages" means remuneration for services rendered by one to another; that these singers were "servants," and their remuneration was properly described as "wages"; and that, up to the limit of £50, each was entitled to be paid the arrears due in priority to the general creditors.—In re Winter German Opera (Limited), Chancery Division, July 2nd, 1907.

COMMON EMPLOYMENT: DANGEROUS WORK: INFANT WORKMAN.

By the common law of England, an employer is not responsible for personal injuries caused to a servant by the negligence of a fellow servant in a common employment with the injured servant.

A boy of fifteen years of age was in the employment of an engineering company, and was put to work at a small circular saw under a foreman. While at this work he was severely injured by the saw, and brought an action at common law against the company, alleging that his injuries were caused by their negligence in not having the saw properly fenced, and in not seeing that he

was properly instructed in the use of the machine before being put to work at it. The work was admittedly dangerous unless the saw was properly fenced. The jury found that the machine was properly fenced, but that there was negligence on the part of the foreman in not fully instructing and cautioning the plaintiff before setting him to work at it, and they awarded the plaintiff the sum of £105 as damages. Judgment was accordingly entered for the plaintiff, and the defendants appealed.

It was argued on behalf of the defendants that according to the finding of the jury, the negligence was that of the foreman, not of the employers, and that as the foreman was a fellow servant of the plaintiff in a common employment with him, the defendants were not liable. On the other side it was contended that this principle does not apply to the case of an infant in the circumstances of this case; and that it is the duty of employers to see that infants are properly instructed before being put to dangerous work. The Court of Appeal held that the doctrine of common employment does apply to infants; and that if a competent foreman was employed by the defendants whose duty it was to instruct the plaintiff, the defendants were not responsible for his failure to give such instructions. A new trial was therefore ordered.—Young v. Hoffman Manufacturing Company, Limited, Court of Appeal, July 4th, 1907.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

SECTION 8 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, allows compensation for certain industrial diseases in cases where the workman is certified by a certifying Factory Surgeon to be suffering from such disease, and to be thereby disabled for work, or is suspended by the certifying or other Surgeon from his employment on account of the disease. Power is given in the section to the Home Secretary to make rules regulating appeals by employer or workman from the decision of a certifying or other surgeon to one of the medical Referees appointed under the Act, and for regulating the duties and fees of the certifying and other surgeons (including dentists). Power is also given to the Home Secretary by Section 10 of the Act to appoint, with the sanction of the Treasury, medical referees, subject to regulations to be made by the Treasury as to their remuneration and expenses incurred by them. In pursuance of these powers Regulations* have been made for the purposes mentioned. These Regulations, which came into force on July 1st, contain a number of forms for use by certifying surgeons, medical referees, employers, workmen, and the officials of courts, in reference to disablement by industrial diseases.

The Act also in the 1st and 2nd Schedules contains provisions for the referring to medical referees of disputed questions as to the condition or fitness for employment of injured workmen; for the giving of certificates by medical referees which entitle injured workmen if permanently disabled to continue to receive compensation while residing out of the United Kingdom; enabling a judge to summon a medical referee to sit with him as assessor; and enabling judges, arbitrators or committees to submit any material matter arising in an arbitration to a medical referee for report. Regulations† as to the duties and remuneration of such medical referees, with forms for use in relation to references to them, have been made by the Home Secretary, with the consent of the Treasury, and came into force on July 1st.

The Home Secretary has also made Regulations,‡ dated June 28th, 1907, in reference to examinations of injured workmen by medical practitioners provided and paid by the employer. These are to the effect that the workman cannot be required against his will to submit himself for examination except at reasonable hours, and at certain prescribed intervals of time.

The Registrar of Friendly Societies has also made Regulations,§ dated July 1st, 1907, under Section 3 of the Act, governing applications for certificates enabling employer and workman to contract out of the Act, and containing forms for use in relation to such applications.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907.—No. 484 for England and Wales; No. 486 (S. 19 for Scotland; No. 514 for Ireland. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.; price 1d. each. † Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907.—No. 487 for England and Wales; No. 495 (S. 20 for Scotland; No. 515 for Ireland. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d. each. ‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907.—No. 505. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d. § Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907.—No. 500. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1d.

TRADE DISPUTES IN JULY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-seven new disputes began in July, 1907, of which those in the transport trades at Belfast have especially attracted public attention. The number of disputes commencing in the preceding month was 22, and in July, 1906, 27. By the 27 disputes, 9,939 workpeople were directly and 7,100 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before July and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 23,776 workpeople involved in trade disputes during July, 1907, compared with 17,682 in June, 1907, and 21,922 in July, 1906.

New Disputes in July, 1907.—In the following Table the new disputes in July are summarised by trades affected:—

Table with 4 columns: Trades, No. of Disputes, No. of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total). Rows include Coal Mining, Engineering, Textile, Transport, and Other Trades, with a Total for July 1907 and comparisons for June 1907 and July 1906.

Causes.—Of the 27 new disputes, 9 arose on demands for increased wages, 1 on an objection to reduction in wages, and 5 on other wages questions, 6 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 3 on other questions.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 16 new disputes, directly affecting 7,211 persons, and 10 old disputes, directly affecting 2,117 persons. Of these 26 new and old disputes, 11, directly involving

5,397 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 6, directly involving 961 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 9, directly involving 2,970 persons, were compromised.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in July of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 219,900 working days. In addition, 68,700 working days were lost during July owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in July of all disputes, new and old, was 288,600 working days, as compared with 194,100 in the previous month, and 158,200 in the corresponding month of 1906.

Summary for the First Seven Months of 1906 and 1907.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the seven months, January to July, 1906 and 1907, respectively, were as follows:—

Table with 6 columns: Groups of Trades, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople affected, Aggregate Duration in Working Days, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople affected, Aggregate Duration in Working Days. Rows include Building, Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding, Textile, Clothing, Transport, and Other Trades, with a Total for 1906 and 1907.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table with 7 columns: Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Rows include Coal Mining (Miners, etc.), Miners and Oncostmen, Pit Boys, Coal Getters, Haulage Hands, etc., Engineering (Ironmoulders, Patternmakers, Fitters, etc.), Bleaching and Dyeing (Bleachfield Workers), Transport (Dock Labourers, Carters, etc.), and Coal Porters and Carters.

* 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 dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in July.—The net effect of all the changes reported in July was an increase of £12,460 per week, as compared with an increase of £7,741 per week in June, 1907, and one of £2,907 per week in July, 1906. The number of workpeople affected was 199,938, of whom 199,628 received advances amounting to £12,499 per week, and 310 sustained decreases amounting to £39 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 157,405, and in July, 1906, 79,188.

One change, affecting 84 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; two changes, affecting 128,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and fourteen changes, affecting 42,365 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 29,489 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; one of these changes, affecting 450 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Seven completed Months of 1907.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported during the seven months ended July 31st, 1907, was 1,156,795, as compared with 859,955 for the corresponding period of 1906. The changes arranged gave 1,156,275 workpeople a net increase of £120,421 per week, and 520 workpeople a net decrease of £64 per week. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £120,357 per week, as compared with an increase of £29,688 per week in the corresponding period of 1906.

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

Table with 4 columns: Groups of Trades, January-July 1906 (No., £), January-July 1907 (No., £). Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron, etc., Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Printing, &c., Trades, Glass, &c., Trades, Other Trades, and Employees of Local Authorities, with a Total for 1906 and 1907.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during July, 1907, affected 1,430 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 2,919 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the seven months ended July 31st, 1907, was 8,002, the net decrease in their working hours being 17,397 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in July.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages reported in July are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN JULY.

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1907, Occupation, Particulars of Change. Rows include Coal Mining (Northumberland, Scotland), Iron Mining (Dalton-in-Furness), Shale Mining (Scotland, Cleveland, Durham), Pig Iron Manufacture (West Cumberland, South Staffordshire, South Wales and Monmouthshire), Iron & Steel Manufacture (Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland, Middlesbrough, Midlands), and Transport (West of Scotland, Manchester).

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in August it was arranged that Durham miners' wages should be advanced by 7½ per cent., making their wages 47½ per cent. above the standard of 1879, and it has been reported that advances have been arranged for miners in the Federated Districts of 5 per cent., making their wages 55 per cent. above the standard of 1888, and in South Wales of 5 per cent., making their wages 57½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron Trade.—Early in August it was arranged that the wages of blastfurnacemen in Scotland should be advanced by 2½ per cent. Full particulars will appear in the September GAZETTE.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. 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 following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN JULY.

(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 July, 1907, was 227, an increase of 3 as compared with the previous month, and of 23 as compared with July, 1906.

The mean number for July in the years 1902-1906 was 237, the maximum year being 1905 with 340 deaths, and the minimum 1904, with 194 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during July, 1907, was 90, as compared with 59 in June, 1907, and 93 in July, 1906. The mean for the five years 1902-1906 was 87, the highest number being 126 in 1905, and the lowest 62 in 1904.

In the following Table the fatal accidents reported in July, 1907, are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and comparative figures are given for the preceding month and for the corresponding month of last year :-

Table with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during July, 1907, June, 1907, July, 1906, Month ago, Year ago. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Textiles, Non-Textiles, Accidents reported under Factory Act, Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, Seamen.

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.

The Return shows the name of every seaman whose death has been reported during the month, together with his age, nationality, and last place of abode; the cause, date, and place of death; and the name, official number, and port of registry of the ship on which he was serving.

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 July was 57, there being 53 cases of lead poisoning, and 4 of anthrax. Six deaths due to lead poisoning were reported. In addition to the above, 13 cases of lead poisoning were reported during July among house painters and plumbers.

During the seven months ended July, 1907, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 318, as compared with 424 in 1906. The number of deaths during the same period was 26, as against 33 in 1906. In addition there were 87 cases of lead poisoning (including 22 deaths) among house painters and plumbers in the first seven months of 1907, as compared with 95 cases (including 23 deaths) in the first seven months of 1906.

[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.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases (Month of July, 1907, Seven Months ended July, 1907), Deaths (Month of July, 1907, Seven Months ended July, 1907). Rows include Smelting of Metals, Brass Works, Sheet Lead and Lead Piping, etc.

Table with columns: Industry, Cases, Deaths. Rows include Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, Anthrax.

* Of the 12 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry 5 were females. † Including 2 dock labourers.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for July.

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 with columns: Month ended July 31st, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907 as compared with 1906, 1905. Rows include Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; Miscellaneous and Unclassified.

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 with columns: Month ended July 31st, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907 as compared with 1906, 1905. Rows include Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; Miscellaneous and Unclassified.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £5,773,478 in July, 1905; £6,059,325 in July, 1906; and £7,388,291 in July, 1907.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended July 27th, amounted to £4,582,287, an increase of £270,163 (or 6.3 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

During the 30 weeks ended July 27th, 1907, the amount was £32,396,012, an increase of £1,268,311 (or 4.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

Table with columns: Amount, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906. Rows include English Lines, Scottish Lines, Irish Lines.

* 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, wood, oil seeds, hides and skins. § Yarns, textile fabrics, and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

PAUPERISM IN JULY.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in July, 1907, in the 35 selected urban districts named below corresponded to a rate of 208 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with June, 1907, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 3,935 (1.1 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers showed a decrease of 2,492 (1.5 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers a decrease of 1,443 (0.7 per cent.). In six districts there were slight increases, while in all the other districts there were decreases.

Compared with July, 1906, the rate per 10,000 shows a decrease of 1. There was an increase of 3,674 (2.3 per cent) in the number of indoor paupers, while outdoor paupers decreased by 2,042 (1.0 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 23 districts, increases in 11, and in the Central London district there was no change. The most marked decreases were shown in North Staffordshire (16 per 10,000), Edinburgh and Leith (13 per 10,000), and in the Leeds and Dundee and Dunfermline districts (12 per 10,000 each.)

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of July, 1907 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with 1906 (Month ago, Year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND.

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

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour). Return in Pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of Railway Servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of April 1907, on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time; or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours' rest. [Cd. 3601: pp. 36: price 3d.]

Railway Employment Safety Appliances. Reports of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to examine, and where necessary to test, Appliances designed to diminish danger to men employed in Railway Service. [Cd. 3638: pp. 13: price 2d.]

Report from the Select Committee on Post Office Servants. Appointed to enquire into the wages and position of the principal classes of Post Office Servants and also of the Unestablished Sub-Postmasters. [H.C. 266: pp. v. + 104: price 1s. 2d.]

Old Age Pensions. Tables which have been prepared in connection with the question of Old Age Pensions, with a Preliminary Memorandum. [Cd. 3618: pp. 54: price 5d.]

Report of the Departmental Committee appointed to consider whether the Post Office should provide facilities for Insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. [Cd. 3568: pp. 11: price 1d.] Minutes of Evidence. [Cd. 3569: pp. 159: price 1s. 4d.]

Pauperism (England and Wales). Half-yearly Statement for January 1st, 1907. [H.C. 108: pp. xxvii. + 41: price 7d.]

Crown Lands Act, 1906. First Report by the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries as a Commissioner of Woods, Forests and Land Revenues. Report upon letting Crown Lands for small holdings. [H.C. 253: pp. 13: price 2d.]

Army. (1) War Office Report on the steps taken to provide Technical Instruction to Soldiers to fit them for civil life. (2) Copies of War Office Circular Letters relating to the subject. [Cd. 3511: pp. 15: price 2d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH COLONIES.

Report of the Textile Factories Labour Committee appointed by the Government of India, December, 1906, to inquire into the conditions of Factory Labour in India, with Appendices. [Cd. 3617: pp. 81: price 9d.]

All the above mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.

Canada. The Labour Gazette, June, 1907. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907, during May.

Canada. Bulletin 1. Wage Earners by Occupations. Compiled from the Census of 1901. [Ottawa: S. E. Dawson, King's Printer: pp. xxviii. + 105 + xxx.]

Seventh Report of the Bureau of Labour of the Province of Ontario for the year 1906. Ontario industrial census, labour organisations, chronology and synopsis of Ontario labour laws. [Toronto: L. K. Cameron, King's Printer: pp. 198.]

New South Wales. Statistical Register. 1905 and previous years. Part. XIII.—Industrial Wages. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 87: price 1s.]

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United States.

Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour. No. 70. May, 1907. "The Italian on the Land: A Study in Immigration," Emily Fogg Meade; "History of British Labour Legislation," by A. Maurice Low; "The British Workmen's Compensation Acts," by Launcelot Parker. Labour laws of various States enacted since January 1st, 1904; index of labour laws, &c.

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No. 50. June, 1907. Changes in wages and hours in Massachusetts, 1906; Free Employment Offices, &c.

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, June, 1907. Contains articles on employment and labour disputes in May. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie.: price 2d.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, July, 1907. Contains report on unemployment in trade unions in second quarter of 1907. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: price 1d.]

Statistical Report for 1906 of the Hirsch-Duncker Trade Unions of Germany. Triennial Report dealing with wages and hours of labour of members of these unions. Central Council of Hirsch-Duncker Trade Unions of Germany, 1907. [Berlin: Selbstverlag des Verbandes der deutschen Gewerksvereine, No. 55, Greifswalder-Strasse, 221-23: pp. 91.]

Journal of the Statistical Department of Saxony. May, 1907. Contains summary of Census of December 1st, 1905, so far as relates to Saxony. [Dresden: Zahn & Jaensch: price 1s. 6d.]

Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of Union of Paviers employed by State or Municipalities of Germany, held at Leipzig on February 17th, 1907. [Berlin: Verbandsvorstand Berlin, N.W. Wielefstrasse 16: pp. 24: price 3d.]

The influence of the Union of Painters, Varnishers and Whitewashers of Germany on the Regulation of Wages and Working Conditions by means of Agreements. 1907. [Hamburg: A. Tobler: pp. 240.]

Report of the Union of Woodworkers of Germany, 1906; with Statistics of Accidents, Wages and Hours, 1907. [Breslau: Ursulinerstrasse 27: pp. 36.]

Austria.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, June 1907. Contains text of order regulating employment of young persons in mines, and reports on labour disputes and state of employment in May. [Vienna: Alfred Hölder, K. K. Hof-und Universitäts-Buchhändler. Price 2d.]

Report on Austrian Mining Inspection in 1904. Ministry of Agriculture, 1907. [Vienna: K. K. Hof-und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 456.]

Hours of Labour in Austrian Factories. Report of Special Inquiry undertaken in 1906. Ministry of Commerce, 1907. [Vienna: Alfred Hölder: pp. xcvi. + 459 and diagrams.]

Statistics of Overtime worked in Austrian Factories in 1906. [Vienna, K. K. Hof-und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 35.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, June, 1907. Contains report on application of labour laws, 1906-1907, and statistics of the working classes of Milan. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Report on Work of the Italian Labour Department and Higher Council of Labour, July 1st, 1905—December 31st, 1906. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome, Officina Poligrafica Italiana Via della Guardiola, 22: pp. 22: price 2d.]

Council of Credit and Social Thrift. Proceedings at first session of 1906. Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce. [Rome: G. Bertero e C. pp. 234, price 2s.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, June 30th and July 15th, 1907. Contain reports on labour disputes in May, and the state of employment in June. [Brussels: Imprimerie F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price of each part, 1d.]

Regulation of the Hours of Labour of Adult Workpeople. Ninth Session of Higher Council of Labour, 1907. Ministry of Industry and Labour. [Brussels: M. Weissenbruch, rue du Poinçon, 49: pp. 389.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Bureau, June, 1907. Contains reports on employment and labour disputes in May. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: price 2d.]

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Journal of the Finnish Labour Department. No. 2, 1907. Statistics of labour disputes, and of unemployment in first quarter of 1907.

Sweden.

Statistical Yearbook of Stockholm, 1905. Statistical Office of Stockholm, 1907. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckman: pp. 534.]

Reports on (1) Savings Banks in 1905, (2) Electoral Statistics in 1904. Central Statistical Office, 1907. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: pp. xi. + 48; xix. + 176.]

Norway.

Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office; volume for 1906. Contains monthly statistics of unemployment.

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department. June, 1907. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: price 2d.]

Argentine Republic.

Regulations relating to the Employment of Women and Children in the Argentine Republic and other countries. Labour Department of the Argentine Republic, 1907. [Buenos Aires; Imprenta, Calle de Mexico, Num. 1422: pp. 18.]

General.

Reports to be presented to the 11th Congress of the International Statistical Institute at Copenhagen (August 26th-31st, 1907). (1) The classification of industries in the United States. France and Belgium. By Yves Guyot. (2) The plan and organisation of the German Industrial Census of 1907. By Dr. R. van der Borgh. [Copenhagen, Imprimerie Bidnes Luno: pp. 27 + 4.]

Trade Unions in the Printing Trades. Position on January 1st, 1905. International Printers' Secretariat (Berne), 1907. [Basel: Buchdruckers des Schweizer. Typographen-Bundes: pp. 204.]

Second International Conference of Workpeople engaged in Road-making, held at Leipzig on February 17th, 1907. International Secretariate of workpeople engaged in road-making. [Berlin: A. Knoll: pp. 14: price 3d.]

The Regulation of Child-labour. Illustrated by legislation of Germany and Switzerland. By J. Deutsch, 1907. [Zürich, Rascher & Co.: pp. 247: price 4s. 6d.]

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Annual Series. No. 3856. *Trade of the Consular District of Philadelphia for the year 1906.* Strike of Pennsylvania coal miners in 1906; statistics of industries. [Cd. 3283-117: pp. 42: price 2d.]

No. 3855. *Trade and Finances of Uruguay for the year 1906.* Proposed new labour law limiting hours of work. [Cd. 3283-116: pp. 31: price 2d.]

No. 3852. *Foreign Trade of Russia and Trade of the Consular District of St. Petersburg.* Notes on peasants' land bank, industries, 1905 Census of St. Petersburg, &c. [Cd. 3283-113: pp. 58: price 3d.]

No. 3857. *Trade of Texas for the year 1906.* Foreign immigration; growth in 1906, &c. [Cd. 3283-118: pp. 32: price 2d.]

No. 3847. *Trade of the Consular District of Frankfurt for the year 1906.* Statistics of agriculture, textile, &c. industries. [Cd. 3283-108: pp. 123: price 6d.]

No. 3862. *Trade of Denmark for the Year 1906.* Emigration, Co-operation, notes on agriculture, etc. [Cd. 3283-123: pp. 36: price 2d.]

No. 3876. *Trade of the United States for the Year 1906.* Notes on industries, estimate of total wages paid, &c. [Cd. 3283-137: pp. 62: price 3d.]

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