

# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

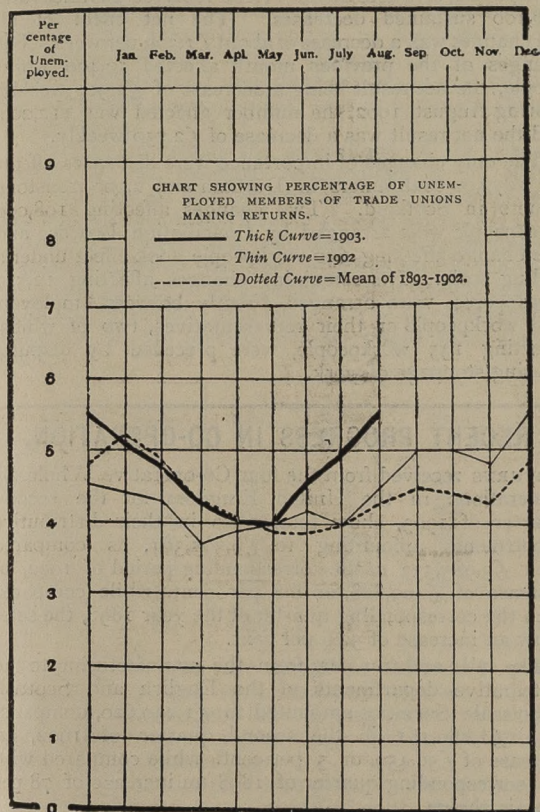
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PRICE ONE PENNY.

## EMPLOYMENT CHART.



## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN AUGUST.

[Based on 3,442 returns, viz.: 2,130 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,248 from Trade Unions, and 64 from other sources.]

The general state of employment in August continued to show some falling off as compared with the preceding month, and was worse than a year ago. The decline was most marked in the cotton trade, in which employment has been much affected by the continued high price of raw cotton.

In the 226 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 561,946 making returns, 30,751 (or 5.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 4.9 per cent. in July, and 4.5 per cent. in the 222 Trade Unions, with a membership of 551,565 from which returns were received for August, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of August during the past decade was 4.3.

**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment improved somewhat during August, but was not so good as a year ago. At collieries employing 490,451 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 4.89 days per week, as against 4.84 in July and 4.94 in August, 1902. These averages are affected by holidays, while that for August, 1902, is also lowered by disputes. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns were received for both periods was 2.3 per cent. greater than a year ago.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues good. In the 134 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, and employing about 15,600 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the miners was 5.76 per week, as compared with 5.69 in July 1903, and in August, 1902.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry continues fairly good generally, but it is not so good as a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 322 furnaces, employing about 22,300 workpeople, were in blast at the end of August, as compared with the same number of furnaces at the end of July, and 328 a year ago.

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment has improved compared with a month ago, but is not quite so good as a year ago. At 201 works covered by the returns received from employers 75,186 workpeople were employed during the week ended August 29th, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 5.1 per cent., as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Template Manufacture.**—Employment in this industry was more active in August than in the preceding month, but not so good as a year ago. At the end of August (*i.e.*, just before the widespread stoppage of work, which took place on August 31st) 367 mills were working, compared with 342 at the end of July, and 402 in August, 1902. The number of workpeople employed at the 367 mills was about 18,300.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment generally is moderate and not quite so good as a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 4.2, as compared with 3.9 in July and 4.5 in August, 1902.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment generally is slack, rather worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 11.2 at the end of August, as compared with 10.4 in July and 7.4 in August, 1902.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues moderate, with little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 2.9 at the end of August, compared with 3.3 at the end of July, and 2.8 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 7.1 at the end of August, compared with 6.7 at the end of July, and 6.1 a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in these trades shows little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 4.0, as against 3.9 in July and 3.6 in August, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades remains quiet, and much the same, on the whole, as a year ago, but is worse in the letterpress printing trade than a month ago, owing partly to a seasonal decline in London. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 6.0, as compared with 4.3 in July and 6.1 in August, 1902.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade remained fair, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month being 3.5, against 2.6 at the end of July and 3.1 in August, 1902.



Employment in the *Glass* trades continues bad in the bottle making branch; in other branches it is quiet. In the *Pottery* trades much short time is still being worked. In the *Brick* and *Tile* trades employment has declined.

Owing to the continued high price of raw cotton, employment in the *Cotton* trade continues bad, and is much worse than a year ago. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 102,600 women and girls shows that 46 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 48 per cent. in July, and 85 per cent. in August, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 30 during August, compared with 32 per cent. in July, and 72 per cent. in August, 1902.

Employment in the *Woollen* trade is fairly good. In the *Worsted* trade it is slack and worse than a month and a year ago. Information respecting woollen and worsted factories in Yorkshire employing about 31,300 women and girls shows that 60 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, to be compared with 61 per cent. among those reported on for July, and with 92 per cent. for August, 1902.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trades is slack, and worse than a month ago. Employment in the *Jute* trade shows an improvement, and is fair. In the *Flax* trade it is fairly good.

*Leather Trades.*—The general condition of employment remains dull and is worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of August was 7.6, as compared with 6.7 per cent. at the end of July and 5.2 in August, 1902.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade is quiet generally, and rather worse than in July. Returns from firms employing 66,188 workpeople show a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed at the end of August, as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.3 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives reported on, 55 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout August, compared with 62 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in July.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade shows a decline, and is bad. In the ready-made branch employment generally has been quiet.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade has been quiet generally, though rather better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 3.3, compared with 3.5 per cent. at the end of July, and 3.7 per cent. a year ago.

The employment of *Agricultural Labourers* was considerably interrupted by wet weather, and casual men lost a good deal of time in a number of districts. The hay harvest was much prolonged, and the corn harvest was late and the work protracted, owing to unfavourable weather. Much corn had to be cut by hand, as it was laid by storms. Weeding and hoeing were also interfered with.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—Employment in August was fair generally, and slightly better than a month ago, though not so good as in August, 1902. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended August 29th, was 13,643, an increase of a little under 1 per cent. as compared with the average for July, but a decrease of 3.6 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in August during the six years 1897-1902 was 14,798.

*Trade Disputes.*—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during August, 1903, was 29,523, compared with 10,100 in July, 1903, and 41,759 in August, 1902.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 266,000 working days, compared with 130,800 in the previous month, and 586,200 in the corresponding month of last year.

The principal dispute of the month was that involving 14,000 tinsplate and steel workers in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire. In addition, 18 disputes began in August, involving 9,232 workpeople. Thus in August there were 19 new disputes involving 23,232 workpeople, compared with 5,132, in July, 1903, and 4,703 in August, 1902.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, affecting 10,369 workpeople. Of these disputes, 7, involving 7,772 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 7, involving 1,400 persons, in favour of the employers; and 5, involving 1,197 persons, were compromised.

*Changes in Rates of Wages.*—The changes in rates of wages reported during August affected about 121,200 workpeople, of whom about 11,100 received advances and 110,100 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of about £1,300 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 59,400 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £1,900 weekly. During August, 1902, the number affected was 112,200, and the net result was a decrease of £2,750 weekly.

The only changes of importance were decreases affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham and 2,000 ironstone miners in Scotland. Two changes affecting 108,000 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change affecting 650 workpeople took effect under a sliding scale. The remaining changes, affecting 12,550 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, two of which, affecting 135 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

#### RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from the four Co-operative Wholesale Federations in the United Kingdom for the second quarter of 1903, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,395,361, as compared with £5,985,533 in the corresponding period of 1902, an increase of £409,828, or 6.8 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of the year 1898, the sales show an increase of 52.6 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,239,620, compared with £1,180,161 in the second quarter of 1902, an increase of £59,459, or 5 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1898 an increase of 78 per cent. is shown.

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

Societies.	Number and Membership of Societies in Federation.		Sales.				
	Societies.	Membership.	In 2nd quarter of			Percentage increase of 1903 as compared with	
			1903.	1902.	1898.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES:— Distributive Depts. Manufacturing Depts.	1,120	1,434,898	£ 4,739,095 764,533*	£ 4,442,408 719,345*	£ 2,970,302 379,206*	6.7 6.3	59.5 101.6
SCOTLAND:— Distributive Depts. Manufacturing Depts.	283	295,186	£ 1,570,870 475,087*	£ 1,461,543 460,816*	£ 1,171,716 317,286*	7.5 3.1	34.1 49.7
IRELAND:— Butter Agency:— Distributive Depts.† Agricultural (Distribution)	not stated	3,392	£ 60,134 25,262	£ 61,090 20,492	£ 36,129 13,709	1.6; 23.3	66.4 84.3

\* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.

† Figures for butter making not available.

‡ Decrease.

#### WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Board of Trade recently published a volume\* embodying the results of an investigation with regard to the course of wholesale and retail prices in the United Kingdom.

The first portion of the volume consists of a series of comparative Tables, 188 in number, giving for a series of years the wholesale and contract prices of a large number of commodities, including coal, iron, cotton, wool, corn, flour, cattle, meat, dairy produce, tea, sugar, and other articles of food and drink, together with oils, building materials, and a number of miscellaneous articles.

The second portion of the volume relates to retail prices, and, with the exception of the record of bread prices, the information given in the Tables relates entirely to London. Prices are given for a number of years of all the most important articles of food and drink, together with those of other articles of general domestic consumption.

In order to reduce the oscillations of the wholesale prices of the principal commodities to a common denominator, so as to express the average change which has taken place in the level of general prices, the method of Index Numbers has been used. The basis and mode of construction of the Index Number used in the volume are fully set out in an appendix. The results are given in the Table below, from which can be seen the percentage changes in the level of general prices since the year 1871.

Year.	Index Number (1871=100).	Year.	Index Number (1871=100).	Year.	Index Number (1871=100).
1872	110.6	1883	96.5	1894	75.1
1873	118.8	1884	88.3	1895	72.2
1874	113.6	1885	83.0	1896	69.8
1875	107.5	1886	78.3	1897	71.3
1876	104.2	1887	76.7	1898	73.6
1877	105.3	1888	79.3	1899	74.5
1878	99.3	1889	80.8	1900	83.2
1879	94.9	1890	82.8	1901	79.2
1880	97.4	1891	84.1	1902	78.8
1881	95.7	1892	80.1		
1882	97.3	1893	78.7		

It will be seen that the fall in the level of prices as between 1871 and 1902 amounted to over 21 per cent. In 1896, however, the fall was greatest as compared with 1871, the level of prices being then 30 per cent. below that of the standard year.

A series of charts is also given in the volume, showing graphically for a period of over thirty years the changes in the prices of the principal groups of articles, and also of the more important articles included in those groups.

Following the Tables of retail prices is a section giving the prices actually paid during the years 1900-1 by a number of families for some of the principal commodities which they consumed.

#### REPORT OF ROYAL COMMISSION ON ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

THE Royal Commission on Alien Immigration has issued its Report,† in which the following recommendations are made:

(1) That the immigration of certain classes of Aliens into this country be subjected to State control and regulation to the extent hereinafter mentioned.

(2) That a Department of Immigration be established, either in connection with the Board of Trade and Local Government Board, or of an independent character.‡

(3) That improved methods be employed to secure correct statistical returns relating to Alien Immigration. That for this purpose the Act of William IV., c. 11 be repealed, and power given by statute to the Board of Trade to make provision by regulations for obtaining from shipowners returns of the numbers and nationalities of all aliens entering or departing from the United Kingdom, and such further information as may be thought

\* Report on Wholesale and Retail Prices in the United Kingdom in 1902, with Comparative Statistical Tables for a series of years. [H.C. 321 of 1903.] Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 2s. 1d.

† Report of the Royal Commission on Alien Immigration with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix. Vol. 1, Report [Cd. 1741. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 6d.]

desirable. These regulations to apply to all or any specified ports and to be subject to such conditions or modifications as may appear expedient.

(4) That legislative power be obtained for the purpose of carrying out the following suggestions:—

(a) The Immigration Department to have the power of making and enforcing orders and regulations, which may be made applicable to immigration generally, or to vessels arriving at or from certain ports, or to certain classes of immigrants.

(b) That a sufficient staff of officers be appointed by the Immigration Department to carry into effect the provisions of this Act, and the orders and regulations made under it.

(c) Power should be conferred upon such officers to make such inquiry as may be possible from the immigrants upon their arrival as to their character and condition, and if such officer shall have reason to think that any immigrant comes within any of the classes mentioned as "undesirables," viz., criminals, prostitutes, idiots, lunatics, persons of notoriously bad character, or likely to become a charge upon public funds, he shall report the case with such particulars as he can give to the Immigration Department.

(d) It shall be the duty of the Immigration Department to act upon any information it may obtain or receive in order to carry out any provisions which may be made in respect of the above suggestion. And provision should be made for the immediate determination of any proceedings taken before a Court of Summary Jurisdiction on the arrival of the immigrant, pending which the immigrant may be placed under suitable charge.

(e) Any alien immigrant, who, within two years of his arrival, is ascertained or is reasonably supposed to be:—

A criminal, a prostitute, a person living on the proceeds of prostitution, of notoriously bad character, or shall become a charge upon public funds, except from ill-health, or shall have no visible or probable means of support, may be ordered by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction to leave this country, and the owner of the vessel on which such immigrant was brought to this country may be ordered to re-convey him to the port of embarkation.

(f) In reference to all orders of repatriation, due regard must necessarily be had to international arrangements.

(g) Such orders and regulations to include provision for medical examination of Alien Immigrants at port of arrival. In cases where an immigrant is found to be suffering from infectious or loathsome disease, or mental incapacity, the medical officer to have power to debar such immigrant from landing, and the shipowner to be compelled to re-convey the immigrant to port of embarkation.

(h) Immigrants on arrival to give the information demanded from them, refusal, or the giving of false information, to be an offence under the Act, with penalty and discretionary power of repatriation at expense of Shipping Company.

(5) Overcrowding.

(a) That every effort should be made to enforce with greater efficiency the existing law dealing with overcrowding, and that increased power should be obtained for certain purposes, especially with the object of bringing all dwellings within specified areas under the operation of the bye-laws made under the powers of the Public Health Act.

(b) That inquiry should be made by the Immigration Department, either upon the representation of the local authority or otherwise, as to the existence of overcrowding in any area.

(c) If it be found that the immigration of aliens into any area has substantially contributed to any overcrowding, and that it is expedient that no further newly-arrived aliens should become residents in such area, the same may be declared to be a prohibited area.

(d) Full notice that any area has become prohibited should be given at such ports of embarkation as may be thought necessary, and should be communicated to the immigrants by every possible means.

(e) That on their arrival in this country inquiry should be made from the immigrants as to their intended destination. If any one should allege his intention of becoming resident in a prohibited area he shall be expressly informed of the regulation affecting prohibition. All immigrants to be furnished with a list, in their own language, of prohibited areas.

(f) All alien immigrants (not trans-migrants) coming from and arriving at certain ports to be registered. On registration, a place of residence or intended residence to be given by the alien. If none can be given, the alien to furnish such



residence as soon as obtained. Any change of residence during the first two years of residence in this country to be notified.

(5) If within two years after an area is declared to be prohibited, any alien who has arrived in this country after such declaration shall be found resident within such area, he shall be removed therefrom, and shall be guilty of an offence.

(6) Upon conviction of any felony or misdemeanour upon indictment the Judge may direct as part of the sentence that the alien convicted shall leave the country. If such direction be disobeyed, the alien may, on summary conviction, be punished as a rogue and vagabond. This power may be extended to convictions for certain offences triable by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction; such offences to be specified by statute.

(7) That further statutory powers should be obtained for regulating the accommodation upon and condition of foreign immigrant passenger ships.

The Report is signed by all the members of the Commission, but the signatures of two of them are subject to memoranda annexed to the Report. Sir K. Digby expressed his dissent in material respects from the proposals made in Recommendation No. 4 with respect to the exclusion of undesirable aliens, and to those made in relation to overcrowding other than No. 5 (a), and Lord Rothschild concurred with the reservations expressed by Sir K. Digby.

PRICE OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

IN continuance of the record of variations in the price of bread, published periodically in the Labour Gazette, returns have again been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain, and Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on September 1st, 1903.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 241 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales and 127 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and the mean of the prices returned.

Table showing Present Price, Price last quarter, and Price a year ago for various districts including England and Wales, Scotland, and Great Britain.

It will be seen that the mean of the prices at 1st September, charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns, shows a rise of rather more than 1/4th of a penny per 4 lbs. as compared with the price three months ago and a year ago. The most considerable rise is in Lanarkshire, where all the societies making returns report a rise of 1/4d. per 4 lbs. in the price.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

The returns as to the price of bread furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of September and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of the

\* Kincardine, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for ordinary household bread of average quality.

As compared with a month ago the price per 4 lbs. has been advanced 1/4d. in London, and in 10 of the other towns given in the Table, viz., Birmingham, Hull, Ipswich, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Plymouth, Wolverhampton, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Table showing Price of 4 lbs. of Bread for various places in 1903 and 1902, including London, Birmingham, Bolton, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Huddersfield, Hull, Ipswich, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesbrough, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Potteries, District, Wolverhampton, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast, and Dublin.

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the colonies from 1st September, 1902, to 31st August, 1903, amounted to 85,122,801 cwts., compared with 74,701,839 cwts. in the corresponding twelve months of 1901-2. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 19,179,674 cwts., compared with 19,115,628 cwts. from 1st September, 1901, to 31st August, 1902. The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1902, to August, 1903.

Table showing British Wheat and Imports (Wheat and Wheat-meal and Flour) by month from 1902 to 1903, including per cwt. prices and average declared values.

\* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 3rd November, 1st December, 1902, 1st January, 2nd March, or at 1st May, 1903. † The rise of 1/4d. per 4 lb. loaf has not been quite general in Hull. ‡ Import Duty commenced in this month. § The Import Duty was abolished from 1st July.

The price per cwt. of British wheat in August was 6s. 11 1/2d., a rise of 1/4d. per cwt. as compared with a month ago. The average declared value of wheat imported in August (6s. 8 1/2d.) shows a slight fall, and that of imported wheat-meal and flour (9s. 4 1/2d.) shows no change as compared with the month of July.

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS.

THE thirty-sixth annual Congress of the Trade Unions of the United Kingdom was held in the Temperance Hall, Leicester, on Monday, September 7th, and five following days. The Congress was presided over by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Mr. W. B. Hornidge, General Secretary of the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives.

The Congress consists of representatives of Trade Unions, who are actually working at their trade at the time of appointment, or are permanent paid officials of the Unions they represent. Trade Unions may send one delegate for every 2,000 members or fraction thereof. Voting on important questions is by card, on the principle of one vote for every 1,000 members represented, but many of the larger societies do not send the full number of delegates to which they are entitled.

The analysis into groups of trades given below shows the composition of the Congress, and the trade groups represented are compared with the corresponding figures for the Congress of 1902.

Table comparing Groups of Trades between 1902 and 1903, showing No. of Organisations, No. of Delegates, and No. of Members.

NOTE.—Societies forming parts or branches of a Federation or Amalgamation are not counted in this Table as separate organisations, and double entries arising in this way have been deducted.

The number of organisations accounted for in the above statement is 162, but allowing for the number of distinct societies included in Federations, about 223 separate Trade Unions sent delegates to the Congress this year out of a total of about 1,183 Unions known to be in existence. The membership represented, however, comprised 68 per cent. of the total membership of those 1,183 Unions. The number of organisations represented this year is but one less than in 1902, but the total membership represented is less by 62,560. This decrease is chiefly due to the disappearance from the list of the Northumberland Miners' Association, and of the Federated Builders' Labourers, also to a falling off in the membership of the general labour group of trades.

The principal industrial subjects on which the Congress passed resolutions were: Restriction of the hours of labour to eight per day for miners and for workpeople generally; certificates of competency for persons in charge of steam engines and boilers; trade unions to undertake industrial assurance; reduction of naturalisation fees to alien workmen; amendment of the law in relation to trade unions and industrial disputes; the appointment of a Minister of Labour, and the appointment of practical men and women as inspectors for dangerous employments; amendment of the Mines

Regulation Act, the Factory and Workshops Act, the Shop Clubs Act, the Conciliation Act, and the Compensation Act; liability of foreign shipowners to pay compensation for accidents to workmen; reduction of fees for registrars' certificates of death when required for trade unions; general old-age pensions; the character note system; wages and rights of Government employees; improved housing accommodation and means of transit for working people.

A resolution in favour of compulsory arbitration in trade disputes was rejected by 889,000 to 251,000 votes.

Delegates representing the National Federation of Labour of the United States, the Co-operative Union, and the General Federation of Trade Unions attended the Congress and delivered addresses. Two British delegates were elected to attend the annual conference of the American Federation of Labour, to be held in December next.

The voting for members of the Parliamentary Committee by the Congress for the ensuing year resulted in representatives of the following combinations being elected: Amalgamated Brassworkers, Barge Builders, Boot and Shoe Operatives, Miners' Federation of Great Britain, London Compositors, Amalgamated Railway Servants, Gas Workers and General Labourers, Amalgamated Cotton Spinners, Boiler Makers and Iron Shipbuilders, Northern Counties Weavers, Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners and National Dock Labourers. There was no opposition to the re-election of the Secretary to the committee.

The balance sheet presented by the auditors showed a total income of £4,239 19s. 5d. (inclusive of a balance of £1,523 14s. 5d. from the London Congress), and an expenditure of £2,489 0s. 9d., leaving a balance in hand of £1,750 18s. 8d. It was decided that the Congress of next year should be held at Leeds.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Stonemasons at Bradford.

Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade to deal with certain matters in dispute between the Bradford Master Builders' Association and the Operative Stonemasons' Society (see GAZETTE for August, p. 211), issued his award on September 8th.

By an agreement entered into by the parties on January 14th, 1902, terminating a dispute which began in May, 1901, it was provided, among other matters, as follows:—

It is further agreed between the employers and operatives as represented by their Associations, that they will not on either side sanction or support any dispute, strike, or lock-out having for its object the alteration of the foregoing rules, unless due notice is given in accordance with Rule 8, and as to the employment on the same job of Society and non-Society men it is understood that no strike or lock-out will be permitted where the dispute rests solely on this question.

In January, 1903, the operatives gave due notice for alteration of the above rule. The matter went before the Board of Conciliation, established on the termination of the dispute above referred to, but no decision was arrived at, and it was agreed to refer the matter to arbitration. The question submitted for the arbitrator's decision was whether the words, "and as to the employment on the same job of Society and non-Society men it is understood that no strike or lock-out will be permitted where the dispute rests solely on this question," should or should not be expanded from the agreement.

In his award the arbitrator states that the effect of the words referred to "is to place any dispute resting solely on the employment on the same job of Society and non-Society men upon a different footing from any other dispute arising in the trade, and I do not think any sufficient reason exists for making this distinction." Sir W. Markby decided that the words in question should be struck out of the agreement of January 14th, 1902, but that in other respects that agreement should stand.



**Dispute at Copper Works, Swansea.**

On August 1st about 80 men employed at the Morfa and Middle Bank Copper Works, Swansea, struck work for an advance of wages. Work was resumed on August 10th, and on August 24th a joint application for the appointment of an arbitrator was addressed to the Board of Trade by the Company and the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Labourers' Union.

The Board of Trade have appointed Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., to act as arbitrator.

**Joiners at Sunderland.**

On June 18th about 350 house joiners at Sunderland struck work for an advance of wages. A conference between representatives of the employers and workmen was held on September 10th, at which it was agreed to refer the dispute to an arbitrator to be appointed by the Board of Trade. A joint application for the appointment of an arbitrator having been received, the Board have nominated Mr. A. A. Hudson, barrister-at-law, to act in this capacity.

**MIGRATORY FARM LABOURERS FROM CONNAUGHT IN 1903.**

RETURNS furnished by the courtesy of the undermentioned Railway Companies, and the Glasgow, Dublin and Londonderry Steam Packet Company, Ltd., show that the number of migratory labourers booked from the Province of Connaught by rail and sea for farm work in England and Scotland this year was less than in any of the five preceding years. The total in 1903 was 24,021, compared with 24,482 in 1902. Of the total number booked in 1903, 18,870,\* or 79 per cent. came from the County of Mayo, as against 77 per cent. in 1902. The number who migrate from Mayo annually to Great Britain amounts to over 35 per cent. of the male population of 20 years of age and upwards in that county, according to the 1901 census.

Particulars as to the counties in England and Scotland in which the Irish labourers are mostly employed, and also as to their conditions of employment, are given in the Report, issued by the Board of Trade, on the Wages of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom, [Cd. 346] pages 104-5.

The following Table shows the number of migratory labourers who left the Province of Connaught for England and Scotland up to the end of August in each of the years 1898 to 1903:—

Place of Booking.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
<b>By Rail.</b>						
Midland Great Western Railway—						
From stations in Mayo (Connaught) ...	15,537	15,484	15,791	14,975	13,518	13,420
From other stations in Connaught in the Counties of Galway, Sligo, Roscommon and Leitrim ...	5,565	5,943	6,213	5,536	4,435	3,824
Great Southern and Western Railway (Claremorris and Collooney Line)—						
From stations in Mayo ...	2,914	4,022	4,536	4,397	4,597	4,835
From stations in Sligo ...	185	458	372	265	1,063	1,267
Sligo, Leitrim and Northern Counties Railway—						
From Collooney Station ...	2,422	1,133	1,422	1,276	291	119
<b>Total by Rail ...</b>	<b>26,623</b>	<b>27,340</b>	<b>28,337</b>	<b>26,449</b>	<b>23,904</b>	<b>23,465</b>
<b>By Sea.</b>						
By steamer from Westport (Mayo) to Glasgow and Liverpool ...	987	860	800	735	531	544
By steamer from Ballina (Mayo) to Glasgow† ...	256	240	110	50	47	12
<b>Total by Sea ...</b>	<b>1,243</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>556</b>
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>27,866</b>	<b>28,440</b>	<b>29,247</b>	<b>27,234</b>	<b>24,482</b>	<b>24,021</b>

\* In making this total it is estimated that about half of the number booked from Collooney come from Mayo.

† The numbers booked by steamer are approximate, as no distinction is made between migratory labourers and ordinary passengers. The figures given in the Table are calculated, as in previous years, on the basis of an estimate furnished by the Steam Packet Company. The number booked from Sligo is not given, as the Company state that it is impossible to distinguish them from other passengers. It is probable that some of those starting from Ballina come from Sligo.

‡ The difference between these figures and the corresponding figures for previous years is owing to the fact that through fares are now in operation from the Great Southern and Western Railway Company's stations to England via Collooney, and it is therefore not necessary to re-book at Collooney as in former years.

§ A few of these go to Liverpool.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

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

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

**ACCIDENT ARISING "OUT OF" THE EMPLOYMENT.**

Compensation is payable, under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, only when injury is caused to a workman by accident "arising out of and in the course of the employment."

A fireman in the service of a railway company booked off every evening at a certain station, and had the right, when his day's work was finished, to travel by any train to that station from the place where he left his engine. While so travelling he fell out of the train and was killed. His widow then claimed compensation under the Act. It was admitted on behalf of the company before the County Court Judge, that the man's death was caused by an "accident," and that the accident arose "in the course of" the employment; but it was denied that it arose "out of" the employment. The deceased got into a compartment with two other men, and they stated in evidence that the deceased had a basket and stood up in order to put it into the rack, and that while he was doing so the train was on the move; that he then had his face towards the door, and was not seen to do anything with his hands; that they heard a crash and the deceased disappeared. The deceased was found lying on the line about three hundred yards from the station seriously injured, and he died shortly afterwards. The County Court Judge decided that the accident had arisen "out of" the employment, and awarded the widow compensation. On appeal by the company, the Court of Appeal held that there was evidence upon which the County Court Judge might have found as he had found, and dismissed the Appeal.—*Pomfret v. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co., Court of Appeal, April 24th and July 25th, reported August 8th.*

**WHAT IS AN "ACCIDENT?" RUPTURE.**

A man was employed by a company whose business was the manufacture of food for cattle. His work was to tend one of the machines used in preparing this food and pressing it into cakes, and in the course of this work he had to turn a certain wheel. On a day in December, 1901, he was unable to turn the wheel, and called a fellow-workman to assist him. The two men then used all their strength to move the wheel, and while so doing the man ruptured himself. There was no wrench, or sudden jerk, or slip, and the injured man was a man of ordinary health and strength. He applied for compensation, but the County Court Judge held that his injury was not caused by an "accident" within the meaning of the Act. The Court of Appeal upheld this decision, and the man appealed to the House of Lords. The House of Lords overruled the Court of Appeal and the County Court Judge, and held that the injury was caused by an "accident" within the meaning of the Act, and that the injured man was therefore entitled to compensation.—*Fenton v. J. Thorley & Co., Limited, House of Lords, June 30th and August 7th.*

**REMEDY AT LAW AND UNDER THE ACT: EXERCISE OF OPTION BY INFANT.**

It is provided by the Act that "when the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in this Act shall affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the workman may, at his option, either claim compensation under this Act or take the same proceedings as were open to him before the commencement of this Act; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation for injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment both independently of and also under this Act, and shall not be liable to any proceedings independently of this Act, except in case of such personal negligence or wilful act as aforesaid."

A boy of seventeen, who was serving as apprentice to an iron company, accidentally lost three fingers of his left hand through a plane being unfenced. He was at the time living with a relation who was not his parent, nor his legal guardian. Some weeks after the accident this relation wrote to the company claiming for the boy compensation under the Act. The company agreed to pay half the boy's weekly wages during incapacity, his wages being 5s. a week. He was then paid 12s. 6d. in respect of five weeks, and signed a receipt which stated that he elected to accept such weekly payments under the Workmen's Compensation Act in full satisfaction and discharge of all claims.

A few more payments of 2s. 6d. a week were made, the whole not amounting to £1, when the boy returned to work for the company at higher wages. He then brought an action at law for damages against the company, alleging that he had lost his fingers through their negligence in not having properly fenced the plane. At the trial it was admitted, for the purposes of the action, that there had been negligence on the part of the company, and it was agreed that, if the plaintiff was entitled to damages, the damages should be £75; but the defendants contended that no action could succeed against them, because the plaintiff had exercised his option under the Act by claiming and receiving compensation, and was therefore debarred from any other remedy. The Judge held that the Plaintiff, being an infant, was incapable of exercising an option whether to claim compensation or to proceed by action for negligence. He had therefore done nothing to disentitle him from recovering, as he had not reached an age when he could bargain away his rights at law, which in this case were of much greater value to him than his rights under the Act. Judgment was therefore given for

the plaintiff for £75, less the amount he had received by way of compensation under the Act.—*Stephens v. The Dudbridge Ironworks Company, Limited, Gloucester Assizes, reported August 4th.*

**CONTRACTING OUT: REMEDY UNDER SCHEME.**

A colliery company tendered to their workmen, and their workmen accepted, a scheme for the regulation of claims for compensation by injured workmen. According to the provisions of the Act, the Registrar of Friendly Societies, after taking steps to ascertain the views of employer and workmen, had certified that the scheme was not less favourable to the general body of workmen and their dependants than the provisions of the Act. The company therefore entered into contracts with such of their workmen as chose, that the provisions of the scheme should be substituted for the provisions of the Act. Then, according to the Act, the company were liable to such workmen only in accordance with the scheme.

The workmen so contracting with the company were formed into a Friendly Society. By the rules of this society, every member relinquished all legal claims against the company in respect of any accident which might occur to him in the course of his employment by the company. No person, however, was to be required to become a member of the society as a condition of employment by the company. The rules also provided for a committee of management, and a certain scale of weekly payments to members injured during the period of disablement. The committee had power in case a weekly payment had been made to a member for twelve months to commute further payments, by agreement with the injured member, for a lump sum. Rule 25 provided as follows:—"Every member in receipt of a disablement allowance must be under qualified medical attendance during the whole of the time he is receiving such allowance, and if his medical attendant, or the society's doctor, or the visiting steward, or any member of the society shall report to the secretary or any member of the committee of management, neglect of ordinary precautions, such as late hours and exposure, use of intoxicants without doctor's orders, or if the injured person do anything to retard his recovery, or fail to go to work when able to do so, the committee shall have power to stop the further payment of such allowance either wholly or partially." Rule 30 was as follows:—"In all cases of doubt or difference as to the construction of these rules, and in the event of any circumstance occurring which is not provided for thereby, the decision of the committee shall be conclusive and final, and there shall be no appeal therefrom."

A workman of the company, who was a member of this society, was injured in one of the company's pits in November, 1901, by a fall of roof. In accordance with the rules, he received from the society a weekly sum of 12s. until January, 1903, when the society, in accordance with a resolution of the committee, refused to continue the payments, on the alleged ground that the man had quite recovered and was able to resume his work. The man was dissatisfied at this resolution, alleging that he was still unable to work, and he accordingly sued the society and its treasurer and trustees in the County Court to recover certain arrears of the weekly payment of 12s. The County Court Judge decided that he had no power to entertain the action, because of the provisions of the Act and Rule 30 of the scheme. The man appealed to the King's Bench Division; and that Court held that the County Court had jurisdiction, and remitted the case to the County Court for trial. The society appealed, and the Court of Appeal decided that the Divisional Court was right; that the County Court had jurisdiction; and that the plaintiff was entitled to have his claim decided by that tribunal. The Court held that Rule 25 gave the committee power to stop an allowance under certain specified conditions. The last two conditions were alone material to this case; but with regard to them it was clear that the committee could stop the allowance if the injured man did anything to retard his recovery, or failed to go to work when able to do so. The committee had decided that the plaintiff had failed to go to work when able to do so. Who was to decide whether this decision of the committee was right? or was it final and conclusive? Rule 30 provided that the decision of the committee should be final and conclusive "in all cases of doubt or difference as to the construction of the rules," and also "in the event of any circumstance occurring which is not provided for thereby." The rule did not, however, lay it down that the decision of the committee was final as to whether the injured man had failed to go to work when able to do so. Here there was no question as to the construction of the rules, neither could it be said that any circumstance had occurred which was not provided for by the rules. A question of fact, however, had arisen, viz., whether the plaintiff had failed to go to work when able to do so. No rule made the decision of the committee on this question of fact final or conclusive, and therefore the plaintiff had a right to have the question decided by the ordinary tribunals of the country.—*Haworth v. Andrew Knowles & Sons, Limited, Accident Society and Others, Court of Appeal, July 31st, reported August 1st.*

**(2) Trade Union Acts.**

**CONSPIRACY TO PREVENT EMPLOYMENT OF WORKMEN; LIABILITY OF TRADE UNION FOR ACTS OF OFFICERS.**

A labourer brought an action against a Trade Union, of which he had formerly been a member, and against the general secretary and a local secretary of that Union, claiming damages and an injunction against the defendants for unlawfully and maliciously, with intent to injure the plaintiff, conspiring to procure and procuring certain persons who had entered into contracts with him to employ him to break those contracts, and for inducing certain persons not to enter into contracts with or to employ him; and, further, with having conspired to induce and induced persons, workmen in the same employ, to refuse to work with him, and to threaten to leave their work and break their contracts if he was continued to be

employed; and alleging, further, that the defendants had intimidated the employers and prospective employers of the plaintiff and the said workmen to do the acts complained of. The defendants traversed all the allegations in the statement of claim, and the Union further pleaded that it was beyond the power of the officials to authorise or direct the acts complained of to be done.

It was proved at the trial that the plaintiff had formerly been treasurer of the Newport branch of the defendant Union. He was alleged to have improperly retained money belonging to the Union, and he agreed to repay this money by instalments. Having failed to pay the instalments, judgment for the amount he had retained was obtained against him in the County Court, but he did not satisfy the judgment. Subsequently a judgment summons against the plaintiff was dismissed with costs owing to an irregularity. This circumstance, according to the plaintiff, irritated the officers and members of the Union against him. The plaintiff was then expelled from the Union, and it was resolved that he should not be re-admitted until he had paid back everything he owed to the Union. The general secretary caused notices of this resolution to be posted in the club-rooms of the Newport and other branches of the Union. After this the plaintiff obtained work in several places; but he was in every case discharged through the act of either the general or the local secretary, in threatening to call out the other men if the plaintiff was employed. The plaintiff was thus unable to retain any job, and was quite out of work for some time before the action was brought.

It was also proved that members of the Union had been reprimanded by the Union for working with the plaintiff; that one member had been fined for refusing to work in his place, and that a resolution had been passed that any member working with the plaintiff in the future should be fined. The facts in the case were fully stated in the GAZETTE for May, 1902.

By the rules of the Union its principal objects (amongst others) were stated to be:—"To improve the condition and protect the interests of all classes of labourers of either sex," and "to regulate the relations between workmen and employers." In the absence of the executive committee the general secretary had full power to take any action for the committee which the rules allowed. The executive committee were to take every means to further the objects of the Union, and to protect its funds from misappropriation, and the committee were to direct the labours of the general secretary for the best interests of the Union. Rule 14 was for the "protection of the rights and labour of bodies of members." Clause 1 of that rule provided that "in any movement approved by the executive committee against a reduction of wages or an increase of hours, or any movement to remove or resist any unjust conditions of labour, the Union shall assist in the conduct of such movements, but there must be no cessation of work without the authority of the general officers." And by Clause 2: "In the event of failing to effect a settlement by reason and argument, the executive committee or general officers shall have power to sanction or order members to cease work with a view to force a settlement."

At the trial the Judge left the following questions to the jury:—(1) Did the general secretary and the local secretary, acting together or individually, call out the Union men or threaten to call them out unless the plaintiff was stopped? (2) If they or either of them did, did they or he do so to prevent, or endeavour to prevent, the plaintiff from getting employment or retaining his employment? (3) Was this done in order to compel the plaintiff to pay the arrears of his defalcations? (4) Was it done in order to punish the plaintiff for not paying such arrears? Certain alternative questions were also submitted to the jury in the event of their answering the above questions in the affirmative, as follows:—(5) Was what the general secretary and the local secretary, or either of them, did only to warn the employers that Union men would leave in consequence of Union men being unwilling to work with plaintiff? (6) Was this done in consequence of the Union men objecting to work with plaintiff? (7) What damages, if any?

The jury answered the first three questions in the affirmative, and the fourth also as regarded the general secretary, but in the negative as regarded the local secretary. Their replies to the fifth and sixth questions were in the negative, and they assessed the damages at £100.

The Judge held that the general secretary of the Trade Union, in calling out the plaintiff's fellow-workmen, as he did, not for the purpose of protecting or advancing the interests of the members of the Union, but merely for the purpose of punishing the plaintiff for not paying the arrears of his defalcations, had acted outside the scope of his authority as an officer of the Union, and that the Union was not responsible for this action of their general secretary. He gave judgment in favour of the Trade Union and of the local secretary, but gave judgment against the general secretary for £100. Against this judgment the plaintiff appealed, and his appeal was allowed. In the opinion of the Court of Appeal, a combination of two or more, without justification, to injure a workman by inducing employers not to employ him or continue to employ him is actionable. Persons who have special power to carry out their design are not justified in preventing a workman from obtaining employment merely because they wish to compel him to pay a debt due from him. Here the defendants intended to prevent the plaintiff from obtaining employment, in order to compel him to pay the debt due to the Union. The Union and the other two defendants were all parties to wrongful acts, in interfering with the plaintiff's right to dispose of his labour as he chose. The Union in general meeting adopted the acts of the two secretaries, who acted for the benefit of the Union and in the Union's service, and therefore the Union was liable as well as the other defendants.

Judgment was therefore given against all the defendants for £100



damages, and costs, and the plaintiff was given leave to apply for an injunction, if necessary, to restrain any wrongful interference with him in the future.—*Giblan v. The National Amalgamated Labourers' Union of Great Britain and Ireland, and Williams and Tooney, Court of Appeal, August 11th.*

**CONSPIRACY TO INDUCE WORKMEN TO BREAK CONTRACTS OF SERVICE; STOP DAYS: LIABILITY OF TRADE UNION.**  
An action was brought by a large number of Welsh coalowners against the South Wales Miners' Federation and its trustees, its officers, and certain members of its executive council, to recover damages for wrongfully and maliciously procuring and inducing the workmen in the collieries of the plaintiffs to break their contracts of service with the plaintiffs. In the alternative the plaintiffs also sued the defendants for wrongfully, unlawfully, and maliciously conspiring together to do the acts complained of. An injunction was claimed as well as damages. The facts in the case were fully reported in the GAZETTE for August, 1902, at page 220. Stated shortly, the wrongful acts of the defendants which the plaintiffs complained of were the procuring and advising the workmen in the collieries to refuse to work on certain days. The council of the Federation ordered, or advised, these stop days, and in consequence of their orders, or advice, all the collieries in the district, including those working for the plaintiffs, stopped work on certain days. The object of these stop days was to restrict the output of coal. By observing the order for the stop days the men broke their contracts of service with their employers. At the trial it was agreed that the whole of the matters in dispute should be left to the Judge, without a jury. The Judge found that the Federation and all the other defendants acted honestly and without any malice, and in ordering the stop days did no more than that which they conceived to be in the best interest of the men, whom they represented, and for whom they were acting, and that they had lawful justification or excuse for what they did in this, that having been solicited by the men to advise and guide them on the question of stop days, it was their duty and their right to give the advice, and to do what might be necessary to secure that the advice should be followed; he held that under these circumstances no actionable conspiracy had existed; and gave judgment for the defendants on both branches of the plaintiffs' claim.

The plaintiffs appealed against this judgment; and the Court of Appeal allowed the appeal and overruled the decision of the Judge who tried the case in the first instance.

The Court refused to grant an injunction at present, but gave permission to apply for one later if it became necessary. An inquiry was ordered as to the damages to be paid.—*The Glamorgan Coal Company, Limited, and Others v. The South Wales Miners' Federation and Others, Court of Appeal, July 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and August 11th.*

### EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

#### Canada.

Work has been very plentiful throughout the year for farm labourers, mechanics, and labourers generally; but it is too late in the season for men to start now, unless they have means of their own.

#### Australia.

*New South Wales.*—The distress caused by the water famine at the Broken Hill silver mines has somewhat diminished, as one or two of the mines have been enabled to resume operations. Skilled mechanics, who have a little money to live on at first, may find employment after a while in some part of the State, but otherwise there is no demand for any kind of labour at the present time.

*Victoria and South Australia.*—The supply of labour, except that of female servants, is fully equal to the demand. There has been some exodus of persons from Victoria.

*Queensland.*—There is a demand for skilled agricultural labourers in the South, but in no part of the State are more mechanics, miners, or station hands wanted. The Government Immigration Depots, established at the principal ports for the reception of immigrants, will be closed from the 1st October; but, where necessary, immigrants will be placed in a respectable boarding-house for a few days after arrival.

*New Zealand.*—Employment has been good in New Zealand considering the time of year, and skilled men such as carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, gas fitters, saddle and harness makers, coach and carriage builders, sawmillers, flaxmillers, plasterers, tinsmiths, sash and door makers, turners, blacksmiths, farm labourers and dairy hands have no difficulty in getting work.

#### South Africa.

*Cape Colony.*—There is a demand for a limited number of skilled carpenters, bricklayers, wallers, wiremen and

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

coach trimmers, but there is no opening for half-trained men or general labourers. It should be remembered that large numbers of Malays and other coloured persons now compete with whites as skilled mechanics at lower wages. There is a good demand for female servants. Aided passages are granted to male or female shop assistants and domestic servants under 35 years of age at £3 each, on certain conditions, and on application to the Under-Secretary for Agriculture, Cape Town, or the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, 100, Victoria Street, London, S.W. Artisans, mechanics, and general labourers residing in the Colony may obtain similar passages for their wives and families on application to the Under-Secretary for Agriculture, Cape Town.

*Natal.*—There is, as a rule, no demand for unskilled labourers for farms or other work, owing to the local supply of natives and coolies, but there are sometimes openings for experienced men on farms. Skilled work is, for the most part, performed by Europeans; but brickmakers, navvies, labourers, tinsmiths, bootmakers, coal miners, railway porters, gardeners, quarrymen, stone cutters, stone breakers, stone sawyers, etc., are, to some extent, either coolies or coloured natives working for low wages. The building trades continue busy, and there is a demand for skilled carpenters, joiners, bricklayers and plasterers, as well as for metal turners, fitters, machinists, moulders, carriage builders, blacksmiths and wood turners. But all such mechanics must be thoroughly competent, for there is no opening for second-rate men.

About 30 signalmen were on the 3rd September wanted for the Government Railways; applicants must be single men under 30 years of age, and over 5ft. 7in. in height without boots, experienced in working Single Needle Telegraph. First engagement 3 years. Wages £10 per month, commencing from date of arrival in Natal. Cost of passage outward will be advanced, to be repaid out of wages by monthly deductions of £1. At least one year's experience necessary. A few skilled boilermakers and plate-layers also are wanted. All candidates must apply to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoria-street, London, S.W., stating age, height, whether married or single, and enclosing medical certificate and testimonials, or the name of superintendent to whom application should be made.

*Transvaal.*—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. The building trades have become slacker, and there is only a moderate demand for mechanics; these must be expert hands or they will fail to get work. There is no demand for engineers, fitters, painters, decorators or printers. The cost of living is two or three times as much as in England. Female servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages; they must apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

*Orange River Colony.*—There is a fair demand for skilled carpenters, masons, and fitters, but none for general labourers. Residents can obtain reduced passages for persons from England by application in the colony, the lowest fare to Bloemfontein being £9 19s. 3d. There is a demand for female servants. The cost of living is very high. No one may enter the colony without a permit.

### DIRECTORY OF INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATIONS.

A REVISED edition of the Directory of Industrial Associations\* has been recently issued by the Board of Trade. The volume has been somewhat enlarged and brought up to date and contains lists of Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Trades Councils, Federations of Trade Unions and Trades Councils, Conciliation and Arbitration Boards and Joint Committees, Free Labour Associations, Workmen's Co-operative Societies (Distributive and Productive), Co-operative Agricultural and Credit Banks, and certain Centralised and Affiliated Friendly Societies, together with the names and addresses of their secretaries.

\* Directory of Industrial Associations in the United Kingdom in 1903 [Cd. 1707. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 9d.]

### LABOUR ABROAD.

#### FRANCE.\*

*Employment in July.*—Employment in July was, as usual, rather less plentiful than in June. Coast fishing, both in Brittany and in the Mediterranean, was reported as bad. Harvesting operations were in full progress and all available agricultural labourers were employed except in some districts where the increased number of machines at work appeared to produce a marked restriction in the demand for manual labour. Seasonal slackness in the textile trades was accentuated in the cotton manufacturing districts by the high price of the raw material. The garment-making, linen, boot and shoe, and furniture trades were in their slack season. The building and pottery trades continued normally busy. In the printing trades employment was fairly plentiful.

Returns as to the state of employment in July were made by 1,115 Trade Unions, with a total membership of 174,188 (not including the miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments). Of these, 18,278, or 10.5 per cent. of the membership, were out of work, as compared with 8 per cent. the month before and 10 per cent. in July, 1902.

*Coal Mining in July.*—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in July was 5.83, as compared with 5.48 in the previous month and 5.77 in July, 1902. Taking all the work-people together (surface and underground), 68 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 31 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, as compared with 1.26 and 37.37 per cent. respectively in the preceding month. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to nearly 142,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in July.*—Fifty-one fresh disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in July, the number of workpeople taking part being 6,929. In the preceding month 45 disputes took place, in which 3,763 workpeople took part, while in July, 1902, there were 34 disputes, in 32 of which 6,420 workpeople participated. Of the 51 disputes of July last, 5 occurred in the building trades, 4 in mining and quarrying, 9 in the metal trades, 14 in the textile trades, 4 in the glass, pottery group of trades, 8 in transport and warehousing, 5 among hide and skin workers and 2 in other trades. Fifty-three new and old disputes came to an end in July; of these, 11 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 21 in favour of the employers, and 21 were compromised.

*Conciliation and Arbitration in July.*—Six cases were reported to the French Labour Department in July, in which recourse was had to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law. In the case of one dispute the strikers (who demanded the dismissal of a foreman) returned to work on condition that the Justice of the Peace should arbitrate upon the point in question, which was eventually done, the award being in favour of the men. Out of the remaining 5 cases, the Justice of the Peace took the initiative in 4, and the workpeople in the remaining case. Conciliation Committees were formed in 4 cases, resulting in the settlement of 3 disputes (2 being settled at a second meeting of the committees); in the fourth dispute the employers eventually conceded the demands of the workpeople. In the remaining dispute the proposals for conciliation were declined by the employers.

*Strike of Dock Labourers at Nice.*—Mr. L. Wookey, H.M. Consul at Nice, in a telegram to the Board of Trade, dated September 7th, reports that a strike of dockers and labourers was in operation at that port, and that discharge of cargo was impossible.

Newspaper paragraphs state in addition that the dispute referred to broke out on the 2nd inst., that the number of workpeople on strike was 500, and that they demanded an increase in wages.

#### GERMANY.

*Employment in July.*—The state of employment in July showed no important changes compared with the previous

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).  
† Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).

month. Employment in the principal trades was again fairly satisfactory. Coal miners were well employed, but there was a slight decrease in the production of coke. The fears entertained as to the probability of increased depression in the textile trades have not been verified; in only a few branches was employment reported as worse than in June. The improvement in the metal trades, which had set in during the preceding months, was maintained in July, although conditions could not be considered as quite normal, and it is considered likely that there may be a relapse.

*Strikes in the Building Trade.*—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated August 22nd, Mr. F. P. Koenig, Acting Consul-General at Düsseldorf, draws attention to the prevalence of strikes in the building trades in that consular district.

At Düsseldorf the bricklayers in the employ of three firms have struck. A movement having been set on foot for demanding an advance in wages to 55 pfennigs (6½d.) per hour, and for the abolition of piecework, the Wages Commission appointed by the bricklayers declared that, at present, they did not recommend raising the wages to 55 pfennigs (6½d.) per hour, and that it was preferable for the men to accept a wage of 50 pfennigs (6d.) per hour, to be raised to 52 pfennigs (6¼d.) from April 1st, 1904, and to 55 pfennigs (6½d.) from October 1st, 1904, onwards. In two bricklayers' meetings these propositions were rejected by the workmen, and a resolution was carried to demand 52 pfennigs per hour. At the time of reporting the bricklayers had stopped further progress in the buildings being erected by certain firms, and the employers had threatened to discharge any of their men belonging to a Social-Democratic Bricklayers' Association.

At Elberfeld the demands of the bricklayers included a 10-hours working day in summer and an 8-hours day in winter, a minimum of 50 pfennigs (6d.) per hour, an additional 10 pfennigs (1¼d.) for every extra hour's work in case of water and underground work, and an additional 100 per cent. increase of wages for closet and night work, and on Sundays. The average wage of bricklayers at Elberfeld is now 45.76 pfennigs (5½d.) per hour.

At Barmen the bricklayers' demands as regards wages and hours were the same as those made at Elberfeld. At the men's meeting it was stated that the average wage in Barmen was 44 pfennigs (5¼d.) per hour.

A part of the bricklayers at Krefeld had already gone on strike, the men demanding for the present a wage of 47 pfennigs (5¾d.) per hour and 6d. per hour from January 1st, 1904.

At Hanover the masons and joiners had been on strike for some time, but had resumed work. A strike of tilers and slaters had been in force for some time; the tinkers had also struck.

The bricklayers at Duisburg have been out on strike for some considerable time. The master masons expect 11 hours' work, but the men demand a 10-hours' day. The employers pay a wage of 45 pfennigs (5½d.) per hour and require piece-work; whereas the men demand from 55 to 60 pfennigs (6½d. to 7¼d.). The better grade of workmen earn the latter wage already. The master masons refuse to give notice to the foreign bricklayers in their employ since the strike began.

*Trade Unions in 1902.*—A recent number of the *Correspondenzblatt der Generalkommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands* contains statistics showing the position of the "Gewerkschaften" (Social-Democratic Trade Unions) in Germany in the year 1902. The number of Central Federations in 1902 was 60 (comprising 8,634 Branch Societies), with a total mean membership of 733,206 (704,988 male, 28,218 female). The membership of the non-federated Local Unions is estimated at 10,090, the grand total membership being thus 743,296, as compared with 686,870 in 1901. The 60 Federations had, in 1902, a total income for Trade Union purposes of £554,887. Upon trade purposes (strikes, legal assistance, support of discharged employees) £113,724 were spent; upon unemployed, travelling, sick and superannuation benefits, and special allowances (in cases of migration, death and distress), £175,060; upon employment bureaux, £273; while the publication of the Federation journal cost £39,924; and the maintenance of



libraries £353. The general expenses at the head offices of Unions (including salaries, subscriptions to General Committee and costs of law-suits) amounted to £37,025, and the funds in hand reached £512,678 (as against £439,917 the year before).

AUSTRIA.\*

*Employment in July.*—The statistics of the labour registries (public and private), which furnished returns to the Austrian Labour Department for July, show that, on an average, 179 applications were made for every 100 situations offered in that month, as compared with 178 in the previous month, and with 192 in July, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 217 applicants for every 100 situations, as against 225 in June; while in the case of women there were 102, as compared with 95 in June.

*Labour Disputes in July.*—Twenty-seven disputes (including two lock-outs) were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in July, the number of workpeople taking part in 26 of these being 2,233. Six of the disputes occurred in the building trades, 7 in the metal and engineering trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 5 in the printing and paper trades, 4 in the wood-working trades, and 1 each in the textile, glass and pottery, and food preparation trades.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

*Strike of Street Carmen at Waterbury (Conn.).*—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated August 10th, Mr. C. Clive Bayley, H.M. Acting Consul-General at New York, supplements the account of this dispute given in the LABOUR GAZETTE, April, 1903, p. 99. He states that the strike has been called off after lasting seven and a half months. Such men as the company saw fit to employ went back to their places at the old terms, with an agreement that hereafter grievances shall be settled between the company and a committee of its own men.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated August 6th, Mr. W. Wyndham, H. M. Consul at Chicago, states that, at the time of reporting, comparative peace prevailed in his district in labour matters. Several strikes have failed lately owing to the refusal of other trades to assist the strikers by going out in sympathy or by refusing to handle goods made by the non-Union men who had filled the strikers' places. In connection with a strike against an electrical manufacturing company some rioting occurred, and several of the pickets were sent to gaol for contempt of court. In a town in Colorado Union men were ordered to leave, as the leaders were accused of an attempt to wreck the plant against which a strike had been declared. A strike was threatened against the Rock Island Railroad, but was averted by conceding an increase in pay.

A further despatch from the same source, dated August 27th, says that combinations have been formed among the dealers in nearly all building materials and supplies to keep up the price from 25 to 45 per cent. It is said that the labour Unions are interested in this.† A strike of coloured waiters took place on August 24th, but they were receiving no support. The men employed at the smelting works in a town of Colorado, who had been working 12 hours a day, struck in July for an 8-hours day. On August 12th, the miners at Cripple Creek joined in sympathy, although their employers have no interest or control over the smelters. Some of the smelting works were still running under protection.

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.  
† Newspaper reports state that a number of contractors, who were in the habit of supplying goods to the Chicago Municipality, had agreed to raise the wages of their employees by 25 per cent., under an arrangement that these contractors should bid 50 per cent. higher than before for City business, and if lower bids were made by any firms outside this combination, then the employees' Unions were to order a strike of the workmen employed by the successful competitor, so that he should be unable to carry out his contract. It is said that this scheme has been in operation in Chicago for nearly 2 years.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 77 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ nearly 82,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 193,000, employment in the building trades generally continues moderate, and shows but little change as compared with a month and a year ago.

The returns from Employers' Associations show that employment was good with 6 per cent. of the workpeople reported on, fair or moderate with 58 per cent., and dull or bad with 36 per cent.

Employment with bricklayers is reported as showing a slight improvement as compared with a month ago. It is rather better than a year ago. With masons it continues fair. With carpenters and joiners employment is fair, slightly better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of August was 2.9, compared with 3.3 at the end of July, and 2.8 a year ago. With painters employment continues moderate; with plasterers it is dull. Employment with plumbers shows a slight decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers was 7.1 at the end of August, compared with 6.7 at the end of July, and 6.1 a year ago. The slaters and tilers report employment as fairly good both in England and Scotland, and about the same as a year ago. In England it has improved somewhat during the month.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of August, 1903.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for August, 1903, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1903.	July, 1903.	Aug., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.</b>						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ... ..	7,257	3.1	4.3	4.6	-1.5	-1.5
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	5,096	6.5	5.8	3.2	+0.7	+3.3
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,282	2.6	2.6	2.6	...	...
Yorkshire ... ..	5,171	3.5	3.5	2.5	...	+1.0
East Midlands ... ..	3,031	2.0	2.5	1.3	-0.5	+0.7
West Midlands ... ..	4,687	2.3	1.9	1.4	+0.4	+0.9
Eastern Counties ... ..	1,165	2.7	5.1	1.9	-2.4	+0.8
S. and S.W. Counties ... ..	5,615	2.0	2.0	2.5	...	-0.5
Wales and Monmouth ... ..	1,757	3.0	2.8	3.2	+0.2	-0.2
Other Districts ... ..	615	1.6	1.8	3.4	-0.2	+1.8
SCOTLAND ... ..	5,116	2.3	3.2	1.4	-0.9	+0.9
IRELAND ... ..	4,483	2.4	3.7	3.8	-1.3	-1.4
UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	54,275	2.9	3.3	2.8	-0.4	+0.1
<b>PLUMBERS.</b>						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ... ..	1,210	5.3	6.7	8.6	-1.4	-3.3
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,634	9.1	8.7	4.9	+0.4	+4.2
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,618	7.9	7.2	7.5	+0.7	+0.4
Yorkshire ... ..	1,267	5.9	6.1	5.1	-0.2	+0.8
East Midlands ... ..	674	3.6	4.7	3.7	-1.1	-0.1
West Midlands ... ..	536	4.3	4.9	6.2	-0.6	-1.9
Eastern Counties ... ..	121	3.3	1.6	7.7	+1.7	-4.4
S. and S.W. Counties ... ..	531	5.3	5.4	3.2	-0.1	+2.1
Wales and Monmouth ... ..	278	9.0	9.4	8.6	-0.4	+0.4
Other Districts ... ..	36	8.3	8.1	12.8	+0.2	-4.5
SCOTLAND ... ..	1,880	6.4	5.8	5.4	+0.6	+1.0
IRELAND ... ..	617	14.6	7.6	4.6	+7.0	+10.0
UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	11,402	7.1	6.7	6.1	+0.4	+1.0

*London.*—Employment in London is fair generally, though the painters and decorators have been slightly less busy than is usual in the month of August. As compared with the previous month, employment showed an improvement during August, and it is also better than a year ago. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 77 employers show that in the last week of August

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT improved somewhat during August, but was not so good as a year ago.

Returns received relating to 1,323 pits employing 490,451 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries included in the returns during the four weeks ended 29th August was 4.89, compared with 4.84 in July, and 4.94 in August, 1902. In comparing these figures it must be borne in mind that these averages are lowered on account of holidays, while that for August, 1902, was still further lowered by disputes. The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for both periods was 2.3 per cent. greater than a year ago.

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

District.	No. employed in Aug., 1903, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1903, as compared with	
		29th Aug., 1903.	25th July, 1903.	23rd Aug., 1902.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
Northumberland ... ..	37,524	5.23	5.24	5.26	-0.01	-0.03
Durham ... ..	93,495	5.30	5.37	5.29	-0.07	+0.01
Cumberland ... ..	7,393	5.32	5.20	5.29	+0.12	+0.03
Yorkshire ... ..	77,279	4.74	4.70	4.51	+0.04	+0.23
Lancashire and Cheshire ... ..	50,202	4.41	4.41	4.64	...	-0.23
Derbyshire ... ..	35,836	4.58	4.22	4.65	+0.36	-0.07
Nottingham and Leicester	27,358	4.26	3.92	4.62	+0.34	-0.36
Staffordshire ... ..	28,568	4.08	4.17	4.36	-0.09	-0.28
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ... ..	9,102	4.70	4.32	4.64	+0.38	+0.06
Gloucester and Somerset ... ..	8,599	4.72	4.35	4.81	+0.37	-0.09
North Wales ... ..	12,320	5.06	4.66	5.31	+0.40	-0.25
South Wales and Mon. ... ..	64,577	5.10	5.70	5.19	-0.60	-0.09
ENGLAND & WALES ... ..	452,163	4.85	4.87	4.90	-0.02	-0.05
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ... ..	19,008	5.28	4.39	5.21	+0.89	+0.07
The Lothians ... ..	4,575	5.58	5.06	5.58	+0.52	...
Fife ... ..	14,091	5.54	4.62	5.50	+0.92	+0.04
SCOTLAND ... ..	37,674	5.41	4.55	5.36	+0.86	+0.05
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
United Kingdom ... ..	614	4.86	4.92	4.83	-0.06	+0.03
United Kingdom ... ..	490,451	4.89	4.84	4.94	+0.05	-0.05

From the above Table it will be seen that the average number of days worked per week was greater in August than in the previous month in ten out of the sixteen districts, while in five it was less. In the Scottish districts the apparent improvement was mainly due to the occurrence of holidays in July. In the North Wales, Salop, Worcester and Warwick, Gloucester and Somerset, Derbyshire and Nottingham and Leicester districts the improvement amounted to about one-third of a day. In South Wales and Monmouth holidays and disputes mainly account for the decline of nearly two-thirds of a day per week.

As compared with a year ago, there was an increase in seven districts, and a decrease in eight districts. In Yorkshire the number of days worked in August, 1902, was reduced by disputes.

A comparison of the average number of days worked in the different districts shows that in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, North Wales, South Wales and Monmouthshire, and the whole of Scotland over 5 days were worked per week, the highest average being in the Lothians (5.58 days), while in the remaining districts less than 5 days per week were worked, the lowest average being in Staffordshire (4.08 days).

Of the total number of workpeople included in the returns, 65.2 per cent. were employed in collieries working not less than 20 days during the four weeks ended 29th August, 1903, compared with 68.0 per cent. in August, 1902.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland steam and house coal pits averaged rather more than 5 days per week.

they paid wages to 18,207 men, as compared with 15,377 in July, and 17,482 in August, 1902.

Bricklayers and plumbers report employment as moderate; carpenters and joiners, painters and masons as fairly good; plasterers as bad.

*Northern Counties.*—Employment in the Tyne and Wear district remains unsettled with carpenters and joiners. It is dull with bricklayers and plasterers, bad with plumbers and painters, fair with slaters and tilers, and good with masons. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment shows little change as compared with a month ago.

*Lancashire.*—At Liverpool employment is moderate generally, but shows some improvement. At Manchester it is fair with carpenters and joiners, slack with bricklayers, masons, plasterers and painters, and bad with plumbers. At Bolton employment shows a slight improvement on the preceding month, but is not so good as a year ago. In Wigan and Chorley it is bad. At Blackburn, Burnley and Oldham employment continues moderate.

*Yorkshire.*—Employment on the whole shows little change as compared with a month ago, and is quiet generally. At Sheffield and Rotherham it is quiet; at Barnsley moderate. At Leeds employment is not so good, bricklayers, plumbers, plasterers, and painters reporting it as slack. At Huddersfield employment has somewhat improved, but at Bradford it continues quiet. At Hull it is quiet generally, but fairly good with masons.

*East Midland Counties.*—Employment in these counties is quiet generally. With bricklayers it is dull at Derby, and improving somewhat at Nottingham and Leicester. With masons it is fair generally, but slack at Nottingham. With carpenters and joiners it is bad at Leicester, dull elsewhere. Plasterers report employment as fair at Nottingham, but slack at other places.

*West Midland Counties.*—Employment generally remains quiet, and is about the same as a year ago. At Birmingham bricklayers report employment as bad; plasterers as moderate. At West Bromwich carpenters and joiners report it as fair. Employment is dull at Walsall, moderate at Dudley, good at Stourbridge and Tamworth. In North Staffordshire it continues quiet.

*Eastern Counties.*—Employment in these counties continues slack. In Norfolk masons are fairly well employed, and at Colchester bricklayers' report employment as good, and carpenters and joiners as fair.

*Southern and South Western Counties.*—Employment continues fair throughout the district, and is about the same as a year ago. It is dull at Chatham and Portsmouth. At Bristol it is dull with bricklayers and slack with masons. At Plymouth and Exeter employment is fair with masons, moderate with bricklayers. At Exeter it is moderate with carpenters and joiners.

*Wales.*—In South Wales masons continue well employed. With carpenters and joiners, plasterers and painters employment is good in the inland towns but dull at the seaports. In North Wales employment is slack generally, but bricklayers and painters at Wrexham and Oswestry are fairly well employed.

*Scotland.*—Employment shows little change as compared with a month ago and is fair on the whole. At Glasgow it is bad with plasterers. At Edinburgh it is quiet with plumbers. Employment at Dundee is slack except with painters, who report it as fair. It is dull with carpenters and joiners at Aberdeen, bad with plumbers and plasterers, quiet with painters.

*Ireland.*—Employment in Dublin has declined somewhat, and is dull with carpenters and joiners and painters, moderate with bricklayers, good with plasterers and stone cutters, fair with slaters. At Belfast it is quiet generally, but is bad with plumbers. At Cork employment is generally moderate, but fairly good with masons and plasterers.



EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—COAL MINING; OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON.

In Durham employment was reported as moderate but declining. In the Leeds district employment has been very slack throughout the month; at Castleford between 4 and 5 days per week were worked.

In Ayrshire employment was fair, but a number of miners worked short time; in Stirlingshire and Lanarkshire employment was fair. In Mid and East Lothian 80 per cent. of the miners worked full time.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during August amounted to 3,960,065 tons, as compared with 4,341,998 tons in July, and 3,711,528 tons in August, 1902.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing about 18,350 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations, 3 Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents.

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

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, and, allowing for interruptions caused by holidays, shows little change compared with a month and a year ago. During the four weeks ended August 29th the average number of days worked per week by the 134 mines and open-works covered by the returns received from employers was 5.76, as compared with 5.69 in July, 1903 and in August, 1902.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Table with columns: District, No. employed in Aug., 1903, at the Mines included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1903, as compared with, A month ago, A year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,628, as compared with 15,749 a month ago, and 15,311 in August, 1902. During the four weeks ended August 29th, 87.1 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at mines working 22 or more days as compared with 84.1 per cent a year ago.

Shale Mining.—With shale miners in the Lothians employment has been good. Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in August, 2,711 workpeople were

employed, as compared with 2,702 in July and 2,703 a year ago. The average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended 29th August was 5.73, compared with 5.53 in the period ended 25th July (when employment was interrupted by holidays), and with 5.72 days in August, 1902.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment with Durham lead ore miners has been fairly good; in North Wales it is quiet. With tin and copper miners in the Calstock and Liskeard districts of Cornwall employment is dull, while in the Camborne district it is moderate.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continues good with slate quarrymen in North Wales, and moderate in Devon and Cornwall.

Limestone.—In Cumberland full time has been worked. In Weardale employment has been good. Limestone quarrymen in Derbyshire are fairly well employed. In North Wales employment has been good, and in Devon and Cornwall moderate.

Granite.—In Leicestershire employment has been fairly good; in Devon and Cornwall, good at Dartmoor and fair elsewhere. Employment continues good in North Wales and in Aberdeenshire. In Forfarshire it is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago.

Other Stone.—Gateshead quarrymen have been fairly employed. Quarrymen at Alton and Hollington (Staffs.) continue busy. In the Rowsley district (Derbyshire) employment is bad, and worse than a year ago. At the stone quarries in Bath and district employment has slackened, and is not so good as a year ago.

Sett-making.—In the Sheffield district makers of flagstones, kerbs and setts are busy. At Barnsley and Normanton settmakers are well employed. At the Cleve Hills (Shropshire) and in North Wales employment is good. In Aberdeenshire and in the Edinburgh district employment is fair.

Clay Works.—Employment with china clay workers in Cornwall and Devon is moderate.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Employers, a Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment continues fairly good in this industry, but it is not so good as a year ago.

Returns received relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 322 blast furnaces were in operation at the end of August, as compared with the same number at the end of July, and with 328 in August, 1902. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 322 furnaces in blast at the end of August was about 22,300.

The following Table shows by districts the furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Table with columns: Districts, Present time compared with a month ago, Present time compared with a year ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in August, 1903.

EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—IRON AND STEEL WORKS; TINPLATE WORKS; SHIPBUILDING.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.\*

RETURNS furnished by employers respecting 201 works show that they employed 75,186 workpeople during the week ended August 29th or 1,671 more than a month ago, and 1,312 less than a year ago.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales and Scotland:—

Table with columns: District, Numbers employed in week ended (Aug., 29th, 1903; July 25th, 1903; Aug., 30th, 1902), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug., 1903, as compared with (A month ago; A year ago).

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 89 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed.

The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended August 29th was 5.44, as compared with 5.29 in the week ended July 25th and 5.40 in the week ended August 30th, 1902.

Table with columns: Number of Shifts worked, Number employed in August, 1903, so far as returned, Percentage proportion to Total, Corresponding percentage in (July, 1903; August, 1902).

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (11 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated to have been 408,870, compared with 389,035 in the week ended July 25th, and 413,136 in August, 1902.

The following reports relating to the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment with steel smelters has been fairly good. Full time has been worked at plate mills and short time at bar and sheet mills. At finished iron and steel works employment has been fair.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—At rail mills employment continues good. At steel works it is fair generally; at angle and plate mills moderate, and at metal expansion works good.

South Yorkshire.—With steel workers at Sheffield employment is slack; at Leeds it has slightly improved, and at Rotherham it is fairly good. With iron workers employment is slack at Rotherham, fairly good at Masboro', and improving at Leeds.

Midlands.—In Derbyshire malleable iron workers are in full work, but millmen and hammermen are only partially employed. In North Staffordshire employment is better than a month ago. In South Staffordshire employment with steel workers is good generally; with iron workers moderate. In Shropshire full time is being worked at some of the mills.

South Wales.—Except at works affected by the tinplate dispute, employment with iron and steel workers has been good.

Scotland.—Employment with iron and steel workers continues fairly good.

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

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry has been better than a month ago but not so good as a year ago. At the end of August (i.e. just before the widespread stoppage of work which took place on August 31st), 367 mills were working, compared with 342 in July and 402 a year ago. Of the 71 works open, 45 had all their mills (244) in operation, while the remaining 26 works had 123 mills going out of a total of 178.

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

Table with columns: Works giving full employment, Works giving partial employment, Total at end of Aug., 1903, Corresponding Total for July, 1903, Corresponding Total for Aug., 1902.

The Exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above Table are summarised below:—

Table with columns: Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel), Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel), August, 1903, July, 1903, August, 1902, August, 1903, July, 1903, August, 1902.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 6 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment is slack, rather worse than a month ago, and considerably worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,024 members had 6,475 (or 11.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 10.4 per cent. in July, and 7.4 per cent. in August, 1902.

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

Table with columns: District, No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1903, included in the returns, Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Aug., 1903, as compared with a (Month ago; Year ago).

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



## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

As compared with a month ago, a decline is indicated in nearly all the districts, but considerable improvement is shown on the East Coast of Scotland, and some improvement on the Wear. As compared with a year ago, improvement is indicated in the Tees, Humber and Mersey districts, while all other districts show a decline which is greatest on the Tyne and in Scotland.

Employment generally on the North-East Coast continues bad. On the Tyne it is worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Repair work has been particularly slack. Drillers and hole cutters report employment as fair. On the Wear there has been some improvement compared with a month ago, chiefly with shipwrights, who report employment as fair. On both Tyne and Wear sailmakers are very slack. In the Tees and Hartlepool district iron shipbuilders report employment as slack generally, but moderate at Stockton. Repair work has been fair at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool. With shipwrights employment is reported as fair at Hartlepool, good at Stockton, slack at Middlesbrough; with ship joiners as bad at Hartlepool, moderate at Stockton and Middlesbrough.

On the Humber employment is rather worse than a month ago. At Hull it is bad, except with one branch of shipwrights which reports it as fair. At Grimsby it is good. Repair work is slack, and new work consists mostly of small vessels. Sailmakers report employment as good.

On the Thames employment continues worse than a year ago. With iron shipbuilders it is slack; with shipwrights some improvement is reported. At Chatham shipwrights report employment as good, iron shipbuilders as fair. Barge builders report employment as very bad.

Employment at Southampton is bad and much worse than a month and a year ago. At Portsmouth employment is good with shipwrights, slack with iron shipbuilders; at Devonport it is good with shipwrights, moderate with iron shipbuilders. At Plymouth it is bad.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment is very bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. Shipwrights report it fair at Pembroke Dock.

On the Mersey employment generally is much the same as a month ago, but rather better than a year ago. On repair work it is bad, on new work fair.

On the Clyde employment generally continues slack, and is much worse than a year ago. With blacksmiths it is fair. At Clydebank and Whiteinch iron shipbuilders report it as moderate, shipwrights as fair. With riggers at Glasgow it is fair.

On the East Coast of Scotland employment is bad and worse than a year ago. It shows some improvement compared with a month ago.

At Belfast employment generally is moderate and worse than a month and a year ago.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago, but shipwrights report it as good. At Cowes shipwrights report employment as very dull; iron shipbuilders as fair. At Lowestoft shipwrights report it as getting slack. At Dublin and Cork employment is bad.

## ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 6 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 25 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The general result of the information thus obtained shows that employment on the whole is moderate, and has declined somewhat as compared with a month ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 142,797 members show that 5,978 (or 4.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 3.9 per cent. in July and 4.5 per cent. in August, 1902.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade

Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Aug., 1903, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1903.	July, 1903.	Aug., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	13,950	6.2	6.2	5.4	...	+ 0.8
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,974	3.3	2.9	5.0	+ 0.4	- 1.7
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District	11,323	4.9	4.6	5.1	+ 0.3	- 0.2
West Riding Towns ...	11,933	4.9	4.6	4.7	+ 0.3	+ 0.2
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,303	3.6	3.4	4.9	+ 0.2	- 1.3
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District	6,102	3.9	2.0	4.6	+ 1.9	- 0.7
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,061	4.6	3.4	3.8	+ 1.2	+ 0.8
London and Neighbouring District	12,387	2.9	3.2	4.5	- 0.3	- 1.6
South Coast ...	3,668	2.9	1.6	1.5	+ 1.3	+ 1.4
South Wales and Bristol District	6,095	3.8	3.5	3.3	+ 0.3	+ 0.5
Glasgow and District ...	13,926	4.4	5.1	6.5	- 0.7	- 2.1
East of Scotland ...	3,648	6.5	6.7	8.3	- 0.2	- 1.8
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,336	6.9	4.8	3.1	+ 2.1	+ 3.8
Other Districts ...	5,520	3.5	3.4	2.8	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	<b>142,797</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>

As compared with a month ago, the figures do not indicate much improvement in any district. The districts showing the greatest decline are Belfast (where a dispute with pattern makers is in progress), and the Midlands. As compared with a year ago a considerable decline is shown at Belfast and most improvement is indicated in Scotland.

North-East Coast.—Employment generally is only moderate, and is worse than a year ago. At Sunderland and Hartlepool it is bad. With pattern makers employment is fair generally. At Stockton pattern makers and iron founders report it as good; at Darlington boilermakers as moderate, iron founders as good. In the boiler shops employment is fair, and with bridge builders in the Tees district it is good. Brass-finishers and coppersmiths are slack.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—Employment generally is not quite so good as a month ago. At Liverpool it is rather dull, especially on repair work, but on new work at Birkenhead it is fairly good. With pattern makers employment is fairly good; with ironfounders good generally, except at Liverpool. Engineers at Stockport and brassfounders at Manchester are slack. Most branches at Manchester report employment as fair. At Crewe employment continues good, moulders working overtime.

Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.—Employment generally continues quiet. At Oldham engineers, plate moulders, iron grinders and brassfounders are slack, while boilermakers, pattern makers, and ironfounders report employment as moderate. At Bolton, Blackburn and Rochdale employment is fairly good, at Ashton and Burnley it is bad.

West Riding.—The general state of employment is rather quiet and not quite so good as a month ago. At Sheffield most branches are slack, but iron and steel dressers and blacksmiths report employment as moderate, pattern makers and iron moulders as good. At Stanningley employment is slack. Engineers report it as bad at Halifax, ironfounders as good at Bradford, Huddersfield, Keighley and Wakefield.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment generally is moderate but not quite so good as a month ago. At Hull most branches report it as fair, but ironfounders are very bad. Elsewhere ironfounders report employment as good. Engineers report it as bad at Doncaster. At Lincoln and Grantham it is fairly good generally.

East Midlands.—Employment on the whole is quiet and not so good as a month and a year ago. At Nottingham

## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—ENGINEERING; HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &amp;C., TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

most branches are slack. Ironfounders report employment as good at Chesterfield and Nottingham. With lace and hosiery machine builders at Nottingham it is very fair; with lace machine builders at Long Eaton it has improved. With shoe machinery builders it is moderate. In the cycle trade it has declined, and the motor industry is not so busy.

West Midlands.—Employment in this district has declined and is now only moderate. It is, however, rather better than a year ago. Pattern makers report employment as good at Birmingham; engineers as bad at Coventry, good at Rugby. In the cycle trade employment is dull; in the motor industry fair; in the sporting gun trade it is fair; on military work it is still quiet.

London and Neighbouring District.—On the whole employment is dull, but better than a month and a year ago. With pattern makers it is fair. At Chatham engineers report it as moderate, ironfounders as good.

South Coast.—Employment is fair, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago. With engineers it is bad at Plymouth, good at Cowes. With ironfounders it is bad at Devonport and Southampton.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally shows a decline as compared with a month and a year ago. At the Welsh ports it is dull. At Swindon it continues steady. At Bristol it is moderate with engineers, improving with ironfounders, slack with brass finishers.

Glasgow and District.—Employment is rather better than a month or a year ago, and with nearly all branches it is fair; with iron and steel dressers it is moderate. With pattern makers at Glasgow and Partick and engineers at Renfrew it is reported as good.

East of Scotland.—Employment though quiet is better than a year ago. At Dundee engineers report it as moderate, pattern makers as declining, moulders and blacksmiths as dull. Engineers report it as good at Edinburgh, moderate at Leith. At Falkirk and Aberdeen employment generally is fair. With brassfounders and finishers it is dull.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment is considerably worse than a month and a year ago. At Belfast it is affected by the dispute with the pattern makers. At Dublin there has been a slight improvement. Employment is reported as dull with brassfounders and engineers, fair with other branches.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is worse than a month and a year ago. Engineers report employment as moderate at Ipswich, Norwich, and York, as bad at Colchester. At Cork employment is dull.

## HARDWARE, CUTLERY, AND MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Brasswork.—Generally employment is reported as still fair, and better than a year ago. At Manchester brassworkers report it as good, at Leeds as quiet. Makers of bedsteads and fender and fire brasses report employment as bad at Birmingham.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—In the nut and bolt trade employment is moderate. At Halesowen makers of spikes and nails are slack, and at Birmingham employment is quiet on machine-made rivets, and moderate with cut and wire nail makers.

Tubes.—Employment is reported as generally not so good.

Chains, Anvils, Vices, Anchors, etc.—At Cradley Heath block chain makers report employment as fair, but other sections of the chain trade are slack. Anchor smiths at Cradley report a slight improvement, and chain and anchor smiths at Gateshead and Winlaton report employment as fair. At Dudley employment is slack with vice makers, moderate with anvil makers. At Wednesbury it is slack in the coach axle and spring trade.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—With makers of locks, latches and keys employment is fairly good at Wolverhampton and Willenhall. With makers of hollow-ware and builders' ironmongery it is moderate. In the hinge trade it is good at Birmingham, moderate at Wolverhampton. In the latter district employment is good with makers of spring traps and hoes and with stampers and piercers, slack with hollow-ware tanners, and in the bit and stirrup and buckle chain and cart gear trades.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—In the file trade employment is fair at Birmingham, good at Warrington, slack at Wolverhampton, moderate at Oldham. At Sheffield it is moderate with hand forgers and machine cutters, slack with machine forgers, quiet with hand cutters. In the edge tool trade employment is fair at Birmingham, good at Wolverhampton, quiet at Sheffield. With saw makers and grinders it is slack at Sheffield.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—In Sheffield employment is quiet, in most other districts it is fair. At Leeds it is quiet, at Langley Mill and Nottingham bad.

Sheet Metal.—Employment is dull in London, slack at Manchester, Oldham and Bristol, quiet at Birmingham and Sheffield, fair at Glasgow, Dundee, Leeds and Hull, good at Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

Cutlery, etc.—At Sheffield employment is quiet in the table and butcher knife trades. With pen and pocket blade forgers it is fair; with grinders and cutlers it is slack on penknives, fair on pocket knives. In the razor trade employment is slack.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London goldsmiths and jewellers report employment as bad, gold beaters as fairly good. Jewellers at Birmingham report it as quiet. In the silver and electro-plate trades employment on the whole is slack in London and Sheffield, moderate at Birmingham. With britannia metal workers it is fair at Birmingham, quiet at Sheffield.

Wirework.—Generally employment is slack, but it is moderate at Oldham, fair at Norwich and Bristol.

Farriers.—Employment generally is rather quiet. It is reported as improving in London, good in Dublin and Aberdeen, fair at Glasgow and Dundee.

## COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 229,500. Reports have also been furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to 575 spinning and weaving factories, employing about 102,600 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that much short time continues to be worked. Owing to the continued high price of raw cotton employment was worse in August than in July, and much worse than a year ago.

Employment in the Spinning branch during August continued bad, much short time being worked. Of the 27,200 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 46 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month (excluding the usual annual holidays), compared with 48 per cent. in July, and 85 per cent. in August, 1902.

In the Weaving branch employment continues bad; much short time has been worked. Of the 75,400 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 30 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month (excluding the usual annual holidays), compared with 32 per cent. in July and 72 per cent. in August, 1902.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women



## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—TEXTILE TRADES.

and girls, and also gives, for comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time throughout the Month.*		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
August, 1903 ... ..	46	10	30	14
July, 1903 ... ..	48	7	34	11
August, 1902 ... ..	85	5	8	2
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
August, 1903 ... ..	30	29	31	10
July, 1903 ... ..	32	28	31	9
August, 1902 ... ..	72	19	5	4

## COTTON SPINNING.

**Ashton District.**—Employment in Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden is reported as still bad, and worse than a year ago; much short time is being worked.

**Stockport and Manchester District.**—In the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Compstall districts nearly all the mills are running short time, and employment continues bad. In the Manchester district employment is irregular, and worse than a month and a year ago.

**Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.**—Employment is reported as still bad.

**Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).**—Employment is reported as bad, and worse than in July; the holidays have, in many cases, been extended, and short time is general.

**Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).**—Employment is reported as very irregular, and rather worse than in July; much short time has been worked, and the holidays at many mills have been extended.

**Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.**—Employment in Bury continues bad; much short time has been worked, and the holidays have been extended. In Rochdale and Heywood employment is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; short time is general.

**Preston and District.**—Employment in Preston continues bad; the majority of the mills have been running short time. In the Blackburn district employment is bad and worse than in July.

## COTTON WEAVING.

**Preston District.**—Employment is reported as bad, and worse than in July; most of the factories are running short time.

**Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington District.**—Employment in Blackburn is bad, and shows a decline as compared with July; many looms are standing. In Darwen employment is reported as bad and worse than a month ago; at most factories weavers are waiting for beams. In Accrington employment is bad and worse than a month ago.

**Burnley, Nelson and Colne District.**—In Burnley employment continues bad. In Colne it is only moderate. In Nelson it continues irregular.

**Other Districts.**—In Bury nearly all the factories stopped for extended holidays, and much short time was worked during the month. In Rochdale and Radcliffe employment is bad and worse than a month ago. In Bolton irregular time has been worked. In Chorley there has been much waiting for warps.

## WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers' Associations, and Local Correspondents, and also from women correspondents with regard to 191 factories in Yorkshire employing about 31,300 women and girls.

Employment in the woollen trade is fairly good and better than a month ago. In the worsted trade it is slack and shows a decline as compared with a month

\* Excluding usual annual holidays.

and a year ago. Of the women and girls usually employed in the Yorkshire woollen and worsted factories reported on, 60 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, and 34 per cent. in factories running full time but only giving partial employment, to be compared with 61 per cent. and 36 per cent. respectively of those reported on in July, and 92 per cent. and 6 per cent. in August, 1902.

**Bradford District.**—Employment in the worsted trade is reported as quiet during August, and worse than a month and a year ago. Most of the factories have been running full time, but in many cases with only partial employment. With woolcombers employment is reported as only fair with women and bad with men. With wool-sorters it is reported as bad. At Keighley a decline is reported. At Halifax machinery is not fully employed.

**Huddersfield District.**—Employment in the worsted trade is slack. In the woollen trade in the Huddersfield district employment showed a slight improvement towards the end of the month, but is worse than a year ago; in the Colne Valley several firms are working overtime. In the heavy woollen trade in Dewsbury and Batley employment continues fair; the factories have been running full time, but in some cases with only partial employment.

**Other Districts.**—Employment at Leeds is reported as fair generally, though only moderate with some firms. At Wakefield employment in the cloth mills is good. With woollen workers at Rochdale and Milnrow employment continues slack. In the Somerset cloth mills it is fair. In Montgomeryshire it continues fairly good. In Hawick and Selkirk employment in the woollen industry continues good; in Galashiels it is about the same as in July, and not so good as a year ago.

## OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

## Jute and Flax Trades.

According to information received from two Employers' Associations, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute trade has been fair and better than a month ago. Employment in the flax trade in Ireland is fairly good generally.

In Dundee employment shows an improvement. In the spinning branch it continues good; in the weaving branch it is fair and better than a month ago. Information has been received with regard to 52 jute and flax factories, employing about 8,900 men and boys and 21,000 women and girls. From this it appears that of the 18,800 persons employed in spinning mills 81 per cent. were employed in mills running full time and giving full employment throughout the month, and 17 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment, compared with 82 per cent. and 18 per cent. respectively of those for whom returns were received for July. Of the 11,100 employed in weaving factories, 73 per cent. were employed in factories running full time and giving full employment throughout the month, and 19 per cent. in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment, compared with 59 per cent. and 35 per cent. respectively for those for whom returns were received for July. The weavers in Forfar report employment as still slack, and worse than a year ago. At Brechin and Alyth it is reported as quiet.

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

Employment in the linen trade at Barnsley and Leeds is reported as moderate.

## Hosiery Trade.

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

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

**Leicester District.**—Returns received from hosiery manufacturers employing 13,311 workpeople in their factories at the end of August show a decrease of 0.8 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, but an increase of 0.8 per cent. on the number employed at the end of August, 1902. Employment at Leicester shows a decline, short time being more general; it is reported as bad in the fashioned and seamless hose departments; as fair with glove and fancy hosiery makers. At Loughborough it is reported as slightly improved on shirts and pants, as slack in the fashioned and seamless hose branches. At Hinckley it is reported as fair with makers of seamless hose; as slack in the shirt, pant and half-hose departments.

**Nottingham and Derby District.**—Employment shows a further decline as compared with a month and a year ago. At Nottingham it is reported as bad. In Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield it has declined with framework knitters. Employment with hand-frame workers is slack with few exceptions throughout the Notts district. With hosiery workers at Ilkeston it is reported as slack; at Belper as quiet.

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

## Lace Trade.

According to information from the Employers' Association, the Trade Union, and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham lace trade shows a further decline as compared with July, and is worse than a year ago. In the levers section it continues bad; in the curtain section it is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; in the plain net section it continues fair. Employment at Long Eaton is reported as bad; at Ilkeston as quiet; at Beeston as somewhat improved; at Kimberley, Stapleford, and Bulwell as irregular.

## Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions and Local Correspondents. Employment with dyers and finishers in the West Riding is reported as bad, much short time being worked. At Middleton and Bury employment is reported as good; at Bolton, Burnley and Colne as bad.

Employment with dyers and trimmers at Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley is reported as having declined, much short time being worked. Employment with dyers at Nottingham and Basford continues moderate. With bleachers at Bulwell and Basford it continues bad, short time being worked. Employment with calico printers in Manchester is reported as fair; with bleachers and finishers as slack. In the Dundee district employment continues fair in the finishing branch, good in the dyeing branch, but is reported as worse than a year ago; with bleachfield workers it is reported as slack, much short time being worked; calender workers are busy. With calico printers and calender workers in Glasgow some short time is being worked, but employment is reported as fair.

## BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 556 firms employing 66,188 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment generally is quiet, and rather worse than in July, but slightly better than a year ago. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of August was 66,188, compared with 66,425 at the end of July, and 65,315 a year ago, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 55 per cent. were employed by firms working at least full time throughout August, to be compared with 62 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for July.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various districts at the

end of August with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:—

District.	No. of firms making returns	No. employed by these firms at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on	
		Aug., 1903.	July, 1903.	Aug., 1902.	July, 1903.	Aug., 1902.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
London ... ..	73	4,840	4,044	5,024	- 2.1	- 3.7
Leicester ... ..	74	11,833	11,869	11,710	- 0.3	+ 1.1
Leicester Country District ...	24	2,537	2,531	2,507	+ 0.2	+ 1.2
Northampton ... ..	68	8,590	8,604	8,382	- 1.2	+ 2.5
Kettering ... ..	29	3,388	3,308	3,377	- 0.3	+ 0.3
Northampton Country District ...	88	9,595	9,623	9,367	- 0.3	+ 2.4
Stafford and District ... ..	16	2,548	2,607	2,603	- 2.3	- 2.1
Norwich and District ... ..	31	4,868	4,845	4,734	+ 0.5	+ 2.8
Bristol ... ..	19	2,260	2,218	2,088	+ 1.9	+ 8.2
Kingswood ... ..	24	2,513	2,414	2,382	+ 4.1	+ 5.5
Leeds and District ... ..	41	3,656	3,604	3,594	- 1.0	+ 1.7
Manchester and District ... ..	14	2,461	2,467	2,285	- 0.1	+ 7.8
Birmingham and District ... ..	5	390	387	378	+ 0.8	+ 3.2
Other parts of England & Wales ...	25	1,972	1,982	1,962	- 0.5	+ 0.5
Total, England and Wales ...	531	61,454	61,673	60,393	- 0.4	+ 1.7
SCOTLAND ... ..	23	4,284	4,317	4,543	- 0.8	- 5.7
IRELAND ... ..	2	450	435	379	+ 3.5	+ 18.7
Total, United Kingdom ...	556	66,188	66,425	65,315	- 0.4	+ 1.3

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

**London.**—Returns covering 4,840 workpeople show that 55 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 77 per cent. in July. Employment amongst the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as quiet; the clickers, pressmen and machinists' Trade Union reports it as dull. With hand-sewn boot makers it is reported as bad and worse than a month and a year ago.

**Leicester and District.**—Returns covering 11,833 workpeople in Leicester show that only 16 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 24 per cent. in July. Employment generally is reported as bad. Of the 2,537 workpeople employed by firms in the Leicester country districts, covered by the returns, 51 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 52 per cent. in July. Employment is reported as slack at Hinckley, as moderate at Anstey, Barwell and Earl Shilton.

**Northampton, Kettering and District.**—Returns covering 8,590 workpeople in Northampton show that 45 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 51 per cent. in July. Employment with riveters and finishers is reported as quiet; with clickers and pressmen as bad. Returns covering 3,388 workpeople in Kettering show that 56 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 59 per cent. in July. Employment is reported as having declined. Of the 9,595 workpeople employed by firms in the Northampton country districts covered by the returns, 69 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 77 per cent. in July. Employment has declined with riveters and finishers at Rushden, Daventry, and Wellingborough.

**Stafford, Stone and Nantwich.**—Returns covering 2,548 workpeople show that 29 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 27 per cent. in July. At Stafford employment has improved with clickers; it is reported as quiet in other branches. At Stone a slight improvement is reported.

**Eastern Counties.**—Returns covering 4,868 workpeople show that 49 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 89 per cent. in July. Employment at Norwich is reported as bad generally; it is fairly good on men's light work, and in the turn shoe branch. Employment is reported as bad at Ipswich, good at Colchester.

**Bristol and Kingswood.**—Returns covering 2,260 workpeople in Bristol show that 91 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in their factories throughout the month, compared with 69 per cent. in July. Employment with clickers and pressmen is reported as fair.



## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING, &amp;C., TRADES.

Of the 2,513 workpeople in Kingswood covered by the returns, all were employed by firms working full time in their factories throughout the month. The rivetters' and finishers' Trade Union report employment as slack with their members in Bristol and Kingswood.

**Leeds and District.**—Returns covering 3,656 workpeople show that 72 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 79 per cent. in July. Employment at Leeds is reported as slack generally.

**Other Districts in England.**—Employment at Birmingham and Wolverhampton is reported as bad; at Newcastle as quiet; at Nottingham as moderate.

**Scotland.**—Returns covering 4,284 workpeople show that 79 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 86 per cent. in July. Employment continues good at Edinburgh. In Aberdeen it is reported as good with handsewn workers, quiet with machine workers. At Glasgow employment is reported as slack; at Maybole and Ayr as good.

## TAILORING TRADE.

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

**Bespoke Branch.**—Employment in London is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. In the provinces it is slack generally, and worse than a month ago.

**Ready-made Branch.**—Employment generally has been quiet.

Employment in London, although still reported as fair by some employers, shows a decline as compared with a month and a year ago, and is especially slack with outworkers. The clothiers' cutters report employment as bad and worse than a month and a year ago.

In Leeds, according to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 10,600 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during August was good or fair in firms employing 66 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, poor or bad in firms employing 30 per cent., and moderate in firms employing 4 per cent. As compared with July, firms employing 46 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 22 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 32 per cent. as worse. As compared with a year ago firms employing 19 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 23 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 58 per cent. as worse. The clothiers' operatives' Trade Union reports employment as quiet, but better than in July.

In Manchester, employers making returns report employment as quiet, and worse than a month and a year ago. The Jewish tailors report it as slack.

In Bristol employment is reported as fair generally, but worse than a month ago; the cutters' Trade Union reports a slight decline.

In Norwich the tailoring factories are running full time, but employment is reported as not brisk. Employment in Ipswich and Colchester is reported as slack.

In Glasgow employment is fairly good; the cutters report overtime.

## HAT TRADE.

REPORTS have been received from two Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment has been quiet generally, but rather better than in July. Trade Unions with 5,401 members have 178 (or 3·3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3·5 per cent. at the end of July and 3·7 per cent. a year ago.

Employment with silk hatters in London has been bad, and worse than a month and a year ago; short time has been worked. In Denton employment is reported as quiet, and rather worse than in July, but about the same as a year ago; much short time is reported. In other districts employment is reported as slack.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton is reported as quiet, but improving towards the end of the month; it is rather better than a month ago, though a large proportion of the Trade Union members worked short time during August. In Stockport employment is reported as quiet, and worse than in July; in Bredbury as good; in Hyde, Hurst and Failsworth as better than a month ago. In Warwickshire employment is reported as fair generally, and rather better than in July, though worse than a year ago. In the ladies' hat branch employment generally has been fair.

## OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

**Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.**—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 985 dressmakers at the end of August, show a seasonal decline of 30·6 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, but an increase of 5·0 per cent. on the number employed at the end of August, 1902; much short time has been worked. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades is bad generally. Employment with mantle makers in the retail firms reported on has been quiet generally. Employment in the wholesale millinery trade is reported as fair, in the retail trade as quiet generally.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show a decreased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, and an increased demand compared with a year ago, the number of fresh situations offered during the month being 33, compared with 38 in July and 17 in August, 1902. The number requiring situations was 41, compared with 48 in July and 44 in August, 1902.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers is fairly good, and better than in July. In the costume and skirt trade it is quiet generally, though it is reported as fair by some employers; returns from manufacturers employing 2,221 workpeople in their factories at the end of August show a decrease of 0·4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, and of 1·8 per cent. on the number employed a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantle makers is fair, the numbers employed at the end of August showing an increase compared with a month ago.

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland employing 8,045 workpeople in their factories at the end of August, show an increase of 0·2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, and a decrease of 0·1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of August, 1902. Employment generally is slack.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,955 workpeople in their factories at the end of August, show a decline of 0·2 per cent. on the number employed at the end of July, and of 12·7 per cent. on the number employed at the end of August, 1902. Employment is reported as dull, few firms giving full employment.

## PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been supplied by 23 Employers' Associations, by 35 Employers, by Trade Unions with over 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents. The information thus obtained shows that employment in the Letterpress section of the *Printing and Bookbinding Trades* underwent a considerable decline during August (partly due to a seasonal falling off in London) and is now quiet and much the same as a year ago. In the Lithographic trade little change is shown; while with Bookbinders employment is much the same, on the whole, as last month but worse than a year ago.

Employment in the *Paper Trade in England* shows some decline. In *Scotland* it remains fairly good on the whole.

## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

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

Trade	United Kingdom.			London.				
	No. of Members of Unions at end of August, 1903, included in the Returns.	Aug., 1903.	July, 1903.	Aug., 1902.	No. of Members of Unions at end of August, 1903, included in the Returns.	Aug., 1903.	July, 1903.	Aug., 1902.
Letterpress Printing	40,039	6·3	4·1	6·6	19,171	6·8	5·0	7·2
Lithographic Printing	6,332	4·4	4·2	4·7	1,961	5·5	5·6	5·5
Bookbinding	6,932	5·6	5·8	4·2	3,869	5·7	6·7	3·6
Total Printing and Bookbinding	53,303	6·0	4·3	6·1	25,001	6·5	5·3	6·5
Paper Manufacture	2,337	3·5	2·6	3·1	...	...	...	...

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Aug., 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage unemployed for August, 1903, as compared with a	
		Aug., 1903.	July, 1903.	Aug., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	25,001	6·5	5·3	6·5	+ 1·2	...
Northern Counties ...	1,340	4·7	1·9	4·9	+ 2·8	− 0·2
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,466	7·5	4·9	6·5	+ 2·6	+ 1·0
Yorkshire ...	3,846	6·8	4·6	5·7	+ 2·2	+ 1·1
East Midlands ...	2,026	4·3	2·1	4·8	+ 2·2	− 0·5
West Midlands ...	2,417	6·9	3·0	7·3	+ 3·9	− 0·4
Eastern Counties ...	363	5·8	4·4	8·1	+ 1·4	− 2·3
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,370	3·3	1·7	4·7	+ 1·6	− 1·4
Wales and Mon. ...	784	6·1	1·0	4·4	+ 5·1	+ 1·7
Scotland ...	6,088	2·3	2·1	3·0	+ 0·2	− 0·7
Ireland ...	2,602	8·1	6·5	9·2	+ 1·6	− 1·1
United Kingdom ...	53,303	6·0	4·3	6·1	+ 1·7	− 0·1

Percentages unemployed for *London* are shown in the first Table for the Letterpress and Lithographic Printing and Bookbinding Trades respectively. Employment has declined with letterpress printers, as is usual at this season, and it has remained stationary with lithographic printers. With bookbinders it is better than last month, but worse than a year ago.

**Northern Counties.**—Employment in this district is reported as quiet generally, but is good with letterpress printers at Middlesbrough and Darlington and lithographic printers at Carlisle.

**Lancashire and Cheshire.**—Employment is dull, except at Newton-le-Willows, Burnley, Lancaster and Barrow, where it is fairly good on the whole.

**Yorkshire.**—Employment is fairly good at Sheffield. Elsewhere it is slack generally.

**East Midland Counties.**—Employment is slack at Nottingham; fairly good at Leicester. At Derby it is fair with printers; dull with bookbinders. With letterpress printers at Northampton and Glossop it is quiet; at Lincoln good.

**West Midland Counties.**—Employment is fair with lithographic printers. With other branches it is quiet generally.

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment in this district is rather quiet.

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

**Wales and Monmouthshire.**—Employment is quiet at Cardiff and Newport; fair at Swansea and Carnarvon; good with letterpress printers at Pontypridd.

**Scotland.**—Employment in Edinburgh and Glasgow is fairly good on the whole. It remains good at Dundee and Aberdeen.

**Ireland.**—Employment is dull generally.

## FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 5 Employers' Associations, from 35 Trade Unions with 36,126 members, and from Local Correspondents. Employment shows little change in any of these trades. The percentage of unemployed Trade Unionists in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of August was 4·0, as compared with 3·9 in July, and 3·6 in August, 1902.

## Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers remains moderate. Three unions, with a membership of 5,005, show 168 (or 3·4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 3·4 in July, and 4·0 per cent. in August, 1902.

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

## Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades remains quiet, and much the same as a month ago and a year ago. Of the 15,334 members of 15 Trade Unions making returns, 665 (or 4·3 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of August, compared with 4·2 per cent. at the end of July, and 3·9 per cent. at the end of August, 1902.

In London employment has been quiet in all branches, especially with french polishers and Jewish cabinet makers. Employment is quiet at Newcastle. It is fair on the whole at Manchester; at Liverpool it is dull, except with Jewish cabinet makers, who are reported as fairly well employed. Employment is quiet at Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham, and Birmingham. It is fair on the whole at Glasgow, Beith, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and also at Belfast. At Dublin employment is dull.

## Coopers.

Employment among coopers remains dull at all the larger centres, except at Dublin, where it is reported as good. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,200 report 169 (or 3·3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of August, as compared with 4·3 in July and 2·5 per cent. a year ago.

## Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry remains moderate, but the proportion of Trade Unionists unemployed shows a slight improvement compared with July. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, etc., with a membership of 7,592 report 286 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2·9 per cent. at the end of July, 1903, and 3·3 per cent. in August 1902.

In London employment has been quiet. At Liverpool it is moderate with wheelwrights and smiths; bad with coachmakers. At Manchester it is fair with coachmakers; moderate with wheelwrights and smiths. At Sheffield employment is quiet on the whole; at Birmingham fair; at Glasgow and Dublin bad; at Belfast and Cork good.

## Miscellaneous.

**Brushmakers.**—Employment shows a further decline, and is now slack generally. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,766 report 124 (or 7·0 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 5·6 per cent. in July and 3·4 per cent. in August, 1902.

**Other Trades.**—Employment in London is slack with basketmakers and packing case makers; it is fair with lathrenders and stick makers and mounters. Lathrenders report employment as moderate at Glasgow, good at Edinburgh; packing case makers as fairly good at Glasgow, moderate at Belfast.



## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—GLASS, POTTERY, &amp;c., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

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

INFORMATION has been received from 12 Employers' Associations, 12 Trade Unions with 5,141 members, Local Correspondents and Employers.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continues bad in the bottle making branch; in other branches it is quiet generally. In the *Pottery* trades a good deal of short time is still being worked. In the *Brick and Tile* trades employment has declined.

*Glass Trades.*—Employment with glass bottle makers in the North of England continues bad, and is worse than a year ago; much short time is reported. In the St. Helens and Newton-le-Willows district it is reported as bad by the Employers' Association and worse than a month and a year ago; the Trade Union reports a large percentage of its members as unemployed. In Yorkshire employment in the glass bottle trade is reported as bad generally; in the medical glass bottle branch as bad. In the Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello district it is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago.

In London, the glass blowers report employment as bad, and much worse than a month and a year ago. In Birmingham flint-glass makers report it as bad; flint glass cutters as quiet; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as bad. Employment in the sheet glass trade at West Bromwich is reported as moderate. At Wordsley, Stourbridge and Brettle Lane employment with flint glass makers is reported as quiet; with engravers and intaglio workers as fair; in other branches of the glass-cutting trade as quiet. At St. Helens the sheet glass flatteners and sheet glass makers report employment as good. With the pressed glass makers at Gateshead short time is being worked, and a large number of the Trade Union members are unemployed. In Edinburgh employment with glass makers has declined, and is slack; with glass cutters it is reported as dull and worse than in July.

*Pottery Trades.*—In the Staffordshire Potteries employment in most branches of the earthenware and china trades continues dull; in several cases the annual holidays were extended; printers and transferrers are reported as fairly busy, but in the other departments employment is reported as quiet, short time being general. In the Longton and Fenton district employment shows an improvement. In the Aire and Don districts of Yorkshire employment is reported as bad, much short time being worked. In the Glasgow and Portobello districts employment continues fair.

*Brick and Tile Trades.*—In the brick yards in the Plymouth district employment is reported as rather quiet. In the Market Harborough district it is reported as good with brick and tile makers. With brickmakers in Birmingham it is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago, short time being worked; in West Bromwich and Oldbury it continues fair. In the Nottingham district employment is reported as good, although rather worse than a month and a year ago. In the Stockton and Hartlepool district it continues fair. In North Wales it is reported as good with brick and tile makers, as quiet in the terra-cotta departments. In the Glasgow district it continues fair.

## LEATHER TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 4 Employers' Associations, 13 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The general condition of employment remains dull and is worse than a month and a year ago, short time being worked in some places. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of August was 7.6, as compared with 6.7 at the end of July and 5.2 per cent. in August, 1902.

*Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.*—Employment in these trades is very quiet, and worse on the whole than in July and a year ago. Curriers, however, report employment as good at Edinburgh and fair at Dundee.

*Saddle and Harness Makers.*—With saddle and harness makers employment is reported as slack at Walsall with

much short time, except in the case of brown saddlers, with whom it is moderate. With saddle and harness makers in London employment is fair, and rather better than a month ago. At Birmingham and Bristol it is bad; at Leeds and Nottingham quiet; at Edinburgh moderate; at Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dublin fair. Employment with horse collar makers is reported as quiet at Walsall and Birmingham, but as fairly busy in London.

*Miscellaneous Leather Workers.*—In London employment with pocket-book makers is bad; with portmanteau makers fair; with fancy leather workers fair in some branches and bad in others.

## AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the condition of employment in Agriculture has been received from 215 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that outdoor work was greatly impeded by unfavourable weather. The hay harvest was much prolonged, and a good deal of hay was not carried until the latter part of the month. This entailed considerable extra expense to farmers who had engaged additional hands for haymaking. The corn harvest was late and the work protracted by unfavourable weather, and also by much of the corn having to be cut by hand, being laid by storms.

In the Northern Counties corn harvest was scarcely begun at the end of the month, while a considerable acreage was uncut in the Midland and Eastern Counties. The sodden condition of the land also hindered hoeing and weeding of root crops. Casual labourers in consequence lost a good deal of time in a number of districts, but farmers usually found suitable employment on wet days for their regular staff.

In the counties where it is the practice for the men to undertake a definite number of acres by piecework, or to be paid a lump sum for the harvest month, a wet harvest is a disadvantage to them, as they take longer over the work. On the other hand, when the crops are much laid, requiring hand labour, higher piece-work rates have to be paid.

*Northern Counties.*—Reports from *Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland* state that the wet and changeable weather rendered outdoor employment very irregular, and haymaking and the weeding and singling of turnips were much in arrear. A correspondent in the Wigton Union mentions that haymakers engaged for the month were being re-engaged for another month on account of the delay occasioned by the weather. In *Lancashire* casual labourers for the most part were irregularly employed, owing to wet weather. The supply of extra labour was equal to the demand, and in one or two districts an excess is reported. Outdoor work in *Yorkshire* was interrupted, and, as harvest was not commenced until about the end of the month, the supply of extra men was quite equal to the demand in most districts. Experienced stockmen and shepherds are reported to be scarce.

*Midland Counties.*—Correspondents in *Cheshire and Derbyshire* report that many odd men have lost time through bad weather. The supply of casual labour was sufficient in most districts, but there was some scarcity of steady men for permanent situations. In *Nottinghamshire* harvest work was delayed, but the supply of extra men was scarcely sufficient. Farm labourers in *Leicestershire* were fully employed, with the exception of some casual men. Agricultural employment in *Staffordshire and Shropshire* was somewhat hindered, although work under cover was frequently found for the men when they could not work on the land. The supply of odd men is stated to have been sufficient in most districts. Reports from *Worcestershire* show that farm work was considerably interrupted, corn harvest being late. Casual labourers were not in much demand, and the supply was sufficient. Outdoor employment for farm labourers in *Warwickshire* is stated to have been hindered by continual wet weather, and casual labourers were consequently not in much demand. In *Northamptonshire* employment with casual men was

## EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; SEAMEN; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

irregular through the wet weather, which delayed harvest operations. The permanent men are found work under cover on wet days as a rule. The regular farm labourers in *Oxfordshire* were fully employed, but this was frequently not the case with casual men. In *Buckinghamshire* men engaged on piece-work lost some time. The supply of extra men was generally sufficient, but men for permanent situations were scarce. Harvesting operations in *Hertfordshire* and *Bedfordshire* were greatly interfered with by the unsettled weather, and casual labourers could do but little work. Employment was generally found, however, for the regular farm labourers.

*Eastern Counties.*—Casual labourers in *Huntingdonshire* and *Cambridgeshire* lost a good deal of time. The supply of extra men was on the whole sufficient, and rather better than last year. Farm work in *Lincolnshire* was much interfered with by heavy rains, and wheat and barley crops were backward. There was a good supply of Irish labourers. Reports from *Norfolk* show that casual labourers were not in much demand, and the supply was generally sufficient for such work as could be done. The corn crops were badly laid through rain and strong winds, and work proceeded slowly. Harvesting and weeding were consequently much in arrear. Employment in *Suffolk* was interrupted a good deal. The supply of extra men for harvest was generally sufficient, although a scarcity is reported in some districts. The harvest was backward, and weeding in arrear. In *Essex* employment was irregular, being much affected by the rainy weather. The supply of casual labourers was rather in excess of the demand, and better than last year. Men for permanent situations were said to be difficult to obtain in some districts.

*Southern and South-Western Counties.*—The reports from *Kent* show that harvest work was greatly interrupted. The crops were considerably damaged, preventing the use of machinery. Extra men were consequently in demand, and the supply has been insufficient in some parts. In *Surrey* and *Sussex* casual labourers have been irregularly employed through the wet weather. Carting and hedge-trimming, etc., provided some employment for the regular farm labourers when work on the land was not practicable. There was some improvement in the weather at the end of the month, however, and work was then plentiful. Harvesting was much delayed in *Hampshire*. Casual labourers were in irregular work, and the supply was generally sufficient. A scarcity of good men for tending stock is reported from certain districts. Similar reports come from *Berkshire*. In *Wiltshire* employment was much affected by the wet weather, and casual labourers lost time. Reports from *Dorsetshire* state that harvesting and turnip-hoeing were greatly interrupted. The supply of extra men was sufficient. In *Somersetshire* harvesting operations were much delayed by excessive rain. Casual labourers as a rule were kept on, although but little work could be done each day. Correspondents in *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire* state that the continual rain greatly interfered with haymaking and root cleaning, and also delayed the corn harvest. Odd men were consequently in irregular employment, and were not in much demand. In *Devon* and *Cornwall* harvesting was considerably interrupted. Casual labourers were not much required, but a scarcity is reported from certain districts.

## SEAMEN SHIPPED IN AUGUST.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade). RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during August, 35,925 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, as compared with 38,679 during August last year.

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

During the eight completed months of the year, 283,488\* seamen were shipped, of whom 44,555 (or 15.7

per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 280,408\* seamen were shipped, of whom 46,037 (or 16.4 per cent.) were foreigners. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in August, 1903 and 1902, respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the eight months ended August in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in Aug., 1903.*			Total number* shipped in eight months ended August,	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Aug., 1903.*	1903.	1902.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>					
<i>East Coast.</i>					
Tyne Ports ... ..	8	2,849	2,857	3,444	24,086
Sunderland ... ..	...	417	417	430	3,335
Middlesbrough ... ..	...	178	178	417	2,089
Hull ... ..	...	1,066	1,066	1,218	8,744
Grimsby ... ..	2	86	88	84	943
<i>Bristol Channel.</i>					
Bristol ... ..	...	888	888	603	4,332
Newport, Mon. ... ..	16	806	822	888	6,210
Cardiff ... ..	58	3,890	3,948	4,965	35,925
Swansea ... ..	19	339	358	757	4,207
<i>Other Ports.</i>					
Liverpool ... ..	148	12,528	12,676	13,096	98,842
London ... ..	145	6,275	6,420	6,485	49,667
Southampton ... ..	8	1,666	1,674	2,839	15,737
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>					
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth	...	541	541	595	4,598
Glasgow ... ..	84	3,395	3,479	2,773	22,506
<b>IRELAND.</b>					
Dublin ... ..	5	185	190	90	1,068
Belfast ... ..	...	323	323	196	2,021
<b>Total, August, 1903 ... ..</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>35,432</b>	<b>35,925</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>283,488</b>
Ditto, August, 1902 ... ..	1,232	37,447	...	38,679	280,408

## DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

Employment during August was fair generally, and slightly better than a month ago, though not so good as in August, 1902.

## LONDON.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended August 29th was 13,643, an increase of a little less than 1 per cent. as compared with the average for the previous month, and a decrease of 3.6 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The average number employed in August during the last six years, 1897-1902, was 14,798.

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

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Aug. 1st	6,208	1,588	7,796	5,203	12,999
"  "  "  8th	6,546	2,481	9,027	5,417	14,444
"  "  "  15th	6,897	2,319	9,216	5,156	14,372
"  "  "  22nd	6,177	2,214	8,391	5,344	13,735
"  "  "  29th	5,456	2,399	7,855	5,594	13,449
<b>Average for 5 weeks ended August 29th</b>	<b>6,123</b>	<b>2,180</b>	<b>8,303</b>	<b>5,340</b>	<b>13,643</b>
<i>Average for July, 1903</i>	6,191	2,170	8,361	5,163	13,524
<i>Average for Aug., 1902</i>	6,455	2,280	8,735	5,418	14,153

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



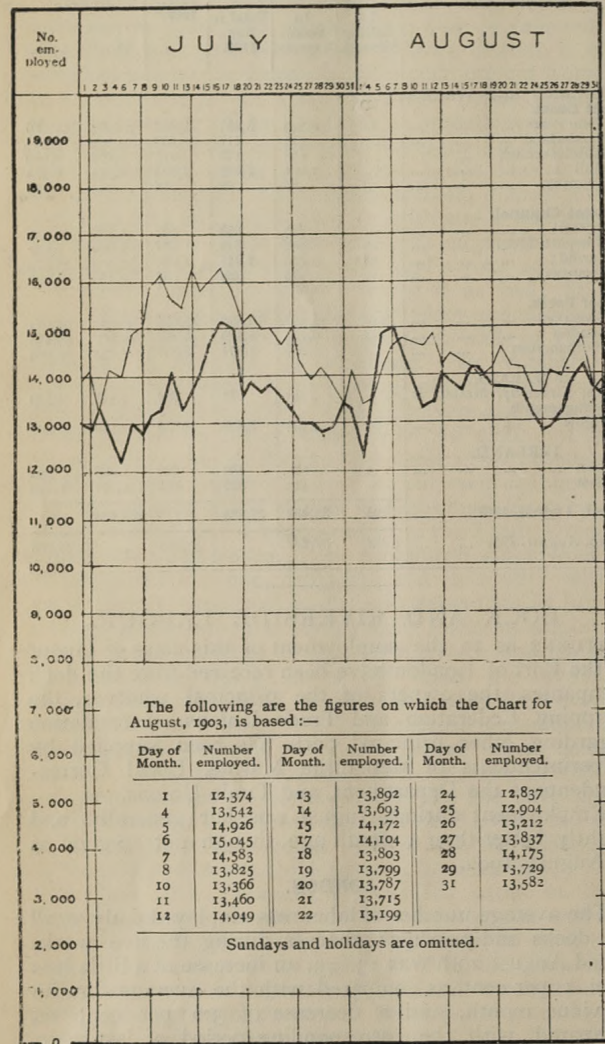
EMPLOYMENT IN AUGUST—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING.

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in August ranged from 12,374 on the 1st to 15,045 on the 6th.

During August, 1902, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,440 on the 2nd to 14,877 on the 12th.

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

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



Employment in mid-stream with lightermen and stevedores was fair; with deal porters and lumpers it was good; with coal porters, winchmen and corn porters it was moderate. Employment with fruit porters in Thames-street was fair; the average daily number employed was 307, as compared with 298 in July, and 273 a year ago.

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

OTHER PORTS.

**North-East Coast.**—In the Tyne, Blyth and Wear district employment with coal porters and shippers was good; the trimmers and teamers were moderately employed. With dock and quay side labourers employment was quiet and worse than a month ago; employment with Tyne watermen remained quiet. Employment with steam packet men on the Tyne was dull; with

tug boatmen on the Wear it was fair. At Middlesbrough employment with dock labourers was fair, at Hartlepool moderate. With riverside labourers employment was fair.

**Hull and Grimsby.**—At Hull employment in the timber trade was good, and coal porters were fairly well employed. With dock labourers and lightermen employment was bad. At Goole the dock labourers and coal porters were well employed. At Grimsby employment with dock and timber workers was fair.

**Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex.**—Employment with dock and riverside labourers was fair at Yarmouth and Lowestoft; good at Ipswich and Harwich.

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

**Bristol Channel Ports.**—At Gloucester and Bristol employment at the docks was fair generally; at Sharpness and Avonmouth it was good.

**Liverpool and Manchester.**—At Liverpool employment with dock labourers has been moderate on the whole; with flatmen it has been fair. At Manchester employment was good.

**The Clyde.**—At Glasgow employment with dock labourers was fair; at Greenock it was bad.

**East of Scotland Ports.**—With coal-porters and dock labourers at Leith employment was good. With dock labourers at Dundee it was fair, and better than a month ago. At Aberdeen employment was fair and showed little change compared with a month ago.

**Irish Ports.**—At Dublin employment with dock labourers was good; at Cork it was fair.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

Employment in the fishing industry during August was generally fairly good, being better than a month ago, and showing no marked change as compared with a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed during August in Scotland and Ireland\* :—

	Quantity.		Landing Value.	
	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1902.	Aug., 1903.	Aug., 1902.
Fish (other than Shell):			£	£
Scotland ... ..	1,681,135	1,882,435	492,650	532,525
Ireland ... ..	56,329	48,014	21,255	21,603
Shell Fish:				
Scotland ... ..	—	—	5,475	6,116
Ireland ... ..	—	—	2,157	1,727

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that trawl and line boats have landed good catches of white fish, and that the herring fishing was productive of good supplies. Prices, however, were below the average, and fishing somewhat irregular.

At Hull, Grimsby, Yarmouth and Lowestoft employment was fairly good with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and moderate with fish curers.

Off Plymouth and Brixham the fishing operations during the first two weeks of the month resulted in excellent catches. Later, owing to stormy weather, catches were small and irregular. Employment with fish packers and curers was quiet generally.

Reports supplied by the Fishery Board for Scotland show that at Aberdeen employment was good with drift-net and line fishermen, but slack among trawlers. Fish dock labourers and fish curers were well employed. At Peterhead employment was good in all branches and better than a month ago. At Fraserburgh it was good, and similar to that of a month and a year ago. At Macduff employment was fair, and better than a month and a year ago.

\* The figures for England and Wales were not available at the time of going to press.

TRADE DISPUTES IN AUGUST.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Nineteen new disputes began in August, 1903, compared with 14 in July, and 15 in the corresponding month of last year. By the 19 disputes 23,069 workpeople were directly and 163 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before August, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, give a total of 29,523 workpeople involved in trade disputes during August, 1903, compared with 10,100 in July, and 41,759 in August, 1902.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building ... ..	1	20	120	140
Mining ... ..	6	8,277	43	8,320
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	6	14,180	—	14,180
Other Trades ... ..	6	592	—	592
Total, August, 1903 ... ..	19	23,069	163	23,232
Ditto, July, 1903 ... ..	14	4,197	985	5,182
Ditto, August, 1902 ... ..	15	3,947	766	4,703

**Causes.**—Of the nineteen new disputes, three arose on demands for advance in wages, three on objections to reductions, and four on other wage questions, two on details of working arrangements, three on questions of employment of particular classes or persons, and four on questions of trade unionism.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1903.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Miners ... ..	Aberdare ...	1,700	...	1 Aug.	7	Refusal to work with non-unionists...	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Miners ... ..	Maesteg ...	2,963	...	1 Aug.	3	Refusal to work with non-unionists...	Some non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation, others left the locality.
Miners ... ..	New Tredegar	3,000	7	1 Aug.	7	Refusal to work with non-unionists...	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation, or left the district.
Tinplate and Steel Workers	S. Wales, Monmouthshire & Gloucestershire	14,000	...	31 Aug.	7	Against proposed change in system of payment for working plates known as "Canadas" and "doubles"	Work resumed on old terms pending reference to a committee of investigation.
Tram Drivers and Conductors	Edinburgh ...	470	...	21 Aug.	7	Dispute arising out of change from weekly to hourly method of payment	Agreement arrived at as to conditions of service.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.  
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

**Cotton Statistics.**—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of August, and also during the eight completed months of 1903, with comparative figures for 1902 and 1901:—

	Month of August,			Eight months ended August,		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imported ... ..	Bales. 69,292	Bales. 66,276	Bales. 82,320	Bales. 2,099,316	Bales. 2,154,562	Bales. 1,988,917
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	120,944	178,459	206,799	1,991,220	2,069,345	2,001,065
Exported ... ..	60,213	37,184	31,800	359,221	320,082	215,530

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns during August in the years 1903, 1902 and 1901 respectively, are given in the following Table:—

Description of Cotton forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	August, 1903.	August, 1902.	August, 1901.
American ... ..	Bales. 93,808	Bales. 140,421	Bales. 176,563
Brazilian ... ..	10,998	17,996	3,430
East Indian ... ..	3,655	2,133	2,713
Egyptian ... ..	9,037	9,453	17,298
Miscellaneous ... ..	3,446	8,456	6,795
Total ... ..	120,944	178,459	206,799

**Traffic Receipts.**—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended September 5th amounted to £10,376,201, an increase of £71,044 (or 0.7 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £5,640,706, an increase of £51,298, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,735,495, an increase of £19,746.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during August numbered 306, being 35 less than in August, 1902, 20 less than in August, 1901, 65 less than in August, 1900.



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.

Changes Reported in August.

The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in August was a decrease of £1,296 per week, as compared with a decrease of £1,901 in July, and a decrease of £2,766 in August, 1902.

The only changes of importance were decreases affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham, and 2,000 ironstone miners in Scotland.

Two changes affecting 108,000 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change affecting 650 workpeople took effect under a sliding scale.

Summary for First Eight months of 1903.

For the first eight months, January to August, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to

have had their wages changed was 388,440 as compared with 796,505 in the corresponding period of 1902. Of these, 19,832 obtained a net increase amounting to about £1,016 per week, and 362,168 sustained a net decrease of £14,654 per week, whilst the remaining 6,440 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year.

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

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

DETAILS OF CHANGES REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1903.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned) NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here.

Main table of wage changes with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1903, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes sections for Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying, Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, Other Trades, and Employees of Local Authorities.

\* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN AUGUST, 1903.

ONLY two changes in hours of labour were reported in August. At Sheffield 140 cabinet makers\* had their weekly hours reduced from 54 to 52½ from July 25th, and at Lancaster 75 painters and decorators\* had their average weekly hours reduced from 51 to 46½, to date from August 7th.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CASES OF LEAD MERCURIAL, PHOSPHORUS, AND ARSENIC POISONING AND OF ANTHRAX REPORTED TO THE HOME OFFICE UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, DURING THE UNDERMENTIONED PERIODS.

(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.)

Table showing number of cases and deaths for various diseases like Lead Poisoning, Mercurial Poisoning, Phosphorus Poisoning, Arsenic Poisoning, and Anthrax, categorized by industry and time period.

\* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. † Of the 9 cases in the china and earthenware industry in August, 1903, 3 affected females. ‡ House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 19 cases of lead poisoning (including 4 deaths) were reported during August among house painters and plumbers.

FACTORY EMPLOYEES IN QUEENSLAND.

THE Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Shops in Queensland for 1902 has been issued. It is stated that the number of persons employed in factories (i.e., places "where two or more persons are engaged working at any handicraft") was 17,168 in 1902, being 1,194 (or 6.8 per cent.) less than in 1901.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

A HANDBOOK containing a map and general information useful to intending emigrants to the British Central Africa Protectorate has been published by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster. Price sixpence, post free.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN AUGUST.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during August, 1903, was 365, as compared with 355 in the corresponding month of 1902, 316 in 1901, 323 in 1900, and 326 in 1899. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of August in these five years was thus 337, so that the total for the past month is in excess of the average.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz.: Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping and Factories, the number of workpeople killed was 323, compared with 328 in August, 1902. The approximate number employed in these industries at the date of the latest returns was about 5,700,000. The number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed during the eight months ended August last was 2,492, as compared with 2,637 in the corresponding period of 1902.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between August, 1903, and a month and a year ago.

Table of fatal industrial accidents with columns: Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Aug 1903, July 1903, Aug 1902), Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Aug. 1903, as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Includes categories like Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories, Workshops, and Seamen.



FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for August.

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

The value of the Imports in August, 1903, was £42,761,456, an increase of £2,348,885 or 5.8 per cent., as compared with those in August, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £31,519,796, showing a total increase of £1,521,330. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £1,365,058, or 5.6 per cent., as compared with August, 1902, whilst there is an increase of £156,272, or 2.7 per cent. in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

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

Table showing the value of imports for August 1901, 1902, and 1903, categorized by type of goods (Food, Raw Materials, Articles, etc.).

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

Table showing the value of exports of British produce for August 1901, 1902, and 1903, categorized by type of goods (Food, Raw Materials, Articles, etc.).

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended August, 1903, amounted to 3,732,702 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,998,091 tons, as against 3,412,226 tons entered and 3,918,944 tons cleared in the month of August, 1902.

\* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1900.

A RECENT publication of the Imperial Statistical Office in Berlin\* contains the detailed report of the working of the German Sickness Insurance Laws in 1900.

The mean number of persons insured against sickness under those laws in Germany was 10,156,512 in 1900, as compared with 9,739,375 in 1899. These figures include miners (635,749 in 1900, 583,793 in 1899) insured in special funds for the mining industry, the statistics of which, however, are not embodied in the Tables on which the following figures are based:—

Table showing sickness insurance statistics in Germany for 1899 and 1900, including mean number of sick funds, membership, cases of sickness, and expenditure.

Of the various kinds of sick funds for effecting the insurance prescribed by the law, the Local Funds have the largest membership (4,474,765 in 1900). After these, in order of importance, come the Factory Funds with 2,503,197 members, the Communal Funds with 1,441,644, the Friendly Society Funds with 891,697, the Trade Guild Funds with 189,063, and the Building Works Funds with 20,397 members.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during August was 46,871, as compared with 43,100 in August, 1902. Comparing the eight completed months of 1903 with the corresponding period of 1902, there was an increase of 63,525, viz., from 245,634 in 1902 to 309,159 in 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 46,871 passengers in August, 29,449 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 3,894 as compared with a year ago. This increase was due to emigration to British North America and the United States. For the eight completed months of 1903 the total number was 176,212, as compared with 127,412 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 48,800, due largely to the marked increase in numbers bound for British North America.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in the different periods:—

Table showing emigration and immigration statistics by destination (British Empire, Foreign Countries) for August 1903 and August 1902, and totals for eight months.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 46,871 passengers in August, viz., 17,422, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not

\* Die Krankenversicherung im Jahre 1900. Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, Neue Folge, Band 140. Issued by the German Imperial Statistical Office. Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht, 1903.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

IN six Bureaux, which furnished returns for both August, 1903, and August, 1902, 1,824 fresh applications for work were registered, compared with 1,677 a year ago. Work was found by these Bureaux for 640 persons, of whom 568 were engaged by private employers. In August, 1902, the number engaged by private employers was 714. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 1,011, as compared with 830 a year ago.

Five other Bureaux, not in operation a year ago, furnished returns for August, 1903, and the figures relating to them are included in the Tables below.

The eleven Bureaux included in the Tables registered during August 2,612 fresh applications, and work was found for 767 persons. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 3,114, including 2,509 men and boys, and 605 women and girls.

(I.) Work done in August.

Table showing work done in August by 11 Labour Bureaux, categorized by location (London, Provincial) and type of work (Fresh Applications, Situations offered, Workpeople found).

distinguished, being 123 less than in August, 1902. For the eight months ended August, 1903, their number was 132,947, of whom 91,141 were bound for the United States and 29,482 to British North America, as against a total of 118,222 in the corresponding period of 1902 (82,820 proceeding to the United States and 28,638 to British North America).

Alien Immigration.—During August 18,604 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 10,519 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 209 as compared with August, 1902. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 7,127 (exclusive of seamen), or 439 more than a year ago. The figures for August, 1903 and 1902, and also for the eight months ended August in each year, are as follows:—

Table showing alien immigration statistics for August 1903 and August 1902, categorized by status (Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists, Aliens stated in the Alien Lists).

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN AUGUST.

DURING August, 608 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 445 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 118 persons, of whom 63 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 359 to 320, and the number of servants applying fell from 348 to 318; the number permanently engaged fell from 74 to 41. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., fell from 40 to 33, and the number requiring such situations fell from 48 to 41; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 11, compared with 24 in July.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the seven Bureaux during August compared with a month and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN AUGUST.

Table showing work done in August by seven Women's Employment Bureaux, categorized by bureau location and type of work (Fresh Applications, Situations offered, Workpeople engaged).

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during August.

Table showing employment found for workpeople during August, categorized by employer type (Private Employers, Local Authorities, Salvation Army) and gender (Total Males, Total Females).

\* Engaged by Salvation Army. † Bureau not in operation in August, 1902.



## PAUPERISM IN AUGUST.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in August was 344,345, corresponding to a rate of 203 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with July there was an increase of 4,174 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-two districts show increases in the rates, nine show decreases, and four remain at the same level. The greatest increases are shown by Leicester (11), Central London (10), and Bolton, Oldham and District (9). In Scotland, four of the six selected districts show decreases.

Compared with August, 1902, there was an increase of 9,900 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Twenty-two districts show increases in the rates, the most marked increases being shown by Leicester (23), East London (16), North Staffordshire (16), Newcastle (13), and Bolton, Oldham and District (12). Eleven districts, including all four of the selected districts in Ireland, show decreases, the Cork, Waterford and Limerick district, and Dublin district showing declines of 41 and 14 respectively in the rate per 10,000. Two districts show no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of August, 1903.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<b>Metropolis.</b>						
West District ... ..	10,491	3,224	13,715	168	+ 6	+ 7
North District ... ..	14,503	8,143	22,646	213	+ 3	+ 4
Central District ... ..	6,603	2,870	9,473	468	+ 10	+ 5
East District ... ..	13,563	5,418	18,981	264	+ 6	+ 16
South District ... ..	22,071	18,263	40,339	225	+ 3	...
Total Metropolis ... ..	67,231	37,923	105,154	229	+ 5	+ 5
West Ham ... ..	2,817	8,902	11,719	188	...	...
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District ... ..	1,837	4,502	6,339	152	+ 3	+ 13
Stockton & Tees District ... ..	1,040	3,738	4,778	227	...	- 8
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ... ..	3,778	8,324	12,102	161	+ 9	+ 12
Wigan District ... ..	1,887	6,365	8,252	211	+ 5	+ 2
Manchester District ... ..	8,537	8,003	16,540	180	+ 4	- 2
Liverpool District ... ..	10,513	8,286	18,799	188	+ 1	+ 6
Bradford District ... ..	1,403	2,693	4,096	113	- 2	- 1
Halifax & Huddersfield ... ..	1,142	3,678	4,820	133	+ 2	+ 2
Leeds District ... ..	2,016	5,864	7,880	170	- 1	+ 1
Barnsley District ... ..	636	2,738	3,374	145	...	- 6
Sheffield District ... ..	2,845	3,526	6,371	151	+ 3	+ 5
Hull District ... ..	1,360	5,029	6,389	242	- 4	- 8
North Staffordshire ... ..	1,948	7,181	9,129	250	+ 6	+ 16
Nottingham District ... ..	1,778	5,000	6,778	171	+ 1	+ 1
Leicester District ... ..	1,188	3,436	4,624	211	+ 11	+ 23
Wolverhampton District ... ..	3,397	12,956	16,353	259	+ 1	+ 8
Birmingham District ... ..	4,515	3,211	7,726	136	+ 3	+ 1
Bristol District ... ..	2,664	6,667	9,331	247	+ 1	+ 2
Cardiff & Swansea ... ..	1,637	7,483	9,120	253	- 2	- 7
Total "Other Districts" ... ..	54,121	108,680	162,801	187	+ 3	+ 4
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District ... ..	4,042	16,869	20,911	222	- 1	+ 6
Paisley & Greenock District ... ..	577	2,407	2,984	174	- 2	+ 6
Edinburgh & Leith District ... ..	1,606	5,393	6,999	178	- 1	+ 1
Dundee & Dunfermline ... ..	976	2,801	3,777	192	+ 2	- 2
Aberdeen ... ..	546	2,811	3,357	210	- 2	+ 7
Coatbridge & Airdrie ... ..	313	1,317	1,630	177	...	+ 3
Total for the above Scottish Districts ... ..	8,060	31,598	39,658	203	- 1	+ 4
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District ... ..	6,860	5,015	11,875	308	+ 3	- 14
Belfast District ... ..	3,098	226	3,324	87	+ 3	- 3
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District ... ..	4,279	4,853	9,132	371	+ 3	- 41
Galway District ... ..	355	327	682	189	- 3	- 5
Total for the above Irish Districts ... ..	14,592	10,421	25,013	238	+ 3	- 17
Total for above 35 Districts in August, 1903	146,821	197,524	344,345	203	+ 2	+ 2

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

## INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES

## REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN AUGUST.

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

## (1) REGISTERED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in August was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 13; under the Friendly Societies Act, 41 (including 30 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all, 57.

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

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—1, viz., Wigan Builders' Labourers' Union Accident and Burial Soc., Bold Arms Hotel, Scholes, Wigan.—Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—England and Wales.—Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution.—4, viz., Penyffordd and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Penyffordd, Mold; William Morris Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 6, Somerset-road, Walthamstow; Blackwood and Dist. Indus. and Prov. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 106, High-street, Blackwood, Newport, Mon.; Felton and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Society's Store, High-street, Felton, Northumberland. Co-operative Societies mainly for Production.—1, viz., Dudley Mat Makers, Ltd., Tower-street, Dudley. Agricultural Societies.—2, viz., Darley Farmers, Ltd., The Stores, Darley, Leeds; Battle and Dist. Agric. Supply Assoc., Ltd., Bloomham Farm, Catsfield, Battle, Sussex. Miscellaneous Societies.—1 Working Men's Club. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None. Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution.—1, viz., Banbridge Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 3, Prospect-terrace, Banbridge. Co-operative Agricultural Societies.—4, viz., Dungarvan Co-op. Horticultural and Fruit-growers, Dungarvan, co. Waterford; Roughty Co-op. Bee-keepers, Kilgarvan, co. Kerry; Kilbarron Co-op. Agric. and Dairy, Market House, Ballyshannon, co. Donegal; Rush Co-op. Agric. Soc., Main-street, Rush, co. Dublin.

**Friendly Societies.**—England and Wales.—9, viz., Nottingham Anglers' Assoc., News House Inn, St. James-street, Nottingham; Middleton Junction Working Men's Bowling and Athletic Club, Club House, Mills Hill-road, Middleton Junction, Manchester; Highburton Working Men's Club, The Club House, Hall Fold, Highburton, Kirkburton, Huddersfield; Mercy and Truth Blashka Friendly Sick Benefit Soc., 66, Spelman-street, Spitalfields, E.; Cornwall Works Dispensary, Cornwall Works, Smethwick, Birmingham; Old King's Head Sick and Burial Tontine Benefit Soc., Old King's Head, Hope-street, Wrexham; Loyal Cwmatawe Friendly Soc., Smiths' Arms Inn, Ystalyfera, Glamorgan; Trecynon Hand-in-Hand Benefit Soc., Cross Inn, Trecynon, Aberdare; Manchester Unity Fidelity Guarantee Soc., 97, Grosvenor-street, Chorlton-on-Medlock, Manchester. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—2, viz., Enniskillen Loyal Protestant Assoc., Town Hall, Enniskillen; Mullaghbaun Agric. Bank, Mullaghbaun, Forkhill, co. Armagh.

## (2) DISSOLVED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in August was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 8; under the Friendly Societies Act, 57 (including 37 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 6; in all 74.

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

## FRIENDLY SOCIETIES IN NEW ZEALAND.

THE 25th Annual Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies in New Zealand shows that at the end of 1901 there were on the register 625 Friendly Societies and Lodges, and 37 Trade Unions, compared with 609 Friendly Societies and Lodges and 37 Trade Unions at the end of 1900.

Abstracts of the returns received from 478 Central Friendly Societies and Lodges for the year 1900 are included in the report, showing a total membership of 40,257, and aggregate funds amounting to £766,480, of which £597,754 were invested in various securities, upon which an average interest of 5.6 per cent. was received during the year.