

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

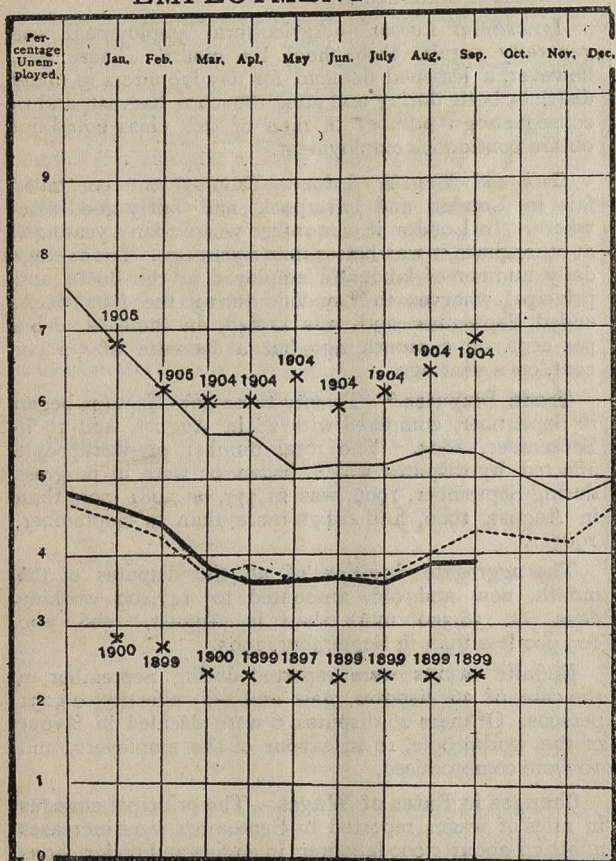


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve—1906. — Thin Curve—1905.
- - - - - Dotted Curve—Mean of 1896-1905.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN SEPTEMBER.

[Based on 7,857 returns, viz.: 3,725 from Employers and their Associations; 3,651 from Trade Unions; 396 from Local Correspondents; and 85 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT during September was, on the whole, much about the same as in August.

Compared with a year ago all the principal industries showed an improvement, with the exception of the boot and shoe trade and the tinplate trade.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 598,611, making Returns, 22,826 (or 3·8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of September, 1906, compared with the same percentage in August, and 5·3 per cent. at the end of September, 1905.

Building Trades.—Employment was dull generally, and worse than a month ago. It was slightly better than a year ago.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued fairly good. It showed very little change as compared with a month ago, and was somewhat better than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during September continued good, and was rather better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 24,600 workpeople, showed that 341 furnaces were in blast at the end of September, as compared with 337 in the previous month and 325 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works in September continued brisk generally; it was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. The volume of employment at 204 works from which Returns were received was 0·9 per cent. greater in the week ended September 22nd, 1906, than in the week ended August 25th, and 4·2 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Tinplate and Sheet Manufacture.—Employment during September was good, and showed an improvement as compared with August. As compared with a year ago, it was not so good at tinplate works, but was better at sheet mills. According to Returns received, 430 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of September, 1906, as compared with 417 in the previous month, and 435 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued good, and better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 2·8, as compared with the same percentage in August and 4·5 per cent. at the end of September, 1905.

*Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment was fair on the whole in the principal shipbuilding centres, but showed some decline compared with a month ago. It remained much better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 6·5, as compared with 5·6 at the end of August, and 13·7 at the end of September, 1905.

Cotton Trade.—Employment continued very good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 134,715 workpeople in the week ended September 29th, show an increase of 0·5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with the week ended August 25th, and of 3·2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in this industry remained good, and was better than a month ago; it showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 21,475 workpeople on the last pay-day in

* The stoppage of work at certain yards on the Clyde did not begin until October 1st.

September show increases in the wages paid of 1·8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0·2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continued fairly good, showing little general change compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,102 workpeople on the last pay-day in September show an increase of 0·6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0·5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment in this industry continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,865 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended September 29th show an increase of 0·2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4·5 per cent. as compared with September, 1905.

Jute Trade.—Employment in this trade continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,834 workpeople on pay-day in the week ended September 29th, 1906, show a very slight decrease in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3·9 per cent. as compared with September, 1905.

Silk Trade.—Employment in this trade showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month, but was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,648 workpeople show a decrease in the amount of wages paid in the last week of September of 1·5 per cent. as compared with August, but an increase of 3·1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment in this trade continued fairly good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,958 workpeople in the week ended September 29th, 1906, show an increase of 0·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with August, and of 11·3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment generally was good and decidedly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 16,561 workpeople on the last pay-day in September show an increase of 1·3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6·3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch showed the usual seasonal improvement in London, but was slightly worse than a year ago; in the Provinces it continued slack. In the *ready-made* branch employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during September in the *Silk Hat* branch was still slack, but better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* branch it was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of September in the *Silk Hat* trade was 13·3, compared with 15·1 at the end of August, and 13·8 a year ago. The corresponding percentages for the *Felt Hat* trade were 1·9, 2·3 and 2·5.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade was still slack, and showed a further decline as compared with August; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 59,387 workpeople on the last pay-day in September showed a decrease of 2·4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the corresponding week in August, and of 2·7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued fairly good. It was better than a year ago. Of 3,745 members of Trade Unions, 4·8 per cent. were unemployed, as compared with 4·9 per cent. a month ago, and 6·0 per cent. in September, 1905.

Paper-making Trades.—Employment remained good in these trades, and was better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was quiet in these trades, but rather better than a month ago and a year ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 5·2, as compared with 5·5 in August,

and 5·4 in September, 1905. In the bookbinding trades the percentages were 4·4 for September, 4·7 for August, and 5·1 for September, 1905.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continued fair on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Compared with a month ago a slight decline was shown. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 4·5, as compared with 4·2 in August, and 5·1 in September, 1905.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued moderate generally, but was worse than a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 10,180 workpeople show a decline in the amount of wages paid of 4·0 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6·3 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—In the Pottery trade employment was good generally and better than a month ago; in Scotland it was fair. In the Brick and Tile trade it continued fair.

Agricultural Labour.—Agricultural employment was generally regular throughout the month. There was, however, a lessened demand for day labourers in many districts, both during and after the corn harvest, and in consequence a number of men of this class could not obtain continuous employment.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment continued fair in London and Liverpool, and fairly good elsewhere. In London it was rather worse than a year ago; at other ports it was better than a year ago. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended September 29th was 11,847, an increase of 0·6 per cent. on a month ago, but a decrease of 3·2 per cent. on a year ago.

Trade Disputes.*—Twenty-three new disputes began in September, compared with 28 in August, and 10 in September, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during September, 1906, was 21,377, or 7,281 more than in August, 1906, and 6,491 more than in September, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 147,400 working days, or 38,300 more than in August, 1906, and 109,900 less than in September, 1905.

Definite results were reported during September in the case of 26 disputes, new and old, affecting 20,251 persons. Of these 26 disputes, 6 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 10 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The principal changes in rates of wages reported in September were increases affecting about 5,000 labourers in engine and boiler shops at Leeds, and 4,100 coal miners in Somerset. The total number of workpeople affected by all changes reported was 17,100, and the net effect was an increase of about £670 per week, over 16,400 workpeople having received advances amounting to about £700 per week, and nearly 700 having sustained decreases amounting to £30 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 295,600 workpeople, the net result being an increase of £10,350 per week. During September, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was 24,300, and the net result an increase of about £70 per week.

One change, affecting over 200 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; two changes, affecting nearly 4,400 workpeople, were arranged by a Conciliation Board in one case, and by mediation in the other; one change, affecting nearly 700 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale; and the remaining changes, affecting over 11,800 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives. In five cases, affecting nearly 700 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

* The stoppage of work at certain yards on the Clyde did not begin until October 1st.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1905.

THE Thirteenth Annual Report of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom has just been published.* It deals with the changes of 1905, of which the preliminary results were given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for January, 1906. It also gives certain figures for the first half of 1906.

After four years of falling wages, which resulted in a total net decrease of £227,000 in the aggregate weekly wages of those affected by reported changes, the first six months of 1905 showed a continuation of the decline, but in the last six months there was an upward movement, and the net result for the year was a fall of about £2,000 only. It is satisfactory to note that the rise which began in the middle of 1905 has continued during the present year, a net increase of £26,600 having been reported to the Department during the first six months of 1906. In this connection reference may also be made to still later figures on p. 312 of this GAZETTE dealing with the first nine months of 1906.

Most of the changes in weekly rates were quite insignificant, the only important ones being a rise of £10,000 in the textile industry, and a fall of £13,000 in the coal mining industry. Of the 689,000 persons affected by changes in the year, 250,000 (including 194,000 coal miners) sustained decreases, 319,000 (including 224,000 cotton operatives), received increases, and 120,000 (including 87,000 cotton spinners, &c., who received a bonus for 12 weeks) sustained both increases and decreases, which resulted in leaving their wages at the same level at the end of the year as at the beginning. The predominating influence of the coal mining industry—due both to the large number employed and to the great oscillation of wages in that industry—is again noticeable.

The following Table shows the number of persons affected by changes in rates of wages in each of the last ten years, and the amount of such changes; the coal-mining industry being also shown separately:—

Year.	Number Affected.		Net Weekly Rise (+) or Fall (-) of Wages.	
	All Trades.†	Coal Mining.	All Trades.†	Coal Mining.
1896	No.	No.	£	£
1896	605,000	203,000	+ 27,000	- 6,000
1897	597,000	240,000	+ 32,000	+ 7,000
1898	1,012,000	660,000	+ 81,000	+ 57,000
1899	1,172,000	653,000	+ 90,000	+ 51,000
1900	1,132,000	681,000	+ 209,000	+ 164,000
1901	939,000	705,000	- 27,000	- 57,000
1902	887,000	736,000	- 73,000	- 74,000
1903	897,000	752,000	- 38,000	- 32,000
1904	861,000	658,000	- 39,000	- 31,000
1905	689,000	201,000	- 2,000	- 13,000

From the above Table it will be seen that the net result of the changes during the last ten years has been a rise in the aggregate weekly wage of more than £200,000; the decline of the last five years taken together barely exceeded the rise of the year 1900 alone.

The above figures relate only to changes due to alterations in the rates of wages, changes in earnings caused by fluctuations in the amount of available employment, and changes in the total wage-bill of the country due to the increase of population, not being included in the scope of the report.

It is again satisfactory to note that, although questions of wages are a frequent cause of labour troubles, the number of workpeople whose changes in wages were preceded by a stoppage of work formed but an insignificant fraction of the whole, the percentage affected in 1905, though a little higher than in the four preceding years, being only 2·1 per cent. of the total. The proportion of workpeople whose wages-changes were arranged by conciliation, arbitration, wages boards, and other conciliatory agencies, amounted to over 44 per cent. of the total. This was a smaller percentage than in the four preceding years, in consequence of the comparatively small number of coal miners (whose

* Cd. 3172. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 7d. Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants.

wages in most districts are regulated by Conciliation Boards) affected by changes during the year.

The changes in hours of labour recorded in 1905 affected 95,985 workpeople, of whom 90,179 had their working hours reduced. Over 92,000 of this number were employed in the building trades. The net effect of all the changes was a reduction of 65,265 hours in the weekly working time of the workpeople affected.

WAGES AND PRICES IN AMERICA.

THE Bulletin for July, 1906, published by the United States Department of Commerce and Labour, contains the result of an investigation into wages and hours of labour, and into the prices of the principal food products, during the year 1905. This investigation, taken in connection with previous investigations for the period 1890-1903, and for the year 1904, affords what is believed to be a fairly representative study of the subject for the last sixteen years. An account of the changes in wages and prices during the fifteen years of the period ending 1904 was given in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1905, p. 323; and the present article is devoted chiefly to an account of the changes that occurred during the year 1905.

The investigation was conducted by means of personal visits of officers of the Bureau to 4,121 establishments, representing 42 industries and 349 separate "occupations," and employing 295,000 workpeople in 1904 and 314,000 workpeople in 1905. The investigation did not extend to mining, agriculture, the transport trades, and certain other important occupations; and excluded all industries whose total wages-bill for the United States as a whole amounted, according to the 1900 Census, to less than 10 million dollars a year.

The rates of wages and hours of labour stated are averages of the rates earned and hours worked by all employees in a given occupation. All rates of wages, however recorded in the pay-rolls of the various establishments, were converted into rates per hour. In cases where wages were paid at piece-work rates, such rates were converted into rates per hour, the amount which could be earned in an hour under normal pressure being taken.

The general result of the investigation is to show that the average rate of wages per hour rose 1·6 per cent. as compared with 1904, and is now 18·9 per cent. higher than the average for the years 1890-99. The hours of labour have changed slightly, either upwards or downwards, in most occupations; but, taking all occupations together, the average hours of labour have remained unaltered as compared with 1904; while, as compared with the average for the years 1890-1899, they have fallen 4·1 per cent. Combining the effect of the rise in hourly wages, and the decline in hours of labour, it appears that the weekly earnings of all employees in the industries included in the investigation have risen 1·6 per cent. as compared with 1904, and 14 per cent. as compared with the average of the years 1890-1899. Owing, however, to the rise in the retail price of the principal articles of food, the purchasing power of weekly earnings, measured by the price of food, has risen only 1·4 per cent. as compared with the average of the years 1890-1899, and is actually lower than in the years 1896, 1897, 1899, 1900, and 1903.

The above results are brought together in the following Table, where the method of index numbers is employed, the average for the years 1890-1899 being taken as the standard (= 100·0):—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Number of employees	115·6	119·1	123·6	126·5	125·7	133·6
Hours per week	98·7	98·1	97·3	96·6	95·9	95·9
Rate of wages per hour	105·5	108·0	112·2	116·3	117·0	118·9
Weekly earnings per employee	104·1	105·9	109·2	112·3	112·2	114·0
Retail prices of food*	101·1	105·2	110·9	110·3	111·7	112·4
Purchasing power of weekly earnings measured by retail prices of food	103·0	100·7	98·5	101·8	100·4	101·4

* Prices of 30 articles, weighted according to family consumption, as shown by returns received in 1901 from 2,567 families containing 13,643 persons.

The following Table may be of interest as indicating the actual rates paid and hours worked. It shows the average rates of wages per hour and the average number of hours of labour per week in 1905 for certain selected trades in the three largest cities of the United States.

Trades.	New York.		Chicago.		Philadelphia.	
	Average Wages per hour.	Average Number of Hours per week.	Average Wages per hour.	Average Number of Hours per week.	Average Wages per hour.	Average Number of Hours per week.
Bricklayers ...	2 11	44	2 7 ¹ / ₂	45	2 6	44
Painters ...	1 11	44	1 10 ¹ / ₂	44	1 6 ¹ / ₂	48
Plasterers ...	2 10 ¹ / ₂	44	2 5 ¹ / ₂	44	2 4	44
Plumbers ...	2 5 ¹ / ₂	44	2 4	44	1 10	47 ¹ / ₂
Carpenters ...	2 7	44	2 1	44	1 8	46 ¹ / ₂
Cabinet Makers ...	1 6 ¹ / ₂	58	1 1	51 ¹ / ₂	1 1	56 ¹ / ₂
Pattern Makers ...	1 8	54	1 6 ¹ / ₂	54	1 5 ¹ / ₂	56
Blacksmiths ...	1 7 ¹ / ₂	53 ¹ / ₂	1 4 ¹ / ₂	54	1 4	56
Machinists ...	1 3	54	1 3	54	1 2	56
Iron Moulders ...	1 4 ¹ / ₂	54	1 4 ¹ / ₂	54	1 4 ¹ / ₂	55 ¹ / ₂
Boiler Makers ...	1 5	51 ¹ / ₂	1 5 ¹ / ₂	54	1 1	56
Compositors (Newspaper) ...	2 5	46 ¹ / ₂	2 6 ¹ / ₂	46 ¹ / ₂	1 9	49 ¹ / ₂
Linotype Operators ...	2 6 ¹ / ₂	48 ¹ / ₂	2 10	49 ¹ / ₂	2 4 ¹ / ₂	46

Retail prices of food as a whole were, in 1900, only 1 per cent. above the average of the ten years 1890-99. By 1902 they had risen nearly 10 per cent.; but in the three succeeding years, though the rise has continued, it has been much less rapid.

Of the 30 articles dealt with, 23 showed an advance in 1905 as compared with 1904, though the advances have not been very great, on the whole.

The following Table shows the variation in the average price* of some of the more important articles of food during the last five years, the prices being shown as percentages of the averages for 1890-99. The information respecting retail prices of food is based on 5,302 schedules obtained from 814 retail merchants for 1890-1902, on 5,293 schedules from 811 merchants for 1903, and on 6,193 schedules from 999 merchants for 1904-5. The firms furnishing prices were those selling largely to working men.

[Average for years 1890-1899 taken as standard = 100.]

Articles.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Beef, Fresh (Roasting) ...	105.5	110.7	118.6	113.1	112.8	112.2
Mutton and Lamb ...	105.6	109.0	114.7	114.6	114.1	117.8
Bacon ...	109.7	121.0	135.6	1 9.8	137.9	138.8
Pork, Fresh ...	107.7	117.9	128.3	127.0	124.0	126.6
Potatoes ...	93.5	116.8	117.0	114.8	121.3	110.2
Flour, Wheat ...	94.3	94.4	94.9	101.2	119.9	119.9
Bread, Wheat ...	99.7	99.4	99.4	100.2	103.9	101.5
Butter ...	101.4	103.2	111.5	110.8	109.0	112.7
Eggs ...	99.4	105.7	110.1	113.3	130.9	131.6
Sugar ...	104.9	103.0	96.0	96.1	101.9	103.9
Milk, Fresh ...	99.9	101.1	104.3	104.8	106.3	107.0
Coffee ...	91.1	90.7	89.6	89.3	91.8	93.6
Tea ...	105.5	106.7	107.2	105.0	105.8	105.7

It will be noticed that most of these articles showed a general tendency to rise in the years 1900-2, to fall in 1903-4 (with the important exception of flour), and to rise in 1905. Eggs, however, showed a steady rise throughout, their price being 32 per cent. higher in 1905 than in 1900. Bacon also rose in price nearly 30 per cent. in the same period.

CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Anstey Boot and Shoe Operatives.

Alderman T. Smith, J.P., of Leicester, the Empire appointed by the Board of Trade (*see GAZETTE* for September, p. 261) to determine the minimum rate of wages to be paid to adult boot and shoe operatives at Anstey, issued his award on September 15th. He decided that the minimum rate to be paid to adult male clickers, lasters, and finishers, and to pressmen or rough-stuff cutters who cut soles, insoles, and stiffeners, should be 28s. per week. For pressmen or rough-stuff cutters who cut boards, paper socks, or other inferior material, the rate is fixed at 26s. per week. Pressmen or rough-stuff cutters entitled to the 28s. minimum, but temporarily employed on inferior material, are to retain the 28s. rate.

* By average price for the year is meant the arithmetic mean of 12 monthly quotations.

The award is to come into operation on January 1st, 1907, and is not to be open to revision for a period of two years, after which a three months' notice of revision is required.

ESTABLISHMENT OF METROPOLITAN EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

In March last the Central (Unemployed) Body for London decided to exercise the powers given them under Section 1 (4) of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, with regard to Employment Exchanges, and during the past four months have been engaged in giving practical effect to their decision.

In the middle of the present year there were in existence in London ten Labour Bureaux maintained by Metropolitan Borough Councils under the Labour Bureaux (London) Act, 1902, but, in nearly all of these, operations had been more or less completely suspended since the preceding winter and the services of their staff transferred to the Distress Committees engaged in registering applicants for employment-relief. The first work of the Central Body was to approach the Borough Councils concerned, with a view to taking over these separate Labour Bureaux, and transforming them into part of a connected system of Employment Exchanges, rigidly separated from the administration of relief in any shape, and confined to the object of facilitating the supply of competent labour for ordinary industrial needs. Eight of these Bureaux have already been taken over, it being found necessary in most cases to secure fresh offices for them.

The complete system contemplated by the Central Body will consist of 26 or 27 local Exchanges in different parts of London, following in general the division into Metropolitan Boroughs, together with a Central Exchange at 87, Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, E.C., serving as a clearing house for all the rest, and also, it is hoped, as a centre of communication with provincial bureaux. Up to the end of September the following 19 new Exchanges had been established:—

Bethnal Green...	11, Green Street, Bethnal Green, E.
Camberwell ...	60A, Peckham Park Road, S.E.
Deptford ...	13, Deptford Bridge, S.E.
Finsbury ...	48, Myddelton Street, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.
Fulham ...	Effie Road, Waltham Green, S.W.
Greenwich ...	12, Stockwell Street, S.E.
Hammersmith...	20, Queen Street, Hammersmith Broadway, W.
Hampstead ...	Railway Passage, West End Lane (temporary), N.W.
Islington ...	93, St. Paul's Road, N.
Kensington ...	155, Clarendon Road, Notting Hill, W.
Lambeth ...	120A, Lambeth Road, S.E.
Lewisham ...	17, Brownhill Road, Catford, S.E.
Poplar ...	1, Follett Street, East India Dock Road, E.
St. Pancras ...	19, Crowndale Road, N.W.
Shoreditch ...	134F, Kingsland Road, N.E.
Southwark ...	23, New Kent Road, S.E.
Stepney...	41, White Horse Street, E.
Wandsworth ...	213, Garratt Lane, S.W.
Woolwich ...	20, Albion Road, S.E.

Each local Exchange consists of an office where, between stated hours, all classes of workpeople may register in person, stating their address, age, employment desired, qualifications for such employment, with names and addresses of previous employers, and to which employers may notify their requirements for workpeople by letter, telephone, or personal call. "Indoor domestic servants" are not registered.

In the Instructions to Superintendents great emphasis is laid on the importance of sending to employers only those who are qualified for the work required. Unlike the Distress Committees, the Employment Exchanges are concerned only with the industrial capacity of applicants, and not with their poverty, size of family, length of residence in a particular district, thrift, or moral character. Each local Exchange fills situations notified by employers in the first instance from those on its own register, and at once notifies to the Central Exchange any situation which it cannot fill in this way. The Central Exchange, having before it daily tables showing the occupations of the workpeople registered

at every local Exchange, is in a position at once to notify an unsatisfied demand for labour in one district to all the neighbouring Exchanges which have workpeople of the class desired on their books. The system being in telephonic communication will enable employers without delay to obtain any class of labour required to hear of suitable employment wherever notified. As between employers and employed the Exchanges will be impartial, and in case of industrial disputes will suspend operations. The staff of each local Exchange consists of a superintendent and a clerk, or junior. The preliminary estimate for the first full year's working of the whole system is £10,725.

The Central Body have entirely dissociated the Employment Exchanges in premises, staff of management, and policy from that side of its work which consists in the direct relief of the unemployed through Distress Committees.

HARVEST EARNINGS IN 1906.

ACCORDING to the Returns furnished to the Department, this year's corn harvest was, on the whole, gathered in less time than that of 1905, owing to the exceptionally fine weather, which enabled work to proceed with practically no interruption. Comparatively few extra men were engaged, as most of the corn stood up well and was cut by the aid of self-binding machines. A number of day labourers were unable to get harvest engagements. Generally speaking, harvest earnings averaged somewhat less in 1906 than in 1905.

The following Table shows the average cash earnings, exclusive of the value of any food and drink which may have been provided in addition, of men employed on certain farms in the Eastern, Midland, and Southern and South-Western Counties of England respectively for the corn harvest of 1906:—

District.	Number of Men employed at Harvest on Farms included in Table.	Average Duration of Harvest.	Average Cash Earnings for Harvest per Man.
Eastern Counties ...	605	Working Days. 23	£ s. d. 7 8 8
Midland Counties ...	365	25	5 16 1
Southern and South Western Counties.	358	21	4 9 4

It will be seen that the earnings were highest in the Eastern Counties, which comprise the great corn-growing counties of Huntingdon, Cambridge, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. The payments in these counties ranged from about £6 15s. to £8, though more was earned by some men on piece work in the Fen districts. In parts of Norfolk and in Suffolk and Essex the usual system of payment is for the labourer to contract with the farmer to perform the harvest work for a fixed sum, irrespective of the number of days occupied. A short harvest, as in 1905 and this year, is thus a profitable one for the labourer, as he gets back to ordinary farm work at weekly wages sooner than in years such as 1902 and 1903, when the harvest was lengthened by unfavourable weather.

In the Midland and in the Southern and South-Western counties the systems of payment are frequently on a time-work basis, so that harvest earnings fluctuate from year to year according to the duration of the harvest, and the longer harvests of 1902 and 1903 would be more favourable to the labourer than the shorter harvests of 1905 and 1906.

The various methods of payment are as follows (apart from that already described for certain Eastern counties):—To give the work in separate portions as piecework; to give the ordinary weekly wages and, in addition, a bonus of a pound or two at the end of harvest; to give extra time wages for a month certain, and then to pay the ordinary weekly wages; to pay double the ordinary weekly wages during harvest; to pay a certain rate per day as long as harvest lasts. Occasionally the ordinary weekly wage is paid and overtime money given.

In addition to cash payments, beer or cider is frequently

given, and in some cases, light refreshments such as tea, bread, butter and cheese.

The Northern Counties have been excluded from the above Table, as the majority of the farm servants in the North are hired by the year or half-year, and paid a regular wage with free board and lodging during the whole of the period for which they are hired, and are given no extra money for harvest, though they are often given extra food and drink. Except in Northumberland and Durham, where the system of engagement closely resembles that in the Border Counties of Scotland, the married men attached to the staff of a farm generally get from about £4 to £6 for a month at harvest, some food and drink being frequently given in addition. Extra hands, both English and Irish, in these districts sometimes get rather higher payments than the regular men, and often more food. The Irishmen are usually provided with lodging in barns or outhouses on the farms.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR OF MINERS IN PRUSSIA, 1905.

The Prussian Ministry of Commerce and Industry has recently published* statistics relating to the wages and hours of labour of workpeople employed at mines in the principal mining districts of Prussia in 1905.

Earnings of Workmen.

The average earnings published in the report are obtained by dividing the total amount paid in wages during the year by the average number of workmen employed. The earnings are stated clear of all deductions for expenses falling on the miners (for accident, sickness, old age, and infirmity insurance, for sharpening tools, for materials, &c.), and without any addition in respect of benefits enjoyed by the workmen (e.g., land, house accommodation, &c.).

At coal mines in the Dortmund district, where 60 per cent. of the total are employed, the average earnings in 1905 of workmen of 16 years of age and upwards were £68 10s. for hewers and trammers, £49 7s. for other underground workmen, and £57 3s. for surface workmen. Except in the case of "other underground workmen," who averaged £55 in the Aachen district, these averages were higher than those for any other district. The lowest average earnings of workmen employed at coal mines were £47 for hewers and trammers, and £45 10s. for other underground workmen in Lower Silesia, and £39 7s. for surface workmen in Upper Silesia.

The average net earnings for the year 1905 of workmen of 16 years of age and upwards employed at mines in the various districts are shown in the following Table:—

Kind of Mine and District.	Average Number of Workmen (Males over 16) employed.	Average Net Earnings in 1905.		
		Hewers and Trammers.	Other Underground Workmen.	Surface Workmen.
Coal—		£ s.	£ s.	£ s.
Upper Silesia...	78,902	48 10	46 7	39 7
Lower Silesia...	24,518	47 0	45 10	41 17
Dortmund ...	250,920	68 10	49 7	57 3
Saarbrücken ...	44,675	61 19	46 18	53 10
Aachen ...	15,322	66 19	55 0	56 4
Lignite—				
Halle ...	32,183	55 10	46 14	46 0
Left Bank of Rhine ...	5,072	52 14	†	47 18
Salt—				
Halle ...	6,418	60 4	54 1	52 10
Clausthal ...	4,544	62 2	56 4	49 4
Metalliferous—				
Mansfeld ...	14,526	52 0	51 15	48 5
Oberharz ...	2,793	59 15	42 14	33 2
Siegen Nassau ...	16,562	48 14	49 16	45 9
Other Right Bank of Rhine ...	6,833	46 17	43 8	40 1
Left Bank of Rhine ...	3,625	40 13	43 2	36 7

In the Dortmund district the average earnings of underground workmen were slightly lower in 1905 than in 1904, the decrease amounting to £2 5s. for the year in the case of hewers and trammers, and 19s. in the case of other underground workmen. These declines were due to the strike at the beginning of the year, which affected 210,230 workpeople and lasted about a month. Notwithstanding this dispute the average annual

* In *Zeitschrift für das Berg-, Hütten-, und Salinen-Wesen im Preussischen Staate*, Jahrgang 1906. (Band 54) 1 Statistische Lieferung.

† Less than 100 "Other Underground Workmen" employed.

earnings of surface workmen in this district were £1 7s. higher in 1905 than in 1904.

In all other cases there was some increase in the average annual earnings (except with underground workmen other than hewers and trammers, in metalliferous mines in the Mansfeld district and on the left bank of the Rhine). The greatest increase in 1905, as compared with 1904, was £3 17s. in the case of hewers and trammers in metalliferous mines in the Siegen-Nassau district.

Hours of Labour of Workmen.

The hours of labour stated for underground workmen include pauses for meals, etc., but not the time occupied in travelling between the surface and the place of work, while those stated for surface workmen are inclusive of pauses. Underground workmen in coal mines in the Dortmund district averaged 7.9 hours per day. In the Saarbrücken and Aachen districts the 8-hour day was prevalent. In Lower Silesia practically the whole of the underground workmen in coal mines worked 8 hours, but in Upper Silesia 75 per cent. of the hewers and trammers and 60 per cent. of other underground workmen worked 10 hours a day. With surface workmen at coal mines the average length of the working day was 10.6 hours in the Dortmund district, 10.8 hours in the Aachen district, 11.2 hours in Lower Silesia, 11.3 hours in Upper Silesia, and 12 hours in the Saarbrücken district. Underground workmen at lignite mines averaged about 10.2 hours per day in the Halle district, and 12 hours per day on the left bank of the Rhine. In metalliferous mines the average length of the working day for underground workmen varied from 7.8 to 10.5 hours. In both lignite and metalliferous mines the total duration of pauses was often as much as two hours.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: CONTRACT-LABOUR LAW.

Warning to Emigrants.

In a despatch from His Majesty's Consul at Chicago, warning is given to persons who may be induced to emigrate to the United States on the promise of work being found for them by a particular employer in contravention of the Contract-Labour Law, which prohibits the entrance of persons who have made a contract abroad to take up a definite engagement in the United States.

In July last four moulders were induced by the English representative of a firm having branches in Montreal, Chicago, and Milwaukee, to go out to Montreal on the understanding that they would be guaranteed work for 12 months at three dollars a day. On arrival at Montreal the men were informed that all vacancies at that city were filled up, but were promised four dollars a day if they would go on to Milwaukee. The men were refused passes by the United States Immigration Officer at Montreal, on the ground that their entrance would infringe the United States Contract-Labour Law; but they managed to cross the frontier at Niagara under the guise of sight-seers, and eventually arrived at Chicago and reported themselves at the firm's works there. At Chicago, however, they ascertained that there was a strike at the company's works; they therefore refused to work as strike-breakers, and reported the matter to the United States Immigration Bureau. The men are now being detained by the Department as witnesses in a suit to be brought against the Company for breach of the Contract Labour Law, on the conclusion of which suit they will be deported from the United States.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

It is too late in the year for the ordinary emigrant without means to go to Canada. The strikes of lithographers at Montreal, and of piano workers at Toronto, are still on, but that of the plumbers at Winnipeg has been settled. A strike of miners at the arge Crows Nest coal mines in British Columbia was

begun at the end of last month. An Act has been passed making the rules against the admission of diseased, pauper, or criminal immigrants into Canada more stringent, and empowering the Government to require every immigrant to have a certain sum of money on landing.

Work has been very plentiful in Canada during the summer. The "Dominion Labour Gazette" for September states: "The prevailing scarcity of labour reported during July became still more severe during August, being felt to a greater or less degree throughout the several provinces and in many of the most important branches of industry. Farm labourers, railway construction hands, and unskilled labourers were those more particularly in demand. Among the classes and localities severely affected by the scarcity mention may be made of the following: Farm and unskilled labour throughout Canada; railway construction employees throughout Quebec, Ontario, the prairie provinces, and British Columbia; unskilled labourers in the Nova Scotia collieries and steel works; saw-mill hands in New Brunswick; asbestos miners in Quebec; bushmen in Quebec and Ontario; factory hands, especially in light manufacturing and in fruit canneries in Quebec and Ontario; leather workers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta; miners' lumbermen, cannery men and general labourers in British Columbia; domestic servants, hotel and restaurant employees throughout Canada."

Commonwealth of Australia.

There is not much demand for more mechanics in any part of Australia. The principal demand is for competent farm labourers, but the demand is limited to certain districts, and is not permanent throughout the year. New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia offer the best openings to this class of labour, and a steady man can always procure work in those States. The coal-mining industry in New South Wales has been greatly interfered with by labour disputes as to wages, &c., but an agreement seems now to have been arrived at. There is plenty of mining carried on in the other States also, but as a rule the supply of local labour is quite sufficient. The minimum wages of brass moulders and brass finishers in Victoria have just been fixed at 48s. per week of 48 hours. The only States which give money assistance to emigrants are New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia.

New Zealand.

The busy summer season is now commencing in New Zealand. Competent mechanics, saw millers, flax millers, etc., and farm and general labourers, have little difficulty in obtaining employment at good wages. Reduced passages are granted to female servants, if they have £5 on landing in the Colony; there is a good demand for such servants.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony in search of work. There is a plentiful supply of men on the spot, many of whom are unable to find employment. No one is allowed to land in the Colony unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment beforehand.

Natal.—There is no opening for more mechanics or labourers, the local supply being more than sufficient, and work difficult to secure.

Transvaal.—Persons entering the Transvaal must have permits, which are given immediately to those making personal application in South Africa, unless there is any police record against them. All persons are warned against going to the Colony in search of work. Employment is very scarce, except in the cases of compositors and linotype operators, and much distress exists, owing to the high cost of living, among those who are unable to obtain it. There is some demand for female servants, who may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

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

Orange River Colony.—The rules as to permits are the same as those in the Transvaal. There is no demand whatever for mechanics, miners, farm, or general labourers. Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society above-mentioned. Single men between 20 and 30 years of age, and not less than 5 ft. 6 in. in height, are wanted for the South African Constabulary, which serves in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony; candidates must apply in writing, at the Recruiting Office, King's Yard, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 289 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries.]

FRANCE.*

Employment in August.—During August workpeople were fully employed in the building and allied trades. The metal trades on the whole continued as busy as in the previous month. In the textile trades a general decline in employment was reported; it continued normal, however, in the Vosges and in the smaller hand-weaving centres of the Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres departments, and the revival in the silk machine weaving industry in the Isère department was maintained. At Lyons employment was not so good as in July, except with tulle workers, who were fully employed. The clothing and printing trades were in their slack season. With coachmakers, especially at Paris, employment was very good. Fewer leather dressers were out of work than in July. Unemployment increased among vineyard workers in the south, and woodcutters and other agricultural workers in the centre of France, but gardeners continued well employed.

In returns as to the state of employment during August received by the French Labour Department from 1,176 Trade Unions with 250,888 members, 7.5 per cent. of the members to whom the returns related were described as out of work, as compared with 7.5 per cent. also in the preceding month, and 8.6 per cent. in August, 1905. (As regards these figures see Note above.) Returns from the Miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments are not included in the foregoing details.

Coal-Mining in August.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mining in France during August was 5.95, as compared with 6.01 in the previous month, and with 5.83 in August, 1905. Full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 81.17 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 18.37 per cent. of all workpeople (whether surface or underground workers), the corresponding percentages for the preceding month being 88.02 and 11.83, and for August, 1905, 51.20 and 48.60 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 160,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of all employed in or about the mines.

Labour Disputes in August.—Seventy-six disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in August, compared with 92 in the preceding month, and 50 in August, 1905. In 69 of the new disputes 12,030 workpeople took part, as compared with 11,444 who took part in 83 of the July disputes, and 8,564 persons who participated in the disputes of August, 1905. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes took place were the building (14 disputes), metal (10), leather (9), transport (9), and textile (8). Out of 79 new and old disputes which came to an end in August, 20 terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 26 in favour of the employers, while 33 resulted in a compromise.

* Bulletin de l'Office des Travaux (Journal of the French Labour Department)

Conciliation and Arbitration in August.—Eleven cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred during August, the initiative being taken by the Justice of the Peace in 8 cases, and by the workpeople in 3. Committees of Conciliation met in 7 cases with the result that 4 of the 7 disputes were settled; in the other 3 no agreement was reached. The employers declined the proffered mediation in the remaining 4 cases.

GERMANY.*

Employment in August.—Employment in August on the whole was very good and decidedly better than a year ago. In the building trades it was good and better than in July. Coal miners were fully employed, except in a few places where there was a scarcity of wagons. Nearly all the branches of the metal and engineering, electrical, chemical and textile trades reported that the situation continued particularly favourable, and the great demand for labour resulted in wages showing an upward tendency. The clothing trades showed increased activity. In the printing trades, which are usually quiet in August, employment was relatively satisfactory. The partial termination of agricultural operations and the end of the holiday season rendered more labour available in the towns during the latter part of the month.

BELGIUM.

Employment in August.—According to reports made to the Belgian Labour Department, 134 Trade Unions with 30,308 members had 1.9 per cent. of their number out of work towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.3 per cent. in the preceding month, and 2.2 in August, 1905. (As regards these figures see Note above.) The figures do not include particulars relating to miners, homeworkers, or agricultural labourers.

Lock-out in the Textile Industry at Verviers.—At the termination of their busy season two woolwashing firms at Verviers discharged some of their workpeople. This led to a strike, the strikers demanding that all the workpeople should be retained in employment on short time instead of a reduced number in full employment. The strike continuing, all the woolwashing establishments in Verviers locked out their workpeople; and this step being ineffective, a general lock-out in the textile industry in the Verviers district was decided on on September 17th. The lock-out, which directly affects about 20,000 workpeople, continues.

NORWAY.

Employment in August.—Of 14,733 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 166, or 1.1 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of August. (As regards these figures see above. For comparison, the figures for August, 1906, July, 1906, and August, 1905, are given for some principal Trade Unions which made Returns for each of these three months, and it will be seen that the Returns indicate an improvement in August, 1906, as compared with August, 1905.

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.	August, 1906.	July, 1906.	August, 1905.
Metal Workers & Moulders	4,827	4,924	4,119	0.7	0.7	1.5
Painters and Masons	452	438	309	2.7	2.3	3.6
Carpenters, &c.	581	545	552	2.4	2.0	3.3
Sawyers and Planers	366	398	376	0.3	0.5	0.01
Cabinet Makers	335	325	242	3.0	4.9	2.9
Boot and Shoe Makers	412	395	415	—	—	0.2
Tinned Goods	261	246	103	1.1	1.6	—
Printers	1,002	1,007	890	4.1	2.5	8.9
Bookbinders	175	176	171	4.0	4.0	4.7
Other Trades	309	287	164	4.5	—	—
Total	9,023	9,040	7,347	1.6	1.3	3.0

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

† Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).

‡ Based on a report by the British Vice-Consul at Liège, forwarded to the Foreign Office by H.M. Ambassador at Brussels.

§ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

|| This figure is stated to be due "to special circumstances."

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN SEPTEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 527 Returns—451 from Employers, 58 from Trade Unions, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued fairly good during September. It was much the same on the whole as a month ago, and somewhat better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,373 pits employing 581,785 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended September 22nd, 1906, was 5.30 as compared with 4.95 in August, 1906, and 5.13 in September, 1905. Time lost by holidays amounted to an average of .40 days per week in August, 1906. Making allowance for holidays, employment showed little general change compared with a month ago, but was better on the whole than a year ago.

Of the 581,785 workpeople covered by the Returns, 456,827 (or 78.5 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended September 22nd, and of these 357,653 (or 61.5 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified. This Table shows that compared with a year ago there was an increase in the number of days worked in fourteen districts, and a decrease in four districts. The increase was greatest in Cumberland, Wales, West Yorkshire, and Scotland; the decrease was confined to the Midlands.

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Sept., 1906, 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 Sept., 1906, as compared with	
		Sept. 22nd, 1906.	August 25th, 1906.*	Sept. 23rd, 1905.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	41,337	5.42	5.25	5.26	+ .17	+ .16
Durham ...	108,381	5.54	5.35	5.45	+ .19	+ .09
Cumberland ...	7,603	5.70	5.13	4.66	+ .57	+ 1.04
South Yorkshire ...	61,763	5.50	5.29	5.35	+ .21	+ .15
West Yorkshire ...	21,485	4.78	4.33	4.47	+ .45	+ .31
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	55,155	4.71	4.51	4.58	+ .20	+ .13
Derbyshire ...	37,391	4.56	4.25	4.60	+ .31	+ .04
Nottingham and Leicester ...	30,154	4.68	4.22	4.48	+ .46	+ .20
Staffordshire ...	24,229	4.62	3.90	4.70	+ .72	+ .08
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	7,814	4.98	4.03	5.21	+ .95	+ .23
Gloucester and Somerset ...	7,644	4.68	4.16	4.75	+ .52	+ .07
North Wales ...	9,364	5.55	5.00	4.92	+ .55	+ .63
South Wales and Mon. ...	117,789	5.80	5.18	5.53	+ .62	+ .27
ENGLAND & WALES...	530,109	5.29	4.92	5.12	+ .37	+ .17
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	24,095	5.27	5.20	5.10	+ .07	+ .17
The Lothians ...	6,059	5.66	5.45	5.31	+ .21	+ .35
Fife ...	20,933	5.59	5.43	5.36	+ .16	+ .23
SCOTLAND ...	51,087	5.45	5.33	5.24	+ .21	+ .21
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	881,785	5.30	4.95	5.13	+ .35	+ .17

In the Northern Counties employment continued good in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and South Yorkshire, but in West Yorkshire and in Lancashire and Cheshire pits employing one-third of the men worked less than 18 days during the four weeks.

In the Midlands employment remained dull generally, over 40 per cent. of the men included in the returns working less than 18 days during the four weeks. Employment was somewhat worse than a year ago in most of these districts, but in the Nottingham and Leicester district an improvement was shown.

In Wales and Scotland employment continued good, the average number of days worked per week in South Wales being 5.80.

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were engaged. In pits employing 186,516 workpeople it was found impossible

* These figures were affected by holidays.

to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "Mixed":—

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Sept., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with	
		Sept. 22nd, 1906.	Aug. 25th, 1906.*	Sept. 23rd, 1905.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	8,068	5.67	4.93	5.60	+ .74	+ .07
Coking ...	28,743	5.70	5.46	5.51	+ .24	+ .19
Gas ...	39,483	5.35	5.05	5.16	+ .30	+ .19
House ...	79,505	4.76	4.33	4.68	+ .43	+ .08
Manufacturing and Steam ...	239,470	5.52	5.13	5.29	+ .39	+ .23
Mixed ...	186,516	5.16	4.59	5.03	+ .57	+ .13
All Descriptions ...	881,785	5.30	4.95	5.13	+ .35	+ .17

For each of the periods under review, manufacturing and steam, gas, and coking pits worked a higher number of days than the general average, while pits producing house and mixed coal worked less than the general average. Compared with a month and a year ago, an increase is shown in the average number of days worked by pits producing each description of coal. The comparison with a month ago, however, is affected by holidays.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in September, 1906, amounted to 4,843,491 tons, as compared with 5,201,530 tons in August, 1906, and 4,308,304 tons in September, 1905.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 93 returns—74 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines, and was about the same as a year ago. It continued fairly good in shale mines, but was not so good as a year ago.

In tin and copper mines employment was good, and still improving. It continued good in lead mines.

Employment in quarries remained fair on the whole, but in slate quarries there was still some slackness.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended September 22nd, the average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.89, as compared with 5.77 in August, when, however, 0.15 of a day was lost through holidays. In September, 1905, the average number of days worked was 5.87.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Sept., 1906, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in September, 1906, as compared with	
		Sept. 22nd, 1906.	August 25th, 1906.*	Sept. 23rd, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,345	5.95	5.91	5.91	+ 0.04	+ 0.04
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,025	5.89	5.78	5.89	+ 0.11	...
Scotland...	929	5.83	5.37	5.55	+ 0.46	+ 0.28
Other Districts...	2,834	5.75	5.33	5.80	+ 0.42	+ 0.05
All Districts ...	16,133	5.89	5.77	5.87	+ 0.12	+ 0.02

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 96.3 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended September 22nd, as compared with 88.5 per cent. in August (when holidays affected employment) and with 92.4 per cent. in September, 1905.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,103 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended September 22nd, as compared with 3,109 a month ago, and 3,110 (+) a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended September 22nd was 5.64, as compared with 5.60 a month ago, and 5.81 a year ago.

* These figures were affected by holidays. † Revised figures.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment was good in Cornwall, and showed a further improvement, particularly in the western part of the county, where a demand for skilled miners continues to be reported.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in Flintshire and Denbighshire. It was fair in Weardale and at Darley Dale (Derbyshire).

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment in North Wales, on the whole, continued slack, but it was fair in certain districts of Carnarvonshire, and a slight improvement on a year ago was reported in the Festiniog district. Employment was still quiet in the Ballachulish (Argyllshire) quarries.

Granite.—Employment was fair in Aberdeenshire, and better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago. It was fair in Leicestershire, but showed a further decline compared with a month ago. In North Wales it continued good. In Devon and Cornwall employment was quiet, with a slight improvement on a month ago.

Limestone.—Employment was good in Cumberland, Weardale and South Durham, and fair in North Wales and at Buxton. It was dull in blue lias quarries in Somersetshire.

Other Stone.—Employment continued fair in the Clee Hill road-material quarries, and in sandstone quarries in North Wales. It was moderate in the Rowsley building and grindstone quarries, with a further improvement. It was moderate at Gateshead. In the Bath stone quarries employment continued dull. It was slack and worse than a month ago in the Forest of Dean, and was still bad in pennant-stone quarries in the Bristol district. At Barnsley it was slack; in Forfarshire it continued bad.

Sett-making.—Employment continued fair in Aberdeenshire, and good at Airdrie and Glasgow; at Edinburgh it continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In North Wales it was fairly good generally. It continued fair in the Clee Hill district.

China Clay.—Employment was good in the St. Austell district, and at Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 112 Returns—108 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, 2 from Local Correspondents, and 1 other.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during September continued good, and was rather better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing 24,600 workpeople at the end of September, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month was 341, being four more than at the end of August, 1906, and 16 more than at the end of September, 1905. During September, eight furnaces were re-lit, one each in Cleveland, Cumberland, S. & S.W. Yorkshire, Derbyshire, South Wales, and Lancashire, and two in Staffordshire; and four furnaces were blown out, three in Derbyshire and one in South Wales.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with	
	September, 1906.	August, 1906.	September, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.					
Cleveland ...	89	88	85	+ 1	+ 4
Cumberland & Lancs.	37	36	34	+ 1	+ 3
S. and S.W. Yorks.	16	15	16	+ 1	...
Derby & Nottingham	40	42	38	- 2	+ 2
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	27	27	27
Stafford & Worcester	35	33	32	+ 2	+ 3
S. Wales & Monmouth	16	16	14	...	+ 2
Other districts ...	7	7	7
England & Wales ...	287	284	283	+ 3	+ 14
Scotland ...	74	73	72	+ 1	+ 2
Total ...	361	357	355	+ 4	+ 16

The Imports of iron ore in September, 1906, amounted to 528,599 tons, or 157,045 tons less than in August, 1906, and 46,616 tons less than in September, 1905.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during September, 1906, amounted to 142,635 tons, as compared with 151,657 tons in August, 1906, and 91,318 tons in September, 1905.

TINPLATE WORKS AND SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 57 Returns—52 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during September was good, and showed an improvement as compared with August. As compared with a year ago, it was not so good at tinplate works, but was better at sheet mills.

At the works covered by the Returns, 369 tinplate mills were working at the end of September, as compared with 365 in August, and 386 a year ago; the number of sheet mills for the corresponding periods was 61, 52, and 49. At the 430 mills working about 21,500 workpeople were employed.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table. The figures, with one or two exceptions, relate to works in the South Wales and Monmouthshire district.

	September, 1906.		August, 1906.		September, 1905.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	72	369	70	365	76	386
Sheet Mills ...	9	61	9	52	8	49
Total ...	81	430	79	417	84	435

The Exports of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, are given in the Table below:—

	Sept., 1906.	August, 1906.	Sept., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with	
				August, 1906.	Sept., 1905.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.					
To United States ...	Tons. 7,403	Tons. 5,124	Tons. 5,231	+ 2,272	+ 2,172
„ Other Countries ...	Tons. 25,083	Tons. 28,460	Tons. 22,168	- 3,377	+ 2,915
Total ...	32,486	33,584	27,399	- 1,098	+ 5,087
Black Plates for Tinning.					
To United States ...	—	14	—	- 14	—
„ Other Countries ...	5,772	5,657	5,752	+ 115	+ 20
Total ...	5,772	5,671	5,752	+ 101	+ 20

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 224 Returns—204 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 9 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works continued brisk generally; it was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago.

The total volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended September 22nd, 1906, at the 204 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 0.9 per cent. greater than in the week ended August 25th, 1906, and 4.2 per cent. than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 532,500, as compared with 527,700 a month ago, and 510,900 a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was a slight increase in the number of workpeople employed in each department at iron works. At steel works some increases took place in the number employed in forging and pressing, and in the number of mechanics and labourers, and some decrease occurred in the number employed in Bessemer converting departments. While in every other district

the number employed was greater in the third week of September than a month earlier, in Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire it was less by 3·6 per cent. The number of workpeople employed was greater than a year ago in every department except iron forging and Bessemer converting departments, and in every district except "Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire towns."

Table showing Unemployed as a percentage of total employed, categorized by District and Department. Includes data for Iron, Steel, and Iron or Steel (not distinguished).

The average number of shifts worked per man per week varied from 5·04 at iron rolling mills to 5·96 at iron foundries, and showed little change compared with either a month or a year ago, the variation in no case amounting to as much as one-fifth of a shift per week.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 360 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 337 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair on the whole in the principal shipbuilding centres, but showed some decline compared with a month ago. It remained much better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,798 members had 3,748 (or 6·5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 5·6 per cent. at the end of August, and 13·7 per cent. at the end of September, 1905.

Compared with a month ago, the percentages of unemployed indicate an improvement in four districts and a decline in eight districts, the most important change being a decline on the Tyne and at Blyth, where the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed increased from 2·5 at the end of August to 5·8 at the end of September.

Compared with a year ago, all the districts except the Humber showed an improvement, the total percentage of Trade Union members unemployed being less than half of that shown for September, 1905.

Table showing Unemployed as a percentage of total employed, categorized by District. Includes data for Tyne and Blyth, Wear, Tees and Hartlepool, etc.

Employment with shipwrights on the Tyne was slack on the whole, and worse than a month ago. With iron shipbuilders it was fair generally, and good at Wallsend, Hebburn, and Walker.

In the Thames and Medway district employment was reported as slack. At Bristol employment improved, and some overtime was worked.

On the Clyde employment was good in most of the yards. There was, however, a slight decline compared with the previous month, though employment remained very much better than a year ago.

At Dundee and Aberdeen employment was very good with shipwrights and fairly good with iron shipbuilders; at Leith it was fair generally.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's return for the quarter ended September, 1906, there is a decrease in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction of 144,689 tons gross, or 10·3 per cent., as compared with June, 1906, and of 60,561, or 4·6 per cent., as compared with a year ago.

Table showing Merchant Vessels and War Vessels under construction. Includes columns for District, Sept. 30th, 1906, June 30th, 1906, Sept. 30th, 1905, and Tons Gross/Displacement.

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with June, 1906, increases are shown in the Wear and Barrow districts, but in the Clyde, Belfast, Tyne, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough districts there were decreases.

* Exclusive of supernannated members. † Revised figures. ‡ The stoppage of work at certain yards on the Clyde did not begin until October 1st.

As compared with September, 1905, the Clyde, Wear and Barrow districts show increases, and the Belfast, Tyne, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough districts decreases.

War Vessels.—An increase is shown in the Tyne district, but a decrease in the Barrow district compared with June, 1906; the tonnage under construction on the Clyde was the same as at the end of the previous quarter.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 958 Returns—11 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 910 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 37 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued good, and in every district was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 155,689 members of Trade Unions show that 2·8 per cent. were unemployed at the end of September, as compared with the same percentage in August and 4·5 in September, 1905.

Percentages for various districts are shown below:—

Table showing Unemployed as a percentage of total employed, categorized by District. Includes data for North-East Coast, Manchester and Liverpool, etc.

This Table shows that employment improved most in the Birmingham and Belfast districts, while the largest decline occurred in London and in East Scotland.

On the North-East Coast employment was fairly good with engineers, but showed on the whole some decline compared with a month ago; it was still bad at Hartlepool.

Employment continued good generally in Lancashire. With brassfounders at Liverpool and with engineers at Birkenhead employment was still bad.

In Yorkshire employment on the whole continued good. It was slack, however, with boilermakers at Sheffield and with ironfounders and pattern-makers at Hull.

Employment was good, and showed some improvement on a month ago in general engineering at Birmingham and Wolverhampton; it was fair at Coventry.

In the Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester district employment on the whole was good. At Nottingham it was fairly good and better than a month ago, except with cycle makers.

In the Eastern Counties employment was good, especially in the Colchester district, and overtime was worked in a number of establishments.

In the London district employment on the whole was fair, but a slight decline on a month ago was shown, chiefly in the Woolwich district.

On the South Coast employment generally was fair.

* Exclusive of Supernannated Members.

At Plymouth and Devonport, however, some short time was worked in private shops, while employment was bad with ironfounders.

Employment remained fair in the South Wales and Bristol district; though with ironfounders it was slack at Bristol.

Employment in the Glasgow district was good generally, but while there was much overtime, short time was worked in some branches.

At Belfast employment was fair generally and better than a month ago, but it was bad with pattern-makers. It continued dull at Dublin.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 55 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 27 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades, was good on the whole, but slack in the cutlery and stove-grate trade.

In South Staffordshire employment was good, and better than a month ago. At Birmingham it was good in the brass and copper, but moderate in the other branches.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was fair with block chain makers, and good with cable, side-welded and dollied chain makers.

Sheet Metal, etc.—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was good at Sheffield, fair at Manchester and London, and bad on the Tyne and at Hull.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—With nut and bolt makers at Winlaton employment continued good; and at Dudley and Darlaston it was good, and better than a month ago.

Wires.—Employment continued good, but at Glasgow it was dull with wire weavers.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trades was bad, and worse than a month ago.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment continued quiet at Rotherham. At Leeds it continued slack, with short time; at Glasgow it was bad, and worse than a month ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—At Birmingham employment was moderate, with a slight improvement in some branches, but it continued bad with bedstead makers, with short time.

Employment at Bolton, Bury, Manchester, and Wigan continued good. At Nottingham and Exeter it remained fair.

Table with columns: Districts, Number paid Wages on last pay day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a Month ago., Year ago.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following Table shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated:—

Table with columns: Description, Sept., 1906., August, 1906., Sept., 1905., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with August, 1906., Sept., 1905.

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 45 Returns—40 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good and was better than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the week ended September 29th was 23,861, a decrease of 0.2 per cent. as compared with August, but an increase of 0.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, Number paid Wages on last pay day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and manufactured goods for the periods stated were as follows:—

* Including 5 Returns from England.

Table with columns: Description, Sept., 1906., August, 1906., Sept., 1905., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with August, 1906., Sept., 1905.

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 57 Returns—52 from Employers and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade showed a slight decline as compared with the previous month, but was better than a year ago.

Returns have been obtained from firms employing 7,648 workpeople and paying £5,023 in wages on pay day in the week ended September 29th.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Table with columns: Branches, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, No. paid wages on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent.

Table with columns: Districts, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, No. paid wages on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent.

Employment continued slack on the whole at Macclesfield, but it was good with spinners and with dyers and finishers.

Imports and Exports.

The imports of raw and thrown silk, and of spun silk yarn, and the exports of thrown silk and yarn, and of silk broad-stuffs, are shown in the Table below for the periods specified:—

Table with columns: Description, Sept., 1906., August, 1906., Sept., 1905., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with August, 1906., Sept., 1905.

LACE TRADE.

(Based on Returns 103—98 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good in this trade, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,958 workpeople, and paying £9,019 in wages on the pay day in the week ended September 29th, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago.

In the levers and plain net branches employment continued good, and in the curtain branch it continued bad, being worse than a month ago.

Table with columns: Branches, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, No. paid wages on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent.

Table with columns: Districts, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, No. paid wages on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent.

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 92 Returns—85 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was good, and decidedly better than a year ago.

From the returns received it appears that there was an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

At Leicester employment was a little quieter in some branches of the trade, but there was an improvement as compared with a year ago.

Table with columns: District, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, Number paid wages on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent.

Table with columns: District, Workpeople covered by Returns, Earnings, Number paid wages on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1906., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago., Year ago., Per cent., Per cent., £, Per cent., Per cent.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 15 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was, on the whole, moderate, showing little change compared with a year ago.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment remained fairly good, but again showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield, fair at Leek.

Calico Printers.—Employment at New Mills continued very good, and was much better than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers at Dinting it was fairly good.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, etc.—At Leicester employment was quiet, 90 per cent. of the operatives working short time.

Calenderers, etc.—In Glasgow employment was reported as fair, and showed a decline compared with a month ago.

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 10 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 13.3, compared with 15.1 at the end of August, and 13.8 a year ago.

The following Table shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, exported in the periods stated:—

Table with columns: Description, Sept., 1906., August, 1906., Sept., 1905., Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with August, 1906., Sept., 1905.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 590 Returns—574 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 5 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the boot and shoe trade was slack, and showed a further decline as compared with August; it was worse than a year ago.

The number employed on the last pay-day in September by 574 firms making Returns was 68,194, a decrease of 0.6 per cent. compared with the corresponding week in August, and of 0.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 490 firms, employing 59,387 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the periods under review.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,836 Returns—123 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,679 from Trade Unions, and 34 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull, and was not so good as a month ago. It was slightly better than a year ago.

London.—In London employment showed, on the whole, a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns received through the Trade Correspondent from 51 London employers show that in the last week of September 10,359 workpeople were paid wages, as compared with 10,525 a month ago, and 12,136 in September, 1905.

From Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners it appears that the percentage of unemployed in London at the end of September was 6.5, as compared with 5.5 a month ago, and 7.1 a year ago. With plumbers the percentage for September was 9.2, for August 7.5, and for a year ago 9.9, the improvement shown last month not having been maintained. With painters and builders' labourers a considerable decline was shown. There was little change with bricklayers, but with plasterers and masons a slight improvement was shown.

The Provinces.—Returns received from 69 Employers' Associations in towns outside London show that in these towns employment continued slack generally, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

The following information, relating to the whole of the United Kingdom, is based on Returns received from the General Secretaries of Trade Unions and from Trade Union reports:—

Employment with bricklayers continued to decline; with stonemasons it improved slightly. With carpenters and joiners it continued slack, showing a slight decline on the previous month, but it was better than a year ago. The percentage unemployed of Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 5.9, as compared with 5.1 a month ago, and 7.1 a year ago; with plumbers the percentage was 7.8, as compared with 7.5 a month ago and 8.9 a year ago. With plasterers the improvement shown last month was maintained; with slaters, painters and with builders' labourers a slight decline was shown.

The following information is based on Returns from Branch Secretaries of Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents:—

Northern Counties.—Employment generally was quiet, showing little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the Wear district it continued bad with plasterers.

Yorkshire.—Employment was quiet and not so good as a month ago. At Sheffield, however, it was moderate, and the improvement with bricklayers at Leeds has been maintained.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment on the whole was fair, but showed a slight decline on the previous month. At Accrington employment was good, as also with plumbers and plasterers at Oldham. At Preston it was slack.

Midlands and Eastern Counties.—In the Leicester district a slight improvement was shown with masons and labourers. It was moderate, on the whole, in the Potteries. At Birmingham it was slack, at Coventry it was fairly good. In Norfolk it continued to decline.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment in the Plymouth district was moderate with bricklayers. In the South Wales district it was good with painters and fair with plumbers.

Scotland.—Employment in the West of Scotland was fair with bricklayers and slaters. At Edinburgh it was good with masons and fair with joiners; at Dundee it improved with masons and plasterers. At Aberdeen all branches are slack.

Ireland.—At Belfast it was fair with plasterers and moderate with bricklayers. At Dublin it continued dull.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 145 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 109 from Trade Unions, and 31 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during September was fair. It was better than a year ago, but not quite so good as a month ago, some decline having taken place in the coachbuilding and brushmaking trades. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of September was 4.5, as compared with 4.2 in August, 1906, and 5.1 in September, 1905.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists continued moderate on the whole. It remained good at Edinburgh, and dull at Dublin. In the Tyne district a decline was reported as compared with a month ago.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was moderate generally, but better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 14,594 reported 807 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 5.4 per cent. at the end of August, 1906, and 6.5 per cent. at the end of September, 1905. With upholsterers employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago; with french-polishers there was some improvement as compared with August.

Coopers.

With coopers employment remained fairly good, showing an improvement as compared with last year. Employment was dull, however, at Burton-on-Trent, where much short time was worked.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachmakers showed a further decline compared with the previous month, but was still fairly good generally, overtime being worked in many places. At Liverpool, however, employment was dull. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, &c., with a membership of 9,031 reported 290 (or 3.2 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 2.7 per cent. at the end of August, 1906, and 3.3 per cent. at the end of September, 1905.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was quiet and worse than a month ago, though better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,736 reported 96 (or 5.5 per cent.) unemployed at the end of September, as compared with 4.2 per cent. at the end of August, 1906, and 5.8 per cent. at the end of September, 1905.

Other Trades.—Employment with packing-case makers and basket-makers was good generally.

POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 26 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade was good generally, and better than a month ago; in Scotland it was fair. In the Brick and Tile trades it continued fair, and on the whole was slightly better than a month ago.

Pottery Trade.—In Staffordshire and at Swadlincote employment was generally better than a month ago. At Bristol it continued good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago. In Devonshire it was fair, as also at Newcastle and in Scotland; but with tobacco pipe makers in Glasgow it was bad, and worse than a month ago.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment continued good at Oldham and in South Wales. It was fairly good in Devonshire and in Suffolk and Essex. In South Staffordshire, in North Wales, and in the Tees district it was fair. It was slack in the Bradford district, and at Nottingham and Peterborough, where it was worse than a month ago. At Birmingham it continued bad.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 90 Returns—62 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 17 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole continued moderate, but was worse than a month ago. It was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 10,180 workpeople, and paying £11,631 in wages on last pay-day in September, show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease of 2.5 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 4.0 per cent. in wages paid. The chief decrease in numbers employed was with glass bottle makers, principally in Yorkshire. In the North of England and in Scotland, and in Worcester and Warwick an increase was shown in most departments.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 5.3 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 6.3 per cent. in wages paid. There was a general increase in the numbers employed, except in the flint glass department, which showed a decline.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on last pay-day in Sept., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Sept., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Aug., 1906.	Sept., 1905.		Aug., 1906.	Sept., 1905.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Glass Bottle ...	5,834	- 5.2	+ 7.5	6,782	- 7.7	+ 9.9
Plate Glass ...	865	+ 0.5	+ 9.5	978	+ 1.0	+ 3.5
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	2,180	+ 2.0	- 1.4	2,395	+ 2.4	- 1.0
Other Branches ...	1,301	+ 0.7	+ 5.2	1,476	+ 0.8	+ 5.1
Total ...	10,180	- 2.5	+ 5.3	11,631	- 4.0	+ 6.3
Districts.						
North of England	1,156	+ 10.8	+ 4.7	1,253	+ 10.6	- 3.1
Yorkshire ...	3,344	- 11.1	+ 10.5	3,927	- 14.2	+ 14.7
Lancashire ...	2,091	+ 0.8	+ 0.9	2,250	- 0.9	+ 5.8
Worcester and Warwick	2,414	+ 1.1	+ 4.1	2,892	+ 2.3	+ 4.7
Scotland ...	718	+ 1.1	+ 3.5	815	+ 1.9	+ 6.4
Other parts of United Kingdom	457	- 1.7	+ 2.0	474	- 1.4	+ 3.5
Total ...	10,180	- 2.5	+ 5.3	11,631	- 4.0	+ 6.3

With sheet glass makers and flatteners in South Lancashire employment continued good; with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it was moderate, and slightly better than a month ago. In Portobello it was good, and in the West of Scotland slack with medical bottle makers. With glass blowers in London a slight decline was shown.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the periods mentioned:—

Description.	Sept., 1906.		August, 1906.		Sept., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with August, 1906.	Sept., 1905.
	Sept., 1906.	August, 1906.	Sept., 1905.	August, 1906.	Sept., 1905.			
Imports:								
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 96,215	cwts. 103,736	cwts. 110,241	cwts. 7,521	cwts. 14,026			
Plate ...	32,781	39,073	27,541	- 6,292	+ 5,240			
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	66,305	76,150	72,893	- 9,845	- 6,588			
Manufactures, other sorts...	2,448	3,329	7,234	- 881	- 4,286			
Bottles ... gross	98,138	120,044	118,314	- 21,906	- 20,176			
Exports:								
Plate ...	cwts. 15,830	cwts. 9,703	cwts. 11,816	+ 5,627	+ 3,514			
Flint ...	5,894	6,467	4,640	- 573	+ 1,254			
Manufactures, other sorts ...	34,006	31,350	28,643	+ 2,656	+ 5,363			
Bottles ... gross	65,637	65,622	58,544	+ 15	+ 7,093			

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 169 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

AGRICULTURAL employment was generally regular throughout the month, the weather being exceptionally fine and favourable for outdoor work. Day labourers,

however, were in less demand than is usual in September. The extensive use made of machinery for the harvest considerably lessened the demand for extra labour in many districts; while, after the harvest, some day labourers in a number of districts were unable to get continuous employment owing to the scarcity of hoeing. Fewer pickers than usual went to the hop gardens in Kent, owing, it is stated, to a short crop of hops.

An article on Harvest Earnings in 1906 appears on page 293.

Northern Counties.—Agricultural employment was reported as regular throughout the month in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, and Lancashire. In Yorkshire farm work proceeded without interruption, but when the harvest was finished a number of day labourers could not get regular work. There was an ample supply of this class of men.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire farm labourers were fully employed after harvest in threshing, potato lifting, and cleaning stubbles. In Derbyshire employment was regular, but day labourers were somewhat in excess of the demand in certain districts. Harvesting and threshing provided regular employment in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, where the supply of extra labour was about equal to the demand. In Staffordshire a few day labourers lost time owing to the harvest being completed before the potato crop was ready for raising. Employment was regular in Shropshire and Worcestershire, and the supply of extra labour was about equal to the demand. The weather was favourable in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, and farm labourers were generally in full employment. The early completion of harvest caused some day labourers to be in irregular work in Oxfordshire, and some men of this class were also irregularly employed in Buckinghamshire. Threshing and other work generally gave full employment after the harvest was finished in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, but the supply of extra labour was somewhat in excess of the demand in the latter county.

Eastern Counties.—Farm labourers were in regular employment in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire. In Lincolnshire, threshing and manure carting generally caused a demand for extra labour, but many Irish migratory labourers were reported to be in irregular employment before potato lifting was commenced. Agricultural labourers in Norfolk and Suffolk were, generally speaking, in full employment, and farm work was in a forward state. Work was also well forward in Essex, and a number of day labourers were in irregular employment in certain districts. Men for permanent situations were reported to be more easily obtained than of late in this county.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Kent hop-picking, threshing, and potato lifting provided full employment for day labourers. Owing to the short crop of hops the number of pickers in the hop gardens was stated to be smaller than usual. In Surrey farm labourers were for the most part in full employment, but the continued dry weather lessened the demand for day labourers, and some men of this class lost time. Similar reports come from Sussex and Hampshire. Employment was generally regular in Berkshire, but several day labourers lost time on account of poor root crops. Threshing afforded employment for day labourers in Wiltshire, Dorset, and Somerset; some of these men, however, in all three counties were in irregular employment owing to the early completion of harvest and to the small amount of hoeing to be done. Employment was regular in Herefordshire, in which county some scarcity of men for permanent positions was reported. There was generally but little demand for extra men in Gloucestershire, and in certain districts some men were unable to get regular work. Regularity of employment was reported in Devonshire and Cornwall. Men for permanent positions were somewhat more plentiful than of late in Cornwall.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

Based on 137 Returns, 107 from Employers, 13 from Trade Unions, and 17 from Local Correspondents.

EMPLOYMENT continued fair in London and Liverpool, and fairly good elsewhere. In London it was rather worse than a year ago; and at the other ports it was better.

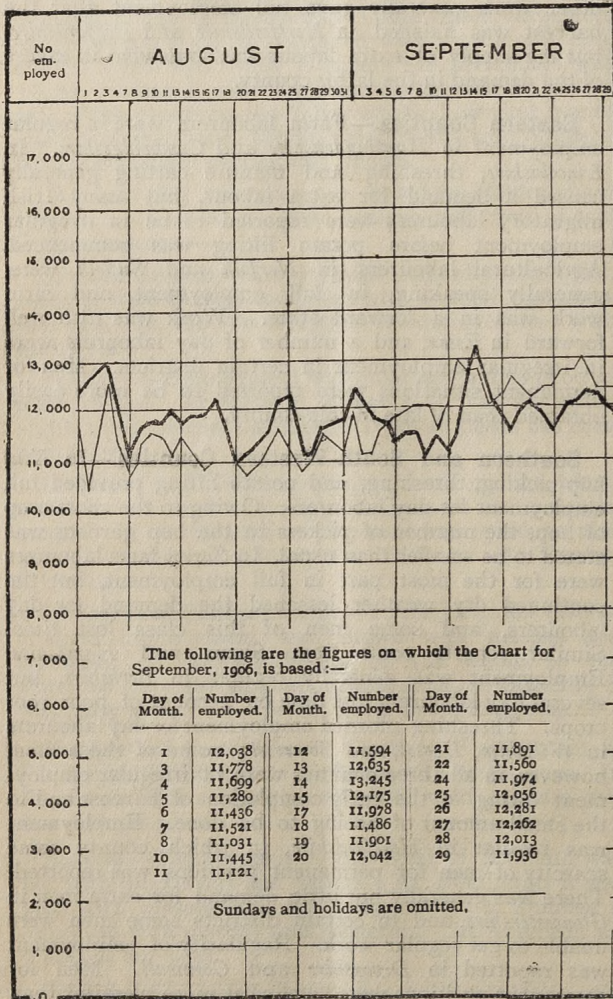
London.*—Employment generally was fair, and about the same as in August. Compared with a year ago it showed a decline. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended September 29th was 11,847, an increase of 0.6 per cent. on a month ago, but a decrease of 3.2 per cent. on a year ago.

The daily numbers in September ranged from 11,031 on the 8th to 13,245 on the 14th. During the corresponding period of 1905 the numbers ranged from 11,079† on September 2nd to 12,961† on September 13th.

Table showing Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Locks and at Principal Wharves in London. Columns: Period, In Docks* (By Dock Companies, By Ship-owners, Total), At 107 Wharves making Returns, Total Docks and Principal Wharves.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 107 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of August and September, 1906. The corresponding curve for August and September, 1905, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1906, and the thin curve to 1905.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for September, 1906, is based:—

Table with columns: Day of Month, Number employed (1906), Day of Month, Number employed (1905). Rows 1-11.

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,029 in September, as compared with 1,101 in August, a decrease of 6.5 per cent.

In Liverpool employment with dockers was moderate on the whole, but was dull at the Bootle Docks. With flatmen it was fair.

Other Ports.—Employment was fairly good on the North-East Coast generally, and was better than a month and a year ago. It was, however, moderate at Hartlepool. It was good at Glasgow, but quiet at Dundee, and Dublin, and Cork. In the Bristol Channel some improvement was shown.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN SEPTEMBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during September 39,999* seamen, of whom 4,615 (or 11.5 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. At nine ports there were decreases, and at eight there were increases in the number shipped as compared with a year ago.

During the nine completed months of 1906, 353,629* seamen were shipped, of whom 46,362 (or 13.1 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 1905, the total number shipped shows an increase of 18,125. Increases were most marked at Liverpool, Glasgow, Cardiff, Hull, and Southampton.

Lascars, who are engaged in Asia, are not included in these figures.

Table showing number of persons* shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom during the periods mentioned:—

Table showing Number of Seamen* shipped in Principal Ports. Columns: Principal Ports, September 1905, 1906, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906, Nine months ended September 1905, 1906, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906. Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, BRISTOL CHANNEL, OTHER PORTS, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, and Total.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 22 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed during September showed an increase both in quantity and value as compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of fish landed in September, 1906, and September, 1905, respectively:—

Table showing Quantity and Value of Fish landed. Columns: Quantity (Sept. 1906, Sept. 1905), Value (£, Sept. 1906, Sept. 1905). Rows: Fish (other than Shell), Shell Fish, Total Value.

* 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 at the principal ports continued good on the whole, and was much the same as a month ago and a year ago. At Lowestoft, however, fishing was only moderate, and at Harwich it continued quiet; while at Macduff both fishermen and fish curers were only moderately well employed.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

The Returns as to the price of bread* per 4 lbs., as furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 26 large Provincial towns at the beginning of October.

As compared with a month ago, decreases of 1/8d. per 4 lbs. took place at Ipswich and Belfast. In London, although there has been a decline of 1/8d. per 4 lbs. in certain districts, the predominant prices are still 4 1/2d. and 5d.

As compared with a year ago, decreases of 1d. took place at Middlesbro' and Dundee, and increases of 1/8d. at Gateshead and Newcastle-on-Tyne. In 7 towns (3 in England, 2 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland) the price is now 1/2d. per 4 lbs. less than a year ago.

Table showing Predominant Price at 1st Oct., 1906, of quality* of bread most generally consumed by work-people in each town. Columns: Place, Predominant Price, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago, Year ago, Last Change, Date, Am't. per 4 lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Table showing British Wheat, Imports, and Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) for September 1905 and 1906.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and British Possessions during September, 1906, amounted to 8,992,600 cwts., or 409,400 cwts. less than in the corresponding month of 1905. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1906, amounted to 1,255,900 cwts. or 146,800 cwts. more than in September, 1905.

* Though it is not possible to state that the quality of bread referred to is in all cases the same in the different towns, the predominant prices quoted for the several towns are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable with those for a month and a year ago for the same towns. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices (not the average price of all bread sold) paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality. † Revised figure.

PRICES OF COAL AND IRON.

THE results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron are given in the Table below.

Table showing Prices of Coal and Iron. Columns: Product and District, Price according to last Audit, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with, Ascertained average selling price per ton, Previous Audit, A Year ago.

Coal.—The average price of Northumberland coal for the three months, June-August, 1906, was 6s. 11 3/4d., which showed an advance of about 4 1/2d. per ton as compared with the previous audit, and of 10d. on that of June-August, 1905. In connection with this ascertainment it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board, on October 6th, to advance the wages of underground workers and banksmen by 2 1/2 per cent., and of other surface workers by 2 per cent. on standard rates.

Pig Iron.—The net average invoice price of No. 3 Cleveland pig iron for the three months July-September, 1906, was 50s. 7 1/2d. per ton. This shows a reduction on the price of the previous three months of 3 1/2d., but an advance of 4s. 7 1/2d. on that of July-September, 1905. The price of Cumberland pig iron in the same period of 1906 was 65s. 8d., being 1s. 3 1/4d. higher than in the previous quarter, and 8s. 1 1/4d. higher than a year ago. As a result of these ascertainments the wages of blastfurnacemen in the Cleveland district have been reduced 1/4 per cent. on the standard, while those of blastfurnacemen in West Cumberland have been advanced 1 1/2 per cent. on the standard.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the ascertained selling price of specified classes of manufactured iron in July and August, 1906, was 132s. 7 1/2d., which was 2s. 3 1/2d. higher than for the previous audit, and 13s. 8 1/2d. higher than a year ago. In the Midlands the selling price for the same period of 1906 was 136s. 2 1/2d., which was 2s. 4 1/2d. lower than for the previous two months. In the West of Scotland the selling price in July and August, 1906, was 128s. 6 1/2d., which was 1s. 11 1/2d. higher than for the previous audit, and 12s. 3 1/2d. higher than a year ago. As a result of these ascertainments, the wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England and the West of Scotland have been advanced by 3d. per ton and 2 1/2 per cent. respectively, whilst in the Midlands the wages of these workpeople have been reduced by 3d. per ton and 2 1/2 per cent. respectively.

WARNING TO EMIGRANTS:—SAN FRANCISCO.

OFFICIAL information has been received at the Emigrants' Information Office to the effect that although a demand for labour in the building trades exists at San Francisco, the present condition of prices in that city make labour in the United Kingdom better remunerated. Those intending to go out must be prepared for most expensive living.

Intending emigrants of whatsoever trade should communicate first with the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster.

* No ascertainment was published for the months of July and August, 1905.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office during September was 47, consisting of 45 cases of lead poisoning and 2 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 20 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during September among house painters and plumbers.

During the nine months ended September, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax was 531, as compared with 487 in the corresponding period of 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 44 in 1906, as compared with 27 in 1905. In addition there were 131 cases of lead poisoning (including 28 deaths) among house painters and plumbers, as compared with 106 (including 22 deaths) in 1905.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Table with columns for Industry, Cases (Month of Sep. 1906, Nine Months ended September, 1906, 1905), and Deaths (Month of Sep. 1906, Nine Months ended September, 1906, 1905). Includes sub-sections for Lead Poisoning, Other Forms of Poisoning, and Anthrax.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Workshop: Young Persons and Children: Certificates of Fitness.—A young person under the age of 16 years, or a child, must not be employed in a factory (except for a few days) unless a certifying surgeon gives a certificate of the fitness of such person for the proposed employment.

This provision of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, does not apply to workshops; but the Secretary of State is given power to extend the provision to any class of workshops where it appears to him that, by reason of special circumstances, the health of

* Of the 6 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in September, 1906, 4 were females.

such persons in such workshops requires protection. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order* dated August 31st, 1906, and to come into operation January 1st, 1907, extending the prohibition of the employment of young persons under 16, and of children, without a certificate of fitness, to workshops in which the following processes are carried on:—file-cutting; carriage building; rope and twine making; brick and tile making; making of iron and steel cables, chains, anchors, grappels and cart gear; making of nails, screws and rivets; baking bread, biscuits or confectionery; fruit preserving; making, altering, ornamenting, finishing, or repairing of wearing apparel by the aid of treadle sewing machines.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER, 1906.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during September, 1906, was 237, a decrease of 2 as compared with August, and of 17 as compared with September, 1905.

The mean number for September in the years 1901-1905 was 231, the maximum year being 1905 with 254 deaths, and the minimum 1903, with 202 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in September, 1906, was 58. The number reported for September in the years 1901-1905 ranged from 71 in 1901 to 116 in 1905, the mean for the five years being 1.

Table showing Fatal Industrial Accidents Reported in September, 1906. Columns include Trade, Number of Workpeople killed during (Sept., August, 1906; Sept., 1905), and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Sept., 1906, as compared with (Month ago, Year ago).

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1906. No. 680. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C. ; Price 1d. † Now included under Factories.

TRADE DISPUTES IN SEPTEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-three new disputes began in September, 1906, compared with 28 in August, 1906, and 10 in September, 1905. By the 23 disputes 15,263 workpeople were directly and 2,296 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before September, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 21,377 workpeople involved in trade disputes during September, 1906, compared with 14,096 in August, 1906, and 14,886 in September, 1905.

New Disputes in September, 1906.—In the following Table the new disputes in September are summarised by trades affected:—

Table summarising new disputes in September, 1906, by trades. Columns include Trades, No. of Disputes, and No. of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly, Total).

Causes.—Of the 23 new disputes, 9 arose on demands for increased wages, and 6 on other wages questions, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on details of working arrangements, and 1 out of a refusal of Trade Unionists to work with non-Unionists.

Results.—Definite results were reported in September in the case of 17 new disputes affecting 17,154 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, affecting 3,097 workpeople. Of these 26 new and old disputes, 6, involving 12,749 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10, involving 4,641 persons, in favour of the employers; and 10, involving 2,861 persons, were compromised. In

the case of 1 other dispute, terminating during the month and involving 10 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in September of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 118,700 working days. In addition, 28,700 working days were lost during September owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in September of all disputes, new and old, was 147,400 working days, as compared with 109,100 in the previous month, and 257,300 in the corresponding month of 1905.

Summary for the First Nine Months of 1906 and 1905.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the nine months January-September, 1905 and 1906, respectively, were as follows:—

Table summarising disputes for the first nine months of 1905 and 1906. Columns include Groups of Trades, No. of Disputes, Number of Workpeople affected, Aggregate Duration in Working Days, and No. of Workpeople affected.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Table of Principal Trade Disputes. Columns include Occupations, Locality, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

NOTE.—Shipbuilding, The Clyde.—On 1st October about 7,000 shipbuilders on the Clyde struck work in support of a demand for an advance of 5 per cent. on piece and 1s. 6d. per week on time rates. Particulars of this dispute will be published in the November GAZETTE.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.

† In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in September.—The net effect of all the changes reported in September was an increase of £675 per week, as compared with an increase of £10,363 per week in August, 1906, and an increase of £69 per week in September, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 17,116, of whom 16,446 received advances amounting to £704 per week, and 670 sustained decreases amounting to £29 per week. The total number affected in August, 1906, was 295,607, and in September, 1905, 24,328.

One change, affecting 220 workpeople, was settled by arbitration; two changes, affecting 4,372 workpeople, were arranged by a Conciliation Board in one case, and by mediation in the other; one change, affecting 670 workpeople took effect under a sliding scale; and the remaining changes, affecting 11,854 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives. In five cases, affecting 697 workpeople, the changes were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Nine completed Months of 1906.—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since January 1st, 1906, was 902,106, as compared with 541,656 in the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 885,068 workpeople a net increase of £42,266 per week, and 17,008 workpeople a net decrease of £853 per week, while the remaining 30 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes was an increase of £41,413 per week, as compared with a decrease of £5,949 per week in the corresponding period of 1905.

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

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, January-September, 1905, 1906. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Other Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, and Total.

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during September, 1906, affected 1,883 workpeople, of whom 1,600 had their working time increased by 1,600 hours per week, and 283 had their working time decreased by 187 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since January 1st last was 36,409, the net decrease in their working hours being 49,260 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in September.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN SEPTEMBER.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1906, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. It is divided into I.—RATES OF WAGES and II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

NOTE.—Northumberland Coal Mining.—Early in October it was arranged that the Northumberland Miners' wages should be advanced 2½ per cent., making their wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. Full particulars will appear in the November GAZETTE.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.

The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for September.

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

Table showing Imports for September 1906 compared with 1905 and 1904. Categories include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.

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

Table showing Exports of British Produce for September 1906 compared with 1905 and 1904. Categories include Food, Drink, and Tobacco; Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £4,771,996 in September, 1904; £5,521,237 in September, 1905; and £5,520,763 in September, 1906.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended September 29th amounted to £4,291,804, an increase of £14,050 (or 0·3 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the thirty-nine weeks ended September 29th the total amount was £39,835,165, an increase of £1,345,272 (or 3·5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

Table showing Railway Goods and Mineral Traffic Receipts for 4 weeks ended Sept. 29th, 1906 and 39 weeks ended Sept. 29th, 1905. Lists English Lines, Scottish Lines, and Irish Lines with specific company details.

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A copy of a monthly Return showing names of seamen whose deaths have been reported to the Marine Department of the Board of Trade may be seen at any Free Library, Mercantile Marine Office, or Sailors' Home throughout the country.

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

PAUPERISM IN SEPTEMBER.

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

The number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in September, 1906, corresponded to a rate of 211 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with August, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 2,445 (0·7 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 1. There was an increase of 1,012 (0·6 per cent.) in the number of indoor paupers, and of 1,433 (0·7 per cent.) in the number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 24 districts, the most marked being in the Leicester district (25 per 10,000). Decreases occurred in 9 districts, and 2 districts showed no change.

Compared with September, 1905, the total number of paupers decreased by 12,234 (3·2 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 10. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 1,516 (0·9 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 10,718 (4·8 per cent.). Increases occurred in only 6 districts, and the most marked decreases were in the East London (40 per 10,000) and Leicester districts (29 per 10,000).

Table showing Pauperism in September 1906. Columns include Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Sept., 1906 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, and SCOTLAND.

* 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.

RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF LABOUR.

A REPORT* has recently been issued by the Board of Trade respecting the proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act (1893) during the year ended July 27th, 1906.

The majority of the representations have again been concerned with the hours of men employed with trains, viz., enginemmen and guards.

It is stated in the Report that the Board have no reason to think that railway companies would visit displeasure upon servants who make representations to the Department, but that the men are held to be entitled to an assurance that communications addressed to the Board will be treated as confidential, unless they are willing that the origin of their representations should be disclosed.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

DURING September 852 fresh applications (409 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 753 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 195 persons, of whom 108 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

The work done by the Bureaux during September is shown by the following Table:—

Table showing women's employment statistics: Applications by Workpeople during, Situations offered by Employers during, and Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers. Includes sub-tables for Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

* P.P. 312 of 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 2½d.

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Factory and Workshop: Dangerous Industries: Locomotives and Wagons.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, provides that when the Secretary of State is satisfied that any machinery, plant, process or description of manual labour, used in factories or workshops, is dangerous to life or limb, he may certify it to be dangerous; and he may thereupon make such regulations as appear to him to be reasonably practicable and to meet the necessity of the case.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN SEPTEMBER.

RETURNS were received relating to thirteen Exchanges under the Central (Unemployed) Body for London (see p. 292) and from twenty-two other Bureaux.

(A.) Metropolitan Employment Exchanges of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

Table of Metropolitan Employment Exchanges: Name of Exchange, No. of Separate Individuals who Registered during September, No. of Situations Offered, No. of Situations Filled, No. of Individuals on Register at end of September.

(B.) Other Labour Bureaux.

Table of Other Labour Bureaux: Name of Labour Bureau, Applications by Workpeople during (Sept. 1906, Sept. 1905), Situations offered by Employers during (Sept. 1906, Sept. 1905), and Workpeople found Work during (Sept. 1906, Sept. 1905).

† Statutory Rules and Orders, 1906. No. 679. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.3: Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh: Edward Ponsonby, Dublin. Price 1d.

‡ Camberwell, Lambeth, and Shoreditch:—The figures relate to the last week of September only.

§ Stepney:—The figures relate to the last three weeks of September only.

Employment found for Workpeople in September.

Table showing employment statistics: Capacity in which employed, No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, and Total. Includes categories for Engaged by Private Employers, Local Authorities, and Salvation Army.

Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 22 Bureaux at the end of September, 1906.

Table showing occupations of workpeople by bureau: Name of Bureau, Men (Building Trades, Engineering Trades, General Labourers, Messengers, Porter, Carmen, &c., Other Occupations), Lads and Boys, Women and Girls.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN SEPTEMBER.

(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 September was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 13; under the Friendly Societies Act, 40 (including 26 branches of existing Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all 59.

Among the new Societies registered in September were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England.—2, viz., Leeds Grinders and Glazers' Soc., 35, Derby Terrace, Dewsbury Road, Leeds; Army Clothing Department Employees' Union, 4, Johnson's Place, Pimlico, S.W.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—11, viz., Co-operative Agricultural Societies: 3, viz., Bagworth and Dist. Dairy and Supply Assoc., Ltd., Mr. Thomas Bloxson's, Thornton, Leicester; Whalley District Farmers, Ltd., 1, Accrington Road, Whalley, Blackburn; Colne and Dist. Farmers' Assoc., Ltd., Auction Mart, Swan Croft, Market Place, Colne.

Friendly Societies.—England.—14, viz., Felling Urban District Council Workmen's Friendly Soc., Council Buildings, Felling, co. Durham; Premier Joiners' Tontine Sick and Burial Soc., Red House, corner of Strand and Litherland Roads, Bootle, Liverpool; Record Friendly Collecting Soc., 3 and 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.; South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies Managing Committee's Pension Fund, London Bridge Station, S.E.; Ipswich Salutation Slate Club, 'Salutation' Inn, Carr Street, Ipswich; Spring Hill Sick and Dividing Soc., 'Coach and Horses' Inn, Spring Hill, Birmingham; Batley Carr 'Hope to Prosper' Oddfellows' Friendly Soc., 'Old Shoulder of Mutton' Inn, Batley Carr, Batley; Bradwell Liberal and Radical Workmen's Club, 2, Queen Ann Street, Stantonbury, Wolverton, Bucks;

Peterborough Borough Silver Prize Band Working Men's Club, Clubroom, St. Leonard's Street, Peterborough; Ferndale Working Men's Club, Club House, Ferndale Road, Swindon; Halesowen and Dist. Liberal Assoc., corner of Hagley Road and Laurel Lane, Halesowen, Birmingham; Harrogate and District Trades, Labour, and Working Men's Club, 3, Westmoreland Street, Harrogate; Hull Socialist Club, 10, Charlotte Street, Hull; Alexandra Club and Inst., 97, Long Road, Leeds.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table showing societies and unions ceasing to exist: Notices Received in Sept. of (Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up), Registry Cancelled.

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

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING SEPTEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the three months ended March 31st, 1906, together with Reports of Inspecting Officers upon Certain Accidents which were inquired into. [Cd. 3150: pp. 218: price 3s. 3d.]

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour). Report by the Board of Trade respecting their Proceedings under the Railway Regulation Act (1893) during the year ended July 27th, 1906. [H.C. 312: pp. 16: price 2½d.]

Railway Returns. Returns of the Capital, Traffic, Receipts and Working Expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1905. [Cd. 3106: pp. liii. + 98: price 1s. 3d.]

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. Report to the Home Department on the Draft Regulations for Locomotives and Wagons on Lines and Sidings in or in connection with Factories, Workshops, &c. By Chester Jones. [Cd. 3167: pp. 34: price 3½d.] The Regulations in question have now been made, and are noticed on p. 314.

Statistics of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1905. [Cd. 3149: pp. 46: price 5d.] A notice of this Report appeared in the September GAZETTE, page 266.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890 and 1900. Return as to proceedings by Local Authorities, applications granted, refused etc. [H.C. 285: pp. 7: price 1d.] A notice of this return appeared in the September GAZETTE, page 264.

Iron and Steel, 1905. Memorandum and Statistical Tables showing the Production and Consumption of Iron Ore and Pig Iron and the Production of Steel, in the United Kingdom and the principal Foreign Countries in recent years. [H.C. 322: pp. 29: price 3d.]

Statistical Abstract of the United Kingdom, 1891 to 1905. Fifty-third number. [Cd. 3092: pp. vi+375: price 1s. 6d.]

Local Taxation Returns (England and Wales)—Year 1903-1904. Part VI. Accounts of various Public Authorities other than Municipalities. [H.C. 273—v.: pp. xxix. + 136: price 1s. 4d.]

Forty-ninth Report of the Commissioners of H.M. Inland Revenue. For the year ended March 31st, 1906. [Cd. 3110: pp. 260: price 2s. 1d.]

Select Committee on the Education (Provision of Meals) Bill, 1906; and the Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill, 1906. Index and Digest of Evidence. [H.C. 288: Ind.: pp. 41: price 5d.] A notice of the Report from this Committee appeared in the September GAZETTE, page 259.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools (Funds) Committee. Volume II. Minutes of Proceedings. [Cd. 3144: pp. 66: price 6½d.] A notice of the Report from this Committee appeared in the September GAZETTE, page 265.

Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1904-1905. Supplement containing the Report of the Medical Officer. [Cd. 3100: pp. xxxviii. + 428: price 4s.]

Thirty-first Annual Report of the Public Works Loan Board, 1905-1906. Amount of Loans under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, &c., names of bodies to whom the loans were made. [H.C. 227: pp. 109: price 11d.]

Crofters Colonization. Fifteenth Report of H.M. Commissioners; Scheme of Colonization in Canada of Crofters and Cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, 1906. [Cd. 3145: pp. 4: price ½d.] A notice of this Report appeared in the September GAZETTE, page 263.

Irish Land Commission. Report for the period April 1st, 1905, to March 31st, 1906. Fair rents fixed; labourers' cottages and allotments; proceedings under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, 1883 to 1903, &c. [Cd. 3113: pp. v. + 146: price 1s. 3d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland. Abstracts showing the Acreage under Crops, and the number of Live Stock in each County and Province, 1905-1906. [Cd. 3147: pp. 23: price 2d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1905. Return of Prices of Crops, Live Stock and other Irish Agricultural Products for the year 1905. [Cd. 3142: pp. 58, with diagrams: price 11d.]

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Report of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts for the year 1905. [Cd. 3133: pp. 111: price 9d.]

Forty-second Annual Detailed Report of the Registrar-General for Ireland, 1905. Population, Marriages, Births and Deaths; Prices of Provisions, and number of persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief in 1905, and previous ten years. [Cd. 3123: pp. xxxii. + 182: price 2s. 5d.]

Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Return showing amounts paid from April 1st, 1900, to February 28th, 1905, to the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society in respect of Instruction in Agricultural Subjects, &c. [H.C. 277: pp. 8: price 1½d.]

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

British Association for Labour Legislation. Reports on *The Legal Limitation of Hours of Work in Industry and Commerce in the United Kingdom; Conditions of Home Work in the United Kingdom; The Night Work of Young Persons in the United Kingdom.* September, 1906. [British Institute of Social Service, 11, Southampton Row, W.C.: pp. 42: price 6d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH COLONIES.

Statistical Abstract relating to British India from 1895-1896 to 1904-1905. 40th Number. Contains Tables showing the number of persons employed, and spindles and looms engaged in cotton and jute mills; numbers employed in other large industries; statistics of factory inspection; wages in certain industries; prices, wholesale and retail of certain commodities, &c. [Cd. 3166: pp. viii. + 281: price 1s. 3d.]

East India (Railways). Administration Report on the Railways in India for the year 1905. Accidents, rates and fares, number of railway employees, railway provident funds and schools, &c. [Cd. 3141: pp. 235: price 2s. 9d.]

Colonial Reports—Annual. No. 492. *Jamaica. Report for 1904-5.* [Cd. 2684-38: pp. 27: price 2d.]

No. 493. *Northern Territories of the Gold Coast. Report for 1905.* [Cd. 2684-39: pp. 20: price 1½d.]

No. 494. *Ceylon. Report for 1905.* Notes on industries, land settlement, &c. [Cd. 2684-40: pp. 39: price 2½d.]

(The above-mentioned Indian and Colonial Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

Commonwealth of Australia. Report from the Royal Commission on Old Age Pensions, with Proceedings, Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and a Synopsis of the Evidence. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Acting Government Printer: pp. lii. + 319]. A notice of the Report of the Commission appeared in the June GAZETTE, p. 165. The present documents complete the volume.

Report from the Royal Commission upon Trusts in the Tobacco Trade, with Proceedings of the Select Committees and Royal Commission, also Minutes of Evidence and Appendices. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Acting Government Printer: pp. xlv. + 380].

Victoria. Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Work-Rooms and Shops for the year ended 31st December, 1905. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Acting Government Printer: pp. 88: price 2s. 6d.]

Western Australia. Fifth Annual Return and Report of Proceedings under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1902, for the year ended December 31st, 1905. [Perth, W. A.: A. Curtis, Government Printer: pp. 33].

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, August, 1906. The Labour Market; awards under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; Permits to Under-rate Workers, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Monthly Consular and Trade Reports. July, 1906. [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 208.]

Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour. (Department of Commerce and Labour.) No. 65. July, 1906. Wages and Hours of Labour, 1890-1905. Retail Prices of Food, 1890-1905

Massachusetts. Statistics of Manufactures, 1904, 1905. Part IV. of the Annual Report for 1906. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 84.]

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No. 42. September, 1906. Contains "Organisation of Trade Schools," "Textile Schools in the United States," "Injunctions against Strikes and Boycotts" in Massachusetts during 1906.

France.

Bulletin of the French Labour Department, August 1906. Contains statistics of industrial accidents in 1904.

Germany.

Statistics of Infirmity Insurance: Pensions beginning in 1891 to 1899, which have ceased to be paid. German Imperial Insurance Department, 1906. [Berlin: A. Asher & Co., pp. xviii. + 137.]

Statistics of Medical Treatment of Persons insured under German Infirmity Insurance Law. German Imperial Insurance Department, 1906. [Berlin: A. Asher & Co.: pp. 155.]

Annual Reports of Industrial Inspectors for 1905. 3 vols. [Berlin: R. von Decker's Verlag.]

Report of Miners' Insurance Association for 1905. Contains statistics of accidents to German miners. [Berlin: pp. 85 and diagrams.]

Journal of Prussian Statistical Office. Vol. XLVI., Part 3, 1906. [Berlin: Verlag des Kgl. Statistischen Landesamts.]

Wages, Hours, &c., in German Home Industries. An amplified catalogue of the Berlin Exhibition of Home Industries, showing wages, hours, and housing conditions of persons employed in making articles exhibited. 1906. [Berlin: Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht: pp. 232.]

Journal of the German Labour Department, September, 1906. Article on Trade Unions in Germany in 1905.

Monthly Journal of German Imperial Insurance Department, September, 1906.

Strikes and Lock-Outs in Germany in 1905. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Verlag von Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht: pp. 343 + 67 + 149. price 2s.]

Austria.

Statistics of Overtime in Factories in 1905. Austrian Labour Department. [Vienna: pp. 34.]

Labour Registries in Austria in 1905. Austrian Labour Department. [Vienna: A. Hölder, I, Rotenturmstrasse 13: pp. 50.]

Journal of the Austrian Ministry of Commerce, 1906. No. 7.

Report on General Federation of Austrian Co-operative Societies for 1905. [Vienna: Selbstverlag des Allgemeinen Verbandes: pp. xxiii. + 57.]

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, August, 1906. Contains article on overtime in Austrian factories in 1905.

Report of Austrian Industrial Inspectors for 1905. Austrian Ministry of Commerce. [Vienna: Verlag der K. K. Hof- und Staatsdruckerei: pp. cxxxii + 512.]

Italy.

Report on Application of Law Regulating Employment of Women and Children. Italian Labour Department, 1906. [Rome: pp. 245.]

Monthly Bulletin of Italian Emigration Department, No. 10 of 1906.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, August, 1906. Contains reports on Chambers of Labour for first six months of 1906.

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, August 15th and 31st, 1906.

Workmen's Insurance in Foreign Countries. Edited by Dr. Zacher. *Supplementary Volume on Workmen's Insurance in Belgium.* [Berlin—Grunewald, 1906: Verlag der Arbeiter-Versorgung: A. Troschel: pp. 105.]

Holland.

Report on Railways of Holland for 1905. Ministry of Dykes, Commerce and Industry. [The Hague: De Gebroeders van Cleef: pp. 403.]

Journal of Central Statistical Bureau of Holland. First monthly number September, 1906 (formerly issued quarterly).

Conditions of Employment in the Cocoa, Chocolate and Sugar Manufacture in Amsterdam. 1906. [Amsterdam: pp. 63: price 8d.]

Switzerland.

Annual Report of International Printers' Union for 1905. Contains particulars of wages-movements and agreements in printing trades in various countries. [Basle: pp. 130.]

Norway.

Statistical Year-book of Christiania for 1904. Christiania Municipal Statistical Office. [Christiania: pp. xiii. + 212.] Includes tables of wages, prices, unemployment, trade unions, &c., in Christiania.

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, August, 1906.

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 3709. *Trade of Consular District of Yokohama for the year 1905.* Notes on cost of living, &c. [Cd. 2682-234: pp. 35: price 2½d.]

No. 3713. *Trade of Brazil for the year 1905.* Notes on the cotton and other industries. [Cd. 2682-238: pp. 21: price 1½d.]

No. 3718. *Trade of Venice for the year 1905-1906.* Notes on cotton, jute, lace, and other industries; schools for apprentice engineers, and for instruction in the Fishing Industry. [Cd. 2682-243: pp. 45: price 2½d.]

No. 3720. *Trade of Belgium for the year 1905 and first half of 1906.* Fixed minimum wages by municipalities (Antwerp list as example); wages of Belgian miners; notes on industries, &c. [Cd. 2682-245: pp. 72: price 3½d.]

No. 3719. *Trade of Consular District of Kobe (Japan) for the year 1905.* Notes on industries; cotton spinning mills in the Kobe district, showing number of spindles and looms, production, &c.; principal factories of Osaka, showing numbers employed, wages, hours, plant, &c. [Cd. 2682-244: pp. 59: price 3d.]

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