

# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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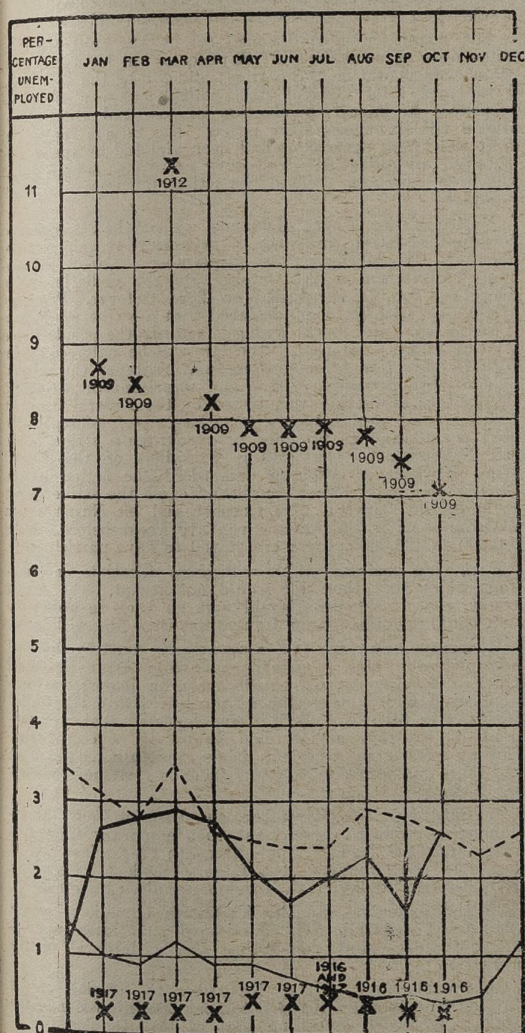
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## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1919. — Thin Curve = 1918.  
- - - Dotted Curve = Mean of 1909-18.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1909-18.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Department of Labour Statistics by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures.

## EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, AND PRICES.

### GENERAL SUMMARY.

EMPLOYMENT at the beginning of October was affected by the railway strike, which resulted in a large amount of unemployment in the coal mining, pig iron, and iron and steel industries, though many trades were not seriously affected. After the resumption of work by the railwaymen on 6th October, the strikes of ironmoulders and of steel-works bricklayers in Scotland continued to cause much unemployment in the iron and steel, engineering, shipbuilding and other branches of the metal trades. In other industries employment was usually good or fairly good, the only noteworthy exceptions being the linen trade, which continued very slack, and the textile bleaching, dyeing, printing and finishing trades and the fancy lace trade, in which employment was fair, on the whole. In some trades, especially the clothing, there was a shortage of women.

Changes in wages which came into operation in October resulted in increases being obtained by about 500,000 workpeople. The general level of retail prices of food and other items at 1st November was about 125 per cent. above the pre-war level, as compared with 120 per cent. a month earlier.

*Employment.*—The number of out of work donation policies lodged at 31st October was 479,427, as compared with 403,003 at 26th September. This increase is largely, though not entirely, due to the strike of ironmoulders. The distribution of the 479,427 policies lodged at 31st October was as follows:—Civilians—Men 94,058, boys 7,349, women 30,940, girls 2,838. Demobilised—Men 340,244, women 3,998.

The number of men on the Live Registers of the Employment Exchanges at 7th November was 478,638, or an increase of 25,291 on 10th October; and the number of women was 85,498, or a decrease of 11,559 on the total at 10th October. The number of vacancies unfilled on 7th November was 28,796 for men and 42,884 for women, the corresponding figures for 10th October being 34,178 and 43,600.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 1,407,491, excluding those serving with H.M. Forces, reported 2.6 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of October, 1919, as compared with 1.6 per cent. a month earlier, and 0.4 per cent. a year earlier. The level of unemployment indicated by the percentage 2.6, though higher than in recent months, is no higher than that obtaining in a good year before the war.

The following notes refer to the state of employment in the various industries after the immediate effects of the railway strike had passed away.

Employment at coal mines in October continued good; the number of workpeople employed at the collieries included in the returns was slightly greater than in the previous month and 23 per cent. greater than a year earlier. At iron mines and at quarries employment continued good, at tin mines it was dull and at lead mines it varied according to the district. The majority of shale mine







LABOUR DISPUTES IN CATALONIA: SPECIAL COMMISSION APPOINTED.\*

A LABOUR Commission, composed of an equal number of representatives of employers and workers, has been established by Royal Decree in Catalonia, to deal with the labour disputes prevalent in that district.

The new Commission is directly responsible to the Prime Minister; it ranks as an official body, and will represent the interests of capital and labour before the Government.

The functions of the Commission are (a) to hear the evidence in disputes between employers and workers in the spheres within its jurisdiction, to endeavour to settle such disputes and to make Awards; (b) to fix minimum wages for each district in every trade or industry; (c) to report on existing and proposed social legislation and take the steps necessary for putting the latter into operation when placed on the Statute Book; (d) to fix working hours and overtime rates in each trade, particularly in connection with the adoption of the 8-hour day; (e) to make proposals to Government for legislation conducive to social peace; (f) to report on all matters referred to it by the Government and to co-operate for the greater efficacy of social legislation.

The voting lists or workers' register for the election of members of the Commission shall include all workers of both sexes over 19 years of age who, being Spanish born or naturalised, reside in the district and having completed their apprenticeship, are or have been employed in some Spanish factory or workshop.

The employers who are qualified to vote are those whose names are included in a register to be compiled according to a certain specified classification by the Barcelona Chambers of Commerce, Navigation and Industry, the local Association of Employers for the Encouragement of National Labour, and by the provincial and local chambers of commerce in the four provinces.

On December 7th the election of members of the Commission will take place and on December 12th the elected members will be summoned to form the Commission and appoint officers; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, however, will be provisionally nominated by the Civil Governor of Barcelona, if the Government so decide.

The Labour Commission will begin to act on December 12th. Meanwhile, should any difficulties arise with regard to the application or interpretation of this Decree, solutions and proposals in regard thereto are to be submitted to the Government by the Provisional Joint Commission of Employers and Workers established on September 10th.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN BELGIUM, 1919.

THE Revue du Travail for 1st October contains a statistical summary showing the number and magnitude of labour disputes reported to the Belgian Ministry of Labour during the first seven months of the present year. The data are admittedly incomplete. During the period January to July inclusive, 194 strikes were recorded affecting 55,370 workpeople (42,470 being actual strikers and 12,900 other workpeople forced to be idle).

Twenty-nine strikes, affecting 3,150 workpeople, terminated wholly in favour of the workpeople and 37, affecting 14,017 workpeople, wholly in favour of the employers, while 108, affecting 24,414 workpeople, ended in a compromise; in the case of the remaining 20 strikes the result was not ascertained.

As to the method of settlement the Revue states that in 21 cases affecting 6,022 workpeople disputes were settled by the employers conceding the demands put forward by the strikers; in 119 cases, affecting 21,859 workpeople, by direct negotiations between employers and employed (or their respective organisations); in 21, affecting 6,922 workpeople, by the method of conciliation; in 14, affecting 6,160 workpeople, by arbitration. In the remaining 19 cases the method of settlement was not ascertained.

The lock-outs during the same period were 3 in number, 2,977 workers being affected. Two of these terminated in a compromise, and the third (a very small dispute) wholly in favour of the employer. Two lock-outs were settled by arbitration and the third by direct negotiation between employers and employed.

\* El Sol, 13th October, 1919.

SOCIALISATION LAW APPLIED TO BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY IN AUSTRIA.

ACCORDING to the Arbeiter-Zeitung of 21st September, 1919, the Austrian Government decided on the preceding day to establish a socialised undertaking under the name of the "Associated Shoe and Leather Factories" (Vereinigte Leder- und Schuhfabriken).

The new concern will be formed jointly by the State, the Co-operative Wholesale Society as representative of urban consumers, and the Wholesale Purchase Society of the Agricultural Trading Association representing rural consumers. The State will hand over to the new undertaking the leather works at Brünn and the boot and shoe factory at Mittendorf, which were State-owned during the war, and a factory building in Vienna to which the plant from the Mittendorf factory will be removed.

The enterprise will be managed by a Board composed of three State representatives (one from the Ministry of Finance and two from the Ministry of Trade and Commerce); three members each from the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Agricultural Trading Association; four representatives of the manual workers and salaried employees, of whom three will be chosen by the Works Committees and one by the Trade Union of Workers in the boot and shoe industry; and one member of the business management, which will be appointed by the Board.

The net profits of the undertaking will be allotted as follows: one quarter to the manual workers and salaried employees, one quarter to the State and one quarter each to the two Co-operative Associations. The workers' share will be handed over to the Works Committee which will decide independently as to the manner of its disposal.

Commenting on the above, the writer of the article states: "Quite recently there has been an attempt to form a capitalistic trust under the directorship of the General Austrian Joint-Stock Boot and Shoe Company (Schuhaktiengesellschaft). There is no doubt that the Austrian boot and shoe industry must be centralised if it is not to succumb to foreign competition. But centralisation must be carried out, not by a capitalistic monopoly, but in the interests of consumers and workers. This will be the task of the new enterprise, which will be the largest in the industry. About 900,000 pairs of boots and shoes should be produced yearly in the two factories. This represents one-third of the present production and one-seventh of the normal demand. It will also aim at bringing other undertakings in the boot and shoe and leather industries under its control. It is hoped to form a further jointly controlled concern, in collaboration with the Styrian Provincial Government, by taking over the boot and shoe factory at Gösting. Large private concerns are also to be converted into companies managed on socialised lines."

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED EX-SOLDIERS IN GERMANY.\*

UNDER an Order of 9th January last, all public and private establishments, offices and administrations were bound to engage at least one disabled ex-soldier for each 100 persons employed, including officials, salaried employees and manual workers of both sexes. This proportion is now modified by an Order, dated 24th September, 1919, which provides that one disabled ex-soldier must be engaged where the number of persons employed is 25 or over and not more than 50, and one in addition for each further 50.

Under the earlier Order one disabled man was to be employed in agricultural undertakings in every 50 engaged. This clause is now repealed.

For the purpose of this Order a disabled person is one who is in receipt of a military disablement pension amounting to 50 per cent. or upwards of the full pension.

FRANCO-ITALIAN LABOUR AGREEMENT.†

THE negotiations for the conclusion of a labour treaty between France and Italy have resulted in the signature of an agreement which will be submitted for approval to the Parliaments of the respective countries. The treaty enacts that the workers of either country, when employed in the other, shall be on the same footing as nationals in regard to labour conditions and shall enjoy the same benefits with reference to relief and insurance.

\* Deutscher Reichsanzeiger, 29th September, 1919. † Il Sole, 4th October, and La Battaglia, 25th October, 1919.

RETAIL PRICES:

SUMMARY TABLE SHOWING PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES AT THE UNDER-MENTIONED DATES, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.

[N.B.—The figures below should be read in connection with the details given under each country in this and previous issues of THE LABOUR GAZETTE. In certain cases the comparison is not with July, 1914, e.g., Amsterdam (1913): for these reference should be made to the paragraphs under the various countries.]

Table showing percentage increase in retail food prices since July, 1914, for various countries including UK, Belgium, Denmark, France, etc.

UNITED KINGDOM: PRICES AT 1st NOVEMBER.

Retail prices of the principal articles of food showed a further increase at 1st November, prices at that date averaging 131 per cent. above the pre-war level of July, 1914, as compared with 122 per cent. a month ago.

The increase since 1st October was largely due to the prices of meat, which advanced 2d. per lb. for most descriptions of beef and mutton. The prices of milk showed a further increase, and on 1st November ranged generally from 8d. to 1s. per quart, according to locality.

In the following Table is given a comparison of average prices of the articles of food included in the statistics in July, 1914, at the beginning of November, 1918 (just before the Armistice), and on 1st November, 1919. In making comparisons between prices at different times of the year, it is necessary to remember the seasonal variations in the prices of some articles:—

Table comparing average prices of food articles in July 1914, Nov 1918, and Nov 1919, showing percentage increases.

\* Figures for 3rd Quarter. † Decrease. ‡ The figures given relate to August. § Figures for six months, April to September. ¶ Figures for June. \*\* If this kind is seldom dealt with in a locality the Returns quote prices for another kind locally representative.

The increases since July, 1914, in the average prices of the above articles of food ranged from about 50 per cent. for flour and 60 per cent. for bread to about 240 per cent. for granulated sugar and 330 per cent. for fresh eggs.

Table showing average percentage increase at 1st November, 1919, compared with July, 1914, for various articles like Beef, Mutton, etc.

Table showing average percentage increase in prices, based on the cost of maintaining the pre-war dietary, for various food items like Beef, Mutton, Flour, etc.

The average increase in prices, based on the cost of maintaining the pre-war dietary as regards the above articles, was 131 per cent., but the average increase in expenditure on such articles was estimated to be somewhat less, viz., 119 per cent., the difference between the two percentages arising from changes in dietary, as indicated by figures supplied by the Ministry of Food.

In the following Table these percentages are given in comparison with the corresponding figures for a month earlier, and for 1st November, 1918:—

Table comparing expenditure on food articles at 1st Nov 1919, 1st Nov 1918, and 1st Oct 1919.

The figures relating to the prices of the principal articles of food are based on information collected from representative retailers conducting a working-class trade in 630 towns and villages, distributed throughout the United Kingdom. The total number of retailers applied to is about 5,500, but this number is not a full indication of the basis of the returns.

Increases in rents of working-class dwellings have been limited by the Increase of Rent Restriction Acts and, for the same accommodation, rents generally are the same as before the war, except in so far as higher rents have resulted from increased rates; increases on this account, which up to the present half-year have been relatively small, have been included in the estimates of the general increase in prices and rents combined, which is given below.

As regards the prices of clothing, the statistics are designed to relate to the same qualities, or to corresponding qualities, so far as possible. Owing, however, to the wide range of quotations, both now and before the war, to changes in qualities and in the stocks held by retailers, and to variations in the extent to which different articles and qualities have been affected by price-changes, it is impossible to make an exact estimate of the increase in prices of clothing.





TRADE UNION PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED.

Trade Unions with a net membership of 1,407,491 reported 36,566 (or 2.6 per cent.) of their members as unemployed at the end of October, 1919, compared with 1.6 per cent. at the end of September, 1919, and 0.4 per cent. at the end of October, 1918.

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Membership at end of Oct. 1919, Unemployed at end of Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in number. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Engineering, etc.

RETURNS RECEIVED FROM EMPLOYERS.

Information as to the state of employment in October, derived from Returns furnished by employers, is summarised in the Tables given below.

(a) MINING AND METAL TRADES.

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Workpeople included in the Returns for Oct. 1919, Days worked per week by Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include Coal Mining, Pig Iron, Tinplate and Steel Sheet, Iron and Steel.

(b) OTHER TRADES.

Table with 7 columns: Trade, Number employed, Earnings, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a week ended 25th Oct. 1919, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a year ago. Rows include Textiles, Boot and Shoe, Shirts and Collar, etc.

\* In the case of certain Trade Unions, this number does not include members receiving Government out-of-work donation unless they are also receiving Society benefit.
† This percentage is based mainly on Returns relating to carpenters and plumbers.
‡ In some sections of the textile trades, there was also short time and broken time which is not reflected in the figures.
§ Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages, including war bonuses.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

[NOTE.—The numbers given in the following Tables represent the numbers of workpeople covered by the Returns received and not the total numbers employed in the various industries.]

COAL MINING.

EMPLOYMENT in October subsequent to the settlement of the railway strike was good generally. There was an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed at the collieries making Returns as compared with the previous month, and of 23.0 per cent. on a year ago.

Of the 576,179 workpeople included in the Returns for October, 293,402 (or 50.9 per cent.) were employed at pits working 12\* days during the fortnight to which the Returns relate, and a further 203,021 (or 35.2 per cent.) at pits working 11 days or more, but less than 12 days.

The number of days worked per week showed a slight improvement in some districts, while in others there was a slight decline, the average for the United Kingdom being 5.68, as against 5.70 in September and 5.76 a year ago.

In several districts time was lost owing to shortage of wagons. The following Table shows the number of workpeople employed, and the average number of days worked per week by the collieries covered by the Returns received:—

Table with 9 columns: District, No. of Workpeople employed at Mines, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, etc.

Returns received from mines employing 412,037 workpeople in October, 1919, showed an increase of 5.5 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with October, 1913.

The exports of coal, coke and manufactured fuel during October, 1919, amounted to 3,019,666 tons, or 57,113 tons more than in September, 1919, but 4,040,262 tons less than in October, 1913.

The principal countries of destination of coal (similar particulars cannot be given for coke and manufactured fuel) were as follows:—

Table with 5 columns: Country, October 1919, September 1919, October 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include Russia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, etc.

\* The figures in this and the following article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal, iron ore or shale was got and drawn from the mines or open works included in the Returns. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed worked every day the mines or works were open.

IRON, SHALE AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

EMPLOYMENT at iron mines and at quarries (except china clay quarries) continued good on the whole, though it was adversely affected at the beginning of the month by the railway strike, and at quarries time was lost on account of unfavourable weather. Employment at shale mines was affected by a threatened dispute. It was dull at tin mines, and ranged from slack to very good at lead mines. Shortage of railway wagons was frequently reported.

MINING.

Iron—Returns received, relating to mines and open works at which 13,443 workpeople were employed in October, 1919, show increases, in the total number employed, of 2.1 per cent. on the previous month, and 4.0 per cent. on a year ago.

Table with 6 columns: District, No. of Workpeople employed at Mines, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Mines, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include Cleveland, Cumberland and Lancashire, Scotland, etc.

Comparison with October, 1913, taking the same mines and works at both dates, shows a decrease of 3 per cent. in the total number employed.

Shale.—A strike was threatened in the Linlithgowshire area towards the end of September, and before a settlement was reached arrangements had been made to shut down the retorts. As a consequence of the cooling down, operations in many of the mines and pits could not be resumed until about the middle of October, and the bulk of the workpeople were thus idle for fully half of the month.

Tin.—There was a further decline in employment in the Cornish district, and conditions were reported as dull.

Lead.—Employment continued slack in Flintshire, but very good in the Weardale district. At Darley Dale (Matlock) the dispute continued to keep operations practically at a standstill.

QUARRYING.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with 7 columns: District, No. of Workpeople employed at Quarries, Average No. of Days worked per week by the Quarries, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include Limestone, Sandstone, Granite, Slate, Basalt, Whinstone.

Taking those Returns in regard to which a comparison with October, 1913, is possible, the total number of workpeople employed in October, 1919, shows a decrease of about 30 per cent.

Limestone.—Employment continued good at quarries producing limestone for blast-furnaces and for cement; at other quarries it was again fairly good. In addition to the dislocation of transport caused by the railway strike at the beginning of October, there were some complaints of shortage of wagons throughout the month.

Sandstone.—Employment continued good on the whole, and there was a shortage of labour, chiefly skilled men. Granite (Road Material, Setts, &c.)—Employment remained good in quarries for road-making material; it declined to fair in quarries for paving setts, &c. Operations were considerably restricted by the shortage of railway wagons.

Slate.—Employment in North Wales was again good. Basalt and Whinstone (Road Material).—Employment

\* See note at foot of previous page.

continued good both at basalt and whinstone quarries, and there was some shortage of labour.

China Clay.—Employment was reported as bad at St. Austell and dull at Lee Moor, the lack of railway wagons for transport causing much unemployment.

PIG IRON.

EMPLOYMENT was good on the whole during October; most of the furnaces which were blown out as a result of the railway strike were re-lighted within a few days of its settlement. In Scotland, however, a number of furnaces were blown out for repairs. A slight shortage of labour was reported from some districts, and a shortage of material and of railway wagons was mentioned in some of the returns.

Table with 4 columns: District, Number of Furnaces included in the Returns, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in number. Rows include ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, TOTAL.

The imports of iron ore in October, 1919, amounted to 368,563 tons, or 102,178 tons more than in September, 1919, but 229,075 tons less than in October, 1913.

The exports of pig-iron in October, 1919, amounted to 35,282 tons, or 2,902 tons more than in September, 1919, but 64,306 tons less than in October, 1913.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

DURING the first week of October many works were closed in consequence of the railway strike. Subsequently employment was, on the whole, fairly good, but in several districts it was adversely affected by the strike of iron-moulders. Unemployment continued in the Ebbw Vale, Tredegar and Dowlais districts of South Wales owing to the prolonged strike of engineers and other skilled trades. Iron and steel works in the West of Scotland were rendered partially idle by a strike of bricklayers, but otherwise employment in Scotland, generally, was good, and a shortage of puddlers and of millmen was reported by a number of firms. A few firms in other districts reported a shortage of skilled labour. Difficulty in obtaining sufficient fuel was experienced in some instances.

The average number of shifts worked per man employed was 5.52, as compared with 5.51 in the previous month, and with 5.74 a year ago.

Table with 8 columns: District, No. of Workpeople employed by firms making returns, Aggregate number of Shifts worked, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS.

Table with 5 columns: District, No. of Workpeople employed, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include Northumberland and Durham, Cleveland, Sheffield and Rotherham, etc.

Table with 5 columns: District, No. of Workpeople employed, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous month, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) as compared with previous year. Rows include Total, England and Wales, Scotland, TOTAL.





wool in October, 1919, in comparison with September, 1919 and October, 1913:—

Table with columns: Description, Oct., 1919, Sept., 1919, Oct., 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Oct., 1913. Rows include Imports (less Re-exports) and Exports of British Manufactures.

HOSIERY TRADE.

In the hosiery trade employment was good during October, after the termination of the railway strike, and was slightly better than in September. A shortage of yarns was reported in the principal districts.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with columns: District, Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Leicester, Leicester Country Dist., Notts and Derbyshire, Scotland, Other Districts, and TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM.

At Leicester and in the surrounding district employment continued good but some short time was worked owing to difficulties in securing yarns; the supply of female labour was insufficient. In the Nottingham and Derby district there was also some shortage of yarn but employment continued good generally in both the power frame and the hand frame sections. In Scotland the operatives continued well employed.

The following Table relates to the exports of hosiery in October, 1919, as compared with September, 1919, and October, 1913.

Table with columns: Description, Oct., 1919, Sept., 1919, Oct., 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Oct., 1913. Rows include Cotton Hosiery and Woollen Hosiery.

JUTE TRADE.

DURING October employment in Dundee and district was reported as good and about the same as at the end of the preceding month; it was better than a year ago. A shortage of all classes of labour still continued.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with columns: Departments, Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, Other, and TOTAL.

\* In October, 1913, the re-exports of raw wool exceeded the imports by 4,038,000 lb.

† Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages, including war bonuses.

The above firms also gave information as to the numbers employed by them in October, 1913. These Returns showed a decrease of 4 per cent. in the numbers employed in October, 1919, as compared with October, 1913.

The following Table summarises the imports (less re-exports) of raw material and the exports of jute yarn and piece goods in October, 1919, in comparison with September, 1919, and October, 1913:—

Table with columns: Description, Oct., 1919, Sept., 1919, Oct., 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Oct., 1913. Rows include Imports (less Re-exports) and Exports of British Manufactures.

LINEN TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT during October continued very slack in Ireland and much short time was reported, largely owing to the general shortage of flax and yarn. In Scotland, employment showed little change compared with September.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with columns: DEPARTMENTS, DISTRICTS, Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Preparing, Spinning, Weaving, Other, Not specified, Belfast, Other places in Ireland, Fifehire, Other places in Scotland, England, and United Kingdom.

In addition to the above figures certain firms, employing 28,254 workpeople in October, 1919, gave information as to the numbers employed by them in October, 1913. These Returns showed a decrease of 15 per cent. as compared with the earlier date.

The following Table summarises the imports (less re-exports) and exports of raw material and of linen yarn and piece goods in October, 1919, in comparison with September, 1919, and October, 1913:—

Table with columns: Description, Oct., 1919, Sept., 1919, Oct., 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Oct., 1913. Rows include Imports (less Re-exports) and Exports of British Manufactures.

SILK TRADE.

DURING October employment in the silk trade continued good and was better than a year ago. A shortage of certain classes of labour, dressers, spinners, &c., was reported.

In the West Riding employment continued good. At Macclesfield and Congleton employment was good generally; at Leek it was reported as fair, with some short time owing to shortage of raw materials. In the Eastern Counties employment showed little change compared with the preceding month; it was reported as good at Norwich and Yarmouth and as fair at Halstead, Sudbury and Braintree.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages, including war bonuses.

† Of the flax imported in October, 1913, 1,997 tons were from Russia.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with columns: BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Throwing, Spinning, Weaving, Other, Not specified, Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire, Macclesfield, Congleton and District, Eastern Counties, Other Districts, including Scotland, and TOTAL.

In addition to the above figures, certain firms employing 4,831 workpeople in October, 1919, also gave information as to the numbers employed by them in October, 1913. These Returns showed a decrease of 6 per cent. as compared with October, 1913.

The following Table summarises the statistics of imports (less re-exports) and exports of raw and manufactured silk for October, 1919, in comparison with September, 1919, and October, 1913:—

Table with columns: Description, Oct., 1919, Sept., 1919, Oct., 1913, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Oct., 1913. Rows include Imports (less re-exports) and Exports of British Manufactures.

LACE TRADE.

DURING October employment was fair on the whole in the levers branch and better than in the previous month; in the curtain branch it was good and in the plain net branch fairly good. There was a general marked improvement compared with a year ago. In all the principal districts a shortage of various classes of labour was reported.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with columns: Branches, DISTRICTS, Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Levers, Curtain, Plain Net, Others, Nottingham City, Long Eaton and other out-lying Districts, Other English Districts, Scotland, and TOTAL.

In the Nottingham district employment showed a distinct improvement in the levers section and was reported as fair; operatives in the curtain and plain net sections were well employed. In the Long Eaton district employment was reported as fairly good, and as about the same as a month ago. In Scotland, employment continued fairly good.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages, including war bonuses.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

In these trades employment on the whole was fair and better than in September, except in the early part of the month, when it was somewhat affected by the railway strike. In Yorkshire and Lancashire the supplies of coal were inadequate, and there was a shortage of dyes.

In the bleaching section employment in October showed a slight improvement as compared with the previous month. In the printing section in England employment was good and better than a year ago, while in Scotland it was fair and slightly better than in September.

With woollen and worsted dyers in the Huddersfield district employment was reported as good and as better than during the previous month; but in this section generally a considerable number of Trade Union operatives were on short time. With cotton dyers employment continued slack. In Leicester, Nottingham and the surrounding districts employment continued good in all departments, and some overtime was reported in the dyeing and finishing sections.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with columns: Trades, DISTRICTS, Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago), Earnings (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago). Rows include Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing, Finishing, and other Departments, and not specified, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Scotland, Ireland, Other Districts, and TOTAL.

CARPET TRADE.

In this trade employment during October continued fairly good and was somewhat better than a year ago. In the Kidderminster district a little short time was reported owing to waiting for yarns, but employment on the whole showed little change compared with the preceding month. In the West Riding and in Scotland employment continued fairly good.

Returns from firms employing 6,353 workpeople in the week ended 25th October and paying £12,563 in wages showed an increase of 2.7 per cent. both in the numbers employed and in the amount of wages paid compared with a month earlier. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 28.9 per cent. in the number employed and of 52.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The exports of carpets and carpet rugs in October, 1919, amounted to 288,700 square yards, or 37,400 square yards more than in September, 1919, but 360,300 square yards less than in October, 1913.

LEATHER TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole but was hardly so good as a year ago. Very little overtime was reported, and in a few districts a certain amount of short time was worked. Trade Unions with 13,755 members reported 0.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, compared with 0.8 per cent. in September and 0.2 per cent. a year ago.

With skinners, tanners and curriers employment was good on the whole, but quiet, with some short time, in the Bristol district. With saddlers and harness makers it was fairly good, except in certain branches at Walsall, where a considerable number of workpeople were stated to be unemployed. With fancy leather workers employment was good.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages, including war bonuses.



GLASS TRADES.

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good on the whole during October, and a number of firms reported a scarcity of labour.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished Returns:—

Table with columns for Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago) and Earnings (£, Per cent. Month ago, Year ago) for various branches and districts.

With glass bottle makers generally, employment was good and showed a slight improvement on the previous month. In Yorkshire there was a demand for skilled men, but the shortage of fuel continued.

The exports of glass bottles during October, 1918, amounted to 24,752 gross, or 5,969 gross more than in September, 1919, but 70,526 gross less than in October, 1913.

The exports of all the other manufactures of glass during October, 1919, amounted to 39,360 cwts., or 16,696 cwts. more than in September, 1919, but 47,287 cwts. less than in October, 1913.

PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

THE state of employment during October in the paper, printing and bookbinding trades generally continued about the same as in the previous month. It was not so good, on the whole, as in October of last year.

Compared with September employment with letterpress printers showed a slight decline in London and in a few provincial towns, particularly Newcastle, Birmingham and Bristol, but elsewhere it remained approximately the same.

There was a further slight improvement in the state of employment in the bookbinding trade, and in some provincial towns it was reported as being good, a little overtime being worked.

In the paper trade employment generally remained good and a shortage of skilled labour was occasionally reported. The scarcity of coal is still affecting some of the mills, while in a few instances a shortage of other materials was reported.

The following Table summarises the Returns received from Trade Unions relating to unemployment:—

Table showing No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct. 1919, Percentage Unemployed at end of Oct., Sept., Oct., 1918, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on a Month ago, Year ago.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages and war bonuses.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns:—

Table with columns for Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago) and Wages (£, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago) for Paper, Printing, and Bookbinding.

The following Table summarises the imports and exports of wood pulp and paper in October, 1919, in comparison with September, 1919, and October, 1913:—

Table with columns for Description, Oct. 1919, Sept. 1919, Oct. 1913, and Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Oct. 1913.

FOOD PREPARATION TRADES.

APART from some dislocation at the beginning of the month due to the railway strike, the state of employment in these trades continued good on the whole. In the cocoa, chocolate and sugar confectionery trades employment continued good generally and a considerable amount of overtime was reported.

In the sugar refining trade conditions remained good, overtime being worked to a considerable extent.

Makers of biscuits and cakes generally stated that employment was good, but short time was worked in some districts. In the jam and marmalade trade employment was again fairly good, but a lack of fruit and sugar was reported.

It was also fairly good in the bacon curing, preserved meat and pickle and sauce trades. Complaints of the shortage of glass bottles continued.

The following Table summarises the information received from those employers who furnished returns:—

Table with columns for Trade, Workpeople (Week ended 25th Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago) and Earnings (£, Per cent. Month ago, Year ago) for various food preparation trades.

AGRICULTURE.†

ENGLAND AND WALES.

THE favourable weather during October enabled good progress to be made with agricultural operations except in a few places, where the ground was too hard and dry for cultivation.

The demands for unskilled labour were generally met, but a shortage of all types of skilled workers still existed in many parts.

\* Comparison of earnings is affected by increases in rates of wages and war bonuses. † Based on information supplied by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries and by the Board of Agriculture for Scotland.

No particular deficiency occurred in most of the Northern and North-Western counties, but there were general shortages in parts of Durham and Cheshire, and some additional temporary labour was also needed in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

In the Midlands, the labour supply was usually sufficient, but parts of Shropshire and Stafford, Derby and Northampton reported a scarcity of both skilled and casual labour, and there was a shortage of skilled men in Warwick.

The Eastern, Southern and South-Western counties were usually adequately supplied, but skilled workers were still in demand in various places; and in parts of Devon, Cornwall and Somerset temporary workers were difficult to obtain.

Labour was scarce in Brecon and parts of Cardigan, but otherwise, except for an occasional deficiency of skilled men, the supply was fairly adequate in North and South Wales.

SCOTLAND.

The supply of labour in most districts approached the normal, but both regular and casual workers were still very scarce in various parts of Scotland, especially in the Highlands. Skilled ploughmen and cattlemen were much in demand in Dumfries.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT during October showed an improvement on September and was generally good at all the principal fishing ports except Aberdeen, where, owing to the continuance of the trawler dispute, operations were practically at a standstill.

The following Table shows the quantities and value of fish landed in October, 1919, as compared with a year ago and with October, 1913:—

Table with columns for Quantity of fish landed (Oct. 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Oct. 1918, Oct. 1913) and Value (£, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on Oct. 1918, Oct. 1913) for various fish types.

East and South Coasts.—In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment with fishermen continued good, but with fish curers it declined to moderate.

At Hull employment was good and showed a further improvement. At Grimsby employment continued good. At Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft the herring season was in full swing and all branches were fully employed.

Scotland.—At Aberdeen the trawling industry continued to be at a standstill owing to the dispute. At Peterhead employment was again good; at Fraserburgh and Macduff it improved to good, except with fish dock labourers at Fraserburgh, who were only fairly well employed.

SEAMEN.

THE demand for seamen at the end of October showed a slight improvement in several districts, but, on the whole, the supply was still in excess. It was, however, reported from the North-East Coast and the Bristol Channel that some difficulty was experienced in securing men for weekly engagements on coasting vessels.

On the Thames, employment at the end of October was brisk and considerably better than a month earlier, the supply being usually about equal to the demand. At Liverpool and on the Clyde, also, employment was good and better than a month earlier, though the supply of seamen continued to be greater than the demand.

Returns from 28 Mercantile Marine offices show that men available for employment on 31st October numbered 18,130, as compared with 19,274 on 30th September.

The following Table shows the number of seamen shipped on British registered foreign-going vessels at the principal ports during October.

Table with columns for Principal Ports, Number of Seamen\* shipped in October, 1919, Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago, Year ago, and Ten months ended (Oct. 1919, Oct. 1918, Oct. 1913).

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good on the whole in October, but showed much variation as between different ports.

London.—Employment was fairly good during the month and slightly better than in September. The following Table shows the average number of labourers employed at the docks and at the principal wharves in London in October, 1919, in comparison with the previous month and with a year ago:—

Table with columns for Period, Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London (In Docks: By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors, By Ship-owners, etc., Total; At Wharves making Returns; Total Docks and Principal Wharves).

Tilbury.—The mean daily number employed at the docks in October was 2,287, as compared with 2,440 in September, 1919, 1,418 in October, 1918, and 1,551 in October, 1913.

East Coast.—Employment was fairly good and somewhat better than in September on the Tyne and Wear and at Blyth, Hull and Grimsby. At Hartlepool, Stockton and Middlesborough, however, it had declined and was described as slack. Employment was good and showed improvement at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. It continued good at Ipswich.

Southern and Western Ports.—At Plymouth and at the Bristol Channel ports employment was moderate and worse than in September. It was fair at Manchester, and very good at Liverpool.

Scottish and Irish Ports.—Employment was good and showed some improvement at Glasgow, but it was slack at Ayr. It was fair but not so good as in September at Belfast. Employment remained good at Cork and fair at Limerick.

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



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

[The particulars given, which are based on returns from employers and workpeople, are exclusive of changes affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, railway servants, police and Government employees. War bonuses and war increases have been so described where possible, but the information is not in all cases sufficient to distinguish between these and the increases not thus limited.]

The particulars relate to changes reported, both by the employers and the workpeople concerned, to have come into actual operation, irrespective of whether they have or have not been approved by the Minister of Labour. The fact that a particular change in rate is shown in the Table, therefore, should not be taken as implying that the new rate has been formally approved by the Minister of Labour as a "substituted rate" under the provisions of the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Acts.]

Wages.\*

THE changes in rates of wages reported as having operated in October resulted in an increase of nearly £100,000 in the weekly wages of about 500,000 workpeople. Of these over 270,000 were engaged in the textile trades, and about 100,000 in pig iron and iron and steel manufacture.

The following Table shows the effect of the changes reported for the industries covered by the statistics (see note above) in the ten completed months of 1919:—

Table with 3 columns: Groups of Trades, Number of Workpeople affected, Amount of Net Increase per week. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Other Mining and Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal, Textile, Clothing, Transport, Printing, Paper, &c., Woodworking and Furniture, Glass, Brick, Pottery, Chemical, &c., Food, Drink and Tobacco, Gas, Electricity and Water Supply, Other Miscellaneous, Local Authority Services, and a TOTAL row.

The principal changes taking effect in October affected workpeople in the woollen and worsted industry in Yorkshire, and tramway and omnibus employees. In the woollen and worsted industry increases were given both in the basis rates of wages and also in the "cost of living wage," applying to all the most important bodies of workpeople in the sorting, combing, spinning and weaving branches, and raising the "cost of living wage" in most cases from 107 per cent. to 115 per cent. for time-workers, from 85½ per cent. to 92 per cent. for male pieceworkers, and from 91 per cent. to 97½ per cent. for female pieceworkers. Tramway and omnibus workers obtained a further war wage advance of 4s. per week in the case of men and women 18 years of age and over, and 2s. per week in the case of boys and girls under 18, making a total war advance in most cases of 34s. per week for men. Other important increases affected iron puddlers and iron and steel millmen in the Midlands, who obtained an increase of 10 per cent., making their wages 162½ per

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919.

Table with 4 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change.

Changes in Rates of Wages, and War Bonuses.

Table with 4 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Rows include Northern Counties (Newcastle-on-Tyne and Tyneside Districts), Yorkshire (Driffield, Wakefield), Lancashire and Cheshire (Bolton), Midland and Eastern Counties (Brentwood, Bristol, Cheltenham, Lincoln), and Ironstone Mining (Northamptonshire).

\* See note at head of page. † Workpeople employed by municipal tramway, gas, electricity and water undertakings are included under "Local Authority Services" and not under "Transport" or under "Gas, etc. Supply," as the case may be. ‡ Including Blaydon, Blyth, Gateshead, Jarrow, North and South Shields, and Wallsend. § The rates quoted in this case, though agreed upon between the Employers' Associations and the Trade Unions concerned, have not been approved by the Minister of Labour as substituted rates under the provisions of the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Acts. ¶ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." \*\* The new rate of wages, which took effect from the date shown, received the approval of the Minister of Labour during October. †† The new rates took effect from the date shown, but were not paid by Government Departments until October. ‡‡ These rates are inclusive of all bonuses.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with 4 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change.

Changes in Rates of Wages, and War Bonuses—(continued).

Table with 4 columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Rows include Midlands and Eastern Counties (Norwich, Southend), South-Eastern and South-Western Counties (Andover), Ascot and District (including Bracknell, Cramborne, Sunningdale, Winkfield), Brighton, Camborne and Redruth Eastbourne, East Crinstead and District, Epsom, Exeter, Guildford and District, Guildford, Godalming, Haslemere, & Woking, Okehampton, Reigate, Redhill and District, Southampton, Teignmouth, Windsor, Eton, Slough, and District, Wales and Monmouthshire (South Wales and Monmouthshire), Ireland (Belfast, Tralee), Scotland (Inverness, Inverness District, Forres, Nairn, Elgin and Buckie Districts and Craigellachie), and Ironstone Mining (Northamptonshire).

\* The rates quoted in this case, though agreed upon between the Employers' Associations and the Trade Unions concerned, have not been approved by the Minister of Labour as substituted rates under the provisions of the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Acts. † The new rates took effect from the date shown, but were not paid by Government Departments until October. ‡ The new rate of wages, which took effect from the date shown, received the approval of the Minister of Labour during October. § See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." ¶ The new rates, which came into operation on the date shown, by agreement between the Employers' Associations and Trade Unions concerned, (see p. 440 of THE LABOUR GAZETTE for October), were approved by the Minister of Labour as substituted rates during October. \*\* The new rates of wages, which took effect from the date shown, received the approval of the Minister of Labour during October. †† Including Aberavon, Aberdare, Abergavenny, Barry, Cardiff, Ebbw Vale, East Glamorganshire and Monmouthshire, Llanelly, Merthyr, Neath, Newport, Pontypridd, Port Talbot, Rhondda and Rhymney Valleys, and Swansea. ‡‡ The increase took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in October.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Shipbuilding Trade, and Other Metal Trades.

\* The 5s. per week referred to is based on the standard rates plus 45 per cent.
† This increase was granted under an agreement made in October to date back to 30 June.
‡ The changes took effect from the dates shown, under an award issued in October.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Other Metal Trades, Cotton Industry, and Woollen and Worsted Industry.

\* The changes took effect from the dates shown, under an arrangement made in October
† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
‡ For particulars relating to Award No. 618 referred to above, see pp. 341 and 350 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for August.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Woollen and Worsted Industry, Linen Thread Industry, Lace Industry, Upholstery Trimmings etc., Textile Dyeing, Finishing and Printing.

\* This change took effect from the date shown, under an arrangement made in October. † In the Saddleworth district the total war increase was limited to a maximum of 33s. per week for adult male time and piece workers, 20s. 8d. per week for female time-workers and 24s. 10d. per week for female piece-workers, while the previous "cost of living wages" were raised from 88s. per cent. to 95 per cent. for weavers, from 78 2/3 per cent. to 84 per cent. for female piece-workers (other than weavers) and for time-workers under 21 years to amounts of 75 per cent. for those 13 and under 16 years, 87 3/8 per cent. for those 16 and under 19 years, and 101 7/8 per cent. for those 19 and under 21 years. ‡ This change took effect from the date shown under an Award issued in October § See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Textile Dyeing, Printing, etc., Tailoring Trade, Silk Hat Manufacture, Laundries, Dock Labour, Tramway and Omnibus Undertakings, Printing Trade, Furniture Trades.

\* This change took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in October. † The new scale for boys and youths did not apply to those employed by members of the Bradford Dyers' Association, Ltd. ‡ Including Accrington, Bacup, Barrow, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Eury, Chorley, Colne, Darwen, Fleetwood, Haslingden, Lancaster, Leigh, Manchester, Nelson, Oldham, Radham, Preston, Rochdale, Southport, Warrington, and Wigan. § The increases were to be retrospective to 30 June in the case of women workers, and in the case of men, 7s. 6d. of the timeworkers' increase and a similar proportion of the pieceworkers' increase took effect from the same date. ¶ See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour." \*\* The rates quoted are inclusive of all bonuses. †† The changes described relate to men employed by members of the Scottish Federation of Merchant Tailors, the towns being divided as follows:— Class I. Aberdeen, Clydebank, Dundee, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Greenock, Leith, Paisley and Renfrew; Class II. Alloa, Ayr, Bathgate, Blairgowrie, Brechin, Broxburn, Dalkeith, Dumfries, Dumfries, Dumbarton, Elgin, Falkirk, Helensburgh, Inverness, Johnstone, Kilbirnie, Kilmarnock, Kilwinning, Kilsyth, Kirintilloch, Kirkcaldy, Lochgelly, Montrose, Musselburgh, Oban, Perth, Rothessay, Stirling, Troon, Vale of Leven, and West Calder; Class III. Anchesterarder, Berwick, Buckie, Campbeltown, Carnoustie, Cupar (Fife), Fort William, Fraserburgh, Kirriemuir, Newmilns, Stornoway, and Stranraer. ††† The undertakings which were parties to the Arbitration, as a result of which these increases were granted, are specified on page 490.



PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Furniture Trades, Coach-building, Other Wood-working Trades, Glass Bottle Manufacture, Chemical Industry, Brick-making, Baking, and Other Food Trades.

\* The change took effect from the date shown, under an arrangement made in October.
† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
‡ The increases took effect from the date shown under an Agreement supplementary to that described on p. 444 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for October.
§ The changes took effect from the date shown under an Award issued in October.
¶ The increases took effect from the date shown, under an Award issued in October, to which the National Federation of Paint, Colour, and Varnish Manufacturers were parties with the National Federation of General Workers.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES TAKING EFFECT IN OCTOBER, 1919—(continued).

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change took effect, Occupations, Particulars of change. Includes sections for Other Food Trades, Other Miscellaneous Trades, Public Utility Services, Building Trades, Farriery, Lace Manufacture, Tailoring, Woodworking Trades, Brickmaking, Food Trades, and Local Authority Services.

NOTES.—(1) Particulars of the following important changes in rates of wages which have been arranged to come into operation in November will be included in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December:—
Building Trade.—Increases of 2½d. per hour to tradesmen and 3d. per hour to labourers in London; also increases under a scheme for the North West Area at various towns in Lancashire, Cheshire and North Wales.
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Increase of 5s. per week to men 18 years of age and over.
Printing Trade.—Increase of 6s. per week to compositors, etc., in towns in England and Wales generally outside London.
(2) The Department has been notified that the increase in the rate of wages of plumbers at Liverpool, Birkenhead and District, referred to on p. 440 of the LABOUR GAZETTE for October, took effect as from 7th June under an arrangement made in July, and ratified on 12th August.

Increases in Minimum Wages under the Trade Boards Act.
Hollow-ware Trade (Great Britain).—From 27th October, the minimum time rate for females was increased from 18s. for a week of 54 hours to 30s. 9d. for a week of 47 hours, the new minimum being subject to a proportionate increase or decrease according as the weekly hours are greater or less than 47; increases were also made in the minimum time rates for female learners.

\* The changes took effect from the date shown under an arrangement made in October.
† See also under "Changes in Hours of Labour."
‡ The changes took effect from the date shown under an Award issued in October.
§ The scale of wages shown for packers applied also to order and sales employees and general and departmental clerks.
¶ The new scale awarded replaced one which had already been put into partial operation from the same date, and had been largely adopted by employers. The rates quoted are on the basis that neither board nor lodging is provided.
§ See also under "Changes in Rates of Wages."
¶ See note \* on p. 486.
†† See note ‡ on p. 487.

INDUSTRIAL DISEASES AND FATAL ACCIDENTS.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

THE total number of cases\* of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during October, 1919, was 24 of which 21 were due to lead poisoning and 3 to anthrax. There were 2 deaths in the pottery industry due to lead poisoning.

Four cases of lead poisoning including 1 death amongst house painters and plumbers came to the knowledge of the Home Office during October but notification of these cases is not obligatory.

An analysis of the number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax in October is given in the Table below:—

Table with columns (a) CASES OF LEAD POISONING and (b) CASES OF OTHER FORMS OF POISONING. Lists various occupations like Smelting of Metals, Brass Works, etc., and their corresponding case counts.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

(BASED ON HOME OFFICE AND MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT RETURNS.)

THE number of workpeople, other than seamen, reported as killed in the course of their employment during October, 1919, was 313, an increase of 63 on the previous month, and of 61 on a year ago.

The mean number in the five years 1914-18 was 273, the maximum being 305 and the minimum 252.

The distribution of such fatal accidents among the various trades is as follows:—

Table titled 'NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE KILLED IN OCTOBER, 1919.' with columns for Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Factories and Workshops, and Non-Textile industries, listing deaths and percentages.

\* 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.

The person affected in the Pottery Industry was a female.

PAUPERISM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(DATA SUPPLIED BY THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD IN IRELAND.)

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in October, 1919, in the 35 selected areas named below corresponded to a rate of 127 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase of 2 per 10,000 on the previous month, and of 4 per 10,000 on a year ago, and a decrease of 58 per 10,000 compared with October, 1913.

Compared with September, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 3,692 (or 1.6 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers increased by 2,348 (or 2.2 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers increased by 1,344 (or 1.1 per cent.). Twenty-six districts showed increases, six showed decreases, and three showed no change.

The largest increases were in the Belfast district (11 per 10,000) and in the East Metropolitan district (6 per 10,000). No other change, either increase or decrease, exceeded 5 per 10,000.

Compared with October, 1918, the total number of paupers increased by 3,436 (or 3.7 per cent.). The number of indoor paupers decreased by 2,943 (or 2.6 per cent.), while the number of outdoor paupers increased by 11,379 (or 9.7 per cent.). Twenty-two districts showed increases, nine showed decreases, and four showed no change.

The most noticeable changes were increases in the Barnsley district (31 per 10,000), in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (21 per 10,000), and in the Newcastle district (14 per 10,000), and a decrease in the Central Metropolitan district (13 per 10,000).

Large table showing Pauperism in the United Kingdom. Columns include Selected Urban Areas, Paupers on one day in October, 1919 (Indoor, Outdoor, Total), Rate per 10,000, and Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 compared with previous periods.

\* These urban areas include in the case of England and Wales and Ireland more than one poor-law union, except in the Leicester, Birmingham, West Ham, Belfast and Galway districts; and more than one parish in the case of Scotland, except in the Aberdeen district.

† Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses; and of persons receiving outdoor medical relief only.

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

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING OF DISABLED EX-SERVICE MEN.

THE responsibility for the training of disabled ex-service men who were no longer in need of medical or surgical treatment was transferred by Order in Council on May 9th, 1919, from the Ministry of Pensions to the Industrial Training Department of the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Pensions retaining the responsibility of providing training for disabled men still requiring treatment.

The Ministry of Labour are thus empowered to provide industrial training for two classes of men, viz.: (a) discharged men whose disability is attributable to or was aggravated by war service; (b) discharged men whose disability existed at the date of their discharge, in cases where such men are either medically certified to be unfit to resume work in the trade in which they were ordinarily engaged before enlistment, or unable to resume such trade without diminution of their earning capacity.

The Industrial Training Department of the Ministry of Labour, in order to carry out their responsibility for the training of disabled ex-service men, have divided the country into 17 Training Divisions, in each of which a Divisional Director of Industrial Training has been appointed. In most of the Divisions there is a general Training Council representative of the various bodies directly interested, including the Joint Disablement Committees set up by the Ministry of Pensions.

The following is a full list of the Divisions, with the names and addresses of the Divisional Directors of Industrial Training:—

Table listing Industrial Training Divisions across the UK, including London, South Eastern, Home Counties, South Midlands, East Anglian, Southern, South Western, Midlands, Yorkshire, East Midlands, North Western, Northern, and Wales/Ireland, with names and addresses of Divisional Directors.

\* The Glossop and New Mills District of Derbyshire is included in the Northern Western Division.

† Acting Divisional Director, to whom all communications should be sent.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

QUESTION ARISING UNDER THE ACT: ARBITRATION: "IF NOT SETTLED BY AGREEMENT": APPLICATION FOR ARBITRATION WHERE NO DISPUTE: JURISDICTION TO ENTERTAIN PROCEEDINGS.

It is provided by the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, that if any question arises in any proceedings under the Act as to the liability to pay compensation, or as to the amount or duration of compensation, the question, "if not settled by agreement" shall be settled by arbitration as prescribed by the Act. It has been held by the Court of Appeal that there must be a dispute between the employer and the workman before an arbitrator has jurisdiction to entertain proceedings under the Act.

A workman received a severe blow on the head by accident in the course of his employment in circumstances which admittedly entitled him to compensation under the Act. His wages amounted to £4 10s. a week and he was paid full compensation for eight weeks. He then returned to work and continued to work for several months, when he again became incapable for work, admittedly from the effect of the accident. No weekly payments were made, however, but negotiations were begun between the solicitors for the parties with regard to the payment of a lump sum in full settlement of all liability on the part of the employers.

After some correspondence of the usual kind, as to the amount to be paid and accepted, a letter from the workman's solicitors not receiving a prompt reply they applied to the County Court for arbitration, and the case came on for hearing in due course. It was contended on the employers' behalf that as no dispute had arisen the judge had no jurisdiction to entertain the proceedings. The judge, however, proceeded and made an award of compensation.

The employers appealed. The Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal. They rejected the contention of the employers that they would have come to terms if a little more time had been allowed, and that, therefore, there had been no failure to settle by agreement and no dispute, so that the judge had no jurisdiction to make an award. A judge has discretion as to the exercise of jurisdiction where parties unreasonably rush into litigation, but there was nothing to show that the judge in this case should have exercised his discretion in the direction suggested.—Blank v. Electric and Ordnance Accessories Co., Ltd.—Court of Appeal.—27th October, 1919.

(2) Trade Union Acts.

EXPULSION FROM UNION: DISOBEDIENCE TO RULE: NO DELIBERATE DISOBEDIENCE: POWERS OF DISTRICT AND BRANCH COMMITTEES.

A foreman in the employ of an engineering company, whose factory was a controlled establishment under the Munitions Acts, was a member of a trade union. In 1915 this union made a rule that "no man be allowed to work aboard ship in the Port of London unless he has held a ticket for at least three months." The foreman engaged a fitter, who had not such a ticket but who alleged he was a member of the union, to work on one of H.M. ships in the Port of London. He thought it would be illegal under the Munitions Acts to refuse to take on such a man. For this act the district committee of the union on 20th April, 1918, passed a resolution expelling him from the union. This resolution was subsequently approved by the executive committee of the union.

The foreman was never told, nor was it ever clear, under what rule he was expelled. Apparently, however, it was under Rule 38 (b) for disobeying an order of the district committee. When the officials remonstrated with him he had refused to give an undertaking not to repeat the conduct objected to. The man engaged appears not to have been a member of a trade union, though the foreman believed his statement that he was a member.

The foreman then brought an action in the High Court, alleging that he had been wrongfully expelled from the union and asking for a declaration that since 20th April, 1918, he had been a member of the union and for an injunction restraining the union from acting upon or enforcing the resolution.

At the hearing it was contended for the plaintiff that there was no power to expel except for breach of a rule approved of by the executive council and that Rule 38 (b) had never been so approved of. The only rule applicable was Rule 41 (g) under which a member could be expelled who "brought discredit on the union." It was also contended that the district committee had no power to expel, the branch committee alone had such power, and the rules gave no appeal from the branch committee. For the union it was contended that the district committee had jurisdiction to expel and that their jurisdiction covered such an act as had been committed by the plaintiff. The



















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