

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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

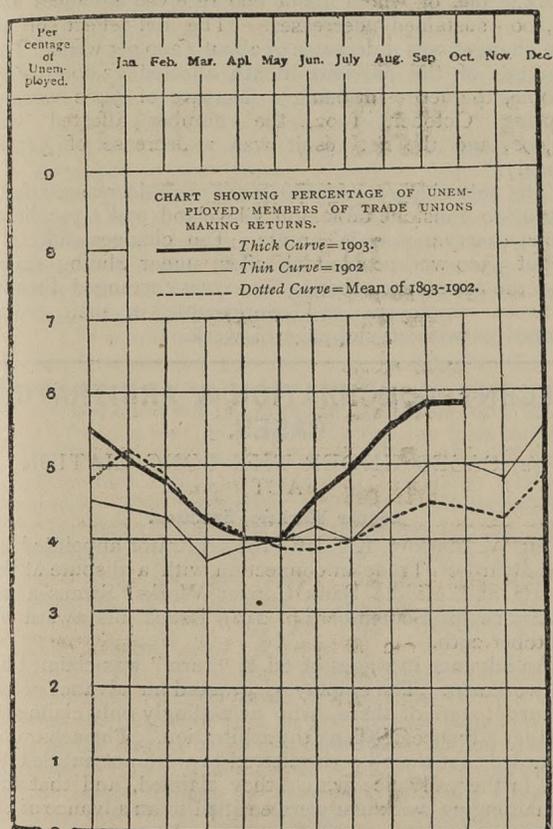
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NOVEMBER, 1903.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN OCTOBER.

[Based on 3,673 returns, viz.: 2,298 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,302 from Trade Unions, and 73 from other sources.]

APART from seasonal changes, employment on the whole was much the same in October as in September. The metal, shipbuilding and engineering trades all showed some decline. On the other hand there was a marked improvement in the preparing and spinning departments in cotton mills, owing to the partial resumption of full time towards the close of the month.

As compared with a year ago, employment generally is worse, and the percentage of unemployed members of Trade Unions continues to be higher than the mean percentage for the corresponding month in the past ten years.

In the 226 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 555,105 making returns, 32,358 (or 5.8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of October, as compared with the same percentage in September and with 5.0 per cent. in the 223 Trade Unions, with a membership of 548,442 from which returns were received for October, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of October during the past decade was 4.4.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment during October showed little change as

compared with a month ago, but was rather worse than a year ago. At collieries employing 495,725 workpeople, the pits worked an average of 5.21 days per week during the four weeks ended October 24th, as compared with 5.22 in September, and 5.52 in October, 1902. The number of workers employed at the pits for which returns were received for both periods was 1.2 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. In the 138 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, and employing about 15,700 workpeople, the average number of days worked by the mines was 5.73, compared with 5.78 in September, 1903, and October, 1902.

Fig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry shows a slight falling off compared with a month and a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 314 furnaces, employing about 21,950 workpeople, were in blast at the end of October, as compared with 318 at the end of September, and 324 in October, 1902.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment shows a slight falling off compared with a month and a year ago. At 199 works covered by the returns received from employers, 74,309 workpeople were employed during the week ended October 31st, and the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows a decrease of 1.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment shows little change as compared with a month ago and is worse than a year ago. At the end of October, 359 mills were in operation, as compared with 356 at the end of September, and 404 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the 359 mills was about 17,900.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally shows a further decline as compared with the previous month, and is now dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 5.2 at the end of October, as compared with 4.8 in September, and 5.3 in October, 1902.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment generally is bad and worse than a month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 15.0 at the end of October, as compared with 13.4 in September, and 12.6 in October, 1902.

Building Trades.—Employment in these trades is dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 5.6 at the end of October, compared with 4.0 at the end of September, and 4.0 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 6.6 at the end of October, compared with 6.4 at the end of September, and 5.8 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment in these trades has generally declined during the month and is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of October was 5.2, as compared with 4.7 in September, and 4.3 in October, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades shows a further general improvement, and is better with letterpress printers than a year ago. Bookbinders are not so well employed as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of October

was 4.2, as compared with 5.1 in September, and 4.9 in October, 1902.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade improved during October, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month being 2.5, against 2.8 in September, and 2.2 in October, 1902.

Employment in the *Glass* trades continues bad in the bottle making branch, and is worse than a year ago; in the flint glass and sheet glass trades it has improved in some districts. In the *Pottery* trades short time is still general. In the *Brick* and *Tile* trades employment is fair generally.

Employment in the *Spinning* branch of the *Cotton* trade shows a marked improvement, the arrangement with regard to short time terminating in the third week of October. In the *Weaving* branch it continues bad generally, though a slight improvement is reported in some districts.

Employment in the *Woollen* trade continues good on the whole. In the *Worsted* trade it is slack. Returns from firms employing 99,480 workpeople in the woollen and worsted trades show an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives reported on, 23 per cent. were employed in firms reporting short time or machinery standing in one or more departments; 17 per cent. were employed in firms working some overtime.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade shows a further decline and is bad. Employment in the *Jute* trade has improved and is fairly good. In the *Flax* trade it is fair.

Leather Trades.—The general state of employment remains dull and worse than a year ago, but there has been an improvement in some branches during the month. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of October was 6.3, as compared with 7.4 at the end of September, and 4.6 in October, 1902.

Employment in the *Boot* and *Shoe* trade continues quiet generally. Returns from firms employing 73,798 workpeople show a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed at the end of October, as compared with a month ago, but practically no change as compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives reported on, 58 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout October, compared with 61 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for September.

Employment in the *Bespoke* branch of the *Tailoring* trade shows an improvement, and is moderate. In the ready-made branch employment generally is bad.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade has been slack with silk hatters; with felt hatters it has been moderate. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of October was 2.6, the same as at the end of September; a year ago it was 2.4.

The employment of *Agricultural Labourers* was considerably interrupted by almost continuous wet weather during the month of October. Very little work could be done in the fields, and there was consequently a small demand for extra men, the supply being, on the whole, in excess of the demand.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during October was fair, and slightly better than in September, though not so good as a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended October 31st, was 14,129, an increase of 2.4 per cent. on the average for September, and a decrease of 6.8 per cent. on the average for October, 1902. The average number employed in October during the six years 1897-1902 was 16,259.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during October, 1903, was 10,747, compared with 11,577 in September, 1903, and 24,151 in October, 1902.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 113,000 working days, compared with 120,000 in the previous month,

and 257,000 in the corresponding month of last year. Twenty disputes began in October, involving 6,972 workpeople, compared with 5,852 in September, 1903, and 12,229 in October, 1902.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 21 disputes, new and old, affecting 5,068 workpeople.

Of these disputes, six, involving 2,966 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; twelve, involving 1,908 persons, in favour of the employers; and three, involving 194 persons, were compromised.

In the case of three other disputes, terminating during the month, and involving 1,875 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during October affected about 12,000 workpeople, of whom about 900 received advances and 11,100 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of about £200 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 23,000 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £400 weekly. During October, 1902, the number affected was 48,000, and the net result was a decrease of £1,200 weekly.

The only changes of importance were decreases affecting 6,800 ironstone miners in Cleveland and 1,500 limestone quarrymen in Weardale. Ten changes, affecting about 3,300 workpeople took effect under sliding scales and the remainder affecting 8,700 were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives without stoppage of work.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES.

(a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Copper Workers, Swansea.

Sir W. Markby, K.C.I.E., the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in connection with a dispute at the Morfa and Middle Bank Copper Works, Swansea (see GAZETTE for September, p. 242), issued his award on October 29th.

An advance in wages of 6d. a "turn" was claimed by 38 workmen. The employers granted an advance of 3d. a turn to 16 of these, who accordingly only claimed a further advance of 3d. at the arbitration. The arbitrator awarded that the 16 men referred to were not entitled to the further advance which they claimed, and that the remaining 22 workmen were entitled to an advance of 3d. a turn and no more.

Tinplate Workers near Newport.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in connection with a dispute at the Tynewydd Works of the Redbrook Tinplate Company (see GAZETTE for October, p. 273), issued his award on October 27th.

The question submitted for decision was whether or not tinplates of the gauges ICLLL and ICLLLL should be paid for on area. The arbitrator decided that payment for these plates should be on area, and that the award should come into force on the first pay-day in November.

(b) OTHER CASES.

Boot and Shoe Operatives at Leeds.

On July 24th, 136 boot and shoe operatives in the employ of the Leeds Co-operative Society struck work on account of a dispute as to prices to be paid for work done by certain new lasting machines. Work was resumed on August 17th, and it was referred to Alderman E. Wood, of Leicester, to decide "the price to be paid per dozen for drafting and lasting by the Peerless Lasting Machine of men's and women's work; work to be prepared by the operator in the usual way." The arbitrator, in his award recently issued, decided that the price for lasting women's work by the Peerless Lasting Machine should be 1s. 11½d per dozen, and for men's work 2s. 1½d per dozen, the work to be prepared for the operator at the cost of the employer in the usual way.

WORLD'S COAL PRODUCTION.*

In the ninth number of the Annual Statement of the Board of Trade relating to coal production, it is shown that in the five principal coal-producing countries the output in 1902 was as follows:—United Kingdom, 227,095,000 tons, valued at £93,521,000; United States, 268,688,000 tons, valued at £77,736,000; Germany, 107,436,000 tons, valued at £47,551,000; France, 29,574,000 tons; Belgium, 22,769,000 tons. In the principal British Colonies and Possessions the output was in 1901: India, 6,636,000 tons; Australia, 6,884,000 tons; New Zealand, 1,228,000 tons; Canada, 5,560,000 tons; Transvaal, 712,000 tons; Cape Colony, 184,000 tons; Natal, 569,000 tons. In the United Kingdom, British Colonies and Possessions and the United States a ton is equal to 2,240 lbs., and in Germany, France and Belgium to 2,204 lbs.

The numbers of coal miners employed in certain of the principal countries were:—in the United Kingdom, 805,100 in 1902, and in 1901 in the United States, 485,544; in Germany, 448,000; in France, 159,957; in Belgium, 134,092; figures for these countries in 1902 not being available. It is pointed out that a far larger number is employed in the United Kingdom than in any other country, but that the circumstances in which persons are employed, e.g., whether in haulage above ground or as clerks and timekeepers, or whether again they are employed during the whole of the week or only on certain days thereof, vary so much in the different countries that it is difficult to compare the results.

The estimated quantity of coal consumed in some of the chief consuming countries was in 1902 in the United States 265,105,000 tons, in the United Kingdom 166,698,000 tons, in Germany 95,325,000 tons, in France 42,199,000 tons, in Belgium 19,691,000 tons, and in 1901 in Russia and Austria-Hungary (1902 figures not being available) 19,913,000 tons and 18,493,000 tons respectively. The proportion of British coal included in the total coal consumption as given above for the following foreign countries was:—United States, 0.17 per cent.; Germany, 5.47 per cent.; France, 15.51 per cent.; Belgium, 3.18 per cent.; Russia, 11.29 per cent.; Austria-Hungary, 0.99 per cent.; Sweden, 90.11 per cent.; Spain, 42.91 per cent.

In Part III. of the General Report on Mines and Quarries† recently issued by the Home Office it is stated that the output of coal in the United Kingdom in 1902 was the largest on record, and over 8 million tons greater than in 1901. The increase is stated to be due mainly to the larger number of persons employed, while at the same time the yield per underground workers increased by 5 tons. Of the total consumption in the United Kingdom nearly 17½ million tons were used in blastfurnaces for making pig-iron.

PAUPERISM IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

ACCORDING to the latest half-yearly statement of the number of paupers relieved issued by the Local Government Board (P.P. 109—I.) the number relieved on the 1st July, 1903, excluding vagrants and insane was 695,105—or 208 per 10,000 of the estimated population the same percentage as in July, 1902. The number of vagrants relieved on July 1st was 8,634, and the number of insane was 102,699. The total number of persons relieved (counting persons who received both indoor and outdoor relief once only in the total) was 806,231, or 242 per 10,000 of the estimated population, the same percentage as in July, 1902.

In relation to population, pauperism in England and Wales, excluding London, shows a decline from 295 per 10,000 in 1882, to 237 in 1903. In London, on the other hand, there has been a rise from 251 per 10,000 in 1882, to 269 in 1903.

The ordinarily able-bodied adults other than vagrants who received relief amounted to 92,281, or 28 per 10,000 of the estimated population. In relation to the population, the number was the same as in the preceding year,

* Coal Tables [Pp. No. 312 of 1903. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 5½d.]

† Mines and Quarries: General Report and Statistics for 1902. Part III. Cd. 1817. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1s. 6d.]

higher than in 1899, 1900, and 1901, and less than in all previous years since 1863.

Alien Paupers.

In the last half-yearly statement of pauperism issued by the Local Government Board, a summary is given of special returns as to the number of aliens in receipt of poor-law relief on the 1st July. From this it appears that the total number of alien paupers was 1,753, of whom 897 were relieved in London and 856 in the provinces.

This number comprised 587 indoor paupers, 694 outdoor paupers, and 472 insane in asylums. Of the total number of 1,281 aliens relieved, excluding insane, 454, or 35.4 per cent., may be classified as dependents.

In London the aliens relieved represented 0.74 per cent. of the total pauperism. In the 94 provincial unions in which aliens were relieved they represented 0.33 per cent. of the total pauperism of these unions.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND MINES IN FRANCE IN 1902.*

Factories, Workshops and Shops.

Exclusive of factories and workshops under the Admiralty and War Office, the number of establishments subject to inspection under the French Factory and Shop Acts in 1902 was 322,289, and the number of workpeople employed in those establishments, 2,888,687. The number of inspections made was 152,185, that of the establishments visited being 127,264, or 39.5 per cent. of the total, employing 2,040,093 workpeople, or 70.6 per cent. of all employed in establishments subject to inspection.

In accordance with the law of March 30th, 1900, the length of the working day was reduced, on March 30th of the year under review, from 11 to 10½ hours in factories and workshops where women and children are employed (see GAZETTE, April, 1900, p. 101). According to the reports of the inspectors, the reduction took effect without giving rise to any very serious difficulties, owing partly, it is stated, to the dullness of trade in 1902. The number of establishments, in which the newly applied provision entailed changes in working arrangements, is estimated at 80,000. Twenty-two strikes, affecting 54 establishments, resulted from these changes. In trades in which the intensity of production depends but little on the personal qualities of the workpeople (e.g. spinning), reductions of output, varying from 2 to 5 per cent., were observed to have taken place. In other trades, such as engineering, iron founding and hosiery manufacture, where the output is more dependent upon the personal qualities of the workpeople, the reduction of hours was in many cases followed by increased production.

Workshops, in which the only persons employed are the occupiers and their families, are subject to no legal restriction as to the age at which children may be employed, or the length of the working day. From the views expressed by the inspectors concerning this class of establishment the Report concludes that "under the spur of self-interest, a new organisation of industry is being developed on lines calculated to secure freedom from the restrictions imposed by the law, more especially as regards the length of the working day and the employment of women and children."

The total number of prosecutions for infractions of the Factory and Shop Acts in 1902 was 2,478 (as against 2,836 the year before), of which 2,248 resulted in the conviction, and 54 in the acquittal of the defendants; while 65 were disposed of in other ways, and 111 were still *sub judice* at the date of the Report.

Mines and Quarries.

The establishments visited by the Mining Inspectors in 1902 employed 31,780 protected persons, or 92 per cent. of the total number of such persons employed in the establishments liable to inspection. Apart from occasional irregularities in the smaller workings, the observance of the laws regulating the employment of women and children is stated to be satisfactory in the mining and quarrying industries.

* Journal Officiel, 26th September and 1st October, 1903.

EXPENDITURE ON UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT BY TRADE UNIONS.

SOME results of an analysis of the accounts of 100 of the principal Unions for the 11 years 1892-1902 were shown in the LABOUR GAZETTE for October, pp. 268-9. Additional particulars are given in the following Table, which shows the amount expended under the head of Unemployed Benefit (including Travelling and Emigration) by groups of Trades:—

Year.	Building.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding.	Textile.
1892	£ 31,739	£ 7,638	£ 190,070	£ 44,623
1893	40,030	62,435	251,461	47,200
1894	53,794	26,638	260,619	42,227
1895	51,345	68,046	192,305	49,111
1896	25,099	42,866	113,012	34,747
1897	24,216	24,877	101,610	40,638
1898	22,429	13,735	107,610	34,238
1899	24,277	10,247	81,512	26,909
1900	46,355	4,419	91,822	60,130
1901	67,228	17,737	134,743	44,114
1902	73,804	19,470	204,725	55,521

Year.	Clothing.	Transport	Other Unions.	Total Amount.	Amount per Member.*
1892	£ 2,605	£ 6,097	£ 42,112	£ 50,814	s. 7 2½
1893	3,544	5,607	47,281	56,432	10 1½
1894	4,230	3,272	56,470	63,972	9 8½
1895	2,901	3,505	47,330	53,736	9 1½
1896	2,400	3,001	40,128	45,529	5 5½
1897	1,995	3,357	38,043	43,395	6 2½
1898	2,121	17,779	41,380	61,280	4 7½
1899	1,379	3,617	39,994	44,990	3 4½
1900	1,181	3,612	59,783	64,576	4 6
1901	1,721	3,480	55,855	61,056	5 6½
1902	1,357	3,385	62,619	67,361	7 2½

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN: HOME OFFICE ORDER.

The Home Secretary has issued an Order, dated November 11th, under Section 4 of the Employment of Children Act, 1903 (see GAZETTE for October, p. 270), directing the manner in which bye-laws made by local authorities under that Act shall be published before confirmation. The Order requires that (1) every bye-law shall be advertised at least once in two newspapers circulating in the district or districts in which the bye-law is to apply; (2) a notice of every bye-law shall be posted up in streets and public places where it is likely to be seen by persons affected, and in such manner that the same can be easily read; (3) in the case of any bye-law regulating or prohibiting the employment of children in a particular trade or occupation, a notice thereof shall also, so far as practicable, be distributed to all persons engaged in that trade or occupation provided that the non-receipt of a notice by any person shall not prevent the confirmation of the bye-law; (4) every advertisement or notice as aforesaid shall state the full terms of the bye-law and shall also state that objections in writing to the bye-law may be made by any person affected to the Secretary of State, and addressed to him at the Home Office, London.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT, 1903.

Local Government Board Circular.

In connection with the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1903, an account of which was given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for October, p. 270, the Local Government Board have issued to local authorities outside London a circular calling attention to the provisions of the Act and stating that the Board propose in future as a general rule to allow the full term of 80 years for the repayment of money borrowed for the purchase of freehold land, and 60 years for the repayment of money borrowed for the erection of buildings under the Housing Acts, where the circumstances are such that this may properly be done, and that where money has been borrowed in recent years for these purposes, they will be ready to consider applications for sanction to the re-borrowing of the outstanding balances for 80 or 60 years (as the case may be) from the date of the original borrowing, if the money has been borrowed on terms which will admit of this.

* Based on the total membership of the 100 Unions.
† Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1d.

RECENT LABOUR LEGISLATION IN RUSSIA.

THE following particulars are based on despatches dated July 21st and August 28th, received through the Foreign Office from Sir C. Scott, H.M. Ambassador at St. Petersburg, and upon the text of the new legislation as published in the *Viestnik Financoff* (No. 32 of 1903), and the Bulletin of Laws (No. 69 of 1903).

1.—Workmen's Compensation for Accidents.

Imperial sanction was given on June 2nd (o. s.) to a Law providing compensation for accidents to workpeople. The classes of industrial establishments, to which the new enactment applies, are those coming under the denomination of factories, mines and smelting works. Its provisions do not, however, apply to industrial undertakings carried on by the Government, nor to workshops or other industrial establishments connected with private railway or steam navigation enterprises, nor to agricultural industries. Within the trades covered by the Law, the liability for compensation applies in respect of all workpeople or other employees, whose earnings do not exceed 1,500 roubles (about £158) per annum; and, in cases of accident, the owners of industrial undertakings are required to pay compensation in respect of disablement (lasting more than three days) owing to "bodily injury caused by or arising out of" work performed in such undertakings. Employers are not, however, obliged to pay compensation in respect of an accident, if they can show that it was due to the malicious intention or gross negligence of the injured person. Any agreement (previous to an accident) by which it is intended to limit the rights of injured persons to compensation, or to reduce the amount of such compensation, is void.

The scale of compensations payable is as follows:—
(a) During *Temporary Disablement*, an allowance from the date of the accident until the injured person's working power shall have been restored, or its loss declared permanent, such allowance to be at the rate of half the injured person's earnings.

(b) In case of *Permanent Disablement*, a pension proportionate to the loss of working capacity, the maximum rate for total disablement being two-thirds of the injured person's annual earnings.

Besides paying the allowance or pension, the employer is obliged to provide medical attendance or refund the cost of such attendance to the injured person.

(c) In case of *Death*, in addition to burial money (£3 3s. 4d. for an adult and £1 3s. 7d. for a child or young person) the employer is required to pay pensions to the surviving dependants, amounting in the aggregate to not more than two-thirds of the annual earnings of the deceased. A widow's pension (which is at the rate of one-third of her deceased husband's earnings) ceases on her re-marriage, a capital sum representing three years' pension being granted in commutation. Children cease to draw their pensions on attaining their fifteenth year.

Pensions already secured may be commuted by mutual agreement between the parties concerned, subject to provisions laid down in the Law respecting the minimum sum to be paid in commutation.

For three years after the accident either party can insist on a fresh medical examination to ascertain the wage-earning capability of the injured person, and the amount of the pension may thereafter be modified.

In case of unpunctual payment of pensions, a penalty of 1 per cent. per month can be exacted, and if payment remains overdue more than six months, the employer can be compelled to deposit a sufficient capital in a State Credit Institution or to purchase an annuity for the workman in receipt of a pension.

The obligation to pay falls on the owner of the undertaking at the time of the accident, except in the case of devolution by inheritance or devise, in which case the heir or devisee becomes liable.

Employers who have arranged for the insurance of their workmen with Insurance Companies, provided such an arrangement is not less favourable to the workpeople than those made by this Law, are exempted from responsibility.

PRICE OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Bread.

THE returns as to the price of bread furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department relate to London and 23 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of October and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of the bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for ordinary household bread of average quality.

As compared with a month ago the price per 4 lbs. of bread has been reduced ½d. in Wolverhampton.

Place.	Present Price, and Nov., 1903.	Price of 4 lbs. of Bread.						1902.	
		1st Oct.	1st Sept.	1st Aug.	1st July.	2nd April.*	2nd Feb.*	2nd Nov.*	
London	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 4 & 4½	d. 4 & 4½	d. 4 & 4½	d. 4 & 4½	d. 4 & 4½	
Birmingham	5 & 6	5 & 6	5 & 6	4 & 4½	4 & 4½	4 & 4½	4 & 4½	4 & 4½	
Bolton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Bristol	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Derby	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	
Huddersfield	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Hull	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	
Ipswich	5½	5½	5½	5	5	5	5	5	
Leicester	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Liverpool	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Manchester	4½	4½	4½	4	4	4	4	4	
Middlesbrough	6	6	6	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Newcastle-on-Tyne	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Norwich	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Nottingham	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Oldham	4½	4½	4	4	4	4	4	4	
Plymouth	5	5	5	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	
Wolverhampton	5	5½	5½	5	5	5	5	5	
Aberdeen	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Dundee	6	6	6	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Edinburgh	6	6	6	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	
Glasgow	5½	5½	5½	5	5	5	5	5	
Belfast	5½	5½	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Dublin	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	

Wheat and Flour.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from 1st September to 31st October, 1903, amounted to 16,714,200 cwts. (3,899,980 quarters), compared with 16,693,327 cwts. (3,895,110 quarters) in the corresponding two months of 1902. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 4,148,025 cwts., compared with 3,643,019 cwts. from 1st September to 31st October, 1902. The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months October, 1902, to October, 1903:—

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price.	Imports.	
		Wheat. Average Declared Value.	Wheat-meal and Flour. Average Declared Value.
October 1902	Per cwt. s. d. 5 10½	Per cwt. s. d. 6 6½	Per cwt. s. d. 9 1½
November	5 10	6 6½	9 2½
December	5 9½	6 5	9 1½
January 1903	5 10	6 8½	9 3
February	5 11	6 11	9 2½
March	5 10½	6 11½	9 2½
April	6 0½	6 8½	9 2½
May	6 5½	6 10½	9 3½
June	6 5	6 9½	9 1½
July	6 7½	6 0½	9 4½
August	6 11½	6 8½	9 4½
September	6 6	6 9½	9 4½
October	6 0½	6 9½	9 7½

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 1st December, 1902, 1st January, 2nd March, 1st May, or at 1st June, 1903.
† The Import Duty was abolished from 1st July.

Special regulations secure a prompt decision of the claims of injured persons before the local magistrates and District Courts.

The duty of watching over the exact fulfilment of the conditions of the Law is entrusted to the factory inspectors, who have recently been placed under the Ministry of Interior (from the Ministry of Finance), and in closer contact with the provincial Governors.

Employers are required to report all accidents coming within the operation of the Law, and also any case of bodily injury (whether coming under its operation or not), should the injured person so desire.

The rights of foreign employees are not specially safeguarded under the new Law, but the Minister of Finance is empowered by it, in concluding commercial treaties, to extend (with certain limitations) to the subjects of States having most favoured nation treatment in Russia, the privileges secured to Russian subjects by the present Law.

The Law comes into force on January 1st (o. s.), 1904.

2.—Election of Workmen's Delegates in Factories.

On June 10th, 1903, Imperial sanction was given to a Law providing means for enabling workpeople in factories, mines and smelting works to bring their wants and grievances to the notice of their employers.

Under this Law the managers of any manufacturing, mining or smelting enterprise may, after obtaining permission from the competent authorities (Factories and Mines Department), empower the workmen in each branch of the undertaking to propose two or more candidates elected from among their own number, one of whom shall be chosen by the managers to act as the special delegate or "elder" of the branch. The "elder" is to be the recognised intermediary for bringing the wants and grievances of the men composing his own branch to the notice of the managers and of the Factory and Mines Authorities, in so far as such wants or grievances arise out of matters bearing upon the labour contract or the condition of the men. For the purpose of discussing matters of the kind referred to, the "elder" may call a meeting of the branch "in such place and at such time as the managers may direct." Meetings may also be held to discuss matters affecting two or more branches, but only between the elders of such branches. No workman under 25 years of age is eligible for the position of "elder," and managers of factories, etc., may at their discretion fix a higher age-limit.

From an article in the *Journal de St. Pétersbourg*, a copy of which was enclosed in the second of Sir C. Scott's despatches, it would appear that the benefits, which the new Law confers on workmen are confined to industrial establishments on a large scale, and are not extended to smaller establishments, in which the employers are in continuous and direct contact with their workmen.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Newcastle District.—An examination for First and Second-class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under-manager will be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on 7th and 8th January, 1904. Candidates must, on or before 31st December, 1903, send their names to the Secretary, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside the District are eligible for examination.

H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES.

Change of District Inspector.—Mr. G. A. Taylor has been appointed Inspector of Factories and Workshops in succession to Mr. J. T. Birtwistle for the Blackburn District, which comprises the Unions of Blackburn, Burnley and the Lancashire portion of the Clitheroe Union. Mr. Taylor's official address is 13, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn.

New Appointment.—Mr. L. C. Mc Nair has been appointed Inspector of Factories and Workshops. His official address is 13, Richmond Terrace, Blackburn.

Change in Textile Particulars Branch.—(Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, sec. 116). Mr. J. T. Birtwistle (95, Alexandra Road, Blackburn) has been appointed Examiner of Particulars in succession to Mr. Thomas Birtwistle, retired.

WARNING TO MINERS PROPOSING TO START FOR ELLSWORTH.

The Board of Trade are informed by the Foreign Office that a telegram has been received from His Majesty's Consul at Philadelphia to the effect that miners proceeding from this country to the Ellsworth coal mines, near Pittsburg, will be sent back by the Commissioner of Immigration as coming to the United States in defiance of the Labour Contract Law.

It is also added that wages and conditions of labour at Ellsworth are not such as have been represented in some quarters.

WESTPHALIAN MINERS' WORM DISEASE.

A REPORT* to the Home Secretary on "Ankylostomiasis in Westphalian Collieries," by Dr. J. S. Haldane, F.R.S., has recently been issued.

Except for an isolated case reported in 1886, the first cases of the disease among Westphalian colliers were observed in 1892. The district appears to have been originally infected chiefly by men coming from Hungary. It is estimated that at the beginning of the present year some 8,000 men were infected out of a total of 200,000 employed underground. Comparatively few, however, were appreciably affected in health.

For the spread of the disease three conditions are necessary: (1) Pollution of the ground by human faeces containing ankylostoma ova; (2) a certain range of temperature in the mines; and (3) moisture of the ground. A high temperature is favourable to the spread of the disease. There appears to be little or no risk of infection in mines with a temperature not exceeding 70°.

With a view to combating the disease, regulations were made by the Government Mines Department, providing for a suitable changing-house, with shower-baths, and for portable water-tight receptacles for the use of the men underground, and forbidding pollution of the ground by faeces. Subsequently, in 1902, further official regulations were made for the examination, and, if necessary, medical treatment of underground employees. Complete information as to the results of these measures is not yet available, but there has been a marked diminution in the number of men infected.

The Report concludes with some observations on the urgent necessity for the adoption of means for preventing pollution of the ground in the mines of Great Britain.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1902.

A REPORT† issued by the Home Office gives statistics relating to persons employed and accidents at mines and quarries and to the enforcement of the Mines and Quarries Acts.

In 1902 there were employed at coal mines 651,505 persons underground and 159,282 above ground, and at iron mines 12,393 underground and 4,135 above ground. At other mines 28,288 persons were employed, and at quarries 97,108 persons.

There occurred in and about mines and quarries 1,061 separate fatal accidents, causing the loss of 1,172 lives, 1,053 at mines and 119 at quarries. These figures correspond to a death-rate of 1.23 per 1,000 employed at mines (the lowest rate yet recorded) and 1.23 per 1,000 at quarries. Taking underground workers separately, the death-rate from accidents at mines was 1.370 per 1,000 employed, while for surface workers the rate was 0.687 per 1,000.

In 1902 there were 73 prosecutions of owners, agents and managers for offences under the Coal and Metaliferous Mines Regulation Acts, 52 of which resulted in convictions. In the same year there were 859 prosecutions of workmen for offences under these Acts, 829 convictions being obtained.

*Cd. 1843. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 2d.

†Mines and Quarries: General Report and Statistics for 1902. Part II. [Cd. 1795. Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 1cd.]

LEGAL CASE AFFECTING LABOUR.*

Workmen's Compensation Acts.

ACCIDENT "ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT."

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, provides that compensation shall be paid in certain cases to workmen who are injured by accident "arising out of and in the course of the employment." A miner went to the colliery at which he was employed, in order to commence his work in the ordinary course. A short distance from the entrance to the mine, he slipped on a sleeper which was encrusted with ice, and broke his leg. He claimed compensation under the Act, but the Sheriff-Substitute held that he was not entitled to compensation as the accident did not arise out of or in the course of the claimant's employment.

The miner appealed; and the Court of Session overruled the decision of the Sheriff-Substitute. The Court held that the accident happened while the miner was making use of the plant of his employers, and making use of it for the service of his employers; therefore, the accident had arisen out of and in the course of the employment, and the claimant was entitled to compensation.—*Mackenzie v. The Coltness Iron Co., Ltd., Court of Session, October 21st.*

PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS AT TAR DISTILLATION WORKS.

THE attention of the Home Office having been directed to the serious risks incurred by persons employed in works in which is carried on the distillation of tar for the production of naphtha, light oil, creosote oil and pitch, a circular has been issued by the Chief Inspector of Factories, pending a revision of the existing Special Rules for chemical works, urging upon the occupiers concerned certain recommendations, of which the following is stated to be specially important:—"During the process of cleaning, every tar still should be completely isolated from adjoining tar stills either by disconnecting the pipe leading from the swan neck to the condenser worm, or by disconnecting the waste gas pipes fixed to the worm end or receiver. Blank flanges should be inserted between the disconnections. In addition, the pitch discharge pipe or cock at the bottom of the still should be disconnected."

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Creameries.

THE Home Secretary has made an Order† dated October 23rd, 1903, under Section 42 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, repealing the Order of June 9th, 1902 (see LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1902, p. 211), and granting the following special exceptions to creameries:—

(1) During the months of May to October inclusive, women and young persons may be employed during a period of employment which shall on Saturdays or any day substituted for Saturday, in pursuance of Section 43 of the Act, begin at 6 a.m., and end at 2 p.m., and on the other week days begin at 6 a.m. and end at 9 p.m., and shall on Sundays and holidays be a period of three consecutive hours, to be fixed between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., subject to the following conditions:—

(i) A woman or young person shall not be employed continuously for more than five hours without an interval of at least half an hour for a meal;

(ii) There shall be allowed for intervals on Saturdays, or the day substituted for Saturday, not less than one hour, and on the other week days not less than five hours, including the whole time from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

(iii) No overtime shall be worked in the creamery in pursuance of any other exception.

(2) In creameries where the above exception is not used women and young persons may be employed during the said months on Sundays and holidays during a period of three consecutive hours to be fixed between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., subject to the following conditions:—

(i) An interval of not less than half-an-hour shall be allowed within the period of employment on each week day, in addition to those required by the Act;

(ii) No overtime shall be worked in the creamery in pursuance of any other exception.

A note is added to the Order pointing out that before this exception is used in any creamery a notice must, in pursuance of Section 60 of the Act, be posted in the creamery showing the beginning and end of the period of employment and the intervals to be allowed, and a copy of such notice must be sent to the inspector. The notice must be kept affixed so long as the exception is used. It is also pointed out that in pursuance of Section 32 of the Act a change may not be made in the periods or intervals specified in the notice until the occupier has served on the inspector, and affixed in the creamery, notice of his intention to make the change, and may not be made more often than once a quarter, unless for special cause allowed in writing by an inspector.

*Based on reports in newspapers.

†Statutory Rules and Orders, 1903; No. 893. (Eyre & Spottiswoode). Price 1d.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

The agricultural, mining and manufacturing industries continued busy throughout September, but it now is too late in the season for the ordinary emigrant—other than female servants—to go to Canada on the chance of work. Out of door work in the building trades is now ceasing for the winter. Mining has improved in British Columbia and there has been a scarcity of skilled miners at Rossland; coal miners have been busy in Nova Scotia, and a few have been wanted in New Brunswick. Through the failure of the operating Company at Sault St. Marie (Ontario) some 3,500 men were thrown out of employment at the various mills and works in the place, but some of the industries have already recommenced work.

Australia.

New South Wales.—The demand for more labour is very small. The Newcastle mineowners propose to lower the selling price of coal from January 1st next, from 11s. to 10s. a ton, which will reduce miners' wages by 4d. a ton. The question of reducing or increasing miners' wages at the Broken Hill silver mines has been referred to the Arbitration Court, and the Court has decided that the prevailing rates shall continue to be paid.

Victoria.—Employment is slack, and there is no demand for more labour.

South Australia.—An official report just received states that there is no demand for more labour at present.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for agricultural labourers in the South, and for female servants in the North. There is no demand for mechanics, miners, or station hands. The rates of nominated passages for males above 12 years of age, and of females above 40 years, have been slightly raised.

Western Australia.—There is a demand for farm labourers and female servants, but not for miners or mechanics.

New Zealand.

This is the beginning of the busy season in New Zealand, and skilled mechanics, agricultural labourers, and female servants can obtain good employment.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—An official telegraphic communication just received is to the effect that the labour market is overstocked, and that no persons should emigrate to Cape Colony at the present time, unless they have situations waiting for them or have means of their own. Male or female domestic servants under 35 years may, under certain conditions, obtain aided passages to the Cape at £3 a head on application to the Agent-General for Cape Colony, 96a, Victoria Street, London, S.W. The drought continues to be very bad in parts of the Colony.

Natal.—All persons are warned against unofficial Agencies or individuals promising them work in Natal, and especially those that demand a fee for this purpose. For correct information persons should apply to the Emigrants' Information Office (as above), or to the Agent General for Natal, 26 Victoria-street, London, S.W. Employment in the building trade has fallen off and labour is plentiful. Large numbers of unskilled workers and indifferent tradesmen are unable to obtain employment. Notice has been given of a reduction in carpenters' wages from 16s. to 14s. a day, and of bricklayers' wages from 16s. to 15s. Plasterers have struck on a reduction in their wages of 2s. a day.

Men for service on the Natal Government railways are not being engaged in England at the present time, with the exception of platelayers and angleiron smiths. Platelayers should be under 40 years of age and have had at least five years' experience. Commencing wages £12 per month. Angle-iron smiths should have had at

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

least 3 years' experience in locomotive shops after completing their apprenticeship. Commencing wages, 13s. per day. Both classes of men will receive free passages out. Wages commence from date of arrival and half-pay is allowed during the voyage. Application should be made to the Agent General for Natal, at 26, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

Transvaal.—No one can enter the Transvaal without a permit. A considerable amount of building is being carried on in Johannesburg, but the supply of labour is more than sufficient, and many mechanics, and especially unskilled workmen, are out of employment. The number of clerks also is excessive. The cost of living is two or three times as much as in England. Female servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages. They must apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—The supply of mechanics fairly numerous, but skilled hands are in some demand. No one may enter the Colony without a permit.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES IN INDIA.

THE Report of the Committee on the establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies in India* has been issued, and contains recommendations for legislation on the lines of the Friendly Societies and Industrial and Provident Societies Acts of the United Kingdom, with the view of encouraging the formation in India of urban and village Co-operative Credit Societies. The committee consider that in both urban and village societies membership should be by election, and should be limited to residents in the same town or village or group of villages.

It is suggested that there is no objection in principle to the provision by Government of a portion of the capital required for the working of the co-operative societies by way of loans for fixed periods upon the security of the societies. A compulsory annual Government audit of the accounts of all registered societies is recommended, together with a limitation, in the case of societies without share capital, of the purposes for which loans may be made. It is also proposed that the rate of interest to be charged on loans by the societies should be limited to 12½ per cent. per annum, and that interest at the rate of 6½ per cent. per annum might be paid to depositors. The Committee include in their Report a Draft Bill based upon their recommendations and also model rules for societies based upon either "limited" or "unlimited" liability. Memoranda upon existing experiments in mutual credit are also appended to the Report.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.†

Employment in September.—The building trades began to show a falling off in employment. No appreciable change was noticeable in the metal manufacture, except at Paris, where the motor-car industry appeared to be undergoing a period of depression. In the textile trades there was no improvement as compared with the previous month; in fact the depression tended both to increase and to become more general. The slack season came to an end for hatmakers, but neither garment-making nor boot and shoemaking showed any marked revival. The printing, bookbinding and furniture trades were still in their slack season, but in glass manufacture a revival was reported. Employment continued very satisfactory for pottery workers. Agricultural labourers were occupied throughout the month in late harvesting, ploughing, sowing and threshing in the north, and in vintage work in the south. The Breton sardine fisheries, after a long period of inactivity, were busy for a short time in September.

Out of a total of 140,845 members of 907 Trade Unions (not including miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments) which made reports as to the state of employment in September, 17,794 (or 12.6 per cent.)

*Report of the Committee on the Establishment of Co-operative Credit Societies in India. [Cd. 1747. Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 5d.]

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

were out of work in that month, as compared with 9.4 per cent. in the preceding month, and 10 per cent. in September, 1902.

Coal Mining in September.—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in September was 5.83, as compared with 5.80 both in the previous month and in September, 1902. Taking all workpeople together (surface and underground), 66 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 33 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, as compared with 68 and 28 respectively in August. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to over 147,000 workpeople—more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in September.—Fifty-one fresh disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in September, the number of workpeople taking part in 49 of these being 8,910. In the previous month there were 44 disputes, 5,053 workpeople taking part in 41 of them; while in September, 1902, there were 28 disputes, in 23 of which 5,332 workpeople took part. Five of the new disputes of September last occurred in the building trades, 3 in mining, 7 in metal manufactures, 17 in the textile trades, 7 in transport and warehousing, 3 in the chemical and glass trades, 2 in the woodworking trades, 5 in the leather trades, and 1 each in papermaking and printing. Of the 40 new and old disputes which came to an end in September, 9 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 11 in favour of the employers, and 20 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in September.—Eight cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in September, the Justice of the Peace taking the initiative in 5 and the workpeople in 3 cases. Six disputes (involving 673 workpeople) were settled by these means. In the remaining 2 cases (involving 450 workpeople) the disputants declined the proffered mediation, and the strikes were subsequently settled by direct negotiations between the parties concerned.

Strike of Weavers and Spinners in Lille and neighbouring Districts.—The following particulars are based on despatches dated October 12th and 15th, received through the Foreign Office from Mr. C. A. Payton, H.M. Consul at Calais. On Saturday, October 3rd, the workers of a large weaving shed in Houplines-sur-Lys, a small town near Armentières, decided to stop work without warning or giving any reason to their employers. Proceeding to Armentières they caused all the factories in that town to be closed, thereby bringing the number of strikers to about 25,000. On October 5th and 6th the strikers managed to stop the majority of the Lille spinning and weaving mills. Meanwhile the Prefect of the Department had requisitioned troops, which prevented the strikers from causing the stoppage of the remaining factories at Lille, and enabled the spinners of that town to resume work. In Roubaix on October 9th and 10th considerable rioting occurred.

The Armentières weavers elaborated a new wage-list, which represented an increase of about 25 per cent. on that of 1889. Fifty thousand workpeople were reported on strike in that town on October 12th. On the following day representatives of the weaving industry of Armentières and Houplines decided that they could not go beyond the wage-list of 1889, which they agreed to apply fully. The Strike Committee, after an interview with the Prefect, then issued an appeal to workmen, stating that the above proposal could not be accepted, and that measures must be taken to guard against a reduction in wages resulting from the reduction in the length of the working day from 10½ to 10 hours, which was to take effect on April 1st, 1904 (see GAZETTE, April, 1900, p. 101). The Prefect proposed the formation of a Joint Committee of masters and workmen, presided over by a representative of the Government, and that work should be resumed provisionally on the conditions of the wage-list of 1889, the Joint Committee to take steps,

before April 1st, 1904, to guarantee workpeople against any reduction of wages resulting from diminution of hours of labour, and to fix, if possible, conditions for the preparatory and spinning processes. On October 14th the Strike Committee were authorised by a meeting of the strikers to organise a "referendum" for the discussion of this proposal.

From newspaper reports it appears that the strike in the Lille cotton and linen district had virtually come to an end by October 30th, the operatives having resumed work in all the mills with only one or two exceptions. Some firms are stated to have conceded a 5 per cent. advance.

GERMANY.*

Employment in September.—The state of the labour market was favourable on the whole, and the majority of trades showed further improvement as compared with August. Coalminers were very well employed, and the metal, engineering and electrical trades improved to such an extent that employment in those trades may now be described as normal. The textile trades, also, except in certain branches, were generally well employed. A few trades only, such as those of bakers, masons, printers and bootmakers, had considerable scarcity of employment.

HOLLAND.

Wages of Municipal Labourers at Amsterdam.—Reporting to the Foreign Office under date of October 29th, Mr. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, states that at a meeting of the Municipal Council, which took place on the previous day, a proposal was adopted for fixing the minimum wage of municipal labourers at £1 per week for skilled, and 19s. for unskilled labour. It should be remarked that, in the opinion of the actuaries of the Council, the advantages attaching to sick allowances, pensions, etc., may be estimated at a further 25 per cent. on the above figures.

This action on the part of the Municipality is stated to be a sequel to the serious labour disturbances of the early part of this year, when the Municipality gave the assurance that the whole question should be carefully inquired into by a committee appointed for the purpose. The Labour representatives in the Council, while pressing for a general minimum of 20 shillings per week, have expressed their satisfaction with this settlement.

H.M. Consul adds that the above-mentioned measure involves a considerable advance on the already heavy Municipal taxes.

AUSTRIA.†

Employment in September.—The statistics of the public and private labour registries which furnished returns to the Austrian Labour Department for September show that, on an average, 136 applications were made for every 100 situations offered in that month, as compared with 163 in the previous month and 148 in September, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 182 applications for every 100 situations, as against 201 in August; while in the case of women there were 90, as compared with 95 in August.

Labour Disputes in September.—Twenty-two disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in September, 6,413 workpeople taking part in 20 of them. Eight of the disputes occurred in mining, 2 in the metal and engineering trades, 2 in the clothing and cleaning trades, 2 in the printing and paper trades, 3 in the wood-working, etc., trades, 2 in the pottery and glass trades, and 1 each in the building, textile and leather trades. Of 16 disputes, the results of which were ascertained, 3 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 7 in favour of the employers, and 6 were compromised.

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

† Soziale Rundschau (Journal of the Austrian Labour Department).

SPAIN.

Labour Dispute at Bilbao.—In despatches to the Foreign Office, dating from October 12th to October 31st, Mr. C. G. Wood, H. M. Consul at Bilbao, reported concerning a strike of miners at that town. The strikers, who numbered about 12,000, demanded weekly instead of monthly payment of wages. When work had been suspended for several days, the Captain General of the Province received instructions from Madrid to the effect that a proclamation should be published ordering the mine owners to accede to the men's demands. After subsequent consultation with the representatives of the mine owners and the men, the Captain General modified the proclamation, which was published on October 31st. It decreed (1) that work at the mines should be resumed on Monday, November 2nd; (2) that payment should be effected weekly from January 1st, 1904; and (3) that steps should be taken with a view to an inspection by the Sanitary Board of the sleeping barracks provided for the men, and also of the quality and prices of the provisions supplied at the obligatory shops and stores attached to the works.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dispute in the Cotton Shipping Trade at New Orleans.—In despatches to the Foreign Office, dated October 10th and 12th, Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at New Orleans, reports that this dispute (see GAZETTE, May, 1903, p. 129) was brought to a close on October 11th by a compromise, the matter having been placed in the United States Court by an injunction issued by the District Judge on October 9th against all persons interfering with the loading of the vessels of the Leyland Line. It was agreed that 90 bales should be screwed and 160 hand-stowed per day, while wages remain the same (20s. 10d. per day with 25s. for foreman), and that 9 hours should constitute a day's work. By this settlement the steamship agents gain 40 bales of hand-stowed cotton, or 33½ per cent. over the Trade Union limit of 1902-3, but fall short by 65 bales of their demands upon the screwmen.

CHILE.

Strike of Stevedores and Lightermen at Valparaiso.—Further details have been supplied through the Foreign Office by Mr. Rowley, H.M. Acting-Consul at Valparaiso, in a despatch dated September 9th, with reference to this strike (see GAZETTE, July, 1903, p. 189). It appears that, besides the stevedores and lightermen, the steamship crews and hulk labourers also took part in the movement, and that the demands formulated had reference, not only to wages and hours, but also to the formation of Trade Unions. Owing to the intervention of the Government, two arbitrators were appointed to decide upon the claims put forward, and their decision was given on July 31st.

As regards seamen the period of engagement is fixed at a complete round voyage. Captains are to continue to have absolute control over the crew, both as regards the selection and the maintenance of strict discipline. No restriction is to be placed on the captain as regards the working hours on board during the voyage, but whilst in Valparaiso these are to be from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in winter and 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer, work after these hours to be paid for as overtime. The wages actually paid to the crews of the South American Steamship Company have been taken as a standard, and a 10 per cent. increase allowed.

In the case of lightermen the basis of pay is to be a launchload (16 tons), the pay for same to be 8s. 4d. for general goods and 10s. 6d. for coal, bricks, iron, wood, &c., with 6½d. per head when loaded with animals.

Feast days and Sundays are to be paid for at double rates; the crew of a launch is to be considered as three men; lighters are to be measured by the Maritime Authorities, and clearly marked on the outside so as to indicate when they are loaded down to 16 tons. As far as stevedores and hulkmen are concerned the matter was still in abeyance at the time of reporting.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 86 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 98,000 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 187,000, employment in the building trades was dull and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In nearly all districts the state of employment has been adversely affected by the weather.

The returns from Employers' Associations show that employment was good with 5.7 per cent. of the workpeople reported on, fair or moderate with 20.5 per cent., and dull or bad with 73.8 per cent. The corresponding figures for a year ago show that employment was then good with 16 per cent., fair or moderate with 33 per cent., and dull or bad with 51 per cent.

Employment with bricklayers is dull, and about the same as a year ago. With masons it is fair generally. With carpenters and joiners it has declined, and is worse than a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of October was 5.6, compared with 4.0 at the end of September, and 4.0 at the end of October, 1902. With painters it is dull generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With plasterers it continues dull. With plumbers it is also dull, and slightly worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union plumbers unemployed at the end of October was 6.6, compared with 6.4 at the end of September, and 5.8 at the end of October, 1902. Slaters and filers report employment as fairly good, better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1903.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Oct., 1903, as compared with	
		Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	6,864	6.9	4.6	4.8	+ 2.3	+ 2.1
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	5,937	12.0	10.7	4.6	+ 1.3	+ 7.4
Lancashire and Cheshire	10,160	4.9	3.3	3.9	+ 1.6	+ 1.0
Yorkshire	5,046	6.4	3.5	6.4	+ 2.9	...
East Midlands	2,811	4.2	2.7	2.5	+ 1.5	+ 1.7
West Midlands	4,392	4.0	2.7	3.4	+ 1.3	+ 0.6
Eastern Counties	1,771	6.6	3.7	2.8	+ 2.9	+ 3.8
S. and S.W. Counties	5,823	4.1	2.4	3.0	+ 1.7	+ 2.2
Wales and Monmouth	1,719	2.8	2.0	3.2	+ 0.8	- 0.4
Other Districts	593	4.4	3.1	3.7	+ 1.3	+ 0.7
SCOTLAND	4,469	3.5	2.4	3.6	+ 1.1	- 0.1
IRELAND	4,220	2.6	2.8	4.0	- 0.2	- 1.4
UNITED KINGDOM	53,205	5.6	4.0	4.0	+ 1.6	+ 1.6
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	1,157	9.8	6.4	7.2	+ 3.4	+ 2.6
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough	1,560	6.0	8.6	18.4	- 2.6	- 12.4
Lancashire and Cheshire	2,475	6.4	6.4	6.9	...	- 0.5
Yorkshire	1,267	3.8	5.9	3.4	- 2.1	+ 0.4
East Midlands	663	4.1	3.3	2.1	+ 0.8	+ 2.0
West Midlands	506	4.0	4.0	4.5	...	- 0.5
Eastern Counties	121	7.4	1.7	2.3	+ 5.7	+ 5.1
S. and S.W. Counties	505	7.5	6.9	6.5	+ 0.6	+ 1.0
Wales and Monmouth	278	7.9	5.8	6.3	+ 2.1	+ 1.6
Other Districts	36	13.9	11.1	10.3	+ 2.8	+ 3.6
SCOTLAND	1,898	7.1	4.4	3.6	+ 2.7	+ 3.5
IRELAND	623	10.1	15.9	3.3	- 5.8	+ 6.8
UNITED KINGDOM	11,089	6.6	6.4	5.8	+ 0.2	+ 0.8

London.—Employment in London has declined during the month and is dull generally. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 78 employers show that in the last week of October they paid wages to 18,609 workpeople, as compared with 19,847 in the last week of September, and 16,930 in the corresponding month a year ago.

Bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, painters, plasterers

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

and plumbers report employment as dull or bad; masons as moderate.

Northern Counties.—Employment generally is fair with masons; moderate with plumbers and plasterers; dull with joiners and bricklayers. With painters it is bad on the Tyne and Wear; moderate on the Tees. It is quiet on the Tyne with slaters and tilers; moderate elsewhere.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Liverpool employment continues quiet, the wet weather causing a large amount of lost time. At Manchester it is slack in all branches. It is fair with bricklayers at Warrington. At Oldham it is moderate generally, but bad with plumbers. At Bolton employment is fair with masons and plasterers, moderate with painters. It is moderate at Wigan, slack at Blackburn and Burnley, bad at Chester.

Yorkshire.—Employment throughout the district is dull generally. At Barnsley, however, it is fairly good, and at Hull employment is reported as good with masons. At Sheffield it is slack; at Leeds quiet; at Bradford moderate.

East Midland Counties.—At Leicester employment is moderate generally, but bad with carpenters and joiners and painters. At Nottingham it is dull, and has declined generally during the month; with masons, however, it is good. At Derby it is slack in nearly all branches of the trade.

West Midland Counties.—Employment throughout these counties continues slack. At Birmingham it is quiet; at Coventry it is fair; at West Bromwich and Redditch it is bad. All branches are quiet at Walsall and Wolverhampton, but at Tamworth and Stourbridge employment continues good.

Eastern Counties.—In these counties employment is dull generally, except at Colchester, where it is good with bricklayers and fair with carpenters and joiners. At Ipswich it is dull; at Norwich it is bad, and a number of builders' labourers are reported as unemployed.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment in this district continues dull. At Chatham and Portsmouth employment is moderate; at Plymouth and Devonport it is quiet generally. It is bad with masons and bricklayers at Bristol, but improving with plasterers.

Wales.—Employment in South Wales continues moderate, except with masons, who are all well employed. It is good at Swansea, as well as in the inland districts. In North Wales it is quiet generally, but fair with bricklayers.

Scotland.—Employment has declined slightly during the month. Painters report employment as dull in all districts; in Glasgow the majority are on short time. With bricklayers employment is dull in Glasgow and Edinburgh, and it is also dull with plumbers and plasterers at Dundee and Aberdeen.

Ireland.—Employment in Dublin is moderate generally; but is good with plasterers. At Belfast employment is dull in most branches, but with plasterers it is improving. At Cork employment is moderate generally; but bad with painters.

COAL MINING.

[NOTE.—The following Tables only profess to state the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.]

EMPLOYMENT during October showed little change as compared with a month ago, but was rather worse than a year ago.

Returns received relating to 1,304 pits employing 495,725 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries included in the returns, during the four weeks ended 24th October, was 5.21, compared with 5.22 in September, and 5.52 in October, 1902. The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received for both periods was 1.2 per cent. more than a year ago.

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

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1903, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1903, as compared with	
		24th Oct., 1903.	26th Sept., 1903.	25th Oct., 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	40,257	5.35	5.37	5.45	-.02	-.10
Durham ...	98,233	5.37	5.47	5.52	-.10	-.15
Cumberland ...	6,632	5.59	5.22	5.83	+.37	-.24
Yorkshire ...	74,904	5.26	5.19	5.33	+.07	-.07
Lancashire and Cheshire...	49,936	4.74	4.71	5.29	+.03	-.55
Derbyshire ...	38,686	4.82	4.80	5.07	+.02	-.85
Nottingham and Leicester	26,976	4.61	4.79	5.43	-.18	-.82
Staffordshire ...	29,234	4.79	4.90	5.58	-.11	-.79
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	10,236	4.88	5.27	5.52	-.39	-.64
Gloucester and Somerset...	8,660	5.28	5.43	5.77	-.15	-.49
North Wales...	13,049	5.27	5.15	5.70	+.12	-.43
South Wales and Mon. ...	58,323	5.83	5.62	5.84	+.21	-.01
ENGLAND & WALES ...	455,146	5.20	5.21	5.52	-.01	-.32
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	19,083	5.35	5.35	5.36	...	-.01
The Lothians ...	4,454	5.40	5.55	5.62	-.15	-.22
Fife ...	16,474	5.47	5.52	5.51	-.05	-.04
SCOTLAND ...	40,011	5.41	5.44	5.45	-.03	-.04
IRELAND.						
IRELAND ...	568	5.15	4.82	5.31	+.33	-.16
United Kingdom ...	495,725	5.21	5.22	5.52	-.01	-.31

A comparison of the district averages given in the above Table shows that the falling off in the number of days worked by collieries in October, as compared with a year ago, was most marked in the Midlands.

The only districts in which the number of days per week worked by the collieries exceeded 5½ were South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.83) and Cumberland (5.59), while in Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Notts and Leicester, Staffordshire and Salop, Worcester and Warwick less than 5 days per week were worked, the lowest average (4.61 days) being in the Notts and Leicester district. In the remaining districts the weekly average was between 5 and 5½ days.

Of the total number of workpeople included in the returns, 71.8 per cent. were employed in collieries working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended 24th October, 1903, compared with 74.8 per cent. in September, and 90.8 per cent. in October, 1902.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland, steam and house coal pits averaged respectively 5.41 and 5.28 days per week. In Durham, gas manufacturing and coking coal collieries, averaged 5.4 days and house coal pits 5.3 days per week. In the Leeds district employment was fairly good. In the Oldham district it continued slack; in the Wigan district a slight improvement was shown; at Bolton and Accrington employment was fair; at Burnley it was bad. The weekly average of the mines in the Sheffield district was 5.24 days. In Leicester employment was slack; in Notts it was much the same as a month ago. In Cannock Chase the average was 4 days per week; in the Blackheath, Old Hill, and Halesowen mines, 4½ days; and in the Tipton, Oldbury, and Dudley mines, 5 days. In North Wales employment continued fair. In the West of Scotland mining districts employment was fair generally. In Mid and East Lothian some short time has been worked; in West Lothian the improvement reported last month has been maintained.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during October amounted to 4,197,229 tons, as compared with 3,976,744 tons in September and 4,430,499 tons in October, 1902.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing 18,400 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations from 2 Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents.

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

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good generally, and shows no material change compared with a month or a year ago. During the four weeks ended October 24th the average number of days worked by the 138 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.73, as compared with 5.78 a month and a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1903, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1903, as compared with	
		24th Oct., 1903.	26th Sept., 1903.	25th Oct., 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,753	5.93	5.77	5.90	+ 0.16	+ 0.03
Cleveland ...	7,068	5.76	5.85	5.72	- 0.09	+ 0.04
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	858	5.84	5.90	5.96	- 0.06	- 0.12
Northamptonshire	573	5.91	5.61	5.86	+ 0.30	+ 0.05
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,122	4.32	5.17	5.37	- 0.85	- 1.05
Other places in England ...	123	5.56	5.91	5.63	- 0.35	- 0.07
Total, England ...	14,507	5.71	5.77	5.77	-.06	- 0.06
SCOTLAND ...	1,096	5.95	6.00	5.86	- 0.05	+ 0.09
IRELAND ...	109	6.00	6.00	6.00	...	...
Total and Averages	18,712	5.73	5.78	5.78	- 0.05	- 0.05

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,712, as compared with 15,652 a month ago, and 15,722 in October, 1902. During the four weeks ended October 24th, 89 per cent. of the workpeople were employed at mines working 22 or more days as compared with 84.8 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—Returns received relating to 25 mines show that in October, 2,707 men were employed, as compared with 2,722 in September and 2,673 a year ago. The average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended October 24th was 4.65, as compared with 5.76 in September and 5.62 a year ago. The falling off in October was due mainly to time lost through a stoppage of work at certain mines owing to a dispute.

Lead, Tin and Copper Mining.—In Durham lead ore mines have worked five days per week; in North Wales employment has been quiet. With tin and copper miners in Cornwall employment has been bad in the Calstock district, moderate in Camborne, and better in the western mines.

Quarrying.

Slate.—With slate quarrymen employment has been good in North Wales and quiet in Cornwall.

Limestone.—Employment in Cumberland shows little change compared with a month ago; in Weardale it has been good, in Derbyshire quiet, in Leicester good generally, in North Wales good, and in Devon and Cornwall fair.

Granite.—In North Wales, Leicestershire, and in the Dartmoor district employment has been good; in the Penryn (Cornwall) district dull. In Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire it has been fair, and in Forfarshire bad.

Other Stone.—In the Gateshead district, owing to bad weather, employment has been irregular; at Barnsley it has been good. Quarrymen at Normanton have been fairly busy. In Derbyshire chert quarrymen have been well employed; in the Stanton district employment has been fair in building-stone quarries and a little better than a

month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the Forest of Dean employment has been good, at "bath" stone quarries in the Bristol district dull, and at the North Wales sandstone quarries good.

Settmaking.—In the Sheffield district flag and sett-makers are well employed. In Leicestershire employment with kerbedressers is fairly good, but settmakers are working short time at several quarries. With sett-makers in the Clee Hill district, and in North Wales employment has been good; in Midlothian and Aberdeenshire it is fair.

China Clay.—Employment is moderate in the St. Austell district (Cornwall) and at Lee Moor (North Devon).

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

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

Employment in this industry shows a falling off in England compared with a month and a year ago. In Wales and Scotland there has been little change.

Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 314 blast furnaces were in operation at the end of October, as compared with 318 at the end of September, and 324 in October, 1902. The decline in the number of furnaces in blast in October, as compared with a month ago and a year ago, was mainly confined to Cumberland and North Lancashire, as will be seen from the Table given below. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 314 furnaces in blast at the end of October was about 21,950.

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

Districts.	Present time compared with a month ago.			Present time compared with a year ago.		
	Oct., 1903.	Sep., 1903.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct. 1903.	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct. 1903.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	80	80	...	80	80	...
Cumberland & Lancs.	34	39	- 5	34	42	-
S. and S.W. Yorks...	15	15	...	15	15	...
Derby & Nottingham	38	37	+ 1	38	39	- 1
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	26	26	...	26	26	...
Stafford & Worcester	33	32	+ 1	33	33	...
S.Wales & Monmouth	13	14	- 1	13	15	...
Other districts ...	6	6	...	6	7	- 1
Returned from England & Wales	245	249	- 4	245	255	- 10
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND ...						
SCOTLAND ...	69	69	...	69	69	...
Total furnaces included in returns ...	314	318	- 4	314	324	- 10

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

RETURNS furnished by employers respecting 199 works show that they employed 74,309 workpeople during the week ended October 31st or 608 less than a month ago, and 774 less than a year ago.

Number Employed.

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

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1903, as compared with	
	Oct. 31st, 1903.	Sept. 26th, 1903.	Nov. 1st, 1902.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ...	62,330	62,894	62,601	- 564	- 271
Scotland ...	11,979	12,023	12,482	- 44	- 503
Total ...	74,309	74,917	75,083	- 608	- 774

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 90 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS; ENGINEERING.

The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended October 31st was 5.36, as compared with 5.41 in the week ended September 26th, and 5.38 in the week ended November 1st, 1902.

Number of Shifts worked.	Number employed in Oct., 1903, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in	
			Sept., 1903.	October, 1902.
Under 5 per week ...	8,719	13.1	9.9	12.8
5 per week ...	22,519	33.7	36.4	35.4
5½ per week ...	854	1.3	1.3	1.4
6 per week ...	34,135	51.2	51.7	51.6
Over 6 per week ...	455	0.7	0.7	0.8
Total ...	66,712	100.0	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (10 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average number of shifts as those who are included, the aggregate number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated to have been 398,074, compared with 405,449 in the week ended September 26th and 403,759 in October, 1902. On this basis the volume of employment at the works included in the returns shows a decrease of 1.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.4 per cent. compared with October, 1902.

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

Tyne and Wear District.—Steel smelters continue fairly well employed. Full time has been worked at steel plate mills and short time at bar and sheet mills. At finished iron and steel works employment has been moderate.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—The Hartlepool iron and steel workers report employment as fair. At rail mills employment continues good, at plate and angle mills moderate, and at metal expansion works good. Employment on shipbuilding material is quiet.

South Yorkshire.—Rolling mills at Leeds are working full time, but finishing departments are slack. With ironworkers employment is quiet at Leeds and Parkgate, slack at Stanningley, and fair at Rotherham and Masboro'. Employment with steelworkers at Parkgate is good, but with Siemen's steel smelters and Bessemer steel workers at Sheffield it is slack. At Bolton (Lancs.) employment with steel smelters is moderate.

Midlands.—In Derbyshire nearly all puddling furnaces and rolling mills continue in full work, and malleable ironworkers are busy. In South Staffordshire steel smelters are working full time. In Shropshire employment with steel and iron workers is steady.

North and South Wales.—Employment with steel workers in North Wales has been fully maintained. In South Wales employment has been good at iron and steel works generally. Two mills at Llanelly are stopped for repairs.

Scotland.—Employment continues fairly good on the whole with steel smelters and iron and steel workers. With malleable iron workers in the West of Scotland it is rather slack.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry shows little change as compared with September and continues worse than a year ago.

At the end of October 359 mills were working, as compared with 356 at the end of September, and 404 a year ago. Of the 70 works open, 53 had all their mills (275) in operation, while the remaining 17 works had 84 mills going out of a total of 119. About 17,900 workpeople were employed at the 359 mills in operation.

In the South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire districts 347 mills were in operation at the end of

October, as compared with 344 mills a month ago, and 392 mills a year ago.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	53	275	—	275
Works giving partial employment ...	17	84	35	119
Total at end of Oct., 1903* ...	70	359	35	394
Corresponding Total for Sept., 1903†	71	356	43	399
Corresponding Total for Oct., 1902††	79	404	28	432

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

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
To United States ...	Tons. 5,672	Tons. 1,433	Tons. 4,645	Tons. 11	Tons. 46	Tons. 3
„ Other Countries ...	21,957	17,952	22,507	5,458	4,921	7,323
Total ...	27,629	19,385	27,152	5,469	4,967	7,326

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 10 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 25 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment is dull and worse than a month ago. Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 142,545 members show that 7,386 (or 5.2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 4.8 per cent. in September, and 5.3 per cent. in October, 1902.

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in percentage unemployed for Oct., 1903, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	13,581	7.2	7.0	9.0	+ 0.2	– 1.8
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	18,034	5.1	4.9	5.2	+ 0.2	– 0.1
Oldham, Bolton and Blackburn District ...	11,306	5.9	4.8	7.4	+ 1.1	– 1.5
West Riding Towns ...	11,822	6.7	5.6	5.3	+ 1.1	+ 1.4
Hull and Lincolnshire District ...	3,017	5.8	4.6	5.2	+ 1.2	+ 0.6
Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Coventry District ...	5,750	3.5	3.4	3.1	+ 0.1	+ 0.4
Notts, Derby and Leicester District ...	4,057	4.8	4.2	3.0	+ 0.6	+ 1.8
London and Neighbouring District ...	12,657	4.1	3.8	5.4	+ 0.3	– 1.3
South Coast ...	3,494	2.3	2.5	1.8	– 0.2	+ 0.5
South Wales and Bristol District ...	6,017	3.5	3.1	3.0	+ 0.4	– 0.3
Glasgow and District ...	13,226	5.2	4.7	6.0	+ 0.5	– 0.8
East of Scotland ...	3,662	7.5	8.0	8.4	– 0.5	– 0.9
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,475	7.7	10.5	7.2	– 2.8	+ 0.5
Other Districts ...	5,587	4.0	3.9	4.2	+ 0.1	+ 0.2
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	142,545	5.2	4.8	5.3	+ 0.5	– 0.1

Compared with a month ago, nearly all districts show some decline, but considerable improvement is indicated

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

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—ENGINEERING; SHIPBUILDING.

in the Belfast and Dublin district. As compared with a year ago about half the districts show some decline, the other half some improvement, but the changes indicated are in no case very great.

North-East Coast.—Employment generally is dull, and rather worse than a month ago, marine engineering being particularly affected owing to the depression in shipbuilding. Compared with a year ago some improvement is shown at Newcastle and Stockton. With pattern makers employment is quiet generally. At Middlesbrough it is good with engineers; at Sunderland machine workers report it as fair. Employment is good with bridge builders in the Tees district and with boilermakers at Darlington.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—The general state of employment shows little change as compared with a month and a year ago. On the whole it is dull. At Manchester smiths and strikers and machine workers report employment as fair, ironfounders as moderately good, core makers as declining. Brassfounders at Liverpool report it as good. At Crewe employment is moderate with engineers and boilermakers, and ironfounders are working short time.

Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.—Generally employment is dull, worse than a month ago, but not so bad as a year ago. At Oldham, however, it is much worse than a year ago, and is affected by the depression in the cotton trade. With ironfounders employment generally is bad and declining, but at Burnley and Preston is reported good. At Bolton engineers report it as moderate, roller makers and spindle makers as good, iron grinders and spindle and flyer makers as fair. Engineers report employment as moderate at Blackburn, Preston, and Rochdale.

West Riding.—Employment generally is dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. With pattern makers it is quiet at Leeds and Bradford, fair at Sheffield. With other sections at Sheffield it is bad. At Leeds employment is moderate with engineers, quiet with brassfounders. Engineers report it as moderate at Huddersfield, Rotherham, Barnsley, and Wakefield; ironfounders as good at Wakefield.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment shows a decline. Generally it is bad and worse than a year ago. It is moderate, however, with engineers and brassfounders and finishers at Hull. At Grantham it is good with engineers and ironfounders, fair with machine workers. With engineers it is moderate at Grimsby and Peterborough. At Lincoln it is declining with pattern makers, moderate with engineers and boilermakers.

East Midlands.—Employment generally is moderate and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Nottingham it is rather quiet with most sections but is fairly good with lace and hosiery machine builders. It is bad with engineers at Beeston, with brassfounders and finishers at Derby, and with ironfounders at Derby, Chesterfield and Mansfield. At Leicester it is quieter with shoe machinery builders. Electrical engineers are fairly well employed.

West Midlands.—Employment generally is fair, and shows little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. With gun makers at Birmingham it is bad in the military branch, fair in the sporting branch. Employment is bad with engineers and tool makers at Coventry, and with iron founders at Wolverhampton and Dudley. In the cycle industry it is slack at Wolverhampton, quiet at Redditch, fair at Coventry; in the motor industry it is fairly good. Electrical engineers are well employed.

London and Neighbouring District.—Employment generally is moderate, and rather better than a year ago. With ironfounders it is dull generally, moderate at Chatham. Hammermen and smiths report it as bad, copper-smiths as very quiet, brass finishers as dull. With makers of scientific instruments it is fair.

South Coast.—Employment generally is moderate,

slightly better than a month ago, but rather worse than a year ago. It is bad with engineers at Plymouth, and with ironfounders at Devonport. At Portsmouth ironfounders report it as good.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally is moderate, and shows little change as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Engineers report it as bad at Cardiff and Newport. With ironfounders it is dull generally, improving at Newport.

Glasgow and District.—Employment generally is slightly worse than a month ago, but better than a year ago. With pattern makers employment is fairly good generally, quiet at Paisley, declining at Renfrew. With engineers, moulders, and iron, steel, and brass dressers it is moderate. Brass moulders and brass finishers report employment as fair, copper-smiths as good, boiler and pipe coverers as very good.

East of Scotland.—Employment generally is dull, but with moulders it is rather better than a year ago, except at Falkirk, where a large number are on short time. At Dundee it is bad generally, and worse than a year ago. At Edinburgh engineers report employment as moderate, blacksmiths and brassfounders as fair. At Aberdeen it is fair, and slightly better than a month ago.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment generally is bad, although it has improved somewhat owing to the termination of the pattern makers' dispute at Belfast. Employment is reported as fair with brassfounders at Belfast, as good with ironfounders at Dublin.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment generally is bad and worse than a year ago, but pattern-makers and ironfounders report it as good. Employment is moderate with engineers and boilermakers at Stoke. Engineers report it as bad at Hanley, Stafford, Colchester and Cork, moderate at Ipswich, Norwich and York.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 8 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that employment is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. Wet weather has interfered with outside work in several districts.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,505 members had 8,645 (or 15.0 per cent.) unemployed at the end of October, compared with 13.4 per cent. in September, and 12.6 per cent. in October, 1902.

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

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1903, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Percentage for Oct., 1903, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	9,027	17.9	18.6	15.0	– 0.7	+ 2.9
Wear ...	4,639	25.2	17.9	17.1	+ 7.3	+ 8.1
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,976	15.4	13.1	26.0	+ 2.3	– 10.6
Humber ...	2,430	12.5	6.1	9.8	+ 6.4	+ 2.7
Thames and Medway ...	4,183	9.0	7.6	12.6	+ 1.4	– 3.6
Portsmouth, Devonport, and Southampton ...	3,600	8.3	7.5	3.8	+ 0.8	+ 4.5
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,595	19.4	23.4	25.6	– 4.0	– 6.2
Mersey ...	4,670	17.6	10.7	18.1	+ 6.9	– 0.5
Clyde ...	12,885	15.2	13.3	7.3	– 0.4	+ 5.9
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,233	30.0	23.2	7.2	+ 7.8	+ 22.8
Belfast ...	3,071	5.3	4.6	2.5	+ 0.7	+ 2.8
Other Districts ...	3,993	8.5	9.9	4.1	– 1.4	+ 4.4
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	57,505	15.0	13.4	12.6	+ 1.6	+ 2.4

Compared with a month ago, most of the districts show a decline, which is greatest in the East of Scotland, Wear, Mersey and Humber districts. At the Bristol Channel Ports, however, an improvement is indicated. Compared with a year ago, considerable improvement is shown in the Tees and Bristol Channel districts, but

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—SHIPBUILDING; HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &c., TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

most districts show a decline, the falling off being most noticeable on the East Coast of Scotland.

Employment generally on the *North-East Coast* continues bad. On the *Tyne* it is worse than a year ago. Shipwrights report several working short time. On the *Wear* employment is much worse than a month and a year ago, and a large number of shipjoiners have been laid off. On both rivers employment has been interrupted by bad weather. With riggers and stern frame makers it is reported as moderate. On the *Tees* employment is worse than a month ago, but not so bad as a year ago. Shipwrights at Middlesbrough report it as fair.

On the *Humber* employment is bad, much worse than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. Some short time is reported, and bad weather has interfered with outside work. Shipwrights report employment as moderate at Grimsby, drillers and sailmakers at Hull as fair.

On the *Thames* employment generally is slack, rather worse than a month ago but better than a year ago. On new work it is fair. Shipwrights report employment as fair at Sheerness, good at Chatham.

On the *South Coast* employment is rather worse than a month ago and considerably worse than a year ago. At Southampton it is very bad, and there is a considerable amount of short time. Shipwrights report it as very good at Portsmouth and Devonport, iron shipbuilders as slack at the former, moderate at the latter place.

At the *Bristol Channel Ports* employment is bad, but shows improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. Shipwrights report it as very fair at Pembroke Dock.

On the *Mersey* employment generally is very dull, considerably worse than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. Short time is reported.

On the *Clyde* employment is bad, about the same as a month ago and much worse than a year ago. Wet weather has interfered with outside work. Iron shipbuilders and drillers report employment as moderate at Clydebank; shipwrights as fair at Greenock, good at Port Glasgow and Paisley.

On the *East Coast of Scotland* employment shows a considerable decline on the preceding month, and is very much worse than a year ago. At Dundee it is very bad and short time is being worked. It is also bad at Leith and Aberdeen, but is improving at the latter place.

At *Belfast* employment is very fair, but not so good as a year ago.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is fair, better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Wet weather has interfered with outside work. At Dublin employment is slack and short time is reported. At Cowes shipwrights report employment as dull, iron-shipbuilders as declining. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it is fair but declining.

HARDWARE, CUTLERY, AND MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 2 Employers' Associations, 22 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Brasswork.—Employment generally is reported as fair but worse than a month and a year ago. In Birmingham it is bad in the bedstead branch, and moderate with fender makers. At Rotherham casters and finishers report an improvement. At Leeds and Doncaster employment is dull.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment is moderate in the nut and bolt trade at Birmingham, but is good in the Wolverhampton district. In Birmingham and Halesowen employment is quiet with spike and rivet makers. Wire and cut nail makers in Birmingham report employment as quiet; makers of wrought and frost nails at Halesowen as fair.

Tubes.—In the tube trade in Staffordshire employment generally is slack.

Chains, Anvils, Vices, Anchors, etc.—Employment is reported as fair with makers of block chains at Cradley

Heath, but as slack with makers of dollied and side-welded chains, cable chain makers and strikers. Chain-makers and strikers at Gateshead and Winlaton report employment as fair. Employment is fair with anvil makers, but with vice makers at Dudley it is bad; anchor smiths also are slack. Employment in the spring trade at West Bromwich is reported as fairly good. In the Wolverhampton district employment is slack with buckle, case hame, and cart gear makers, and at Walsall with bit and stirrup makers. At Wednesbury it is fair with spring and axle makers, but bad with coach and carriage iron workers.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—With makers of locks, keys and latches employment is good at Wolverhampton and Willenhall; also with wrought iron and steel hinge makers at Birmingham. In the hollow ware trade employment is moderate at Birmingham, quiet at West Bromwich, short time being worked; fair with light and stamped hollow ware workers at Wolverhampton; slack with hollow ware stampers at Sheffield. At Wolverhampton it is good on electrical and malleable castings, vermin traps, Brazil and plantation hoes, and with piercers and stampers; and it is fair with spade finishers and fork drawers, slack with spectacle frame makers.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—File makers in Birmingham report employment as fairly good, edge tool makers as moderate. At Wolverhampton it is fair with file smiths, good in the edge tool trade. In Sheffield these trades are slack, but at Warrington file smiths report employment as good.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—In these trades employment generally is very quiet, but at Falkirk, Birmingham, in the Eastern Counties, and with hot water fitters at Leicester, however, it is reported as fair.

Sheet Metal.—Employment is reported as moderately good in the Tyne and Wear district; good at Lowestoft and Yarmouth in the canning trade, and at Plymouth, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. It is fair at Birmingham, Manchester, Hull, Leeds, Glasgow, and Dublin; dull at Oldham, Bristol, Wolverhampton, Bilston, and the Lye district. In London it is improving with sheet metal workers and gas meter makers, good with zinc workers, fair with tin plate workers, but bad in the canister trade.

Cutlery, etc.—At Sheffield employment in these trades is slack, only the pen and pocket blade forgers reporting it as good. At Redditch needle trade workers report employment as fair, fish hook makers as good.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In the London trade employment is reported as fairly good by silver fork and spoon makers, goldsmiths and jewellers and gold beaters; as fair by silver spoon and fork finishers, and by silversmiths and electro-platers. With small silver workers it is moderate; with silver plate polishers bad for the season, and with diamond workers depressed. In Birmingham it is fairly good in silver jewellery and improving in gold; fairly good in Britannia metal, bad in the Coventry watch trade. In Sheffield all branches of these trades report employment as slack, except platers and gilders, with whom it is fairly good, and silversmiths, who report a slight improvement.

Wirework.—Employment with wire weavers is reported as good in London, Manchester, and Bristol; as bad at Birmingham, Warrington and Glasgow. With wire workers it is good at Glasgow, but quiet at London, Sheffield, Manchester and Oldham.

Farriers.—Employment generally is reported as quiet, though slightly better than a month ago; it is, however, reported as fairly good in the Tyne and Wear district and at Dublin; fair at Glasgow.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, the estimated total number of operatives covered by the returns being 224,700. Reports have also been furnished

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by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources shows that employment is better than a month ago, though still much worse than a year ago. During the fourth week of October full time was resumed in many districts.

Employment in the *Spinning* branch during October showed a marked improvement, and towards the end of the month the mills in most districts began to run full time.

In the *Weaving* branch employment continues bad generally, though a slight improvement is reported in some districts; fewer looms are standing, but irregular time is still being worked.

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—Employment in Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden shows a slight improvement. During the first three weeks of the month the mills were running four days a week, but full time has been resumed.

Stockport and Manchester District.—In the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Compstall districts employment continues bad; three mills have been closed, and practically all the others have been running four days a week; full time was not resumed during the month. In the Manchester district spinners of coarse counts are now on full time, and employment is better than a month ago.

Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde District.—Employment is reported as bad, and practically the same as a month ago; during the first three weeks of October many spindles were stopped, but full time was resumed towards the end of the month.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees and Chadderton).—Employment is reported as better than a month ago, full time having been resumed on the 20th October; during the first three weeks of the month a large number of mills were running four days a week.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).—Employment is reported as fairly good and much better than a month ago, full time is now being worked generally; during the first three weeks of October about one-third of the spindles were on short time.

Bury, Heywood and Rochdale District.—Employment in Bury is reported as only moderate, but rather better than a month ago; during the first three weeks of October three mills were stopped, and four days a week was the rule in the others. In Heywood and Rochdale employment is reported as much better than a month ago; full time was resumed towards the end of the month.

Preston and District.—Employment is reported as bad, but is slightly better than a month ago; much short time was worked during the first three weeks of October; the mills are gradually resuming full time.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment is reported as bad though slightly better than a month ago; during the first three weeks of October 45 factories were running short time, and full time is not yet general.

Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington District.—Employment in Blackburn is reported as bad, though slightly better than a month ago; very irregular time has been worked; some factories have been stopped and others have run only half time. In Darwen employment is reported as bad, seven mills being stopped and some 7,000 looms standing idle in addition to others stopped for warps. In Accrington employment continues very bad, irregular time being worked, though there are indications of improvement.

Burnley, Nelson and Colne District.—In Burnley employment continues bad, much short time being worked. In Colne it is rather better than a month ago. In Nelson fewer looms are standing.

Other Districts.—In Bury an improvement is reported; during the first three weeks of October practically all the

factories were stopped or were running short time. In Bolton less short time is being worked. In Chorley a slight improvement is reported.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

During October the prices of raw cotton (middling American) per lb. averaged nearly 3d. less than the prices in September, being 5·83d. per lb., as compared with 6·40d. in September; prices were, however, still 22 per cent. in advance of those in the corresponding month of 1902. For the period from 2nd to 12th November the average price has been somewhat in advance of the average for October, being 5·92d. compared with 5·83d. per lb.

The prices of good fair Egyptian cotton are also in excess of those for October, 1902, averaging 8·08d. per lb. compared with 7·12d., a rise of 13 per cent.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 6th November was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 450,000 bales, compared with 527,000 bales at the corresponding date in 1902, a decrease of 77,000 bales or 14·6 per cent.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF COTTON.

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

	Month of October,			Ten months ended October,		
	1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.
Imported	Bales. 296,494	Bales. 356,802	Bales. 221,749	Bales. 2,478,110	Bales. 2,624,495	Bales. 2,328,360
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	229,337	307,984	286,921	2,376,153	2,593,923	2,485,832
Exported	36,660	38,386	50,178	430,010	388,977	267,124

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

Description of Cotton forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	October, 1903.	October, 1902.	October, 1901.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	185,883	256,545	239,446
Brazilian	10,374	22,113	11,368
East Indian	3,919	2,428	3,436
Egyptian	24,563	21,733	22,226
Miscellaneous	4,598	5,165	10,445
Total	229,337	307,984	286,921

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 321 firms employing 99,481 workpeople; from women correspondents, with regard to factories in Yorkshire employing about 32,400 women and girls, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The returns again show considerable slackness in the worsted trade. In the woollen trade employment continues good, except in the heavy woollen district, where it is only moderate. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of October was 99,481, compared with 99,176 at the end of September, and 100,581 a year ago, an increase of 0·3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1·1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number of operatives 23 per cent. were employed in firms reporting short time or machinery standing in one or more departments. Of the 32,400 women and girls in the Yorkshire factories reported on by women correspondents, 56 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month and 38 per cent. in factories running full time

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but giving only partial employment, to be compared with 63 per cent. and 32 per cent. respectively of those reported on for September, and 91 per cent. and 8 per cent. for October, 1902.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various branches in the districts reported on at the end of October with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns.

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at end of		
	Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
Bradford District—			
Woolcombing	4,756	4,010	4,467
Worsted Spinning	11,151	11,130	11,301
Spinning & Manufacture	9,361	9,381	9,751
Manufacture	6,437	6,368	6,600
Woolen	736	734	750
	31,841	31,626	32,899
Keighley District—			
Worsted Spinning	3,338	3,305	3,306
Spinning and Manufacture	3,986	3,932	3,876
Manufacture	508	507	497
	7,832	7,744	7,679
Halifax District—			
Worsted Spinning	6,374	6,395	6,350
Spinning and Manufacture	902	904	958
Manufacture	601	621	685
Woolen and Worsted Manufacture	2,170	2,161	2,116
Carpet Manufacture	1,089	1,085	1,059
	11,136	11,166	11,168
Huddersfield District—			
Worsted Spinning	1,640	1,644	1,766
Manufacture	4,272	4,216	4,299
Woolen	4,721	4,659	4,326
and Worsted Manufacture	1,123	1,044	1,219
	11,756	11,563	11,610
Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, &c.	2,083	2,095	2,066
Wakefield District...	1,341	1,349	1,353
Leeds District—			
Worsted Spinning & Manufacture	1,775	1,813	1,958
Woolen & Worsted Manufacture	767	754	867
Manufacture	3,330	3,351	3,393
	5,872	5,918	6,218
Dewsbury, Batley, &c. ...	4,365	4,492	4,351
TOTAL WEST RIDING OF YORKS	76,226	75,033	77,344
Wills, Gloucester, Somerset, &c. ...	3,511	3,541	3,482
Lancashire ...	3,413	3,437	3,397
Scotland—			
Woolen Manufacture	9,575	9,556	9,659
and Worsted Spinning and Manufacture	2,968	2,922	3,142
Carpet Manufacture	2,669	2,654	2,524
	15,212	15,132	15,325
Ireland—			
Woolen Manufacture	1,119	1,113	1,033
Total No. returned	99,481	99,176	100,581

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

Bradford District (including Bingley, Otley, &c.).—In the woolcombing industry employment is slightly better than last month, but there is much short time as regards night labour. Only two of the firms making returns are running full time. In worsted spinning employment is about the same as in September, but not quite so good as a year ago; several mills are running only four days a week. In worsted weaving factories employment is slightly better, but fewer operatives are employed than a year ago. Of the 12,000 women and girls usually employed in the spinning and weaving factories reported on by women correspondents only 44 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, 49 per cent. being in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment, and 7 per cent. in factories running short time.

Keighley District.—Woolsorters and woolcombers are the only persons reported as working short time in the spinning branch. In worsted weaving there is an improvement compared with a month and a year ago.

Halifax District (including Sowerby Bridge, Elland, Brighouse, &c.).—In worsted factories much short time is again reported, especially in the combing branch. In woollen manufacture employment is better than a year ago.

Huddersfield District.—In the worsted spinning no short time is reported, but employment is worse than a year ago; in worsted weaving some short time is reported but also a little overtime. In the woollen manufacture employment has improved and is much better than a year ago; most firms report overtime.

Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike, &c.—Employment has slightly improved, less short time and more overtime being worked. In the Wakefield district there is little change.

Leeds District (including Yeadon, Guiseley, Pudsey, &c.).—In worsted spinning and manufacture employment is worse than a month and a year ago. Several cases of short time are reported and some mills are only working five days a week. In woollen manufacture there is little change; some short time has been worked but more overtime.

The Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett, &c.).—The number employed is less than a month ago but about the same as a year ago. Overtime has been worked in many firms but some short time is reported, and there has been much slackness among weavers.

West of England (Gloucester, Wilts, &c.).—Employment is slightly worse, no overtime being reported; but full time has been worked.

Lancashire.—Employment shows little change.

Scotland.—In the woollen manufacture, employment shows little change. Several firms in Galashiels, Hawick, Selkirk and Tillicoultry report overtime. In worsted spinning and weaving employment is unchanged. In carpet manufacture it is better than a year ago.

Ireland.—Employment continues good and more overtime has been worked.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

According to information received from Employers' Associations and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trade is fairly good. In the flax trade in Belfast and neighbourhood it is fair.

In Dundee employment shows a further slight improvement. In the spinning branch it has improved, and is good; in the weaving branch it is fair. Information has been received with regard to 51 jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 21,300 women and girls. From this it appears that of the 19,000 persons employed in spinning mills 92 per cent. were employed in mills running full time and giving full employment throughout the month, and 5 per cent. in mills running full time but giving only partial employment, compared with 82 per cent. and 17 per cent. respectively of those for whom returns were received for September. Of the 11,300 employed in weaving factories, 77 per cent. were employed in factories running full time and giving full employment throughout the month, and 23 per cent. in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment, compared with 81 per cent. and 19 per cent. respectively of those for whom returns were received for September. At Forfar a considerable improvement is reported.

Employment in Belfast and district is reported as fair. In Belfast the women workers' Trade Union, the power loom yarn dressers and the linen lappers report employment as good; the flax roughers as fair; the hackle and gill makers as improved; the flax dressers and the power loom tenters as dull; the beetling enginemens as bad.

Employment with linen weavers at Barnsley is reported as bad, short time being general.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from Employers through the Trade Correspondent of the Department, from one Employers' Association, from one Trade Union

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and from Local Correspondents, employment in the hosiery trade is bad, showing a further decline, as compared with a month, and is worse than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received from hosiery manufacturers employing 12,000 workpeople in their factories at the end of October show a decrease of 0.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of September, and of 0.1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of October, 1902. Of the total number of operatives, 83 per cent. were employed in firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 63 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for September. Employment at Leicester has declined; short time is reported in the fashioned seamless hose and half-hose, pant and plain hosiery departments. At Loughborough it is reported as quiet in most branches; at Hinckley as fairly good in the ribbed and fashioned hose and half-hose branches, short time being general in other departments.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment on the whole has declined as compared with a month ago, and is much worse than a year ago; much short time is being worked. Employment is reported as bad with hand-frame workers on military and cotton pants, as fair with makers of combinations, half-hose and children's socks. It is quiet with frame-work knitters at Sutton and Mansfield, and with wool shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard. With hosiery workers at Belper and Ilkeston it is reported as bad.

Scotland.—Hosiery workers at Hawick and Selkirk continue to be fully employed.

Lace Trade.

According to information from the lace makers' Trade Union and the Local Correspondent, employment in the Nottingham lace trade has improved in the minor branches, but is slack generally, and worse than a year ago. In the levers and curtain sections it is reported as slack; in the plain net section it continues fair. Employment at Long Eaton and Ilkeston is reported as bad; at Bulwell, Stapleford and Kimberley as moderate; at Beeston as slightly improved.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions and Local Correspondents. Employment with dyers and finishers in the West Riding continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. At Manchester it is reported as fair; at Colne and Burnley as good; at Bolton, Bury and Middleton as bad. Employment has been much affected by the dearth of cotton.

Employment with dyers and trimmers has declined at Leicester, and is bad at Loughborough; half time is general. With dyers at Nottingham employment continues moderate. With bleachers at Basford it is reported as moderate; with trimmers at Bulwell, Basford and Nottingham as worse than a month and a year ago; with calico printers at Manchester as fair. In the Dundee district employment continues fair in the finishing branch; in the dyeing branch it has declined. With bleachfield workers a slight improvement is reported, though some firms are still on short time; with calender workers employment has declined, and is slack.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 632 firms employing 73,798 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment continues quiet generally. The number employed by firms making returns at the end of October was 73,798, compared with 74,009 at the end of September, and 73,823 a year ago, a decrease of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, but practically the same as a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 58 per cent. were employed by firms working at least full time throughout October,

to be compared with 61 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for September.

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the numbers employed in the various districts at the end of October with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:—

District.	No. of firms making returns	No. employed by these firms at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) on	
		Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London	83	5,709	5,630	5,509	+ 1.4	+ 3.6
Leicester	83	13,932	14,039	14,165	- 0.8	- 1.6
Leicester Country Districts	34	3,518	3,350	3,198	+ 5.0	+ 10.0
Northampton	74	8,559	8,669	8,729	- 1.3	- 1.9
Kettering	35	4,034	4,033	4,081	...	- 1.2
Northampton Country Districts	98	11,145	10,452	10,238	- 2.9	- 0.9
Stafford and District	17	2,533	2,549	2,595	- 0.6	- 2.4
Norwich and District	40	5,136	5,498	5,574	- 1.1	- 1.6
Bristol	22	2,869	2,738	2,660	- 1.8	- 1.1
Kingswood	27	2,860	2,837	2,754	+ 1.5	+ 4.9
Leeds and District	42	3,717	3,670	3,762	+ 1.3	- 1.2
Manchester and District	17	2,695	2,676	2,531	+ 0.7	+ 6.5
Birmingham and District	12	1,252	1,252	1,243	...	+ 0.7
Other parts of England & Wales	24	2,014	2,001	2,086	+ 0.6	- 3.2
Total, England and Wales	608	69,123	69,404	69,070	+ 0.4	+ 0.1
SCOTLAND	23	4,396	4,337	4,533	+ 1.4	- 3.0
IRELAND	1	279	268	220	+ 4.1	+ 26.8
Total, United Kingdom	632	73,798	74,009	73,823	- 0.3	...

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

London.—Returns covering 5,709 workpeople show that 66 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 62 per cent. in September. Employment amongst the Trade Union boot and shoe operatives is reported as dull and slightly worse than a year ago; the clickers, pressmen and machinists' Trade Union reports it as dull and worse than a year ago; short time has been general. The hand-sewn boot makers report it as quiet, being better than in September, but not so good as a year ago.

Leicester and District.—Returns covering 13,932 workpeople in Leicester show that 22 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 18 per cent. in September. Employment generally is bad, but shows a slight improvement with lasters and finishers and clickers and pressmen. Of the 3,518 workpeople employed by firms in the Leicester country districts, covered by the returns, 85 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 73 per cent. in September. Employment is reported as good at Earl Shilton and Barwell, as slack at Sileby.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—Returns covering 8,559 workpeople in Northampton show that 29 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 56 per cent. in September. Employment is reported as quiet with lasters and finishers, as bad with clickers and pressmen. Returns covering 4,034 workpeople in Kettering show that 58 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 64 per cent. in September. Employment is reported as bad with lasters and finishers. Of the 10,145 workpeople employed by firms in the Northampton country districts covered by the returns, 78 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 81 per cent. in September.

Stafford, Stone and Nantwich.—Returns covering 2,533 workpeople show that 44 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 42 per cent. in September. Employment at Stafford is reported as improved with makers of machine-made boots and shoes; as good with hand-sewn shoe makers. At Stone it is reported as fair.

Eastern Counties.—Returns covering 5,436 workpeople show that 55 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 39 per cent. in September. Employment at Norwich is reported as

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—CLOTHING TRADES.

fairly good on men's dress shoes and with clickers; as having declined with lasters and finishers. It is reported as slack at Ipswich, fairly good at Colchester.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Returns covering 2,689 workpeople in Bristol show that 42 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 68 per cent. in September. Employment is reported as slack in all departments. Of the 2,890 workpeople in Kingswood covered by the returns, all were employed by firms working full time throughout the month; in many cases overtime was worked.

Leeds and District.—Returns covering 3,717 workpeople show that 72 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 80 per cent. in September. Employment is reported as good on men's heavy goods. At Leeds it is reported as slack with army bootmakers, quiet with clickers.

Other Districts in England.—Employment is reported as good at Kendal, fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne, moderate at Nottingham, quiet at Wolverhampton.

Scotland.—Of the 4,396 workpeople covered by the returns all were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 97 per cent. in September. Employment with hand-sewn workers is reported as good; with lasters and finishers as good at Edinburgh, Dundee and Maybole, as fair at Aberdeen and Kilmarnock; with clickers and pressmen at Glasgow as good.

TAILORING TRADE.

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

Bespoke Branch.—Employment generally is moderate. Returns have been received from London West End firms employing 621 workpeople on the premises and 968 outworkers.* According to these returns employment was good in firms employing 31 per cent. of the inworkers and 17 per cent. of the outworkers, moderate in firms employing 67 per cent. of the inworkers and 81 per cent. of the outworkers; bad in firms employing 2 per cent. both of the indoor and of the outdoor workers. It is better than a month ago but decidedly worse than a year ago. In Liverpool it is reported as fair, in Manchester as slack; in Edinburgh; in Glasgow as quiet; in Dublin as bad.

Ready-made Branch.—In London some employers report employment as fair with workers on their premises; but generally they report employment as bad with cutters and with outworkers, and as showing no improvement towards the end of the month. The clothiers' cutters' Trade Union reports employment as bad, and much worse than a month and a year ago.

In Leeds employment is bad. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 8,600 workpeople in their factories, in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during October was good or fair in firms employing 22 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate in firms employing 6 per cent., and poor or bad in firms employing 72 per cent. As compared with September, firms employing 18 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 11 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 71 per cent. as worse. As compared with a year ago, firms employing 15 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 7 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 78 per cent. as worse. The clothiers' operatives' Trade Union reports employment as bad; the Jewish operatives as bad.

In Manchester employment is reported as fair by some employers, bad by others, and worse generally than a year ago. The Jewish Tailors' Trade Union reports it as fair. In Bristol employment has declined, and is worse than a year ago.

In Norwich the tailoring factories are running full time, but employment is not good. In Ipswich it is reported as moderate; in Colchester as slack.

* This number may include the same outworker more than once, and does not include persons employed by outworkers.

In Glasgow employment is reported as fair by employers making returns; the clothiers' operatives' Trade Union reports it as dull; the tailors and machinists' Trade Union as fair.

HAT TRADE.

REPORTS have been received from two Employers' Associations, from two Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Employment with silk hatters has been slack; with felt hatters it has been moderate. Trade Unions with 5,388 members have 141 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September; a year ago the percentage of unemployed was 2.4.

With silk hatters, employment in London has been better than in September, but worse than a year ago; short time has been general. In Denton employment is reported as slack, but rather better than a month and a year ago. In other districts employment during October was quiet.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton has been moderate and slightly worse than during September. In Stockport and Bredbury it is reported as quiet. In Warwickshire employment is reported as fair, especially in the ladies' hat trades, and rather better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

Dress, Millinery and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,312 dressmakers at the end of October, show an increase of 8.5 per cent. on the number employed at the end of September, and a decrease of 3.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of October, 1902; employment generally is reported as fair by employers making returns. Employment in the wholesale mantle and costume trades shows a decline and is bad generally, although good in some firms. With mantle makers in the retail firms it is fairly good. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons and underclothing, employing about 1,250 workpeople in their factories, report employment as slack generally and worse than a year ago. In the wholesale millinery trade a decline is reported by employers making returns, short time being worked; in retail firms employment is reported as fair.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show an increased demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, but a decreased demand compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers is fairly good. In the costume and skirt trade it continues quiet; returns from manufacturers employing 1,913 workpeople in their factories at the end of October show an increase of 1.4 per cent. on the number employed at the end of September, and a decrease of 1.3 per cent. on the number employed a year ago.

In Glasgow mantle makers generally have worked full time, though some slackness is reported.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland employing 8,790 workpeople in their factories at the end of October, show a decrease of 0.1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of September, and of 2.0 per cent. on the number employed at the end of October, 1902. Employment continues quiet.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,299 workpeople in their factories at the end of October, show an increase of 0.7 per cent. on the number employed at the end of September, and a decrease of 9.7 per cent. on the number employed at the end of October, 1902. Of the total number of operatives, 62 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time.

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

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been supplied by 19 Employers' Associations, by 33 Employers, by Trade Unions with upwards of 56,000 members, and by Local Correspondents. These returns show that employment in the Letterpress Printing Trade continued to improve, and was better than a year ago. In the Lithographic trade employment is, on the whole, much the same as in September, and not quite so good as a year ago; while with Bookbinders it is better than a month ago and worse than a year ago.

Employment in the Paper Trade in England remains fairly good. In Scotland it is good, and better than a month and a year ago.

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

	United Kingdom.			London.				
	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of		No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			
		Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.		Oct., 1902.	Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
Letterpress Printing	49,922	4.3	5.1	5.5	19,329	4.1	5.5	6.2
Lithographic Printing	6,335	4.3	4.5	3.6	1,971	6.1	5.5	4.6
Bookbinding	6,929	3.7	5.5	2.6	3,845	3.1	5.8	1.8
Total Printing and Bookbinding	54,186	4.2	5.1	4.9	25,145	4.1	5.5	5.4
Paper Manufacture	2,332	2.5	2.8	2.2	...	...	...	...

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

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1903, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in percentage unemployed for October, 1903, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		London ...	25,145	4.1	5.5	5.4	− 1.4	− 1.3
Northern Counties ...	1,455	3.4	3.8	3.6	− 0.4	− 0.2
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,534	7.0	7.0	6.7	...	+ 0.3
Yorkshire ...	4,176	3.6	4.4	3.3	− 0.8	+ 0.3
East Midlands ...	2,020	3.5	4.1	2.9	− 0.6	+ 0.6
West Midlands ...	2,450	4.1	5.1	4.9	− 1.0	− 0.8
Eastern Counties ...	375	2.1	3.0	2.4	− 0.9	− 0.8
S. & S. W. Counties ...	2,534	1.7	2.3	2.7	− 0.6	− 1.0
Wales and Mon. ...	803	2.1	1.9	1.9	+ 0.2	+ 0.2
Scotland ...	6,108	2.1	2.5	2.7	− 0.4	− 0.6
Ireland ...	2,586	8.2	9.0	9.0	− 0.8	− 0.8
United Kingdom ...	54,186	4.2	5.1	4.9	− 0.9	− 0.7

Percentages unemployed for London are shown in the first Table for the Letterpress and Lithographic Printing and Bookbinding Trades respectively. Employment has again improved with letterpress printers, and is better than a year ago. With lithographic printers it has declined, and is worse than a year ago. With bookbinders it has improved, but is not so good as a year ago.

Northern Counties.—Employment is fairly good on the whole, but at Newcastle a number of letterpress printers are unemployed.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment at Manchester and Liverpool remains slack, except with electrotypers and stereotypers, who are fairly well employed. At Ashton-under-Lyne, Blackburn, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, and Newton-le-Willows employment is quiet; at Bolton, Burnley, Accrington, Preston, Southport, Lancaster, Chester, and Stockport it is good.

Yorkshire.—Employment with letterpress printers is good at Sheffield, Bradford, and Scarborough; improving at Leeds; moderate at Hull, Huddersfield, and Halifax; slack at York and Barnsley. Lithographic printers are quiet generally, except at Hull, where they are well employed. Employment with bookbinders is quiet at Leeds, moderately good elsewhere.

East Midland Counties.—Employment is fairly good, except with lithographic printers, who report it as moderate.

West Midland Counties.—At Birmingham employment is moderate with letterpress printers, fairly good with lithographic printers, slack with bookbinders. Elsewhere it is fairly good generally.

Eastern, Southern and South-Western Counties, Wales and Monmouthshire.—Employment is fairly good generally, except at Portsmouth and Reading, where it is reported as slack.

Scotland.—Employment is good at Edinburgh; quiet at Glasgow; fairly good elsewhere.

Ireland.—Employment is dull at Dublin, Belfast and Limerick; fairly good at Cork and Londonderry.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, from 34 Trade Unions with 34,022 members, and from Local Correspondents. Employment generally has declined during the month, and is not so good as a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Unionists in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of October was 5.2, as compared with 4.7 in September, and 4.3 in October, 1902.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers continues rather quiet. Three unions, with a membership of 4,886, show 198, (or 4.1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 4.3 in September, and 4.9 in October, 1902.

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

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades is quiet generally, and is worse than a month and a year ago. Of the 13,269 members of 14 Trade Unions making returns, 767 (or 5.8 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 5.0 per cent. at the end of September, and 4.1 per cent. at the end of October, 1902.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers remains dull at most of the larger centres. At Dublin, however, it is reported as good, at Hull fair, and at Burton-on-Trent bad, with some short time. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,199 report 242 (or 4.7 per cent.) unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 4.7 per cent. at the end of September, and 3.7 per cent. at the end of October, 1902.

Coachbuilding.

Employment in the coachbuilding industry is dull, and shows a decline compared with a month ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, etc., with a membership of 7,551 report 405 (or 5.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 4.1 per cent. at the end of September, and 5.0 per cent. in October, 1902.

In London employment is bad, with some short time. At Birmingham it is declining; at Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield and Nottingham it is bad. Employment is slack at Glasgow with some short time; bad at Dublin, and moderate at Belfast and Cork.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment generally is dull and worse than a month and a year ago; at Leeds it is slack. Trade Unions with a membership of 1,807 report 105, (or 5.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 4.6 per cent. in September, and 2.9 per cent. in October, 1902.

Other Trades.—Employment in London is good with stick makers and mounters; bad with basket makers,

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—FURNISHING, &c., TRADES; GLASS, POTTERY, &c., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

short time being worked; dull with lathrenders and packing case makers. Employment with basket makers at Leicester is moderate but declining; at Warrington slack. Lathrenders at Edinburgh report employment as fair; at Glasgow good. Employment with packing case makers at Glasgow and Belfast is fair.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 12 Employers' Associations, 13 Trade Unions with 4,878 members, Local Correspondents, and Employers.

Employment in the Glass trades is bad in the bottle making branch, and shows a further decline as compared with a month and a year ago; in the flint-glass and sheet-glass trades it has improved in some districts. In the Pottery trades short time is still general. In the Brick and Tile trades employment is fair generally.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle makers in the North of England continues bad, and is worse than a year ago; much short time is reported. In the St. Helens and Newton-le-Willows district, in Yorkshire, and in the Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello district employment is reported as bad, and worse than a year ago.

In London, the glass blowers report employment as very bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. In Birmingham flint-glass makers report it as fair; flint-glass cutters as improved; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as slack. Employment in the glass trade at West Bromwich continues moderate. In all branches of the flint-glass trade at Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge an improvement is reported. At St. Helens the sheet glass flatteners and the sheet glass makers report employment as good. The pressed glass workers at Newcastle and Gateshead have worked three and four shifts per week. In Edinburgh employment with glass makers is fair, and better than a month ago; with glass cutters it has improved.

Pottery Trades.—In the Staffordshire Potteries employment is reported as fair, and better than a year ago, though few factories are working full time, in the Longton and Fenton district it is fair, but in the china branch is not so good as a year ago. In the Aire and Don districts of Yorkshire employment is fair and better than in September, though worse than a year ago. In Scotland it continues fair.

Brick and Tile Trades.—In the brickyards in the Plymouth district employment continues fair. With brickmakers in Birmingham it is reported as still bad, short time being worked; in the Oldbury and West Bromwich district it continues fair. In the Nottingham district employment has been good but for wet weather. In the Glasgow district it continues fair.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 313)

RETURNS have been received from 4 Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These show that, although the general state of employment remains dull and worse than a year ago, there has been an improvement in some branches during the month. The percentage of Trade Union members shown as unemployed at the end of October was 6.3, as compared with 7.4 at the end of September and 4.6 in October 1902.

Shinners, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—In these branches employment generally is dull, though in the Leicester and Northampton district there has been some improvement with tanners. In the Bolton district employment has been moderate; at Bristol the curriers report it as good, but the sole leather trade is below the average. In the Eastern Counties, at Dundee, and with the morocco finishers in London, employment is reported as fair. Elsewhere it has been bad, with some short time.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—In these branches

employment remains slack generally, especially in the London district, and at Walsall, where all branches are depressed. Aberdeen and Dublin are the only towns in which employment is reported as good. Horse-collar makers are fairly employed in London, but are slacker elsewhere.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—Fancy leather workers in London report employment as fair, and better than a month ago. London pocket-book makers report an improvement, but with portmanteau makers employment is worse, with much short time.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in Agriculture in October was received from 202 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that work on the land was seriously interrupted by almost continuously wet weather, and casual labourers, on the whole, lost a good deal of time in consequence. The harvest was much prolonged, and in several districts was unfinished at the end of the month. Employment at potato and mangold lifting, manure carting and spreading, ploughing and seeding was much affected, the excessive rain making the ground unfit to work on. Field work is consequently in a backward condition.

Northern Counties.—Reports from Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland state that employment for casual labourers was a good deal interrupted by the wet weather. The supply of extra labour was, as a rule, sufficient; in certain districts the prolongation of the harvest enabled the work to be done by the regular staff without recourse to extra help. In Lancashire outdoor work was very irregular during the month and the supply of extra men was generally in excess of the demand, although a scarcity is reported in one or two districts. A correspondent in the Prescott Union writes: "Women and boys, who are annually engaged during this month to pick potatoes after diggers, have as yet earned very little, as it has been impossible to get the horses on the land owing to the continuous rain." Correspondents in Yorkshire state that the employment of casual labourers was much interrupted during the month by wet weather, and the supply was, as a rule, in excess of the demand. Harvest was not finished at the end of the month and much of the land was too wet for potato gathering.

Midland Counties.—In Cheshire and Derbyshire the harvest was prolonged by wet weather, and few extra men were wanted. Men engaged on piecework at potato-lifting and mangold-pulling have lost time. Harvest work in Nottinghamshire was more forward, but casual labourers were not in much request, although a certain number found employment in threshing when the weather permitted. Skilled men for permanent situations are reported to be scarce. Correspondents in Leicestershire state that employment for farm labourers was irregular, and extra men were not much required. In Staffordshire and Shropshire casual labourers were not in regular employment. Some work at hedge-trimming was, however, available when other work could not be got on with. There was some demand for extra men for potato-lifting, but the supply was ample. In Worcestershire there was very little employment for casual labourers, and the supply, except in one or two districts, was sufficient. Some corn was still in the fields at the end of the month. Farm work in Warwickshire was much interrupted by the excessive rainfall, and harvest work, potato-lifting, root-cleaning and manure-carting are in arrear. There was a plentiful supply of extra labour in most parts, but little was required. A correspondent in the Warwick Union states that it is difficult to obtain men for permanent situations, owing to their dislike of Sunday work. The demand for casual labour by farmers in Northamptonshire was very limited on the whole, as little work could be done, owing to the wet weather. Employment was, however, generally found for the permanent men. In Oxfordshire outdoor work has been much affected by the heavy rains, and in some parts the

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; SEAMEN; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

carting of the hay, barley and oats remained unfinished at the end of October. There was not much demand for casual labour, and the supply was just about sufficient. Men for permanent situations are reported to be scarce. Casual labourers in Buckinghamshire have been very irregularly employed, as in many districts the wet weather prevented threshing and other work. In Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire work on the land was much interrupted, and little extra labour was required. A few oddmen, however, obtained employment in threshing, cleaning out yards, &c. It is stated that some of the corn was lying in the fields at the end of the month.

Eastern Counties.—Employment for agricultural labourers in Cambridgeshire was much interrupted by rain, particularly as regards potato-digging and threshing. The supply of oddmen was not, however, in excess of the demand, and farmers generally preferred not to part with men until the extra work was finished. In Lincolnshire a good deal of time was lost by casual labourers through the wet weather, especially in the case of men living at a distance from the farms. Irish labourers were employed in potato-lifting on several farms. The supply of labour was sufficient in most districts. Outdoor work in Norfolk was much delayed by the wet weather, but towards the end of the month casual labourers were fairly well employed in sowing wheat, carting mangolds and other work. The supply of labour has been sufficient in most parts of the county. Reports from Suffolk state that, although there was much farm work to be done, the wet weather caused some loss of time to casual labourers. There was no scarcity of this class of labour in the county. In Essex outdoor work was a good deal interrupted, casual labourers were for the most part irregularly employed, and field work is much in arrear. The supply of extra men was somewhat in excess of the demand, but men for permanent situations are said to be difficult to obtain, particularly men for tending horses and cattle.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Correspondents in Kent report that many farm labourers lost time through the wet weather. Some employment was, however, found in trimming hedges and clearing ditches. The supply of labour was generally sufficient, but in one or two Unions there was some demand for men to attend on threshing machines. In the hop districts employment was more regular. In Surrey and Sussex the continuous wet weather rendered the land unfit for working on, and farm work is in arrear. Men in permanent situations did not lose much time, but casual men had very little work. Employment for agricultural labourers in Hampshire was very irregular during the month; there was some demand for extra men for lifting mangolds and carting manure. Men for permanent situations are rather more plentiful than of late. Reports from Berkshire state the wet weather caused out-door work to be very irregular, but work was generally found for the permanent men. In Wiltshire the employment of casual labourers was much affected by rain, work on the land being at a standstill during a good part of the month. Many of the regular farm labourers are reported to have changed their situations during October, and the supply of this class of labour is stated to be rather more plentiful than a year ago. The harvest was much prolonged in Dorsetshire, and on the hills a good deal of corn remained in the fields at the end of the month. Casual labourers were not in much demand, and the supply was in excess in some districts. Some difficulty is reported in getting men for situations involving work on Sundays. Casual labourers in Somersetshire were for the most part irregularly employed, although work under cover was usually found for the regular men. Work in the fields is stated to be much in arrear. Reports from Herefordshire and Gloucestershire show that, owing to the prolongation of the harvest and the rainy weather, but few casual labourers were required, the regular men being in most cases able to do the necessary work. In some districts, however, some extra men were

employed on potato-digging. In Devon and Cornwall many agricultural labourers have been in irregular employment. The supply of casual men was in most parts in excess of the demand.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN OCTOBER.

(Data supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during October, 39,803 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 2,499 on the number shipped during October last year.

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

During the ten completed months of the year, 362,841* seamen were shipped, of whom 56,279 (or 15.5 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of last year 355,522* seamen were shipped, of whom 57,834 (or 16.3 per cent.) were foreigners.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in Oct., 1903.*			Total in Oct., 1902.*	Total number* shipped in ten months ended October.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Oct., 1903.*		1903.	1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	28	2,997	3,025	3,768	28,975	30,309
Sunderland ... ..	...	446	446	338	3,920	4,059
Middlesbrough	17	116	133	816	1,970	2,643
Hull ... ..	...	1,152	1,152	891	11,180	10,419
Grimsby ... ..	...	47	47	119	1,084	858
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ... ..	...	886	886	718	7,294	5,630
Newport, Mon.	8	1,100	1,108	942	8,063	7,897
Cardiff	58	4,810	4,868	4,698	45,390	46,100
Swansea ... ..	...	572	572	640	5,392	5,356
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	118	14,957	15,075	18,649	128,155	118,309
London	174	6,590	6,764	6,856	63,249	64,596
Southampton	3	1,933	1,936	2,806	19,923	25,230
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth	50	375	425	440	5,572	5,532
Glasgow	59	2,889	2,948	3,080	28,799	25,588
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	...	110	110	108	1,301	902
Belfast ... ..	...	308	308	340	2,574	2,105
Total, October, 1903...	615	39,288	39,803	...	362,841	...
<i> Ditto, October, 1902</i>	<i> 910</i>	<i>36,394</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>37,304</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>355,522</i>

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

Employment during October was fair, and slightly better than in September, though not so good as in October, 1902.

LONDON.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended October 31st was 14,129, an increase of 2.4 per cent. on the average for September, and a decrease of 6.8 per cent. on the average for October, 1902. The average number employed in October during the six years, 1897-1902, was 16,259.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf

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

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING.

labourers employed daily in each of the five weeks ended October 31st:—

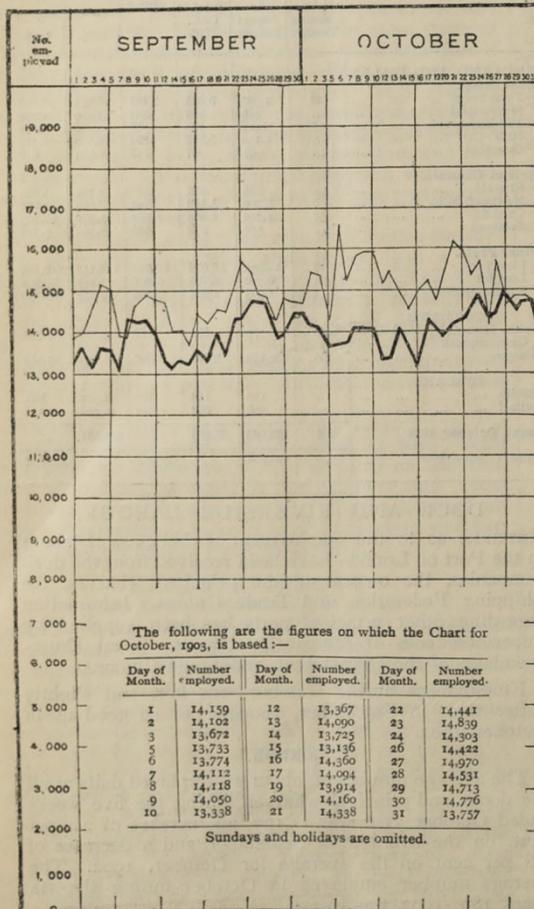
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Oct. 3rd	6,001	1,961	7,962	6,173	14,135
" " 10th	5,410	1,954	7,364	6,499	13,863
" " 17th	5,464	1,896	7,360	6,435	13,795
" " 24th	5,905	2,057	7,962	6,370	14,332
" " 31st	5,927	2,285	8,212	6,316	14,528
Average for 5 weeks ended Oct. 31st	5,741	2,031	7,772	6,357	14,129
Average for Sept., 1903	5,787	2,037	7,824	5,970	13,794
Average for Oct., 1902	6,781	2,163	8,944	6,813	15,757

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in October ranged from 13,136 on the 15th to 14,970 on the 27th.

During October, 1902, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 16,567 on the 6th to 14,124 on the 25th.

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

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



Employment was fair with workers in mid-stream, lightermen, stevedores, coal porters, winchmen and corn porters. With deal porters and lumpers it was good. With the fruit porters in Thames-street it was fair, the

average daily number employed being 315, as compared with 295 in September, and 304 a year ago.

Of the 3,414 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London, during October, 55 per cent. on the average were employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 56 per cent. in September, and 63 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER PORTS.

North-East Coast.—In the Tyne, Blyth and Wear district employment with coal porters and shippers averaged five days per week with none unemployed. With trimmers and teamers, and dock and quay side labourers employment was fairly good. On the Tyne, watermen report an improvement, but with steam packet men employment continues quiet. On the Wear, steam packet men report slackness; the tug boatmen were fairly well employed. With dockers at Middlesbrough employment was good; at Hartlepool moderate. It was moderate also with riverside labourers on the Tees.

Hull and Grimsby.—Hull timber workers report employment as good; coal porters as fair; dock labourers as moderate, and lightermen as bad. At Goole and Grimsby it was good with dock labourers. With timber workers at Grimsby employment was good; with coal workers fair.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Dock and riverside labourers at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are fairly well employed. Employment is stated to be good at Parkeston, moderate at Ipswich.

Southampton.—Employment generally was moderate, being about the same as in September, and worse than a year ago.

Plymouth and District.—Grain carriers have been well employed, and coal lumpers fairly so. With dock labourers at the stone and clay ports a decline is reported.

Bristol Channel Ports.—At Bristol, Portishead and Avonmouth employment is reported as good. It is dull at Gloucester; fair at Sharpness; bad with all classes of dock workers in South Wales ports, except those engaged in coal shipments.

Liverpool and Manchester.—Employment at the Liverpool docks has improved and is fair. It is good with dockers at Manchester.

The Clyde.—Employment with dock labourers at Glasgow continues fair.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment with dock labourers and coal-porters at Leith has been quiet. It is good at Dundee (owing chiefly to the arrival of the season's jute cargoes); moderate at Aberdeen.

Irish Ports.—Employment was bad with dock labourers at Dublin; good at Belfast; fair at Cork.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

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

The fish landed during October shows a decrease both in quantity and in value as compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives the quantity and value for October, 1903, and October, 1902, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Landing Value.	
	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	1,307,770	1,700,151	£ 622,167	£ 812,604
Scotland ...	239,134	258,053	112,358	117,847
Ireland ...	71,245	57,048	34,021	33,600
Total ...	1,618,149	2,015,252	768,546	964,157
Shell Fish ...	—	—	33,193	41,658
Total Value ...	—	—	801,739	1,005,815

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that trawl and line boat fishing was interrupted by stormy weather during the early part of the month, but a good supply of white fish was landed towards the end of the month.

At Hull employment is reported as fair with trawl fishermen and moderate with shore workers. At Grimsby, it has been good, with all classes, and better than a year ago. Employment with fishermen has been good at Yarmouth and fair at Lowestoft, and with shore workers it has been fair at Yarmouth and moderate at Lowestoft.

Fishing off the South-western coast has been very irregular and much interfered with by the stormy weather; an improvement, however, was shown during the second half of the month. Employment with fish packers, carters and curers has been slack at Plymouth and Brixham, but fair at the more western stations.

Employment in all branches has been good at Aberdeen, moderate at Peterhead and Macduff, and bad at Fraserburgh. Most of the Peterhead and Fraserburgh fishermen however, are now on the English coast. At Arbroath and Montrose fishing has been greatly interfered with by storms during the month.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1903.

ONLY two changes in hours of labour were reported in October. At Oswestry the weekly hours of 41 compositors, machinemen and bookbinders* were reduced from 54 to 52½ from 1st October, and at Douglas (Isle of Man) 11 tram drivers and conductors had their weekly hours reduced from 70 to 60 from October 29th.

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages, p. 320.

TRADE DISPUTES IN OCTOBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty new disputes began in October, 1903, compared with 24 in September, and 23 in the corresponding month of last year. By the 20 disputes 5,728 workpeople were directly and 1,244 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before October, and were still in progress at the beginning of that month, give a total of 10,747 workpeople involved in trade disputes during October, 1903, compared with 11,577 in September, and 24,151 in October, 1902.

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

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining ...	7	4,316	523	4,839
Metal and Engineering ...	3	98	54	152
Textile ...	6	1,102	667	1,769
Other Trades ...	4	212	...	212
Total, October, 1903...	20	5,728	1,244	6,972
Ditto, September, 1903 ...	24	3,360	2,498	5,858
Ditto, October, 1902 ...	23	10,428	1,806	12,234

Results.—Definite results were reported in October in the case of thirteen new disputes, affecting 4,025 workpeople, and eight old disputes, affecting 1,043 workpeople. Of these twenty-one new and old disputes, six involving 2,966 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; twelve, involving 1,908 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and three, involving 194 persons, were compromised. In the case of three other disputes, involving 1,875 persons, which terminated in October, certain points are still under consideration.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in October of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 49,500 working days. In addition, 63,500 working days were lost in October owing to disputes that began before that month and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in October of all disputes, new and old, was 113,000 working days, which compares with 120,000 in the previous month, and 257,000 in the corresponding month of last year.

Summary for the First Ten Months of 1903.—For the ten completed months of 1903 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 302 disputes which commenced in these months was 95,130, as compared with 238,821 in the 367 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1902.

The aggregate duration in working days of all disputes was about 2,025,000 as compared with 2,786,000 in the corresponding period of last year.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1903.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Coal Miners ...	Mountain Ash	1,200	35	1 Oct.	7	Refusal to work with non-unionists ...	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Coal Miners ...	Ystrad Rhondda	785	...	1 Oct.	1	Refusal to work with non-unionists ...	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Shale Miners ...	The Lothians	1,800	...	17 Oct.	7	Men locked out for declining to work more than four days a week on their application for advance in wages of 1s. per day being refused	Question of what would constitute a fair wage to be referred to arbitration.
Jute Millworkers, Mechanics, &c.	Dundee	460	28	9 Oct.	4	Objection to new manager ...	Work resumed on old conditions.
Weavers, Preparers, Winders, Mechanics, &c.	Dundee	87	229	5 Oct.	3	On account of dismissal of foreman ...	Work resumed under new foreman.

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES.*

Changes Reported in October.

The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in October was a decrease of £206 per week, as compared with a decrease of £403 in September, and a decrease of £1,188 in October, 1902. The number of workpeople affected was 12,023, of whom 930 received advances amounting to £33 per week, and 11,093 sustained decreases amounting to £239 per week. The total number affected in September was 22,991, and in October, 1902, 47,953.

The only changes of importance were decreases affecting 6,800 ironstone miners in Cleveland, and 1,500 limestone quarrymen in Weardale, but decreases also took place in the wages of 1,608 blastfurnacemen employed in various districts.

Ten changes affecting 3,268 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, including 6 affecting 1,594 blastfurnacemen, 2 affecting 1,390 steelworkers, and 2 affecting 284 iron ore miners and limestone quarrymen. The remaining changes, affecting 8,755 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives without stoppage of work.

Summary for First Ten Months of 1903.†

For the first ten months, January to October, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have had their wages changed was 395,972 as compared with 843,527 in the corresponding period of 1902. Of these, 15,992 obtained a net increase amounting to about £1,178 per week, and 373,540 sustained a net decrease of £15,655 per week, whilst the remaining 6,440 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £14,477 per week compared with a decrease of £78,890 per week in the corresponding period of 1902.

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

	No.	£
Building Trades	4,078	+ 322
Coal Mining	262,768	- 8,853
Other Mining and Quarrying	12,321	- 631
Iron and Steel Trades	22,493	- 935
Engineering and Shipbuilding	74,605	- 4,269
Clothing Trades	3,151	- 64
Glass Trades	5,098	- 361
Employees of Local Authorities	3,938	+ 229
All other trades	7,520	+ 85

DETAILS OF CHANGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1903.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1903.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>				
MINING AND QUARRYING. <i>4 Decreases—8,684 Workpeople.</i>				
Cleveland	Ironstone Miners	19 Oct.	6,800	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of 1899.
Weardale	Limestone Quarrymen	19 Oct.	1,500	Decrease of 1½ per cent., leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of 1899.
Dalton-in-Furness	Iron Ore Miners	5 Oct.	219	Decrease of 1d. per day (5s. 4d. to 5s. 3d.) under sliding scale.
Stairton-in-Furness	Limestone Quarrymen	1 Oct.	65	Decrease of 0·13d. per ton under sliding scale.
<i>Increases—740 Workpeople.</i>				
IRON AND STEEL TRADES. <i>8 Decreases—2,858 Workpeople.</i>				
Middlesbrough	Steelworkers	5 Oct.	740	Advance of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 17 per cent. above the standard.
Millom	Blastfurnacemen	4 Oct.	125	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages of Furnacemen 17½ per cent., and of other workers 15 per cent. above the standard.
Bartow-in-Furness	Blastfurnacemen	1 Oct.	430	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 15½ per cent. above the standard.
Ulverston	Rail, Wire, and Hoop Millmen	5 Oct.	650	Decrease of 3 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 13 per cent. above the standard.
South Lancashire (2 firms)	Blastfurnacemen	1st week in Oct.	220	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 15 per cent. above the standard.
North Staffordshire	Blastfurnacemen	3 Oct.	600	Decrease of ¾ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 19½ per cent. above the standard.
North Wales (1 firm)	Blastfurnacemen	8 Oct.	69	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 18 per cent. above the standard.
Newport, Mon. (near)	Blastfurnacemen	11 Oct.	14	Decrease of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 3½ per cent. above the standard of 1899.
<i>Increases—Nil.</i>				
ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING AND OTHER METAL TRADES. <i>2 Decreases—261 Workpeople.</i>				
Blackheath and Halesowen District	Gas Rivet Makers	5 Oct.	100	Decrease of 10½ per cent. off piece rates.
Belfast	Engine and Ship Smiths	Sept. and Oct.	151	Decrease off piece rates of 5 per cent. in Shipyards and of 2½ per cent. in Engine shops, and of 1s. per week off time rates of 34s. and above.
<i>Increases—90 Workpeople.</i>				
OTHER TRADES. <i>Decreases—Nil.</i>				
Oswestry	Compositors and Machinem[en]	Oct.	30	Advance to a minimum rate of 28s. 6d. per week.
Neath	Compositors and Machinem[en]	1 July	12	Advance of 1s. per week (28s. to 29s.).
Hawick	Bakers	1 Jan., '04	48	Further advance of 1s. per week (29s. to 30s.).
		3 Sep.		Advance of 1s. per week. Minimum weekly wages after change 26s.

Notes.—**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—An advance at Kettering of 1s. per week in the minimum weekly wages of Lasters and Finishers (27s. to 28s.) of Clickers (26s. to 27s.) and of 2s. to Pressmen (28s. to 29s.) has been arranged by the Local Arbitration Board, to take effect from 1st January, 1904, and to remain in force for 3 years. The number of workpeople who will be affected cannot be stated at present.

Seamen.—The advance during September in the monthly rates of wages of Able Seamen and of Firemen and Trimmers at certain Bristol Channel Ports, reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE for October (p. 293), has been fully maintained during October.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

† Exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and fishermen and railway servants. 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.

‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour, p. 319.

DETAILS OF CHANGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1903—continued.

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in 1903.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
<i>1 Increase—100 Workpeople.</i>				
EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. <i>Decreases—Nil.</i>				
Underland	Tram Conductors	15 Oct.	100	New scale of pay adopted. Rates before change: On appointment 43d. per hour, and after 6 months' service 5d. per hour. Rates after change: On appointment 43d. per hour, after 3 months' 5d., and after 9 months' service 53d. per hour.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

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

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.				DEATHS.			
	10 months ended October		10 months ended October		10 months ended October		10 months ended October	
	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.
Lead Poisoning—								
Smelting of Metals	7	26	27	2	2	—	—	—
Brass Works	1	12	4	—	—	—	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	1	10	11	—	—	—	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	5	19	21	—	—	—	—	—
Printing	3	13	13	—	—	1	—	—
File Cutting	—	—	22	—	—	2	—	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	1	11	9	—	—	—	—	—
Hollow-ware								
White Lead Works	11	93	122	—	2	1	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	—	6	10	—	—	—	—	—
China and Earthenware*	10	90	73	—	3	4	—	—
Litho-transfer Works	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	3	8	—	—	2	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	1	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	5	22	14	—	—	1	—	—
Paint and Colour Works	1	28	34	—	1	—	—	—
Coach Making	3	61	55	1	5	1	—	—
Shipbuilding	4	19	14	—	1	1	—	—
Paint used in other Industries	5	39	40	—	—	1	—	—
Other Industries	6	31	52	—	—	—	—	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	64	510	533	3	18	14		
Mercurial Poisoning—								
Barometer and Thermometer making	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' processes	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	1	8	4	—	—	—		
Phosphorus Poisoning—								
Lucifer Match Works	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	2		
Arsenic Poisoning—								
Paints, Colours and Extraction of	—	3	5	—	—	—	—	—
Arsenic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	—	5	5	—	—	—		
Anthrax—								
Wool Sorting	—	4	3	—	—	1	—	—
Wool Combing	—	13	4	—	—	2	—	—
Handling of Horsehair	1	4	9	—	—	1	—	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	9	9	—	—	2	—	—
Other Industries	1	8	4	1	4	—	—	—
Total Anthrax	2	38	29	1	8	6		

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

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

The total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during October, 1903, was 364, as compared with 316 in the corresponding month of 1902, 367 in 1901, 340 in 1900, and 348 in 1899.

* Of the 10 cases in the china and earthenware industry in October, 1903, 7 affected females.

† **House Painters and Plumbers.**—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 22 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported during October among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the two months ended October, 1903, was 171 (including 34 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1902, 138 (including 30 deaths).

The average number of fatal accidents in the month of October in these five years was thus 347, so that the total for the past month was above the average.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz.: Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, and Factories, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 322, compared with 291 in October, 1902. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,700,000. The number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed during the ten months ended October last was 3,074, as compared with 3,238 in the corresponding period of 1902.

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

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Oct., 1903, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Oct., 1903.	Sept., 1903.	Oct., 1902.		
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	1	2	5	− 1	− 4
Engine Drivers	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Fireman	1	1	2	—	− 1
Guards (Passenger)	—	1	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	5	8	9	− 3	− 4
Porters	5	2	5	+ 3	—
Shunters	5	1	5	+ 4	—
Miscellaneous	20	15	16	+ 5	+ 4
Contractors' Servants	1	2	—	− 1	+ 1
Total Railway Service	41	34	44	+ 7	− 3
Mines—					
Underground	77	59	86	+ 18	− 9
Surface	14	12	8	+ 2	+ 6
Total Mines	91	71	94	+ 20	− 3
Quarries over 20 feet deep	8	9	10	− 1	− 2
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	4	—	4	+ 4	—
Wool and Worsted	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Other Textiles	—	1	1	—	− 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	7	6	2	+ 1	+ 5
Founding and Conversion of Metals	4	5	15	− 1	− 11
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	—	3	3	—	− 3
Ship and Boat Building	3	9	12	− 6	− 9
Wood	4	—	3	+ 4	+ 1
Chemicals, &c.	4	4	2	—	+ 2
Other Non-Textile Industries	42	26	25	+ 16	+ 17
Total Factories	71	56	69	+ 15	+ 2
Workshops—	1	—	2	+ 1	− 1
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	56	41	22	+ 15	+ 34
Steam	44	45	47	− 1	− 3
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	4	3	3	+ 1	+ 1
Steam	8	3	2	+ 5	+ 6
Total Seamen	112	92	74	+ 20	+ 88
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	23	20	9	+ 3	+ 14
Warehouses	3	—	2	+ 3	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	14	7	7	+ 7	+ 7
Laundries	—	—	—	—	—
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6	40	27	18	+ 13	+ 22
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	—	5	5	− 5	− 8
Grand Total	364	294	316	+ 70	+ 48

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for October.

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

The value of the Imports in October, 1903, was £47,758,188, an increase of £903,858 or 1.9 per cent., as compared with those in October, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £32,242,637, showing an increase of £1,449,466. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £726,349, or 2.9 per cent., as compared with October, 1902, and those of foreign and Colonial merchandise show an increase of £723,117, or 1.0 per cent.

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

	Month of October.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco	20,668,742	21,390,288	21,989,475	+ 599,187	+1,320,733
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	12,095,203	13,546,121	14,093,440	+ 547,319	+1,998,237
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	11,412,957	11,724,525	11,512,760	- 211,765	+ 99,803
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	174,501	193,396	162,513	- 30,883	- 11,988
Total value of Imports	44,351,403	46,854,330	47,758,188	+ 903,858	+3,406,785

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

	Month of October.			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.
	1901.	1902.	1903.		
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	1,578,623	1,780,856	1,809,060	+ 28,204	+ 230,437
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured	3,174,153	3,353,129	3,067,944	- 285,185	- 106,209
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured	18,868,325	19,633,860	20,572,759	+ 938,899	+1,704,434
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	362,535	366,986	411,417	+ 44,431	+ 48,882
Total value of Exports of British produce	23,983,636	25,134,831	25,861,180	+ 726,349	+1,877,544

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended October, 1903, amounted to 3,488,189 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,319,421 tons, as against 3,381,537 tons entered and 4,252,554 tons cleared in the month of October, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during October, 1903, amounted to 2,700,235 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,664,845 tons, as against 2,730,575 tons entered, and 2,714,339 tons cleared in October, 1902.

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

† 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.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1902-3.

The Annual Report of the New Zealand Department of Labour for the year ended 31st March, 1903, has been received.

The report stated that there were in 1903, 7,675 registered factories employing 59,047 workers, as compared with 7,203 factories employing 55,395 workers in 1902. Of the 59,047 workers, 44,413, or 75.2 per cent., were males, and 14,634, or 24.8 per cent., were females.

The principal industries carried on were the clothing trades, employing 3,187 males and 10,814 females; the iron trades, employing 9,758 males and 16 females; the food and drink trades, employing 8,881 males and 720 females; the wood-working trades, employing 7,983 males and 77 females; and the leather trades with 3,316 males and 828 females employed, the remaining 11,288 males and 2,179 females being spread over a large number of miscellaneous industries.

The report states that there was no pressure of "unemployed" during the year, but that there was "absorbed without effort or difficulty" an excess of arrivals in the Colony over departures of 12,361 persons, of whom 9,535 came from Australia, owing to the long-continued drought.

The Labour Department assisted 3,704 persons, with 5,934 dependants, to find work during the year, of whom 580 were found private work, and 3,124 were employed upon Government works.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended November 7th amounted to £8,848,033, a decrease of £341,684 (or 3.7 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1902. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,667,487, a decrease of £73,976 as compared with a year ago, and those from goods and mineral traffic £5,180,546, a decrease of £267,708.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during October numbered 411, being 2 more than in October, 1902, 44 more than in October, 1901, and 51 more than in October, 1900.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during October was 42,149, as compared with 40,753 in October, 1902. Comparing the ten completed months of 1903 with the corresponding period of 1902, there is an increase of 68,945 passengers, viz., from 337,583 in 1902 to 406,528 in 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 42,149 passengers in October, 27,464 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 2,222 as compared with a year ago. This increase was due chiefly to emigration to British North America and to the United States. For the ten completed months of 1903 the total number was 237,925, as compared with 181,096 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 56,829, which is more than accounted for by an increase of 34,003 passengers to British North America, of 14,711 to the United States, and of 9,219 to British South Africa.

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

Destination. (Country in which passengers contracted to land.)	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Total for ten months ended	
			Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
British Empire:				
Australia and New Zealand	3,882	2,589	58,428	24,425
British South Africa	1,641	1,981	10,134	11,765
India (including Ceylon)	6,030	5,586	44,422	35,203
Other British Colonies and Possessions	994	1,005	3,411	3,198
	524	492	3,359	3,289
Total, British Empire	13,071	11,653	119,754	77,880
Foreign Countries:				
United States	13,688	12,903	113,983	99,072
Other Foreign Countries	705	686	4,368	4,144
Total, Foreign Countries	14,393	13,589	118,351	103,216
Grand Total	27,464	25,242	237,925	181,096

Foreign.—The remainder of the 42,149 passengers in October, viz., 14,685, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 826 less than in October, 1902. For the ten completed months of 1903, the number of such pas-

LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

At the six Bureaux, which were in operation in 1902 and 1903, 2,178 fresh applications for work were registered during October, 1903, as compared with 1,751 during October, 1902. These Bureaux found work for 883 persons during October, 1903, of whom 716 were engaged by private employers. In October, 1902, 695 persons were engaged by private employers. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of October, 1903, was 1,308, as compared with 873 a year ago.

At five other Bureaux, which were not in operation a year ago, 754 fresh applications for work were registered during October, 1903, and work was found for 189 persons.

Altogether, at the eleven Bureaux included in the Tables below, 2,932 fresh applications for work were registered during October, 1903, and work was found for 1,072 persons. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 3,697, including 2,939 men and boys, and 758 women and girls.

(I.) Work done in October.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau.			
					Engaged by Private Employers.		Engaged by Local Authorities.	
	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
London.								
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	172	199	35	43	35	43	...	...
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd., E.)	959	543	521	530	358 163*	349 181*	...	...
Provincial.								
Ipswich (Tower Street)	69	49	35	39	22	18	...	...
Plymouth (Basket Street)	205	176	118	99	110	95	...	...
Liverpool (Dale Street)	214	249	2	3	1	1	1	2
Glasgow (158, George Street)	559	535	597	595	190	189	3	6
Total of 6 Bureaux...	2,178	1,751	1,308	1,309	716 163*	695 181*	4	8
London.								
St. Pancras (Crowndale Road, N.W.)	222	...	29	...	34	...	...	...
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	201	...	77	...	71	...	3	...
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	157	...	9	...	6	...	...	...
Westminster (Caxton Hall, S.W.)	137	...	102	...	67	...	...	...
Hammersmith (St. Church Lane, W)	37	...	11	...	8	...	...	...
Total of 11 Bureaux†	2,932	...	1,536	...	902 163*	...	7	...

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during October.

	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men:—			
Building Trades	29	33	62
Carmen, Stablemen, Horsemen, &c.	45	12	57
Porters and Messengers	62	17	79
Bill Distributors, &c.	...	345	345
General Labourers	20	...	20
Other Occupations	28	4	32
Lads and Boys	70	22	92
Total Males	254	433	687
Women and Girls:—			
Domestic Servants	93	11	104
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	19	67	86
Other Occupations	19	6	25
Total Females	131	84	215
Total engaged by Private Employers	385	517	902
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads and Boys	1	4	5
Women and Girls	2	...	2
Total engaged by Local Authorities	3	4	7
Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.			
Men	...	163	163
Grand Total for 11 Bureaux†	388	684	1,072

* Engaged by Salvation Army. † Bureau was not in operation in October, 1902.

sengers was 168,603, of whom 116,724 were bound for the United States, 34,634 to British North America, and 10,393 to British South Africa. In the corresponding period of 1902 the number was 156,487, of whom 110,263 were bound for the United States, 35,386 to British North America, and 4,801 to British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During October, 12,735 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 6,684 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 2,129 as compared with October, 1902. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,051 (exclusive of seamen), about the same number as a year ago. The figures for October, 1903 and 1902, and also for the ten months ended October in each year, are as follows:—

	Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.	Total for ten months ended	
			Oct., 1903.	Oct., 1902.
Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	1,039	1,108	11,373	13,176
Seamen	5,012	5,009	58,424	55,499
Others	6,684	8,813	114,969	105,312
Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries	...	...	...	...
Total	12,735	14,930	184,766	173,987

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October, 911 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 801 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 252 persons, of whom 115 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 500 to 604, and the number of servants applying rose from 407 to 459; the number permanently engaged rose from 81 to 94. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 60 to 69, and the number requiring such situations rose from 96 to 107; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 53, compared with 34 in September.

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

WORK DONE IN OCTOBER.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau—9, Southampton-street, W.C.	64	100	22	9
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—22, Berners-street, W.	15	69	9	16
Y.W.C.A.—26, George-street (1)	568	488	91	18
Hanover-square, W. (2)	99	168	33	33
Other Bureau	55	86	13	8
Total of 7 Bureaux	801	911	168	84
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	11	74	5	1
Shop Assistants	1	35	1	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	69	107	30	23
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	23	64	5	37
Apprentices and Learners	30	16	17	—
Domestic Servants	604	459	94	21
Miscellaneous	63	150	16	2
Total Number in Oct., 1903	801	911	168	84
Total Number in Sept., 1903	678	772	140	39
Total Number in Oct., 1902	858	869	149	48

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in October was 349,441, corresponding to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with September, there was an increase of 4,138 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. Increased rates are shown in all the Metropolitan districts, and in fifteen other districts. The greatest increase occurs in Central London (12 per 10,000). Decreases are shown in nine districts the most marked decline being in Galway (16 per 10,000), Dublin (12), and Coatbridge and Airdrie (9). In six districts no change is indicated.

Compared with October, 1902, the number of persons relieved, has increased by 10,961, and the rate per 10,000 by 4. Increases are shown in twenty-three districts, the rate of increase being greatest in Leicester district (31 per 10,000), Bolton, Oldham, &c. and North Staffordshire districts (19 each), and in the East London, Newcastle, and Nottingham districts (12 each). Decreases are shown in twelve districts, the most marked falling off being in Galway (16 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (13), and Cardiff and Swansea (11).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1903.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District	10,969	3,115	14,084	172	+ 4	+ 4
North District	14,993	8,272	23,265	219	+ 6	+ 5
Central District	6,773	2,808	9,581	473	+ 12	- 3
East District	13,858	5,370	19,228	268	+ 7	+ 12
South District	22,878	18,089	40,967	228	+ 5	- 1
Total Metropolis	69,471	37,654	107,125	233	+ 6	+ 3
West Ham	3,086	9,025	12,111	194	+ 7	- 2
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	1,866	4,532	6,398	154	+ 1	+ 12
Stockton & Tees District	1,101	3,770	4,871	231	- 1	- 6
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	3,962	8,698	12,660	169	+ 5	+ 19
Wigan District	1,937	6,189	8,126	208	- 3	+ 4
Manchester District	8,962	8,301	17,263	187	+ 4	+ 2
Liverpool District	10,843	8,360	19,203	192	+ 1	+ 6
Bradford District	1,522	2,711	4,233	117	+ 1	+ 1
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,181	3,692	4,873	134	+ 1	+ 4
Leeds District	2,092	5,852	7,944	171	...	+ 3
Barnsley District	652	2,753	3,405	146	...	- 2
Sheffield District	2,957	3,494	6,451	153	...	+ 10
Hull District	1,408	4,965	6,373	241	- 5	- 9
North Staffordshire	2,020	7,187	9,207	252	...	+ 19
Nottingham District	1,853	5,238	7,091	178	+ 7	+ 12
Leicester District	1,218	3,536	4,754	217	- 2	+ 31
Wolverhampton District	3,417	12,486	15,903	252	- 1	+ 2
Birmingham District	4,690	3,157	7,847	138	+ 1	+ 4
Bristol District	2,732	6,642	9,374	248	+ 1	- 1
Cardiff & Swansea	1,747	7,487	9,234	256	+ 2	- 11
Total "Other Districts"	56,160	109,050	165,210	189	+ 1	+ 5
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	4,352	17,057	21,409	228	+ 6	+ 9
Paisley & Greenock District	629	2,393	3,022	176	+ 1	+ 4
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,635	5,463	7,098	181	+ 3	+ 7
Dundee & Dunfermline	1,015	2,803	3,818	194	...	+ 2
Aberdeen	562	2,803	3,365	211	- 1	+ 8
Coatbridge & Airdrie	320	1,230	1,550	168	- 9	- 2
Total for the above Scottish Districts	8,513	31,749	40,262	206	+ 3	+ 7
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	6,898	4,516	11,414	296	- 12	- 1
Belfast District	3,346	211	3,557	93	+ 2	+ 7
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,373	4,761	9,134	371	...	- 13
Galway District	370	258	628	174	- 16	- 16
Total for the above Irish Districts	14,987	9,746	24,733	235	+ 1	- 3
Total for above 35 Districts in October, 1903	152,217	197,224	349,441	206	+ 2	+ 4

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

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

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN OCTOBER.

(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 October was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 10; under the Friendly Societies Act, 66 (including 30 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all 80.

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

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—1, viz., Dublin Saddle and Harness Makers' Trade Society, Trades Hall, Capel-street, Dublin.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Co-operative Societies, mainly for Distribution.—3, viz., Calne Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Stores, The Square, Calne, Wilts; Royston and Dist. Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Rock-road, Royston, Herts; Sidmouth and Dist. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Southcombe Villa, Sidmouth, Devon. Co-operative Societies, mainly for Production.—1, viz., Leicester Cabinet and General Woodworkers, Ltd., 69, Beaumanor-road, Leicester. Agricultural Societies.—1, viz., Llangwryfon Agric. Soc. Ltd., Corwe-y-barcut, Llangwryfon, Aberystwyth. Miscellaneous Societies, 4. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—1, viz., Moneyguyneen Co-op. Home Industries, Kinnitty, King's Co.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—30, viz., Certified Accountants' and Auditors' Loan Soc., London, S.W.; City of Nottingham Perm. Money Soc., Nottingham; Swansea Perm. Money Soc., Swansea; Treorchy and Dist. Perm. Money Soc., Treorchy, Glam.; Weymouth and Melcombe Regis Working Men's Club, Weymouth; Newfield Working Men's Club and Inst., Newfield, Willington, Durham; North Kent Athletic Working Men's Club and Inst., Erith; Alma Working Men's Club and Inst., London, E.; South Teddington Working Men's Club, South Teddington; Talywain Working Men's Club and Inst., Talywain, Pontypool; Welcome Lifeboat Total Abstinence Friendly Soc., London, N.E.; Bow and Dist. Jewish Benefit Soc., London, E.; East London Sick Benefit and Funeral Soc., London, E.; Wellington Cork Club, London, S.W.; Lower Gornal Provident Soc., Lower Gornal, Dudley; Old Orange and Blue Friendly Soc., Willoughby, Rugby; Plough and Harrow Sick and Dividend Soc., Nechells, Birmingham; New Station Inn Sick and Dividend Soc., Selly Oak, Birmingham; Doris May Benefit Soc., Tylorstown, Pontygraith, Glam.; Rose of Maesteg Friendly Soc., Maesteg, Glam.; Green-lane Social Working Men's Club and Inst., Walsall; Biddulph Working Men's Liberal Club, Biddulph, Congleton; Bradford-on-Avon Liberal Working Men's Club and Inst., Bradford-on-Avon; Stourbridge Working Men's Club, Stourbridge; Bournville Working Men's Social Club, Bournville, Birmingham; York Phenix Working Men's Club, York; Lenox Constitutional Working Men's Club, Bargoed, Glam.; Maldon Dist. Widows and Orphans Soc., Colchester; Amicable Juvenile Oddfellows Soc., London, N.W.; Great Eastern Railway Employees' Sick and Orphan Soc., London, E.C. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—6, viz., Iveleary Agric. Bank, Ballinagary, co. Cork; Murrintown Agric. Bank, Murrintown, co. Wexford; Boherbue Agric. Bank, Boherbue, co. Cork; Kinlough Agric. Bank, Kinlough, co. Leitrim; Dungloe Agric. Bank, Dungloe, co. Donegal; Creeslough Agric. Bank, Creeslough, co. Donegal.

(2) DISSOLVED.

THE total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in October was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 6; under the Friendly Societies Act, 43 (including 28 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 13; in all 64.

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.

Trustee Savings Banks.*

THE number of Trustee Savings Banks in England in the year ended 20th November, 1902, was 156, in Scotland 58, in Ireland 13, and in other Islands in British Seas 2, making a total of 229 in the British Isles. The depositors numbered 1,670,394, and the total amount standing to their credit was £52,505,081 8s. 11d., on which sum the average rate of interest paid was £2 9s. 10d. per cent. The average amount of each deposit account was £31 8s. 8d., the average amount deposited during the year £4 2s. 9d., and the average amount withdrawn £7 7s. 10d.

* Trustee Savings Banks. [H.C. 21. London: Eyre & Spottiswoode Price 10d.]

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