

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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## EMPLOYMENT CHART.

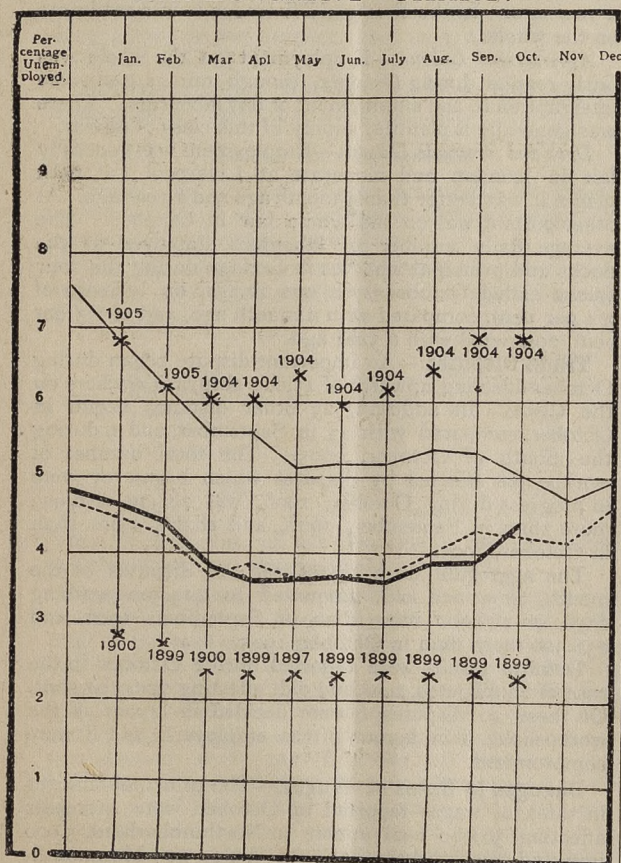


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.  
 ——— Thick Curve=1906. ——— Thin Curve=1905.  
 - - - - - Dotted Curve=Mean of 1895-1905.  
 X The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN OCTOBER.

[Based on 8,970 returns, viz.: 4,740 from Employers and their Associations; 3,741 from Trade Unions; 392 from Local Correspondents; and 97 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT during October was in most trades about the same or somewhat better than during the previous month. Among those which showed some improvement were the coal, pig iron, iron and steel, and woollen and worsted industries. The cotton trade remained very brisk. There was, however, a decline in the shipbuilding industry, and this, together with the direct and indirect effects of the dispute on the Clyde, has been the principal cause of an increase in the general percentage unemployed.

As compared with a year ago all the principal industries showed an improvement.

In the 271 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 600,122, making Returns, 26,313 (or 4.4 per cent.)

were reported as unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 3.8 per cent. at the end of September, 1906, and 5.0 per cent. at the end of October, 1905.

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

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the collieries included in the Returns was 5.49 during the four weeks ended October 20th, 1906, as compared with 5.30 in September, and 5.35 in October, 1905.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment was good in iron mines, showing little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.90, as compared with 5.89 in September, and 5.85 in October, 1905.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry continued good during October, and was slightly better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing about 24,900 workpeople, showed that 344 furnaces were in blast at the end of October, as compared with 342 in the previous month and 331 a year ago.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works continued brisk generally; it was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. The volume of employment at 206 works from which Returns were received was 1.4 per cent. greater in the week ended October 20th, 1906, than in the week ended September 22nd, 1906, and 4.6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment continued good, and was on the whole better than a year ago. At sheet mills it was worse, but at tinplate works it was better than a month ago. According to Returns received, 441 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of October, compared with 430 at the end of September, 1906, and 435 at the end of October, 1905.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment continued good. It showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 3.1, as compared with 2.8 a month ago and 4.0 per cent. a year ago.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Apart from the dispute on the Clyde, employment was moderate on the whole in the principal shipbuilding centres, showing some decline compared with a month ago, but an improvement compared with a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 10.4,\* as compared with 6.5 at the end of September, and 11.9 at the end of October, 1905.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment continued very brisk, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 137,753 workpeople in the week ended October 27th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

\* Exclusive of members on strike.



**Woollen Trade.**—Employment in this industry remained good. It was rather better than a month ago: it showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 23,448 workpeople on the last pay-day in October showed increases in the wages paid of 1.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,034 workpeople on the last pay-day in October showed increases in the amount of wages paid of 1.6 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Flax (Linen) Trade.**—Employment in this industry continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 45,922 workpeople showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the wages paid as compared with a month ago, and as compared with a year ago an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.8 per cent. in the wages paid.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment in this trade continued good and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,313 workpeople on the last pay-day in October showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 1.2 per cent. in the wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago the Returns showed an increase of 0.5 in the number of people employed and of 2.1 per cent. in the wages paid.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment in this trade showed an improvement as compared with a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,229 workpeople on the last pay-day in October showed an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month, and of 3.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment was on the whole good; better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,093 workpeople on the last pay-day in October showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the previous month, and of 10.5 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Firms employing 14,603 workpeople on the last pay-day in October showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

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

**Hat Trades.**—Employment during October improved in the *Silk Hat* branch, and showed a decline in the *Felt Hat* branch. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of October in the *Silk Hat* trade was 10.9, compared with 13.3 at the end of September, and 13.0 a year ago. The corresponding figures for the *Felt Hat* trade were 3.5, 1.9 and 2.6.

**Boot and Shoe Trade.**—Employment in the boot and shoe trade was quiet, but rather better than a month ago; compared with a year ago little change was shown. Returns from firms employing 60,395 workpeople on the last pay-day in October showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment continued fairly good. It was rather better than in September, but about the same as a year ago. Of 3,696 members of Trade Unions, 5.6 per cent. were unemployed, as compared with 6.7 per cent. in September, and 5.6 per cent. in October, 1905.

**Paper-making Trades.**—Employment remained good in these trades.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment in the printing trades was moderate on the whole, and in the

\* Revised Figure.

bookbinding trades fairly good. It was generally better than a month ago and a year ago. In the printing trades the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 4.9, as compared with 5.2 in September, 1906, and October, 1905. In the bookbinding trades the percentages were 3.0 for October, 4.4 for September, and 3.5 for October, 1905.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment was fair and about the same as a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,479 reported 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, as compared with the same percentage in September, and 5.3 a year ago.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment continued moderate generally, but was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 11,081 workpeople showed an increase of 5.1 per cent. in wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 9.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—In the Pottery trade employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was moderate on the whole.

**Agricultural Labour.**—Employment on the whole was fairly regular during October, though rain caused some interruption to the employment of day labourers. There was generally a plentiful supply of this class of labour.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment was generally fair in London and moderate at Liverpool; at both places it was better than a month ago and a year ago. At other ports it was on the whole fair in October. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended October 27th was 12,251, an increase of 3.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Trade Disputes.**—An important dispute began during October affecting upwards of 15,000 shipyard workers on the Clyde. In addition, 23 other disputes began in October, compared with 23 in September, and 9 during the month of October, 1905. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during October, 1906, was 28,330, or 6,953 more than in September, 1906, and 18,824 more than in October, 1905.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 414,300 working days, or 266,900 more than in September, 1906, and 238,300 more than in October, 1905.

Definite results were reported during October in the case of 20 disputes, new and old, affecting 7,260 persons. Of these 20 disputes, 6 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 6 in favour of the employers, and 8 were compromised.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The principal changes in rates of wages reported in October were increases affecting 38,000 coal miners in Northumberland, 5,000 iron and steel workers in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 3,400 puddlers and millmen in the North of England, and 3,000 in Scotland, and decreases affecting 20,000 puddlers and millmen in the Midlands, and 5,500 blastfurnacemen in the Cleveland and Durham district. The total number of workpeople affected by all changes reported was 96,500, and the net effect was an increase of about £1,160 per week, nearly 66,200 workpeople having received advances amounting to £1,970 per week, and rather over 30,300 having sustained decreases amounting to £810 per week. The changes of the previous month affected 17,100 workpeople, the net result being an increase of about £670 per week. During October, 1905, the number of workpeople affected was 20,900, and the net result an increase of £610 per week.

One change, affecting 38,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and 28 changes, affecting 48,350 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 10,150 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 200 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

**DISTRESS COMMITTEES AND THE UNEMPLOYED.**

INQUIRIES have been addressed to the various Distress Committees constituted under the Unemployed Workmen Act, and also to the Local Correspondents of the Department in the principal towns, on the subject of exceptional distress due to want of employment in October, and the measures taken to relieve such distress.

No complete comparison between the Returns for October and those for the same month last year can be given, as the registers of unemployed were, as a general rule, not opened last year until late in November, and this year not until the beginning of November.

From reports, however, which have been received from the Local Correspondents to the Department, it would appear that there was in October less exceptional distress due to want of employment than at the same time last year. Thus out of 52 large towns reported on, exceptional distress was prevalent in only 15, and in 12 of these it was not so great as a year ago, while in 4 towns it was greater, and in 3 about the same as a year ago.

In London only 5 Distress Committees had re-opened their registers up to the end of October.

**London and Neighbourhood.**

During the summer months practically all registers were closed, and up to the end of October only 5 had re-opened for the registration of men.

The following statement shows the number on the registers of the 5 boroughs whose registers were open in October:—

	Total Number.	Labourers.
Kensington...	1,520	1,145
Edmonton ...	105	71
Tottenham...	665	359
West Ham ...	2,130	1,318
Willesden (29th October)	113	81
Total ...	4,533	2,974

Thus 65 per cent. of the persons on the unemployed registers described themselves as labourers.

Employment relief was provided during October by the London Central (Unemployed) Body, which had a total of 468 men employed at some time or other during the month. The number at work on 3rd November was 370, viz., 170 at Farnbridge, 135 at Hollesley Bay, and 65 at Letchworth. In addition, the Central Body had 17 men employed on Borough Council Works, by arrangement with the Councils of Battersea and Fulham. The West Ham Distress Committee had also 99 men employed on their farm colony. At Southwark, where as stated by the Town Clerk, "the policy of the Borough Council is to carry out as much of its work as possible during the winter months," 100 additional men were employed during October on road improvement works.

**Rest of England and Wales.**

According to the Local Correspondents of the Department the only towns reporting exceptional distress were Bradford, Bristol, Colchester, Hull, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Northampton, Norwich, Plymouth (with Devonport and Stonehouse), and Sheffield. Distress in Bradford is reported to be greater than in October last year, in Bristol and Northampton as about the same, and in all the rest as less than last year. Of the towns in which no exceptional distress was reported, the position was generally better than a year ago, except in Macclesfield and Yarmouth where it was about the same.

Almost all the reports, even from towns where employment was otherwise good, mention distress in the building trades.

Distress Committees' registers were open in October in a large number of towns; but in many of these the

registers had remained open all the summer and, possibly, many of the names now on are those of persons who have obtained employment since the date of registration. In this connection it may be stated that in Leicester a census was taken in October of those whose names were on the register, with the result that the number was reduced from 1,037 to 801. Accordingly, in the Table below, only those towns are included for which the number of applicants registered since the re-opening of the registers this autumn can be given:—

Towns.	No. on Distress Register in October, 1906.	No. of Labourers included in Total.
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	187	137
South Shields ...	77	51
Liverpool ...	806	596
Birkenhead ...	119	80
Blackburn ...	22	21
Leicester (Census taken during October) ...	801	431
Norwich ...	496	304
Brighton ...	667	364
Derford ...	110	87
Bristol ...	1,024	772
Plymouth and Devonport ...	1,777	1,453

In no case can a comparison be made with October, 1905. Here again the large proportion of "labourers" is noticeable.

Employment was given in 12 towns (Sunderland, Leeds, Sheffield, Bootle, Oldham, Wigan, Smethwick, Leicester, Northampton and Kettering, Bournemouth and Southampton). The total number who were given employment was 560, and the aggregate number of days worked was 7,700, or about 14 days each.

**Scotland.**

No exceptional distress was reported, except at Glasgow, Greenock, and Paisley, where there was much distress owing to the shipbuilding strike. At Glasgow it has been decided to allow the unemployed to register themselves for distress purposes at the Public Baths and at the Corporation Labour Bureau, as it was thought that persons in distress were deterred from registering themselves last year owing to the fact that they could only do so at police stations and at the offices of the Charity Organisation Society.

Employment relief was given in Aberdeen to 11 men, and in Edinburgh to 60 men.

**Ireland.**

No exceptional distress is reported from Ireland; and in several towns, including Dublin, there is no distress committee. Both in Dublin and in Belfast there is reported to be less distress from want of employment than there was in October last year.

**CASE UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.**

**Cartridge Tube Makers, Edmonton.**

On October 9th 45 females employed as cartridge tube makers by a firm of ammunition makers at Edmonton struck against a proposed reduction in their scale of piece-work rates. On October 15th, about 1,200 other workpeople in the employment of the same firm ceased work in sympathy; but it was arranged on the same day that work should be resumed at the old rates of payment and the question in dispute referred to arbitration by the Board of Trade.

In response to a joint application from the parties the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, as arbitrator.

The arbitrator awarded a rate somewhat in excess of the proposed rate for one class of workpeople affected (tube rollers), but accepted the proposed rates for the other classes (pasters and trayers), on the understanding that girls were to be substituted for women as pasters, and that the girls now employed as trayers should be promoted to pasters, or drafted into other departments where the wages exceed on the average the sum named in the award. The deduction for wastage is to be



abolished, and paste is to be provided ready for use. In addition to the wages earned in the revised rates the displaced pasters are to receive a bonus of 2s. a week until Christmas, unless previously removed to other departments where the wages payable are not less than 13s. a week: similarly trayers are to receive a bonus of 1s. a week until Christmas, unless previously promoted or drafted into other departments as mentioned above.]

Mr. Askwith fixed November 14th as the date from which the award should take effect, and November 24th as the date on which the first payment of wages and bonus should be made.

**SUBVENTION OF UNEMPLOYED BENEFIT FUNDS IN FRANCE.**

In their Budget of April, 1905, the French Government allocated a sum of £4,400 for the purpose of subsidising the funds of societies which provide assistance for their members during unemployment. An article in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for November, 1905, gave particulars of this State grant, and also specified the classes of funds which were eligible for a share in this subvention, and the conditions with which such funds had to comply.

From the report on the subventions of 1905, which has recently been issued,\* it appears that, of the sum of £4,400 allotted, only £1,107, or just over a quarter, was distributed during the year.

Owing to the small number of societies making applications, the grant paid by the State for each half year was the maximum prescribed by the law, viz., 16 per cent. of the payments made to members in the case of local funds, and 24 per cent. in the case of federated funds.

In the first six months of 1905 the number of Societies which applied for a share in the State subvention was 71. Of these 71 societies 35 were found eligible for the subvention by the special commission appointed to examine applications; and grants to the amount of £539 were made to them. During the latter half of the year 77 local and federated Societies applied, to 37 of which the sum of £568 was granted.

Of the £1,107 granted to unemployment funds during the year, £1,029 was allotted to funds which received subventions in each half-year, and whose unemployed benefits were confined to one trade. Some particulars of these funds are given in the following Table, from which it will be seen that nearly two-thirds of the total subventions were granted to funds connected with the printing and book-binding trades.

	Groups of Trades.				Total.
	Printing & Book-binding.	Metal.	Leather and Skins.	Other.	
Average Membership of Funds ...	11,347	7,537	1,362	3,807	24,053
Members unemployed in the year ...	2,490	804	642	1,350	5,286
Days for which Benefit was paid by Funds ...	33,155	11,323	18,894	19,814	83,186
Amount of Benefit paid by Funds ...	£ 3,360	£ 681	£ 1,043	£ 984	£ 6,068
Amount of State Subvention ...	685	110	94	140	1,029

The amount of the subvention granted to funds connected with the pottery trades was £69, to those connected with commerce and transport £35, with the textile and clothing trades £24, with agriculture and fishing £7, and with the building and woodworking trades £4.

£11 was allotted to funds not confined to one trade, and £6 to local travelling benefit funds.

In the report it is stated that the Government expected that this system of subventions would result in the creation and development of funds organised by the

workpeople themselves with the object of assisting, by regular fixed payments, those who should be unemployed through no fault of their own. It is also stated that incidentally the system will facilitate the collection of materials which will serve as data for the consideration of more general and more effective schemes for rendering assistance to the unemployed.

**IRISH POOR LAW COMMISSION.**

THE Report of the Royal Commission appointed in 1903 to inquire "into the provision now existing in Ireland for the relief of the various classes of the destitute, the sick and lunatic poor in Workhouses, Infirmaries, Hospitals, and otherwise," has recently been published.\*

The present system of poor relief in Ireland is based in the main on the Poor Relief Act of 1838. That Act, broadly speaking, applied the English Poor Law of 1834 to Ireland; and in so doing departed from the recommendations of the Irish Royal Commission of 1833-6, who had stated that "they could not recommend the present Workhouse system of England as at all suited to Ireland."

The institution of the English Poor Law system, with the "workhouse test" as its central feature, was, however, established by law. This test had worked well in England where, as the present Commission observe, the problem was to make the lazy, who had been demoralised by the old Poor Law, seek employment which could be got. In Ireland, on the other hand, the problem was to find employment for persons who were willing to work even for as little as 2d. a day, but were unable to find such, or any, employment.

The present Commissioners, like those of 1833-6, consider that the institution of the English workhouse system is unsuitable to the circumstances of Ireland. The proportion of able-bodied poor, for whom the "workhouse test" was especially designed, is comparatively small in Irish workhouses, as will be seen from the following statement showing the number of inmates in Irish Poor Law Union Workhouses and Fever Hospitals on March 11th, 1905, classified according to health, character, &c.:-

Sick ... ..	14,491	Able-bodied Paupers:-	
Aged and Infirm ...	14,380	Casuals ... ..	813
Children ... ..	5,900	Vagrants ... ..	878
Mothers of Illegitimate Children ... ..	2,129	Other ... ..	2,976
Insane and Epileptics	3,628	Total ... ..	45,195

As regards these classifications, it may be remarked that many of the "sick" class are really aged and infirm persons, who are allowed to live in the infirmary in order that they may have greater comforts than would be afforded in the "aged and infirm" ward. The infirmaries are thus occasionally overcrowded, and the convalescent have to be accommodated in the general wards. The number of "able-bodied" paupers thus includes a certain number of convalescent persons; many also are persons in poor health, crippled or afflicted with some other bodily defect, which incapacitates them for ordinary labour, but does not require any special diet, which would classify them for workhouse purposes as "infirm" or "sick." Others again are persons of bad character; and the casual class is recruited from this number. Soldiers, ex-soldiers and militiamen also form a considerable proportion both of the "casual" and "vagrant" class.

It would thus appear that the Irish workhouses are, for the most part, occupied by the sick, infirm, and aged; by cripples, lunatics, and other afflicted persons; by children; and by vagrants and other persons of vicious or semi-criminal habits: and all these classes are congregated in one building, though to some extent in different wards. The genuine able-bodied man or woman in destitute circumstances is not found in workhouses in any considerable numbers.

\* Cd. 3,202: Wyman & Sons, Ltd., (London), and E. Ponsonby (Dublin) price 9d.

**MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1905.**

**Numbers Employed and Accidents.**

RETURNS\* have recently been issued by the Home Office relating to the number of persons employed in mines and quarries during the year 1905, the number of accidents thereat, and the total output. An account of the numbers employed and accidents at mines and quarries during the period 1873-1904 appeared in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for October, 1905 (p. 294); and the present notice is, for the most part, confined to the statistics for 1905.

**Numbers Employed.**

The total number of persons employed at mines and at the quarries under the Quarries Act during the year 1905 was 982,343; of whom 843,418 were employed at coal mines, 16,272 at iron mines, 27,834 at other mines, and 94,819 at quarries. As compared with 1904, there was an increase of 9,800 in the number employed at coal mines, and of 1,100 at iron mines, and a decrease of 437 at other mines, and of 2,758 at quarries. The 843,418 persons employed at coal mines were distributed among the principal coalfields as follows:-

Yorkshire (West Riding), Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire	195,000
Northumberland and Durham	170,000
S. Wales and Monmouthshire	166,000
Scotland	108,000
Lancashire and Cheshire	94,000
Midlands (Staffordshire, &c.)	74,000
Other Coalfields (Cumberland, Gloucester, N. Wales, &c.)	36,000

About four-fifths of the persons employed at coal mines are employed underground, and one-fifth on the surface. The surface workers include nearly 6,000 women and girls, principally in Scotland and in Lancashire, an increase of 7 per cent.; but there has been a decrease— from 9,500 to 8,600—in the number of boys under 14, principally in those employed underground. The decrease in the number of boys is attributed to the Employment of Children Act, 1903, which precludes the employment of children under 14 years of age between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

**Fatal Accidents.**

There were 1,103 fatal accidents in or about mines and quarries in the year 1905, resulting in the loss of 1,304 lives; 1,006 of the fatal accidents, resulting in the loss of 1,205 lives, occurred at mines. The principal causes of accidents at mines were:-

**Accidents underground:-**

Falls of ground ... ..	causing 44.6 per cent. of the deaths.
Explosions of fire-damp or coal-dust	14.8 " " "
Other ... ..	29.9 " " "
Accidents on Surface ... ..	10.7 " " "

The number of explosions was unusually large, and included three serious explosions in South Wales, resulting in the loss of 163 lives. It is to be noted that the death-rate from explosions has not exceeded 3 per 100,000 of persons employed underground during any of the last 10 years. The Report calls attention to the fact that the majority of explosions due to the use of naked lights occur in mines producing little fire-damp, and, as a rule, free from dangerous deposits of coal-dust. In such mines there is still, generally, a strong disinclination to work with safety lamps on the part of both owners and workmen.

Falls of ground are, as usual, responsible for by far the largest number of fatal accidents during the year, and the reduction in the death-rate which, it was hoped, would follow the introduction of systematic timbering and the establishment of special rules on the subject, has not yet been realised. The Report attributes this to a "lack of determined efforts on the part of both mine officials and miners to make the rules really effective."

It is to be noted that the death-rate from accidents at mines has declined steadily in each five-year period from 1866 to 1905, the average for the five years 1871-5

\* Mines and Quarries: Part II.—Labour. [Cd. 3179]: price 10d. Part III.—Output. [Cd. 3195]: price 1s. 6d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

The Commission accordingly recommend (i.) the abolition of the present workhouse system; and (ii.) the segregation of the different classes of paupers in separate institutions, most of which would be disused workhouses: the various classes to be distributed as follows:-

- (a) The aged and infirm, including cripples, &c., in disused workhouses to be called "almshouses"; or to be boarded out in existing almshouses or other similar institutions.
- (b) The sick to be received in county or district hospitals. For his purpose the old county hospitals and workhouse infirmaries to be assimilated.
- (c) The epileptic or insane to be received in asylums.
- (d) The mothers of single illegitimate children to be sent to religious or philanthropic institutions.

The Report also recommends that (iii.) all pauper children should be boarded out, from the age of one year upwards; and (iv.) that vagrants, casuals, beggars, and other persons of irregular or vicious habits should be committed, by order of a Court of Justice, to a Labour-House, there to be detained for long periods (one to three years) for purposes of reformation. Other persons might be admitted into Labour-Houses at their own desire, or if provided with an order from the Poor Law authorities. The Labour-Houses should be under the control of the General Prisons Board.

The Report recommends that casual wards should be established or retained, for the reception of the urban poor in emergencies, in Dublin, Belfast, Cork, and perhaps one or two other large towns.

As regards outdoor relief, the Commission recommend a relaxation of the conditions at present imposed in two cases:-

- (i.) Widows with one child. These should be entitled to outdoor relief.
- (ii.) Occupiers of more than a quarter of an acre. Such persons were, from 1847 to 1862, debarred from relief either within or outside a workhouse; apparently with the object of compelling them, when in destitution, to surrender their holdings, thus facilitating that "transition" from the position of land-holding peasants to that of labourers which was one of the objects of the promoters of the Act of 1838. In 1862, however, occupiers of quarter-acre holdings became eligible for indoor relief. It is now proposed to remove this prohibition; but to leave it open to the guardians to withhold out-door relief from such persons if they prefer.

On the general question of out-door relief in Ireland, the Commissioners remark that:-

"The boundary line has in practice been extended from destitution to poverty, with the result that the number of possible applicants is much increased. Instead of outdoor relief being the sole support of the destitute, it has become merely an item in the receipts of the poor person. The relief is very often just enough to pay the weekly rent of a room or cabin, while support is obtained from the charity of neighbours or of the alms-giving public. In some cases relief is given to supplement small chance earnings. . . . This is not at all what was intended by the Poor Law, but the system seems to be popular, and it appears to have taken root."

Among the other important recommendations of the Commission, are the following:-

- (a) Sanatoria should be established for consumptive patients. (The average number of deaths from tuberculosis in Ireland for the past 10 years is between 12,000 and 13,000 a year; and the number is not decreasing as in England and Scotland.)
- (b) Additional cottage hospitals should be built, the system of home nursing extended, and a State medical service established.
- (c) Genuine working men travelling in search of work should receive from relieving officers a permit, which would entitle them to food and lodging in lodging-houses, from all relieving officers living along their route.
- (d) Two disused workhouses should be handed over to the War Department for the accommodation of pensioners, ex-soldiers, militiamen, and reservists, who claim support owing to destitution.
- (e) A separate rate should be levied for out-door relief; and the area of charge should be the electoral division, not the Union-at-large.

\* See Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department) September, 1906.



having been 2.3, and for the five years 1901-5, 1.3 per 1,000 persons employed. The most marked decrease is in the case of explosions, and the only class of accidents in which there has not been a very considerable decrease is that of accidents on the surface.

#### Output.

The total estimated value of the minerals raised in the United Kingdom during the year 1905 amounted to £95,871,000, a decrease of £1,607,000 as compared with 1904. This decrease is due to the further fall in the average price of coal at the pit's mouth from 7s. 2.58d. per ton in 1904 to 6s. 11.38d. in 1905.

The following Table gives the total output and estimated value of the principal minerals in the years 1904 and 1905:—

Description of Mineral.	Quantity of Mineral raised in		Value at Mines and Quarries at	
			1904.	1905.
	1904.	1905.	£1,000.	£1,000.
Coal ... ..	232,428	236,129	83,852	82,039
Iron Ore ... ..	13,774	14,591	3,126	3,482
Clay and Shale ... ..	15,949	15,135	1,772	1,763
Sanstone ... ..	5,305	5,641	1,718	1,654
Limestone (including Chalk) ... ..	16,482	17,037	1,531	1,607
Slate ... ..	583	515	1,039	1,067
Igneous Rocks (Granite, &c.) ... ..	5,939	5,957	1,351	1,288
Oil Shale ... ..	2,333	2,197	554	591
Tin Ore (dressed) ... ..	7	7	480	571
Salt ... ..	1,892	1,830	197	256
Lead Ore ... ..	26	28	206	245

**Coal.**—The total output of coal was the highest hitherto recorded, viz., 236,129,000 tons, but the value was only £82,039,000 as against £83,852,000 in 1904, and £88,228,000 in 1903, when the output was less by 3½ and 5½ million tons respectively. The highest value recorded was in 1900, when the output was over 225 million tons, and the value nearly 122 million pounds.

Of the total output of 236,129,000 tons, the equivalent of 49,765,000 tons was exported in the form of coal, coke, or patent fuel, and 17,396,000 tons were shipped for the use of British and foreign steamers engaged in foreign trade. The amount of coal remaining for home consumption was 169,000,000 tons, or 3.91 tons per head of the population. Of this amount 19½ million tons were used in the blast furnaces for the manufacture of pig iron, as against 17½ million tons in 1904. The quantity of coal used in the manufacture of coke was nearly 33½ million tons, and in the manufacture of briquettes 1,110,000 tons.

**Iron Ore.**—The output of iron ore in 1905 was 14,591,000 tons, and its value £3,482,000, showing increases of 816,000 tons and £356,000 respectively over the figures of the previous year. Of the total output the Cleveland district produced nearly six million tons, the counties of Lincoln, Leicester, and Northampton together over four and three-quarter million tons, and Cumberland and North Lancashire over one and a half million tons; but in the last-named districts the ore is of a superior quality, yielding 52 per cent. of metal, as compared with about 30 per cent. in the case of Cleveland ore. The 14½ million tons of ore yielded 4,760,000 tons of pig iron, or nearly one-half of the total quantity of pig iron made in the country.

**Other Metals.**—The figures for copper, lead, and tin in 1905 show an increase as regards both output and value compared with those for 1904. The increase in value was especially noticeable in the case of tin, and English block tin in the London Market averaged £143 12s. 3d. per ton, the highest average price recorded for any year except for 1872, when the price averaged £152 15s. per ton.

#### POPULATION OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE.

A RECENT number of the quarterly journal\* of the Imperial Statistical Office contains the general results of the census of the population of the German Empire taken on December 1st last. It is stated that the figures are preliminary, and are, therefore, subject to revision when the final report appears. The total population of

\* Vierteljahrshefte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, XV. Jahrgang, Erstes Heft. Berlin, 1906.

the German Empire was 60,605,183, of whom 29,868,096 were males and 30,737,087 females, the latter therefore slightly predominating. Comparing this total with that obtained at the preceding census on December 1st, 1900, it appears that in the five years between these two dates an increase of 4,238,005 persons, or 7.5 per cent., took place. The rate of increase was slightly higher among males than among females. The following table shows the population at each census of the German Empire, and also the percentage increase in each quinquennial period:—

Date of Census.	Total Population.	Increase on Preceding Total.
1871	41,038,792	...
1875	42,727,390	4.06
1880	45,234,061	5.87
1885	46,835,704	3.59
1890	49,428,470	5.49
1895	52,279,601	5.77
1900	56,367,178	7.82
1905	60,605,183	7.52

It will be seen from this that the greatest percentage increase took place in the period 1895-1900 and the least between 1880-1885. The total increase of population since 1871 has been 19,546,391, or 47.6 per cent.

More than half the total population of Germany—viz., 37,278,820, were in Prussia at the date of the census; the Bavarian population numbered about six-and-a-half millions, that of Saxony four-and-a-half, and that of Wurtemberg just over two-and-a-quarter millions. Baden contained rather more than two million inhabitants, Alsace Lorraine over one-and-three-quarter millions, and Hesse about one-and-a-quarter millions. These seven provinces contained in the aggregate nearly 92 per cent. of the total population of the Empire. The remaining provinces had each a population of less than a million.

The number of cities with a population of over 100,000 was 41 in December last, as compared with 33 at the preceding census. Berlin, the capital, stands first with a population of 2,040,222, followed by Hamburg (803,090), Munich (538,393), Dresden (514,283), Leipzig (502,570), Breslau (470,751), Cologne (428,503), Frankfurt-on-the-Main (334,951), Nuremberg (294,344), Düsseldorf (253,099), Hanover (250,032), Stuttgart (249,443), Chemnitz (244,405), Magdeburg (240,661), Charlottenburg (239,512), Essen (231,396), Stettin (224,078), Königsberg (219,862), Bremen (214,879), Duisburg (192,227), Dortmund (175,575), Halle (169,899), Altona (168,301), Strassburg (167,342), Kiel (163,710), Elberfeld (162,682), Mannheim (162,607), Danzig (159,685), Barmen (156,148), Rixdorf (153,650), Gelsenkirchen (147,937), Aachen (143,906), Schöneberg (140,992), Brunswick (136,162), Posen (137,067), Kassel (120,446), Bochum (118,455), Karlsruhe (111,200), Crefeld (110,347), Plauen (105,182), Wiesbaden (100,955). These 41 largest cities between them contained nearly 19 per cent. of the total population of the German Empire.

#### EMPLOYMENT REGISTRIES IN AUSTRIA IN 1905.

A report\* on the work of employment registries in Austria in 1905 has recently been issued by the Austrian Department of Labour Statistics.

The information given for the year 1905 is based on data supplied by 890 registries, as compared with 922 registries for 1904 and 910 for 1903. Of the 890 registries which furnished statistics for 1905, 686 were in connection with relief stations, and 53 were under the control of other public authorities.

The total number of situations, other than for apprentices, filled in 1905 through the agency of the 890 registries was 333,922, of which 127,910 were filled by the Vienna Municipal Labour Registry, 36,667 by registries in connection with relief stations, and 59,974 by registries under the control of other public authorities. In the preceding year the total number of situations filled by the 922 registries reporting was 305,702, and in 1903, by the 910 registries reporting for that year, 244,584.

\* Ergebnisse der Arbeitsvermittlung in Oesterreich im Jahre 1905.

In addition to the work indicated by these figures, the registries filled 10,062 vacancies for apprentices in 1905, 9,532 in 1904, and 9,732 in 1903.

No information is available respecting the number of situations, other than for apprentices, offered by employers, and applied for by workpeople, at registries in connection with relief stations but, for other registries, these particulars, together with the number of situations filled, are shown for the years 1903-5 in the following Table:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.
Number of Situations:—			
Offered by Employers ... ..	289,587	357,059	395,729
Applied for by Workpeople ... ..	331,916	420,119	456,828
Filled ... ..	203,393	269,022	297,255

In each of these years the registries have been successful in filling situations in the case of nearly three-quarters of the applications for workpeople by employers, and about three-fifths of the applications for situations by workpeople. The number of applications for situations offered by employers by 18.0 per cent. in 1905, as compared with 17.7 per cent. in the preceding year, and 15.7 per cent. in 1903.

Of the 297,255 situations filled in 1905, 139,423 were for males, and 157,832 for females. Out of those for males 39,928 were in the clothing trades, 17,285 in hotel, inn, restaurant, &c. service, 16,222 in the wood-working trades, 14,656 in the metal and engineering trades, 9,027 in the food trades, 8,451 in agriculture and forestry, and 4,494 in the building trades. Of the vacancies filled by females, 125,885 were in domestic service, and 16,603 in hotel, inn, restaurant, &c. service.

It is interesting to note that the demand for agricultural workers was greater than the supply by 25 per cent., while in every other large group of occupations the reverse was the case, especially in the commercial and transport trades, the metal and engineering trades, and the food trades.

#### MERCHANT SHIPPING, 1905.

THE Annual Return issued by the Board of Trade, entitled "Progress of Merchant Shipping,"\* contains particulars of the foreign trade (shipping entered and cleared) at ports of the United Kingdom and of the principal Foreign Countries and British Possessions during a series of years. Particulars are also given for the United Kingdom of the tonnage of shipping built and on the register, and for the number of seamen employed, wages, and conditions of employment.

#### Vessels Built.

The tonnage built in the United Kingdom in 1905 was 1,048,000 tons net, the greatest ever recorded; it exceeded the tonnage of 1904 by 19 per cent., that of 1903 by no less than 38 per cent., and that of 1901 (983,133), the highest figure previously recorded, by nearly 7 per cent. Of the total tonnage built in 1905 197,015 tons were for foreigners.

The following Table shows the net tonnage of vessels built in the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Germany:—

Period or Year.	United Kingdom.	United States.	France.	Germany.
Mean of 1880-1889 ... ..	592,000	207,000	31,000	44,000
Mean of 1890-1899 ... ..	733,000	226,000	33,000	70,000
Mean of 1900-1902 ... ..	953,000	449,000	118,000	110,000
1903 ... ..	758,000	436,000	50,000	131,000
1904 ... ..	881,000	379,000	74,000	105,000
1905 ... ..	1,048,000	330,000	Cannot be given.	...

In the United States the tonnage built has shown a steady decline during the last five years; the tonnage built in 1905 was, however, still in excess of the average for 1880-1899, but it was frequently exceeded in years earlier than those covered by the Table, particularly between the years 1863 and 1875. The figures for

\* Parliamentary Paper 323 of Session 1906. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 6d.  
† The totals for United States, France, and Germany are of vessels built and added to register.

Germany show a decline in 1904 as compared with 1903, but the figures for France show a recovery.

#### Numbers of Seamen employed on British Vessels.

**British Seamen.**—The number of British seamen employed, inclusive of masters, but exclusive of Lascars, was 180,492 in 1905, as compared with 176,975 in 1904.

**Apprentices.**—The number of apprentices continues to show a decline, as in nearly all previous years for which the records are complete. The number of apprentices' indentures in existence in 1905 was 5,069, and 5,179 in 1904.

**Foreigners and Lascars.**—The number of foreigners (exclusive of Lascars) employed in 1905 was 39,711, as compared with 39,832 in 1904. The number of Lascars and Asiatics was 43,483 in 1905, and 42,682 in 1904.

The number of persons employed per 100 tons in vessels engaged in the foreign trade was 2.02 in 1905, and 2.05 in 1904.

#### Wages.

**Able Seamen.**—The predominant rates of wages paid per month on both steamships and sailing vessels in 1905 were for the most part the same as in the previous year. On sailing vessels the rate was the same (60s.) at all the principal ports. On steamships, however, the rates varied according to both port and voyage. It was highest (90s. per month) at Newcastle, Shields, and Sunderland for all voyages, and lowest (60s.) at Liverpool for voyages to the West Coast of Africa.

At London and Liverpool the rates varied according to voyage, being 80s. at the former port to South and East Africa, South America, West Indies, Australia, and New Zealand; 80s. and 85s. to the Mediterranean, East Indies and China; and 90s. to the East Coast of North America; while at Liverpool the rates were 60s. to West Africa, 70s. to South America, West Indies, West Coast of America and the Mediterranean; 80s. to the East Indies and China; and 80s. and 90s. to the East Coast of North America. At the Bristol Channel ports the rates were 70s. at Bristol, 75s. at Cardiff and Penarth, 75s. and 80s. at Barry, 80s. at Newport, and 85s. at Swansea and Avonmouth.

At Hull the rates were 82s. 6d. and 85s.; they were 80s. at Southampton, Glasgow, Dublin, and Belfast.

**Firemen.**—Wages of firemen remained practically the same as in 1904.

On the East Coast the rates for firemen were the same as for able seamen, except at Hull, where they were 5s. higher. Rates at most ports on the Bristol Channel were the same as for able seamen; at Bristol, Swansea and Avonmouth they were 5s. higher. Wages of firemen at London and at Liverpool were generally 10s., at Southampton 15s., and at Belfast and Dublin 5s. higher than those of able seamen. At Glasgow they were the same as for able seamen.

#### REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD, 1905-6.

THE Report\* of the Local Government Board for England and Wales for the year 1905, which has recently been issued, deals *inter alia* with local administration under County Councils, and under Municipal, District, and Parish Councils; with Poor Law administration, and the administration of the Unemployed Workmen Act; and with local taxation and valuation. Appendices to the Report contain financial and other statistics, and copies of Orders issued by the Board; also reports from district inspectors and from inspectors charged with the administration of special Acts. The present notice relates chiefly to that section of the Report which deals with pauperism and poor relief, and with the administration of the Unemployed Workmen Act.

#### Pauperism.

The increase in pauperism, which has formed so marked a feature of the returns for the last four years, continued in the year 1905, but at a less rapid rate; and in December, 1905, there was an actual decrease as

\* 35th Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1905-6. Cd. 3,105. price 4s. 10d.



compared with December, 1904. This decrease, however, as was pointed out in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for September last (page 264), occurred exclusively in urban areas outside London. In London there was a slight increase, and also in Unions exclusively rural; while in Unions partly rural and partly urban, but in which less than 75 per cent. of the population was comprised in urban districts, the increase was considerable. Moreover, the decrease in the urban areas outside London, which amounted to 13,000, is more than counter-balanced by the number (15,000) of persons who on the 1st January were employed on relief works, by or through Distress Committees under the Unemployed Workmen Act.

The number of indoor paupers (excepting casual paupers and insane paupers) relieved in England and Wales was 214,884 on July 1st, 1905, and 244,564 on January 1st, 1906, increases of 8,766 and 6,248 respectively as compared with the previous year. As regards outdoor paupers, the number relieved was 532,778 on July 1st, 1905, the highest number relieved in July since the exceptional year 1898; but the figure for January 1st, 1906 (557,504) showed a decrease of 13,000 as compared with a year previously. In all cases, but especially in the case of indoor relief, the number of men relieved is greater than formerly in proportion to the number of women and children relieved. Taking the indoor paupers only, the number of men has increased 26,000, or 30 per cent., in the ten years since 1896; while the number of women has increased only 12,500 (21 per cent.), and the number of children only 6,000 (11 per cent.). As regards outdoor paupers, men have increased 8 per cent., and women only 4 per cent. in the same period; while children have actually decreased 2½ per cent.

The number of insane paupers again shows an increase, and is now 111,000, or 27 per cent. more than in 1896, and 55 per cent. more than in 1886.

The report of Mr. Lockwood, the Local Government Board Inspector for London, contains a comparison of the pauper statistics of London for the years 1895 and 1905, two years of maximum unemployment. The number of paupers on January 1st in each of these years was as follows:—

	Indoor.	Outdoor.	Total.	Per thousand of Population.
1895 ...	61,000	42,000	103,000	23.6
1905 ...	70,000	53,000	123,000	26.3

An increase was shown in most of the Unions, but was much more pronounced in some than in others: thus in Poplar it rose from 28 per thousand to 67 per thousand, in Stepney from 24.9 to 36.6 per thousand, and in Bermondsey from 37.4 to 47.1 per thousand; whereas in Whitechapel and in Southwark the increases were only from 21.1 to 21.3 and from 27.8 to 30.3 per thousand respectively, and there were substantial decreases in Bethnal Green, Lambeth, Lewisham, and Woolwich.

Mr. Lockwood draws special attention to the increase in the number of indoor paupers, which he attributes to the following causes, among others:—(i.) The growing readiness to go into workhouse infirmaries, to which the stigma of the ordinary wards is not felt to attach; (ii.) the increased comfort of the accommodation provided in workhouses for the aged and infirm; (iii.) the large numbers of able-bodied persons who live by odd jobs, and "to whom nobody could think of giving regular employment": this class is encouraged by various charitable agencies, such as cheap or free shelters, and cheap or free meals, which "create a constant supply of destitution."

#### Unemployed Workmen Act.

An account of the work of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London appeared in the BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE for July last (p. 196.). The work of the distress committees outside London is summarised in the Report under review, from which the following is extracted:—

The amount of distress from unemployment does not appear to have been very severe except in areas adjacent to London. Thus the number of cases registered in West Ham was 3,498; in East Ham, 1,713; in Edmonton, 761; and in Croydon, 893.

Many cases were disqualified on account of the receipt of Poor Law relief during the prescribed period; but in 1,034 of these cases consent was given to distress committees by the Local Government Board to entertain applications from persons so disqualified. These cases occurred mostly in East and West Ham, Leyton, and Croydon.

The great majority of the unemployed were of the casual or unskilled labour class, and the work which it was found possible to provide—street improvements, drainage works, and similar digging operations—was not well adapted for skilled men. Generally speaking, however, the men appear to have adapted themselves to the work given to them. Such work was largely provided through or with the help of the local authority.

Preference was often given to married men, and to other applicants having persons dependent on them.

Labour Bureaux were established or taken over in many cases; but the Report suggests that further time and experience seems to be needed to make this system effective in relieving unemployment, and mentions the proposal to establish inter-communication between the labour exchanges in different towns.

West Ham is practically the only instance of a distress committee establishing a farm colony; and in this case the carrying out of the scheme involved the distress committee in some difficulty. Other distress committees had proposals for farm colonies under consideration, but seem to have been deterred by financial considerations.

Only 24 distress committees outside London emigrated applicants, to the number of 155, with 284 dependants. This compares with 56 persons emigrated, with 189 dependants, by the Central Body. The cost of the emigration of these 439 persons was £2,391 to the 24 committees: all the emigrants went to Canada, and were usually sent out through the agency of emigration societies, the Salvation Army, &c.

#### THE MINING DISASTER AT COURRIÈRES.

The Home Office have recently issued a Report\* prepared by Mr. Cunynghame, of the Home Office, and Mr. Atkinson, one of the Inspectors of Mines, upon the explosion which took place at the Courrières coal mine, in the Department of Pas-de-Calais, France, on the 10th March last.

The mine is almost entirely free from fire-damp, so that it has been worked in great part with naked lights. It is, however, much encumbered with dust; and the conclusion of Mr. Cunynghame and Mr. Atkinson is that "the explosion was an extensive and very formidable dust explosion, without (in all probability) the presence of any gas." They consider that the explosion would probably have been even more violent if the dust had been of the peculiar fineness and purity found in many English collieries. The coal dust at Courrières is of a more shaly character, and is not powdered so fine as in English collieries, owing to the greater use in France of horse traction instead of the high-speed mechanical traction usual in this country.

The Report comments on the dangers of coal dust as understood in France. "In some quarters," it says, "the idea prevailed that dust alone, without gas, was incapable of propagating an explosion for more than a comparatively short distance. Similar scepticism prevailed in England until repeated experience left no room for doubt that coal dust alone was capable of causing the most formidable and extensive explosions. . . . Nearly all big explosions are chiefly, and in some cases entirely, due to coal dust. . . . However originated, an explosion can travel over the whole extent of a mine by the aid of coal-dust alone and without any gas."

Mr. Cunynghame and Mr. Atkinson consider it probable, from an examination of the workings, that the explosion originated in an attempt to recover a "blow-out" shot, which had failed to explode. It is suggested that, in widening the recess in which the shot was embedded, with a view to recovering it, a badly-aimed

\* Cd. 3171. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 1s. 7d.

blow of the pick may have struck the detonator and so exploded the charge. The Report therefore suggests that the use of explosives in dry and dusty mines requires consideration, with especial reference to the following points:—

- (i.) Whether the English test for explosives requires to be altered;
- (ii.) The maximum charges that should be allowed;
- (iii.) The minimum length of stemming required; and
- (iv.) The method of dealing with shots that have missed fire.

The Report draws attention to one peculiarity of the Courrières Mine that contributed to the wide extent of the explosion, viz., the fact that the workings of distant pits—in one case distant as much as 1,400 yards—were connected together, presumably to facilitate ventilation and haulage, and with a view to increase the means of escape. The Report points out that the connecting passages become means of spreading an explosion if they are covered with dust, and also of conveying smoke and after-damp. If they are to be regarded as affording additional means of escape, it is suggested that, to make them really useful for this purpose, all the officials and a proportion of the workmen should be made acquainted with the roads leading to them, and that direction boards should also be placed along the routes.

The Report, without suggesting that there was any explosion of gases accumulated in abandoned workings in this case, commends the practice of filling up such abandoned workings or "goaf" for the following reasons: (i.) it prevents the accumulation of noxious gas in the abandoned and unventilated spaces; (ii.) it supports and steadies the roof at the working faces; (iii.) it reduces or eliminates liability to spontaneous combustion; and (iv.) it reduces surface subsidence and damage. The filling up of "goaf" is already obligatory in some French mining districts.

#### WORLD'S PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION OF IRON AND STEEL.

A PARLIAMENTARY PAPER\* containing particulars as to the production and consumption of iron ore and of pig-iron, and the production of steel, in the principal iron-producing countries, has recently been published. Particulars of the imports and exports of iron and steel manufactures into and from the various countries are also given. The statistics relate to the years 1890-1904; but figures (generally of a provisional character) are also given for the year 1905 wherever possible.

No other country produces as much as 1 million tons. The total production of iron ore in all countries in 1904 is estimated at 94 million tons, and in 1905 at 114 million tons.

#### Iron Ore.

The following table shows the production of Iron Ore in the principal countries:—

Countries.	Production (in Thousands of Tons).			
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United States ...	35,554	35,019	27,644	44,054†
Germany ...	17,675	20,890	21,693	23,067†
United Kingdom ...	13,426	13,716	13,774	14,591
Spain ...	7,778	8,171	7,837	9,244†
France ...	4,974	6,120	6,910	— †
Russia ...	3,862	4,151	5,187†	— †
Sweden ...	2,850	3,619	4,019	4,295
Austria-Hungary ...	3,254	3,104	3,191	3,425†

The outstanding feature of this Table is the decline in the production of the United States in 1904 and the recovery in 1905. The 1905 figure is nearly four times the figures for 1893 and 1894, which were years of small production in all the principal countries. It may be noted that the production of Germany has almost exactly doubled itself in the same period. As regards the United Kingdom, there has been a remarkable

\* Parliamentary Paper No. 322, of Session 1906: Wyman & Sons, Ltd., price 3d.

† Provisional figures.

‡ Figures not available.

uniformity of production during the whole 16 years, the production of 1905 slightly exceeding that of 1899, the previous highest year of the period; but there has been a considerable fall since the record year, 1882, which had a production of over 18 million tons.

Of the quantities they produced Spain and Sweden export nearly the whole; the United Kingdom exports practically none, and imports about one-third of her total consumption. Germany both imports and exports largely, but her imports are rapidly increasing, and now considerably exceed her exports; Belgium produces only a negligible quantity, and imports practically the whole of her supply (about three million tons yearly).

The following Tables show the consumption of iron ore, and the production of pig iron:—

Countries.	Consumption of Iron Ore (in Thousands of Tons).			
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United States ...	36,631	35,918	27,918	44,692*
Germany ...	18,746	22,741	24,271	25,414*
United Kingdom ...	19,847	20,616	19,861	21,910
France ...	6,046	7,221	7,421	— †
Russia ...	3,439	3,476	4,534*	— †
Austria-Hungary ...	3,211	3,070	3,081	3,344*
Belgium ...	2,399	2,792	3,076	3,103*

#### Pig Iron.

Countries.	Production of Pig Iron (in Thousands of Tons).			
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United States ...	17,821	18,009	16,497	22,992*
Germany ...	8,381	9,857	9,836	10,700*
United Kingdom ...	8,630	8,935	8,694	9,608*
France ...	2,366	2,795	2,926	3,149*
Russia ...	2,521	2,405	2,930	— †
Austria-Hungary ...	1,404	1,364	1,354	1,390*
Belgium ...	1,052	1,196	1,252	1,289*

The above Tables taken in conjunction are interesting as showing the comparative purity of the iron ore used in the various countries; in other words, the proportion of pig iron to iron ore. In the United States the proportion has exceeded 50 per cent. in the last three years, and in Russia is about 65 per cent.; while in Austria-Hungary and in Belgium the proportion is only about 40 per cent. In Germany and in the United Kingdom the average proportion during the last four years has been 43 per cent. The consumption of pig iron does not greatly differ from the production as stated above; the only country which regularly either imports or exports pig iron in large quantities being the United Kingdom, which exports about one million tons yearly.

#### Steel.

Most of the pig iron produced is converted into steel, as will be seen from the following Table:—

Countries.	Production of Steel (in Thousands of Tons).			
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
United States ...	14,947	14,535	13,860	19,913†
Germany ...	7,303	8,115	8,736	10,067†
United Kingdom ...	4,849	5,034	5,027	5,812
France ...	1,543	1,810	2,054	2,076†
Russia ...	2,131	2,328	2,657†	1,650†
Austria-Hungary ...	1,126	Cannot be stated.	—	1,180†
Belgium ...	951	1,277	1,502	1,173†

The relatively small proportion of pig-iron used in the production of steel in the United Kingdom is noticeable. The proportion was about 63 per cent. in the years 1902-4, but rose to 66½ per cent. in 1905. The corresponding proportions for the United States, Germany and France, in the years 1902-4 were 80 per cent., 88 per cent., and 68 per cent. respectively.

It may be noted that acid steel is much in demand in this country, and most of the steel produced whether by the Bessemer or open hearth process is acid steel. In Germany and in the United States, on the other hand, most of the steel is "basic" steel, and is produced by the Bessemer process.

\* Provisional figures.

† Figures not available.



### PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS FROM MACHINERY IN THE COTTON TRADE.

In 1898 the Home Office requested Mr. Beaumont and Mr. Richmond, two of H.M. Superintending Inspectors of Factories, to make a special inquiry into the dangers attending the use of cotton machinery, and their Report was issued in 1899.\* A second Report† by Mr. Richmond has recently been issued, based on the requirements of the Factory Act of 1901, and on the results disclosed by the statistics of accidents compiled annually since the publication of the first Report.

The Report begins by setting forth the provisions and general recommendations of the Factory Act of 1901 with regard to dangerous machinery. It also gives tables of cotton machinery accidents arising from various causes, and a number of illustrations of guards, most of which are already in actual use.

The total number of machinery accidents in the cotton trade in the North-Western division (which embraces over 80 per cent. of the trade throughout the United Kingdom) reached its highest point (2,442) in 1901, and declined in the following years, reaching its lowest point (1,960) in 1904. In 1905 it increased to 2,350, but this was due to the very large increase in the number of cotton mills, 65 new spinning mills having been opened, or being in course of erection, in Lancashire at the end of 1905, with a total addition of 5,740,356 spindles: an addition of 16,000 looms was also reported from the Blackburn district. Since 1900 considerable improvements, with a view to safety, have been introduced in blowing-room machinery and carding engines. The special attention paid to self-acting mules (in connection with which by far the largest number of accidents occur) has produced very satisfactory results, the number of accidents decreasing from 810 in 1900 to 587 in 1904. To secure uniformity of fencing in all districts, the Secretary of State has declared self-acting mules to be dangerous machinery, and has made regulations concerning them, which came into force on January 1st, 1906. After self-acting mules, looms are productive of the largest number of accidents, and it is stated that less seems to have been done by makers in recent years to improve the construction of looms with a view to safety than in the case of any other machine. A large number of loom accidents also arise from the dangerous practice of cleaning them while they are in motion.

### EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

#### Canada.

Work has been very plentiful throughout Canada during the whole of this year in farming, manufacturing, mining, lumbering, railway construction, and other branches of labour. In spite of the large numbers of emigrants who have arrived, the supply of agricultural labourers, and of general labourers on railway construction, was insufficient. The emigration season, however, is now over till next spring, and persons are not recommended to go to Canada during the winter, when outdoor work is greatly reduced owing to the frost and snow, unless they go to take up situations reserved for them. The strike of plumbers at Winnipeg, of coalminers at Coal Creek, B.C. and at Lethbridge (Alberta), and of men in the building trades at Calgary, were still unsettled at the end of September.

#### Commonwealth of Australia.

There are assisted passages for emigrants to New South Wales, and competent agricultural labourers are in demand. The most important labour event in New South Wales has been the averting of a strike at the Maitland collieries, which threatened to affect the Newcastle collieries and all the large manufacturing

\* See BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1900, p. 37.  
† Report to the Home Office on Safeguards for the Prevention of Accidents in the Manufacture of Cotton, by H. S. Richmond, one of H.M. Superintending Inspectors of Factories. [Cd. 3168.] Price 3s. 6d.  
‡ Handbooks with maps on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

industries of Australia. The matters in dispute were the continuance of the night shift (8 hours) or dog watch, which the men said was destructive of home life, and as to an increase in the hewing rate. A compromise has been effected by which the dog watch will, with some limitations, be abolished after the next few months, and the hewing rate is to be shortly increased 4d. a ton, instead of 8d. as claimed. At the large Broken Hill silver mines the number of men at work has risen to over 8,000; it is stated that there never has been such a demand for experienced men such as carpenters, masons, mill hands, miners, truckers, and surface hands, but that it is impossible to say how long it may last. At Sydney employment in the factories showed great improvement in 1905. This was especially the case in factories dealing with wool scouring, engineering, meat preserving, clothing and textile trades, boots, hats and caps, shirts, printing, coach building, ship building, and electric plant.

In Victoria bricklayers, carpenters, and plasterers have struck for a 44 hour week. In that and other States the wages of seamen, firemen, boatswains, and trimmers have been advanced 10s. a month. There is not much demand for more mechanics, but competent farm, vineyard, and orchard hands should be able to obtain work.

In other parts of Australia the principal opening is for experienced farm labourers, and for farmers with enough capital to take up land after they have learned local conditions.

#### New Zealand.

Domestic servants are eligible for reduced passages at £10 and £12 a head, if they will have £2 on landing in the Colony. There is a good demand for them. Similar passages may also be granted to suitable emigrants who have a small capital. This is the summer season in New Zealand, and the building trades, flax, timber mills, manufacturing and agricultural industries are busy. The local supply of men is mostly sufficient, but others—if thoroughly competent—should be able to secure work without much difficulty. There is usually a demand for female machinists and workers in the boot and clothing factories at Auckland, in the woollen mills at Wellington, and for shirtmakers in factories at Christchurch.

#### South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony in search of work. There is a plentiful supply of men on the spot, many of whom are unable to find employment. Nearly all trades—except biscuit making—were very dull at Cape Town during September, among the worst being the building trades, coach and wagon building, harness making, furniture making, tobacco making and railway works. In all the other large towns the supply of labour exceeded the demand. The wages of masons, plumbers, plasterers, bricklayers, carpenters and joiners at Cape Town have been reduced by 2d. an hour. No one is allowed to land in the Colony unless he possesses £20, or has secured employment beforehand. The aided passages are suspended.

Natal.—There is no opening for more mechanics or labourers, the local supply being more than sufficient, and work difficult to secure. At Durban many are unemployed, and some have been supplied with work on the Corporation relief works. At Mariszborg labour is "far in excess of demand." Nominated passages are suspended.

Transvaal.—Persons entering the Transvaal must have permits, which are given immediately to those making personal application in South Africa, unless there is any police record against them. All persons are warned against going to the Colony in search of work. Employment is very scarce, and much distress exists, owing to the high cost of living among those who are unable to obtain it. Some 40 white employees have recently been discharged at the railway works at Germiston owing to the falling off in business. In country districts, farmers have seriously suffered from the late heavy hail storms. There is some demand for female servants, who may

obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—The rules as to permits are the same as those in the Transvaal. There is no demand whatever for mechanics, miners, farm, or general labourers. Female servants may obtain reduced passages through the South African Colonisation Society above mentioned. Recruiting in England for the South African Constabulary has ceased.

### LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 317 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom and foreign countries.]

#### FRANCE.\*

Employment in September.—During September, workpeople in the building and allied trades continued fully employed. The metal trades on the whole also continued busy. In the textile trades employment was not so good as in August at Rheims and in the Vosges, though it was still fairly good. It was good with silk workers, especially with machine weavers; but in the small workshops at Lyons and in the country districts there was some decline. The garment-making trades were still slack, but a revival took place in the hat trades. With glovemakers, and with tanners and curriers, employment was good. The slack season for printers and bookbinders had not terminated. The amount of unemployment was considerably less with vineyard workers in the south, but increased somewhat among woodcutters and other agricultural workers in the centre. Gardeners in Paris and the districts around continued well employed.

In the returns as to the state of employment during September received by the French Labour Department from 1,106 Trade Unions with 222,399 members, 5.9 per cent. of the members to whom the returns related were described as out of work, as compared with 7.5 per cent. in the preceding month and 7.7 per cent. in September, 1905. (As regards these figures see Note above.) Returns from the Miners' Unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais Departments are not included in the foregoing details.

Coal-Mining in September.—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal-mining in France during September was 5.93, as compared with 5.95 in the previous month, and with 5.90 in September, 1905. Full time (6 days and over per week) was worked by 77.78 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 22.22 per cent. of all workpeople (whether surface or underground workers), the corresponding percentages for the preceding month being 81.17 and 18.37, and for September, 1905, 71.58 and 27.95 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coal Owners, and relate to about 160,000 workpeople, or three-fourths of all employed in or about the mines.

Labour Disputes in September.—Eighty-two disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in September, compared with 76 in the preceding month, and 52 in September, 1905. In 77 of the new disputes 11,265 workpeople took part, as compared with 12,030 who took part in 69 of the August disputes, and 12,201 who took part in the disputes of September, 1905. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes took place were the textile (23 disputes), food (12), transport (10), building (9), and metal (8). Out of 81 new and old disputes which came to an end in September, 18 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 31 in favour of the employers, while 32 resulted in a compromise.

Conciliation and Arbitration in September.—Ten cases of recourse to the Law on Conciliation and Arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred during September, the initiative having

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

been taken by the Justice of the Peace in four, and by the workpeople in six cases. The employers declined the proffered mediation in five cases, but in the other five Committees of Conciliation were formed. These Committees were successful in settling three of the cases. In one other case the dispute was settled by arbitration, and, in the remaining case, no agreement was reached.

#### BELGIUM.

Employment in September.—According to reports made to the Belgian Labour Department, 139 Trade Unions with 31,400 members had 1.8 per cent. of their number out of work towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.9 per cent. both in the preceding month and in September, 1905. As regards these figures, which do not include particulars relating to miners, homeworkers or agricultural labourers, see Note under "Labour Abroad."

Lock-out in the Textile Industry at Verviers†.—(See last month's GAZETTE, page 295.) Under an agreement arrived at by representatives of the employers and workpeople on October 30th, the latter obtained the recognition of their Union, and it was decided to form a conciliation committee for the settlement of future differences. Most of the workpeople have now resumed work, but some have refused to do so.

#### GERMANY.

Employment in September.—The state of the labour market in September was decidedly favourable. In most trades there was some difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of labour, and wages consequently exhibited a rising tendency, notwithstanding the additional labour available in the towns and industrial centres owing to the termination of the principal agricultural operations, and of the holiday season. Employment generally was very good in the building and allied trades. Coalminers were well employed, as also were persons employed in nearly every branch of the metal and engineering trades, and in the electrical, textile and chemical trades. The slack season in the printing and clothing trades came to an end in September.

Unemployment in German Trade Unions in the Third Quarter of 1906.‡—The report on unemployment among members of Trade Unions during the third quarter of 1906, published in the Journal of the German Labour Department, is not compiled on exactly the same basis as previous reports. For the first time, it was made clear to the persons furnishing returns that all members out of work were to be included as unemployed, whether in receipt of unemployed benefit or not. Formerly, a certain proportion of members who were out of work, but who were not entitled to unemployed benefit, were not included in the returns as unemployed. For this reason, therefore, the statistics relating to the third quarter of 1906 are not strictly comparable with those for previous quarters, but to what extent the figures are affected by this difference it is not possible to state. The number of unemployed members is now stated for the last working day of the 4th and 8th weeks of the quarter, as well as for the last working day of the 13th week.

The aggregate membership covered by the returns as to unemployment, after allowing for incomplete returns from certain branches of the Unions reporting, was 1,254,941, of whom 10,428 (or 0.83 per cent.) were unemployed on July 28th, and 9,940 (or 0.79 per cent.) were unemployed on August 25th. On the last working day of the quarter, September 29th, the number of unemployed was 13,058, or 1.04 per cent. of the total membership covered by the returns. The percentage of unemployed at the end of September, 1905, as indicated by returns on the old basis, was 1.36. As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" above.

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal Unions for which figures are available, the number of members to whom the returns as to un-

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

† Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Brussels, dated November 10th, and on newspaper reports.

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



employment relate, and the percentage of such members unemployed:—

Name and Headquarters of Union.	Number of Members to whom Returns as to Unemployment relate.		Percentage of such Membership Unemployed on		
	Sept. 29 and Aug. 25, 1906.	Sept. 30, 1905.	Sept. 29, 1906.	Aug. 25, 1906.	Sept. 30, 1905.*
Metal Workers (Stuttgart) ...	317,781	222,875	0.6	0.9	1.0
Woodworkers (Stuttgart) ...	147,584	122,468	1.2	0.9	1.0
Miners (Bochum) ...	104,550	125,600	0.6	0.7	0.8
Commercial and Transport Employees (Berlin) ...	64,892	48,150	0.6	0.7	0.8
Engineers & Metal Workers (Berlin) ...	51,537	41,504	0.5	0.5	0.6
Printers (Berlin) ...	46,640	41,217	5.1	6.0	6.5

**Labour Disputes in October.**—According to the Berlin journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt* 62 labour disputes commenced in October, as compared with 34 in the previous month. Of these, 18 occurred in the metal and engineering trades, 10 in the transport trades, 8 in the woodworking, etc., trades, 4 in mining and smelting, 4 in the pottery, etc., trades, 4 in the food preparation trades, and 14 in trades not included within any of these groups.

**NORWAY.†**

**Employment in September.**—Of 15,615 members of Trade Unions forwarding Returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 173, or 1.1 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of September. (As regards these figures, see note under "Labour Abroad.") For comparison, the figures for September 1906, August 1906, and September 1905, are given for some principal Trade Unions which made Returns for each of these three months, and it will be seen that the Returns indicate an improvement in September, 1906, as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed.		
	Sept., 1906.	Aug., 1906.	Sept., 1905.	Sept., 1906.	Aug., 1906.	Sept., 1905.
Metal Workers & Moulders	4,967	4,827	4,040	0.7	0.7	1.8
Painters and Masons	510	458	345	3.3	2.7	6.7
Carpenters, &c.	372	364	550	3.1	2.4	2.9
Sawyers and Planers	381	386	354	0.3	0.3	37.08
Cabinet Makers	323	335	262	0.3	3.0	1.5
Boot and Shoe Makers	440	412	380	—	—	0.3
Printers	1,007	1,002	896	1.9	4.1	4.1
Bookbinders	186	175	178	2.7	4.0	2.8
Other Trades	322	309	160	0.3	4.5	—
Total	9,008	8,762	7,135	1.2	1.6	2.31

**HOLLAND.‡**

**Employment in September.**—In the building trades employment was worse than a month ago, especially in the large towns. It continued favourable in the metal and shipbuilding trades. Diamond workers continued fully employed. In the textile industry employment was good and in the clothing trades it was better than a month ago. With boot and shoe makers, however, it was generally unsatisfactory. Employment in the woodworking trades and in the printing and bookbinding trades was about the same as a month ago. With persons employed in the cultivation of bulbs it continued good. No change was reported in the tobacco trades, the number of workpeople unemployed being considerable.

**Labour Disputes in September.**—Seventeen strikes were reported as having begun in September, 13 of which directly involved approximately 1,437 persons. Eight of these strikes were among agricultural workers, two were in the building and two in the food trades. A lock-out of about 7,000 workpeople in 15 textile weaving establishments also began in September. Fourteen of the above strikes came to an end in September, and, in addition, 2, which began in August, also terminated. In the 12 cases in which the results were reported, 3 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 5 in favour of the employers, and 4 were compromised.

\* Compiled on the old basis; see text above.  
 † Less than 0.1 per cent.  
 ‡ Information supplied through the courtesy of the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.  
 § This figure is stated to be due to special circumstances.  
 ¶ Excluding sawyers and planers.  
 †† *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (Journal of the Central Statistical Bureau of Holland).

**REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN OCTOBER.**

**COAL MINING.**

(Based on 506 Returns—427 from Employers, 55 from Trade Unions, and 24 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was good during October, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,378 pits employing 598,013 workpeople show that the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended October 20th, 1906, was 5.49, as compared with 5.30 in September, and 5.35 in October, 1905.

Of the 598,013 workpeople covered by the Returns, 523,134 (or 87.5 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended October 20th, and of these 420,536 (or 70.3 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is stated for the three periods specified. This Table shows that, compared with a month ago and a year ago, there was an increase in the number of days worked in nearly every district. The improvement, as compared with a month ago, was greatest in Gloucester and Somerset, the Midland Counties, Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire. Compared with a year ago, the improvement was most noticeable in West Yorkshire, and in the small districts of Cumberland and North Wales.

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Oct., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
		October 20th, 1906.	Sept. 22nd, 1906.	October 21st, 1905.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		5.49	5.29	5.35	+ .20	+ .14
Northumberland ...	40,648	5.47	5.42	5.26	+ .05	+ .21
Durham ...	111,479	5.51	5.54	5.44	– .03	+ .07
Cumberland ...	7,527	5.79	5.70	5.19	+ .09	+ .60
South Yorkshire ...	61,257	5.80	5.50	5.56	+ .30	+ .24
West Yorkshire ...	22,686	5.31	4.78	4.85	+ .53	+ .46
Lancashire and Cheshire	54,876	5.08	4.71	5.04	+ .37	+ .04
Derbyshire ...	40,025	4.97	4.56	5.05	+ .41	– .08
Nottingham and Leicestershire	30,237	4.98	4.68	4.79	+ .30	+ .19
Staffordshire ...	24,614	5.21	4.62	5.01	+ .59	+ .20
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	9,363	5.28	4.98	5.34	+ .30	– .06
Gloucester and Somerset	7,233	5.38	4.68	5.37	+ .70	+ .01
North Wales ...	11,476	5.61	5.55	5.09	+ .06	+ .52
South Wales and Mon. ...	123,957	5.89	5.80	5.74	+ .09	+ .15
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES...</b>	<b>545,388</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>5.29</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>+ .20</b>	<b>+ .14</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ...	24,703	5.35	5.27	5.24	+ .08	+ .11
The Lothians ...	6,050	5.70	5.66	5.50	+ .04	+ .20
Fife ...	21,239	5.61	5.59	5.49	+ .02	+ .12
<b>SCOTLAND ...</b>	<b>51,992</b>	<b>5.60</b>	<b>5.45</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>+ .05</b>	<b>+ .13</b>
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Ireland ...	633	5.56	5.28	5.28	+ .28	+ .28
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>598,013</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>5.20</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>+ .19</b>	<b>+ .14</b>

In the *Northern Counties* employment was reported as good. In Yorkshire it showed a considerable improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In Lancashire it was considerably better than in September.

In the *Midlands* employment was fairly good on the whole, and much better than a month ago. In the Coalville and Cannock Chase districts, however, employment, though improving, was still dull, and in the Oldhill district a slight decline was reported.

In *Wales* and *Scotland* employment continued good, the average number of days worked per week in South Wales being, for each of the periods under review, the highest worked in any district.

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

employing 191,665 workpeople it was found impossible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "Mixed":—

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Oct., 1906, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
		Oct. 20th, 1906.	Sept. 22nd, 1906.	Oct. 21st, 1905.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	8,018	5.81	5.67	5.75	+ .14	+ .06
Coking ...	30,260	5.64	5.70	5.46	+ .06	+ .18
Gas ...	49,180	5.41	5.35	5.28	+ .06	+ .13
House ...	82,974	5.14	4.76	5.01	+ .38	+ .13
Manufacturing and Steam	244,976	5.66	5.52	5.49	+ .14	+ .17
Mixed ...	191,665	5.41	5.16	5.30	+ .25	+ .11
<b>All Descriptions ...</b>	<b>598,013</b>	<b>5.49</b>	<b>5.30</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>+ .19</b>	<b>+ .14</b>

The improvement in October as compared with September was greatest in pits producing house and mixed coal. For each of the periods under review, however, these pits worked less than the general average for all classes of coal.

The improvement compared with a year ago was evenly distributed among all classes of coal.

The **Exports** of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in October, 1906, amounted to 5,309,560 tons, as compared with 4,843,491 tons in September, 1906, and 4,350,621 tons in October, 1905.

**IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.**

(Based on 89 returns—75 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines and fairly good in shale mines. Compared with a year ago employment in shale mines showed a slight decline.

Employment continued good in tin, copper and lead mines. In quarries it was fair on the whole.

**Mining.**

**Iron Mining.**—During the four weeks ended October 20th, the average weekly number of days worked by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.90, as compared with 5.89 in September, and 5.85 in October, 1905.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in Oct., 1906, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in October, 1906, as compared with	
		Oct. 20th, 1906.	Sept. 22nd, 1906.	Oct. 21st, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland ...	7,359	5.99	5.95	5.92	+ .04	+ .07
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,089	5.94	5.89	5.94	+ .05	...
Scotland ...	955	5.69	5.83	5.39	– .14	+ 0.30
Other Districts ...	2,873	5.71	5.75	5.64	– .04	+ 0.07
<b>All Districts ...</b>	<b>16,276</b>	<b>5.90</b>	<b>5.89</b>	<b>5.85</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>	<b>+ 0.05</b>

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 97.0 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended October 20th, as compared with 96.3 per cent. in September, and 90.4 per cent. in October, 1905.

**Shale Mining.**—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,080 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended October 20th, as compared with 3,103 a month ago, and 3,170\* a year ago. The average weekly number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 20th was 5.61, as compared with 5.64 a month ago, and 5.74\* a year ago.

**Tin and Copper Mining.**—Employment was good and continued to improve in Cornwall, particularly in West Cornwall. Preparations have been made for the

\* Revised figures.

re-opening of several disused mines, and there is a demand for miners in the neighbourhood of Camborne.

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

**Quarrying.**

**Slate.**—Employment was fair in Carnarvonshire, and quiet in Merionethshire and at Ballachulish (Argyllshire).

**Granite.**—Employment continued fair in Aberdeenshire, and good in North Wales. It was slack in Leicestershire and worse than a month ago. In Devonshire and Cornwall there was still slackness, but a slight improvement on a month ago was shown in some districts.

**Limestone.**—Employment continued good in Weardale, Cumberland, and South Durham. It was fair in the Buxton district, where, however, the weather somewhat hindered employment. It was fair also in the Plymouth district.

**Other Stone.**—Chert quarrymen in Derbyshire were well employed, overtime being worked. Employment was fair and slightly better than a month ago in the Rowsley building and grindstone quarries, some short time, however, being worked on account of wet weather. Employment continued fair in the Clee Hill road-material quarries. In the Sheffield district, and at Barnsley, employment was moderate, and at Normanton it was slack. It was moderate at Gateshead, and remained bad in Forfarshire.

**Sett-making.**—Employment continued fair in Aberdeenshire. It was still good at Glasgow, but at Airdrie it was reported as having declined, while it continued bad at Edinburgh. In North Wales employment was good, and it was fair in the Clee Hill district. At Stoney Stanton (Leicestershire) employment was dull and worse than a month ago.

**China Clay.**—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district and at Lee Moor.

**PIG IRON INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 111 Returns—108 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, 1 from a Local Correspondent, and 1 other.)

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

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing 24,900 workpeople at the end of October, showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of the month was 344, being two more than at the end of September, 1906, and 13 more than at the end of October, 1905. During October, three furnaces were re-lit, one in Cleveland, one in Cumberland, and one in Ayrshire. One furnace was blown out in Ayrshire.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
	October, 1906.	September, 1906.	October, 1905.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>					
Cleveland ...	90	89	87	+ 1	+ 3
Cumberland & Lanes.	38	37	36	+ 1	+ 2
S. and S.W. Yorks.	16	16	16	...	...
Derby & Nottingham	40	40	38	...	+ 2
Leicester, Lincoln, } and Northampton }	27	27	28	...	– 1
Stafford & Worcester	35	35	34	...	+ 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	17	17	14	...	+ 3
Other districts ...	7	7	7	...	...
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>+ 10</b>
<b>Scotland ...</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>+ 3</b>
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>+ 13</b>



The Imports of iron ore in October, 1906, amounted to 653,784 tons, or 125,185 tons more than in September, 1906, and 54,746 tons more than in October, 1905.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom during October, 1906, amounted to 152,903 tons, as compared with 142,635 tons in September, 1906, and 95,426 tons in October, 1905.

### IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 225 Returns—206 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents; 5 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

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

The total volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended October 20th, 1906, at the 206 works from which Returns were received, was 1·4 per cent. greater than in the week ended September 22nd, 1906, and 4·6 per cent. greater than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 550,500, as compared with 542,900 a month ago, and 526,300 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.			Average Number of Shifts worked per man.		
	In week ended Oct. 20th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		In week ended Oct. 20th, 1906.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>IRON:</b>						
Puddling Forges ...	10,516	+ 104	+ 105	5·16	+ 0·02	+ 0·06
Rolling Mills ...	4,486	+ 4	- 11	5·12	+ 0·08	+ 0·02
Forging ...	504	+ 33	+ 17	5·03	+ 0·07	...
Founding ...	2,105	+ 66	+ 32	6·00	+ 0·04	+ 0·19
Other Departments ...	672	+ 18	+ 75	5·90	- 0·02	+ 0·03
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,623	+ 56	+ 97	5·58	...	- 0·01
<b>Total Iron ...</b>	<b>19,906</b>	<b>+ 149</b>	<b>+ 251</b>	<b>5·31</b>	<b>+ 0·03</b>	<b>+ 0·06</b>
<b>STEEL:</b>						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,763	+ 90	+ 348	5·87	+ 0·01	- 0·02
Crucible Furnaces ...	704	+ 31	+ 101	5·66	+ 0·21	+ 0·18
Bessemer Converters ...	2,001	- 14	+ 45	5·19	+ 0·10	+ 0·24
Rolling Mills ...	15,835	+ 37	+ 809	5·45	+ 0·02	- 0·06
Forging and Pressing ...	2,951	+ 20	+ 206	5·93	+ 0·06	+ 0·01
Founding ...	8,460	+ 20	+ 131	5·89	...	...
Other Departments ...	6,768	+ 121	+ 551	5·85	+ 0·04	...
Mechanics, Labourers ...	9,767	+ 266	+ 899	5·93	+ 0·01	...
<b>Total Steel ...</b>	<b>55,252</b>	<b>+ 497</b>	<b>+ 3,110</b>	<b>5·72</b>	<b>+ 0·02</b>	<b>- 0·01</b>
<b>IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):</b>						
Rolling Mills ...	11,913	+ 146	+ 419	5·30	+ 0·02	- 0·05
Forging and Pressing ...	729	+ 2	+ 100	5·54	+ 0·10	- 0·23
Founding ...	771	+ 54	+ 92	5·92	- 0·03	...
Other Departments ...	3,337	+ 39	+ 8	5·81	+ 0·03	+ 0·01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,520	+ 14	+ 322	5·75	+ 0·04	- 0·06
<b>Total Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ...</b>	<b>23,270</b>	<b>+ 255</b>	<b>+ 941</b>	<b>5·53</b>	<b>+ 0·03</b>	<b>- 0·04</b>
<b>Total—All Iron and Steel Works ...</b>	<b>98,428</b>	<b>+ 901</b>	<b>+ 4,302</b>	<b>5·59</b>	<b>+ 0·02</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
Northumberland & Durham ...	12,337	+ 22	+ 509	5·60	- 0·01	+ 0·03
Cleveland ...	7,924	- 169	+ 420	5·44	- 0·19	- 0·19
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	19,069	+ 154	+ 1,226	5·74	+ 0·06	+ 0·05
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns ...	4,377	+ 55	- 41	5·58	+ 0·04	- 0·10
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches. ...	11,510	+ 415	+ 661	5·56	+ 0·21	+ 0·01
Staffordshire ...	10,404	+ 171	+ 544	5·47	- 0·01	+ 0·04
Other Midland Counties ...	5,108	+ 21	+ 164	5·46	...	- 0·05
Wales and Monmouth ...	9,917	+ 125	+ 299	5·63	+ 0·01	+ 0·05
<b>Total England and Wales ...</b>	<b>80,646</b>	<b>+ 794</b>	<b>+ 3,782</b>	<b>5·59</b>	<b>+ 0·02</b>	<b>...</b>
Scotland ...	17,782	+ 107	+ 520	5·59	+ 0·04	...
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>98,428</b>	<b>+ 901</b>	<b>+ 4,302</b>	<b>5·59</b>	<b>+ 0·02</b>	<b>...</b>

As was the case a month ago, the average number of shifts worked per man per week was lowest at iron rolling mills (5·12), and highest at iron foundries (6·00).

There was a general increase in the number of workpeople employed compared with a month ago, the only exceptions being small decreases at iron foundries,

Bessemer converting departments, and steel rolling mills. In the Cleveland district there was a decrease of 2 per cent. in the number employed, but in all other districts some increase took place. In Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire the increase was as great as 3·7 per cent., and in addition to this, the average number of shifts worked per man per week rose from 5·35 to 5·56, so that the slight decline in this district reported in last month's GAZETTE has now been more than made up.

The number of workpeople employed was greater than a year ago in every department except iron rolling and founding, and in every district except "Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire towns." In each case, however, the decline was very slight.

### TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

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

EMPLOYMENT during October was good, and better on the whole than a year ago. At sheet mills it was not quite so good as a month ago, but at tinplate works it was better.

At the works covered by the Returns, 385 tinplate mills were working at the end of October, as compared with 369 in September, and 386 a year ago; the number of sheet mills working for the same periods was 56, 61, and 49 respectively. At the 441 mills working, about 22,000 workpeople were employed.

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

	October, 1906.		September, 1906.		October, 1905.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	73	385	72	369	77	386
Sheet Mills ...	9	56	9	61	7	49
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>435</b>

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

	Oct., 1906.		Sept., 1906.		Oct., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1906, as compared with
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	
<b>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</b>							
To United States ...	6,860	7,403	4,359	- 543	+ 2,507		
.. Other Countries ...	26,655	25,083	21,172	+ 1,572	+ 5,483		
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>33,515</b>	<b>32,486</b>	<b>25,531</b>	<b>+ 1,029</b>	<b>+</b>		
<b>Black Plates for Tinning.</b>							
To all Countries ...	6,078	5,772	7,148	+ 306	- 1,067		

### SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 374 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 349 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed some decline compared with a month ago, but was rather better than a year ago. On the Clyde most of the shipyards were at a standstill owing to a dispute. In other districts employment was moderate on the whole.

Branches of Trade Unions with 59,615 members had 6,217\* (or 10·4 per cent.) unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 6·5 per cent. at the end of September, and 11·9 per cent. at the end of October, 1905.

Compared with a month ago, the percentages of unemployed indicate a decline in employment in nearly

\* Exclusive of members on strike.

every district. The greatest percentage decline occurred on the Mersey. The heavy decline in the Clyde district was mainly due to shipwrights having been thrown out of work by the strike of iron ship builders.

Compared with a year ago, there was an improvement in seven districts, and a decline in five districts, the greatest change in the percentage unemployed being in the Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen district, which showed an improvement from 16·5 in 1905 to 7·9 in 1906. There was also an improvement in the Tyne, South Coast, and Belfast districts.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1906, included in the Returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Oct., 1906, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	10,244	7·1	5·8	10·9	+ 1·3	- 3·8
Wear ...	5,191	6·1	2·4	7·2	+ 3·7	- 1·1
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,305	11·8	9·1	10·0	+ 2·7	+ 1·8
Humber ...	2,641	11·2	12·3	8·9	- 1·1	+ 2·3
Thames and Medway ...	4,669	11·4	7·9	13·1†	+ 3·5	- 1·7
South Coast ...	4,069	5·6	4·2	9·4	+ 1·4	- 3·8
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,547	16·7	15·4	10·3	+ 1·3	+ 0·4
Mersey ...	3,844	23·9	14·1	23·5	+ 9·8	+ 0·4
Clyde ...	12,771	12·2	3·0	12·0	+ 9·2	+ 0·2
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,443	7·9	5·1	16·5	+ 2·8	- 8·6
Belfast ...	2,874	5·7	6·1	9·6	- 0·4	- 3·9
Other Districts ...	2,994	7·4	5·1	9·9	+ 2·3	- 2·5
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>69,615</b>	<b>10·4</b>	<b>6·5</b>	<b>11·9</b>	<b>+ 3·9</b>	<b>- 1·5</b>

Employment on the Tyne was fair on the whole, and better than a year ago. With shipwrights at Wallsend and Jarrow it was good. On the Wear employment continued fairly good generally, but some delay was occasioned by bad weather, and graving-dock work was reported to be rather scarce. In the Tees district employment was reported as dull at Stockton and Hartlepool, but fairly good at Middlesbrough. On the Humber it was dull, except at Beverley, Goole, and New Holland, where it was fairly good.

In the Thames and Medway district employment continued slack. On the South Coast it was fair on the whole, and better than a year ago, but slack at Southampton and Plymouth. At the Bristol Channel ports and in the Mersey district employment was slack, and with iron ship builders in the latter district it was reported to be worse than in any previous month of 1906.

On the Clyde most of the shipyards were at a standstill owing to the dispute.

At Dundee and Leith employment was fair on the whole, and better than a year ago. At Aberdeen it was fairly good; at Belfast fair, and better than a year ago; at Barrow slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; at Dublin, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft it was dull; and at Cork bad.

### ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 978 Returns—13 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 930 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 35 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good. It showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions showed that of 156,122 members, 4,916, or 3·1 per cent., were unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 2·8 at the end of September, and 4·0 per cent. a year ago.

From the following Table it appears that the greatest decline in employment, as compared with a month ago, was in the North of England and in the Glasgow district. In the latter district, however, employment was affected by the dispute in the shipyards. In every district, except the North-East Coast, an improvement is shown as compared with a year ago, the decrease in the percentage of unemployed being most marked in the West Riding, in East Scotland, and in Ireland.

\* Exclusive of superannuated members.

† Revised figure.

‡ Inclusive of members on strike.

§ Exclusive of members on strike.

Percentages for the various districts are shown below:—

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Oct., 1906, included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Oct., 1906, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,234	6·0	5·1	4·8	+ 0·9	+ 1·2
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,367	2·5	2·3	3·8	+ 0·2	- 1·3
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,970	2·1	1·9	3·3	+ 0·2	- 1·2
West Riding Towns ...	12,793	2·8	3·2	5·2	- 0·4	- 2·4
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,613	2·9	3·0	3·3	- 0·1	- 0·4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,040	2·3	2·0	2·8	+ 0·3	- 0·5
Nottingham, Derby and Leicester District	4,074	2·7	3·0	4·9	- 0·3	- 2·2
London and Neighbouring District	12,507	3·7	3·2	4·2	+ 0·5	- 0·5
South Coast ...	4,000	2·4	2·1	4·2	+ 0·3	- 1·8
South Wales and Bristol District	6,767	2·7	3·3	4·5	- 0·6	- 1·8
Glasgow and District ...	15,146	4·9	4·9	5·4	+ 0·9	- 0·5
West of Scotland ...	3,799	4·2	4·1	7·4	+ 0·1	- 3·2
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,482	3·8	3·8	6·6	...	- 2·8
Other Districts ...	5,944	2·1	2·2	2·7	+ 0·1	- 0·6
<b>United Kingdom</b> (Including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	<b>186,122</b>	<b>3·1</b>	<b>2·8</b>	<b>4·0</b>	<b>+ 0·3</b>	<b>- 0·9</b>

On the North-East Coast employment was fairly good with turners, fitters, and machinemem, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago. At Hartlepool it continued bad. It was good with ironfounders, but patternmakers reported a considerable decline in employment.

Employment in Lancashire continued good generally, and a good deal of overtime was worked. Brassfounders at Liverpool, however, again reported employment as bad.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire employment continued good on the whole, and rather better than a month ago; it was also better than a year ago. At Leeds overtime was worked, but at Sheffield some short time was reported. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment was good with ironfounders and machine workers, and with smiths and strikers; fair with engineers; dull with patternmakers and brassfounders.

Employment with engineers and toolmakers at Birmingham continued fairly good, but was rather more quiet than a month ago. Considerable overtime was worked by ironfounders. In the cycle industry employment was reported as fair at Birmingham and Coventry, considering the season, and slack at Wolverhampton. It was good at motor works throughout the district.

At Nottingham, Leicester, and Derby employment was good on the whole; but with makers of hosiery machines, cycles and motors at Nottingham it was stated to be dull. Some overtime was reported with engineers and brassmoulders and brassfinishers at Derby. Employment generally was better than a year ago.

In Suffolk and Essex employment was good with engineers, fair with ironmoulders and boilermakers. In Norfolk it was fairly good generally, with some overtime.

In London and district employment was only moderate, and showed a decline in some branches, but was slightly better than a year ago. It was good with iron and brass founders, but dull with brassfinishers and smiths.

On the South Coast employment was moderate, and better than a year ago. It was bad with ironfounders at Plymouth.

Employment was moderate with engineers at Bristol. With ironfounders it improved, and was fair. At Swindon employment was good, and some overtime was worked. In South Wales employment was fair with engineers, good with ironfounders.

On the Clyde employment in engineering shops was affected by the dispute in the shipyards, but it remained good generally, and an improvement was reported in the case of patternmakers. At Edinburgh and Aberdeen it was quiet. At Falkirk it was dull, short time being worked. At Dundee it was fairly good.

Employment at Dublin continued dull, and at Belfast fair, and better than a year ago. It remained bad, however, with patternmakers.

\* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.



**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

(Based on 52 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 26 from Trade Unions, and 23 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades continued good on the whole, and about the same as a year ago. It was rather slack in the cutlery and stove-grate trades. Eighteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 15,288, had 380, or 2.5 per cent., of their members unemployed at the end of October, compared with the same percentage in September, and 2.4 per cent. a year ago.

**Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.**—At Birmingham employment was fair on the whole, but it continued bad with bedstead makers. At Nottingham it was fair. At Manchester it was good.

**Tubes.**—In South Staffordshire and South Wales employment was good, and better than a month ago, and at Birmingham it was also good, with some overtime.

**Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.**—At Cradley Heath employment was fair with chain makers, but bad and worse than a month ago with anchor smiths. It was good with chain makers at Winlaton, and with chain and anchor makers at Gateshead. It was good with spring makers and fair with axle makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich, and good with railway spring makers at Sheffield. At Wednesbury it was good with railway, bridge, girder, tank and constructional workers. At Walsall it continued fair with buckle, cart gear, &c., makers. With anvil and vice-makers it was good generally.

**Sheet Metal, etc.**—Employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was good at Sheffield, fair at Newcastle and Manchester, and moderate at Hull. With sheet metal workers it was good at Oldham, fairly good at Leeds, and fair and better than a month ago in London. With iron plate workers it was good at Birmingham and in the Lye district, and better than a month ago. With tinplate and sheet metal workers it was dull at Glasgow, and worse than a month ago. With tinplate workers it was quiet at Edinburgh and Exeter, moderate at Bristol, fair at Aberdeen, and good and better than a month ago at Nottingham. In South Wales it continued good with galvanizers.

**Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.**—At Winlaton and Birmingham employment was fairly good with nut and bolt makers; and at Dudley and Darlaston it continued good. At Birmingham it was fair with nail and rivet makers. At Blackheath it was quiet with rivet makers and bad with nail makers.

**Wire.**—Employment continued good generally.

**Locks, Keys and General Hardware.**—At Wolverhampton employment in the lock and latch trades continued bad. With hollow-ware turners it remained good, and with cast and light hollow-ware and iron fence and hurdle makers it was fair. It continued slack with hollow-ware stampers at Sheffield, and quiet at West Bromwich with hollow-ware makers.

**Stoves, Grates, etc.**—Employment continued quiet at Rotherham, fair at Falkirk with stove fitters and dull with moulders, and bad at Glasgow. It was fair at Leeds, Newcastle, and Gateshead.

**Cutlery, Tools, etc.**—In the Sheffield district employment continued slack with cutlers generally. It continued fair with sawmakers, quiet with toolmakers, and good in the file trades. At Birmingham it was quiet with file cutters, and improving in the edge tool trade. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish-hook trades continued good.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—In London employment with diamond workers was fair. It continued fair with goldsmiths and jewellers. With silver workers it was fair, and with silver plate polishers good. At Birmingham it was good with silversmiths, electro-platers, Britannia metal workers and jewellers. At Sheffield it

continued good with silver-platers, but was slack with silversmiths. At Coventry it continued quiet with watchmakers.

**Farriers.**—With farriers employment was fair generally.

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 528 Returns—432 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 80 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued very brisk, and was better than a year ago.

The price of "middling American" cotton in Liverpool was during October '66d. per lb. more than in September, and '69d. per lb. more than in October, 1905. The price of "good fair Egyptian" was '13d. per lb. less than in September, but '142d. per lb. more than in October, 1905.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended October 27th was 135,753, an increase of 0.2 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 1.5 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 4.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

In most districts employers reported a difficulty in obtaining labour, especially of young persons. For spinning mills the deficiency is chiefly of big and little piecers, particularly in the Oldham district, but a scarcity of labour for the cardroom is also reported from several districts. In weaving sheds the deficiency in weavers is general, and young labour also is difficult to obtain.

**Analysis by Departments and Districts.**

Compared with a month ago there was a further slight improvement in every department except in the "unspecified" group, where there was a slight decline both in numbers employed and in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago there was a distinct improvement in every department. As compared with a month ago only two districts, Oldham and Manchester, showed any decline in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago there was an increase in the amount of wages paid in every district, the greatest improvement being shown in the miscellaneous group (10.6 per cent.) and in the Ashton District (6.4 per cent.)

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906. Oct., 1905.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906. Oct., 1905.
Preparing ...	15,412	+ 0.3	14,135	+ 0.2 + 4.6
Spinning ...	27,693	+ 0.2	27,282	+ 0.8 + 4.4
Weaving ...	61,902	+ 0.3	57,546	+ 0.4 + 3.9
Other ...	11,266	+ 0.9	13,567	+ 0.1 + 2.6
Departments not specified	18,480	- 0.5	19,049	- 0.1 + 4.9
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>135,753</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>133,179</b>	<b>+ 0.4 + 4.1</b>

Districts.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.	
	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Ashton District ...	+ 0.2	+ 1.3	6,972	+ 0.5	+ 6.4
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	+ 0.2	+ 1.1	8,227	+ 0.2	+ 4.8
Oldham District ...	+ 0.1	+ 2.8	18,298	- 0.6	+ 4.3
Bolton and Leigh ...	+ 0.6	- 3.1	13,831	+ 1.4	+ 1.7
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	- 0.8	+ 1.1	10,299	...	+ 3.8
Manchester District ...	+ 0.4	+ 1.9	8,395	- 0.4	+ 4.3
Preston and Chorley ...	+ 0.1	+ 1.9	11,918	+ 1.0	+ 5.1
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	+ 0.1	+ 0.6	19,205	+ 0.1	+ 1.5
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	- 0.1	+ 2.0	21,322	...	+ 4.9
Other Lancs. Towns ...	- 0.1	+ 1.3	4,632	+ 0.2	+ 3.8
Yorkshire Towns ...	+ 0.7	+ 6.4	5,988	+ 1.8	+ 5.6
Other Districts ...	+ 1.9	+ 11.0	4,082	+ 3.3	+ 10.6
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>+ 1.5</b>	<b>133,179</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 4.1</b>

**Raw Cotton.**

**American Cotton.**—During the month of October the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at

Liverpool was 6.18d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.59d., and the lowest 5.77d. The price for September was 5.52d., and for October, 1905, 5.49d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th of November, the average price of "middling American" was 5.69d. per lb.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during October averaged 8.92d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.06d., and the lowest 8.75d. The price for September was 9.05d. per lb., and for October, 1905, 7.50d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th November, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 8.81d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on November 9th, 1906, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 649,720 bales, as compared with 880,220 bales on November 10th, 1905.

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

Description of Cotton.	October, 1906.		September, 1906.		October, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1906, as compared with	
	Bales.	Sept., 1906.	Bales.	Oct., 1905.	Bales.	Sept., 1906.	Bales.	Oct., 1905.
American ...	255,480	183,342	266,263	266,263	266,263	266,263	266,263	266,263
Brazilian ...	19,589	14,655	15,905	15,905	15,905	15,905	15,905	15,905
East Indian ...	3,213	2,765	3,384	3,384	3,384	3,384	3,384	3,384
Egyptian ...	19,017	7,304	26,227	26,227	26,227	26,227	26,227	26,227
Miscellaneous ...	10,429	4,846	9,094	9,094	9,094	9,094	9,094	9,094
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>307,728</b>	<b>212,910</b>	<b>314,871</b>	<b>314,871</b>	<b>314,871</b>	<b>314,871</b>	<b>314,871</b>	<b>314,871</b>

**Exports of Cotton Goods.**

The following Table shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	October, 1906.		September, 1906.		October, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1906, as compared with	
	1,000 lbs.	Sept., 1906.	1,000 lbs.	Oct., 1905.	1,000 lbs.	Sept., 1906.	1,000 lbs.	Oct., 1905.
<b>Cotton Yarn and Twist—</b>								
Grey ...	14,369	12,769	16,430	16,430	16,430	16,430	16,430	16,430
Bleached and Dyed ...	3,110	3,288	3,667	3,667	3,667	3,667	3,667	3,667
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>17,479</b>	<b>16,057</b>	<b>20,097</b>	<b>20,097</b>	<b>20,097</b>	<b>20,097</b>	<b>20,097</b>	<b>20,097</b>
<b>Cotton Piece Goods—</b>								
Grey or Unbleached ...	178,280	169,842	192,325	192,325	192,325	192,325	192,325	192,325
Bleached ...	136,895	127,770	136,600	136,600	136,600	136,600	136,600	136,600
Printed ...	97,437	95,081	89,428	89,428	89,428	89,428	89,428	89,428
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ...	96,846	91,694	91,380	91,380	91,380	91,380	91,380	91,380
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>509,948</b>	<b>484,387</b>	<b>509,733</b>	<b>509,733</b>	<b>509,733</b>	<b>509,733</b>	<b>509,733</b>	<b>509,733</b>

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 392 Returns—385 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

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

**Woolen Trade.**

Employment in this industry continued good. It was better on the whole than a month ago, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last pay-day in October, 1906, was 29,144, an increase of 0.7 per cent. as compared with the corresponding week in September, and a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Firms employing 23,448 of these workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review.

The number of workpeople employed by these firms showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.2 per cent. compared with a year

ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. compared with September, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with October, 1905.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with A month ago. A year ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with A month ago. A year ago.
Wool Sorting ...	396	+ 1.0 - 7.5	358	- 6.3 - 9.7
Spinning ...	4,424	+ 2.1 - 0.5	3,847	+ 2.7 - 1.5
Weaving ...	9,815	+ 1.2 + 1.2	8,557	+ 1.6 + 1.2
Other Departments ...	6,455	... - 0.6	6,487	+ 0.9 - 0.2
Unspecified ...	2,358	+ 1.9 + 0.9	2,249	+ 2.9 + 4.5
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>23,448</b>	<b>+ 1.1 + 0.2</b>	<b>21,298</b>	<b>+ 1.6 + 0.4</b>

Districts.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.	
	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	A year ago.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	A year ago.
Huddersfield District ...	+ 1.4	- 3.9	3,777	+ 3.7	- 1.0
Leeds District ...	+ 1.9	+ 2.2	3,133	+ 1.7	+ 1.8
Dewsbury & Bailey District ...	+ 0.6	+ 1.2	2,666	+ 2.1	+ 2.7
Other Parts of West Riding ...	+ 1.3	+ 2.0	1,600	+ 4.3	+ 5.8
<b>Total West Riding</b> ...	<b>+ 1.4</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>11,176</b>	<b>+ 2.8</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>
Scotland ...	+ 0.7	- 0.6	5,832	+ 0.5	- 2.4
Other Districts ...	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	4,290	- 0.1	+ 1.4
<b>Total Woollen</b> ...	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>+ 0.2</b>	<b>21,298</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>

Nightwork and overtime were common in the West Riding, except in the Calder Valley, where employment in the blanket manufacture was reported as quiet. In Scotland employment continued good. It was also good in the Cork district, where it was better than a month ago. In North Wales employment was reported as dull.

**Worsted Trade.**

Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making Returns for the last pay-day in October, 1906, was 60,467, an increase of 1.0 per cent. compared with September, 1906, and of 0.1 per cent. compared with October, 1905.

Firms employing 46,034 of these workpeople have stated the wages paid in the three periods under review. Compared with a month ago, the number employed by these firms showed an increase of 1.1 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.6 per cent. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.3 per cent. in the wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with A month ago. A year ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with A month ago. A year ago.
Wool Sorting & Combing ...	5,085	+ 0.5 + 4.6	4,889	+ 0.5 + 3.4
Spinning ...	23,439	+ 0.8 + 2.3	12,870	+ 0.6 + 4.6
Weaving ...	8,425	+ 3.0 - 1.4	7,485	+ 4.2 - 2.3
Other Departments ...	5,001	+ 1.3 + 2.9	4,932	+ 0.9 + 1.2
Unspecified ...	4,084	- 0.9 - 5.0	3,157	+ 2.8 - 3.0
<b>Total</b> ...	<b>46,034</b>	<b>+ 1.1 + 1.1</b>	<b>33,353</b>	<b>+ 1.6 + 1.3</b>

Districts.	Per cent.		£	Per cent.	
	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	A year ago.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	A year ago.
Bradford District ...	+ 1.6	+ 0.7	15,822	+ 2.4	+ 1.5
Keighley District ...	+ 0.4	+ 0.5	4,220	+ 1.2	+ 3.0
Halifax District ...	...	+ 1.4	3,739	- 0.3	+ 1.9
Huddersfield District ...	+ 1.1	+ 0.5	4,359	+ 2.4	- 3.4
Other Parts of West Riding ...	+ 0.9	+ 3.2	3,085	- 0.7	+ 3.0
<b>Total West Riding</b> ...	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>+ 1.0</b>	<b>31,223</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>+ 1.2</b>
Other Districts ...	+ 1.7	+ 2.8	2,128	+ 2.1	+ 2.8
<b>Total Worsted</b> ...	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>+ 1.1</b>	<b>33,353</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>

Employment in the wool-sorting and combing departments was still bad, much short time being worked, and a large proportion of the workpeople being out of employment.



**Prices of Raw Material.**

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
<b>Average Prices:</b>	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hogs	13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14
40's Crossbred tops	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
60's Super Botany tops	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	27 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
<b>Course of Prices:</b>			
Lincoln Hogs	14 to 13 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14 to 14	14
40's Crossbred tops	17 to 15 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	17 to 17	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> to 17
60's Super Botany tops	27 to 26	27 to 27	26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> to 26 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>

**Imports and Exports.**

The following Table shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen, worsted, and alpaca and mohair yarn, and of woollen and worsted piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Oct., 1906.		Sept., 1906.		Oct., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
<b>Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')</b>								
Imports	22,023	23,335	20,346	- 1,312	+ 1,677			
British Exports	2,909	2,727	3,918	+ 182	- 1,009			
Re-Exports of Imported Wool	22,274	7,462	17,900	+ 14,812	+ 4,374			
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported</b>								
Woolen	178	168	177	+ 10	+ 1			
Worsted	4,809	4,147	4,878	+ 662	- 69			
Alpaca and Mohair	1,523	1,350	1,501	+ 173	+ 22			
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,510</b>	<b>5,665</b>	<b>6,556</b>	<b>+ 845</b>	<b>- 46</b>			
<b>Piece Goods:</b>								
Woolen	5,816	6,738	4,987	- 922	+ 829			
Worsted	5,821	6,809	7,181	+ 988	- 1,360			
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,637</b>	<b>13,547</b>	<b>12,168</b>	<b>- 1,910</b>	<b>- 531</b>			

**FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.**

(Based on 115 Returns—109 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fairly good, and was better than a year ago.

Returns have been received from firms employing 45,922 workpeople and paying £26,889 in wages on the last pay day in October. Compared with a month ago these returns show an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount paid in wages. Compared with a year ago they show an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed and of 4.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on last pay day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	5,578	+ 0.3	+ 0.1	2,911	+ 0.5	+ 4.0
Spinning	10,244	+ 0.3	+ 1.6	4,670	+ 0.2	+ 7.5
Weaving	16,776	+ 0.5	+ 3.3	10,235	- 0.4	+ 4.5
Other	6,654	+ 0.2	+ 3.1	5,254	+ 1.7	+ 5.6
Departments not specified	6,670	- 0.5	- 1.5	3,769	+ 0.5	+ 2.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,922</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 1.8</b>	<b>26,889</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 4.8</b>
Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on last pay day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Belfast	16,477	+ 0.8	+ 2.8	9,788	+ 1.5	+ 7.7
Other Places in Ireland	14,275	- 0.1	+ 1.1	7,652	+ 0.4	+ 4.3
Ireland	30,752	+ 0.4	+ 2.0	17,440	+ 1.0	+ 6.2
Fifeeshire	7,520	- 0.1	+ 2.7	4,785	- 1.0	+ 6.6
Other Places in Scotland	5,760	- 0.8	+ 0.5	3,546	- 1.4	- 0.4
Scotland	13,280	- 0.3	+ 1.8	8,331	- 1.2	+ 2.3
England	1,890	+ 3.1	+ 1.0	1,108	+ 1.0	+ 3.8
United Kingdom	45,922	+ 0.3	+ 1.8	26,889	+ 0.4	+ 4.8

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

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

Description.	October, 1906.		September, 1906.		October, 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1906, as compared with	
	October, 1906.	September, 1906.	October, 1906.	September, 1906.	October, 1905.	September, 1906.	October, 1905.	
<b>Imports:</b>								
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	3,123	3,246	2,716	- 123	+ 407			
<b>Exports:</b>								
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	12,060	11,070	12,917	+ 990	- 857			
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	145,673	140,829	137,527	+ 4,844	+ 8,146			

**JUTE TRADE.**

(Based on 38 Returns—35 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns have been received from firms employing 19,313 workpeople on the last pay-day in October, and paying £13,125 in wages. These returns show, as compared with September, a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago they show an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on last pay day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Preparing	4,279	+ 0.5	+ 1.6	2,601	+ 0.1	+ 4.2
Spinning	5,275	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	3,060	- 0.2	+ 4.2
Weaving	6,510	- 0.3	+ 0.4	4,538	- 1.2	+ 1.1
Other	2,015	- 4.5	- 2.5	1,931	- 5.1	- 1.7
Departments not specified	1,234	+ 0.6	+ 1.0	856	- 0.2	+ 2.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,313</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>13,125</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>	<b>+ 2.1</b>

**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.**

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

Description.	Oct., 1906.		Sept., 1906.		Oct., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	
<b>Imports:</b>								
Jute ... Tons	50,027	8,008	42,584	+ 42,019	+ 7,443			
<b>Exports:</b>								
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	66,712	45,090	37,396	+ 21,622	+ 20,316			
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	151,681	155,232	159,924	- 3,551	- 8,243			

**LACE TRADE.**

(Based on 96 Returns—92 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was, on the whole, good; better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 9,093 workpeople, and paying £9,228 in wages on the last pay day in October, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 5.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 10.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment continued good in the levers and plain net branches, and was fair in the curtain branch. Compared with a year ago there was a marked increase in the amount of wages paid in the levers and plain net branches. In total wages paid there was a marked increase in England, but a decrease in Scotland.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Levers	2,414	+ 0.5	+ 7.7	3,449	+ 1.6	+ 22.3
Curtain	2,967	- 0.3	- 1.6	2,837	+ 1.8	- 3.2
Plain Net	2,597	+ 1.2	+ 11.3	2,006	+ 3.0	+ 15.2
Others	1,115	+ 1.3	+ 7.9	866	+ 1.8	+ 8.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,093</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>+ 5.4</b>	<b>9,228</b>	<b>+ 2.0</b>	<b>+ 10.5</b>
Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Nottingham City	2,130	+ 2.8	+ 11.3	2,114	+ 2.8	+ 14.9
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,753	- 0.2	+ 8.7	2,404	+ 1.5	+ 16.4
Other English districts	2,891	+ 0.4	+ 7.2	2,592	+ 2.6	+ 17.9
Scotland	2,319	- 0.8	- 3.5	2,118	+ 1.1	- 5.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,093</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>+ 5.4</b>	<b>9,228</b>	<b>+ 2.0</b>	<b>+ 10.5</b>

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on 54 Returns—50 from Employers and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this trade showed an improvement as compared with a month and a year ago.

Returns have been received from firms employing 8,229 workpeople and paying £5,545 in wages on pay day in the week ended October 27th. From these Returns it appears that, compared with September, there were increases of 1.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago there were increases of 3.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.9 per cent. in the wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Throwing	1,068	+ 0.9	+ 2.0	407	+ 3.6	- 1.7
Spinning	2,529	+ 1.2	+ 3.6	1,881	- 0.6	+ 1.8
Weaving	3,345	+ 1.6	+ 3.1	2,255	+ 3.6	+ 7.0
Other	1,102	+ 1.4	+ 7.9	894	+ 4.1	+ 4.1
Not Specified	182	- 1.1	- 0.5	108	+ 0.9	- 0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>	<b>+ 3.7</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>+ 2.2</b>	<b>+ 3.9</b>
Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,348	+ 0.6	+ 2.7	2,501	- 0.6	- 0.4
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	961	+ 3.6	+ 2.0	694	+ 6.8	+ 10.3
Leek	243	+ 3.0	- 7.3	170	+ 6.3	- 4.5
Eastern Counties	2,194	+ 1.4	+ 4.4	1,329	+ 4.4	+ 6.4
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,483	+ 1.1	+ 8.1	851	+ 2.5	+ 10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,229</b>	<b>+ 1.3</b>	<b>+ 3.7</b>	<b>5,545</b>	<b>+ 2.2</b>	<b>+ 3.9</b>

and of silk broad-stuffs, are shown in the Table below for the months specified:—

Description.	Oct., 1906.		Sept., 1906.		Oct., 1905.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1906, as compared with	
	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	
<b>Imports:—</b>								
Raw Silk	185,129	93,379	96,882	+ 91,750	+ 88,247			
Thrown Silk	58,578	51,860	41,289	+ 6,718	+ 17,289			
Spun Silk Yarn	27,822	31,114	26,550	- 292	+ 1,272			
<b>Exports:—</b>								
Thrown Silk & Twist	686	157	902	- 549	- 216			
Spun Silk Yarn	90,648	67,180	65,224	+ 23,468	+ 25,424			
Silk Broad-stuffs	573,898	650,270	543,618	- 76,372	+ 30,280			

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 98 Returns—92 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 14,603 workpeople, and paying £11,483 in wages on the last pay-day in October, have made Returns which are summarised in the Table below.

From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid and no change in the number of workpeople employed, as compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, the amount of wages paid showed an increase of 4.5 per cent., and the number of workpeople employed an increase of 3.0 per cent.

At Leicester and in the Leicester country district employment on the whole was good, but showed a slight falling off as compared with a month ago in some departments; it was better than a year ago. Employment in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire continued fairly good. In Scotland it remained good, and was better than a year ago.

District	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) compared with	
		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.		Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Leicester	7,530	+ 0.6	+ 2.2	6,038	- 0.2	+ 2.1
Leicester Country District	2,414	- 1.8	+ 3.3	2,047	- 1.0	+ 4.5
Notts. and Derbyshire	2,272	- 0.6	+ 1.7	1,826	+ 2.5	+ 10.7
Scotland	1,823	+ 0.3	+ 7.7	1,249	+ 3.2	+ 6.8
Other Districts	564	+ 1.4	+ 4.8	323	- 0.3	+ 10.2



moderate; at Nottingham and Basford it was good with bleachers and fair with hosiery trimmers; it was generally better than a year ago.

**Calenderers, etc.**—In Glasgow employment continued fair, and was about the same as a year ago. In Dundee it was good with bleachfield workers and better than a month ago, and fair with calender workers.

### HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations and 11 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during October improved in the *Silk* hat branch, and showed a decline in the *Felt* hat branch.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 10.9, compared with 13.3 at the end of September, and 13.0 a year ago. In London employment showed a further slight improvement, and was better than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 3.5, compared with 1.9 at the end of September, and 2.6 a year ago. At Denton employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago; at Stockport it was moderate, and worse than a year ago.

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

Description.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
				Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Felt ... ..	39,784	41,151	35,210	- 1,367	+ 4,574
Straw ... ..	35,593	39,691	32,976	- 4,188	+ 2,527
Other Sorts ... ..	3,990	4,028	3,967	- 68	- 7
Total ... ..	79,247	84,870	72,153	- 5,623	+ 7,094

### TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 131 Returns—105 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 23 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the *bespoke* branch in London showed a further seasonal improvement, but was slightly worse than a year ago; in the Provinces it was moderate, and better than a month ago. In the *ready-made* branch employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

#### Bespoke Branch.

**London.**—Employment during October showed a further seasonal improvement, but was slightly worse than a year ago.

Firms paying £12,917 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended October 27th showed an increase of 25.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with the four weeks ended September 29th, and a decrease of 2.0 per cent. compared with the four weeks ended October 28th, 1905.

**Other Centres.**—Employment showed an improvement, and was, on the whole, moderate. Compared with a year ago little change was shown.

#### Ready-made Branch.

**London.**—Employment generally was moderate, and showed little change as compared with a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as normal on contract and shipping work, and bad on stock work.

**Leeds.**—Employment during the month was fair, and slightly better than a year ago. Returns have been received from firms employing over 9,000 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops). From the Returns it appears that employment was good with firms employing 37 per cent. of the workpeople, moderate with firms employing 58 per cent., and bad with firms employing 5 per cent. Compared with a month ago, firms employing 19 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 38 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 43 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 27 per cent. reported employment as improved, firms employing 53 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 20 per cent. as worse.

**Other Centres.**—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and better than a year ago. It was reported as fairly good at Manchester and Norwich, moderate at Bristol, and good at Glasgow.

### BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 577 Returns—563 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents, 4 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the boot and shoe trade was quiet, but rather better than a month ago; compared with a year ago little change was shown.

The number employed on the last pay-day in October by 563 firms making Returns was 68,910, an increase of 0.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In addition to supplying particulars of numbers employed, 481 firms, employing 60,395 workpeople, stated the amount of wages paid in the three months under review. These Returns showed a net increase in the amount of wages paid of 2.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Compared with a month ago, nine of the sixteen districts showed an increase in the amount of wages paid. The improvement was greatest at Leicester (8.4 per cent.) and at Kingswood (7.4 per cent.). Compared with a year ago, a decrease in the amount of wages paid was shown in ten districts, the falling-off being again most marked in Scotland (11.8 per cent.) and the Birmingham district (7.8 per cent.).

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed during last week in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—), as compared with last week in Sept., 1906.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—), as compared with last week in Sept., 1906.
ENGLAND & WALES ... ..	56,195	+ 0.7	£ 51,874	+ 2.1
SCOTLAND ... ..	3,915	+ 0.0	£ 3,616	+ 0.9
IRELAND ... ..	284	+ 7.2	£ 206	+ 1.0
UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	60,395	+ 0.6	£ 55,696	+ 2.0

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table gives the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported, and re-exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
				Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
<b>Imports</b>					
Quantity ... ..	22,342	15,291	19,551	+ 7,051	+ 2,791
Value ... ..	£ 89,199	£ 60,868	£ 74,558	+ 28,331	+ 14,641
<b>Re-Exports</b>					
Quantity ... ..	1,457	1,133	1,019	+ 324	+ 438
Value ... ..	£ 4,681	£ 4,121	£ 3,219	+ 560	+ 1,462
<b>Exports (British and Irish)</b>					
Quantity ... ..	70,632	65,686	73,550	+ 4,946	- 2,918
Value ... ..	£ 190,637	£ 168,792	£ 179,893	+ 21,845	+ 10,744

### OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 197 Returns—189 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the dressmaking trades in London was, on the whole, fairly good. Compared with a year ago there was a slight improvement in the retail branch, and a decline in court dressmaking. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades employment was fair. In the shirt and collar trade it continued fair. In the corset trade it was fairly good, and showed little change as compared with a year ago.

**Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.**—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 1,768 dressmakers in the week ended October 27th, showed an increase of 6.4 per cent. in the numbers employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Court dressmakers, employing 1,376 workpeople, showed an increase of 7.0 per cent. compared with a month ago and a decrease of 4.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was, on the whole, fair. In the wholesale mantle, costume and blouse trades, firms in London employing 3,451 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) during the week ended October 27th, showed a decrease of 2.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 4.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair. Firms in the wholesale and retail millinery trade, employing 1,303 workpeople, showed a decrease of 5.3 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.9 per cent. compared with a year ago; the decline as compared with a month ago was entirely in the wholesale branch.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux showed a slight falling-off in the demand for, and an increase in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners as compared with a year ago. As compared with a month ago there was an increase in the demand and a decrease in the supply.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers continued good. In the costume and skirt trade it was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; firms employing 2,306 workpeople in the week ended October 27th showed a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment with mantle makers was good, and showed little change as compared with a year ago.

**Shirt and Collar Trade.**—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 6,911 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,626 in wages during the week ended October 27th, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Employment was reported as moderate in London and at Londonderry, good at Manchester and Belfast, fairly good at Taunton and Glasgow.

**Corset Trade.**—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,925 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended October 27th showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, compared with a month ago, and of 0.1 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good. Compared with a year ago firms employing 48 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the Returns reported employment as improved, firms employing 23 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 29 per cent. as worse.

### OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 43 Returns—1 from an Employers' Association, 27 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during October continued fairly good on the whole. It was rather better than in September, but about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,696 had 5.6 per cent. unemployed at

the end of October, compared with 6.7\* per cent. in September, and 5.6 per cent. in October, 1905.

**Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.**—Employment was fair, but on the whole slightly worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Leeds, Bristol, Glasgow, and Dundee it was good; at Edinburgh it was fair; at Hull and Doncaster moderate; at Northampton and Wellingborough it continued to improve; at Walsall it was slack.

**Saddle and Harness Makers.**—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Glasgow it was good; at Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Sheffield fair; at Bristol, Dublin, and Walsall quiet.

**Miscellaneous Leather Trades.**—Employment in the fancy leather trade continued fair, though some short time was worked. In the portmanteau trade it was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

#### Imports and Exports.

The imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, are shown in the following Table for the months stated:—

Description.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
				Sept., 1906.	October, 1905.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	38,149	44,287	35,765	- 6,138	+ 2,384
Ditto, wet	32,428	42,395	45,102	- 9,967	- 12,674
Total, hides, dry and wet	70,577	86,682	80,867	- 16,105	- 10,290
Goat skins	No. 1,178,721	No. 1,009,188	No. 872,612	+ 169,533	+ 306,079
Sheep skins	No. 1,403,241	No. 1,595,491	No. 1,465,128	- 102,250	- 61,857
Leather†	cwts. 113,890	cwts. 81,703	cwts. 92,286	+ 32,187	+ 21,604
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Saddlery and harness	£ 55,173	£ 44,826	£ 51,010	+ 10,347	+ 1,163

### PAPER, PRINTING AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 409 Returns—147 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 242 from Trade Unions, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the paper trades continued good; in the printing trades it was moderate on the whole; in the bookbinding trades fairly good. Employment generally was somewhat better than a month ago and a year ago.

#### PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. Returns received from firms employing 21,991 workpeople at the end of October showed that there was an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with September, and a decrease of 0.3 per cent. as compared with October, 1905.

Description.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in week ending Oct. 27th, 1906, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:</b>			
Northern Counties	6,420	+ 0.1	- 1.2
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,718	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Southern Counties	6,442	+ 0.4	- 2.3
Scotland	5,512	+ 0.1	+ 2.7
Total Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,092	+ 0.2	- 0.4
Hand-made Paper	899	...	+ 1.1
Total	21,991	+ 0.2	- 0.3

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,824 members had 2.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 2.8 per cent. in September, and 3.2 per cent. in October, 1905.

\* Revised figure.  
† Includes hides, tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned and dressed as leather.



PRINTING TRADES.

Employment was moderate on the whole, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 40,820 members had 5.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 5.3 per cent. in September, and 5.2 per cent. in October, 1905. In the lithographic branch, Trade Unions with 6,575 members had 4.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, compared with 4.2 per cent. in September, and 4.9 in October, 1905.

The following Table shows by districts the percentage unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the Printing Trades:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago
London ... ..	19,238	5.9	6.6	6.3	- 0.7	- 0.4
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,271	4.2	4.6	4.6	- 0.4	- 0.4
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,498	5.9	4.4	5.6	+ 1.5	+ 0.3
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,376	2.8	3.0	3.2	- 0.2	- 0.4
West Midlands	2,382	3.7	5.3	4.9	- 1.6	- 1.2
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,710	2.3	2.1	2.6	+ 0.2	- 0.3
Scotland ... ..	5,472	3.1	3.0	2.4	+ 0.1	+ 0.7
Ireland ... ..	2,448	6.5	9.4	8.9	- 2.9	- 2.4
United Kingdom ...	47,395	4.9	5.2	5.2	- 0.3	- 0.3

London.—Employment with letterpress printers was quiet on the whole, Trade Unions with 17,229 members having 6.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 6.7 in September, and 6.4 in October, 1905. With lithographic printers employment continued quiet.

Other Centres.—Employment at Edinburgh was reported as rather worse than a month ago with compositors, but fairly good with machinemen. With letterpress printers at Glasgow employment was quiet, but rather better than in previous months. At Dundee employment was fairly good, but at Aberdeen it was reported as having declined. At Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield employment was fair, and at Bradford extra men have been engaged for the Christmas trade; but at Newcastle employment was reported as dull, and worse than a year ago. Employment was reported as good at Bolton, Nottingham, Birmingham, and Cardiff, and fair at Plymouth and Dublin. At Leicester, Derby, Bristol, and Belfast it was slack; and at Oxford a considerable amount of short time was reported. With lithographic printers employment continued good at Manchester and Birmingham, and quiet on the whole elsewhere. With lithographic artists it was reported as fair generally.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was fairly good generally, and better than a month ago. In the Provinces it was also better than a year ago. At Edinburgh employment was reported as good, with overtime.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1906, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	3,620	3.3	4.7	2.7	- 1.4	+ 0.6
Other Districts ...	3,354	2.7	4.1	4.3	- 1.4	- 1.6
United Kingdom ...	6,974	3.0	4.4	3.5	- 1.4	- 0.5

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 144 Returns—5 from Employers' Associations, 111 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair, and about the same as a month ago. It was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,479 reported 4.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 4.5 a month ago, and 5.3 in October, 1905.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was quiet, being worse than a month ago, and slightly worse than a year ago. Reports from Trade Unions show that 5.8 per cent. were unemployed, as compared with 4.6 per cent. a month ago, and 5.3 per cent. a year ago. Employment was reported as good at Birmingham, Edinburgh, and Cork; as moderate in Lancashire and at Sheffield, and as slack in London, Bristol, and Hull.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades continued moderate, but was not quite so good as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 5.7 per cent. as unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 5.5 per cent. a month ago, and 6.9 per cent. a year ago. A decline is reported with cabinet-makers and upholsterers, and an improvement with french-polishers. Employment was slack at Leicester and at Bristol, and fair in Lancashire and at Birmingham.

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was good, and showed an improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. It was fair at Birmingham, Bristol, and Belfast; but dull at Cork.

Coachbuilding.

With coachmakers, employment continued fairly good on the whole, overtime being worked in some places. It was better than a year ago. With wheelwrights it was good, and better than a month and a year ago. Returns from Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., show that 3.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 3.2 per cent. a month ago, and 3.9 per cent. a year ago. Employment improved in Scotland, but declined in Lancashire.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment was moderate and better than a month ago. Reports from Trade Unions show that 4.3 per cent. were unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 5.5 per cent. a month ago, and 4.6 per cent. a year ago.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment continued fair; at Nottingham it was fairly good. It continued good with basket-makers.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,977 Returns—1,188 from Employers and Employers' Associations received through the Trade Correspondent, 1,754 from Trade Unions, and 35 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued dull, and was worse than a month ago in nearly all branches. It was rather better on the whole than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 71,552 workpeople at the end of October show a decline in the number employed of 3,028, or 4.1 per cent., compared with a month ago.

The following Table summarises these Returns:—

District.	Number of Workpeople paid Wages on the last pay-day of the month.							
	Skilled Tradesmen.		Labourers.		Lads and Boys.		Total.	
	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.
London ... ..	12,717	13,477	9,065	9,406	910	924	22,691	23,807
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	4,552	4,696	4,011	4,142	1,037	1,039	9,600	9,877
Lancashire and Cheshire	5,327	5,752	4,462	4,460	1,363	1,383	11,152	11,595
Midlands and Eastern Counties	4,415	4,512	4,136	4,322	628	650	9,179	9,484
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	4,126	4,376	2,765	3,019	701	656	7,592	8,051
England and Wales	31,137	32,813	24,439	25,349	4,639	4,652	60,215	62,814
Scotland ... ..	4,308	4,601	2,857	2,830	1,097	1,118	8,262	8,549
Ireland ... ..	1,551	1,604	1,342	1,433	182	180	3,075	3,217
United Kingdom...	36,996	39,018	28,638	29,612	5,918	5,950	71,552	74,580

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 99 Returns—70 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 18 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 11,081 workpeople, and paying £12,882 in wages on the last pay-day in October, show that there was an increase of 2.6 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 5.1 per cent. in wages paid as compared with a month ago. The increase was shown in nearly all departments and in all the important districts.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 5.9 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 9.0 per cent. in wages paid. The increase was general, except with flint glass makers in Scotland and at Worcester and Warwick.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906.	Per cent. Oct., 1905.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906.	Per cent. Oct., 1905.
Glass Bottle ...	6,965	+ 4.0	+ 8.0	8,201	+ 6.9	+ 13.5
Plate Glass ...	667	+ 0.1	+ 10.3	981	- 0.6	+ 5.3
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,921	+ 0.4	- 2.5	2,122	+ 4.1	- 1.3
Other Branches ...	1,328	+ 0.8	+ 5.9	1,515	+ 1.2	+ 4.3
Total ...	11,081	+ 2.6	+ 5.9	12,882	+ 5.1	+ 9.0

Districts.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906.	Per cent. Oct., 1905.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on last pay-day in Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with Sept., 1906.	Per cent. Oct., 1905.
North of England	1,598	+ 5.7	+ 11.7	1,838	+ 14.4	+ 13.5
Yorkshire ... ..	3,953	+ 3.4	+ 8.7	4,744	+ 5.4	+ 14.3
Lancashire ... ..	2,208	+ 2.2	+ 2.1	2,500	+ 4.6	+ 4.2
Worcester and Warwick	2,136	+ 0.1	+ 3.2	2,508	- 0.3	+ 2.7
Scotland ... ..	805	+ 2.8	+ 3.2	970	+ 5.1	+ 9.7
Other parts of United Kingdom	321	- 1.8	- 0.9	322	+ 0.9	+ 0.3
Total ...	11,081	+ 2.6	+ 5.9	12,882	+ 5.1	+ 9.0

Employment with bottlemakers was reported as moderate generally, but good at Glasgow and Portobello. It was on the whole better than last month, but a large proportion of the Trade Union Members were out of employment, and others on short time. Flint glass cutters at Wordsley and Birmingham reported employment as fair, but with a good deal of short time; at Birmingham, flint glass makers reported it as good. With sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens employment continued good; with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it remained moderate; with glass blowers in London it was fairly good.

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

Description.	Oct., 1906.	Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1906, as compared with	
				Sept., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	123,317	96,215	141,435	+ 27,102	- 18,118
Plate ... ..	36,850	31,781	34,157	+ 4,069	+ 2,693
Flint, plain, cut or ornamented, &c.	79,198	66,305	80,870	+ 13,193	- 1,372
Manufactures, other sorts...	2,613	2,448	5,556	+ 165	- 2,943
Bottles ... .. gross	114,219	98,138	130,312	+ 16,081	- 16,093
<b>Exports:</b>					
Plate ... ..	12,758	15,130	11,346	- 2,372	+ 1,412
Flint ... ..	5,902	5,894	5,042	+ 8	+ 860
Manufactures, other sorts ...	41,105	34,006	30,802	+ 7,099	+ 10,303
Bottles ... .. gross	65,070	65,637	69,452	- 567	- 4,382

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(Based on 156 Returns from Correspondents in various parts of England.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fairly regular during October, though rain caused some interruption, more particularly in the Northern Counties, to the employment of day labourers. Threshing, gathering the potato and mangel crops, and sowing corn, caused a

The foregoing table shows that the decline was general with very few exceptions. The decrease in the number of workpeople employed amounted to 2,022, or 5.2 per cent., in the case of skilled workmen, and to 974, or 3.3 per cent., in the case of labourers. In London the decrease amounted to 5.7 per cent. with skilled, and 3.8 with unskilled workmen.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of October was 7.6, as compared with 5.9 a month ago, and 8.2 a year ago. With plumbers 8.0 per cent. were unemployed, as compared with 7.8 per cent. a month ago, and 12.0 per cent. a year ago. Employment with masons, plasterers, and painters was worse than a month ago, but there was a slight improvement in the case of bricklayers. Compared with a year ago some improvement was reported by bricklayers and plasterers, and some decline by painters.

London.—From Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners, it appears that the percentage unemployed at end of October was 9.0, as compared with 6.5 a month ago, and 8.8 a year ago. With plumbers the percentage was 12.2, as compared with 9.2 a month ago, and 13.2 a year ago. Employment in other branches it was dull generally.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was dull, and somewhat worse than a month ago. It improved, however, with house joiners on the Wear, with whom it was good, and with painters at Hull and Hartlepool, with whom it was fair.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment at Manchester was dull generally. At Oldham it was good with plumbers, plasterers, and labourers, and was better than a year ago generally. With carpenters at Blackburn and Burnley it was fair; with plumbers at Bolton and Blackburn was good.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was dull generally. With painters it improved in the Leicester district, and was good at Nottingham. Employment at Coventry was reported as fair.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Employment continued dull generally.

Scotland.—Employment was dull generally, but good with slaters. With plasterers and plumbers it was rather better than a month ago. Employment was fair at Dundee. It was also fair with bricklayers in the West of Scotland.

Ireland.—At Belfast employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago; with plasterers, plumbers, and slaters at Dublin it was fair.

POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

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

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued good generally, and was rather better than a month ago. It was better than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was moderate on the whole.

Pottery Trade.—In Staffordshire employment was rather better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. Most of the factories were fairly well employed, and in some branches of the trade overtime was general, owing to Christmas orders. In South Yorkshire employment was reported as fair, with a little short time; in Glasgow as moderate, but better than a year ago; in Devonshire as fairly good. With clay tobacco pipe makers employment was reported as bad.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in South Staffordshire was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago, but in the Birmingham district and in Shropshire no improvement was reported. Employment was still slack in the Peterborough district and at Nottingham. It was reported as moderate at Sheffield; good in South Wales and at Oldham; fair at Ipswich, Sudbury, and Chelmsford, and moderate in Devonshire.



fair demand for extra labour, which was generally fully satisfied.

**Northern Counties.**—Rain interrupted farm work in Northumberland and Cumberland, and some day labourers were consequently in irregular employment. Little or no interruption to employment was reported from Westmorland, but in Lancashire wet weather interfered with the potato picking, and a number of day labourers lost time. In Yorkshire day labourers were in irregular employment during the latter part of the month on account of rain, and there was generally a surplus of this class of labour.

**Midland Counties.**—In Cheshire work on the potato, turnip, and mangel crops proceeded with but little interruption, and the supply of and demand for extra labour were about equal. Regularity of employment was reported in Derbyshire. Day labourers lost a few days in Nottinghamshire through rain. In Leicestershire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire employment was fairly regular. Rain caused some interruption to employment of day labourers in Worcestershire, and the demand for this class of labour was somewhat affected by the early completion of the harvest. Employment was generally regular in Warwickshire, but a few men employed in threshing, potato-digging, etc., lost time through rain. In Northamptonshire day labourers generally found regular employment on the root crops. In Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire there was some irregularity of employment among this class of men on account of rain, and the supply was in excess of the demand. There was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in the former county, but in Buckinghamshire this class of labour was said to be more plentiful than of late. Threshing and potato-picking caused a good demand for extra labour in Hertfordshire, and in the Buntingford Union a correspondent states that the supply was not sufficient for this demand. Outdoor work in Bedfordshire was interrupted by rain, and some day labourers were in irregular employment.

**Eastern Counties.**—Threshing and lifting potatoes and mangels generally provided regular employment in Huntingdonshire, though a few day labourers lost time through rain. A scarcity of boys for ploughing and other farm work was reported in the St. Neots Union. In Cambridgeshire employment was regular, and the supply of labour about equal to the demand. Rain caused some odd men to lose a few days towards the end of the month in Lincolnshire, but generally there was full employment on threshing, potato-lifting, and sowing winter corn. There was but slight interruption from rain to employment in Norfolk and Suffolk, but work was well forward, and in several districts the supply of extra men was greater than the demand; in the Cosford and Mildenhall Unions of Suffolk, however, some scarcity was reported. Threshing, potato-digging, storing roots, and sowing corn generally provided full employment in Essex.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Employment was generally regular in Kent and Surrey, but a few day labourers were in irregular work, the supply of this class of labour being somewhat in excess of the demand. There was some scarcity of men for permanent situations in Kent. Mangel carting and other work gave regular employment to most day labourers in Sussex and Hampshire, but there was a tendency for the supply to be in excess of the demand. Similar reports come from Berkshire. It is stated that there has been an increase in the number of men seeking permanent situations in these three counties. In Wiltshire and Dorsetshire employment on the whole was regular, though some day labourers lost a little time through rain. In these counties also permanent labour is reported to be easier to obtain than has lately been the case. Employment was hindered but little by rain or other causes in Somerset, but the supply of and demand for labour on the whole were about equal. Employment was generally regular in Herefordshire. Rain caused some irregularity of employment among day labourers in Gloucestershire. In Devonshire there was full employment on lifting potatoes, carting mangels, &c., and employment was generally regular in Cornwall. In both counties there was some demand for men to fill permanent positions.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

Based on 134 Returns, 111 from Employers, 7 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was generally fair in London and moderate at Liverpool; at both places it was better than a month and a year ago. At other ports it was on the whole fair in October.

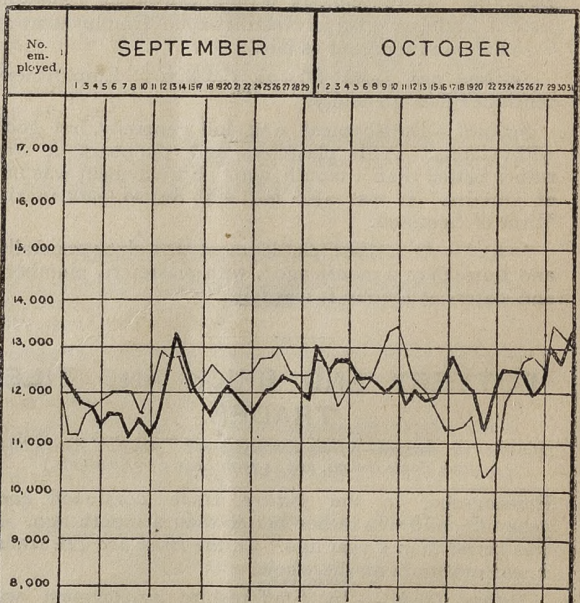
**London.\***—Employment generally was fair, and better than in September, or in October, 1905. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended October 27th was 12,251, an increase of 3.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

The daily numbers in October ranged from 11,220 on the 20th to 13,466 on the last day of the month. During the corresponding period of 1905 the numbers ranged from 10,317 on October 21st to 13,470 on October 30th.

Period.	In Docks*			At 107 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Oct. 6th	4,975	1,573	6,548	6,053	12,601
" " " 13th	4,294	1,781	6,075	5,941	12,016
" " " 20th	4,473	1,291	5,764	6,317	12,081
" " " 27th	4,671	1,313	5,989	6,318	12,307
Average for 4 weeks ended Oct. 27th.	4,603	1,491	6,094	6,157	12,251
Average for Sept. 1906	4,551	1,707	6,258	6,589	11,847
Average for Oct., 1905	4,259	1,532	6,091	6,001	12,092

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

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



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

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	13,074	11	11,698	22	12,071
2	12,479	12	12,058	23	12,568
3	12,714	13	11,845	24	12,532
4	12,672	14	11,884	25	12,470
5	12,210	15	12,238	26	11,916
6	12,366	16	12,864	27	12,286
7	12,233	17	12,231	28	13,074
8	12,014	18	12,044	29	12,620
9	12,248	19	11,220	30	13,466
10		20		31	

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

\* Exclusive of Tilbury.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,179 in October, as compared with 1,029 in September, an increase of 14.6 per cent.

At Liverpool employment was rather better, though still only moderate; with flatmen on the Mersey it was fair.

**Other Ports.**—Employment was on the whole bad at South Shields; moderate at Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sunderland, and Hull; good at Middlesbrough and Grimsby; and slack at Hartlepool, except with riverside labourers, with whom it was fairly good. At the Bristol Channel ports it was fairly good, and at Southampton it was fair. Employment at Dundee, Leith and Glasgow was good. At Belfast it was good, and at Dublin it was fair.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN OCTOBER.**

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during October 42,299\* seamen, of whom 4,603 (or 10.9 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. At nine ports there were decreases, and at eight there were increases in the number shipped as compared with a year ago.

During the ten completed months of 1906, 395,928\* seamen were shipped, of whom 50,965 (or 12.9 per cent.) were foreigners. Compared with the corresponding period of 1905, the total number shipped shows an increase of 21,272. Increases were most marked at Liverpool, Glasgow, Cardiff, Southampton, and Hull.

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

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

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	October,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.	Ten months ended October,		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1906.
	1905.	1906.		1905.	1906.	
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	3,090	2,625	- 465	28,644	28,333	- 311
Sunderland ... ..	311	439	+ 118	4,630	4,319	- 311
Middlesbrough ... ..	318	313	- 5	2,667	2,870	+ 203
Hull ... ..	1,093	1,320	+ 227	10,822	12,937	+ 2,045
Grimsby ... ..	63	39	- 24	1,324	1,303	- 19
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ... ..	681	693	+ 12	5,973	6,438	+ 465
Newport, Mon. ... ..	729	1,050	+ 321	9,118	9,674	+ 556
Cardiff ... ..	4,639	4,913	+ 274	45,727	48,434	+ 2,707
Swansea ... ..	425	359	- 66	4,953	4,382	- 571
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ... ..	14,877	16,427	+ 1,550	139,016	148,075	+ 9,059
London ... ..	7,074	6,761	- 313	61,201	61,257	+ 56
Southampton ... ..	2,133	2,848	+ 715	19,497	21,995	+ 2,498
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leth ... ..	293	251	- 42	4,129	4,492	+ 363
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth ... ..	233	210	- 23	2,280	2,400	+ 120
Glasgow ... ..	2,862	3,893	+ 1,031	31,424	34,995	+ 3,571
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ... ..	85	35	- 50	715	936	+ 221
Belfast ... ..	246	133	- 113	2,168	2,188	+ 20
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>39,152</b>	<b>42,299</b>	<b>+ 3,147</b>	<b>374,656</b>	<b>395,928</b>	<b>+ 21,272</b>

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 21 returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed during October shows an increase both in quantity and value as compared with a year ago.

Employment at the principal ports continued good on the whole, and was somewhat better than a month ago and a year ago. At Harwich, however, fishing continued quiet, and at Macduff it was only moderate. Off the South and South-west Coast of Ireland, fishing was dull. Many of the Scotch boats are now engaged in the English herring fishery.

\* 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.

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

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
<b>Fish (other than Shell):</b>				
England and Wales ... ..	Cwts. 1,860,517	Cwts. 1,539,174	£ 987,090	£ 852,989
Scotland ... ..	271,979	242,221	130,450	134,337
Ireland ... ..	39,856	185,706	18,597	57,629
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>2,172,352</b>	<b>1,967,101</b>	<b>1,136,137</b>	<b>1,044,955</b>
<b>Shell Fish ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>40,523</b>	<b>33,995</b>
<b>Total Value ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,176,660</b>	<b>1,078,950</b>

**PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.**

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

As compared with a month ago, no change in price was recorded at any of the towns included in the Table.

As compared with a year ago, decreases of 1d. took place at Middlesbrough and Dundee, and increases of 3d. at Gateshead, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the Potteries. In 6 towns (2 in England, 2 in Scotland, and 2 in Ireland) the price is now 3d. per 4 lbs. less than a year ago.

Place.	Predominant Price at 1st Nov., 1906, of quality* of bread most generally consumed by work-people in each town.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Last Change.	
		Month ago.	Year ago.	Date.	Am't. per 4 lbs.
London ... ..	d. 4½ & 5	d.	d.	July, '06	d. ½
Birmingham ... ..	4½ & 5½	...	...	Aug. '04	- ½
Bolton ... ..	5	...	...	...	...
Bristol ... ..	5	...	...	Oct. '05.	- ½
Cardiff ... ..	5½	...	...	...	...
Derby ... ..	4½ & 5	...	...	Feb. '05	- ½
Gateshead ... ..	6	+	+	May, '06	+ ½
Huddersfield ... ..	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ... ..	4½ & 5	...	...	Feb. '04	+ ½
Ipswich ... ..	5	-	-	Sept. '06	- ½
Leicester ... ..	4½	...	...	June '03	+ 1
Liverpool ... ..	5	...	...	Mar. '05	- 1
Manchester ... ..	4½	...	...	Jan. '06	- 1
Middlesbrough ... ..	5	-	-	July '04	- ½
Newcastle-on-Tyne ... ..	6	+	+	May, '06	+ ½
Norwich ... ..	4½	...	...	...	...
Nottingham ... ..	5	...	...	July '04	- ½
Oldham ... ..	4½	...	...	...	...
Plymouth ... ..	4½	...	...	Sept. '03	+ ½
Potteries ... ..	5	...	...	Feb. '05	- ½
Wolverhampton ... ..	4½	+	+	April, '06	+ ½
Aberdeen ... ..	5	-	-	Nov. '05	+ ½
Dundee ... ..	5½	...	...	Mar. '03	+ ½
Edinburgh ... ..	4½ & 5½	-	-	Aug. '06	- ½
Glasgow ... ..	5½	...	...	Aug. '06	- ½
Belfast ... ..	5	-	-	July '06	- ½
Dublin ... ..	5	-	-	Sept. '06	- ½
Dublin ... ..	5½	-	-	Dec. '05	- ½

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

Month.	British Wheat. Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Imports.		Average Monthly Price of London Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
October 1905.	Per cwt. s. d. 6 3½	Per cwt. s. d. 7 2½	Per cwt. s. d. 10 4	Per cwt. s. d. 10 0
September 1906.	6 6½	6 10	9 5	9 1½
October 1906.	6 12	6 9½	9 6½	9 0

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and British Possessions from September 1st, 1906, to October 31st, 1906, amounted to 14,765,800 cwts., or 446,700 cwts., less than in the corresponding period of 1905. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September and October, 1906, amounted to 2,645,100 cwts., or 121,022 cwts. more than in the corresponding months of 1905.



**DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.**

The total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax in factories and workshops reported to the Home Office during October was 56, consisting of 51 cases of lead poisoning (including 1 death) and 5 of anthrax. In addition to the above, 16 cases of lead poisoning (including 1 death) were reported during October among house painters and painters.

During the ten months ended October, 1906, the total number of cases of poisoning and anthrax in factories and workshops was 587, as compared with 549 in the corresponding period of 1905. The total number of deaths during the same period was 45 in 1906, as compared with 33 in 1905. In addition there were 147 cases of lead poisoning (including 29 deaths) among house painters and plumbers, as compared with 132 (including 23 deaths) in 1905.

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

**Analysis by Industries.**

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Oct., 1906.	Ten Months ended Oct., 1906.	Month of Oct., 1906.	Ten Months ended Oct., 1906.
		1906.		1905.

**Lead Poisoning.**

Smelting of Metals ... ..	6	29	22	—	1	1	
Brass Works ... ..	—	11	4	—	—	1	
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ... ..	—	5	9	—	—	—	
Plumbing and Soldering ... ..	2	15	18	—	4	2	
Printing ... ..	—	11	15	—	—	4	
File Cutting ... ..	—	2	13	—	—	—	
Timing and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware ... ..	1	10	11	—	1	1	
White Lead Works ... ..	14	50	78	1	6	1	
Red and Yellow Lead Works ... ..	—	5	6	—	—	—	
China and Earthenware* ... ..	9	91	77	—	3	3	
Litho-transfer Works ... ..	—	1	4	3	—	—	
Glass Cutting and Polishing ... ..	—	4	3	—	1	—	
Enamelling of Iron Plates ... ..	—	4	2	—	—	—	
Electrical Accumulator Works ... ..	1	25	21	—	—	1	
Paint and Colour Works ... ..	9	32	51	—	—	1	
Coach Making ... ..	—	70	45	—	7	2	
Shipbuilding ... ..	—	24	23	30	—	1	
Paint used in other Industries ... ..	3	50	41	—	3	1	
Other Industries ... ..	—	51	49	—	2	1	
<b>Total in Factories and Workshops</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>529</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	
House Painting and Plumbing ... ..	16	147	112	—	1	29	23

**Other Forms of Poisoning.**

<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barometer and Thermometer Making ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes ... ..	—	3	4	—	—	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning—</b>	—	—	3	—	—	1
Lucifer Match Works ... ..	—	—	3	—	—	1
Other Industries ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>	—	2	—	—	—	—
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic ... ..	—	2	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ... ..	—	—	1	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total Other Forms of Poisoning ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>

**Anthrax.**

Wool Sorting ... ..	—	1	3	—	—	1
Wool Combing ... ..	2	18	21	—	7	6
Handling of Horsehair ... ..	—	7	6	—	3	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Falmongers, &c.) ... ..	2	7	12	—	4	4
Other Industries ... ..	1	10	1	—	1	1
<b>Total Anthrax ... ..</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>

**NEW SOUTH WALES.—FACTORY REPORT.**

The Annual Report for 1905 on the working of the Factory and Shops Act, and of the other Acts administered by the New South Wales Department of Labour and Industry, has just been issued. From this Report it appears that in the year 1905 there were in the State 3,277 factories with 55,705 workpeople, an increase of 91 factories and of 4,015 workpeople as compared with 1904, and of 9 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry in October, 1906, 6 were females.

682 factories and of 9,046 workpeople as compared with 1901; 82 per cent. of the factories and 89 per cent. of the workpeople were in Sydney and the neighbouring district. The number of women and girls employed was 17,000, or 30 per cent. of the total number; only 1,700 (10 per cent. of all females employed) are girls under 10 years of age.

Only 95 of the factories (3 per cent.) had as many as 100 workpeople, while 2,110 (64 per cent.) had less than 10 workpeople.

The principal groups of industries were the clothing and dress-making and boot and shoe industries, with 17,000 workpeople (of whom 11,500 were women and girls); the food, drink, and tobacco industries, with 10,000 workpeople; the metal and engineering industries, with 6,000 workpeople; the paper, printing, and book-binding industries, with 4,500 workpeople; and the stone, glass, and earthenware industries, with 3,000 workpeople.

**FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1906.**

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during October, 1906, was 283, an increase of 46 as compared with September, 1906, and of 91 as compared with October, 1905.

The mean number for October in the years 1901-1905 was 232, the maximum year being 1903 with 252 deaths, and the minimum 1905, with 192 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported in October, 1906, was 73. The number reported for October in the years 1901-1905 ranged from 59 in 1904 to 116 in 1901, the mean for the five years being 94.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1906, as compared with a	
	October, 1906.	Sept., 1906.	October, 1905.	Month ago.	Year ago.

<b>Railway Service—</b>	46	40	35	+ 6	+ 11
Brakemen and Goods Guards ... ..	2	2	3	—	- 1
Engine Drivers ... ..	3	2	1	+ 1	+ 2
Firemen ... ..	3	2	1	+ 1	+ 2
Guards (Passenger) ... ..	—	2	—	—	—
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ... ..	7	9	8	- 2	- 1
Porters ... ..	4	—	3	+ 4	+ 1
Shunters ... ..	3	6	4	- 3	- 1
Miscellaneous ... ..	25	16	12	+ 9	+ 13
Contractors' Servants ... ..	—	1	2	- 1	- 2

<b>Mines—</b>	118	89	69	+ 29	+ 49
Underground ... ..	105	79	56	+ 26	+ 49
Surface ... ..	13	10	13	+ 3	—
<b>Total Mines ... ..</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>+ 29</b>	<b>+ 49</b>
Quarries over 20 feet deep ... ..	7	10	11	- 3	- 4

<b>Factories—</b>	72	70	60	+ 2	+ 12
<b>Textile—</b>	5	3	2	+ 2	+ 3
Cotton ... ..	1	2	1	- 1	—
Wool and Worsted ... ..	1	1	2	—	- 1
Other Textiles ... ..	3	—	—	—	—
<b>Non-Textile—</b>	67	67	58	+ 1	+ 9
Extraction of Metals ... ..	2	4	3	- 2	- 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals ... ..	8	9	10	- 1	- 2
Marine and Locomotive Engineering ... ..	3	1	2	+ 2	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building ... ..	10	20	7	- 10	+ 3
Wood ... ..	4	—	2	+ 4	+ 2
Chemicals ... ..	2	5	7	- 3	- 5
Other Non-Textile Industries ... ..	36	25	24	+ 11	+ 12

<b>Workshops ... ..</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
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<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, No. 103-5—</b>	31	25	14	+ 6	+ 17
Docks, Wharves, and Quays ... ..	12	9	9	+ 3	+ 3
Warehouses ... ..	2	2	—	—	+ 2
Buildings to which Act applies ... ..	16	14	4	+ 2	+ 12
Laundries ... ..	1	—	1	—	—

<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894 ... ..</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+ 6</b>	<b>+ 7</b>
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen ... ..</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>+ 46</b>	<b>+ 91</b>

<b>Seamen—</b>	73	58	108	+ 15	- 35
On Trading Vessels—	26	7	33	+ 19	- 7
Sailing ... ..	42	45	58	- 3	- 16
On Fishing Vessels—	1	—	1	+ 1	—
Sailing ... ..	1	—	16	- 2	- 12
Steam ... ..	4	6	—	—	—
<b>Total Seamen ... ..</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>+ 15</b>	<b>- 35</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen ... ..</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>+ 61</b>	<b>+ 56</b>

\* Now included under Factories.

**TRADE DISPUTES IN OCTOBER.\***

**Number and Magnitude.**—An important dispute began during October affecting upwards of 15,000 shipyard workers on the Clyde. In addition, 23 other disputes began in October, 1906, compared with 23 in September, 1906, and 9 in October, 1905. By the 24 disputes 10,197 workpeople were directly and 15,831 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by disputes which began before October, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 28,330 workpeople involved in trade disputes during October, 1906, compared with 21,377 in September, 1906, and 9,506 in October, 1905.

**New Disputes in October, 1906.**—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.
Coal Mining ... ..	5	1,714	712	2,426
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	4	5,993	11,426	17,329
Cotton ... ..	5	652	147	799
Flax and Jute ... ..	3	513	3,150	3,663
Other Textile Trades ... ..	2	75	395	470
Other Trades ... ..	5	1,340	—	1,340
<b>Total, October, 1906 ... ..</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>10,197</b>	<b>15,831</b>	<b>26,028</b>
<b>Total, September, 1906 ... ..</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15,363</b>	<b>2,896</b>	<b>17,559</b>
<b>Total, October, 1905 ... ..</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1,050</b>

**Causes.**—Of the 24 new disputes, 7 arose on demands for increased wages, 4 on objections to reductions in wages, and 8 on other wages questions, 2 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 1 on details of working arrangements, and 2 on questions of Trade Union principle.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in October in the case of 10 new disputes affecting 6,261 workpeople, and 10 old disputes, affecting 999 workpeople. Of these 20 new and old disputes, 6, involving 1,791 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 6, involving 4,578 persons, in favour of the employers;

and 8, involving 891 persons, were compromised. In the case of 4 other disputes, terminating during the month and involving 1,860 persons, certain points were still under consideration at the end of the month.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in October of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 387,800 working days. In addition, 26,500 working days were lost during October owing to disputes which began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the duration in October of all disputes, new and old, was 414,300 working days, as compared with 147,400 in the previous month, and 176,000 in the corresponding month of 1905.

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

Groups of Trades.	January—October.					
	1905.			1906.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ... ..	23	6,315	407,000	15	1,196	52,000
Mining and Quarrying ... ..	81	39,660	831,203	75	59,405	222,800
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding ... ..	53	10,758	448,700	94	35,213	617,700
Textile ... ..	48	12,865	116,400	106	71,543	730,500
Clothing ... ..	25	2,925	71,000	31	7,037	86,600
Transport ... ..	7	1,350	49,700	13	1,201	8,000
Other Trades ... ..	31	6,995	58,100	47	4,375	49,400
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>80,878</b>	<b>2,035,100</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>170,971</b>	<b>2,258,000</b>

**Principal Disputes.**—Particulars of the 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.**

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object ‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
<b>Coal Mining—</b>							
Miners, &c. ... ..	Pontypridd (near)	1,177	—	1 Oct.	2	Refusal to work with non-Unionists.	Only Trade Unionists to be employed.
<b>Shipbuilding—</b>							
Angle Iron Smiths, Platers, Riveters, Caulkers, Holders-up, and other Shipyard Workers ... ..	The Clyde ...	5,285	10,000	1 Oct.	—	For advance of 5 per cent. on piece and 1s. 6d per week on time rates.	No settlement reported.
Platers and Helpers ... ..	The Tees and Hartlepoons	400	1,400	31 Oct.	—	Against proposed new scale of piece work prices.	No settlement reported.
<b>Cotton Weaving—</b>							
Weavers ... ..	Burnley ...	300	—	29 Sept.	14	Alleged bad material.	Work resumed unconditionally.
<b>Jute Manufacture—</b>							
Spinners and Weavers and other Jute Operatives ... ..	Dundee ...	450	2,650	26 Oct.	4	Alleged bad material.	Work resumed on old conditions.
Weavers and other Jute Operatives ... ..	Barrow-in-Furness	55	500	21 Oct.	9	Alleged bad material.	Work resumed on old conditions.
<b>Ammunition Making—</b>							
Cartridge Tube Rollers, Pastors, Trayers, and other Workpeople ... ..	London, N. ...	1,245	—	9 Oct.	5½	Against proposed reduction in prices	Matter referred to Mr. G. R. Askwith, arbitrator appointed under the Conciliation Act, 1866. See page 310.

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

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

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



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.\*

Wages.

Changes reported in October.—The net effect of all the changes reported in October was an increase of £1,158 per week, as compared with an increase of £675 per week in September, 1906, and an increase of £610 per week in October, 1905. The number of workpeople affected was 96,508, of whom 66,186 received advances amounting to £1,970 per week, and 30,322 sustained decreases amounting to £812 per week. The total number affected in September, 1906, was 17,116, and in October, 1905, 20,941.

One change, affecting 38,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board, and 28 changes, affecting 48,353 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 10,155 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, one of these changes, affecting 200 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Ten completed Months of 1906.—The number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were reported to have been changed since January 1st, 1906, was 919,525, as compared with 544,117 in the corresponding period of 1905. The changes arranged gave 902,480 workpeople a net increase of £43,795 per week and 14,515 workpeople a net decrease of £758 per week, while the remaining 2,530 had upward and downward changes, which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes was an increase of £43,037 per week, as compared with a decrease of £5,321 per week in the corresponding period of 1905.

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

Groups of Trades.	January—October.			
	1905.		1906.	
	No.	£.	No.	£.
Building ... ..	10,221	- 966	3,087	- 162
Coal Mining ... ..	193,246	-13,471	314,488	+13,131
Iron, &c., Mining ... ..	7,092	+ 302	8,540	+ 643
Quarrying ... ..	8,357	- 531	4,090	- 60
Pig Iron Manufacture ... ..	14,796	+ 844	16,427	+ 956
Iron and Steel Manufacture ... ..	37,602	+ 440	53,215	+ 3,866
Engineering and Shipbuilding ... ..	37,451	- 2,346	117,481	+ 6,646
Other Metal Trades ... ..	719	- 39	548	+ 36
Textile Trades ... ..	220,331	+ 9,982	391,128	+12,342
Other Trades ... ..	5,329	+ 118	4,644	+ 434
Employees of Local Authorities ... ..	4,173	+ 346	5,895	+ 295
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>544,117</b>	<b>- 5,321</b>	<b>919,525</b>	<b>+43,037</b>

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during October, 1906, affected 612 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 2,276 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour since January 1st last was 45,548, the net decrease in their working hours being 68,532 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in October.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1906.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by	Particulars of Change.	
					Increase.	Decrease.
Coal Mining	Northumberland	8 and 15 Oct.	Underground Workers and Banksmen (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen and Firemen)	38,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on standard rates, making wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
			Other Surface Workers			
	Bristol District	1st pay in Nov.	Hewers, Other Underground Workers and Banksmen	2,500	...	Advance of 2 per cent. on standard rates, making wages 19 per cent. above the standard of 1879. Advance of 5 per cent. on standard rates.
Pig Iron Manufacture	Cleveland and Durham	6 Oct.	Blastfurnacemen	5,500	...	Decrease of ½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 23½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
			West Cumberland	1 Oct.	Blastfurnacemen	1,400
	North Staffordshire	7 Oct.	Blastfurnacemen	600	...	Decrease of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 22 per cent. above the standard.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	South Staffordshire and South Wales and Mon.	1 Oct.	Blastfurnacemen	1,000	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
			South Wales and Mon.	1 Oct.	Blastfurnacemen	1,250
	Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	1 Oct.	Puddlers	750	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 9d.) under sliding scale.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	Cleveland and Consett	1 Oct.	Iron and Steel Millmen	2,650	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
			Steel Millmen	1,280	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 10 per cent. above the standard.
	Jarrow Midlands (including parts of S. Yorks and S. Lancs.)	1 Oct.	Puddlers	20,000	...	Decrease of 3d. per ton (9s. to 8s. 9d.) under sliding scale.
Iron and Steel Manufacture	South Wales and Mon.	1 Oct.	Millmen	5,000	...	Advance of 1½ per cent. under sliding scale, making wages 15 per cent. above the standard.
			Iron and Steel Workers	1,800	...	Decrease of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
	West of Scotland	1 Oct.	Iron Puddlers, Iron and Steel Millmen, Enginemen, &c.	3,000	...	Advance of 3d. per ton (8s. 9d. to 9s.) under sliding scale.
Engineering	Sheffield	22 Oct.	Millmen	4,000	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. under sliding scale.
			Iron and Steel Moulders	1,000	...	Advance of 2s. per week (40s. to 42s.)
	Oldham	Sept.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths and Machinemen, Brass Finishers, Copper-smiths and Patternmakers, Machine Workers	1,340	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates, and of 1s. per week on time rates

IMPORTANT CHANGES REPORTED EARLY IN NOVEMBER.

(Full particulars will appear in the December GAZETTE.)

Durham Coal Mining.—It has been arranged that the Durham Miners' wages should be advanced 1½ per cent., making their wages 32½ per cent. above the standard of 1879. The change takes effect on the 12th and 19th November.

Steel Trade.—Under their sliding scale an advance of 2½ per cent. to the Steel Smelters in Great Britain is reported to have taken effect from November 4th.

London and Manchester Engineers.—The workpeople in the engineering trades have been granted an advance of 1s. per week in the London and Erith districts from 1st pay day in November, while in the Manchester district there has been an advance of 1s. per week on time rates and 2½ per cent. on piece rates, taking effect on 3rd November.

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

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for October.

IMPORTS.

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

	Month ended 31st Oct.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with	
	1905.		1906.	1905.	1904.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£ 21,967,523	£ 20,610,195	£ 21,765,000	+ 1,154,805	- 204,523
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.*	16,080,856	15,599,775	19,140,370	+ 3,540,595	+ 3,059,514
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured †	11,309,921	12,326,954	13,518,437	+ 1,191,483	+ 2,208,516
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	159,525	139,494	217,511	+ 78,017	+ 57,986
<b>Total value of Imports</b>	<b>49,517,825</b>	<b>48,676,418</b>	<b>54,639,318</b>	<b>+ 5,962,900</b>	<b>+ 5,121,493</b>

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE.

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

	Month ended 31st Oct.,			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1906, as compared with	
	1905.		1906.	1905.	1904.
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1905.	1904.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£ 1,764,639	£ 2,089,134	£ 2,381,631	+ 292,497	+ 616,992
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured †	3,059,175	3,288,065	4,094,781	+ 806,718	+ 1,025,606
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured ‡	20,225,570	23,506,925	25,293,137	+ 2,786,212	+ 6,066,567
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	383,393	483,434	464,782	- 18,612	+ 81,479
<b>Total value of Exports of British produce</b>	<b>25,432,677</b>	<b>29,367,558</b>	<b>33,234,331</b>	<b>+ 3,866,775</b>	<b>+ 7,790,644</b>

The re-exports of foreign and colonial produce amounted to £5,661,373 in October, 1904; £6,235,810 in October, 1905; and £7,141,882 in October, 1906.

THE COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL DISEASES.

The Departmental Committee which was recently appointed to "inquire and report what diseases and injuries, other than injuries by accident, are due to industrial occupations, are distinguishable as such, and can properly be added to the diseases enumerated in the Third Schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Bill, 1906," has now begun its enquiry. The committee proposes to investigate the following diseases and injuries which have been suggested for its consideration, viz., gradual poisoning from the vapour of carbon disulphide, dinitrobenzol, dinitrotoluol, and anilin; gradual poisoning from carbonic oxide gas, sulphuretted hydrogen gas, and chlorine gas; alkaloidal poisoning from African boxwood in shutelemaking; illness set up by nitrous fumes, hydrochloric acid fumes, ammonium chloride fumes, and sulphur fumes; compressed air illness (caisson disease); chrome ulceration of the skin; various trade eczemas; fibrosis of the lungs from inhalation of silicious or metallic particles (potter's asthma and grinder's phthisis); pneumonia from inhalation of basic slag dust; miner's nystagmus and miner's "beat knee" and "beat hand"; neurosis due to vibration; cardiac dilatation in slate quarries; and glanders. Correspondence relating to the inquiry should be addressed to Frank Elliott, Esq., secretary to the committee, at the Home Office, Whitehall, S.W. Anthrax, ankylostomiasis, and poisoning by lead, mercury, phosphorus, and arsenic are already included in the Third Schedule of the Workmen's Compensation Bill, and are not, therefore, within the committee's terms of reference.

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

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

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

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

The number of paupers relieved in the 35 selected Urban Districts named below on one day in October, 1906, corresponded to a rate of 215 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with September, 1906, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 5,224 (1·4 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 4. There was an increase of 5,209 (3·3 per cent.) in the number of indoor paupers. There was also a very slight increase in the number of outdoor paupers. Increases occurred in 19 districts, the most marked being in the Central London district (20 per 10,000). Decreases occurred in 9 districts, and 7 districts showed no change.

Compared with October, 1905, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 12,436 (3·2 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 9. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 1,001 (0·6 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 11,435 (5·1 per cent.). Increases occurred in 9 districts, the most marked being in the Coatbridge and Airdrie district (14 per 10,000). The principal decreases occurred in the East London (46 per 10,000) and Leicester districts (26 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Oct., 1906.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.*</b>						
<b>Metropolises.</b>						
West District	11,619	3,938	15,557	186	+ 7	...
North District	16,039	9,103	25,142	283	+ 4	- 13
Central District	7,104	2,794	9,898	515	+ 20	+ 3
East District	15,040	6,854	21,894	304	+ 7	- 46
South District	24,966	18,251	43,217	282	+ 10	- 9
<b>Total Metropolises</b>	<b>74,768</b>	<b>40,940</b>	<b>115,708</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>+ 8</b>	<b>- 14</b>
West Ham	3,961	11,934	15,895	231	+ 5	- 29
<b>Other Districts.</b>						
Newcastle District	2,153	5,305	7,458	170	...	- 2
Stoke-ton & Tees District	1,244	4,220	5,464	261	+ 1	- 11
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,043	6,594	10,637	139	...	- 14
Wigan District	2,176	6,208	8,384	209	- 3	- 4
Manchester District	9,371	8,730	18,101	190	+ 1	- 14
Liverpool District	11,726	10,266	21,992	212	+ 2	+ 1
Bradford District	1,861	3,028	4,889	133	+ 12	- 2
Hull District	1,265	4,029	5,294	145	- 1	...
Leeds District	2,606	5,999	8,605	178	...	...
Barnsley District	825	2,954	3,779	154	+ 1	- 5
Sheffield District	3,054	3,658	6,712	182	...	- 15
Hull District	1,554	5,824	7,378	245	- 1	- 7
North Staffordshire	2,311	7,021	10,232	271	- 10	- 7
Nottingham District	2,122	6,173	8,295	200	- 2	+ 4
Leicester District	1,469	5,369	6,838	297	- 2	- 26
Wolverhampton District	3,534	12,273	15,807	242	+ 3	- 16
Birmingham District	4,912	3,354	8,266	142	+ 4	- 6
Bristol District	3,601	6,681	9,682	248	+ 4	- 6
Cardiff & Swansea	2,045	7,291	9,336	246	...	...
<b>Total "Other Districts"</b>	<b>61,272</b>	<b>115,277</b>	<b>176,549</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>- 7</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.*</b>						
Glasgow District	5,277	16,439	21,716	221	+ 1	- 13
Paisley & Greenock District	725	2,397	3,122	176	+ 3	- 10
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,736	5,872	7,608	187	+ 1	+ 3
Dun-dee & Dunfermline	920	2,733	3,653	183	...	- 19
Aberdeen	668	3,221	3,889	231	- 2	+ 1
Coatbridge & Airdrie	367	1,550	1,917	200	...	+ 14
<b>Total for the above Scottish Districts</b>	<b>9,693</b>	<b>32,212</b>	<b>41,905</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>- 8</b>
<b>IRELAND.†</b>						
Dublin District	7,110	5,215	12,325	312	+ 4	+ 2
Belfast District	3,474	460	3,934	97	+ 3	+ 1
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick District	4,350	4,628	8,978	387	- 3	- 14
Galway District	355	315	670	190	- 7	+ 1
<b>Total for the above Irish Districts</b>	<b>15,289</b>	<b>10,618</b>	<b>25,907</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>- 3</b>
<b>Total for above 35 Dis-tricts in Oct., 1906</b>	<b>164,983</b>	<b>210,981</b>	<b>376,964</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>+ 4</b>	<b>- 9</b>

\* 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.

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



RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended November 3rd amounted to £5,621,366, an increase of £41,108 (or 0.7 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

During the forty-four weeks ended November 3rd the total amount was £45,456,531, an increase of £1,386,380 (or 3.1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1905.

	5 weeks ended Nov. 3rd, 1906.		44 weeks ended Nov. 3rd, 1906.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1905.
<b>English Lines:—</b>	£	£	£	£
L. & N.W., Midland, Gt. Central, and N. London, Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury.	2,019,343	- 429	16,263,208	+ 539,102
Lanes. & Yorks., N. Eastern, and N. Staffs.	1,039,984	+ 34,918	8,945,669	+ 455,617
L. & S.W., and Gt. Western, L. B. & S.C., and S. E. & C.	812,900	+ 3,800	6,659,200	+ 40,300
Scottish Lines:—	203,781	- 2,408	1,692,699	+ 33,177
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian.	691,560	- 6,493	5,740,706	+ 181,841
<b>Irish Lines:—</b>				
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern.	165,584	+ 5,278	1,241,846	+ 12,381
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,611,366</b>	<b>+ 4,108</b>	<b>45,456,531</b>	<b>+ 1,386,380</b>

HOME OFFICE MEMORANDUM.

**Factories and Workshops: Dry Cleaning.**—A Memorandum has been issued by the Home Office, drawing attention to the dangers attending the process of dry cleaning. In 1896 a Departmental Committee reported upon the subject, and made recommendations for the safety of the persons employed in this process. Although these recommendations have been widely adopted with satisfactory results, severe, and even fatal, accidents are still reported from time to time. This Memorandum\* suggests additional measures of precaution, especially with regard to the risk of ignition by electric sparks. It is stated that many materials, especially undyed wool and silk, become electrified when rubbed or when moved quickly in benzine, and that electric sparks may result, and may cause explosions. To lessen the risk of such explosions, suggestions of various kinds are made. Information is given of means for making the benzine less inflammable. Recommendations are made as to the management and storage of inflammable spirit, the use of artificial light in benzine rooms, the prevention and extinguishing of fire, the clothing of employees, and other matters. It is further pointed out that injury to health may result from breathing the fumes of such things as benzine, and that, therefore, exposure to such fumes should be as brief as possible; that no meals should be taken in rooms in which inflammable spirit is used; and that women and young persons exposed to the fumes should be periodically examined by a Certifying Surgeon. H.M. Inspectors of Factories will be glad to advise in further detail if desired.

NEW ZEALAND.—REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

THE Report of the New Zealand Department of Labour for the twelve months ended March 31st, 1906, has been published. The Report states that during the year there has been full employment for the great majority of workers, in spite of a large influx of immigrants from Great Britain and from Australia. The building trades have been very busy, and the boot and shoe trade shows a marked revival. Agriculture and railway building suffered somewhat from the wet summer.

The total number of factories in New Zealand is now 9,881, with 70,403 workpeople; increases of 758 factories and of 5,000 workpeople as compared with the previous year, and of 5,000 factories and 38,000 workpeople—i.e., more than 100 per cent.—as compared with ten years ago. The number of accidents in factories was 529; of which eight were fatal.

Several important awards have been given under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Acts. In one case a dispute between the New Zealand Federated Tailoresses and their employers has been settled by the substitution of a minimum time wage (25s. a week) for a piece-work wage. In another case an application from the Australasian Federated Seamen's Union for an increase of wages of 10s. per month from certain steamship companies, which has been repeatedly put forward during the last 12 years, was again refused.

\* Form 824. October, 1906.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

(I.) LABOUR BUREAUX IN LONDON AFFILIATED TO THE CENTRAL EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

Number of Registrations, Situations offered and filled, and number on the Register at end of October, 1906.

Name of Exchange.	No. of Individuals who Registered during Oct., 1906.	No. of Situations offered during October, 1906.		No. of Situations filled during October, 1906.		No. of Individuals on Register at end of Oct., 1906.
		Men and Boys	Women and Girls	Men and Boys	Women and Girls	
Battersea (332, Park Rd., S.W.)*	145	1	1	1	1	145
Bethnal Green (11, Green St., E.)*	532	23	113	19	11	304
Camberwell (65, Peckham Rd.)	998	49	7	52	2	431
Deptford (13, Deptford Bridge)*	431	5	7	7	5	323
Finsbury (48, Myddleton St.)*	455	109	72	48	14	230
Fulham (Effie Rd., Walham Green)	603	21	13	20	7	370
Greenwich (12, Stockwell St.)*	47	...	...	...	...	47
Hammersmith (20, Queen St., W.)	350	34	9	28	5	249
Hampstead (120, West End Lane)	210	15	4	13	4	211
Islington (93, St. Paul's Rd., N.)	734	140	12	123	2	669
Kensington (155, Clarendon Rd.)	461	8	...	8	...	345
Lambeth (120A, Lambeth Rd.)	618	36	3	7	2	302
Lewisham (17, Brownhill Rd.)	436	54	7	35	2	274
Poplar (1, Follett St., E.)	604	13	53	10	18	421
Shoreditch (134F, Kingsland Rd.)	866	47	3	32	2	581
Shoreditch (134F, Kingsland Rd.)	669	171	57	159	31	317
Southwark (23, New Kent Rd.)	585	11	3	20	3	256
Stepney (41, White Horse St., E.)	542	14	...	17	11	427
Wandsworth (213, Garratt Lane)	447	4	...	1	...	243
Woolwich (20, Albion Rd., S.E.)	479	1	...	3	...	239
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9,918</b>	<b>759</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>603</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>6,384</b>

Occupations in which Situations were found during October, and Occupations of those on Register at end of Month.

	Building Trades.		Metal Work.		Transport and General.		Other Occupations.	
	Situations found.	No. on Register.	Situations found.	No. on Register.	Situations found.	No. on Register.	Situations found.	No. on Register.
Battersea* ...	17	...	6	...	72	2	50	...
Bethnal Green* ...	1	50	16	109	21	129	87	...
Camberwell ...	25	130	21	10	184	13	87	...
Deptford* ...	1	63	...	...	138	11	64	...
Finsbury* ...	4	...	3	...	11	...	34	230†
Fulham ...	2	156	1	21	5	91	19	102
Greenwich* ...	...	12	...	14	...	9	...	12
Hammersmith ...	9	133	3	18	2	63	19	35
Hampstead ...	6	70	...	...	8	1	83	10
Islington ...	44	293	...	39	54	249	27	88
Kensington ...	6	241	...	9	2	53	...	42
Lambeth ...	6	83	...	30	...	127	5	65
Lewisham ...	14	130	...	14	11	59	12	65
Poplar ...	1	27	4	51	4	144	19	95
St. Pancras ...	3	225	...	13	4	22	27	101
Shoreditch ...	...	51	14	24	6	119	170	123
Southwark ...	...	53	...	24	3	130	22	49
Stepney ...	...	62	1	45	6	223	26	97
Wandsworth ...	...	102	...	19	...	64	1	28
Woolwich ...	...	48	...	51	3	98	...	44

(II.) LABOUR BUREAUX IN LONDON AND PROVINCES NOT AFFILIATED.

Name of Labour Bureau.	Applications by Workpeople		Situations offered by Employers		Workpeople found Work	
	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd., E.)	2,153	1,280	674	618	1,216	713
Coventry (5, Market Hall Arcade)	355	198	98	65	86	60
Croydon (Town Hall) ...	231	900	72	92	69	96
Dudley (Stone Street) ...	3	15	9	8	9	28
Glasgow (158, George Street) ...	442	537	667	524	166	172
Ipswich (135, Fore Street) ...	46	76	16	22	16	19
Liverpool (Dale Street) ...	741	225	138	6	133	4
Manchester (King St., Deansgate) ...	301	385	180	34	114	99
Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Pilgrim St.)	345	308	67	37	40	26
Wigan (Library Street) ...	25	46	17	11	17	11
<b>Total of 10 Bureaux</b>	<b>4,043</b>	<b>4,370</b>	<b>1,813</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,761</b>	<b>1,158</b>
Birkenhead (6, Duncan Street) ...	71	...	...	...	...	...
Bristol (Silver Street) ...	347	...	25	...	17	...
Edinburgh (30, Cockburn Street) ...	82	...	13	...	13	...
Hull (St. Mary's Chambers, Lowgate) ...	15	...	15	...	15	...
Hull (1, Regent Place) ...	17	...	31	...	2	...
Halifax (1, Regent Gate) ...	49	...	1	...	1	...
Northfleet (Council Offices) ...	7	...	7	...	7	...
Nottingham (Shakespeare Villas) ...	51	...	17	...	26	...
Reading (Abattoirs Road) ...	198	...	14	...	11	...
Salford (Town Hall) ...	42	...	4	...	...	...
Sunderland (Fawcett Street) ...	143	...	33	...	93	...
West Ham (29, Broadway) ...	2,130	...	14	...	14	...
York (16, Castlegate) ...	34	...	8	...	8	...
<b>Total of 23 Bureaux</b>	<b>7,229</b>	...	<b>1,998</b>	...	<b>1,988</b>	...

\* The figures for Battersea and Greenwich relate to one week only; those for Deptford to two weeks; and those for Bethnal Green and Finsbury to three weeks. † Including Females. ‡ This is total number; the classification is not available. § Figures relate only to period 1st to 12th October inclusive.

Employment found for Workpeople in October by 23 Bureaux.

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
<b>Engaged by Private Employers.</b>			
Men:—			
Building Trades...	34	50	84
Carmen, Stablemen, &c.	7	2	9
Porters and Messengers	19	28	47
Bill Distributors	...	674	674
General Labourers	...	21	22
Other Occupations	121	66	187
Lads and Boys	35	1	36
Women and Girls:—			
Domestic Servants	85	23	108
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	25	92	117
Other Occupations	29	1	30
<b>Total engaged by Private Employers</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>958</b>	<b>1,314</b>
<b>Engaged by Local Authorities:—</b>			
Men, Lads and Boys	24	88	112
<b>Engaged by Salvation Army</b>	...	512	542
<b>Total of 23 Bureaux</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>1,888</b>	<b>1,968</b>

Occupations of Workpeople on the Registers of 23 Bureaux at the end of October, 1906.

Name of Bureau.	Men.					Lads and Boys.	Women and Girls.
	Building Trades.	Engineering Trades.	General Labourers.	Porters, Messengers, Carmen &c.	Other Occupations.		
Salvation Army	123	23	191	99	255	...	...
Birkenhead	12	13	60	11	12	3	8
Bristol	323	59	514	32	85	...	1
Coventry	18	328	46	28	26	33	...
Croydon	357	58	393	152	102	10	34
Dudley	36	91	90	19	40	25	...
Edinburgh	211	93	328	147	250	17	65
Glasgow	39	47	44	40	43	22	120
Halifax	416	12	57	23	147	4	14
Ipswich	4	6	13	12	3	10	...
Hull	131	54	1,227	25	54	22	...
Leicester	74	16	351	22	333	...	...
Liverpool	14	8	105	8	25	11	15
Manchester	49	51	190	62	99	2	107
Newcastle-on-Tyne	15	16	414	9	44	7	40
Northfleet	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
Nottingham	8	14	62	35	43	1	11
Reading	49	4	91	9	50	1	2
Salford	...	...	5	35	6	...	50
Sunderland	77	28	150	31	37	7	75
West Ham	542	190	343	118	866	...	67
Wigan	38	8	163	21	20	15	6
York	417	185	509	61	183	36	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,944</b>	<b>1,384</b>	<b>5,339</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>2,713</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>662</b>

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October 992 fresh applications (533 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 910 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 243 persons, of whom 144 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 243 situations found for applicants 182 were of a more or less permanent character, while 61 were temporary only.

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

	Applications by Workpeople during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Permanently.		Temporarily.	
					Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1905.
<b>Summary by Bureaux.</b>								
Central Bureau	102	95	70	58	15	19	13	5
9, Southampton St., W.C.								
Y.W.C.A.:—								
26, George Street	551	522	566	494	83	79	28	17
Hanover Sq., W.	128	99	117	123	39	25	5	11
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Watford, Edinburgh and Dublin)	211	160	157	123	45	39	15	7
<b>Total of 8 Bureaux</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Summary by Occupations.</b>								
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	89	57	21	16	8	5	—	1
Shop Assistants	14	21	3	3	—	—	—	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	67							



## BRITISH COLONIES AND DEPENDENCIES.

*Colonial Reports—Annual.* No. 497. Barbados. Report for 1905-6. Progress of cotton-growing, &c. [Cd. 2684-43 : pp. 30 : price 2d.]

*Cyprus.* Annual Report for 1905-6. Village co-operative banks, notes on industries, &c. [Cd. 3188 : pp. 55 : price 3d.]

No. 501. Grenada. Report for 1905. Land settlement scheme, cotton-growing, savings banks, &c. [Cd. 2684-47 : pp. 37 : price 2½d.]

No. 502. Straits Settlements. Report for 1905. Notes on industries, immigration, &c. [Cd. 2684-48 : pp. 53 : price 3d.]

No. 504. Trinidad and Tobago. Report for 1905-6. Notes on immigration, savings banks, &c. [Cd. 2684-50 : pp. 26 : price 2d.]

*Canada Fourth Census of Canada, 1901. Vol. IV., 1906. Miscellaneous Statistics.* Vital Statistics, School Attendance, Educational Status, Dwellings and Families, Institutions, Churches and Schools, Electoral Districts and Representation. [Ottawa : S. E. Dawson, King's Printer : pp. vi. + 467.]

*Canada. Labour Gazette,* September, 1906. Articles upon Legislation affecting Labour in 1906 in Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Prince Edward Island; the Ontario Co-operative Fruit Growers' Association; the Immigration Act, 1906; false representations to induce or deter immigrants.

*New Zealand International Exhibition, 1906-7.* British Government Exhibit. Official Catalogue. Issued by the British Government Committee, 47, Victoria Street, S.W. [Pp. viii. + 250.]

*New Zealand. Fifteenth Annual Report of the Department of Labour* for the year ended 31st March, 1906. [Wellington : John Mackay, Government Printer : pp. 71.]

*New South Wales. The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records,* 1906. Vol. V. Part 3. Reports of 10 cases. [Sydney : W. A. Gullick, Government Printer : pp. 60.]

*New South Wales. Department of Labour and Industry. Report on the Working of the Factories and Shops Act; Early Closing Acts; Shearers' Accommodation Act, &c., &c., during the year 1905.* [Sydney : W. A. Gullick, Government Printer : pp. 42 : price 1s. 9d.]

*Queensland. Regulations under the "Workers' Compensation Act" of 1905.* [Brisbane : G. A. Vaughan, Government Printer : pp. 24 : price 9d.]

## FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

## United States.

*Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900. Special Reports. Supplementary Analysis and Derivative Tables, 1906.* [Washington : Government Printing Office : pp. xviii. + 1144.]

*Monthly Trade and Consular Reports.* August and September, 1906. State of New York. Department of Labour Bulletin. September, 1906. State of Employment; work of the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration and of Factory Inspection; decisions of New York Courts, &c.

*Nebraska. Bulletin of the State Bureau of Statistics.* No. 9. September 1906.

## France.

*Journal of the French Labour Department,* September, 1906. Contains article on subventions to unemployment benefit funds in 1905.

*Population Statistics of France for 1904.* Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 1906. [Paris : Imprimerie Nationale : pp. xl. + 598.]

*Statistics of Poor Relief in 1904.* Ministry of Commerce and Industry, 1906. [Paris : Imprimerie Nationale : pp. vi. + 103.]

## Germany.

*Journal of the German Labour Department, October, 1906.* Contains article on unemployment in German Trade Unions in third quarter of 1906.

*Report on Co-operation in Germany in 1904.* Prussian Central Co-operative Bank, 1906. [Berlin : pp. 86 + 96.]

## Austria.

*Journal of the Austrian Labour Department.* September, 1906. Contains report on Industrial Inspection in 1905.

*Report for 1905 on Accident Insurance in Lower Austria.* 1906. [Vienna, Selbstverlag der Unfallversicherungs-Anstalt : pp. 106.]

## Italy.

*Journal of the Italian Labour Department, September, 1906.* Contains statistics of Italian Trade Unions, wages and hours of labour of State Railway Workers, &c.

## Belgium.

*Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, September 15th and 30th.* Contains articles on employment in August, and labour disputes in September.

## Holland.

*Journal of Dutch Central Bureau of Statistics, October, 1906.* Contains articles on state of employment and labour disputes in Holland in August, 1906.

## Sweden.

*Insurance in Sweden in 1904.* [Stockholm, 1906. K. L. Beckman's Boktryckeri : pp. 159.]

## Russia.

*Harvest Statistics of Russia in 1905.* Central Statistical Committee of Ministry of Interior, 1906. [St. Petersburg : pp. 53 and maps.]

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

## Spain.

*Journal of the Spanish Labour Department,* September, 1906. Contains statistics on strikes in August, and cost of articles of food in the second quarter of 1906.

## Norway.

*Catalogue of Library of Central Statistical Bureau of Norway.* 1906. [Christiania : H. Aschehoug & Co. : pp. 348.]

*Consular Reports. Annual Series.* No. 3723. Trade and Agriculture of Bavaria for the year 1905 and part of 1906. Notes on industries, number employed, wages, &c.; strikes; work of Bavarian labour bureaux; cost of living, &c. [Cd. 2682-248 : pp. 27 : price 2d.]

No. 3724. Trade of Khorassan for the year 1905-06. Notes on industries; cost of living and rates of wages, &c. [Cd. 2682-249 : pp. 43 : price 2½d.]

(The Consular Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

## 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, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 6; under the Friendly Societies Act, 48 (including 28 branches of existing Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 2; in all 58.

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

**Trade Unions.**—*England.*—1, viz., L'Union Patronale des Coiffeurs de Dames à Londres, 3a, Sidney Place, Leicester Square, W.C. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Inverness Cabmen's Union, 11, Castle Street, Inverness.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England.*—4, viz., Co-operative Productive Society: North East Lancashire Co-op. Laundries Assoc., Ltd., 5, Oak Street, Accrington. *Miscellaneous Societies:* 3 Working Men's Clubs. *Scotland.*—1, viz., Lochore Public House Society, Ltd., Lochcraig, Lochgelly. *Ireland.*—1, viz., Co-operative Agricultural Society; Clare Co-op. Creamery, Ltd., Clare, Tendragel.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—15, viz., Harcourt Friendly Loan and Investment Soc., 25, Harcourt Street, Marylebone Road, W.; Llanelly and Dist. Permanent Money Soc., Edinburgh Temperance Hotel, Cowell Street, Llanelly; Jarrow Working Men's Club and Inst., 105 to 107, Grange Road, and 2 to 6, Gray Street, Jarrow; Colnes Working Men's Constitutional Club, High Street, Earls Colne, Essex; Rochdale Victoria Working Men's Club, Fletcher Street, Rochdale; Spring Hill Bowling and Working Men's Club, 124, Lonsdale Street, Accrington; Leicester Unionist Working Men's Club, 4 and 6, Church Gate, Leicester; Carlinghow Working Men's Club, 5 and 6, Coalpit Lane, Carlinghow, Batley; Penge Hearts of Oak Slate Club, Crooked Billet Hotel, Beckenham Road, Penge, S.E.; Chatsworth Road Tabernacle Slate Club, Chatsworth Road, Clapton, N.E.; British Steel Smelters' Mill, Iron, and Tinplate Workers' Mutual Assurance Endowment Benefit Society, Ormond Mansions, Great Ormond Street, W.C.; Tatenhill Robin Hood Independent Friendly Soc., Bass's Arms Inn, Tatenhill Common, Burton-on-Trent; Bournville Social Club Sick and Dividend Soc., Bournville Social Club, Mary Vale Road, Bournville, Birmingham; Sun Flower Friendly Society of Oddfellows, Mechanics' Institute, Heckmondwike, Yorks; Young Messiah Sick and Burial Soc., Rising Sun Inn, Norrithorpe, Liversedge, Yorks. *Scotland.*—1, viz., British Imperial Friendly Collecting Soc., 180, Hope Street, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—4, viz., Gurtroe Credit Soc., Gurtroe, co. Cork; Sinn Fein Loan Fund, 27, Dellington Quay, Dublin; Drumlish Credit Soc., Drumlish, co. Longford; Rooskey Credit Soc., Rooskey, co. Roscommon.

## (2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in Oct. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions ... ..	2	6	5
Industrial and Provident Societies	...	18	9
Friendly Societies... ..	...	44	...
Building " ... ..	...	4	...

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.

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