

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

PREPARED AND EDITED AT THE OFFICES OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, W.

Vol. XXIV.—No. 11.]

NOVEMBER, 1916.

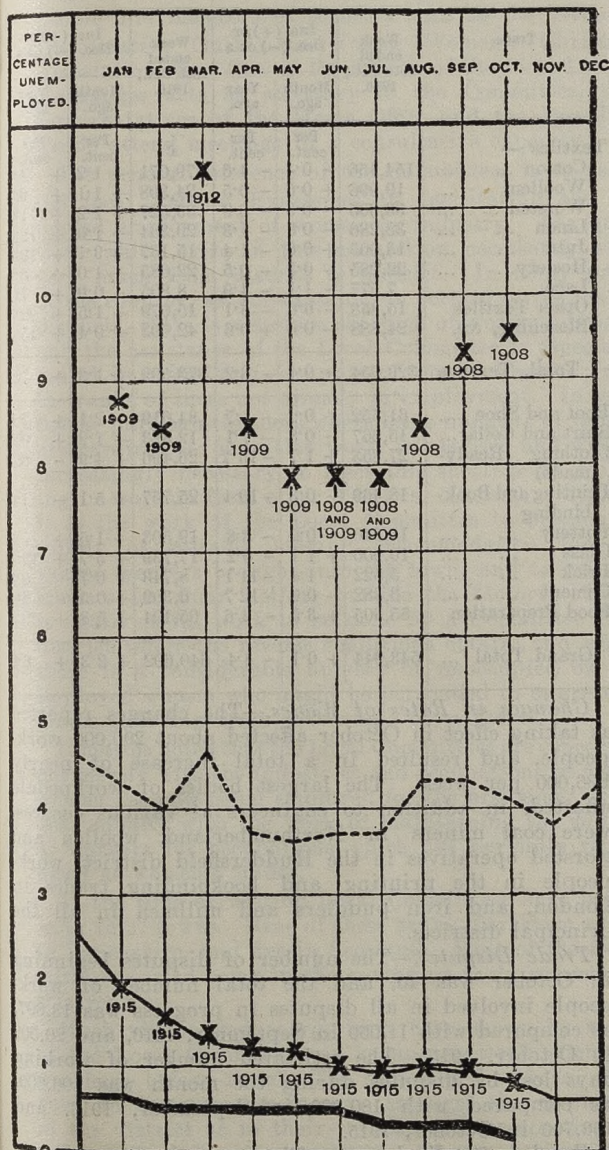
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART.

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— *Thick Curve* = 1916. — *Thin Curve* = 1915.
..... *Dotted Curve* = Mean of 1906-15.

x The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed, in the months named, during the years 1906-15.



NOTE TO CHART.

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

THE LABOUR MARKET.

DURING October more men were enlisted in the Forces, with the result that the shortage of labour became more acute; and as this removal of men from industry must continue, it is necessary to adopt every possible expedient to economise man-power so as to maintain the industries which are of national importance at the present time.

Employment at coal and iron mines was very good; shale and lead mines were busy, but tin mines continued to be affected by the shortage of labour. At quarries employment was fairly good on the whole.

In the pig iron industry employment continued good, and there was a further slight increase in the number of furnaces in blast. At iron and steel works employment was very good, and the engineering and shipbuilding trades continued exceptionally busy, and much overtime was worked. There was a further decline in the number of tinsplate mills at work, but most of the other metal trades were very busy, and a great deal of overtime was reported.

Employment in the spinning branch of the cotton trade continued good, and there was a slight improvement in the weaving department. The woollen and worsted trades were brisk, and more labour could have been employed if available. The linen trade showed a further improvement in Scotland, and continued fair in Ireland. The hosiery trades continued busy, and employment was also good in the jute, bleaching, calico printing, dyeing and finishing trades. In the lace trade employment was good in the plain net section, fair in the curtain section, and slack in the fancy section. It continued fairly good in the silk and carpet trades.

The boot and shoe trades were very brisk, and all available operatives were fully employed. Several districts were exceptionally busy, owing to the issue of new Army contracts. Employment was good in the leather trades, except in some branches of the saddle and harness trades, in which it was still quiet.

There was a further seasonal improvement in bespoke tailoring, dressmaking and millinery. Employment continued fair in the ready-made tailoring, wholesale mantle, costume and blouse, and shirt and collar trades, and good in the corset trade. In the hat trade it was quiet in the silk hat branch, and good in the felt hat branch.

Those remaining in the building trades were well employed, but outdoor work was much hindered by bad weather. In the brickmaking industry employment was fairly good; in the cement trade it continued good, with much overtime. With mill-sawyers employment was fairly good; in the furnishing trades it showed a slight decline, but was still good; in the other wood-working trades it continued good. There was an improvement in the printing trades, and employment was fairly good in the paper trade and good in the bookbinding trade.

Employment continued good in the glass and pottery

MEASURES FOR REPLACING MEN BY WOMEN IN INDUSTRY IN GERMANY.

THE current issue of *Der Arbeitsnachweis in Deutschland* reports that the Prussian War Office has issued an official notice containing a series of directions as to measures to be adopted for providing labour to replace that of men qualified for service in the field, for whom exemption has hitherto been obtained, but who are now to be summoned to the colours.

The measures proposed are stated to be the outcome of conferences between the War Office and representatives of the industries concerned. At these conferences, states the notice, it was established that there was an exceptional amount of unemployment amongst homeworkers, which had been increased very much by recent Decrees for stopping work in certain branches of the textile and clothing trades.

There were also available large numbers of unskilled women and girls whom the high cost of living was at last compelling to think of disposing of their labour as a means of making better provision for themselves and their dependants. These are, for the most part, soldiers' wives. "Every effort must be made to draw upon this supply of labour to the fullest possible extent. Such women could very well fill the men's places, if not at once, then after a preliminary course of training. The only difficulty (not an insuperable one) will be that of a proper distribution of the labour. The authorities responsible for procuring army supplies must so arrange that every article capable of being made by homeworkers shall, in fact, be made by such workers.

"Not only should contracts be entrusted, where possible, to organisations of homeworkers, but purveyors of army supplies should be obliged to undertake that as much as possible of what they contract to supply shall be produced by homeworkers. The giving out of work to middlemen or independent craftsmen without family responsibilities should so far as possible be avoided. This policy should be applied more especially in connection with contracts for all sorts of needlework and light leather work, small ironware, &c."

The notice goes on to say that throughout almost the whole range of war industries there is far larger scope for the employment of women in the factories than would appear from the numbers hitherto engaged in such work. Commanders at home depots are urged to avail themselves to the utmost of this possibility by promoting co-operation between the experts and the factory and other civil authorities.

"Women now perform labour which has hitherto been thought to be beyond their powers—such as the milling of parts of rifles, autogenous welding, pressing of uniforms, &c. All that is needed is: (a) that the women should be taken in hand in good time and carefully instructed in the particular process (the instructor need not even be a skilled craftsman; he may himself have only recently learnt the process as an improver); (b) that facilities should be provided for enabling women to be absent from their homes for a period. These facilities might consist: (1) in advertising and increasing the number of institutions which could take charge of children during the mother's absence; (2) in the institution of half-day shifts in factories in such a manner as to make it easier for mothers to leave their children for some hours; (3) in the institution, with the co-operation of the Local Authorities, of special workshops for turning out particular kinds of army requisites: the municipal authorities would gladly supply premises, machines, &c., if by doing so they secured employment for people whom they would otherwise have to maintain with poor relief; (4) in providing and making known the existence of decent dwelling accommodation for workwomen from other localities desiring to work in the town."

In short, "the chief thing necessary" (adds the notice) is "to bring such influence to bear on Ger-

man industry as may induce it to do all that it can on its own initiative to promote the employment of women in factories so long as the war shall last. To achieve this it will be necessary (1) in granting contracts to require the contractor wherever possible to engage women in order to set free men who are fit for service in the field, and (2) that expert advisers (factory inspectors, &c.) shall indicate what posts in each factory can be suitably filled by women workers."

PAUPERISM DURING THE WAR.

ONE of the most gratifying features of the industrial situation during the war has been the great decrease in pauperism. At the first outset of war there was a sudden rise in pauperism caused by the general dislocation due to the outbreak of hostilities. The rise reached its maximum on 22nd August, when the figures recorded (exclusive of casual paupers, paupers in receipt of outdoor medical relief only, and lunatics in lunatic asylums) for England and Wales stood at 650,737, an increase of 41,261 compared with the corresponding date in 1913. After that date pauperism fell off steadily towards its normal level, and by January, 1915, the figures showed a substantial decrease which, apart from the usual seasonal fluctuations, has since been continued.

The following Table shows for England and Wales the total number of paupers in receipt of poor relief at the end of March in each of the years 1914, 1915 and 1916:—

Persons in receipt of Poor Relief at the end of March.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Casual paupers...	8,609	5,279	4,056
Paupers in receipt of outdoor medical relief only	19,868	18,970	15,997
Lunatics in lunatic asylums	100,941	102,975	100,182
Other classes of paupers	643,643	627,903	561,048
Total ...	773,061	755,127	681,283

It will be seen that there has been a decline under each of the above categories, and apart from inmates of lunatic asylums and paupers in receipt of outdoor medical relief, it may be inferred that practically the whole of this decrease is due to the abnormal demand for man-power which set in as a result of the war.

The above figures relate to England and Wales. In the Table below an analysis of pauperism by districts is given, which is compiled from the Tables published monthly in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* based upon data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland and Ireland. The figures given are the average rate of pauperism per 10,000 of population, and relate to thirty-five selected urban areas in the United Kingdom; the classes of paupers and the districts included in the figures are shown in the Table on page 430.

District.	Winter Period (November to April)			Summer Period (May to October)			
	1913-14.	1914-15.	1915-16.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Metropolis ...	230	222	189	221	223	196	176
West Ham ...	221	216	189	213	219	197	177
19 Urban areas in England and Wales	164	164	139	159	164	147	128
Scotland ...	209	207	188	203	206	192	177
Ireland ...	218	209	194	213	207	196	185
Total, 35 Urban areas ...	191	188	162	185	188	169	151

The early effects of the war are plainly discernible in the figures for the summer period of 1914, which, except in the case of Ireland where there was a decline, show an increase over those of the corresponding period of the previous year. The rise was greatest in the urban areas outside the Metropolis, and was lowest in the Metropolis. The increase was of short duration, however, and the figures for the winter period of 1914-15 showed a decline, which has steadily continued

up to the present time. In October, 1916, the average rate of pauperism for the thirty-five selected urban areas was 20 per cent. lower than in July, 1914, the month immediately preceding the war.

The absence of distress since the war has also been shown in other ways. In the early days of the war a Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress was appointed, the country was organised under local representative committees, and a National Relief Fund was opened. The experience of these committees showed that the dislocation of industry arising from the outbreak of war caused some temporary distress, but that, after industry had readjusted itself, assistance was required only in isolated cases, and at the present time practically the only districts where any material amount is being spent in the relief of distress are the watering places on the East Coast, where lodging-house keepers have suffered exceptionally in consequence of the war. Among women it was found that the conditions of employment improved more slowly than among men, but the demand for their labour became so great that it was found possible during the summer of 1915 to close the workrooms which it had been necessary to open during the early days of the war.

The records of Distress Committees, formed under the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905, give similar results. In December, 1914, the number of persons receiving relief from such committees amounted to 6,055, or nearly double the number in December, 1913. In December, 1915, the number of persons receiving such relief had fallen to the insignificant total of 74.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY DURING THE WAR.

IN common with many other industries the building trades experienced considerable dislocation at the commencement of the war, and large numbers of workpeople were temporarily thrown out of work. By the end of two months, however, there was an appreciable fall in the numbers unemployed, and the issue of contracts for the building of huts for the new Army provided relief for some branches of the trade, the effects of which were visible for a long period. Further assistance was given to the industry by other building operations undertaken at a later date by the Government, e.g. munition factories, housing of munition workers. In addition, large numbers of building trade operatives joined the Forces, while many others left the trade for other work in which their services were more urgently required in the national interests. Thus, although the ordinary building trade has been exceptionally quiet, the men still remaining in the industry have been, on the whole, well employed, and the percentage of unemployment among workpeople insured under the National Insurance Act has fallen from 6.2 at the end of August, 1914, to 0.7 at the end of October, 1916.

In addition to the impediments to building operations caused by the supply of labour, high prices of timber and other building materials, financial stringency, &c., a further restriction has been placed upon the trade by an Order which was issued on 14th July, 1916, by the Minister of Munitions. This Order prohibits, in all cases involving an outlay of over £500, the construction, alteration, repair, decoration or demolition of buildings, or the construction, reconstruction or alteration of railroads, docks, harbours, canals and other works of construction or engineering except under licence from the Minister of Munitions.

A good indication of the extent to which the building trade has been affected by the war is given by the Returns of Building Plans which are collected by the Department each month from 93 of the principal urban areas in the United Kingdom. In this connection it should be stated that in this country before building operations are started the plans of the proposed buildings must be approved by the Local Authority of the district.

The following Table shows for the first nine months of each of the years 1913-16 the estimated value of building plans approved by the Local Authorities of 93 urban areas. The population of the districts included is over 12,000,000:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
CLASS OF BUILDING:—	£	£	£	£
Dwelling houses ...	4,519,589	4,881,220	2,089,305	775,080
Factories and workshops ...	2,785,663	2,061,863	2,767,580	2,915,234
Shops and other business premises	1,389,502	1,615,095	953,215	543,699
Churches, schools and public buildings	1,993,116	1,847,029	725,117	219,739
Other buildings, additions and alterations	1,929,095	1,796,094	1,218,515	1,418,990
TOTAL ...	12,616,965	12,231,301	7,753,732	5,872,742

The most significant feature of the Table is the increase under the heading of factories and workshops, which may be attributed to the great demands for such buildings caused by the war. In 1914 there had been a great falling off in this direction, but practically all of this was recovered in 1915, and a further advance in 1916 brought the figures for that year up to a higher level than that for the pre-war period of 1913. In the Outer London, Yorkshire, and Wales and Monmouthshire districts the increases in this class of building were very marked. All other classes of buildings showed a heavy decline as compared with 1913, the most noticeable being those for churches, schools and public buildings (89 per cent.) and dwelling-houses (83 per cent.). Taking all classes of buildings together there was in 1916 a decline of 53 per cent. as compared with the corresponding period of 1913.

EMPLOYMENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND IN THE BRITISH DOMINIONS.

GERMANY.*

THE following is the general conclusion arrived at by the German Department of Labour Statistics as to the course of employment in Germany during September: "The principal characteristic of German industry as a whole during September is its continued ability to meet the requirements both of the Army and of the home markets. Certain of the larger groups of trades reported employment as being to some extent better than in September, 1915.

"In mining and also in the metal trades employment in September was as good as in August and as in the corresponding month of 1915. In some branches the metal trades were better employed than in September, 1915. A similar statement also applies to the engineering trades (which were working strenuously in September), and to the electrical trades. Improved employment as compared either with the preceding month or with September, 1915, was reported by those branches of the chemical trades engaged in the manufacture of drugs and of dyes and colours. On the whole, employment continued as in August in the woodworking trade and the food, drink and tobacco group of trades. No change of any importance occurred in the building trades."

Returns from Trade Unions.—Returns relating to unemployment were furnished by 37 trade unions, the membership covered being 806,781. Of these, 16,989, or 2.1 per cent., were out of work at the end of September, as compared with 2.2 per cent. in the preceding month and 2.6 per cent. in September, 1915.

Returns from Labour Exchanges.—Returns relating to the operations of Labour Exchanges during September show the proportion of applications for employment to every 100 situations registered as vacant to have been as follows:—

* *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*, 27th October, 1916.

Ireland. Some shortage of labour was reported, chiefly in Scotland and in Irish towns other than Belfast.

Returns from firms employing 38,286 workpeople in the week ended 28th October, 1916, showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings by Department and District for the week ended 28th Oct., 1916, compared with a month ago and a year ago.

In the Belfast district there was short time working at a number of mills. With flax roughers employment was fair; with flax dressers it was also fair and better than in the previous month.

The imports of flax (dressed and undressed) during October, 1916, amounted to 6,115 tons, compared with 9,035 tons a month ago, and with 7,318 tons a year ago.

The exports of linen yarn during October amounted to 666,000 lb., an increase of 7,000 lb. on a month ago, and of 8,000 lb. on a year ago.

JUTE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT continued good, and on the whole was better than a year ago. A few firms reported a shortage of labour.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings by Department and District for the Jute Trade, week ended 28th Oct., 1916.

Returns from firms employing 13,005 workpeople in the week ended 28th October, 1916, showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and of 9.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

* During October, 1916, a large number of the workpeople received an advance in wages, and this affects the comparison with both a month ago and a year ago.

cent. in the amount of wages paid* compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and an increase of 9.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.*

In the Dundee district, in which 94 per cent. of the workpeople reported on were employed, the works continued busy and overtime was worked on Government contracts.

The imports of jute during October, 1916, amounted to 14,448 tons, compared with 4,854 tons a month ago, and with 23,864 tons a year ago.

The quantity of jute yarn exported during October was 2,951,000 lb., a decrease of 1,330,000 lb. on a month ago, but an increase of 190,000 lb. on a year ago.

LACE TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good in the plain net section, fair in the curtain section, and slack in the levers branch. Compared with a year ago there was a decline in numbers in all branches except the levers section.

Returns from firms employing 7,577 workpeople in the week ended 25th October showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings by Branch and District for the Lace Trade, week ended 25th Oct., 1916.

At Nottingham there was little change compared with a month ago, and employment continued good in the plain net section, fair in the curtain branch, and bad in the levers section.

At Long Eaton employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. In the West of England employment in the plain net branch showed a slight decline compared with a month ago.

SILK TRADE.

In this trade employment continued fairly good, and there was a general increase in average earnings as compared with a year ago.

In all the principal districts there was a shortage of labour, especially of men, but women and girls were also wanted by a number of firms.

* During October, 1916, a large number of the workpeople received an advance in wages, and this affects the comparison with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 10,116 workpeople in the week ended 28th October showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings by Branch and District for the week ended 28th Oct., 1916.

At Macclesfield employment was good with throwsters, spinners and power-loom weavers, fair with "outside" hand-loom weavers, and bad with factory hand-loom weavers.

In the Eastern Counties employment was fair at Halstead, Braintree and Sudbury, and good at Norwich and Yarmouth. In the West Riding employment was fair and slightly better than a month ago.

HOSIERY TRADE.

THIS trade continued busy during October, and average earnings were higher than a year ago. The supply of labour was unequal to the demand.

Returns from firms employing 22,283 workpeople in the week ended 28th October showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings by District for the Hosiery Trade, week ended 28th Oct., 1916.

At Leicester employment continued good in most departments; a shortage of workers of both sexes was still reported. At Hinckley operatives engaged on shirts, pants and seamless hose were fairly busy.

Employment continued good with power frame workers in Nottingham, and was about the same as a year ago; about 20 per cent. of the operatives were on overtime to the extent of eight to ten hours per week.

frame section; in the latter section it was considerably better than in October, 1915. In Scotland workpeople continued well employed.

CARPET TRADE.

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good; it was somewhat better than a month ago, and better than a year ago for those remaining in the trade.

Returns from firms employing 5,742 workpeople and paying £6,082 in wages in the week ended 28th October showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

At Kidderminster employment was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the West Riding employment showed little change compared with a month ago.

In Scotland employment for those still in the trade was good, but the returns showed a decline of 18 per cent. in the numbers employed as compared with a year ago.

BLEACHING, PRINTING, DYEING AND FINISHING.

In these trades employment on the whole continued good, and was above the level of a year ago. The supply of labour, especially of men and boys, was unequal to the demand.

Returns from firms employing 24,888 workpeople in the week ended 28th October showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed and an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago.

Table showing Workpeople and Earnings by Trade and District for Bleaching, Printing, Dyeing and Finishing, week ended 28th Oct., 1916.

Bleaching.—Employment with cotton bleachers in Lancashire continued fair. At Basford employment was reported as very good, with overtime; there was a difficulty in obtaining sufficient labour to cope with the expansion of the trade.

Printing.—Machine calico printers in England reported employment as fairly good. In Scotland it was good with machine printers and engravers, and better than a year ago.

Dyeing.—Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in Yorkshire continued good, and a considerable amount of overtime was worked, largely due to the labour shortage.

* Comparison with a year ago is affected by war bonuses.

PRICES OF WHEAT, FLOUR AND BREAD.

I.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Supplies.

Imports in October, 1916.—The quantity of wheat and wheat meal and flour imported into the United Kingdom during October, 1916, together with the increase or decrease compared with October, 1915, 1914, and 1913, is shown in the following Table:—

Table showing quantity imported during October 1916, compared with 1915, 1914, and 1913, for Wheat and Wheat Meal and Flour.

Table showing quantity imported during the two months ended Oct. 31st, 1916, compared with 1915 and 1914, for Wheat and Wheat Meal and Flour.

Imports in September–October, 1916.—The quantity of wheat and of wheat meal and flour imported into the United Kingdom during the first two months of the current cereal year, together with the increase or decrease compared with the corresponding period of the three preceding cereal years, is shown in the following Table:—

Table showing quantity imported during the two months ended Oct. 31st, 1916, compared with 1915 and 1914, for Wheat and Wheat Meal and Flour.

Table showing quantity imported during the two months ended Oct. 31st, 1916, compared with 1915 and 1914, for Wheat and Wheat Meal and Flour.

Deliveries of British Wheat.—In the following Table the deliveries of wheat by farmers at the various markets of England and Wales from which returns are received by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries are shown for the first two months of the current cereal year, together with the increase or decrease compared with the corresponding period of the three previous cereal years:—

Table showing quantity delivered in 1916 compared with 1915, 1914, and 1913, for Wheat and Wheat Meal and Flour.

Prices.

In the following Table particulars are given of the average declared values and market prices of wheat and wheat meal and flour during October, 1916, together with the increase compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

Table showing prices of wheat and wheat meal and flour in October 1916, compared with September 1916 and October 1915.

There was a considerable advance in the price of wheat during October. The spot price of No. 1 Northern Manitoba at Liverpool on 2nd October was about 70s. per 480 lb., and on 31st rather more than 78s. Similarly No. 2 Hard Winter (new wheat) rose from 66s. 8d. on 2nd to over 76s. on 30th. The average daily price for October, 1916, of No. 1 Northern Manitoba wheat, (74s. 4d. per 480 lb.), was 107 per cent. above the average price for July, 1914; the average price of No. 2 Hard Winter wheat (70s. 11d.), was 104 per cent. higher than the July, 1914, figure. Indian wheat, Choice White Karachi, quoted on 17 days during October, rose from 69s. 3d. on 2nd to 73s. on 25th. The Gazette price of British wheat rose from 59s. 2d. at the beginning of October to 66s. 7d. per quarter at the end of the month; the returns received in the week ended 11th November give an average of 69s. 8d. English white wheat at the London Corn Exchange was quoted at from 61s. to 67s. per 504 lb. on 2nd October, and from 74s. to 82s. on 6th November. The price of No. 1 Town Households flour in London rose 5s. per 280 lb. during the month. On 13th November there was a reduction of 1s. per sack, making the present price 58s. 6d. This is 118 per cent. above the average price prevailing during July, 1914.

II.—BREAD.

The following information with regard to the prices of bread is derived from two main sources: (1) Master Bakers' Associations, and (2) Co-operative Societies. Returns are also received from the local correspondents of the Department in industrial districts. In preparing the statistics, the predominant prices, i.e. the prices at which the bulk of the bread was sold, are utilised, but it will be understood that bread was also sold at both higher and lower prices. The prices quoted are per 4 lb., and in cases in which the weight of the loaf has been varied instead of the price per loaf being altered, the necessary allowance has been made.

(1) Master Bakers' Associations, &c.

Returns received from 120 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations and thirty returns received from other sources are summarised in the following Tables. The prices most frequently returned for 1st November were 9d., 9½d. and 10d. per 4 lb. The average increase in price, as compared with a month ago, was ½d. per 4 lb., this being the figure for each of the districts, except the Midlands and Eastern Counties, where the advance was a little over ½d. The average increase between 1st November, 1915, and 1st November, 1916,

amounted to 1½d. or 2d. per 4 lb. in each district of England and Wales, and to 1½d. per 4 lb. in Scotland.

Table showing Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. for various districts in 1916, compared with a month ago and a year ago.

Of the prices at which bread was sold in each of the following towns, the predominant price was as under:—

Table showing predominant price per 4 lb. on 1st November 1916, compared with a month ago and a year ago, for various places.

In about three-quarters of these large towns there was an increase during October, the usual advance being of ½d. per 4 lb. On the prices of 1st November, 1915, the increases recorded were mainly of 1½d. or 2d. per 4 lb.

(2) Co-operative Societies.

The following Table summarises the Returns received from 350 Co-operative Societies:—

Table showing Mean Predominant Price per 4 lb. on for various districts in 1916, compared with a month ago and a year ago.

The average movement during October of the prices charged by the Co-operative Societies is an increase of about ½d. per 4 lb. in each district, except in London and the Eastern and South Eastern Counties of England, where it is about ¾d. Compared with a year ago the usual increase in price is 1d. to 1½d. per 4 lb.

* Counter.

† Delivered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN OCTOBER.*

INSURANCE CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS.

The total number of claims to unemployment benefit made at Employment Exchanges and other local offices of the Unemployment Fund during the four weeks ended 27th October, 1916, was 7,753, as compared with 9,579 during the five weeks ended 29th September, 1916, and with 27,195 during the five weeks ended 29th October, 1915. Of the total of 7,753 claims, 5,296 (or 68 per cent.) were claims for the direct payment of benefit, and 2,457 (or 32 per cent.) were claims for payment of benefit through associations of workpeople in the insured trades having arrangements with the Board of Trade under Section 105 of the National Insurance Act. The number of claims made during each of the four weeks was 1930, 1822 and 2005, the average being 1,938, as compared with 1,916 in the five preceding weeks and with 5,439 in October, 1915.

The total amount of unemployment benefit paid direct for the four weeks ended 27th October, 1916, was £996 and through associations during the four weeks ended 21st October, 1916, £604.

Table showing Average Weekly No. of Claims Made and Average Weekly Amount of Benefit Paid for various districts in 1916, 1915, and 1914.

BOARD OF TRADE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES.

FIVE WEEKS ENDED 13TH OCTOBER, 1916.

The total number of workpeople remaining on the Registers of the Board of Trade Employment Exchanges (378 in number) on 13th October was 115,399, as compared with 110,388 on the 8th September, 1916, and 105,083 on 15th October, 1915. These comprise workers in professional, commercial and clerical, as well as in industrial occupations.

Excluding cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, there were on the Register at some time or other during the period 440,659 workpeople (men 132,542, women 246,028, boys 28,909, and girls 33,180), as compared with 376,382 in the previous four weeks, and 384,465 in the five weeks ended 15th October, 1915.

The number of vacancies filled was 152,065, a daily average of 5,068, as compared with 5,193 in the previous four weeks, and with 4,233 in the five weeks ended 15th October, 1915.

Table showing Men, Women, Boys, Girls, and Total for On Register at beginning of period, Registrations during period, and Vacancies notified during period.

* The percentages unemployed in the Insured Trades will be found on page 402.

† The figures for Association Payments relate to periods terminating one week earlier than the periods to which the Direct Payments relate.

‡ Excluding workmen in certain occupations of a more or less casual nature (i.e. dock labourers and cloth porters); these are dealt with in the last paragraph but one.

§ Of the women on the Register over 9 per cent. were known to be in employment, and a further 13 per cent. were reported never to have been in employment.

In the following Table are shown, for men and women, the proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified, and of vacancies filled to registrations (including those on the Registers at the beginning of the period), in the principal groups of trades:—

Table showing proportion of vacancies filled to vacancies notified and registrations for insured and uninsured trades, categorized by men and women.

The average daily number of registrations and vacancies filled for the periods stated are shown below:—

Table showing average daily number of registrations and vacancies filled for insured and uninsured trades, broken down by district or department and sex.

INSURED TRADES.*

Registrations.—The number of registrations effected during the period was 67,192 (men 54,156, women 10,631, boys 2,120, and girls 285). The total number of workpeople on the Register was 85,543 (men 66,629, women 15,776, boys 2,712, and girls 426). These figures exclude 2,806 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed during the period, and represent separate individuals.

Of the registrations among men, 50·4 per cent. were in building and construction of works, 39·1 per cent. in engineering, and 7·6 per cent. in shipbuilding.

The number of workpeople remaining on the Register at 13th October was 17,090, as compared with 18,347 on 8th September, 1916, and 22,327 on 15th October, 1915.

* The figures for these trades relate to workpeople who are insured against unemployment under the provisions of Part II. of the National Insurance Act.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified to the Exchanges during the period was 72,967, a daily average of 2,432, as compared with 2,404 in the previous four weeks and 2,208 in the five weeks ended 15th October, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 56,575, a daily average of 1,885 as compared with 2,035 in the previous four weeks and 1,569 in the five weeks ended 15th October, 1915.

Building and construction of works account for 49·3 per cent. of the total vacancies notified for men, and 42·2 per cent. of the total vacancies filled by men, the corresponding figures for engineering and shipbuilding being 41·0 and 7·1 per cent. of the vacancies notified, and 45·2 and 7·8 per cent. of the vacancies filled.

UNINSURED TRADES.

Registrations.—The number of registrations during the period was 263,084 (men 47,594, women 169,768, boys 20,715, and girls 25,007). The total number of workpeople on the Register at some time or other during the period was 355,116 (men 65,913, women 230,252, boys 26,197, and girls 32,754). These figures exclude 9,732 cases in which persons were re-registered on again becoming unemployed, and represent separate individuals.

Among men 25·4 per cent. of the total registrations were in the transport, &c., trades, and 30·9 per cent. as general labourers, while of the women registered 20·4 per cent. were in domestic offices or services, and 37·3 per cent. in explosives, &c. Commercial and clerical occupations accounted for 8·0 per cent. of the registrations among men, and 6·3 per cent. among women.

The number of workpeople on the Register at 13th October was 98,309 (men 17,320, women 67,285, boys 5,764, and girls 7,940), as compared with 92,041 on 8th September, 1916, and 82,756 on 15th October, 1915.

Vacancies Notified and Filled.—The number of vacancies notified during the period was 127,060, a daily average of 4,235, as compared with 4,049 in the previous four weeks and 3,598 in the five weeks ended 15th October, 1915. The number of vacancies filled was 95,490, a daily average of 3,183, as compared with 3,157 in the preceding four weeks and 2,664 in the five weeks ended 15th October, 1915.

Of the vacancies notified for men, 24·0 per cent. were in the transport, &c., trades, and 19·7 per cent. as general labourers. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 26·0 per cent. and 27·0 per cent. Among women 32·5 per cent. of the vacancies notified were in domestic offices or services, 4·5 per cent. in the textile trades, and 29·2 per cent. in explosives, &c. The corresponding figures for vacancies filled were 26·4 per cent., 4·2 per cent., and 35·3 per cent.

Of the vacancies filled, 6,581 (men 2,198, women 4,116, boys 131, and girls 136) were known to be for less than a week's employment, while of the 19,655 vacancies filled by boys and girls, 4,810 (boys 2,044, and girls 2,766), or 24·4 per cent., were filled by applicants who obtained their first situations since leaving school.

CASUAL EMPLOYMENT.

The number of men who obtained casual employment through the Exchanges was 1,482, and the number of casual jobs found for them was 4,201 (4,071 for dock labourers and 130 for cloth porters at Manchester), a daily average of 140, compared with 141 in the preceding four weeks and 148 in the five weeks ended 15th October, 1915. During the period there were also 1,427 cases in which men were given employment through the clearing house system for dock labourers at Liverpool.

UNSATISFIED DEMAND FOR LABOUR.

In the engineering and shipbuilding trades the large shortage of skilled workers continued. The demand for colliers, quarrymen, carpenters, navvies and general labourers remained unsatisfied.

The shortage of women was noticeable in the textile trades, and, in London, in commercial occupations. Vacancies in domestic service continued difficult to fill.

Large local shortages occurred in the glove trade at Yeovil, and in the jewellery trade at Birmingham.

BOARD OF TRADE EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES—FIVE WEEKS ENDED 13th OCTOBER, 1916. Registrations and Vacancies Filled in the Five Weeks ended 13th October, 1916.

A.—INSURED TRADES.

Table showing Registrations and Vacancies Filled in Insured Trades, categorized by occupation groups, adults, and juveniles.

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed. † Occupations are grouped according to the industry with which they are mainly connected. ‡ These figures are mainly in respect of the Engineering Trade.

B.—UNINSURED TRADES.

Table showing Registrations and Vacancies Filled in Uninsured Trades, categorized by occupation groups, adults, and juveniles.

* Including cases in which persons who obtained employment during the period were re-registered on again becoming unemployed.

Return of Cases heard before Munitions Tribunals. From 29th November, 1915, to 1st July, 1916. Ministry of Munitions. [Cd. 8360: price 1½d.]

Departmental Committee on Juvenile Education in relation to Employment after the War. Interim Report. [Cd. 8374: price ½d.]

Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1915-1916. Part I. Administration of the Poor Law; Prevention and Relief of Distress; Special Work arising out of the War. [Cd. 8331: price 2d.] *Part III.* Public Health; Local Administration; Local Taxation and Valuation. [Cd. 8332: price 2d.]

Reformatory and Industrial Schools of Great Britain. Fifty-ninth Report of the Chief Inspector, 1915. Disposals, after care, education and industrial training, emigration, &c. [Cd. 8367: price 2½d.]

Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1915. Persons employed in various branches of the fishing industry, &c. [Cd. 8281: price 7½d.]

Sixty-first Annual Report of the Registrar-General for Scotland, 1915. Births, deaths and marriages. [Cd. 8339: price 1s. 3d.]

Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with detailed Report for the year 1914. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. Extent under crops, produce of the crops, holdings, occupiers, &c. [Cd. 8266: price 8½d.]

Twenty-fourth Report of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, 1915-16. Sea fisheries, male and female industries, domestic economy, manual instruction, &c. [Cd. 8356: price 4d.]

BRITISH INDIA AND BRITISH DOMINIONS.

INDIA.—*List of Factories and other large industries in India, 1916.* Names of factories, average number of persons employed daily, &c. Department of Statistics. *Statistical Abstract of British India, 1913-14. Vol. IV.* Administrative, Judicial and Local Self-Government. [Calcutta: Superintendent, Government Printing.]

CANADA.—*The Labour Gazette, September, 1916.* Industrial conditions, trade disputes, prices and industrial accidents in August; proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act; the rise in prices during the War, &c. *Census and Statistics Monthly, August, 1916.* Prices of agricultural produce, field crops of Canada, crop reports from other countries, &c. [Ottawa: J. de L. Taché, King's Printer.]

—*Sixth Annual Report on Wholesale Prices, 1915.* Department of Labour. [Ottawa: Government Printing Bureau.]

SASKATCHEWAN.—*Fifth Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour.* Sixteen months ended 30th April, 1916. Harvest help and wages, strikes and trade disputes, labour legislation, &c. [Regina: J. W. Reid, King's Printer.]

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.—*Monthly Summary of Australian Statistics, June, 1916.* Prices, rents and cost of living, wages, disputes, trade unions, unemployment, &c. [Melbourne: McCarron, Bird & Co., Printers.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.—*The Industrial Gazette, July, 1916.* Cost of living and the minimum wage, dislocations in industries, employment and unemployment, industrial arbitration, &c. *Report on the working of the Factories and Shops Act, 1912, during the year 1915.* Department of Labour and Industry. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

VICTORIA.—*Wages Board Determinations. Grocers' Sundries, 24th August, 1916, cancelling that of 20th December, 1915.*

QUEENSLAND.—*Industrial Peace Act Awards, 1916,* showing in brackets the dates of those cancelled thereby. *Shop Assistants, South-Eastern Division.* Appeal upon Award of 16th March. *Iron, Brass and Steel Moulding Trades, South-Eastern Division.* Appeal upon Award of 14th January. *Bakers' Board, Townsville Division, 13th July.* *Brisbane Motor Drivers, 31st July (25th June, 1913).* *Brisbane Daily Newspapers, 27th July.* *Stonemasons, South-Eastern Division, 21st July (22nd October, 1913).* *Painting and Decorating, South-Eastern Division, 4th August.*

—*The Industrial Gazette, August, 1916.* Operations of labour exchanges, supply of and demand for labour, prices fixed by Control of Trade Board, industrial arbitration, &c. [Brisbane. A. J. Cumming, Government Printer.]

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—*Wages Board Determinations, 1916.* *Agricultural Machinery and Implement Makers, 19th July.* *Butchers, 27th July, altering that of 4th June, 1914.* *Bakers and Pastry Cooks, 13th July.* *Soapmaking, 2nd August.* *Boot Trade, 2nd August, altering previous Determination.* *Saddlers and Harness Makers, 14th June.*

NEW ZEALAND.—*Journal of the Department of Labour, August, 1916.* Condition of trade and employment in July, retail prices, cost of living, persons assisted to employment, co-operative works, &c. *Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Arbitration Act, 1916. Vol. XVII. Parts 5, 6 and 7.* *Friendly Societies and Trade Unions.* *Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1915.* [Wellington: Marcus F. Marks, Government Printer.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

INTERNATIONAL.—(1) *International Crop Report and Agricultural Statistics, October, 1916.* (2) *International Review of Agricultural Economics, September, 1916.* (3) *International Review of the Science and Practice of Agriculture, May, 1916.* International Institute of Agriculture. [Rome.]

—*Bulletin of the International Labour Office (English edition). Vol. X. (1915), Nos. 11 and 12. Vol. XI. (1916), Nos. 1 and 2.* [London: Pioneer Press, Woolwich.]

UNITED STATES.—*Monthly Review of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, October, 1916.* Conciliation work, strikes and lock-outs, March to August, retail prices of bread, employment in selected districts in August, &c. *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, No. 195, July, 1916.* Unemployment in the United States. [Washington: Government Printing Office.]

NEW YORK.—*The Bulletin, September, 1916.* Bureaus of Compensation and Inspection, the labour market, &c. State Industrial Commission. [Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., Printers.]

MASSACHUSETTS.—*Labour Bulletin, 116, September 1st, 1916.* Labour legislation in Massachusetts, 1916. [Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers.]

PENNSYLVANIA.—*Monthly Bulletin of the Department of Labour and Industry, July, 1916.* Investigation of Pittsburgh labour disturbances. *Do. August, 1916.* Five months' experience under Workmen's Compensation; Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration, &c. [Harrisburg: Wm. Stanley Ray, State Printer.]

GERMANY.—*Reichs-Arbeitsblatt, September, 1916.* Employment in August, miners' wages in the fourth quarter of 1915 and first quarter of 1916, female labour during the war. Department of Labour Statistics, Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin: Carl Heymann.]

—*Das Wirtschaftsjahr 1911.* Jahresberichte über den Wirtschafts- und Arbeitsmarkt. R. Calwer. II. Teil-Jahrbuch der Weltwirtschaft. [Jena, 1915: Gustav Fischer.]

ITALY.—*Bollettino dell' Ufficio del Lavoro (Fortnightly Series), 16th September and 1st October, 1916.* Labour disputes in August, retail food prices in July. Labour Department of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labour. [Rome: Fratelli Treves.]—*Bollettino della Emigrazione, July, 1916.* Royal Commission on Emigration. [Rome.]

HOLLAND.—(1) *Verslag over het jaar 1915, uitgebracht aan den Minister van Waterstaat door den Raad van Toezicht op de Spoorwegdiensten.* Ministry of Waterways, 1916. [The Hague: Gebroeders van Cleef.] (2) *Beknopt Overzicht van den Omvang der Vakbeweging op 1 Januari, 1916.* (Bijdragen tot de Statistiek, No. 232). (3) *Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, September, 1916.* Employment, labour disputes, and work of labour exchanges in August, trade unions on 1st January, 1916, wholesale and retail prices in September. Central Bureau of Statistics. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante.]

DENMARK.—*Indberetning fra Arbejdsanvisningsdirektøren for Finansaaret 1915-16.* Central Labour Exchange. [Copenhagen.]

—*Social Forsorg, October, 1916.* Public labour registries in August and September. Council for Workmen's Insurance and the Department of the Inspector of Unemployment. [Hellerup.]

NORWAY.—*Sociale Meddelelser, 1916, No. 4.* Retail prices June to August, labour exchanges May to July. Department for Social Affairs. [Christiania: H. Aschehoug & Co.]

SWEDEN.—*Postsparbanken år, 1915.* Royal Savings Bank Department, 1916. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckman.]

—*Sociala Meddelanden, 1916, No. 8.* Employment in July, unemployment in April, May and June, State war measures in regard to food and fuel, changes in cost of living since July, 1914, retail prices of food in July. Department for Social Affairs. *Beldning av Bostadsfastigheter i Sverige år 1912. Part I.—Text; II.—Tables.* K. Bergström. Commission on Housing, 1916. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner.]

SPAIN.—*Boletín del Instituto de Reformas Sociales, September, 1916.* Labour disputes in August. Institute of Social Reforms (Labour Department). [Madrid: D. V. Suarez.]

RUSSIA (FINLAND).—*Arbetsstatistisk Tidskrift, 1916, No. 4.* Labour exchanges in first quarter and second quarter of 1916, retail food prices in second quarter of 1916. Industrial Department. [Helsingfors: Kejsarliga Senatens Tryckeri.]

BRAZIL (ST. PAUL STATE).—*Boletín do Departamento Estadual do Trabalho, 1916. Second Quarter.* Labour accidents and retail prices in St. Paul City. State Department of Labour. [St. Paul, Brazil.]

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE. To be purchased, either directly or through any bookseller, from WYMAN & SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C., and 54, St. Mary Street, Cardiff; or HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE (Scottish Branch), 23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin; or from the Agencies, in the British Colonies and Dependencies, the United States of America, the Continent of Europe and Abroad of T. FISHER UNWIN, London, W.C. Printed by CASSELL & Co., LTD., La Belle Sauvage, E.C.—Price 1d.—November, 1916.