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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER.

[Based on 2,417 returns, viz.: 1,644 from Employers, 599 from Trade Unions, and 174 from other sources.]

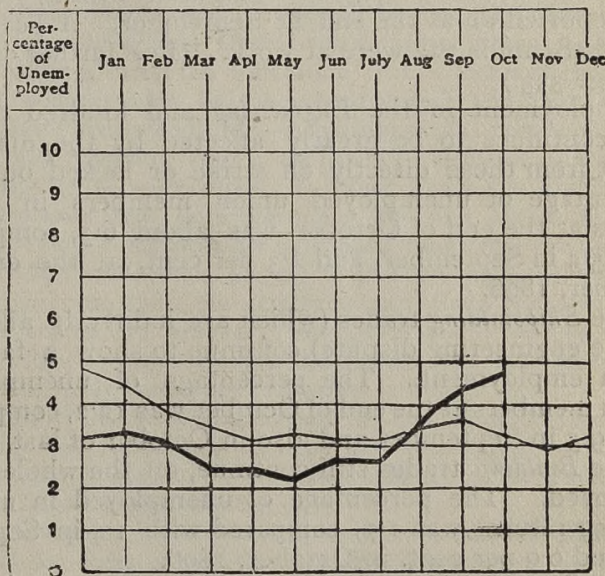
APART from the trades affected directly or indirectly by the engineering dispute, the state of employment shows no falling off, but has slightly improved in some important trades, including coal and cotton. The indirect effect, however, of the dispute on employment in kindred trades has become more marked, and the increase shown below in the percentage of unemployed members of trade unions is mainly attributable to this cause.

In the following figures persons directly on strike or locked out have been omitted.

In the 113 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 463,002, 21,937 (or 4.74 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of October, compared with 4.38 per cent. at the end of September, and with 3.4 per cent. in the 111 unions, with a membership of 437,371, from which returns were received for October, 1896.

The following chart enables a comparison to be made with last year:—

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1896 and of each completed month of 1897.



The table below classifies the membership of the 113 unions making returns according to the percentage proportion of their members that each union had unemployed at the end of the undermentioned periods:—

Percentage of members unemployed.	At end of October, 1897.		Corresponding Percentages for		
	Number of Unions making Returns.	Total Membership of such Unions.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.
		Number.	Percentage.		
Under 1 per cent.	30	97,973	21.2	20.9	19.2
1 and under 2 per cent.	21	86,484	18.7	19.7	26.3
2 " 3 " "	13	28,910	6.2	7.8	23.0
3 " 5 " "	21	126,226	27.3	25.2	9.9
5 " 7 " "	10	28,841	6.2	4.2	9.5
7 " 10 " "	9	22,158	4.8	7.6	1.4
10 per cent. and upwards	9	72,410	15.6	14.6	10.7
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>113</b>	<b>463,002</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>



**Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment again improved during October, and continues better in nearly every district than a year ago. Pits at which 431,426 workpeople were employed worked on an average 5'37 days per week in October, as compared with 5'24 days per week in September, and 5'02 days in October, 1896. (For further details see page 332.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues to be good and has slightly improved both as compared with September, 1897, and October, 1896. The 17,292 workpeople employed at mines included in the returns received, worked an average of 5'88 days per week in October, as against 5'79 days in September, and 5'73 days a year ago. The number of workpeople shows an increase of 3'3 per cent. over the number employed in October, 1896. (For further details see p. 332.)

In the *Pig Iron* industry the number of furnaces in blast and the number of persons employed was greater at the end of October than at the end of the previous month or than a year ago. At the works of 111 iron-masters 351 furnaces were in blast at the end of October as compared with 349 at the end of September and 344 at the end of October, 1896. The number employed was greater by 168 than at the end of September and by 260 than a year ago. (For further details see page 333.)

Employment at *Steelworks* continues practically unchanged, and better than a year ago. At 139 works 38,923 workpeople were employed at the end of the month, as compared with 38,965 at the end of September, and 37,772 at the end of October, 1896. (For further details see page 333.)

At *Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills* employment improved during the month. It continues better than a year ago. At 91 works 19,506 persons were employed at the end of the month, or 487 more than at the end of the previous month, and 829 more than at the end of October, 1896. (For further details see page 333.)

At *Tinplate Works* there was a considerable resumption of work during the month, and at the end 306 mills were at work out of 485, as compared with 275 out of 484 reported on at the end of September. A year ago out of 484 mills 322 were at work. (For further details see page 333.)

Employment in the *Engineering* and kindred trades still continues to be greatly affected by the dispute. Apart from those directly on strike or locked out, the percentage of unemployed union members in these trades at the end of October was about 6'3, compared with 5'5 in September, and 2'3 per cent. at the end of October, 1896.

The *Shipbuilding* trades (which are indirectly affected by the engineering dispute) continue to show a falling-off in employment. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 12'2, compared with 9'5 in September and also in October of last year.

The *Building* trades still continue, on the whole, well employed. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns was 1'7, compared with 1'4 in September and 0'9 per cent. in October, 1896.

The *Furnishing* trades, though still well employed, are scarcely so active. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 2'2, compared with 1'4 in September and 1'7 per cent. at the end of October last year.

Owing to seasonal causes, employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has considerably improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 3'5, compared with 5'4 in September. The percentage for October, 1896, was 3'8.

Employment in the *Paper* trade has still further improved. The percentage of unemployed union members was 2'9 at the end of October, compared with 3'7 in September and 2'8 per cent. at the end of October, 1896.

In the *Glass* trades employment has fallen off. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 10'5, compared with 7'9 in September. The percentage in October of last year was 13'1.

Employment in the *Leather* trades remains stationary, the percentage of unemployed union members being 3'9, as in September. The percentage in October, 1896, was 3'1.

Employment in the ready-made *Boot and Shoe* trade is very slack; in the bespoke branch it has improved.

Employment in the ready-made *Tailoring* trade has again declined; in the bespoke branch it is fair.

Employment in the *Cotton* trade has improved a little both in the *Spinning* and in the *Weaving* branches.

Employment in the *Woollen* trade shows little change in English centres, but has improved in Scotland. In the *Worsted* trade it continues slack. Employment in the *Hosiery* trade continues unsatisfactory.

As regards the employment of *Women* in the *Textile* trades, information respecting 546 mills, employing 86,000 women and girls, shows that 65 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 62 per cent. in September and 77 per cent. in October, 1896. (For further details see page 335.)

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—Employment was on the whole better in October than in September, and about the same as a year ago. At the docks and principal wharves the average number employed daily in October was 16,007, as compared with an average of 15,018 in September and 16,053 a year ago. Towards the end of the month, there was some falling off in the number employed. (For further details see page 334.)

The state of *Agricultural* employment throughout the month of October was generally of a very satisfactory character. Fine weather prevailed during the month, and out-door work was proceeded with under very favourable conditions. (For further details see page 334.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Forty-nine fresh disputes began in October, 1897, involving 8,769 workpeople. This figure does not include the number of engineers affected during the month by the further extension of the engineering dispute. The corresponding number of disputes for September was 49, involving 9,067 workpeople, and for October, 1896, 55, involving about 11,470 workpeople. Five disputes took place in the building trades, 10 in mining and quarrying, 8 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 in other metal trades, 6 in textile trades, 5 in the transport group, and 10 in other industries. Of the 50 new and old disputes, involving 9,398 workpeople, of which the settlement is reported, 21, involving 1,915 persons, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 21, involving 4,436 persons, in favour of the employers; while 8, involving 3,047 workpeople, resulted in a compromise. (For further details see page 348.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of 13,100 workpeople were reported during October, of which number about 7,300 received increases and 5,800 sustained decreases. The net result was an average decrease estimated at about 3d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases included 1,800 building operatives, 900 chainmakers, 600 boot and shoe operatives and 1,200 bakers. The decreases, with one unimportant exception, were confined to the tinplate trade. Changes affecting 1,600 workpeople were preceded by strikes. The remaining changes, affecting 11,500 workpeople, were agreed to after direct negotiation between the employers and their workpeople without any cessation of work. (For further details see page 334.)

**Pauperism.**—In the 35 selected urban districts 322,520 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of October. This number corresponds to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts, being 1 per 10,000 more than a year ago. (For further details see page 351.)

**Emigration.**—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during October was 16,415, as compared with 17,466 in October, 1896. (For further details see page 345.)

## THE DISPUTES IN THE ENGINEERING AND KINDRED TRADES.

DURING the month there has been an extension of the lock-out movement, but chiefly in districts already involved. The increase in the numbers affected has not been so large as in the previous month.

An account of the Board of Trade negotiations to arrange a conference between the parties is given below.

The notices given by the London Ship Repairers' Association of a reversion from the 8 to the 9 hours' system were to take effect on October 15th. The joiners were not affected by the proposed change.

On October 14th, representatives of the society, met the employers, and the general secretary signed an agreement that the men should work under the terms of an agreement entered into in 1892.

The men, however, repudiated this arrangement, and on October 15th came out, to the number of about 1,500, for an 8 hours day pure and simple. Though refused benefit by the society, which has declared the shops open to other members, they have not up to the present returned to work.

The deputation appointed to wait upon the Board of Trade by the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades (see October GAZETTE, page 291) was received by the President of the Board of Trade on October 27th. Mr. Ritchie informed the deputation that, having regard to the negotiations then pending in the Engineering trade, he did not feel able to introduce the further complication that would inevitably ensue if he made proposals for a conference between the men now represented and their employers. The deputation accordingly withdrew for the present the request of the Federation for the intervention of the Board of Trade.

### ENGINEERING TRADE DISPUTE CORRESPONDENCE.

THE following correspondence has passed between the Board of Trade and the parties to the Engineering Dispute:—

Board of Trade,

October 20th, 1897.

Gentlemen,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to inform you that their attention has been seriously directed to the lamentable results likely to accrue to employers, employed, and the country generally from the long-continued dispute in the engineering trade. Hitherto the Board have refrained from issuing a formal invitation to a conference for the settlement of the dispute in the hope that such a meeting would be arranged directly between the parties, or as the result of the informal communications which have passed between the President of the Board and certain representatives of both sides. As, however, their hope has not up to the present been realised, and in view of the responsibilities which Parliament has placed upon the Department, the Board of Trade have felt it their duty to consider carefully the possibility of assisting to remove the obstacles which appear to impede the opening up of direct negotiations between the parties.

The Board of Trade understand that the employers complain that they have been seriously hampered in the efficient conduct of their business by the action of the trade unions or of particular members thereof; and also that the demand for a 48 hours' week in London was put forward by the Joint Committee, and a strike sanctioned for its enforcement, without application having previously been made for a conference with the employers.

On the other hand, apprehensions have been expressed on behalf of the workmen that the employers, or some of them, are influenced by a desire to interfere with the legitimate functions of trade unions for the protection of the interests of their members.

While expressing no opinion on the extent to which these complaints and fears are well founded, I am to suggest, as a means of clearing the way for a conference, that the grounds for similar apprehensions in the future should be removed.

Under these circumstances, I am directed to ask the earnest consideration of your committee to the enclosed rough draft, and to inquire if your committee are prepared to assent to the basis for an arrangement therein laid down, either as it stands, or with such amendments in detail as they may be good enough to suggest.

A similar communication has been addressed to the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) COURTENAY BOYLE.

The Secretaries,  
Employers' Federation of Engineering Associations,  
105 West George-street, Glasgow.

ROUGH DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION.

1. The Employers' Federation, while disavowing any intention of interfering with the legitimate action of Trades Unions, will admit no right of interference with the management of their business. The Trades Unions, on their part, while maintaining their right of combination, disavow any intention of interfering with the management of the business of the Employers.

2. The demand for a 48 hours' week made by the Joint Committee on the Federated Employers in London, without previous request for a conference with the employers, is withdrawn.

3. A conference between representatives of the Employers' Federation and the Engineering Unions concerned in the dispute shall be held forthwith, to discuss and settle the hours of labour.

4. The constitution of the conference shall be arranged between the Chairmen or other selected representatives of the parties.

A similar letter was addressed to the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. The following replies were received:—

The Federated Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers  
October 27th, 1897.

Sir,—The Executive Committee of the Federated Employers has carefully considered the basis for an arrangement suggested by the Board of Trade and communicated to us in your letter of the 20th inst., which we read not as an offer of mediation but as a suggestion for a conference between the parties concerned.

In reply we are instructed to draw your attention to the fact that the dispute has been raised by a Joint Committee of several Trade Unions, and not by the Amalgamated Society of Engineers alone.

The Federated Employers are prepared to settle the dispute, but they are of opinion that, if the basis proposed by the Board of Trade be accepted as drawn, the relations between the employers and workmen will practically be the same as before the stoppage of work, with all the consequent probabilities of industrial disturbances.

The present dispute was commenced by the Joint Committee ordering a strike against three London firms, in the face of a distinct warning from the Federation that a lock-out throughout the country would be the consequence. The Joint Committee did not even acknowledge the receipt of this communication nor of their previous letters, and thereby deliberately cut off any possibility of negotiations. In other words, the Employers' Committee fears that, notwithstanding the first clause of your suggested basis, which provides in general terms that the Federation and the Trade Unions are not to interfere with each other's proper functions, both the employers and their workmen will be again exposed to arbitrary restrictions and irritating interference with working arrangements which the leaders of the Unions have freely threatened to increase in future.

These restrictions have so increased the cost of production that important orders for engineering work have been placed in foreign hands, British competitors being underbitten even for machinery and plant for use in this country.

During the past 3 months the Employers have had an opportunity of ascertaining some of the effects of this interference. In many cases from 20 to 50 per cent. more work, of equal quality, has been produced from machines by comparatively inexperienced hands, compared with that produced by the men who previously worked the machines.

The Employers are convinced that they cannot reduce the working hours, as the keenness of foreign competition is increasing every day, and the fact that Britain has no monopoly of labour-saving machines places the manufacturers of all countries on an equal footing as regards quality and possible quantity of output per hour. Those countries, therefore, are handicapped where limitations are insisted upon as regards the time during which machine tools may be used.

While the Federated Employers are obliged to insist upon the demand for a reduction of hours being unconditionally withdrawn, they are willing to meet the Joint Committee in conference, to discuss the best means of removing the restrictions that have hitherto hampered the engineering trade and of extending to all works the fair and equitable arrangements existing in many shops before the commencement of the dispute, the constitution of the conference to be similar to that held in April last on the machine and other questions, viz., each side to have its own chairman.



Work to be resumed as soon as a satisfactory solution has been arrived at.

In view of the persistent misrepresentations which have been put forward during this dispute, the Federated Employers take the opportunity of again repeating that they have not, and never have had, any desire to encroach upon the reasonable functions of Trade Unions, or in any way to interfere with the right of combination among workmen.

We have, &c.,  
(Signed) THOMAS BIGGART, } Secretaries.  
                  JAMES ROBINSON, }

Amalgamated Society of Engineers,  
October 26th, 1897,  
Re Engineering Dispute.

Dear Sir,—Your letter and rough draft proposals of the 20th inst. have been again very carefully considered by the Executive Council of the above Society.

I have now to assure you in the first place that we are fully sensible of the ill effects accruing from a continuance of the dispute, and, in the sense and spirit of our former communications, we are ready to assent to a conference being held with a view to a settlement.

We desire, however, in accordance with your request, to suggest certain amendments to your draft upon matters of detail:—

1. Regarding the assurance asked for as to non-interference with works business. On this point interpretation of the terms used is, of course, necessary, and it appears to us to be desirable that the conference should set up some machinery whereby effect could be given to the understanding arrived at. Putting it broadly, I may say that we have no desire to interfere with the business of the employers, except in so far as may be necessary to secure just terms for our labour, as to which we are willing to confer with employers, and, in case of difference, to abide by the decision of a joint conference or of an impartial arbitrator.

2. We note that no express mention is made as to withdrawal of notices on the other side, and we cannot help feeling that it would clear the way to a conference, and to resumption of work, if it were clearly understood that a withdrawal of strike notices would be followed by a withdrawal of lock-out notices leaving the whole matter open for discussion.

3. In regard to the third proposal, we desire to point out that we regard the selection of an independent chairman, who shall be entirely unconnected with both sides as necessary to a successful conference.

4. Consistent with the above we are willing to meet representatives of the other side as suggested by you, for the purpose of arranging preliminaries and constitution of conference.

We venture, Sir, to submit these amendments in the hope and belief that they will commend themselves to your mind as fair and reasonable.

We need only add the hope that your efforts may be crowned with success, and the assurance that on our part we shall go into conference with a sincere desire to find points of agreement rather than of divergence with the other side. Awaiting your further advice,

I remain, Sir,  
Respectfully yours,  
(Signed) GEO. H. BARNES.

Note.—In regard to No. 2 it may be pointed out that the claim for the 48 hours' week was made before there were any Federated Employers in London.—G.H.B.

The following further letter was thereupon addressed to the parties by the Board of Trade:—  
Board of Trade,

November 3rd, 1897.

Gentlemen,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th ultimo, in reply to my communication of the 20th ultimo, and to enclose for your information a copy of the reply received from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

The Board of Trade observe with satisfaction that both sides agree to a conference, and also that they concur in suggesting the desirability of discussing at such conference the best means of giving practical effect to the declarations set out in clause 1 of the rough draft enclosed in my former letter.

In some respects, however, the suggestions made by the parties show a divergence which it is the earnest desire of the Board to assist in removing.

I am accordingly directed to enclose a draft for the consideration of your Committee revised so far as possible to meet the wishes of the parties, and to express a hope that they will both be prepared to assent to the amended basis therein laid down.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) COURTENAY BOYLE.

AMENDED DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION.

1. The Federated employers, while disavowing any intention of interfering with the legitimate action of Trade Unions, will admit no interference with the management of their business.

The Trade Union, on their part, while maintaining their right of combination, disavow any intention of interfering with the management of the business of the Employers.

2. The notices demanding a 48 hours' week served on the Federated Employers in London without previous request for a conference are withdrawn.

3. A conference between representatives of the Federated Employers and the Trades Unions concerned in the dispute shall be held forthwith.

The arrangements for the conference shall be made between the chairmen or other selected representatives of the parties.

Failing an agreement as to the chairman, each side to have its own chairman.

4. The conference to consider and determine—

(a) The best means of giving practical effect to the declarations set out in clause 1;

(b) The best means of avoiding as far as possible future disputes; and arrangements for the mutual discussion of questions in the settlement of which both parties are concerned;

(c) Hours of labour.

5. As soon as the conference arrives at a settlement work to be resumed.

A similar letter was addressed to the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. The following replies were received by the Board of Trade:—

The Federated Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers,  
November 5th, 1897.

Sir,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst., enclosing an amended draft of proposals for a conference for consideration by the Federated Employers.

In reply we are directed by the Executive Committee to forward you copy of the resolution passed at a meeting held at Manchester to-day, namely:—

"That without prejudice to the opinions expressed on many occasions by the Federated employees on the subject of any diminution of the hours of labour, the Executive Committee of the Federation assent to a conference on the basis suggested by the Board of Trade."

We have, &c.,  
(Signed) THOMAS BIGGART, } Secretaries.  
                  JAMES ROBINSON, }

Amalgamated Society of Engineers,  
November 9th, 1897.

Dear Sir,—In reply to your further letter of 3rd, and draft proposals as a basis of discussion for the settlement of the dispute in the engineering trade, I have now to say that such have received the careful and respectful consideration of the Council of Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

As a result, I have to say that we assent to the terms laid down for a conference; but we assume that the withdrawal of strike notices involves also the suspension of pending lock-out notices on the other side, and also that the claim for reduction of the hours of labour will be subject for discussion, we agreeing, on our part, to discuss the same in an amicable spirit, having due regard to the terms (financial or otherwise) necessary to ensure its working to the best interest of employers and employed.

Respectfully yours,  
(Signed) GEO. N. BARNES  
(On behalf of the Executive Council).

The following letter was addressed from the Board of Trade to the Secretaries of the Federated Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers on the 10th instant:—

Gentlemen,—I am directed by the Board of Trade to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, and to enclose for your information a copy of the reply received from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

I am to express the gratification of the Board that both parties have seen their way to accept in its entirety the basis for a Conference suggested in the draft enclosed in my previous communication. The Board confidently trust that pending the Conference all hostile action on both sides will be suspended.

I am, &c.,  
(Signed) COURTENAY BOYLE.

A similar communication was addressed to the General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers.

THE WORKING OF THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE LAW IN AUSTRIA IN 1895.\*

In comparing the figures relating to the insurance of workpeople against accidents in Austria in 1895 with those for previous years, some allowance has to be made for the additions made by the Law of July 20, 1894 to the list of trades subject to accident insurance (see GAZETTE, Sept. 1894, p. 287). These additions came into operation in 1895.

Out of a total of 186,718 workpeople whose insurance has been made obligatory by the new Law, 141,187 were railway servants.

The following statement shows the number of establishments and workpeople subject to the Law in each of the years 1890-95, excluding miners, the bulk of whom come under the Mining Code, and who have been allowed to retain their own provident institutions, known as *Bruderladen*:—

Years.	No. of Establishments insured at end of year.	Mean No. of Workpeople insured.
1890	131,326	1,211,818
1891	145,309	1,369,763
1892	150,223	1,380,881
1893	160,357	1,466,270
1894	192,026	1,598,404
1895	215,773	1,877,194

The following table shows the number of accidents to workpeople, in each of the years 1890-95:—

Result of Accidents reported.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.
I.—NUMBER.						
(a) Death	548	565	574	649	670	835
(b) Permanent total disablement	100	105	120	115	116	203
(c) Permanent partial disablement	1,493	2,046	2,410	3,120	3,585	4,721
(d) Temporary disablement (over 4 weeks)	4,660	6,068	6,318	7,008	8,181	10,636
Total of Accidents entailing compensation	6,741	8,784	9,422	10,901	12,552	16,395
Accidents not entailing compensation	9,300	12,532	16,876	22,016	27,707	38,167
Grand Total of Accidents reported	16,041	21,316	26,298	32,917	40,259	54,562
II.—PROPORTION PER 10,000 INSURED.†						
(a) Death	6.7	6.6	6.4	6.9	6.8	6.8
(b) Permanent total disablement	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.7
(c) Permanent partial disablement	18.1	23.9	27.0	33.3	36.2	38.8
(d) Temporary disablement (over 4 weeks)	55.9	70.8	70.7	74.5	82.6	87.4
Total of accidents entailing compensation	81.9	102.5	105.4	115.9	126.8	134.7
Accidents not entailing compensation	113.0	146.2	188.8	234.0	279.9	313.7

The considerable increase in 1895 in the grand total of accidents reported, as compared with the previous year, is in part accounted for by the increase in the number of railway workers insured in 1895 in conformity with the new Law. The same cause is said to account for the fact that the rate of increase between 1894 and 1895 in the number of serious accidents (those entailing death or total permanent disablement) was much greater than between 1893 and 1894. It will be seen, however, that the proportion of fatal accidents per 10,000 persons insured was the same in 1895 as in 1894, and that it has varied very little since 1890. The same constancy will be noticed from 1890 to 1894 in the proportion of accidents entailing permanent total disablement.

The number of new annuities granted in 1895 to persons permanently injured, or to the survivors of persons killed by accidents, was 5,087, the total number of persons drawing such annuities at the end of that year being 16,627, and the total annual value of their pensions £108,865, or an average of £6 10s. 11½d. each. At the end of 1894 the number of annuitants was 12,267, the total annual value of their pensions being £80,066, or an average of £6 10s. 6½d. each.

\* Die Gebarung und die Ergebnisse der Unfallstatistik im Grunde des Gesetzes vom 28. December, 1887, betreffend die Unfallversicherung der Arbeiter errichteten Arbeiter-Unfallversicherungsanstalten im Jahre 1895. Vienna, 1897.

† In reality, per 3,000,000 days worked, as the figure 10,000 is fictitious, and represents such a number of workpeople (employed for a greater or lesser number of days during the year), as is equivalent to 10,000 workpeople employed for 300 days (*Vollarbeiter*). In this way it is reckoned that the mean number of workpeople subject to insurance during 1895 (*viz.*, 1,877,194), is equivalent to 1,216,731 *Vollarbeiter*.

‡ The reason in most cases being that the injured persons were cured within the first four weeks.

The following is a statement of the total income and expenditure of the accident insurance offices in each of the years, 1893-5:—

	1893.	1894.	1895.
Income:—			
Insurance Premiums	£ 379,985	£ 399,212	£ 575,096
Interest	30,724	49,446	48,848
All other Receipts	27,773	36,911	6,203
Total Income	438,482	476,569	630,147
Expenditure:—			
Compensations paid	104,022	140,933	188,276
Investigations, Arbitration of Disputed Claims, &c., and Administration	48,972	56,574	62,778
All other Expenditure	19,010	26,911	7,146
Sums set aside each year to cover Capital value of fresh Annuities incurred in the year	312,357*	333,801*	444,235*
Total Expenditure	484,361	558,219	702,435
Excess of Expenditure over Income	45,879	81,650	72,288

It will be seen that the amount by which income fell short of expenditure was less in 1895 than in 1894, this being, it is stated, due to the use in 1895 of an amended classification of trades according to their liability to give rise to accidents, and a consequent increase in the amounts payable for insurance purposes by the more dangerous trades.

The unsatisfactory condition of the finances of most of the insurance institutions is regarded by the report as a proof that they will have to adopt measures for increasing their revenues. The institutions have power to do this by raising the premiums, but they object to this course on the ground that the present financial difficulties are not due to the premiums being too low, but to the defectiveness of the law, which does not give the institutions sufficient power to enable them to compel employers to pay.

GERMAN INSURANCE LAWS AND PAUPERISM.

THE Imperial Statistical Office in Berlin recently published† the results of an inquiry undertaken, at the request of the Imperial Chancellor, by the Governments of the various States for the purpose of ascertaining whether, and if so, how far, the burdens imposed by the various Workers' Insurance Laws had been compensated for by a saving of Poor Law Expenditure.

The information collected was of two kinds, *viz.* (1) statistics of the total number of heads of households who obtained poor relief, and the total cost of such relief in each year from, and including, 1884, to the end of the official year 1893-4; and (2) replies from Poor Law Administrations to a set of questions bearing on the subject under investigation.

The results of the inquiry are based on over 1,500 replies. Generally speaking, the Poor Law Administrations consider that the operation of the Insurance Laws has prevented their burdens from increasing so rapidly as would otherwise have been the case, but the number of persons relieved and the cost of relief have risen rather than fallen off.

The Accident Insurance Law has had less effect than the Sickness and Old Age Insurance Laws on the volume of pauperism. The last-named laws have, it is considered, provided for many persons who would otherwise have needed poor relief. For example, in Berlin the number of patients sent to the municipal hospitals by the sick funds has increased, while the number sent by the Poor Law authorities has declined. Again, the percentage of the population of Berlin who were medically attended in their own homes by Poor Law doctors fell from 4.46 in 1883 to 2.79 in 1887-8, from which it rose to 3.76 in 1891-2, a rate still below that of 1883. The increase in the total number receiving poor relief, in spite of the operation of the Insurance Laws, is ascribed to various causes, including a greater readiness among those classes who remain wholly or partly outside the scope of the Insurance Laws (*e.g.*, domestic servants, agricultural labourers, and small handicraftsmen) to accept poor relief, and to assert a right to public support. In parts of Prussia the increased expenses of pauperism are attributed to the new Poor Law of 1891.

\* After allowing for diminutions in the special reserve funds.  
† Vierteljahrshefte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs. Jahrgang 1897, 2 Heft. Berlin, 1897, Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht.



It is stated that there have been many cases in which poor relief has been granted in addition to insurance benefit, partly because the Poor Law authorities have not always known whether applicants were receiving allowances under the Insurance Laws or not, and partly because these allowances are in many respects inadequate, more especially the Old Age and Invalidity Insurance allowances.

UNION OF LABOUR REGISTRIES IN THE DÜSSELDORF DISTRICT.

In a memorandum prepared for the Foreign Office, on October 20th, by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul for the Rhenish Provinces and Westphalia, an account is given of an alliance of the employment registries of the Düsseldorf Governmental District for the purpose of inaugurating a "clearing-house" system with a central office at Düsseldorf.

On July 1st, when the central office entered upon its duties, the number of affiliated registries was eight.

Tabular statements have to be supplied weekly to the central office in Düsseldorf by all the affiliated registries, showing the offers of situations, and also the applications for work which it may not have been possible to satisfy. The information contained in these returns is redistributed by the central office among the registries of the Alliance, in order that each may be constantly informed as to the demand and supply of labour throughout the whole district. The central office is not in itself a labour inquiry office for workpeople and employers, but it answers inquiries from affiliated registries as to the offers of labour and of employment. It is managed by a secretary and supervised by a board consisting at present of a chairman and nine members, including the chief functionary of the Government of the district (*Regierungspräsident*), members of municipal corporations, owners of factories and others. It is intended to increase the number of members on the Board by two, and the vacancies have been kept open for the working classes or their representatives.

The funds estimated to be necessary to meet the requirements of the next two years have been secured by voluntary contributions from the State, the Rhenish Provinces, Town Corporations and private persons.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS (FAIR WAGES RESOLUTION).

REPORT OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Select Committee appointed to consider the working of the Fair Wages Resolution of February, 1891, and its administration by the various Government Departments has presented its report [P.P. 334, price 2s. 5d.].

Subject to special circumstances the Committee consider that, as regards the Resolution, a common form of tender and of contract should be used by all the Government Departments.

The Committee report that the expression "such wages as are generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen" is naturally interpreted by each Department to mean the rate of wages generally accepted as current in each trade for competent workmen in the district where the work is carried out, and that unless this definition be upheld "it would not be possible in any given case to decide with equity whether the current rate of wage was being paid in accordance with the terms of the contract and the spirit of the Resolution."

In such a case, however, as the shipbuilding and engineering trade in the London district, it might be undesirable to insist "on an interpretation of the intention of the House of Commons, which would have the effect of injuring, or, it might be, even of destroying, a great local industry on which many workmen are depending for a livelihood, and which motives of national policy might render it prudent to foster and maintain."

With regard to such points as the undue employment of women, boys, apprentices or "improvers," walking time, dressing stone at the quarries instead of at the works, &c., the Committee consider "that the decision must largely depend on (a) whether the contractor is enforcing conditions of employment not recognized in the trade; (b) whether he has, as regards the particular contract in question, departed from his usual conditions of employment in order to evade the spirit if not the letter of the Resolution."

The Committee consider that "sub-letting or sub-contracting may be perfectly legitimate where the particular form of contract in question is customary to the trade; or where the contractor in question, in the ordinary course of his business, sub-lets or sub-contracts that particular portion of the work."

"But sub-contracting or sub-letting does not appear to the Committee to be permissible where it is not customary to the trade; nor should the contractor who, in the ordinary course of his business, could or would himself carry out certain work, be allowed to sub-let it to others. . . . Where a sub-contract is allowed the principal contractor should, as regards the carrying out of the Fair Wages Resolution, be held responsible for his agent."

The Committee approve of the suggestion "that where a definite complaint is made and the grievance is subsequently proved, and the contractor instructed to raise the wages, then the rise of wages should date back to the time at which the complaint was originally received, and payment of the balance shown to be due should be made to the workmen wherever possible."

The Committee recommend that a list of the Government contractors, together with the nature of their contracts, should be from time to time laid before Parliament, and published.

"Having regard to the high importance of affording every facility to men who have served in the army and navy for getting employment," the Committee consider "that Government contractors should not be called upon to refuse to engage them at wages commensurate with their capability, even though those wages might be less than the ordinary current rate, provided that the wages of other workmen could not be shown to be adversely affected."

The Committee consider that, in accordance with the undertaking of the Government in 1893, in all future contracts a clause should be inserted stating that no preference should be given (for employment) as between unionists and non-unionists. This additional point should be assumed to have been incorporated by the House of Commons in the Fair Wages Resolution.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN OCTOBER.

(For Detailed Tables, see p. 347).

The following table contains a summary of the number of workpeople killed or injured by industrial accidents in October, 1897, and 1896, respectively, so far as reported. It will be seen that the number killed was greater by 17 in October, 1897, than in October, 1896, and the number reported as injured greater by 11.

Occupations.	Killed.		Injured.	
	Oct. 1897.	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1897.	Oct. 1896.
Railway Servants:—				
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles ... ..	45	33	381	370
Other accidents ... ..	5	5	807	993
Miners ... ..	47	69	420	439
Quarrymen ... ..	8	8	58	69
Seamen ... ..	114	85	149	165
Factory and Workshop Operatives:—				
(1) Accidents reported to Certifying Surgeons:—				
In Factories ... ..	47	—	1,351	—
In Workshops ... ..	—	44	1	1,398
(2) Other Accidents (non-fatal and only reported to Inspectors):—				
In Factories ... ..	—	—	2,140	—
In Workshops ... ..	—	—	7	1,864
Others (so far as reported) ... ..	6	10	113	118
Totals ... ..	272	254	5,427	5,416

CO-OPERATION IN 1896.

The following table, showing the progress in 1896 the Distributive and Productive Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom, is based upon returns and reports supplied direct to the Department by the societies concerned, and upon statistics published in the annual report of the Co-operative Union.

The amount of interest paid upon shares by retail distributive societies having this year been ascertained and published by the Co-operative Union, it has been possible to show in this table the profits of distributive and productive societies upon the same basis. The totals for 1895 have been revised since the figures were published in the GAZETTE for October, 1896.

The total sales and transfers in 1896 of the 1,674 societies dealt with in the table, amount to £59,692,864 and the total number of members to 1,421,136.

Returns received from 495 of the retail distributive societies show that at the end of 1896 they had in their direct employment 9,398 persons engaged in the production of various articles sold in their distributive departments, the value of such productions amounting to a total for the year of £2,650,183, an increase of 11.2 per cent. on the value of the productions sold by 494 societies making returns for 1895.

This, with the production of the wholesale societies and the productive societies, makes a total of £7,668,266 for the value of their own productions sold by co-operative societies of all classes in 1896, an increase over 1895 of 17.5 per cent.

The total number of persons employed in production was 26,873, of whom 15,728 were men, 6,692 women, and 4,453 young persons under 18 years of age. The bulk of the production was in England and Wales, where 70.2 per cent. of the total employees were engaged, 28.7 per cent. being in Scotland, and 1.1 per cent. in Ireland.

In the productive societies the increase in membership is 12.4 per cent.; in share, loan and reserve capital 5 per cent.; in sales 12.5 per cent.; and in number of persons employed 8.4 per cent.

Of the total capital of the societies £7,376,417 had been reinvested in other concerns.

TABLE SHOWING CERTAIN PARTICULARS RELATING TO THE WORKMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM—DISTINGUISHING DISTRIBUTIVE AND PRODUCTIVE SOCIETIES—FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1896, TOGETHER WITH THE TOTALS FOR 1895.

Description of Societies.	Number of Societies to which the following particulars relate.	Number of Members.		Capital.		Amount of Sales during year.	Profit including interest on Shares, but not on Loan Capital.	Number of Persons directly employed at the end of year.
		Individuals.	Other Societies.*	Share and Loan.	Reserve and Insurance.			
<b>Distribution:—</b>								
Retail Societies ... ..	1,470	1,380,051	—	£ 17,222,106	£ 681,527	£ 36,976,335	£ 5,724,171	35,427†
English Wholesale Society ... ..	1	—	1,044	1,214,576	437,491	11,115,056	188,002	1,514
Scottish " ... ..	1	208	283	779,648	103,766	3,822,581	131,613	753
Irish Co-operative Agency ... ..	1	—	40	2,398	—	110,726	541‡	9
Total Distributive Societies in 1896 ... ..	1,473	1,380,259	1,367	19,218,728	1,222,784	52,034,598	6,043,245	37,703
Totals in 1895 ... ..	1,442	1,302,927	1,346	17,739,302	1,070,938	47,809,341	5,779,812§	34,732
<b>Production by Productive Societies:—</b>								
Various Manufacturing Societies ... ..	111	16,248	2,706	670,274	45,593	1,188,469	38,102	7,157
Bread-baking and Food Preparation ... ..	25	8,899	217	194,281	12,788	354,653	46,714	1,061
Corn Milling ... ..	9	6,956	402	448,124	13,189	1,070,543	63,596	394
Irish Dairying ... ..	56	4,078	4	38,078	5,666	285,190	3,937	275
Total Productive Societies in 1896 ... ..	201	36,181	3,329	1,360,737	77,176	2,898,855	152,249	8,887
Totals in 1895 ... ..	181	32,015	3,115	1,286,487	68,867	2,576,054	126,981	8,201
<b>Production by Distributive Societies:—</b>								
Retail Societies (495) ... ..	†	†	†	†	†	2,650,183	†	9,398
English Wholesale Society ... ..	†	†	†	†	†	1,299,833	22,544	5,277
Scottish " ... ..	†	†	†	†	†	819,395	35,970	3,311
Total Production by Distributive Societies in 1896 ... ..	†	†	†	†	†	4,769,411	58,514	17,986
Totals in 1895 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	3,927,003	53,031	15,538
<b>Grand Totals for 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>1,416,440</b>	<b>4,696*</b>	<b>21,587,364</b>	<b>1,299,960</b>	<b>59,692,864</b>	<b>6,254,108</b>	<b>64,576</b>
" " 1895 ... ..	1,623	1,334,942	4,461*	19,889,308	1,139,805	54,312,398	5,959,824§	58,471

\* The same society may hold shares in a number of manufacturing societies, and may therefore be counted several times in this column.  
† In some cases the number employed was not stated. In these cases an estimate has been made.  
‡ Loss.  
§ These totals have been corrected for purpose of comparison with 1896 by the addition of the estimated interest on shares paid in 1895.  
|| In the case of production by distributive societies the goods are not sold direct from the manufacturing departments, but are transferred to the distributive departments.  
¶ Included under head of Distribution.

**Friendly Societies' Investments with the Commissioners for Reduction of National Debt.**—The report of the Chief Registrar for 1896\* shows that 1,100 friendly societies had on November 20th, 1896, the sum of £1,654,831 invested with the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. Of this total no less than £580,087 had been invested during the year ending November 20th, 1896, as compared with £20,550 invested in 1895, and £3,425 in 1894. The large increase in the investments by societies appears to be due to a provision in the Friendly Societies Act, 1895, which provided that the then existing privilege of friendly societies to invest their funds with the Commissioners at interest at the rate of 3s. 10d. per cent. per annum would cease at the end of 1895, excepting in the case of those societies which had previously opened an account. As a result, 758 new accounts were opened between July 6th and December 31st, 1895, and £245,238 paid in, of which sum £227,848 was invested after November 20th, and is therefore included in the £580,087 given as invested during 1896.

\* Report of Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 1896, Part A. P.P. No. 97, of 1897. Price 1s. 2½d.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

The tenth annual report of the Board of Mediation and Arbitration of the State of New York shows that 246 disputes took place in 1896, "the number reported being nearly 40 per cent. less than in 1895, and far below the average number in previous years." The Board or its officials took action in 18 cases. In four of these cases negotiations with both parties led directly to a satisfactory settlement, and in one case the two parties were induced to accept arbitration. In one case the strike was independently settled in the course of negotiations by the Board. In the remaining 12 cases the action of the Board did not lead to a settlement. In one of these a meeting was brought about between the parties, but without result. In three cases a formal investigation was conducted by the Board into the causes of the dispute, a full account of the proceedings being contained in this report. In the remaining cases the action of the Board was confined to negotiation with the parties.



RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Stallmen at Nuneaton.

On October 6th the manager of a colliery at Nuneaton applied to the Board of Trade under the Conciliation Act regarding a dispute impending between the company and the stallmen in their employ. New workings had been opened some time before, and the management were now proposing to fix the rate at 2s. 2d. per ton, subject to certain allowances in special cases instead of the special rates and extra allowances hitherto prevailing. The men, however, contended that they should be paid a fixed rate of 2s. 4d. per ton, and that there should be an end of the consideration system.

After some correspondence, an officer of the Department visited the district on October 18th and attended at an interview between the manager and the miners' agent, at which the situation was discussed. On October 29th the directors of the company met a deputation of the men, and a settlement was arrived at.

Interpretation of the Terms of Settlement of the Boot and Shoe Dispute of 1895.

Two questions arising out of the terms of settlement of 1895 in the Boot and Shoe Trade having been referred to Sir Courtenay Boyle for decision (in accordance with Resolution 5 of those terms), he issued an award on October 20th.

The first case was referred to Sir Courtenay Boyle by the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives in the following terms:—

"Does Resolution 5 of the terms of Settlement prevent a Board of Arbitration or the Umpire appointed to determine disputed points arising out of the Settlement from dealing with a complaint of an alleged breach of an award with regard to a minimum wage, unless such breach has, in the first instance, been a matter of dispute between the employer and workman directly concerned?"

The following is the award:—

Resolution 5 of the Terms of Settlement confines the powers of Arbitration Boards to the settlement of questions "which it is found impossible to settle in the first place between Employers and Employed, or secondly between their representatives." This Resolution, therefore, prevents a Board of Arbitration from dealing with any matter which has not in the first instance been a matter of dispute between the Employer and Workmen directly concerned, or between the representatives of such Employer and Workmen.

Resolution 5 does not govern or limit the powers of the Umpire appointed under Resolution 10 to determine disputed points arising out of the Settlement, and such Umpire may deal with any complaint of the alleged breach of an Award, which may be brought before him by the Federation or the Union.

The second case was referred to Sir Courtenay Boyle by the Federated Boot and Shoe Manufacturers in the following terms:—

Resolution 5 of the Terms of Settlement provides as follows:—

"That such Boards when re-constituted shall have full power to settle all questions submitted to them concerning wages, &c."

Do these words mean that questions of reductions, as well as of advances in wages, can be discussed and settled by the London Board of Conciliation and Arbitration?

By an Agreement entered into between the London Employers' Association and the Local Branches of the Trade Union on 17th April, 1890, questions involving a direct reduction of wages were expressly excluded from the Jurisdiction of the London Board.

Is not this Agreement in contravention of Resolution 5 of the Terms of Settlement?

The following is the award:—

Clause (5) of the Terms of Settlement states explicitly that Arbitration Boards "when re-constituted shall have full powers to settle all questions submitted to them concerning wages, &c.," subject to certain restrictions specified in (4) a, b, c, d. None of these subsections contain anything limiting the power of Boards with regard to reductions of wages.

If, therefore, the London Arbitration Board has been re-constituted (as provided in Clause 4) it has power to deal with applications for reductions as well as advances in wages, notwithstanding any Agreement to the contrary entered into before the date of the Settlement.

Bakers at Glasgow.

As the result of a conference between the representatives of employers and operatives an agreement was signed on the 18th October fixing the terms of employment in the Glasgow baking trade.

The agreement provides that the minimum wage of journeymen bakers shall be 30s. per week. The hours of labour are fixed (where early men are employed) at 50 per week, and overtime is to be paid for at the rate of 10½d. per hour. Other clauses deal with questions of mealtimes, apprentices and holidays. The consideration of the question whether members of the trade society should work with non-members was postponed for three months. It is reported that about 1,100 work-people received an advance of wages under this agreement.

Plasterers at Hamilton.

An agreement has been signed by the representatives of the employers' and operative plasterers' associations in Hamilton and district, dated September 1st. This agreement regulates the conditions of apprenticeship, and provides for the formation of a joint committee of employers and employed.

THE NEW ZEALAND CENSUS OF 1896.

The results of the Census in New Zealand taken for the night of April 12th, 1896, are now available. The population, exclusive of Maoris, amounted to 703,360, or 76,702 persons more than in 1891, the excess of births over deaths having amounted to 58,673 persons, and of arrivals over departures to 18,029. The density of population amounted to 6.760 persons per square mile, as compared with 6.024 persons in 1891. The percentage of the population born in the colony has risen from 58.61 in 1891 to 62.85 in 1896.

The Census classifies the working population, according as they were employers, wage earners, independent workers, relatives assisting but not earning wages, or wage earners unemployed, and statistics are given shewing the numbers employed, total wages paid, and average wages paid per head by the various classes of works and factories.

The total value of the manufactures included in the tables amounted in 1895 to £9,549,360, an increase of 8.8 per cent. on the figures for 1890. The total amount of wages paid was £1,907,592, or 5.5 per cent. more than in 1890. The number of persons employed in these establishments was 22,986 males and 4,403 females.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broad-way, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, &c., mostly dated September and October last.)†

**Canada.**—Statutes have recently been passed in Ontario and Manitoba, which enact that all societies or persons engaged in bringing poor children into either of those Provinces must be licensed. At this season of the year there is no demand for more labour.

**Victoria.**—Reports from Castlemaine, Warrnambool, and Daylesford all state that there is no demand for more mechanics or farm labourers. A report from Bendigo states that the labour market appears to be fairly well supplied. The Board, appointed under the Factories Act to fix wages in the clothing trade, have decided that rod. an hour should be the minimum wage.

**Queensland.**—At Brisbane there is no demand for more artisans. The sugar industry, as far as the farmer is concerned, is in a prosperous condition, and there are excellent openings for farmers with a little capital, after they have acquired some experience of the country. A report from Mackay in the north, states that there is no demand whatever for station hands, mechanics, or

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal).

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

miners, but that there is a good demand for female servants, and for good farm hands, especially from June to December. At Beenleigh—in a good farming district 25 miles from Brisbane—the number of farm labourers and mechanics is reported as quite sufficient. Near Rockhampton there is a good demand for ploughmen, and female servants; married couples are always in demand on farms and stations.

**Tasmania.**—The important saw-milling industry of the Huon district in the south-west of the colony has greatly improved of late, and work has been brisk. A report from Zeehan, on the west coast, states: "There is a good demand for country carpenters, and a fair one for blacksmiths; good miners can always get work."

**New Zealand.**—The outlook with respect to mining is very promising in the Colony, and returns for the first six months of this year exceed those for the corresponding period of 1896; trade also is good, and the settlement of people on the land is progressing satisfactorily. At Wellington men in the building and engineering trades (especially boilermakers) have been very busy: carpenters and joiners demand a 44 hours week, and the masters have decided to pay them by the hour, so that they can work for only 44 hours per week if they like. At Auckland, bricklayers—but not carpenters—have been fully employed; at Christchurch the building trades have been dull, but the engineering and brushmaking trades, sawmills and woollen mills, have been quite busy. At Dunedin men in the building trades (except masons) and engineering trades have been busy. At this season of the year there is a demand in most districts for good farm hands.

**Cape Colony and Natal.**—There is no special demand in these Colonies for more labour at the present time; and at Durban, in Natal, there has been a certain number of unemployed persons.

**Buluwayo.**—The completion of the railway from Capetown to Buluwayo is likely to increase the openings for labour at the latter place, but the demand will be fully met by workmen from Johannesburg and other places in South Africa, where the labour market is over supplied.

**Transvaal.**—A considerable number of persons in Johannesburg are unable to find work, and no emigrants should go there now, or to any other part of the Transvaal.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.\*

**Labour Disputes in October.**—The number of disputes reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in October was 22, compared with 35 in the preceding month, and 21 in October, 1896. Nine disputes begun before October were also in progress at the beginning of that month. The trades most affected by the new disputes, were: Textiles (5 disputes); metal-working (4); transport (3); and the building, mining and boot and shoe trades, in each of which two disputes occurred. The total number of persons known to have participated in 15 of the 22 new disputes was 1,845. Of these 700 were metal workers belonging to an establishment in La Seyne (Var) who struck on October 21st against the suspension of two fellow workmen, but resumed work two days later. In one out of 15 disputes terminated in October the workpeople were successful; in 8, partially successful; in 4, unsuccessful, while in the case of 2 disputes the results have not been ascertained.

**Conciliation and Arbitration in October.**—The Conciliation and Arbitration Law of December 27th, 1892, was put into operation in connection with 8 disputes in October. The initiative was taken by the *juge de paix* in five cases, and by the workpeople in 2. Information on this point is wanting for 1 case. Conciliation committees met in 3 cases, but settled no disputes. Among the cases in which the *juge de*

\* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Labour Department

*paix* failed to get the parties to meet was the dispute in the slate quarries of Trélazé referred to in last month's GAZETTE (p. 296). The men resumed work unconditionally on October 29th. A strike of 30 tinsmiths of Bourges (Cher) for increased wages, begun on October 18th and ended on November 2nd, was settled after a conference before the *Conseil de Prud'hommes*.

**Coal Mining in September.**\*—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in September was 5.93 as compared with 5.91 in the previous month. In September full time (6 days and over) was worked by 82 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 18 per cent. of the miners, while in the previous month the percentages were 70 and 29 respectively. The pits making these returns employ three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

GERMANY.

**Labour Disputes in October.**—The most serious of the disputes reported on in the *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* in October was a strike of operatives employed by a firm of cycle and sewing-machine makers in Stettin. Some 900 operatives are affected. Of these, 500, employed in the cycle branch, went out at the end of September, in consequence of differences as to wages, and 400, belonging to the sewing-machine branch, on October 5th, owing to a number of their colleagues having been discharged. On October 27th, it was reported that 120 of the older operatives had resumed work.

Strikes of basket-makers took place in Hamburg and Berlin, the numbers affected being 345 in the former, and 120 in the latter place. Both disputes arose out of questions of wages.

The jute spinners employed by the *Nord-Deutsche Jute-Spinnerei* in Hamburg, who struck owing to differences on a question of wages are stated to have resumed work on October 27th with an increase of 5 per cent.

The strike of masons and bricklayers in Leipsic, begun on June 16th, and referred to in previous numbers of the GAZETTE (July, 1897, p. 200 and September, 1897, p. 265) lasted until the middle of October. At a conference held on the 9th of that month under the auspices of the Chief Burgomaster of Leipsic the parties were unable to agree; but at a meeting of the men held shortly afterwards it was decided to stop the strike.

**Strikes in Germany in 1896.**—According to figures published in the *Correspondenzblatt der Generalkommission der Gewerkschaften Deutschlands*, the total number of strikes which took place in Germany in 1896, so far as the particulars could be ascertained, was 483, the number of persons taking part in these disputes being given as 128,808. The details are as under:—

Trades.	No. of Strikes.	No. of Strikers.
Building Trades	120	27,046
Clothing Trades	23	31,336
Metal Trades (including Shipbuilding)	69	3,447
Textile Trades	4	2,230
Food and Tobacco Trades	38	2,386
Dock Labour and Transport	12	26,050
Miscellaneous Trades	217	36,113

The percentage proportion of the whole number of strikes attributable to each class of cause or object was as follows: Strikes about wages, 37 per cent.; hours of labour, 45 per cent.; working arrangements, 2 per cent.; against discharge or to obtain discharge of particular employees, 11 per cent.; relating to trade unionism, 3 per cent.; other causes or objects, or not stated, 2 per cent.

Of the total number of strikes in 1896 the proportion in which the workpeople were successful is stated to be 48.03 per cent.; partially successful, 25.26 per cent.; unsuccessful, 21.95 per cent.; result indefinite or unknown, 4.76 per cent.

**Wages and Hours in the Printing Trade.**—From a summary of data collected in 184 printing establishments in 35 towns of Rhenish Westphalia by the Trade Union of printers and typefounders, and published in a recent number of the *Correspondent für Deutschlands Buchdrucker und Schriftsetzer*, it appears that the number of machine-men employed in the establishments covered by the inquiry was 405 and the number of machines 671. Of the 405 machine-men, 135 belonged to the German Federation of Printers and Typefounders. The hours worked per day were as follows:—In one establishment, 12: in thirteen, 10½; in eighty, 10; in seventy, 9½; in six, 9; in four, 8½, and in one, 8 hours. Information on this point is wanting for nine establishments. In the great majority (177) of the establishments, overtime was said

\* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, October, 1897.



to be rare. Of 343 machine-men whose wages are expressed in terms of a weekly rate, 279 are said to have received less than 30s. per week; 28 received 30s. and 36 a higher wage. The average wage is said to be about 25s.

#### SWITZERLAND.

*Labour Disputes in October.*—The most serious of the disputes reported on in October by *Der Grütliener* was a strike of some 600 masons and bricklayers (mostly Italian) in Lucerne for increased wages. On October 28th it was reported that all of them, with the exception of 180, had left the town. According to *Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschafts- und Sozialpolitik*, the rates of wages which the men were receiving were: for masons and bricklayers, 3s. 1½d. to 3s. 7d. per day; and for labourers, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 8d. per day.

The workpeople at two bookbinding establishments in Berne, numbering, it is said, 84, have been on strike since October 12th, their chief demands being a working day of 9 hours and minimum daily wages of 3s. 2½d., 2s. and 2s. 5d. for bookbinders, women and helpers respectively.

*Bills for the Compulsory Insurance of Workpeople against Sickness and Accidents.*—*Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschafts- und Sozialpolitik* reports that the National Council of the Swiss Federal Assembly has passed the Bills for enacting compulsory insurance of workpeople against sickness and accidents. The Sickness Bill was passed on October 12th, 101 voting for, 9 against and 9 abstaining. In the case of the Accident Bill, which was passed on the following day, the votes were: 96 for and 5 against, with 8 abstentions. The Bills are now before the Council of States, or "Upper House" of the Federal Parliament.

*Unemployed in Zürich.*—The Zürich Chamber of Labour has addressed a memorandum to the Town Council, calling attention to the impending widespread scarcity of employment, and suggesting that advantage be taken of the building operations which are either in actual progress or being planned, as a means for providing the unemployed with work.

#### BELGIUM.

*Addition to List of Trades classed as Dangerous and Unhealthy.*—Sir F. R. Plunkett, H. M. Minister at Brussels has forwarded, under date of October 27th, a copy of a Royal Decree dated October 25th, which places factories for preserving vegetables on the list of trades classed as dangerous, unhealthy, or inconvenient.

*Increase of Frame-Spinning in the Cotton Industry of Ghent.*—The journal of the Belgian Labour Department for October (*Revue du Travail*), publishes figures supplied by the Association of Ghent Cotton Spinners as to the increase of frame-spinning in the cotton industry of Ghent, to the detriment of mule-spinning. The former gives employment to women and girls only, and the latter to men and boys only. It appears that the number of spindles in mule-spinning in Ghent has fallen from 450,930 in 1890 to 401,600 in 1895, and the number of men spinners from 340 to 293, with a proportionate decrease of piecers and other boy helpers. During the same period the number of frame spindles has risen from 129,865 to 183,324. Of 106 male cotton-spinners belonging to the trade union, who were out of work between June 30th, 1896, and the corresponding date in 1897, only 16 were able to find employment again in their trade. Of the remaining 90, 32 have gone to Roubaix, 28 have adopted some other occupation, and 30 were still out of work on June 30, 1897.

#### AUSTRIA.

*Labour Disputes in October.*—The most serious of the disputes reported\* to have begun in October, were a general strike of ware-housemen and porters employed by the carrying agencies in Trieste, and a strike of operatives at a porcelain factory at Aich, near Carlsbad. The men at Trieste struck for increased wages and shorter hours, and returned to work on October 30th, after being out three days, on terms which are said to include an increase of 4d. per day in wages.

The strike in the porcelain factory at Aich is said to involve 235 operatives, and to have been caused by the unpopularity of the manager, whose dismissal is now demanded.

The strike in the chandelier-making trade in Vienna, referred to in last month's GAZETTE, is stated to be still in progress.

\* In Austrian employers' and workmen's papers, including *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Federation of Austrian Manufacturers' Associations), *Das Handels-Museum*, *Die Gewerkschaft*, *Die Arbeiter Zeitung*, and others.

*Mining Industry.—Miners' Proposals.*—Meetings were held in all the mining districts of Lower Styria and Carinthia on October 31st, resolutions being in each case adopted in favour of laying the following demands before the mine owners:—Wages to be increased 20 per cent.; the system of 8-hours' shifts to be strictly observed; payment of wages once a fortnight, and abolition of the *Bruderladen* or provident funds for miners.

These demands were laid before the mine owners on November 3rd.

#### DENMARK.

*The recent Dispute in the Iron Trade.*—Details as to the settlement of this dispute (See GAZETTE, October, 1897, p. 298) have been supplied by Sir C. S. Scott, H.M. Minister at Copenhagen, in a memorandum to the Foreign Office, dated October 5th.

It appears that several attempts, to arrive at a settlement, had been made before the conclusion of this agreement, but they failed through the unwillingness of the workmen to consent to two conditions advanced by the employers:—(1) A written guarantee that non-union workmen should not be molested on the resumption of work; and (2) A definite undertaking that no strike should be declared by any branch of the workmen's union without the consent of the head committee in Copenhagen. This was designed to prevent the system known as "depopulating the workshops."

The agreement is drawn up in the form of twelve articles, of which the most important and interesting are numbers 7 and 4, which engage the Association of Employers and the Trades Unions to assist in the establishment of a labour tribunal, and to extend the principle of arbitration to all branches of the iron industry in Denmark.

Article 7 provides that, in the event of such a tribunal being successfully established, both the employers' associations and the workmen's unions in the iron and machinery industries are bound to submit to its decisions.

By Article 4 the arbitration rules already in force between the employers' and workmen's unions of the smiths and machinery workers of Denmark—agreed to in December, 1894—are also to apply to the corresponding organisations of the locksmiths, blacksmiths and carriage smiths.

The employers for their part gain the conditions on which they originally insisted. Article 5 provides that none of the parties may cause a cessation of work in any of the factories or shops by means of a strike, block or lock-out before a full discussion of the matter in dispute has taken place between the committees of the organisations concerned. The succeeding article guarantees the immunity from interference and molestation of all non-union workmen at the hands of the members of the workshop clubs, and for the future the rules which govern these clubs are to be sanctioned by the labour unions.

The employers also obtain a very important concession in Article 9, according to which every journeyman who has contracted for a single piecework job is bound to stop in the workshop until that job is finished, unless his employer consents to his leaving, or the respective employers' or workmen's unions have sanctioned the cessation of work by the declaration of a lock-out or strike, in which case time-wage contracts are also cancelled.

The advantages gained by the workmen include the total abolition of the "discharge certificates."

The question of an increase of wages in Odense and Slagelse is left for decision under the arbitration rules.

#### ITALY.

*Labour Disputes.*—The *Gazzetta Nazionale del Lavoro*, the new monthly journal of the Naples Chamber of Labour, states that 600 tailors in Turin are on strike, owing to the employers having refused to agree to a reduction in working hours and to the reference of future disputes to arbitration.

The proprietor of a spinning-mill in Brescia, whose operatives had struck for a reduction in working hours, is said to have declined conciliation, proposed by the Chamber of Labour, and to have closed the mill.

A strike of sewing women at an establishment in Milan, for increased wages, is also reported. The employer, it is stated, refuses to negotiate with the strikers, and treats them as being discharged.

#### RUSSIA.

*Condition of Moscow Bakehouses.*\*—The report has recently been published of an inquiry into the condition of bakehouses in Moscow, carried out in October 1895 by the Municipal Authorities.

It shows the total number of bakeries in Moscow to have been 334, employing at the time of the inquiry, 4,503 bakers, viz.: 1,021 master-bakers, 2,597 journeymen and 885 boys.

Of the 334 bakeries 64, employing 626 bakers, were wholly or partly underground. The average air-space per person employed for all the Moscow bakehouses was 631 cubic feet, and in 6 out of the 7 municipal divisions it exceeded 514 feet.

Most of the bakehouses are said to be badly constructed as regards the admission of daylight, and many were found unsatisfactory in point of cleanliness.

It was found that 4,760 workmen (including persons not actually employed in baking), belonging to 323 bakeries, boarded with their employers. A considerable number of these (viz. 1,845) had to take their meals in the room in which they slept; 1,607 had separate eating-rooms; 819 took their meals in the bakehouse; 327 either in the bakehouse or in the sleeping room, and 162 in some other part of the building. The sleeping accommodation for employees was found to be far from satisfactory, though instances of men having to sleep in the bakehouse are rare. Five bakeries only, employing 15 workpeople were found to be without special sleeping rooms. Altogether, 4,709 persons belonging to 321 bakeries were provided sleeping accommodation in 521 rooms, the aggregate space in which only permitted an average of about 241 cubic feet of air-space per person, compared with 514 cubic feet, the minimum prescribed for soldiers in barracks under the regulations now in force in Russia.

#### UNITED STATES.

##### NEW YORK CONSULAR DISTRICT.

*The Strike in the Tailoring Trade in New York and Brooklyn.*—Particulars as to this dispute, which began on May 16th and involved some 24,000 workpeople, have been given in the GAZETTE (June, 1897, p. 170, and September, 1897, p. 278). In a despatch dated October 19th, Mr. Percy Sanderson, H. M. Consul General at New York, reports that the strike ended during the first week of June, the concessions made being a ten hours' working day and a minimum rate of wages ranging from 9 dollars to 16 dollars per week (roughly 36s. to 64s.), according to the division of work.

It is stated that no settlement was made with any contractor till the wholesale firm from whom he obtained work had signed a pledge to withdraw work from any contractor failing to conform to the terms of the agreement.

The United Brotherhood of Tailors have now issued a notice to the clothing manufacturers of New York, stating that they have reason to fear that, as on previous occasions, as soon as the busy season is over, the terms of the agreement may be ignored, and the old conditions restored; and with a view to abolishing entirely the system of contract work, they give notice that, at a given time in 1899, the clothing workers will refuse to work for any contractor or middleman.

*Conditions of Employment of Enginemen in the City of New York.*—Mr. Percy Sanderson, H.M. Consul-General at New York, under date of October 19th, has sent a copy of an Act of the Legislature of the State of New York (chap. 635), passed on May 22nd, 1897, and coming into force immediately, by which it is enacted that no owner, or agent of such owner, or lessee of any steam boiler to generate steam in the City of New York (other than a boiler generating steam for a railway locomotive or

\* Les Boulangeries à Moscou en 1895. Publié par le Bureau Statistique de la Ville de Moscou. Moscow, 1896. (In Russian.)

for heating purposes in private dwellings, or carrying not over 10 lbs. of steam and not over 10-horse power) shall employ any person as engineer or to operate such boiler unless such person shall first obtain from a board of practical engineers, detailed as such by the police department of the City, a certificate as to qualification as therein specified. In order to obtain the necessary certificate, an engineman must be a citizen of the United States, and must (a) have been employed as a fireman, oiler, or general assistant under a licensed engineer in any building or buildings in the City for at least five years; or (b) have served in one of these capacities under the engineer on a steam vessel or locomotive engine for a similar period, and have been employed for two years under a licensed engineer in a building in the City; or (c) have learned the trade of a machinist, boiler-maker or steam-fitter and worked at such trade for three years (exclusive of time served as apprentice or learner), or have graduated as a mechanical engineer from a duly established school of technology and also have had two years' experience in the engineering department in a building or buildings in the City in charge of a licensed engineer; or (d) hold a certificate issued by any duly qualified board of examining engineers existing, pursuant to law, in any State or Territory of the United States, and have also satisfied the examining board of the City.

##### PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

*Strike of Bituminous Coal Miners.*—In the GAZETTE for August (page 235), and that for October (page 298), reference was made to a strike of coal miners in the bituminous coal regions of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and Ohio, which was commenced on July 4th. A full report of this dispute has been drawn up by Mr. C. Clipperton, H.M. Acting Consul at Philadelphia. From this it appears that the original demand was for rates ranging from 2s. 3½d. to 2s. 6½d. per ton for pick mining in the various districts, the rates for machine mining to be four-fifths of the rate for pick mining in Indiana, and three-fifths of that rate in other districts.

The miners in the employ of a firm in Ohio resumed work on the day after the strike at the advance asked for.

It was originally supposed that about 200,000 persons would be at once affected, but the strike was not so widespread as had been expected, the employees of one of the largest mining companies in Pennsylvania, and certain miners elsewhere, refusing to join the movement. Every effort was made to induce the miners to strike, including a system of "marching" to the different mines which were being worked. Injunctions were obtained by the employers to prevent the men "marching," and, wherever possible, the order of the Court was enforced. Various attempts were made from time to time to settle the dispute, but without success.

On September 2nd and 3rd a conference was held between the National Executive Board and the district presidents of the United Mine Workers and a representative Committee of the Pittsburg district employers, at which proposals were submitted by the representatives of employers. These proposals were discussed at a convention of miners on September 8th, and it was agreed that, in accordance with terms offered by the employers, the Pennsylvania miners should return to work at a rate of 2s. 8½d., to continue in force until January 1st, 1898, when a new scale should be adopted. They had arranged to start work within 10 days; but a delay occurred owing to an affray, resulting in loss of life, which took place at Hazelton, Pennsylvania, between a number of miners, chiefly Poles, Russians and Hungarians, and the Sheriff with a band of his men. After this, troops were sent to the district with the object of keeping order, and work was not finally resumed until they had all been withdrawn on October 2nd.



EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—COAL AND IRON.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN OCTOBER.

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

EMPLOYMENT again improved during October, especially at pits producing chiefly house coal. Except in West Scotland employment was in every district better than a year ago. The average for the whole Kingdom was higher than in any month since these statistics were first compiled in 1893.

Returns received from 1,331 pits at which 431,426 persons were employed show that an average of 5.37 days per week was worked at the pits, as compared with 5.24 days per week in September and 5.02 days in October, 1896. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1897, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		23rd Oct., 1897.	24th Oct., 1896.	25th Sept., 1897.
England and Wales ...	394,883	5.37	4.99	5.23
Scotland ...	35,912	5.39	5.36	5.33
Ireland ...	631	5.14	4.88	4.35
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>431,426</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>5.02</b>	<b>5.24</b>

In the next table the pits are divided according to the class of coal principally produced. It will be seen that there was a slight falling off at pits producing coking coal, but that employment improved at all other classes of pits.

Description of Coal.	No. employed in Oct., 1897, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Number of days worked per week.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1897.
		October, 1897.	September, 1897.	
Coking Coal ...	24,482	5.59	5.61	- .02
Gas " ...	33,725	5.31	5.25	+ .06
House " ...	78,639	5.29	5.04	+ .25
Manufacturing Coal ...	18,694	5.31	5.21	+ .10
Steam " ...	136,233	5.41	5.27	+ .14
Mixed " ...	139,653	5.37	5.25	+ .12
<b>All Classes of Coal ...</b>	<b>431,426</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>+ .13</b>

On classifying the workpeople according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed, it will be seen that the proportion employed at pits working 5 or more days per week has risen to 81.7 per cent., as against 74.7 per cent. in September, and 62.5 per cent. a year ago.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	October, 1897.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	October, 1896.	September, 1897.
24 days (full time) ...	66,056	15.3	9.4	11.9
20 and under 24 days ...	286,336	66.4	53.1	62.8
16 " " 20 " ...	62,364	14.5	25.0	19.6
12 " " 16 " ...	11,445	2.6	9.4	4.1
8 " " 12 " ...	3,007	0.7	2.2	1.0
Under 8 days ...	2,218	0.5	0.9	0.6
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>431,426</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The number employed at the pits covered by the returns is greater than a year ago by 9,215 in England and Wales, and by 1,975 in Scotland.

**Comparison by Districts.**—In West Scotland about a quarter of a day less per week was worked at the pits than in the corresponding period of 1896. In all other districts there was an improvement, which amounted to over three-quarters of a day per week in Northumberland, and to over a half a day per week in the Derby, Gloucester and Somerset, Nottingham and Leicester, and Yorkshire districts.

The highest average worked during the month was that of 5.73 days per week in the Lothians. Over 5½ days per week were also worked in Gloucester and Somerset (5.59 days), Cumberland, and Shropshire, Worcester and Warwick (5.55 days each), Yorkshire (5.54 days), and Fife (5.51 days). The only district in which less than 5 days per week were worked by the pits was in Notts. and Leicester where the average was 4.6 days. In the remaining nine districts the average time worked was between 5 and 5½ days.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN OCT., 1897 AND 1896, AND IN SEPT., 1897.

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1897, 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., 1897 as compared with	
		23rd Oct., 1897.	24th Oct., 1896.	25th Sept., 1897.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>						
Northumberland ...	31,783	5.48	4.67	5.33	+ .81	+ .15
Durham ...	89,365	5.46	5.35	5.49	+ .11	- .03
Cumberland ...	5,612	5.55	5.38	5.72	+ .17	- .17
Yorkshire ...	47,821	5.54	4.97	5.26	+ .57	+ .28
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,773	5.20	5.02	4.93	+ .18	+ .27
Nottingham and Leicester	25,017	4.60	4.01	4.44	+ .59	+ .16
Derbyshire ...	37,332	5.33	4.64	5.11	+ .69	+ .22
Staffordshire ...	21,220	5.40	5.15	5.15	+ .25	+ .25
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	5,885	5.55	5.41	5.48	+ .14	+ .07
Gloucester and Somerset	7,661	5.59	4.98	5.06	+ .61	+ .53
North Wales ...	11,080	5.34	4.91	5.01	+ .43	+ .33
South Wales & Monmouth	65,034	5.45	5.04	5.41	+ .41	+ .04
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ...	21,719	5.27	5.55	5.08	- .28	+ .19
The Lothians ...	3,477	5.77	5.46	5.81	+ .31	+ .08
Fife ...	10,716	5.51	5.02	5.63	+ .49	- .12
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Ireland ...	631	5.14	4.88	4.35	+ .26	+ .79
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages</b>	<b>431,426</b>	<b>5.37</b>	<b>5.02</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>+ .35</b>	<b>+ .13</b>

**Percentage of Unemployed.**—The miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham had 0.5 per cent. of their membership in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of October, as compared with 0.6 per cent. in September and 1.6 per cent. in October, 1896.

**Exports of Coal.**—During October 3,223,926 tons of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel were exported, as compared with 3,197,400 tons in September, and 3,056,735 tons in October, 1896.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry remained good in October, and showed a slight improvement both as compared with September and with October, 1896. In all districts more days were worked per week in October than a year ago, with the exception of Scotland where there was a trifling falling off. The total number of persons employed at the 136 mines included in the returns was 3.3 per cent. greater in October than in the corresponding month of last year.

The average number of days worked by the 17,292 workpeople covered by the returns during the four weeks ended 23rd October was 5.88 per week, as compared with 5.79 days in September, and 5.73 days in October, 1896. Of the total number employed 93.1 per cent. were at mines working 22 or more days in the 4 weeks, as against 84.8 in September and 86.8 a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—IRON AND STEEL TRADES.

The following tables summarise the returns received:—

(I.) Average number of days worked per week by the mines:—

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1897, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1897, as compared with	
		23rd Oct., 1897.	24th Oct., 1896.	25th Sept., 1897.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND—</b>						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	6,460	5.95	5.84	5.96	+ .11	- .01
Cleveland ...	6,574	5.92	5.79	5.72	+ .13	+ .20
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	631	5.84	5.32	5.62	+ .52	+ .22
Northamptonshire	658	5.86	5.31	5.95	+ .55	- .09
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,469	5.49	5.29	5.28	+ .20	+ .21
Other places in England ...	261	5.46	5.14	5.70	+ .32	- .24
SCOTLAND ...	1,078	5.85	5.86	5.99	- .01	- .14
IRELAND ...	161	6.00	5.94	6.00	+ .06	-
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>17,292</b>	<b>5.88</b>	<b>5.73</b>	<b>5.79</b>	<b>+ .15</b>	<b>+ .09</b>

(II.) Classification of workpeople according to days worked by the mines:—

Number of days on which Iron Ore or Stone was got and drawn in four weeks.	October, 1897.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	October, 1896.	Sept., 1897.
24 days (full time) ...	13,009	75.2	49.4	66.7
22 and under 24 days ...	3,061	17.9	37.4	28.1
20 " " 22 " ...	686	4.0	4.3	13.0
Under 20 days ...	506	2.9	8.9	2.2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>17,292</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.

Employment at the end of October was better than at the end of September or than a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the works of 111 ironmasters, to whom the returns relate, was 351 at the end of October or 7 more than a year ago, the number of persons employed having increased during that period by 260. The principal increase was in Cumberland and Lancashire, and the principal decrease in the Cleveland district.

During the month four furnaces in England and Wales have been relit, whilst one has been damped down, and one blown out. In Scotland the furnaces in blast are the same as at the end of September. The number employed has increased by 144 in England and Wales, and by 24 in Scotland.

The subjoined table gives in detail the number of furnaces in blast in each district so far as covered by the returns received:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1897.	Present time compared with a month ago.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1897.
	Oct., 1897.	Oct., 1896.		Oct., 1897.	Sept., 1897.	
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>						
Cleveland ...	94	97	- 3	94	93	+ 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	45	41	+ 4	45	44	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks...	17	16	+ 1	17	18	- 1
Lincolnshire ...	15	14	+ 1	15	14	+ 1
Midlands ...	92	88	+ 4	92	92	...
Glamorgan and Mon.	17	18	- 1	17	17	...
Other districts ...	9	8	+ 1	9	9	...
<b>Total England and Wales...</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>+ 7</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>+ 2</b>
<b>SCOTLAND ...</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns ...</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>+ 7</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>+ 2</b>

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during October amounted to 131,753 tons, as compared with 102,517 tons in September and 122,839 tons in October, 1896.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES AND ROLLING MILLS.

EMPLOYMENT as a whole in these industries improved during October. As compared with a year ago the reduction in the numbers employed in the tinplate trade is now more than balanced by the increases in the other trades in the group.

Returns received from 255 employers show that at the end of October they were employing 84,177 workpeople, or 1,087 more than a month ago, and 589 more than a year ago.

Of these 84,177 workpeople, 38,923 were employed at 139 Steel Works, or 42 less than at the end of September, but 1,151 more than at the end of October, 1896.

At 91 Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills included in the returns, 19,506 persons were employed at the end of October, or 487 more than at the end of the previous month, and 829 more than a year ago.

The following table shows the number of workpeople employed\* in the occupations named at the end of October, 1897 and 1896, and September, 1897, respectively, by the 255 employers making returns:—

Occupation.	Number Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1897 as compared with	
	Oct., 1897.	Oct., 1896.	Sept., 1897.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling and Forging.</b>					
England and Wales ...	33,036	32,222	33,166	+ 814	- 130
Scotland ...	5,887	5,550	5,799	+ 337	+ 88
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>38,923</b>	<b>37,772</b>	<b>38,965</b>	<b>+ 1,151</b>	<b>- 42</b>
<b>Iron Puddling and Rolling.</b>					
England and Wales ...	15,344	14,704	14,888	+ 640	+ 456
Scotland ...	4,162	3,973	4,131	+ 189	+ 31
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>19,506</b>	<b>18,677</b>	<b>19,019</b>	<b>+ 829</b>	<b>+ 487</b>
<b>Tinplate Manufacture.</b>					
England and Wales ...	11,477	13,028	10,983	- 1,551	+ 494
<b>Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.*</b>					
England and Wales ...	12,919	12,799	12,728	+ 120	+ 191
Scotland ...	1,352	1,312	1,395	+ 40	- 43
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>14,271</b>	<b>14,111</b>	<b>14,123</b>	<b>+ 160</b>	<b>+ 148</b>
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>84,177</b>	<b>83,888</b>	<b>83,090</b>	<b>+ 589</b>	<b>+ 1,087</b>

Further returns relating to 87 tinplate works show that there was a considerable resumption of work during the month. Out of 485 mills, 306 were at work, 234 of these being at 43 works giving full employment, and 72 at 14 works which were only partially employed, 29 other mills at these works being idle. At the remaining 30 works all the mills, to the number of 150, were idle. These numbers compare favourably with the 275 mills at work and 209 idle at the end of the previous month. A year ago, out of 484 mills, 322 were at work.

Table showing number of tinplate works and mills in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire fully or partially employed, or wholly idle, at the end of October, so far as stated in the returns received by the Department:—

	No. of Works.	No of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	43	234	—	234
Works giving partial employment ...	14	72	29	101
Works idle ...	30	—	150	150
<b>Total at end of October, 1897</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>485</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for Sept., 1897</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>484</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for Oct., 1896</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>484</b>

\* This table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.  
† The figures on this line relate to only 332 of the 485 mills referred to in the next table.  
‡ Amended figures.



EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—AGRICULTURE; SEAMEN; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR.

Returns received from the owners of 55 tinplate works show that 11,477 workpeople were employed at the end of October, or 494 more than at the end of the previous month, but 1,551 less than a year ago.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during October amounted to 19,685 tons, of which quantity 5,036 tons were taken by the United States. The total exports in September were 18,625 tons, and the exports to the United States 4,656 tons. In October, 1896, the total exports were 25,201 tons, and the exports to the United States 10,599 tons.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

THE agricultural correspondent to the department on the basis of 190 returns from various parts of the country reports as follows:—The state of agricultural employment during the month of October was generally of a very satisfactory character. Continuous fine weather prevailed, and outdoor work suffered practically no interruption. In all districts farm work is said to be in an exceptionally forward state. A number of employers state that extra labour has been difficult to obtain.

**Northern Counties.**—Favourable reports come from Cumberland, from the Unions of Bootle, Cockermouth, Longtown, Penrith, Whitehaven, and Wigton. In the Carlisle Union a few are reported to have been in irregular work the last week of the month, but they subsequently got draining work. In Durham employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Chester-le-Street, Darlington, and Durham; in Lancashire in the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, and Ulverston; and in Yorkshire in the Unions of Easingwold, Malton, Ouseburn, and Ripon.

**Midland Counties.**—In Cheshire reports state that there is generally full employment in the Unions of Nantwich and Tarvin; in Derbyshire in the Unions of Belper and Chesterfield; in Shropshire in the Market Drayton and Oswestry Unions; in Staffordshire in the Unions of Lichfield, and Tamworth (Staffs. and Warwick); in Warwickshire in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick, and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick); in Worcestershire in the Pershore Union; in Rutland in the Oakham Union; in Leicestershire in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Lutterworth (Leicester and Warwick), and Market Bosworth. Favourable reports come from Nottinghamshire from the Unions of Bingham, Mansfield, Newark, Southwell, and Worksop; from Oxfordshire from the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and from the Oxfordshire portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions (Oxon and Berks); from Northamptonshire from the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspurty, and from the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants, and Warwick). Work is also said to be regular in Bedfordshire in the Union of Bedford, and in a certain district in the Luton, and also the Leighton Buzzard Unions; in Huntingdonshire in the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots (Hunts and Beds).

**Eastern Counties.**—Employment in Essex is said to be generally regular, with few exceptions, in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring; in Norfolk in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Giltcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, Wayland, and Walsingham. Reports of a favourable character come from Suffolk from the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe; from Cambridgeshire from the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, North Witchford, Whittlesea, and Wisbech, and from the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union (Northants). In Lincolnshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Brigg, Boston, Grimsby, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford; and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Notts).

**Home Counties.**—Reports from Buckinghamshire state that work is regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, and Buckingham; and from Berkshire in the Unions of Wantage, and in the Berkshire portions of the Abingdon, and Wallingford Unions. Reports of a favourable character come from Surrey, from the Unions of Farnham, and Godstone; from Kent, from the Unions of Bridge, Cranbrook, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, and Sevenoaks; and from Hertfordshire,

from the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, Hemell Hempstead, and Royston.

**Southern and South Western Counties.**—In Sussex the state of employment is said to be generally satisfactory in the Unions of Battle, Chorley, Cuckfield, Horsham, and Rye; in Hampshire, in the Unions of Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, and Stockbridge; in Dorsetshire, in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne; in Wiltshire in the Unions of Devizes, Pewsey, Westbury and Whorwellsdown, Warminster, and Wilton; in Gloucestershire in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Gloucester, and Winchcombe; in Herefordshire in the Unions of Bromyard, and Ledbury; in Somersetshire in the Unions of Langport, Taunton, Wellington, and Wells; in Devonshire in the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton, Tavistock, and Torrington; and in Cornwall in the Bodmin Union.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN OCTOBER.

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

The number of men shipped in October last as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared), was 32,669, being 2,034 less than in October, 1896.

At nearly all the ports the supply of seamen and firemen during October was reported as being equal to, or in excess of, the demand; but at Leith the supply of seamen for sailing vessels was stated to be slack.

Table showing the number\* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in October 1897 and 1896 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the ten months ended October in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in October, 1897.			Total in Oct. 1896.	Total number Shipped* in ten months ended October.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Oct. 1897.		1897.	1896.
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	115	2,412	2,527	3,718	34,488	31,299
Sunderland ...	—	389	389	594	6,201	6,213
Middlesbrough ...	3	244	247	401	4,867	5,223
Hull ...	6	1,279	1,285	1,503	12,419	12,311
Grimsby ...	—	70	70	95	1,296	1,708
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	—	277	277	265	2,247	2,377
Newport, Mon. ...	48	1,150	1,198	1,064	12,425	11,228
Cardiff ...	447	5,038	5,485	5,033	34,816	53,132
Swansea ...	50	791	841	758	7,540	6,467
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	266	9,454	9,720	10,649	97,798	98,617
London ...	356	5,741	6,097	6,518	62,342	60,658
Southampton ...	5	1,554	1,559	1,658	13,646	13,216
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	8	488	496	577	7,028	7,340
Glasgow ...	77	2,089	2,166	2,136	24,188	22,752
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	—	90	90	83	998	702
Belfast ...	—	222	222	267	2,398	1,900
<b>Total, Oct., 1897</b> ...	<b>1,381</b>	<b>31,288</b>	<b>32,669</b>	—	<b>344,493</b>	—
<b>Ditto, Oct., 1896</b> ...	<b>1,329</b>	<b>33,374</b>	—	<b>34,703</b>	—	<b>334,531</b>

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT during October was, on the whole, better than in September, and about the same as a year ago. Towards the end of the month there was some falling off in the number employed.

The average daily number employed at all the docks and 115 of the principal wharves during the four weeks ending October 23rd was 16,007, as compared with an average of 15,018 in the four preceding weeks, and 16,053 in October, 1896. The estimated number employed on any one day reached to 17,603 on October 7th and fell to 14,510 on October 21st.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; TEXTILE; SEAMEN.

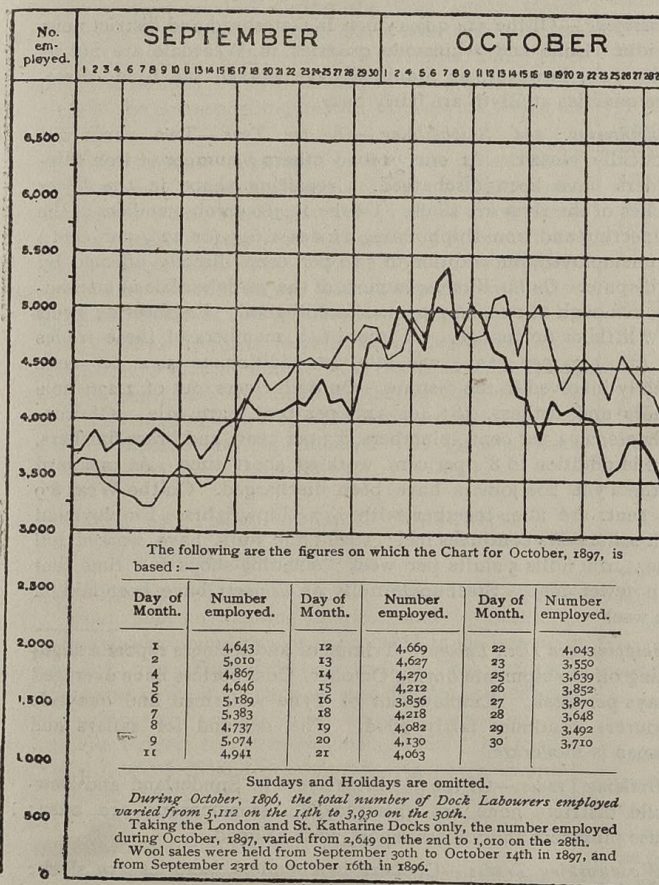
**Detailed Figures.**—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of October...	7,597	2,360	9,957	6,328	16,285
2nd " " ...	8,317	1,900	10,217	6,181	16,398
3rd " " ...	7,776	2,030	9,806	6,281	16,087
4th " " ...	6,817	1,715	8,532	6,225	14,757
Average for 4 weeks ending Oct. 23rd, 1897	7,752	2,001	9,753	6,254	16,007
Average for Oct., 1896	7,920*	1,924	9,844*	6,809*	16,653*
Average for Sept., 1897	6,881	2,229	9,110	5,908*	15,018*

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during September and October is shown on the chart below. The numbers in October ranged from 5,383 on the 7th to 3,492 on the 29th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of September and October, 1897. The corresponding curve for September and October, 1896, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1897, and the thin curve to 1896.]



(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN OCTOBER.

According to returns from women correspondents employment for women showed a slight improvement in the cotton trade; the improvement reported in the worsted and woollen trades in September was not fully maintained. Information has been received with regard to 546 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago.

Trade and Month	Approximate No. of Women and Girls in Mills reported on.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
		Working Full Time	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.	Working Short Time.
<b>Cotton Trade—</b>					
October, 1897 ...	62,100	64	26	8	2
September, 1897 ...	60,330	60	28	7	5
October, 1896 ...	67,670	79	8	12	1
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trade—</b>					
October, 1897 ...	18,370	70	17	13	—
September, 1897 ...	19,210	75	18	7	—
October, 1896 ...	12,130	73	15	12	—
<b>Silk Trade—</b>					
October, 1897 ...	5,250	54	15	31	—
September, 1897 ...	3,340	35	23	42	—
October, 1896 ...	1,730	45	16	39	—
<b>Total of above Trades</b>					
October, 1897 ...	85,720	65	23	10	2
September, 1897 ...	82,910	62	25	9	4
October, 1896 ...	81,530	77	9	13	1

**Cotton Trade.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 62,100; of these 64 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (to be compared with 60 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September, and with 79 per cent. in October, 1896); 26 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 8 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 2 per cent. were stopped during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,370; of these 70 per cent. were employed in mills running full time (to be compared with 75 per cent. in September, and 73 per cent. in October, 1896); 17 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 13 per cent. in mills running short time.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in Various Industries.**—Apart from the industries affected by the engineering dispute, the state of employment, on the whole, compares favourably with the corresponding month of 1896. Returns from 397 branches of 105 unions, with an aggregate membership of 72,090, show that 2,545 (or 3.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.2 in September and 3.2 per cent. at the end of October, 1896.

The Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades continued to be largely affected by the dispute. Reports from 119 branches of 24 unions, with a membership of 21,384, show that, in addition to those directly affected by the dispute, 980 (or 4.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.4 in September, and 3.5 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the Building trades still continued brisk in most departments. Reports from 168 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 10,419, show that 108

\* Amended figures



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON AND NORTHERN COUNTIES.

(or 1.0 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 1.2 in September, and 1.7 per cent. in October, 1896. The bricklayers, stonemasons, and mill-sawyers described employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers, and stone-carvers as fair; the painters and decorators and plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades was not quite so good. Reports from 38 branches of 10 unions, with a membership of 6,782, show that 220 (or 3.2 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.5 in September, and 1.2 per cent. in October, 1896.

The *Coopers* still continued busy. Two societies, with a membership of 970, returned only 5 (or 0.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 0.3 in September, and 0.2 per cent. in October of last year.

Among *Coachbuilders* and *Wheelwrights* employment remained good. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,271, show that 21 (or 1.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.4 in September, and 2.4 per cent. in October, 1896.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades still further improved. Reports from 22 unions, with a membership of 21,814, show that 684 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.2 in September. The percentage for October, 1896, was 2.9.

*Clothing Trades*.—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade was fair; in the West End bespoke trade also fair; in the ladies' tailoring and mantle-making trades bad for the season; the hat trade improved; the cap trade was good; the helmet trade also good. Employment with furriers was not so good; with fur skin-dressers still depressed; with silk weavers bad.

*Boot and Shoe Trades*.—Employment in the machine branch still remained bad; in the hand-sewn branch a slight improvement was observable.

Employment in the *Leather* trades remained stationary. Returns from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,806, show 49 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as last month. The percentage for October, 1896, was 2.4.

*Glass and Pottery Trades*.—Employment in these trades was not so good. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,454, show 65 (or 4.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 3.3 in September, and 3.9 per cent. in October, 1896.

*Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.*—Employment in these trades improved. Returns from 5 societies, with a membership of 890, show 22 (or 2.5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.0 in September, and 1.8 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the *Gold* and *Silver* trades improved, as is usual at this season. Returns from 6 societies, with a membership of 1,046, show 9 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 2.3 in September. The percentage for October, 1896, was 0.7.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades still further improved. Reports from 4 societies, with a membership of 2,338, show 46 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.7 in September, and 4.0 per cent. in October, 1896.

*Dock and Riverside Labour*.—The average daily number of labourers employed in the docks and principal wharves was 16,007 in October, as compared with 15,018 in September, and 16,053 in October, 1896. Employment in mid-stream has been good and steady. Corn-porters have been rather better employed at the Millwall Docks, but not so well at the Victoria and Albert Docks. Lumpers and deal porters have been busy; and stevedores, coal porters, winchmen, and lightermen have been moderately well employed. Fruit porters have had fair employment. (See also p. 334.)

*Disputes and Trade Movements*.—Two disputes were reported as having arisen during the month, both of which were for the maintenance of an eight hour day. One of these affected 1,500 boiler-makers in ship-repairing yards, the other affected 9 book-binders, whose places are reported as filled (see p. 349). The hours of 93 iron safe makers were reduced from 60 to 54, and 18 enginemen and 19 seamen obtained increased rates of wages (see p. 345).

*Labour Bureaux*.—Returns from eight labour bureaux show that 1,721 fresh applications for work were registered during October, as compared with 2,212 in October, 1896, a decrease of 491. The number of persons for whom work was found was 821, as compared with 1,093 in the corresponding month of 1896, a decrease of 272, chiefly due to a decline at one bureau.

*Pauperism*.—On one day in the second week of October, 99,587 persons were relieved, being 1,021 more than on the corresponding day of September. As compared with October, 1896, the number shows an increase of 417, made up of increases in the West and

South districts, partly balanced by decreases in the North, Central, and East districts.

On the same day in October 1,190 vagrants were relieved as against 1,003 on the corresponding day in September, and 1,210 in October, 1896.

In the West Ham district the number of persons relieved on one day in the second week was 8,083 in October, 8,261 in September, and 8,477 in October, 1896.

## ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

## Tyne and Wear District.

*Coal Mining*.—*Northumberland*.—Employment in both steam and house coal pits continues to improve, the former having averaged for the month ending October 23rd 5.43 days per week, and the latter 5.36 as against 5.34 and 5.25 days per week respectively in September. Of the 20,724 union miners none are unemployed.

*Durham*.—Coking coal collieries are well employed, averaging 5.48 days as against 5.65 per week in September. Pits producing gas, manufacturing, and a mixed class of coal, have averaged 5.45, 5.4, and 5.42 days per week. Returns from pits employing over 89,000 men and boys show an average of 5.46 days worked as against 5.49 days per week in September. There are 396, or 0.7 per cent. of union miners idle owing to bad trade as against 446, or 0.8 per cent. in September, 128 are off work from other causes, exclusive of those on strike at a certain colliery. Coke workers are fully employed.

*Metal Mining*.—Fuller time continues to be worked at the lead mines. Iron stone mining shows little improvement.

*Quarrying*.—Of the 314 quarrymen in Gateshead and district none are idle. Lime and whinstone quarries in Weardale are not so busy; two, however, at Stanhope have worked full time. Free-stone quarries at Blyth are fairly busy.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding*.—*On the Tyne*.—Two yards are practically closed. At one or two others a number of iron ship-builders have been discharged. Repairing shops in the lower reaches of the river are slack. Of the 12,760 union members of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades 1,645 (or 12.9 per cent.) are unemployed, in addition to 52.2 per cent. directly affected by the dispute. *On the Wear*.—In most of the yards work is at a standstill, although at one, employment is still good. Engineering firms show little or no change. Of the 4,645 members of these trades 663 (or 14.3 per cent.) are idle, in addition to 34.2 per cent. directly involved in the dispute. On both rivers, out of 1,276 hole cutters and drillers, 183 (or 14.3 per cent.) are idle. Of iron-founders, 23.4 per cent., plumbers, 8.3 per cent., and brass finishers, 12.7, in addition to 8.4 per cent. working short time. At one yard on the Tyne 200 joiners have been discharged. On the Wear 8.9 per cent. are idle, together with 417 shipwrights. Employment with sailmakers continues bad; steel-plate mills have worked full time; iron mills 5 shifts per week; smelting-shops full time, but with fewer men. Steel angle mills at Consett have been laid off one week.

*Shipping and Dock Labour*.—Trimmers and teemers report a slight falling off in shipments during October. Coal porters have averaged 4 days per week. Employment of Tyne watermen and quayside labourers continues fairly good. The demand for sailors and firemen is moderate.

*Building Trades*.—Of the 988 bricklayers in Sunderland and Newcastle districts none are unemployed; stonemasons are busy; house plumbers and joiners report work as good.

*Woodworking Trades*.—Coopers in chemical factories are slack; millsawyers and woodcutters and lathrenders have 7.5 per cent. off work; upholsterers are not so busy; cabinet-makers are well employed.

*Printing and kindred Trades*.—Four paper-mills have worked full time; 127 shifts out of a possible 235 have been worked by 5 other mills. Employment with bookbinders is moderate; with letter-press printers it has improved.

*Other Metal, Glass and Chemical Trades*.—Copper works on the Tyne are fully employed; lead factories in one or two departments show a slight falling off. Chemical works are busy in some branches, slack in others. Bottle-makers on the Wear and at Seaham Harbour continue busy. Pressed glassmakers have 3.1 per cent. unemployed.

*Fishing*.—There has been a good average catch of white fish during October.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

## Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

*Ironstone Mining*.—The Cleveland miners have been fairly employed during the month.

*Iron and Steel Trades*.—Employment has continued fair at most of the works. Blastfurnaces have been well employed. Employment at bridge works and foundries is reported as on the whole fair.

*Engineering*.—Employment continues good at the works unaffected by the dispute. Moulders at Middlesbrough are well employed and pattern-makers moderately so. Both branches are seriously affected by the dispute at Stockton and to a still greater extent at the Hartlepoons. Branches of engineers, ironfounders, and pattern-makers with 3,528 members have 356 unemployed in addition to 963 directly affected.

*Shipbuilding*.—It is estimated that nearly 6,000 men in the district are out of work owing to the dispute in the engineering trade. Shipjoiners report a large number out of work from the same cause.

*Building Trades*.—House painters report employment as moderate. In other trades employment continues good.

*Shipping and Dock Labour*.—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate at both ports; dock labour is brisk at the Hartlepoons; dock and riverside labour on the Tees is quiet.

*Miscellaneous*.—Printers report employment as moderate; tailors as slack.—*A. Main.*

## Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

*Coal Mining*.—Employment in this industry continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 23rd, at pits from which returns have been received was 5.55 per week, as compared with 5.72 in September and 5.38 in October, 1896. The number of men employed was 5,612, as compared with 5,399 in the corresponding month of last year, being an increase of 213.

*Iron Mining*.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland iron mines. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended 23rd October, at the 50 mines from which returns have been received, was 5.95, as against 5.84 in October 1896, and 5.96 in September last. The number of workpeople employed as shown by the returns was 6,460, compared with 6,162 in the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 298.

*Iron and Steel Trades*.—Returns received from Cumberland and North Lancashire show that the number of furnaces in blast during October was 45, as compared with 44 in September last, and 41 in October, 1896. The number of workpeople employed was 3,561, an increase of 67 as compared with September, and of 355 when compared with October, 1896.

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

## Oldham and District.

*Cotton Trade*.—*Spinning*.—There is no improvement in employment. In Oldham and surrounding districts, and in Rochdale, Mossley, and Stalybridge, employment is reported as moderate; in Ashton-under-Lyne and Dukinfield as bad. The cardroom operatives report employment in Oldham and district as moderate, and as bad in Mossley. Ring frame spinners continue well employed, and the twiners report employment as fair. *Weaving*.—The power-loom overlookers and weavers report a slight improvement in the velvet trade, but in calicoes employment remains unsatisfactory. Employment is moderate in winding, rather better in reeling, and fair in sectional and ball warping.

*Woolen Trades*.—Employment is reported as moderate in Rochdale and Milnrow Districts.

*Engineering and Metal Trades*.—A large number of the members of the engineers', iron-grinders', and machine moulders' societies are still out of employment through the dispute; those at work are fully employed. Owing to the dispute employment is slack with the pattern-makers and toolmakers. Tinplate workers, gas-meter-makers and boiler-makers report employment as moderate, the ironfounders as slack, and the brassfounders as good.

*Building Trades*.—Bricklayers, painters and carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate, the plasterers as fair, and the plumbers as good. Out of 926 union members only 3 are on unemployed benefit.

*Coal Mining*.—Returns from five collieries show that 6 days per week were worked at three pits, and 4 days per week at the other two pits.—*T. Ashton.*

## Bolton and District.

*Cotton Trade*.—*Spinning*.—In Bolton employment is reported as more regular. In Chorley employment is steadier; in Bury and Wigan it is still irregular. Cardroom operatives in Bolton report employment as moderate and a little more steady; at Bury, Wigan, and Chorley little change is reported. *Weaving*.—In Bolton and in Bury employment is more steady. At Chorley much waiting for beams is reported.

*Engineering and Iron Trades*.—The engineers remain idle through the dispute. The Bolton iron and steel works are slack, especially in the steel smelting department. In Bury, employment in engineering firms continues unsteady owing to the dispute. In Wigan steel smelting and steel rolling mills are slack; employment in other ironworks is more or less irregular.

*Building Trades*.—Employment in Bolton is reported as moderately busy, with few unemployed; in Bury as fair; in Wigan as declining. In Chorley joiners and painters are irregularly employed.

*Coal Mining*.—The best collieries in Bolton, Darcy Lever, Little Hulton, Little Lever, and Walkden, continue moderately active; at Wigan a slight improvement is reported.

*Miscellaneous*.—Carters and lurrymen are less busy. Cloggers, shoemakers, tailors, brushmakers, and saddlers are fairly well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

## Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

*Cotton Trade*.—*Weaving*.—Employment in the weaving industry shows little change. In Burnley a large number of looms are working daylight, in Blackburn, Nelson and Accrington stopping looms for warps is prevalent; in Darwen some 1,200 looms are totally stopped. In Colne employment is reported as slightly better, there being fewer stoppages for warps. Employment in the hard waste trade continues good, overtime being still worked at many firms; loomers and drawers report a slight improvement in Blackburn, but are still slack at Burnley. Employment in the coloured goods trade is again only moderate. The lock-out of weavers, overlookers, loomers and drawers in the Clitheroe district continues. *Spinning*.—Employment is reported as improved in Preston, good in Darwen, moderate in Accrington, Blackburn and Padiham, bad at Burnley; employment in the carding department is considered as fair throughout the district. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers and warp dressers, with 3,585 members, have 134 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 181 (or 5.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Building Trades*.—Plumbers report employment as improved. Other branches continue well employed.

*Engineering and Iron Trades*.—Work continues brisk with moulders, fitters and erectors in the machine shops, but at other places employment is not good.

*Coal Mining*.—Miners report employment as good in the Accrington district, and moderate in Burnley. In Townley the time worked is about five days per week. The stone quarrymen are fairly well employed.

*Miscellaneous*.—Cabinet-makers continue quiet, letterpress printers have been busy; tailors are fairly employed; calico printers and dyers report an improvement.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

## Manchester and District.

*General*.—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and metal trades) with 13,430 members have 437 (or 3.2 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 689 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Engineering and Metal Trades*.—Engineers report employment as bad in Northwich and Manchester, and good in Macclesfield; ironfounders in Manchester are moderately well employed, but are affected by the dispute; in Stockport employment is good; smiths, strikers, braziers and sheet metal workers describe employment as bad; boiler-makers and brassfounders as moderate. In Warrington wire drawers are not so busy, but wireweavers and ronworkers in general are well employed; filesmiths are busy.

*Textile Trades*.—Spinners in Manchester describe employment as moderate, with little short time. Doublers at Stockport are fairly well employed. In Macclesfield cotton operatives are in full work. Silk weavers (hand and power loom) are better employed; fustian cutters are moderately employed; "bleachers, dyers and finishers" describe employment as bad; the "dressers, dyers and finishers" have several unemployed, they are busy in heavy goods and better employed in the velvet trade.

*Clothing Trades*.—Employment in the bespoke department of the tailoring trade continues moderate in Manchester, Warrington and



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Macclesfield, and good in Stockport. In the wholesale branch work is quiet; in ready-made mantle and waterproof garment making employment is good; umbrella-makers and capmakers are moderately well employed; shirtmakers throughout the district are in full work; felt hatters and trimmers describe employment as moderate; boot and shoe makers as bad.

**Building Trades.**—Employment at Manchester is good with bricklayers and bricklayers' labourers; moderate with joiners, masons, plasterers and plumbers, and bad with painters. At Macclesfield and Warrington employment is fair.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Lithographic artists and pattern cardmakers report employment as good; lithographic printers and bookbinders as bad; letterpress printers as improved. In Stockport employment in the printing trade is good, in Macclesfield moderate.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Hebrew cabinet-makers and upholsterers in Manchester report employment as fair; other cabinet-makers and french polishers as good. Cabinet-makers in Warrington and Stockport are well employed. Coachmakers throughout the district report employment as good. Coopers are fairly well employed.—G. D. Kelley.

**Liverpool and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders, drillers and hole-cutters and shipwrights report employment as slack; brassfounders and whitesmiths as fair; ship-joiners and painters as dull; engineers and pattern-makers as moderate.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, French-polishers, and upholsterers are rather quieter; coachmakers, painters, and coopers report employment as moderate; mill-sawyers, and wood-cutting machinists as fair.

**Transport Trades.**—Dock labourers, quay, and railway carters report employment as improving; flatmen as fair; coal and salt heavers as moderate; seamen and firemen as unchanged.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as fairly good; lithographic printers as moderate; electrotypers and stereotypers as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors employed upon better-class work report employment as fair; in the ready-made trade one branch reports employment as fairly good, another as brisk. The boot and shoe makers are moderately employed.

**Building Trades.**—Employment with joiners has been affected by the plasterers' dispute; painters are slack; with plumbers employment is fair, with other branches good.

**Coal Mining and Quarrying.**—Coal miners in St. Helens report an average of 5 days per week. At Whiston and Skelmersdale a slight improvement is reported. Quarrymen continue busy.

**Chemical and Glass Trades.**—Glass bottle-makers report employment as good. Chemical workers as unchanged.—C. Rouse.

A report from Winsford states that employment under the Salt Union remains unsettled, but is fair elsewhere. The moulders at Winsford are fully employed. Many chemical workers at Middlewich are still unemployed. Fustian cutters report employment as slack at both Winsford and Middlewich. In the building trades employment is moderate at both towns.

**YORKSHIRE.****Hull and District.**

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The hand drillers and hole cutters report employment as moderate; the engineers, machine-workers, pattern-makers, ironfounders, smiths and strikers, brassfounders and finishers, iron and steel dressers, shipwrights and boiler-makers, sailmakers and general labourers in shipyards, engineering works and boiler-shops as bad, in consequence of the engineering trade dispute; the engineers at Doncaster as moderate. The shipwrights and boiler-makers at Goole report employment as good; the shipwrights, boiler-makers and engineers at Grimsby as fair.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is reported as good at Hull, Beverley, Driffield, Bridlington and Selby.

**Transport Trades.**—Employment with deal carriers is reported as good; with general dock labourers as fair; with grain and seed workers as improved. Employment for seamen on long voyages is good; on the shorter voyages moderate. Dock labour at Grimsby and Goole is moderate. The railway workers report employment as good.

**Fishing Industry.**—The trawl fishermen at Hull and Grimsby report employment as fair; the steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull as good; at Grimsby as fair. Employment for fish curers and fish market and general fish trade labourers at Hull and Grimsby is reported as good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as good.

**Leather Workers.**—The tanners, curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster report employment as good; the tanners, leather belt and lace makers at Hull as moderate.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—The coopers and coachmakers at Hull and coachmakers at Doncaster report employment as good; cabinet-makers at Hull as moderate.

**Seed Crushing, Oil Varnish, Paint and Colour Works.**—Employment in the seed crushing mills has improved, and with the paint and colour workers it is fairly good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The farriers report employment as good; gas workers and general labourers as moderate; brushmakers as bad.

W. G. Millington.

**Leeds and District.**

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The position in this district remains unchanged in the engineering dispute. The ironfounders, boiler-makers, pattern-makers, and spindle and flyer-makers are suffering severely from the dispute, the number of unemployed showing a further increase. Brassworkers are dull; stove grate-workers are well employed; whitesmiths fairly so. At Stanningley and Bramley employment in the iron trades is quiet.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the Leeds boot and shoe industry continues fairly satisfactory, full time being general; at Heckmondwike employment is improving. Jewish slipper-maker are fairly employed. Employment in the ready-made clothing trade is quiet, a number of factories being on short time. Bespoke tailors are fairly well employed.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leeds employment has been rather better at some mills. Blanket raisers continue slack; linen workers quiet; flaxworkers are fairly employed, willeys and fettlers moderately so. Employment at Wakefield in the worsted and cloth mills is fair, at Yeadon and Stanningley it is still dull, with a slight improvement at the former place at the end of the month.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good at Leeds; moderate at Wakefield.

**Mining.**—Employment in the Leeds pits continues fairly good, five days and full time being generally worked. Iron-stone miners are fully employed.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment in the tanneries has slightly improved. With fancy leather shavers it is fair; in the calf kid department quiet; with curriers rather better; with saddlers slack.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress-printers is good; with lithographers moderate; with bookbinders and machine-rulers fair. Paper-mill workers are fully employed.

**Glass Trades.**—Glass bottle-makers in Leeds are slack as usual at this season. At Wakefield they are moderately employed.

**Miscellaneous Trades.**—Employment with cabinet-makers continues brisk; with coachmakers it is good; with brushmakers bad.

O. Connellan.

**Bradford, Huddersfield and District.**

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment in the worsted trade in and around Bradford is still in an unsatisfactory condition. In Halifax it shows no change, but in Huddersfield it seems slightly better. One of the largest firms in the town is working overtime, and putting in some new looms. The woollsorters of Bradford report employment as slightly better.

**Woollen Trade.**—Employment round about Huddersfield seems much the same, though not quite so many mills are working overtime. Employment in the heavy woollen trade in Batley and Dewsbury is slightly improving, but at Birstall it is bad. In Elland employment is fair.

**Other Textile Trades.**—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham shows no change; at Halifax and Brighouse it seems worse. Employment in the cotton trade is fair at Huddersfield, slack at Brighouse. In the rag trade at Batley and Dewsbury employment is reported as fair.

**Metal Trades.**—All parts of the district, except Dewsbury, are affected by the engineers' dispute.

**Building Trades.**—Employment seems moderate in all the large centres, and men are still wanted in Huddersfield.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is reported as quiet in the dyeing, tailoring and wire trades; as improved in the printing trades.

A. G.

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLAND COUNTIES.

**Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of engineers and kindred trades affected by the dispute, and of coal miners) with 9,484 members have 160 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 128 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Iron and Steel Industries.**—In connection with the engineering and kindred trades, 1,260 skilled workmen, in addition to 272 labourers and apprentices, are unemployed through the dispute, the effects of which are now being felt in many other branches, especially amongst ironfounders and steelworkers. Railway springmakers, coremakers, and iron and steel dressers report employment as fair; boiler-makers and wire drawers as moderate. Stove grate-workers throughout the district are well employed, about 10 per cent. working overtime. Merchant iron-rollers are slack. Branches of societies with 5,302 members have 105 unemployed, in addition to 524 directly affected by the dispute. At Barnsley, engineers and ironfounders are well employed. At Rotherham, Icles and Parkgate, the steel workers in all departments are busy, and there is an improvement in the iron trade; stove grate and bathmakers are well employed.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—Table-blade forgers and grinders report employment as quieter. All classes of workmen employed on spring knives for the American market are slack; employment on other goods is fair. Edge tool forgers and grinders and engineers' toolmakers report employment as moderate; bayonet-workers, sawmakers, haft and scale-pressers and saw handle-makers as fair. The file trade is feeling the effects of the engineers' dispute. Razor-makers are slack. The percentage actually out of work in these trades is the same as in September, but the number on short time is larger.

**Other Metal Trades.**—The silversmiths, electro-plate finishers, silver and metal stampers, hollow ware buffers and platers and gilders are fairly well employed; spoon and fork filers report employment as quieter; Britannia metalsmiths and brassworkers as moderate. Societies with 1,606 members have only 7 unemployed. At Rotherham the brassworkers in all departments are busy.

**Coal Mining.**—The improvement reported in September has been well maintained. Returns from 64 of the principal collieries show an average of over 5½ days worked per week.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good on the whole in Sheffield and Rotherham; at Barnsley it is slack.

**Linen Trades.**—Employment in the Barnsley linen trade is bad.

**Glass Trades.**—The bottle-makers in the Mexboro' district are moderately employed; at Rotherham medicine bottle-makers are busy; at Barnsley two firms have put their bottle hands on short time; flint glassworkers are fairly well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—In Sheffield employment in the bespoke tailoring trade is quiet; at Barnsley it is bad, but in the ready-made trade moderate. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is reported as good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as improved, the lithographic printers and bookbinders as good.

**Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.**—Cabinet-makers report employment as good, coachmakers as fair; the railway carriage and wagon builders are doing little owing to the engineers' dispute.

S. Utley.

**ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.****Derbyshire District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,015 members, have 91 (or 1·3 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 71 (or 1·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Branches with 2,414 members, not including those affected by the dispute in one branch, have 73 (or 3·0 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 46 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Employment in the locomotive works continues good. In engineering generally employment is reported as moderate; with ironfounders in Derby as improving, in Butterley as good, in Chesterfield as moderate; with brassmoulders and finishers in Derby and Burton-on-Trent as good; with lace machine builders in Long Eaton and cycle-workers in Long Eaton and Draycott as bad. Stove-grate workers in Derby, Belper and Langley Mill continue well employed. The blastfurnacemen at Ilkeston are well employed.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from 67 collieries, employing upwards of 37,000 men, show that an average of 5·33 days per week was worked as compared with 5·11 days in September.

**Quarrying.**—Employment in limestone quarries continues satisfactory.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment with cotton-weavers and spinners is fairly busy in Belper; dull in Borrowash, Glossop and Hadfield. With hosiery-workers in Heanor, Belper and Ilkeston employment is quiet. Lacemakers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton report a slight improvement. Surgical bandage makers in Derby report employment as fair; elastic web weavers as improving. Calico printers and engravers in Hayfield, Dinting and New Mills are busier, most factories running full time.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in all branches is good.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with boot and shoe operatives, tailors, dress and mantle makers, continues to improve.

**Coachbuilding Trades.**—Railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby report employment as good; in Long Eaton as fair; carriage builders in private shops as moderate.

**Woodworking Trades.**—The coopers in Burton-on-Trent report employment as fair. In most timber yards employment remains regular.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment with letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers is reported as good.—C. White-Deacon.

**Nottingham and District.**

**Lace Trade.**—No change is reported in the lace trade. Employment in the plain net branch continues brisk; in the levers and curtain branches indifferent. Warp laceworkers, designers and draughtsmen, curtain readers, warpers and auxiliary workers are slack; the female laceworkers report employment as moderate; bleachers and dyers are not fully employed.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment is bad in the framework power branch. The hand frame and hand-ribbed top branches are fairly busy; employment is moderate at Hucknall, quiet at Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield. Elastic bandage-makers are well employed; hosiery trimmers are mostly making full time, but are not busy.

**Engineering and Iron Trades.**—Employment but for the dispute is fairly good. Stove grate fitters, brassworkers, carriage-makers, steam engine-makers, lace machine and hosiery machine builders are well employed; boiler-makers are slack, ironfounders moderately employed at Nottingham and quiet at Mansfield. Engineers are well employed at Mansfield and Newark; ironfounders are quiet at Retford. All branches are busy at Colwick, but slack at Beeston. Employment in the cycle branch is unsettled.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good with carpenters and joiners, bricklayers, plasterers, slaters and mill sawyers; moderate with plumbers, masons and painters; quiet with brickmakers.

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from pits employing over 16,000 men show average of 4·27 days worked per week, as compared with 4·25 an in September.

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe operatives report a marked decline bespoke tailors are only moderately employed; employment in ready-made tailoring and mantle-making is good.

**Printing Trades.**—Employment is reported as improved with letterpress printers, moderate with lithographic printers and bookbinders.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, coach makers, boxmakers and basket-makers are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—Bakers and confectioners are moderately employed; silk dressers are making five days per week; women cigar-makers are fairly busy; gas stokers are busier; brushmakers and general labourers are well employed.—W. L. Hardstaff.

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and Shoe Industry.—Riveters and finishers at Leicester, Kettering and Northampton are still slack. In the clicking and rough-stuff-cutting branches the men are mostly working short time.

**Other Clothing Trades.**—Employment has improved in the wholesale and bespoke tailoring trades, and with corset makers. It is more regular with mantle-makers, milliners and dressmakers; but quiet in all branches of the hatting trade, some being on short time.

**Hosiery, Yarn and Woolspinning Trades.**—Employment in the hosiery trade at Leicester is only moderate. It is slightly better in the half-hose and rib branches at Loughborough, but slacker in the shirt and pant departments. In the yarn and wool-spinning mills employment is quieter. Trimmers are slack at Leicester and Hinckley. Dyers are moderately employed.



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued)—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—Employment generally continues slack, though there are slight signs of improvement in some branches.

*Engineering and Cycle Trades.*—At most of the firms not directly affected by the dispute, turners, winders and machine builders are working overtime. Employment is regular with boiler-makers and needle-makers; but slacker with ironfounders and pattern-makers. With cycle-makers it is dull at Leicester, good at Loughborough.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—The improvement in the state of employment with coalminers has generally been maintained. It is good with stone quarrymen and iron and limestone workers.

*Printing and Bookbinding Trades.*—Work with letterpress printers is good at Leicester, Northampton and Kettering, fair at Rugby, and improving at Loughborough. It is moderate with lithographic printers and good with bookbinders.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is good with bricklayers, builders' labourers and plasterers; moderately good with stonemasons and carpenters and joiners; slacker with painters and plumbers.

*Coachmaking and Furnishing Trades.*—Coachmakers and carbuilders, railway carriage and wagon builders are well employed; cabinet-makers and upholsterers moderately so.

*Leather Trades.*—Work with leather dressers and tanners continues good at Northampton and Market Harborough, and is moderate at Leicester and Wellingborough.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is good with railway employees; moderate with basketmakers; good with cigar makers.—*T. Smith.*

**Potteries District.**

*Pottery Trades.*—Hollow-ware pressers report a slight improvement, mainly on work for the American market; sanitary pressers have been well employed, full time being general; flat pressers report an improvement, the time worked averaging over three days per week; printers and transferrers, although reporting a slight improvement in a few instances, have averaged less than three days per week; throwers and turners are better employed; encaustic tile-makers continue well employed; ovenmen, kilnmen and sagger-makers are busier, averaging over three days per week, with fewer unemployed.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—Puddlers continue well employed; rollers are still working only four days per week; steelworkers and blast-furnacemen remain well employed.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers and boiler-makers in the Potteries are well employed, except at Stoke, where nearly 100 workmen are affected by the dispute. At Crewe and Stafford all branches of engineers remain busy. Copper-workers at Oakamoor and Frogball report no change. Agricultural engineers at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are busy, full time being general. Anchor chain makers at Ford Green report a serious decline.

*Coal Mining.*—The improvement has been fairly well maintained throughout the district, full time being almost general.

*Textile Trades.*—At Leek employment in the silk trade continues dull. At Congleton some firms are resorting to overtime, but at others short time is the rule; fustian cutters are averaging less than three days per week, and half the operatives are out of work. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape workers continue fully employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors in the Potteries report an improvement, at Stafford and Stone a decided improvement is manifest in the shoemaking trade, better time being worked in each town. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter are well employed.

*Building Trades.*—All branches are busy throughout the district.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a further improvement. At Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers, and bookbinders and machine rulers remain fairly well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are well employed. Bakers in the Potteries report a slight improvement. Railway workers are moderately busy. Gas workers are well employed.—*I. S. Harvey.*

**Wolverhampton and District.**

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire, employment is brisk in the steel-smelting, iron-bar, angle, plate and hoop trades. In the sheet trade, many mills are not working full time. In Shropshire the mills and forges are fully employed.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment is still good in the engineering trade. The moulders in several firms are working over-

time. Boiler, bridge, girder and tankmakers report employment as moderate; malleable ironworkers at Walsall as still quiet. Cycle-makers report no improvement. The machine departments of several firms in Shropshire and Staffordshire continue to work overtime.

*Hardware Trades.*—Employment is good with makers of anvils, tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, wrought nails, axes, springs, coach-ironwork, hand-cut files, builder's iron-mongery, springtraps, tips, gunlocks, edgetools, plantation and Brazil boes, and with stampers, piercers, brassworkers and hinge-makers. Makers of wrought iron odd work, rim, mortice, and cabinet locks, latches, keys and light hollow-ware, report employment as fair. Ironplate-workers, chainmakers, tack, cut-nail and tinplate-workers are moderately employed. Steel toymakers are slack. There is a slight improvement on cycle castings. With the anchor-smiths employment is bad.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment in the Cannock district is still good. In Shropshire and Tamworth the pits are working full time. The Tipton and Blackheath districts average four and a half days per week. Several pits in the Oldbury district have stopped owing to an inrush of water.

*Building Trades.*—Employment with carpenters and joiners is good, with bricklayers moderate, and with plumbers and painters fair.

*Glass Trades.*—Employment with the glasscutters at Wordsley is good; with other branches at Wordsley, and at Stourbridge and Brettle Lane it continues quiet. The glass bottle-makers at Brierley Hill have not restarted.

*Leather Trades.*—Employment in the leather trades at Walsall is fair, except with the brown saddle-makers.

*Textile Trades.*—At Kidderminster more carpet mills are running full time, and spinners are busier. The improvement in the Bridgnorth carpet mills is well maintained. The Tamworth mills are still working steadily.

*Clothing Trades.*—An improvement in employment is reported in the boot and shoe trade, although some are still working short time. In the ready-made and bespoke tailoring trades employment is good. —*C. Anthony.*

**Birmingham and District.**

*General.*—Branches with 16,371 members have 302 (or 1·8 per cent.) unemployed as against 259 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Engineering.*—Seven branches of the engineers return employment as moderate, two as good. The pattern-makers report employment as fair; the toolmakers as quiet; the smiths and strikers as good. Employment has not been much affected by the engineering dispute. In Coventry and West Bromwich employment in engineering is good. Cycle-makers at Coventry are on short time; cycle accessory-makers are fairly well occupied. At Redditch and Birmingham cycle-makers are fairly busy.

*Brass and Copper Trades.*—In the brassfoundry trade all branches are well employed. In the tube trade work is slack, and the men at one firm of cycle tube-makers are under notice to leave. Fire-brassmakers report employment as fair; fender-makers in the Dudley district as improved.

*Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.*—Jewellers report employment as improved; electro-plate-workers and Britannia metal-workers as good.

*Other Metal Trades.*—Ironfounders report employment as moderate; bedstead-makers as fair; hand filecutters as busy. Employment in the iron plate trade shows little improvement.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is good in all branches.

*Glass Trades.*—The flint glass-makers and flint glass cutters return employment as good; the glass bevellers and silverers as fair. In West Bromwich employment is good.

*Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, coachmakers, sawyers and machinists, coopers and railway carriage workers report employment as good.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the tailoring trade is returned as fair, and with the boot and shoe makers as fairly good.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment in the printing trade is reported as moderate; in the sporting and military gun trade as good. Brush-makers continue slack; gas workers are fully employed; engine and crane-makers report employment as generally good. In the Coventry district watchmakers are fairly well employed; weavers are slack. In Redditch the needle-makers, and fish hook and fishing tackle-makers are well employed.—*A. R. Jephcott.*

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—EASTERN, S.W. COUNTIES, AND WALES.

**ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.****Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

*General.*—Branches with 3,682 members have 85 (or 2·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 56 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Clothing Trades.*—Bespoke tailors are not busy in any part of the district. In Norwich the clothing factories are fairly busy, and are working full time; the dispute in the boot and shoe trade has terminated, but many operatives are still unemployed. Corset-makers at Diss are well employed.

*Building Trades.*—At Cambridge there is a slight falling off; in the rest of the district employment is fair, except with painters.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Engineers are well employed throughout the district. Ship and boat builders at Yarmouth and Lowestoft are dull.

*Textile Trades.*—Silk and crape factories are running full time, and are fairly busy at Norwich.

*Printing Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers is not good; it is fair with lithographic printers and bookbinders.

*Fishing Industry.*—At Yarmouth and Lowestoft fishing has been fairly good throughout the month.

*Miscellaneous.*—Wire weavers are slack. Brushmakers at Norwich, Wymondham and Diss are not busy. Matting weavers are well employed at Diss. Horticultural builders are busy. —*G. Cleverley.*

**Suffolk, Essex, and District.**

*Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.*—Employment with engineers is reported as good at Bury St. Edmund's, Colchester, Halstead and Earl's Colne; as moderate at Ipswich; as affected by the dispute at Chelmsford. The boiler-makers report employment as good at Ipswich; the shipwrights are well employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is dull at Ipswich; moderate at Colchester. In the wholesale tailoring trade employment is reported as fair at Ipswich and Colchester. The corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury are well employed.

*Textile Trades.*—The mat-weavers report employment as good at Hadleigh, Long Melford, and Lavenham; as moderate at Sudbury and Glemsford; the horse-hair weavers at Lavenham as good; the silk-weavers as good at Sudbury, and slack at Braintree. The silk and crape-workers at Halstead and Earl's Colne are still busy.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is fairly good at Ipswich, Felixstowe, Clacton-on-Sea, Bury St. Edmund's, Colchester, Chelmsford, Sudbury, Hadleigh, Halstead and Earl's Colne.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers are well employed throughout the district, principally on account of registration work, and compositors are in demand. Bookbinders and lithographers are well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Shipping and dock labour at the port of Ipswich is reported as fair. General labourers are well employed at Ipswich, Chelmsford and Colchester. Employment is fair with horticultural builders and brick makers at Chelmsford. In the leather trade at Ipswich and Colchester it is good.—*R. W. Mather.*

**ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.****Bristol and District.**

*General.*—Societies with 8,605 members have, in addition to members out of work through disputes, 91 (or 1·1 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

*Building Trades.*—The painters report a decline, but other branches continue well employed. Societies with 2,908 members have 24 idle, as against 11 at the end of September.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment is reported as good with miners in the Forest of Dean. In the Radstock district employment has improved, and full time is being worked at most of the collieries. In the Bristol coalfield some pits are working 4 days per week, but the majority are doing full time.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—Employment, but for the dispute, which especially affects Gloucestershire and Bath, is good. Branches with 3,178 members have 41 (or 1·3 per cent.) unemployed, in addition to 170 engineers directly involved in the dispute.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment in the wholesale tailoring trade has declined, and is now irregular. Bespoke tailors are busy. Employment in the glove industry at Yeovil is reported as fair and improving. The improvement in the boot and shoe trade reported in Bristol has not been maintained. Employment is again bad, the majority of the factories running short time. Employment in the heavy nail trade at Kingswood has declined.

*Textile Trades.*—In the Trowbridge district employment is slack.

he majority working short time. At Tiverton the weavers are slack, and not making more than four days per week. At Stroud employment in the heavy woollens branch is slack, in other branches fair.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment continues steady. Out of 684 members 2 only are returned as out of work.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment is fairly good in all branches. Out of 686 members 14 (or 2 per cent.) are unemployed, as against 18 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—There has been a fair demand for seagoing men. Dock employment in Bristol has been brisk on grain, and fair on general cargoes. At Gloucester deal runners report employment as fair; general cargo hands as quiet. —*J. Curle.*

**Plymouth and South-Western District.**

*Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.*—Employment in the metal mining industry continues unchanged in Cornwall. Some little reduction in the number employed in the quarries at Penryn and Oreston has taken place, but the men affected are almost all employed on other work.

*Engineering and allied Trades.*—The engineers report employment as moderately good throughout the district; the boiler-makers, iron shipbuilders, ironfounders, and the brassworkers as good. Shipwrights at Devonport report employment as good, overtime being worked; at Dartmouth as fair.

*Building Trades.*—The masons, carpenters, plasterers, and plumbers report employment as good. The painters and decorators are only moderately employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Work has been slack in both the ready-made and bespoke departments of the tailoring trade. In the boot and shoe trade employment is fair.

*Printing Trades.*—Letterpress printers continue slack. In Exeter employment is good. Lithographic printers are fairly employed; bookbinders are rather quiet.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—In the shipping trade employment has been rather better on the whole. Employment is fair with bargemen.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-makers and upholsterers report work as moderate. Machinists and mill-sawyers are fully employed. Among coachbuilders employment is good.

*Miscellaneous.*—The fishing industry has been moderate. Brick-yard-workers and general labourers and excavators are fairly employed. Brushmakers are slack.—*W. Hedge.*

**WALES.****North Wales District.**

*Mining.*—Employment has been good in the coal mines of the Ruabon and Flintshire districts, and has improved in the Wrexham districts. It has been good in the lead and blende mines of Flintshire.

*Quarrying.*—Employment is good in the slate quarries; brisk at the granite sett quarries; fair at the lime and roadstone quarries; brisk at the freestone quarries.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is good at the Brymbo steel works; fair at the Mostyn iron works. The engineers at Sandycroft and Oswestry report employment as moderate; at Ruabon as good. Employment has been good at the Mold spelter works. The Mold tinplate works have ceased working. Employment has been good at the wagon works, Ruabon.

*Building Trades.*—At Wrexham the carpenters and joiners and bricklayers report employment as fair, the painters as moderate. The carpenters at Oswestry report employment as moderate, and the plasterers at Llandudno as good.

*Brick and Terra-cotta Industries.*—Employment in all branches in Wrexham, Ruabon, Rhos, Buckley, Mold, and Penybont districts has been brisk.

*Chemical Industries.*—Employment continues good at the chemical works at Ruabon.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors at Bangor report employment as moderate; at Rhyl as fair; at Oswestry as good.—*G. Rowley.*

**South Wales District.**

*Coal Mining.*—Almost throughout the district employment has been duller and more irregular, and disputes have been unusually prevalent. Returns show that Blaenavon, Tredegar, Cyfartha and Dowlais collieries have worked regularly, but



## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—WALES AND SCOTLAND.

collieries in some districts have averaged from 3 to 5 days a week. Thirty-five pits in the Rhondda, Ferndale, Aberdare and Merthyr districts have worked on an average 5.1 days per week, as compared with 5.2 in September.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally has been fair. Branches of carpenters and joiners, with 1,461 members, return 59 (or 4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 24 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September; the increase in the number of unemployed being, however, amongst the ship carpenters.

**Ship-repairing and Engineering.**—Employment in nearly every branch has been dull. The boiler-makers report 20 per cent. as unemployed; the shipwrights 35 per cent. The engineers report employment as bad, and out of 2,839 members return 148 (or 5.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 161 (or 5.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Fitters' helpers, boiler-makers' helpers, and general labourers have had a slack month; but ship painters, ship and boiler scruffers have been busy.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—With the exception of Swansea, coal shipments have been below the average, and general cargo has had a rather good month. The shipment of crews has been quiet.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Returns from Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Rogerstone, and Tredegar state that mills and furnaces are going well.

**Miscellaneous.**—Fuel-workers have had a fair month in shipping and manufacturing; wagon-builders and lifters are fully employed; metallurgical and chemical works are quiet; printers report employment as good.—*T. Davies.*

**The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.**—During the month there was a considerable resumption of work. Of the 87 works reported on 43, with 234 mills, were giving full employment at the end of October, and 30 works, with 150 mills, were idle. The remaining 14 works were giving partial employment, 72 mills being at work and 29 idle. Thus out of 485 mills 306 were at work, as compared with 275 out of 484 mills at the end of September. During the month the Council of the Tinplaters' Union agreed to submit to a general reduction of 15 per cent. from November onwards.

## SCOTLAND.

## Edinburgh and District.

**General.**—Branches of societies (excluding the engineering and allied trades) with 10,014 members have 329 (or 3.3 per cent. unemployed) as compared with 271 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Coal Mining.**—In Mid and East Lothian employment has improved, and full time is generally obtained. In West Lothian the miners have had from ten to twelve days' work per fortnight; in the Benhar, Grangepans and Armadale districts, from ten to eleven days, and in the Fauldhouse and Bathgate districts from eleven to twelve days.

**Shale Mines and Oil Works.**—Employment in the set trades continues fairly good. Returns received from 33 pits employing 3,667 workpeople (as compared with 4,197 in October, 1896) show that full time was worked by 2,590 men, and that 1,077 worked 22 and under 24 days in the four weeks ended October 23rd last.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches with 2,580 members have 128 (or 4.9 per cent.) idle, in addition to 349 directly affected by the dispute. Branches of these trades in Falkirk with 3,125 members have 102 idle, as against one at the end of September.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment has improved in the shipbuilding yards in Leith. Branches of boiler-makers and shipwrights, with 560 members, have 86 (or 15.3 per cent.) idle, as against 153 (or 27.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Textile Trades.**—The carpet-weavers in Midlothian report employment as good. Employment in the linen industry in Dunfermline and in the woollen industry in Selkirk has improved considerably. Galashiels spinners are still working short time, but weavers are slightly better employed. In Hawick there is a slight general improvement; employment in the hosiery industry is fairly good in Selkirk, and has slightly improved in Hawick.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 5,564 members have 143 (or 2.6 per cent.) idle, as against 22 (or 0.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September, the increase in the number of unemployed being entirely among the painters.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,071 members have 11 idle, as against 10 at the end of September.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors and firemen report employment as fair, with few idle. Dock labourers and coal porters have been well employed during the month.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 1,885 members have 54 (or 2.9 per cent.) idle as against 60 (or 3.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Miscellaneous.**—The settmakers report employment as good, the tailors and shoemakers as fair; the bakers as quiet.—*J. Mallinson.*

## Glasgow and West of Scotland.

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment continues disturbed by the engineers' dispute. Branches with 10,574 members, have 811 (or 7.7 per cent.) idle, as against 775 (or 7.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—There has been no improvement during the month. Branches, with 26,937 members, have 1,643 (or 6 per cent.) idle, as against 1,425 (or 5.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September, in addition to 4,000 engineers idle through the dispute.

**Mining.**—In Stirlingshire the house coal miners are working fully five days per week, but generally the demand is not quite so good. In Dumbartonshire employment is good; in Lanarkshire hardly so plentiful; in Ayrshire coal mining is not so good; ironstone miners are still working five days per week; in Renfrewshire employment in coal and ironstone mining continues good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment throughout the west of Scotland is still good, except with painters. Branches with 10,961 members (excluding painters) return 113 (or 1 per cent.) as idle, as against 76 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment continues fair. Branches with 3,968 members return 82 (or 2.1 per cent.) as idle, as against 34 (or 0.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Textile Trades.**—In Glasgow employment on silks and zephyrs and on coloured work has improved; at Kilbirnie employment in thread and rope works is busy; in net works dull; in Galston and Darvel it is still busy. At Port Glasgow textile workers are fully employed. At Greenock the merino woollen mills are working full time; Glasgow carpet-weavers, power-loom beamers and warpers are busier. Employment with rope and twine spinners remains dull.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors report employment as improved; clothiers' operatives as duller; tailors' machinists and pressers as slack on order work, and fairly busy in the stock trade; boot and shoe operatives report employment as fairly good; pump boot and slipper makers as busy; the knee boot and shoe makers as good; curriers as improved.

**Shipping Dock and Transport Labour.**—Sailors report little change; dock labourers in Glasgow and Govan report employment as fair; in Ardrossan as dull; carters, railway men, hackney carriage drivers and tramway men are busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as not busy; electrotypers and stereotypers as good; lithographic printers as fair.

**Glass Trades.**—The improvement among the flint glass-makers and flint glass cutters has been maintained; bottle-makers report employment as fair; medicine bottle-makers have a number idle.

**Miscellaneous.**—Calico engravers and tobacco pipe-makers and finishers report employment as still dull; saddlers, brushmakers, spindle and flyer-makers, scale beam-makers, sett-makers and potters as good.—*A. J. Hunter.*

## Dundee and District.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the jute industry continues good on the whole. In the linen trade employment is more regular.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in the coal trade in Fifeshire remains steady. Returns from collieries employing over 10,000 workpeople show a weekly average of 5.5 days worked during the four weeks ending October 23rd, as against 5.63 in the month of September.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—In the engineering shops not affected by the dispute employment is brisk. Between 550 and 600 unionist and non-unionist fitters and turners and machine-workers are still idle owing to the dispute, and the unemployed list of the blacksmiths, ironmoulders, &c., is largely augmented in consequence. Employment at the shipbuilding yards continues good. Employment with sailmakers is slack.

## EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in these trades continues good. Societies with 1,589 members report 16 (or 1 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 10 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Fishing Industry.**—Owing to foggy weather the fishing has been much interrupted. None of the Broughty Ferry boats proceeded to sea during the last week of the month, and at Arbroath and Montrose fishing was only prosecuted by the inshore boats.

**Dock Labour.**—Employment at the harbour and docks was slack in the beginning of the month; towards the close an improvement set in, and shore labourers were then fairly employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The printing and kindred trades have continued fairly busy. Tailors report employment as still further improved; but it remains quiet in the boot and shoe trade. Floor-cloth and linoleum makers are steadily employed.—*P. Reid.*

## Aberdeen and District.

**General.**—Branches with 6,719 members have 251 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

**Quarrying.**—Blockers, drillers, cranemen, settmakers, monumental masons, and granite polishers report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Joiners, plasterers, slaters, masons, and saw-millers report employment as good; plumbers as moderate; painters as bad. Branches with 2,419 members report 52 (or 2.1 per cent.) as idle, as against 15 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights, ironmoulders, and engineers report employment as bad; the pattern-makers as unsettled; the tinplate workers as fair; the blacksmiths as slightly improved; the brassfinishers, toolsmiths, and horse-shoers as good. Branches of societies (excluding the engineers, of whom 237 are directly affected by dispute) with 1,094 members, have 161 (or 14.7 per cent.) idle, as against 185 (or 17.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers as good.

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—The hand-sewn boot and shoe makers, and the riveters and finishers report employment as good; bespoke tailors as quiet; cotton and jute operatives as fair; flax operatives as moderate; carpet weavers as bad.

**Transport Trades.**—Railway servants, carters, and general labourers and shore labourers report employment as good.

**Fishing.**—In October at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 53,171 cwts. of fish, realising £36,162, a slight decrease in quantity and value as compared with September.

**Miscellaneous.**—Cabinet-makers, saddlers and harness-makers report employment as good; combmakers and bakers as moderate; upholsterers as bad.—*W. Johnston.*

## IRELAND.

## Dublin and District.

**Building Trades.**—Work in all branches is fair. Branches with 3,173 members have 114 (or 3.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 50 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Metal Trades.**—Employment during the month was fair, the brassfinishers working overtime. Branches with 1,110 members return 24 (or 2.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 29 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Work is good with the organ-builders and cabinet-makers; fair with the cart and wagon builders, upholsterers, and saddlers; dull with the lathe-renders.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment with tailors and bootmakers has been moderate.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment with letterpress printers has improved; the lithographers, stereotypers and machine minders have been fairly busy; the bookbinders have been fully employed. Branches with 1,212 members return 69 (or 5.7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 108 (or 8.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Transport Trades.**—The tramway and railway servants, and the seamen and firemen report employment as fair; the dock labourers as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is fair in the provision trades; good with bottle-makers; slack with mineral-water makers; fair with brush makers.

*J. P. Nannetti.*

## Belfast and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Societies with 10,620 members have 282 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 147 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September, in addition 685 are directly affected by the engineers' dispute. All occupations are reported as quiet on account of dispute.

**Linen Trades.**—Branches with 3,986 members report 79 (or 2.0 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 107 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The spindle and flyer makers report employment as bad; the power loom tenters as moderate; beetlers, flax roughers, flax dressers, and yarn bundlers as fair; women workers as busy; hackle and gill makers, and linen lappers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Branches with 3,596 members have 94 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 71 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Societies, with a membership of 667, report 26 (or 3.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 31 (or 4.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The coachbuilders report employment as dull; the packing-case makers as slack; the cabinet-makers as fair; the french polishers and coopers as good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Branches, with 909 members, return 28 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 35 (or 3.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Employment is fair with the bookbinders and letterpress printers, and good with the lithographic printers and artists.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors and boot and shoe operatives report employment as quiet.

**Miscellaneous.**—Societies, with 1,843 members, have 52 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 40 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The bakers and butchers report employment as quiet; the locomotive engine drivers as good; and the railway servants and carters as fair.—*R. Sheldon.*

## Cork and District.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Shipwrights and ship joiners report employment as good during the month in Cork, Queenstown, and Passage West. Riggers and sailmakers are busy; boiler-makers, iron shipbuilders and engineers in all branches continue steadily employed throughout the district.

**Building Trades.**—All branches of these trades continue to report employment as fair.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—In Cork, Douglas, Millfield and Blarney the flax and tweed operatives report employment as exceptionally busy; tailors, and boot and shoemakers, as quiet.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers, coach-makers, mill-sawyers and woodworking machinists and corkcutters report employment as good; coopers as dull.

**Miscellaneous.**—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as still dull; enginemen and firemen, stationary enginemen and railway servants in general throughout the district as good.—*P. O'Shea.*

## DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

Table showing number of cases of Lead poisoning and anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during October, classified by industries [M.—Males, F.—Females]:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.	Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
<b>Lead Poisoning—</b>								
China, Earthenware, and Glass	21	38	3	2	—	—	24	64
White Lead and Colour Works	18	18	—	—	—	—	18	36
Smelting	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron and other metals	5	2	1	—	—	—	6	8
Other Industries ...	18	1	—	—	—	—	19	20
<b>Total Lead Poisoning</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>134</b>
Corresponding Total for October, 1896	36	36	2	—	—	—	38	74
<b>Anthrax</b> ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Total Anthrax, October, 1896	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.)

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during October affected about 13,100 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople was an estimated decrease of 3d. per head.

Increases.—The increases reported included 1,800 building operatives, 900 chainmakers in the Cradley Heath district, 600 boot and shoe operatives at Norwich, and 1,100 bakers in the Glasgow district.

Decreases.—The principal reductions affected 5,700 tinplate-makers in South Wales.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 1,600 workpeople, were preceded by strikes, the changes being subsequently arranged by negotiation between the parties. The remaining changes affecting 11,500 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between the parties or their representatives, without any cessation of work.

Totals for first Ten Months of 1897.—For the ten months—January to October—the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 570,000. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of these workpeople is estimated at an increase of 1s. per head.

Note.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to changes in the pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with multiple sections: BUILDING TRADES, QUARRYING, ENGINEERING, TINPLATE TRADE, MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES. Columns include Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, and Increase or Decrease in a full week.

\* Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER—(continued).

Table with multiple sections: TEXTILE TRADES, BOOT AND SHOE TRADE, WOODWORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES, EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Columns include Employment, Locality, Date from which change takes effect, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, and Increase or Decrease in a full week.

\* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

† Per week of seven days.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The imports of raw cotton during October show a slight falling off as compared with a year ago, but an increase of nearly 68 1/2 per cent. when compared with October, 1895, an increase almost entirely due to increased imports of American cotton.

Table with columns: Imports, Forwards from Ports to Inland Towns, Exports. Rows for October 1897, 1896, 1895.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended October 30th amounted to £6,365,647, an increase of £273,784 (or 4 1/2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1896.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shellfish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during October, 1896. In England and Wales there was an increase of £63,954, in Scotland of £3,733, and in Ireland of £5,250.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during October numbered 375, being 2 more than in October, 1896, 10 less than in October 1895, and 20 less than in October, 1894.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION. Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during October was 23,754, as compared with 25,580 in October, 1896.

British and Irish.—Of the 23,754 passengers, 16,415 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 1,051 as compared with a year ago. This decrease is shared by all the countries named in the table below, with the exception of Australasia. The figures for October, 1897 and 1896 are as follows:—

Table with columns: Destination, October, 1897, October, 1896. Rows for United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, Totals.

The remainder of the 23,754 passengers, viz. 7,339, were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 775 less than in October, 1896.



**Alien Immigration.**—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during October was 6,392. Of these, 2,822 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 2,538 so stated in October 1896. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,570 (including 914 sailors), the corresponding figure for October 1896 being 3,994 (including 795 sailors).

**CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN OCTOBER.**

THE changes in hours of labour reported during October were, with one exception, all decreases, and affected 3,181 workpeople, whose working hours were reduced on the average by 3 per week. The principal decrease was one affecting 663 tramway servants at Liverpool, whose hours were reduced from about 79 to 72 per week, the wages of 370 conductors being increased at the same time. The remaining decreases included 864 building operatives and 1,320 workpeople employed in printing establishments. The only increase reported was a case of reversion from 48 to 54 hours per week, and affected nine bookbinders in London. The changes in the case of 102 workpeople were preceded by strikes, the other alterations being arranged by negotiation between the parties without any stoppage of work.

Employment.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		Extent of decrease or increase per week.
				Before change.	After change.	
DECREASES.						
<b>Building Trades.</b>						
Masons* ...	Plymouth & District	4th Oct.	800	54 †	53 †	1'00
Plumbers* ...		1st Nov.	64	54 †	47 †	2'71
<b>Shipbuilding.</b>						
Shipjoiners ...	Birkenhead	9th Oct.	6	54 †	53 †	1'00
Shipwrights ...	Plymouth ...	2nd Aug.	155	56 †	54 †	1'79
<b>Employees of Local Authorities.</b>						
Bridgemen ...	Tyne ...	Sept.	4	78	67 ‡	10'50
Paviors* ...	Leigh ...	27th Oct.	3	56 ‡	55 ‡	1'00
Beaters ...		4				
Labourers ...	Liverpool	28th Oct.	332	Average		
Tram Drivers		4th Nov.	331 ‡	79'1 ‡	72 ‡	7'10
<b>Printing, &amp;c., Trades.</b>						
Litho. Printers	Bradford ...	8th Oct.	146	54	52	2'00
Bookbinders ...				54	52	2'00
Mechanics and Labourers	Hull ...	4th Oct.	13	53	48	5'00
Printers, Compositors & Bookbinders	Wrexham ...	1st Oct.	38	52	48	4'00
Workpeople in Printing Establishments	Edinburgh and Leith	Oct.	387	51	50	1'00
			473	52 ‡	50	2'00
<b>Miscellaneous.</b>						
Employees in firm of Iron Safe Makers	London ...	15th Oct.	93	60	54	6'00
Bakers and Confectioners	Nottingham	13th Sept.	37	70 and upwards	60 (Bakers 66)	9'27
Signal Men ...	Sheffield ...	30th Oct.	8	10	8	2
Shunters ...			12	per day	per day	per day
INCREASES.						
Bookbinders ...	London ...	4th Oct.	9	48	54	6'00

**HOURS OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.**

The report of the Board of Trade on the working of the Railway Regulation Act during the year ended 27th July, 1897, contains full particulars both of the cases referred to in previous reports on which further action has been taken during the year, and of cases arising out of fresh complaints. It appears that "the number of representations received shows a marked falling off. Only 76 complaints have been made in 1896-97, as against 97 in 1895-96, and 156 in

\* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.  
 † Summer hours.  
 ‡ Exclusive of 39 reserve men. The hours given include meal times.  
 § The hours of labour for night work are now 54 per week. The hours given not before and after change are inclusive of meal times. See also under Changes in Wages.  
 ¶ Report respecting the proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Railway Regulation Act, 1893, during the year ended 27th July, 1897 (Parl. Paper 391, price 2d.).

1894-95." Of these 76 complaints 31 affected signalmen, and 20 the staff at stations. The report adds that "the companies have themselves done a great deal to reduce the number of complaints made to the Board of Trade, by voluntarily revising the hours of work of their servants." Particulars of a few such cases are appended to the report.

**LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.**

THE following are among the more interesting legal cases reported in October specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers:—

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.\*

**Non-user of Guards.—Knowledge of Foreman.**—A carpenter sued a dock and engineering company for £100 for injuries sustained to his hand while engaged at a planing machine on which there was no guard. It was stated that a bad accident had previously occurred at the machine, after which the factory inspector ordered that a guard must be procured. In consequence of this order the company selected a guard and put up a notice enforcing its use. Plaintiff contended that the superintendent took no steps to enforce the use of the guard, that the machine had been used without it to his knowledge, and that he himself had frequently used it without the guard. In his evidence the foreman admitted that he did not enforce the use of the guard, although he gave instructions that it was to be used. Judgment for plaintiff. Damages, £25 as compensation for loss of wages, and £25 as compensation for the injury.—*Cardiff County Court, October 7th.*

(2) EMPLOYERS AND WORKMEN.

**Quitting Work at a Colliery.—Fatal Accidents.—Custom.**—Seventy-two men were summoned by a colliery company for absents themselves from their work on September 7th without permission, on learning that an accident, which terminated fatally in the hospital a few hours later, had occurred to a boy. The case of a collier was taken as a test one. The defendant's case was that a definite arrangement had been made in June last between the men and the manager, which the plaintiffs denied, that in case of a fatal accident the men could cease work and leave the pit. It was contended that on this occasion the men believed that the boy was killed in the pit, and further that according to the alleged arrangement there was no stipulation that death should actually take place in the pit. Previous to the alleged arrangement it was stated that when fatal accidents had occurred no objection had been taken to the men leaving, and further that there was a custom in South Durham and Nottinghamshire for them to leave their work under such circumstances. Witnesses stated that they believed the boy was dead. The men asked for leave to quit the pit, but they were told that the boy had been taken out alive, and permission was refused. The Bench dismissed the case, and expressed the opinion that the defendants, who had seen the boy after the accident, honestly believed that he was dead. On a subsequent day the case of another of the defendants, who had not actually seen the boy after he was injured, was heard. The Bench decided that they could not separate this case from the one previously heard, and postponed their decision until the case, which had been asked for on the previous occasion, had been decided by the Queen's Bench.—*West Riding Police Court, Doncaster, October 2nd and 16th.*

(3) MISCELLANEOUS.

**Right of Trade Union to Sue for Donation.**—A trade union brought an action to recover from a master tailor the sum of £2 5s., the balance of a sum of £5 5s., which the defendant had agreed to pay the union towards the expense to which it had been put in maintaining the men during the strike, according to an agreement made on the settlement of a dispute between himself and his workmen. The defendant gave a promissory note for the sum of £5 5s., and subsequently paid £3, but refused to pay the balance. The secretary of the union stated that the union had received money from other employers under similar circumstances. The Court held that the payment promised must be regarded as a subscription to the funds of the society, and that the plaintiffs could, therefore, not recover the money, as a trade union was precluded from enforcing any agreement for the payment by any person of subscriptions or penalties. Judgment was given for the defendant, but leave to appeal was given if plaintiffs desired, and stay of execution was granted in the meanwhile.—*Manchester County Court, October 14th.*

**EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT, 1880.**

A RETURN† made pursuant to the order of the House of Commons gives the number of cases tried in County Courts in the United Kingdom, in 1895 and 1896, under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, together with certain other particulars relating to such cases. In England, in 1896, 258 cases were tried in the County Courts and one case was removed from the County Court to a superior court, as compared with 214 cases tried in the County Courts and one case removed to a superior court in the previous year. The total amount claimed in compensation in England in 1896 was £36,943, and the total compensation awarded £12,590. In 1895, £30,028 was claimed and £8,828 awarded.

\* Under this heading are also included actions at Common Law to recover from employers compensation for injuries to workpeople.  
 † Return of the Total Number of Cases Tried in County Courts in 1895 and 1896 under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880; the Amount of Compensation claimed; the Amount awarded; the Number of Cases in which Application has been made to Remove the Case for the Trial from the County Court to the Superior Court; the Number of Cases in which the Application has been Granted; . . . (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 301, of Session 1895.) P.P. 352, of 1897. Price 1d.

**INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER.**

(For Summary of these detailed Tables, see p. 326.)

**I. Railway Servants.**

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)  
 Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned, during the month of October, 1897.  
 [The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December, 1895.]

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total Injured.
		Causing Amputations.	Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries.	Contusions and Bruises.	Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c.	Shock and Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.	Total Injured.	
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	2	6	24	16	27	75	
Engine Drivers ...	2	2	3	9	10	15	39	
Firemen ...	1	—	—	8	14	19	41	
Guards (Passenger) ...	1	—	1	1	1	6	9	
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	13	—	—	3	3	9	15	
Porters ...	4	1	5	19	16	10	51	
Shunters ...	1	1	3	21	11	29	65	
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants) ...	21	1	7	34	16	28	86	
<b>Total for October, 1897 ...</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>381</b>	
<b>Total for October, 1896 ...</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>370</b>	

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 5 servants killed and 807 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during October, as compared with 5 killed and 993 injured in October, 1896.

**II. Miners and Quarrymen.**

(Supplied by the Home Office.)  
 Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of October, 1897.  
 [The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 725,803, and in and about quarries (more than 20 feet deep) as 112,829, in 1896.]

Cause of Accident.	MINES.		QUARRIES.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
<b>Underground:—</b>				
Explosions of Fire-damp ...	2	25	Explosives or Blast-ing ...	—
Falls of ground ...	19	170	Falls of ground ...	6
In shafts ...	6	9	During Ascent or Descent ...	—
Miscellaneous ...	15	167	Miscellaneous ...	2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>Total for Oct., 1897 ...</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Surface:—</b>				
Miscellaneous ...	5	49	<b>Total for Oct., 1896 ...</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total for Oct., 1897 ...</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>420</b>		
<b>Total for Oct., 1896 ...</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>439</b>		

**III. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).**

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)  
 Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of October, 1897, as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

Cause and Class of Accident.	Number reported as Killed or Injured.					Total for 3 months Aug. to Oct., 1897.	Corresponding total for 3 months of 1896.
	On Trading Vessels.		On Fishing Vessels.		Total in Oct., 1897.		
	Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.			
<b>I.—By Wreck or Casualty:—</b>							
Killed ...	10	6	14	—	30	107	
Fractures and Dislocations	—	2	—	—	2	5	
Other or unspecified Injuries	3	2	1	—	6	21	
<b>II.—By other Accidents:—</b>							
Killed ...	18	57	6	3	84	234	
Fractures and Dislocations	2	29	3	1	35	110	
Other or unspecified Injuries	12	91	1	2	106	363	
<b>III.—All Accidents—</b>							
Total Killed ...	28	63	20	3	114	341	
Total Injured ...	17	124	5	3	149	499	

NOTE.—Deaths or injuries on yachts and vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation, and injuries on fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish Ports, and on vessels trading exclusively between Scottish Ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included.

**IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.\***

(A) Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of October, 1897, distinguishing Factories and Workshops. †  
 [The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 (2) of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Class of Accident.	Number of Males.			Number of Females.			Total Males and Females.
	Adults.	Young Pers.	Boys.	Adults.	Young Pers.	Girls.	
<b>In Factories.</b>							
Killed ...	42	5	—	47	—	—	47
Injuries:—							
Causing Amputation ...	97	66	2	165	14	21	200
Fractures ...	61	20	2	83	4	6	95
Injuries to head or face	70	18	1	89	7	5	101
Loss of Sight of one or both eyes ...	1	1	—	2	1	—	3
Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries ...	534	266	10	810	69	66	952
<b>Total Killed ...</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Total Injured ...</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1,351</b>
<b>In Workshops.</b>							
Killed ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injured ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
<b>Total in Factories and Workshops:—</b>							
<b>In Oct., 1897 { Killed ...</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Injured ...</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>1,352</b>
<b>In Oct., 1896 { Killed ...</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Injured ...</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1,398</b>

\* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 2,147 other non-fatal accidents (2,140 in Factories and 7 in Workshops) only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors, as compared with a total of 1,864 in September, 1896.

(B) Table showing the number of persons killed or injured by accidents reported to H.M. Inspectors of Factories by occupiers of factories and workshops during September and October, 1897, respectively, grouped according to industries.\*

Groups of Industries.	October, 1897.		September, 1897.	
	Number of Persons.		Number of Persons.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
<b>Textiles.—</b>				
Cotton ...	2	234	—	204
Wool and Worsted ...	1	82	3	91
Other Textiles ...	—	52	1	66
<b>Non-Textiles.—</b>				
Metals, Founding and Conversion of ...	—	416	3	359
Machines, Tools, Appli-ances, &c. ...	10	927	8	900
Other Metal working ...	4	73	1	84
Shipbuilding, &c. ...	3	435	2	495
Woodworking ...	6	137	2	158
Chemicals, &c. ...	4	124	3	110
Docks, Wharves and Quays, Other Non-Textile Indus-tries ...	3	247	7	340
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>3,510</b>

\* Exclusive of accidents reported by Mines' Inspectors.

**V. Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894.**

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)  
 Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of October, 1897.

Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.				Use or Working.			
	Number of Persons.		Number of Persons.		Number of Persons.		Number of Persons.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Bridge ...	—	1	3	4	—	—	—	—
Canal ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	9
Railway* ...	3	4	42	46	—	—	—	—
Tramroad ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tramway ...	—	—	4	4	—	—	1	4
Tunnel ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Works† ...	2	11	32	43	—	—	1	1
Traction engine† ...	Act does not apply.	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
<b>Total for Oct., 1897</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Total for Oct., 1896</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>

\* Accidents during the working of railways being reportable under other Acts are not notified under the Act of 1894.  
 † Authorised by any local or personal Act of Parliament. Or other steam engine or machine in the open air.



TRADE DISPUTES.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned.)

**Number and Magnitude.**—Forty-nine fresh disputes were reported as beginning in October, 1897, as compared with 49 reported in the previous month, and 55 in October, 1896. In these 49 disputes 8,769 workpeople were involved, compared with 9,067 in September, and about 11,470 in October, 1896. The figure for October, 1897, does not include the number of engineers affected during the month by the further extension of the engineering dispute.

**Trades Affected.**—In the building trades there were 5 disputes, involving 138 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 10 disputes, involving 1,887 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding, 13 disputes, involving 4,096 workpeople; textile trades, 6 disputes, involving 1,575 workpeople; transport 5 disputes, involving 297 workpeople; and in other industries, 10 disputes, involving 776 workpeople.

**Causes.**—Of the 49 new disputes, 18 arose on wages questions (11 being for increase in wages), 3 on the question of hours of labour, 4 were in defence of fellow-workpeople, 16 on questions of working arrangements and material supplied, 5 on matters connected with fellow-unionists and union [customs, 2 were sympathetic strikes, and 1 was a demarcation dispute.

**Results.**—Thirty-six new disputes, involving 5,845 workpeople, and 14 old disputes, involving 3,553 workpeople, were reported as settled. Of the 50 new and old disputes terminated, 21, involving 1,915 workpeople, were settled in favour of the workpeople, 21, involving 4,436 workpeople, in favour of the employers, and 8, involving 3,047 workpeople, by compromise.

**Number of Working Days Lost.**—The number of working days lost in October owing to labour disputes new and old was about 1,530,000, as compared with about 1,614,000 in September, and 1,406,000 in August.

**Total Disputes for the First Ten Months of 1897.**—For the ten completed months of 1897 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 839 disputes which commenced in those months was 201,638, as compared with 175,526 workpeople involved in the 904 disputes occurring in the corresponding months of 1896. The number of working days lost owing to disputes in the first ten months of 1897 was about 7,421,000.

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1897.</b>						
<b>5 Disputes. BUILDING TRADES. 138 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Bricklayers	Leek	Oct. 19	Objection to a labourer doing work alleged to be that of a bricklayer	8	5	Line between bricklayers' and labourers' work defined at a conference; labourer removed from the job.
Stonemasons	Wombwell	5	In sympathy with men in same employ at Sheffield who were on strike for better shed accommodation (see Part II.)	9	5	Work resumed when Sheffield men had obtained their demands.
Ditto	Devonport	13	Alleged refusal of employer to allow for time occupied in crossing river to a local quarry	98	21	Employer agreed to have the stone dressed on the works for which it was intended, instead of at quarry.
Joiners	Bristol	1	Men who were constantly employed, desired to be paid at the higher rate (stated to be the current one) given to joiners who were only temporarily employed	4	—	Two men received an advance in wages of 4d. per hour (7d. to 8d.), the others found employment elsewhere.
Plumbers	Lancaster	26	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, with alteration in working rules	19	—	No settlement reported.
<b>10 Disputes. MINING AND QUARRYING. 1,887 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Coal Miners	Washington Station	7	Fore shift men refused to work because night shift men had used some of their lamps	338	1	Management arranged to avoid men having to take the lamps of others.
Ditto	Near Barnsley	20	Against proposed increase of number of men in a particular working place	16	—	No settlement reported.
Ditto	Abernant	1	For increase in cutting price in a particular seam	180	—	No settlement reported.
Ditto	Abernant	30	Against proposed withdrawal of a special allowance to 200 men working a particular seam	700	—	No settlement reported.
Ditto	Ystradgynlais	5	Against alteration in size of screen, and proposed withdrawal of allowance of 1d. per ton in consequence	110	6	Allowance of 1d. per ton to be continued provisionally.
Ditto	Near Glasgow	18	Employers objected to dirt in hutchies in excess of the agreed scale	22	—	Conference between the parties resulted in an agreement as to the amount of dirt.
Ditto	Benhar	4	Against proposed reduction of 4d. per ton to a few men in a part of the pit on account of shortened haulage	45	2	Conference between union officials and employers resulted in a modified reduction of 1d. per ton.
Ditto	Paisley	4	Against proposed reduction in wages of 2d. per ton	22	20	Work readjusted so as to avoid reduction.
Stonemasons and Labourers (at quarries)	Penryn District	13	Refusal to work stone for a contract at Devonport, at which the masons and quarrymen had come out on strike	450	20	Work resumed on settlement of the dispute which was the primary cause.
Settmakers	Ratho, Midlothian	18	Refusal of employer to sign and pay according to district list of prices	4	—	Places filled by other men.
<b>13 Disputes. METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. 4,096 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Steel-workers	Workington	11	For a 10 per cent. advance in wages	2,061	3	Referred to arbitration.
Ironfounders	Bramley	10	Objection to introduction of a non-union man	6	—	Places filled by non-unionists.
Drillers and Hole Cutters	Birkenhead	21	Objection to carry out terms of an agreement made in May between firm and boiler-makers as to use of certain tools	62	3	Places filled by other men.
Cut-nail Machine Minders	Birmingham	2	Against proposed change of system from piece to day working, alleged to cause reduced earnings	75	—	No settlement reported.
Edge Tool Grinders and Polishers	Ditto	23	For advance in wages of 10 per cent., and a fixed minimum rate	64	—	No settlement reported.
Brassworkers	Ditto	22	Refusal of employer to join the Trade Alliance	28	7	Employer joined the Alliance.
Bedstead Mount, &c. Makers	Ditto	11	On account of employers not belonging to the Trade Alliance	29	—	No settlement reported.
Trap Makers	Wednesfield	11	For advance in wages of 10 per cent.	4	6	Advance granted.
Boiler-makers (Ship Repairing Yards; Enginemen and Stokers (in Steelworks))	London, E.	15	In maintenance of eight hours working day	1,500	—	Still unsettled.
Apprentice Engineers	Cardiff	5	For advance in wages, and recognition of union officials	136	19	Some men resumed work on old conditions, others were replaced.
Riveters and Holders-up	Dundee	5	In support of a fellow apprentice dismissed for refusal to work a planing machine	7	—	No settlement reported.
Meter Moulders	Leith	19	In consequence of a dispute as to prices for certain work alleged to be paid at less than Clyde rates	110	18	Work resumed on advice of union at rates generally paid.
	Falkirk	29	For advance in piece prices	14	10	Slight advance granted.

TRADE DISPUTES IN OCTOBER—(continued).

Employment.	Locality.	Date when Dispute began.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Workpeople directly and indirectly affected.	Total Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Result.
<b>I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1897—(continued).</b>						
<b>6 Disputes. TEXTILE TRADES. 1,575 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Cotton Weavers	Nelson	Oct. 21	Against dismissal of a weaver (a union official), and alleged underpaying	18	—	No settlement reported.
Cotton Spinners	Near Manchester	25	Against alternative of reduction in wages or closing of mill	56	—	Men refused to accept reduction, and mill is now closed.
Piecers	Mossley	2	Against employment of a pieceer from another district in place of a discharged youth	180	2	Work resumed by order of Spinners' Association officials.
Hosiery Operatives	Nottingham	9	Employers were removing their machinery to another district, and refused to employ unionists there	17	—	Still unsettled.
Jute Spinners	Dundee	15	Alleged bad material	178	5	Satisfactory understanding arrived at and work resumed.
Thread Spoolers	Paisley	29	Against change in method of dealing with thread and spools, the full number issued to be accounted for	1,126	4	Deputation met employers, and were satisfied that their earnings would not be prejudicially affected by the change.
<b>5 Disputes. TRANSPORT. 297 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Electric Tramcar Drivers	Leeds	23	Against stoppage of wages during a breakdown which caused a suspension of traffic	20	1	Management agreed to pay for the enforced idle time, and also to grant an advance in wages of 3d. per hour, which had been previously applied for.
Railway Men (Goods Department)	Ditto	16	Refusal to work overtime except at the rate of time and a quarter on week days and time and half on Sundays	160	14	Men accepted the old conditions, and were reinstated in their former positions.
Omnibus Drivers	Birmingham	3	Objection to retention by employers of two days lying time	45	2	Work resumed after interview between union executive and directors.
Seamen and Firemen	Bristol	30	For advance in wages of 5s. per month	22	3	Crews obtained elsewhere.
Coal Dischargers	Inverness	23	Objection to work under the direction of a stevedore, instead of directly for employers	50	12	Work carried on by men from other districts, pending eventual submission of those who came out.
<b>10 Disputes. MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. 776 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Gas Stokers and Labourers	Heywood	22	For re-instatement of a fellow workman discharged for an alleged breach of discipline	29	2	Dismissed workman to be reinstated after making apology for his conduct.
Bookbinders and Rulers	Manchester	16	Refusal to work with a non-union man	4	—	Places filled by non-unionists.
Soap Wrappers	Runcorn	22	Against requirement to wrap more slowly and neatly	10	1	Places filled by others.
Cloggers	Northwich District	4	For advance of 15 per cent. on price list	7	—	No settlement reported.
Fish Unloaders	Grimsby	18	For a fixed rate of 5s. 6d. for a defined working day, with overtime at the rate of time and half for all hours worked beyond that limit	200	1	Men resumed work, a day of 11 hours being fixed, with payment at the rate of 5s. 6d. per day.
Bookbinders	London, W.	1	Against notice of return from 48 to 54 hours' week	9	2	Places filled by other men.
Letterpress Printers and Machinemen	Edinburgh	22	For reduction in hours of labour from 52½ to 50 per week	290	—	Still unsettled.
Girls in Printing Establishments	Edinburgh	23	Refusal to attend to a machine during progress of machinemen's strike	35	1	Work resumed on the understanding that no girl should be required to replace machinemen.
Lithographic Printers	Glasgow	16	For advance in wages from 30s. to 34s. per week, reduction in hours from 51 to 48 per week, and weekly instead of fortnightly payments	172	18	Employers conceded a reduction in hours from 51 to 50 per week and a minimum rate of wages of 32s. per week.
Labourers (excavation for tramways)	Cork	22	Dissatisfaction with wages, no scale having been settled upon	20	2 hours	A standard of wages and hours agreed to.
<b>II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.</b>						
<b>4 Disputes. BUILDING TRADES. 316 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Bricklayers	Exeter	1 July	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour, and reduction in summer hours of labour from 56½ to 53½	83	79	Immediate advance of 1d. per hour agreed to, with a second 1d. in March, 1898, and hours decreased as desired.
Stonemasons	Sheffield	30 Sept.	For provision of improved accommodation	30	9	Employer agreed to improve the accommodation.
Carpenters and Joiners	Exeter	1 July	For alteration in working rules, including an advance in wages from 6d. to 7d. per hour	103	80	Immediate advance given of 1d. per hour, with promise of further 1d. in March, 1898, and working rules signed.
Joiners	Kilmarnock	14 Aug.	For advance in wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour	100	44	Advance conceded.
<b>2 Disputes. COAL MINING. 1,170 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Coal Miners	Acklington, Northd.	28 Sept.	For advance in wages	490	8	Work resumed on previous conditions.
Ditto	Hamilton	16 Aug.	Against reduction in tonnage rate of 1d. per ton in a section of the pit affecting 12 men	680	44	Conference resulted in the main question being referred to arbitration. Minor points agreed to, and all men to be reinstated.
<b>4 Disputes. METAL AND ENGINEERING TRADES. 789 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Kettle and Spout Makers	Wolverhampton	28 Aug.	Against proposed reduction in wages	12	55	Places filled by other men.
Tinplate Workers (Mill and Tinhouse Dept.)	Aberdare	12 June	Against proposed reduction in wages of 15 per cent.	109	102	Work resumed upon an agreement to submit to the maximum reduction from list prices prevailing in the county agreement to hold good for five years.
Tinplate Workers	Lydney	21 June	In sympathy with strikers at other works, and in anticipation of a reduction being proposed in their case	650	89	Reduction accepted of 15 per cent. to men and 10 per cent. to boys as per agreement signed at a conference.
Engineers	Glengarnock	Sept. 1	For advance in wages of 20 per cent.	18	43	Advance conceded of 7½ per cent.
<b>1 Dispute. COTTON TRADE. 155 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Cardroom Operatives	Burnley	8 Sept.	For advance in wages to strippers and grinders on account of change in number of strippings	155	36	No settlement. Mill destroyed by fire.
<b>4 Disputes. CLOTHING TRADES. 1,278 Workpeople affected.</b>						
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Leicester	Mar.	In sympathy with men on strike in other establishments of the firm at Norwich	29	204	Work resumed on termination of the Norwich dispute.
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Norwich	1 Mar.	For a minimum wage of 28s. per week to clickers, and 26s. to pressmen	1,200	206	At a conference between parties an agreement was drawn up which gave an advance of 5 per cent. to clickers and rough stuff cutters, as offered before the beginning of the strike.
Clothers' Pressers	Bristol	20 Aug.	For time work with a minimum rate of 8d. per hour instead of piecework, and for limitation of apprentices and female labour	13	62	Places filled by other men.
Tailors	Leeds	24 July	Against withdrawal of system of giving out work to be done by union on a co-operative principle	36	80	Employer agreed to work according to union requirements, and to employ union men.



III.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, AND WERE STILL UNSETTLED AT THE END OF THAT MONTH.

The following 26 disputes, the commencement of which has been previously reported, and which now involve about 55,000 workpeople, were still unsettled at the end of October: Disputes commencing in—
March: Tinplate operatives, Pentrych; coal miners, Pontefract (reported to have been since settled—November).
April: Carpenters and joiners, Tavistock; tinplate workers, Lydbrook (since settled—November) and Llangennech.
May: Plasterers, Liverpool; iron dressers, Liverpool and Birkenhead.
June: Lace operatives, Newmilns; carpenters and joiners, Oxford and Bournemouth; brassmoulders, Clydebank.
July: Cotton weavers, Blackburn (2 disputes); engineers, United Kingdom generally; coal miners, Leeds, Castleford and Mansfield; boiler makers, Ebbw Vale; bricklayers, London, S.E.
August: Plumbers, Chesterfield; coal miners, Washington; joiners, Blackburn.
September: Plumbers, Nelson, Colne and Brierfield; cotton weavers, Clitheroe and Burnley; coal miners, Normanton.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE Monthly Accounts of Trade and Navigation show that the imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions into the United Kingdom during the month of October, 1897, amounted in value to £38,943,763, as compared with £39,574,890 in October, 1896, a decrease of £631,127 or 1.6 per cent.

The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the same period were valued at £19,283,052, as against £20,683,457 in October, 1896, a decrease of £1,400,405 or 6.8 per cent. The exports of Foreign and Colonial merchandise amounted in value to £4,605,679, as compared with £4,730,566 in October, 1896, a decrease of £124,887 or 2.6 per cent.

Imports.—The following table gives the value of the imports for October, 1897, as compared with October, 1896:—

Table with columns: Month ended 31st Oct. (1896, 1897), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Food, Drink and Tobacco; Metals; Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances; Oils; Raw Materials for Textile Manufactures; Raw Materials for sundry Industries and Manufactures; Manufactured Articles; Miscellaneous Articles; Parcel Post; Total.

Among the articles of food and drink, there is but one considerable increase, viz. in the imports of wheat, amounting in value to £561,668, more than in October, 1896. Barley, oats, and Indian corn show large decreases, amounting together to £475,615. The imports of raw cotton for textile manufactures have decreased in value £482,098 as compared with October, 1896. Hemp, jute and sheep or lamb's wool have also decreased. On the other hand, the value of the imports of wood and timber, hewn and sawn, has increased £640,315, as compared with October, 1896.

Exports.—With regard to the exports for October, 1897, the following table gives the values for that period, compared with the exports for October, 1896:—

Table with columns: Month ended 31st Oct. (1896, 1897), Increase, Decrease. Rows include Animals, living; Articles of Food and Drink; Raw Materials; Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured; Yarns and Textile Fabrics; Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery); Machinery and Millwork; Miscellaneous; Total Value.

The largest decrease in the exports of any one particular article in October, 1897, is in cotton piece goods, the export of which is valued at £492,133 less than in the corresponding month of 1896. Bombay took these goods to a value of £51,829 in excess of her imports of October, 1896, but for the ten months ended 31st October last, the decrease in the value of cotton piece goods sent to Bombay is striking, being £1,522,832 less than during the corresponding period of 1896, while the exports to the other parts of the British East Indies, and to all the countries of South America, except Chili, show decreases also. Of other articles manufactured and partly manufactured, worsted tissues have decreased in value £126,700, and telegraphic wire and apparatus £114,308. The

decrease in the exports of machinery alone is seen to be £465,041 much of which may be attributed to the continuation of the dispute in the engineering trade.

The exports to the United States of certain classes of yarns and textiles continue to show a decrease when compared with the two preceding years, as will be seen by a reference to the following table:—

Table with columns: Articles, Exports to the United States from the United Kingdom (October 1895, October 1896, October 1897). Rows include Cotton Piece Goods; Jute; Linen; Woollen and Worsted Yarn; Woollen Tissues; Worsted; Carpets, not being Rugs.

The imports for the ten months ended 31st October last were valued at £368,786,726, as compared with £355,850,402—an increase of £12,936,324; the exports for the same period, as compared with the ten months ended October, 1896, show a net decrease of £6,065,029.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.—The tonnage of vessels entered during October at ports of the United Kingdom from Foreign Countries and British Possessions amounted to 2,964,453 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,412,429 tons, as compared with 2,928,273 tons entered, and 3,291,278 tons cleared in October, 1896. The tonnage entered Coastwise amounted to 2,801,120 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,710,967 tons, as compared with amounts of 2,757,473 tons, and 2,626,838 tons respectively in October, 1896.

RAILWAY SAVINGS BANKS.

Returns relating to the sixteen registered Railway Savings Banks (12 in England and Wales and 4 in Scotland) for the year 1896\*, are included in the Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. These show that there were 37,087 depositors, compared with 34,139 in 1895, and that the total amount due to depositors was £3,124,069, an increase of £278,856, or 9.8 per cent. over 1895. The average amount due to each depositor in 1896 was £84 5s., the amount for England and Wales alone being £76. The returns for England and Wales show that 160,347 separate deposits of an average amount of £3 were made during 1896, and 20,950 withdrawals of an average of £1 18s.

The following table shows for England and Wales and Scotland separately for each year the number of depositors, the total deposits (including interest) and total withdrawals during the year, together with the total amount due to depositors at end of each year, and the total increase or decrease.

Table with columns: Number of (Banks registered and making returns, Deposits during the year, Withdrawals during the year), Amount of (Deposits during the year, Withdrawals during the year), Total Amount due to Depositors at end of year. Rows include England and Wales (1896, 1895), Increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1896; Scotland (1896, 1895), Increase (+) or decrease (-) in 1896; Totals, Great Britain (1896, 1895), Total increases (+) in 1896.

\* In the case of 3 Banks the returns are for the year-ended March or April, 1895 and 1896, in one, November, 1895 and 1896, and in one, January, 1896 and 1897. The remainder are made up to December 31st of each year.

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

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

On one day in the second week of October, 322,520 persons were relieved in the 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom; this number corresponds to a rate of 206 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1897.

Compared with September last there is a slight increase (266 only) in the number relieved, the rate per 10,000 remaining the same. Fourteen of the districts (including the five Metropolitan districts but excluding West Ham, where there is a decrease of 4 per 10,000) show increased rates, the most marked increases being in the Central London district (9 per 10,000), East London (6), Manchester, and Coatbridge and Airdrie districts (5 each). For the whole of London the increase is at the rate of 3 per 10,000. In 2 districts the rate is unchanged, and in 19 districts the rate has decreased, the largest decline being in the North Staffordshire district (16 per 10,000) followed by Bristol (7), and Dublin (6).

Compared with October, 1896, the total number relieved has increased by 1,866, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 1. The rate has increased in 11 districts, the largest increases being in the Bolton, Oldham, &c. district (17 per 10,000), Manchester (15), Barnsley, and Paisley and Greenock districts (9 each). In 3 districts the rate was the same as a year ago, while the remaining 21 districts show decreased rates, the most marked decreases being in the Leicester district (21), Cork, Waterford and Limerick district (15), West Ham (14), and Wolverhampton, and Bristol (13 each).

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1897 (In-door, Out-door, Total), Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population).

Table for ENGLAND & WALES\* showing Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1897 (In-door, Out-door, Total) and Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population). Rows include West District, North District, Central District, East District, South District, Total Metropolis, West Ham.

Table for Other Districts showing Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1897 (In-door, Out-door, Total) and Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population). Rows include Newcastle District, Stockton & Tees District, Bolton, Oldham, &c., Wigan District, Manchester District, Liverpool District, Bradford District, Halifax & Huddersfield, Leeds District, Barnsley District, Sheffield District, Hull District, North Staffordshire, Nottingham District, Leicester District, Wolverhampton District, Birmingham District, Bristol District, Cardiff & Swansea, Total "Other Districts".

Table for SCOTLAND\* showing Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1897 (In-door, Out-door, Total) and Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population). Rows include Glasgow District, Paisley & Greenock Dist., Edinburgh & Leith Dist., Dundee & Dunfermline, Aberdeen, Coatbridge & Airdrie, Total for the above Scottish Districts.

Table for IRELAND† showing Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1897 (In-door, Out-door, Total) and Paupers on corresponding date in previous year (Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population). Rows include Dublin District, Belfast District, Cork, Waterford & Limerick District, Galway District, Total for the above Irish Districts.

Table for Total for above 35 districts in October (In-door, Out-door, Total) and Total for previous month (In-door, Out-door, Total).

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered and Licensed Houses. † Including Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October, 2,527 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux furnishing returns for October, 1897 and October, 1896, as compared with 3,101 in October, 1896, a decrease of 19 per cent. Work was found for 1,043 persons by these bureaux during the month, compared with 1,307 in October last year. The number remaining on the registers of these bureaux at the end of the month of October last was 2,791, compared with 3,238 in October, 1896.

(I.) Work Done in October.

Table with columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during (Oct. 1897, Oct. 1896), No. of Situations offered by Employers during (Oct. 1897, Oct. 1896), No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities) (Oct. 1897, Oct. 1896). Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army, Y.W.C.A.), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Glasgow), Total of 13 bureaux, Reading.

(II.) Workpeople on Registers at end of October classified by Occupations.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Men (Building, Engineering and Metal Trades, Carmen, Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Warehouse-men, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations), Total Men. Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Glasgow, Reading), Total Number.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Women and Girls (Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Sempstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls), Grand Total (Oct. 1897, Oct. 1896). Rows include London (St. Pancras, Battersea, Islington, St. Martin, Hackney, Salvation Army, Y.W.C.A.), Provincial (Salford, Ipswich, Plymouth, Liverpool, Glasgow, Reading), Total Number.

\* Temporary employment. † These were engaged by Salvation Army authorities. ‡ Permanent employment. § New Bureau. ¶ Not furnished.



INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN OCTOBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.\*

Nature of Offence.	Informations laid.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	3	3	£ 1 10 0	£ 1 6 5
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	13†	14	24 4 6	7 15 4
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c. ...	1	—	0 10 0	0 12 0
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	33	30	19 6 6	15 4
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>				
Before or after the legal hour ...	47†	49	17 3 0	16 14 1
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	18	18	4 5 0	8 1 6
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	16†	20	9 2 4	7 19 2
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays... ..	4	3	0 7 6	0 9 6
At night ... ..	18†	36	15 11 0	7 10 6
Employing Children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c....	4	4	1 3 0	1 16
Other offences ... ..	—	3	0 15 0	2 7 6
<b>Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &amp;c. :-</b>				
Not keeping Registers ... ..	1	16	9 2 6	6 14 6
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ... ..	10†	11	3 6 2	4 11 0
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	8	7	4 10 0	3 17 6
Prosecutions for breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ... ..	1	1	2 0 0	0 12 6
<b>By Workmen :-</b>				
<b>By Parents ... ..</b>				
Connivance at personation of young person...	1	—	—	—
<b>Total for October, 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>197†</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>112 16 8</b>	<b>88 17 4</b>
<b>Total for October, 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>328†</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>210 11 0</b>	<b>131 0 7</b>

II.—Under the Mines and Quarries Acts.\*

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c. :-</b>					
Fencing ... ..	—	—	—	—	£ —
Ventilation ... ..	2	1	1	—	2 0 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	3	2	1	—	3 0 0
<b>By Workmen :-</b>					
Safety Lamps ... ..	5	5†	—	—	5 11 6
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	2	2	—	—	1 19 6
Timbering ... ..	4	4	—	—	5 0 0
Lucifer Matches, &c. ... ..	10	10§	—	—	10 2 0
Riding on Trams ... ..	11	11	—	—	9 9 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	20	19	—	1	25 18 10
<b>Total for Oct., 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68 0 10</b>
<b>Total for Oct., 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100 2 0</b>

NOTE.—There were no prosecutions under the Quarries Act during October, 1897, but there were two in October, 1896, with one conviction.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

(Supplied by the Solicitor's Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Penalties.	Costs.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships :-</b>				
Illegally engaging seamen ...	11	11	£ 4 10 0	£ 9 2 6
Not providing life-saving appliances ... ..	2	2	10 0 0	20 7 0
Infringement of collision regulations ... ..	1	1	2 0 0	1 7 6
Leaving seamen behind without consular sanction ... ..	2	2	12 10 0	4 18 2†
<b>Total for Oct., 1897 ... ..</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>29 0 0</b>	<b>35 15 2</b>
<b>Total for Oct., 1896 ... ..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8 5 0</b>	<b>5 13 6</b>

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

No new distributive societies were registered in the United Kingdom in October, but a co-operative printing society in Hull, and three agricultural and dairying societies in Ireland were registered. Two distributive societies at Billingham and Bradley Green have commenced to wind up.

The third annual conference of Irish Co-operative Agricultural and Dairying Societies was held in Dublin on November 3rd and 4th, under the chairmanship of the Right Hon. Horace Plunkett, M.P., the President of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society. There were 94 delegates present, representing 54 societies, in addition to 17 members of the Irish Agricultural Organization Society and 42 visitors. The Chairman stated that there were now 166 co-operative societies in Ireland.

\* Supplied by the Home Office.

† The number of convictions in these cases is greater than the number of informations laid, the practice in Scotland being to lay one information against one person, however many offences he is charged with.

‡ In one case an alternative of 14 days' imprisonment was ordered, and in another a sentence was inflicted of one month's imprisonment with hard labour without the option of a fine.

§ One of the defendants was sent to prison for 14 days without the option of a fine.

|| Three of these convictions were for riding on engine sets.

†† Same Defendant.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS

REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN OCTOBER.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in October it will be seen that 2 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations for Production, and 3 Miscellaneous Societies, 12 new Friendly Societies, and 20 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Three Trade Unions, 9 Building Societies, and 3 Industrial and Provident Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry withdrawn, while one Trade Union has amalgamated with another Society.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—Amalgamated Society of Tesselated Tile, Faience and Mosaic Workers and Fixers, Sutherland Arms, May's Buildings, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.; Salford and District Card and Blowing Room Operatives and Ring Spinners' Association, Britannia Inn, Ordsall Lane, Salford. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—None. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

(B) Associations for Production—England and Wales.—Hull Printers, Ltd., 47, Blake Street, Hull. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Oranmore Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Society, Ltd., Oranmore, Galway; Beragh Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Society, Ltd., Beragh, Tyrone; Cruilin Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Society, Ltd., Cruilin, Antrim.

(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.—Treharris Constitutional Working Men's Club, Ltd., 15, Bargoed Terrace, Treharris; Municipal Officers' Club, Ltd., Viaduct Chambers, 158A, Dale Street, Liverpool. Scotland.—Fairfield Working Men's Club and Institute, 960, Govan Road, Govan. Ireland.—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly (including one Female), 3; Working Men's Clubs, 2; Specially Authorised, 1; Dividing, 4. Scotland.—Ordinary Friendly, 2. Ireland.—None.

(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.—G.U. Odd Fellows, 4; I.O. Odd Fellows M.U., 2; I.O. Rechabites S.U., 2; N.U.O. Free Gardeners, 3; Various, 3. Scotland.—A.O. Foresters, 2; Various, 2. Ireland.—A.O. Foresters, 2.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—Cheshire United Chemical Workers' Union, Fox Inn, Apple Market Street, Northwich; Pianoforte Action Makers' Labour Protection Union, Victory Tavern, Clarence Road, Kentish Town, N. The Registry of the following Trade Union has been withdrawn:—Liverpool and District Stonemasons' Labourers' Trade Union, Cocoa Rooms 124, Pembroke Place, Liverpool. Notice has been received that the Iron Caulkers' Association, Dutton's Coffee Palace, Charlotte Street, Landport, Hants, has amalgamated with the Steel and Iron Shipbuilders', Boiler and Gasometer Makers' Trade Union.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—England and Wales.—(Resolution to wind up received), Billingborough Co-op. Society, Ltd., High Street, Billingborough, Folkingham, Lincs; Bradley Green Equitable and Industrial Co-op. Society, Ltd., High Street, Bradley Green; (Registry cancelled), Sutton Liberal Club Society, Ltd., 172 High Street, Sutton. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

**Building Societies.**—By instrument of dissolution, 2; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 4.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

**Newcastle-on-Tyne Mining District.**—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held shortly. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

**North and East Lancashire and Ireland District.**—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on December 18th. Intending candidates should communicate, on or before December 13th, with the Secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. T. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King-street, Wigan.

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