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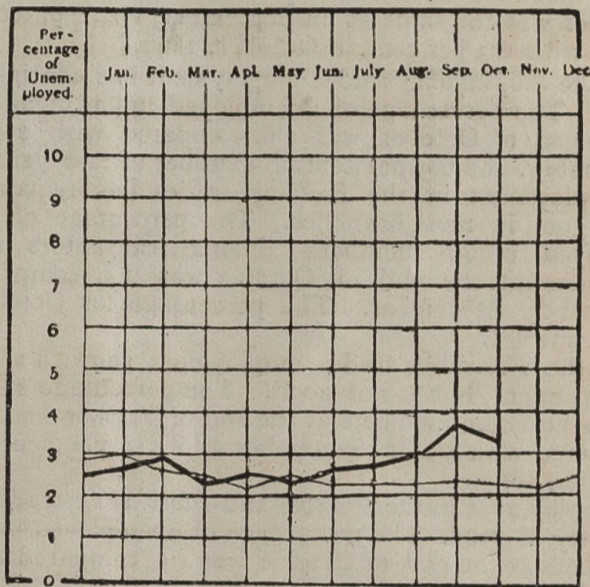
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EMPLOYMENT CHART, 1899-1900.

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the Trade Unions making returns at the close of each complete month of 1899 and 1900.

[The thick line applies to 1900, the thin line to 1899.]



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN OCTOBER.

[Based on 2,380 returns, viz.: 1,695 from Employers, 567 from Trade Unions, and 118 from other sources.]

THE state of employment in October showed a decline compared with a year ago. Compared with the previous month there was some falling off in many of the more important industries, but owing to a marked decrease in the number unemployed in the cotton trade, the percentage returned as unemployed by trade unions was slightly less than in the previous month.

In the 138 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 535,668, 17,750 (or 3.3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of October, compared with 3.6 per cent. in September, and with 2.3 per cent. in the 123 unions with a membership of 506,890 from which returns were received for October, 1899.

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment continues good in this industry, and is better than a year ago. As compared with a month ago it shows no appreciable change. At collieries at which 472,295 workpeople were employed, the pits worked on an average 5.63 days per week during the four weeks ended October 27th, as compared with 5.65 days in September, and 5.58 a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good, showing no material change as compared with September and a year ago. The average number of days worked by 129 iron mines and open works, at which 16,879 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended October 27th, was 5.78 per week, as compared with 5.80 in the previous month, and in October, 1899.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment shows a further decline both as compared with a month and a year ago. At the works of 117 ironmasters, 345 furnaces were in blast at the end of October, employing about

23,900 workpeople, as compared with 360 furnaces at the end of September, and 383 a year ago.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—The figures relating to employment show a further decline. At 208 works covered by the returns, employing 81,867 workpeople at the end of October, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the numbers employed and the number of shifts worked) had decreased by 2·8 per cent. as compared with September, and 5·6 per cent. as compared with October, 1899.

Tinplate Trade.—Employment shows a slight improvement as compared with September, but is much worse than a year ago. At the end of October 357 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), compared with 354 mills at the end of September and 415 mills at the end of October, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mills at the end of October is estimated to be about 17,800.

Employment in the *Engineering and Metal* trades has remained fairly good. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of October was the same as in September, viz., 2·9, compared with 2·3 per cent. in October, 1899.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades employment has continued good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 2·6, compared with 2·4 in September, and 2·9 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the *Building* trades has remained fairly good in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of October was 2·5, compared with 2·1 in September. The percentage for October, 1899, was 1·1.

In the *Furnishing* trades employment shows a slight improvement, but is not good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 3·7, compared with 4·0 in September and 2·3 per cent. in October, 1899.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades is scarcely so good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 4·5, compared with 4·2 in September, and 3·5 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the *Paper* trades has remained good, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October being 2·2, compared with 2·1 in September. The percentage for October, 1899, was 3·8.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 9·7, compared with 9·6 in September and 6·8 per cent. in October, 1899.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has remained good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 2·2, compared with 2·0 in September, and 2·1 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the *Boot and Shoe* trades continues slack in most centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade has improved and is fair, in the ready-made branch it is quiet in most centres.

Employment in the *Spinning* branches of the *Cotton* trade has improved, and is now fair; in the *Weaving* branch there has been an improvement, but employment is still slack. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 80,000 women and girls shows that 64 per cent. of those in spinning mills and 52 per cent. of those in weaving factories were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 59 and 41 per cent. respectively in September, and with 96 and 97 per cent. respectively a year ago.

In the *Woollen* trade employment shows a further improvement and is fair; in the *Worsted and Hosiery* trades it shows a further decline and is bad.

Agricultural Labourers were generally well employed during the month of October, the weather outside the Northern and North Midland Counties being dry and mild and favourable for outdoor work. In the North of England there was a good deal of wet weather, and a few extra hands lost a little time.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—During the four weeks ended October 27th an average number of 17,711 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 15,804 in the preceding five weeks and 16,228 in October, 1899.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty fresh disputes occurred in October, 1900, involving 16,079 workpeople, of whom 14,160 were directly, and 1,919 indirectly, affected. The corresponding number of disputes in September was 29, involving 6,032 workpeople, and in October, 1899, 38, involving 5,275 workpeople. Of the 30 fresh disputes, 2 occurred in the building trades, 14 in the mining industry, 5 in metal and engineering trades, 5 in textile trades, and 4 in miscellaneous industries. Of the 33 new and old disputes, involving 13,955 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 11, involving 9,134 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 1,446 persons, in favour of the employers; and 10, involving 3,083 persons, were compromised. With regard to the remaining 3 disputes, involving 292 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—During October, 142,492 workpeople obtained advances averaging 1s. 11d. weekly per head, and 284 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 6½d. weekly per head. The principal increases were in the coal mining industry in Northumberland and Durham affecting 132,540 workpeople. The principal decrease affected 275 blastfurnacemen. Changes affecting 1,968 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, of which one change, affecting 1,500 workpeople, was decided by arbitration. Changes affecting 2,697 workpeople took effect under sliding scales, and two changes affecting 130,000 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards. The remaining changes, affecting 8,111 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or their representatives.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

THE following Table shows the number of cases* of lead and mercurial poisoning and of anthrax reported during October as having occurred in factories and workshops. Of the 121 cases of lead poisoning reported during the month, 37 (33 males and 4 females) occurred in white lead works, and 22 (13 males and 9 females) in the china and earthenware industry, the number of cases in these industries in October, 1899 being 36 and 13 respectively. The deaths of 7 persons were reported during the month, viz., 5 males from lead poisoning and 1 male and 1 female from anthrax.

Disease and Industry.	October, 1900.				Total Oct., 1899.
	Adults.		Young Persons.		
	M.†	F.†	M.†	F.†	
Lead Poisoning—					
White Lead Works	33	4	—	—	37
China and Earthenware	10	3	3	1	22
Red and Yellow Lead Works, Glass Cutting and Polishing, Enamelling of Iron Plates, Electrical Accumulator Works	9	1	—	—	10
Manufacture of Paints and Colours ...	5	—	—	—	5
Smelting Metals, Tinning and Enamelling of Hollow-ware	10	—	—	1	11
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping, Printing, File Cutting	8	—	1	—	9
Coach Making, &c.	16	—	1	—	17
Other Industries	8	1	—	1	10
Total Lead Poisoning	99	14	5	3	121
Phosphorus Poisoning	—	—	—	—	2
Mercurial Poisoning	1	—	—	—	1
Anthrax	3	1	—	—	4

In addition to the cases included in the Table, 28 cases of lead poisoning (including 7 deaths) were reported among housepainters and plumbers.

* Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported during the month and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. † Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not. † M.—Males. F.—Females.

FAIR WAGES IN PUBLIC CONTRACTS.

THREE Parliamentary Returns have recently been issued, showing with respect to certain public Bodies whether the Contracts entered into by the Authority or Board in each case for the execution of works "specify any conditions as to the wages to be paid by the contractor, or other conditions with regard to persons employed by him; and, if so, what are the conditions so specified." The Returns relate respectively to (1) each Administrative County and each Poor Law Union in England and Wales,* (2) each County Council, County Borough Council, Rural and Urban District Council, body of Town Commissioners not an Urban District Council, and Poor Law Union in Ireland,† (3) each School Board District in England and Wales.‡

County Councils and Guardians: England and Wales.

So far as concerns County Councils and Poor Law Guardians in England and Wales, the great majority of these Authorities do not specify conditions as to the wages to be paid by contractors or otherwise with regard to the terms of employment of their workpeople. Out of 62 County Councils there are 5 which insert in their contracts conditions as to the wages to be paid by the contractor. These are Durham, Glamorgan, London, Stafford, and the West Riding of Yorkshire. The last two Authorities require the wages paid to be those generally accepted as current in the trade for competent workmen in the district; the Durham contracts require that "fair wages" shall be paid; while the term in Glamorganshire is "the acknowledged rate of wages." The specimen contract clauses of the London County Council require the contractor to pay not less than the rates of wages specified, and to employ his workpeople not longer than the hours stated in a schedule to the contract (which gives in detail for the several trades expected to be employed in the execution of the contract the rates and hours applicable to work done within 20 miles from Charing Cross); while, if the contractor should employ any workman in a trade not included in the schedule, the rate of wages and rate of wages for overtime to be paid to such workman are not to be less, and his hours of labour are not to be more "than the rate of wages and rate of wages for overtime and hours of labour, respectively, which at the date of the contractor's tender were recognised by associations of employers and trade unions, and in practice obtained in London." Besides London, Durham is the only County Council whose contracts contain a stipulation as to the hours of labour, as well as the wages, of contractors' workmen. The County Council of Warwick state that "tenders are not as a rule advertised for, but are invited from certain selected contractors or builders, who are known to pay fair wages."

Of the 61 Poor Law districts (out of a total of 657 in England and Wales, 35 of which, however, have not entered into any recent contracts) which appear to have adopted for insertion in their contracts clauses relating to the conditions of labour, 25 are situated in or in the immediate vicinity of the Metropolis. Among the other districts having clauses of this nature in force are Birmingham, Blackburn, Bradford, Brighton, Cardiff, Coventry, Darlington, Devonport, Dewsbury, Exeter, Gateshead, Great Yarmouth, Hartlepool, Hastings, Liverpool, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Newport (Mon.), Norwich, Nottingham, Portsmouth, Salford, Sheffield, Southampton, Swansea, Wakefield, Wolverhampton, and York. With regard to the conditions of labour prescribed by the clauses in question, these are in 26 cases the standard or current rates of pay of the district, in 22 cases those recognised by the trade unions, and in 12 cases those agreed to between the trade unions and the employers, while the Hackney Guardians have their own schedule of wages and hours, which the contractor is required to pay and observe, this schedule being "based on the rates of wages and hours of labour recognised, and in practice obtained, by the various trade unions in London." In addition to Hackney only 34 Poor Law districts stipulate as to

the hours of labour (as well as wages) of workpeople employed by their contractors.

Local Authorities in Ireland.

Out of the 33 County Councils in Ireland 27 do not insert in their contracts clauses regulating the conditions of labour of workpeople employed by their contractors. The County Councils of Limerick, Down, and Tipperary, South Riding, specify in their contracts the rate of pay of men employed on roads, while in County Antrim the contractor is required to pay to this class of labour "the wages weekly at the rate fixed by the County Rural District Council and approved by the County Council." The Sligo County Council and (as to printing contracts) that of Dublin require their contractors to pay standard rates of wages. The only Irish County Councils, which deal in their contracts with the question of hours of labour, are those of Tipperary, South Riding (hours specified in contract) and Sligo (the hours "recognised as proper in Sligo Town and County").

On the other hand, of the 6 County Boroughs in Ireland (Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Londonderry, and Waterford), the last-named alone imposes on its contractors no labour conditions. Current or standard wages are required to be paid by the Borough Councils of Cork, Dublin, Limerick, and Londonderry, while Belfast stipulates that its contractors "shall pay the rate of wages recognised and agreed upon between the trades union and the employers, generally, in the locality in which the works contracted for are to be carried out." Conditions as to hours, corresponding with those as to wages, are inserted in their contracts by Belfast, Cork, Dublin, and Limerick.

Very few of the 213 Rural District Councils in Ireland insert in their contracts clauses regulating the conditions of labour. Those, however, of Ballymoney, Downpatrick, Larne and Newcastle specify in their contracts the wages to be paid to men on roads, while those of Dublin, North and South, and Sligo require their contractors to pay current or standard wages. The hours of labour for contractors' workmen are required by the Rural District Councils of Dublin North and Sligo to be those "recognised," and by Downpatrick to be those specified in the contract. No other Rural District Councils in Ireland stipulate as to the hours of labour to be observed by their contractors.

Seven only of the 84 Urban District Councils in Ireland impose conditions of the nature now under consideration upon their contractors, Banbridge specifying the rate of pay in the contract, Blackrock, Clonmel, Drogheda, Dundalk and Sligo requiring current or standard rates, and Kilkenny "the standard wages as recognised by trade societies" to be paid. Drogheda alone stipulates as to hours of labour (contractor to observe the hours now recognised as proper in the district). None of the Irish bodies of Town Commissioners (not Urban District Councils), which number 30 in all, insert in their contracts any conditions with regard to persons employed by contractors. Current or "regular" wages are required to be paid by contractors in the case of the Poor Law Unions of Belfast and Dublin, North and South, while Dublin North requires the recognised hours of labour in the district to be observed; and at Limerick "a resolution was passed by the Board of Guardians requiring contractors to pay persons employed by them fair wages, but nothing has been done so far to carry out the terms of the resolution, as no contracts to any extent have been entered into." But these are the only Poor Law Unions in Ireland which take any action in this direction.

School Boards: England and Wales.

The total number of School Boards in England and Wales is 2,527. Of these, 51 have made no return, while out of the remaining 2,476 Boards, only 138 habitually impose on their contractors obligations with respect to the conditions of employment of their workpeople. These 138 Boards, however, comprise in their districts no less than 63·5 per cent. of the total population under School Boards in England and Wales (12,736,468 out of 20,067,477).

* P.P. 296, price 2½d. † P.P. 312, price 2d. ‡ P.P. 334, price 5d.

The School Boards with "fair wages" clauses appear to be very unevenly distributed throughout the country. Thus, out of the 343 School Boards in Wales, no more than 3 (Swansea, Barry and Pembroke) insert such clauses in their contracts. No School Boards with "fair wages" clauses are found in the following English counties:—Bedford, Berks, Buckingham, Cambridge, Chester, Cornwall, Hereford, Huntingdon, Oxford, Rutland, Salop and Westmorland; while there is only one such Board in Cumberland, Dorset, Hertford, Lincoln, Monmouth, Norfolk, Somerset, Suffolk and Wilts, and only two in Gloucester, Hants, Leicester, Surrey, Sussex, York (East Riding) and York (North Riding).

The 138 School Boards, which impose upon their contractors stipulations with respect to the conditions of employment, may be classified as requiring the payment of standard, current, etc., wages in 86 cases, of wages agreed to between the trade unions and the employers in 23 cases, and of trade union wages in 24 cases, while in 4 cases the Boards have their own schedules of wages, and in one case the conditions specified are not stated. Conditions as to hours of labour, generally corresponding with those as to wages, are imposed on their contractors by 69 (one-half) of the Boards just referred to. The Blackburn School Board, while not inserting conditions in its contracts, has resolved that any contractor, "who shall be proved to systematically subject his employees to unfair wages," shall not in future be asked to tender for Board work; and the Huddersfield School Board has also resolved "not to accept the services of any contractor who is known to deal unfairly towards his employees either in the wages or hours of labour."

The Birmingham School Board requires any contractor, who is a member of the Birmingham Master Builders' Association, to undertake to submit to that Association any dispute between himself and his workmen, liable to lead to an interruption of the work in hand, with a view to an application being made to the Board of Trade to take action under the Conciliation Act, 1896, for the settlement of such dispute. A contractor, who is not a member of that Association, is, on the request of the Board, required to apply to the Board of Trade on his own account.

HOURS OF LABOUR IN AUSTRIAN FACTORIES IN 1899.

THE Report on Factory Inspection in Austria in 1899*, contains a statement showing the length of the regular working day in all the establishments visited by the inspectors in the course of that year, upon which the following Table is based:—

Group of Trades.	Number of factories in which the regular daily working hours (exclusive of intervals) were					Total number of factories inspected.
	9 or less.	Over 9 up to 10.	Over 10 up to 11.	11½	12	
Metalworking ...	10	250	257	1	35	553
Engineering, Shipbuilding, &c. ...	7	249	124	—	—	380
Textile Trades ...	4	259	906	—	—	1,169
Clothing Trades ...	3	54	74	—	—	131
Paper Trades ...	4	42	154	—	40	240
Printing and Allied Trades ...	123	25	5	—	—	153
Woodworking and Furnishing ...	9	122	304	—	—	435
Chemical Trades ...	4	59	213	12	18	306
Glass, Pottery, Brick, &c. Making ...	10	159	423	1	59	652
Food, &c., Preparation ...	16	95	456	276	1	844
Other Trades ...	—	66	151	1	23	241
All trades in which factories were inspected.	190	1,380	3,067	291	178	5,104

It appears from the above, that in 1899, in 4,637 (91 per cent.) of the factories visited, the regular working day was of or under 11 hours, while in 467 (9 per cent.) that limit was exceeded.

The law forbids more than 11 hours to be worked in factories except in certain trades, in which 12 hours are allowed to be worked and of which the list is subject to revision every 3 years.

* Bericht der K. K. Gewerbe-Inspektoren über ihre Amtstätigkeit im Jahre 1899. Government Printing Office, Vienna, 1900.

AMENDMENT OF GERMAN ACCIDENT INSURANCE LAW.*

IMPORTANT changes have been made in the workmen's accident insurance legislation of the German Empire by a law, dated June 30th, 1900, which, so far as concerns the bulk of its provisions, came into operation on October 1st. Hitherto insurance has not been compulsory for salaried employees receiving over £100 per annum; but under the new law the obligation to insure is extended to all persons employed in trades coming within the scope of the law and receiving less than £150 per annum. A number of new trades have been brought within the scope of the law, including the brewing industry, certain transport (passenger and goods) trades, and blacksmiths' and locksmiths' establishments, warehousing, timber felling, window cleaning and butchering. Persons employed on sailing vessels of a tonnage capacity of 50 cubic metres (about 18 tons), and on fishing vessels are now brought within the insurance law. A further extension in the scope of the law is contained in a provision under which, in future, a workman belonging to a trade within the scope of the law will be insured not only against accidents sustained while working for his employer at that trade, but also against any accident which he may sustain while performing domestic or other service for that employer.

The maximum allowance payable to a workman during total disablement has up to now been two-thirds of his earnings. In future in cases in which, besides being totally disabled, the workman has become absolutely dependent on strangers for attendance and nursing, the allowance will be equal to the full amount of his earnings. In cases of partial disablement, if the workman is, owing to the accident and without any fault on his part, unable to obtain employment, a discretionary power is now given to increase his allowance to two-thirds of his previous earnings.

The following (among other) alterations are made in the scale of compensation allowed to survivors of workpeople killed by accidents. The minimum funeral allowance is increased from £1 10s. to £2 10s. The annuity payable to each surviving child up to the age of 15 is raised from 15 to 20 per cent. of the annual earnings of the deceased. The provisions under which these annuities are paid (hitherto confined to the case of the death through accident of a father) are now extended to accidents resulting in the death of a female breadwinner. The orphaned grandchildren of a deceased workman, wholly or mainly dependent upon their grandfather, will in future receive an allowance (equivalent in the aggregate to 20 per cent. of his earnings) until they attain the age of 15. In the future, as in the past, the aggregate of the annuities paid to survivors of deceased workpeople is limited to 60 per cent. of the annual earnings of the deceased. In regard to cases of partial disablement, the new law gives a discretionary power (to be exercised on the request of the injured workman) to commute an allowance for a lump sum; but this power is not to be exercised if the allowance exceeds 10 per cent. of the man's annual earnings.

With respect to the method to be adopted in reckoning, for the purpose of fixing the compensation due under the law, the annual earnings of a workman, the new Act makes important changes. Thus, while, in relation to industrial employments, the previous law directed that a workman whose annual earnings exceeded £60, should have the excess over £60 taken into account only to the extent of one-third of its actual amount, this limit of £60 is now replaced by £75. So, again, under the new law the annual earnings of a seaman will be taken to be 11 (instead of 9) times the monthly rate (as fixed by official ascertainment) for men of his grade.

The boards of arbitration for dealing with disputes arising out of claims for compensation under the Accident Insurance Law are abolished; and such dis-

* The article is based on a comparison between the text of the new law as printed in the Reichs Gesetzblatt (No. 26), and the old law as printed in the Taschenkalender zum Gebrauche bei Handhabung der Arbeiter-Versicherungsgesetze, 1898. Theil I.

putes will in future be settled by the arbitration boards formed under the Invalidity Insurance Law. The number of members of each of these boards must be at least 40 (20 employers and 20 insured workpeople).

WAGES OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS FROM 1850 TO 1899.

In the Report on the Wages and Earnings of Agricultural Labourers in the United Kingdom* recently issued by the Labour Department, Board of Trade (see LABOUR GAZETTE for September, p. 262), an account is given of the rates of wages paid, during a series of years, on certain farms in England and Wales. The account is based on Returns obtained from 46 farms in England, and from three in Wales. The Returns, which are printed in the Appendix to the Report, show the rates of weekly cash wages paid for a long series of years to ordinary agricultural labourers in receipt of full men's wages, exclusive of payments for piecework, or extra payments during hay and corn harvest, or for overtime, or the value of any allowances in kind. Those who gave the information were asked to name the allowances in kind given in 1899 in addition to the cash wages, and also to state what variations in the character or amount of the allowances had taken place during the period for which the cash wages were given.

Of the Returns from England 30 were furnished by tenant farmers and 16 by landowners or their agents. In the case of Wales two came from estates and one from a tenant farmer.

The only counties in England from which no Returns were received are Berkshire, Durham, Middlesex, Monmouthshire, Oxfordshire, Rutland, Warwickshire, and Westmorland.

Taking the whole number (49) of Returns from England and Wales, 33 of them are for periods of about 50 or more years, and 12 of them are for periods of between 40 and 50 years.

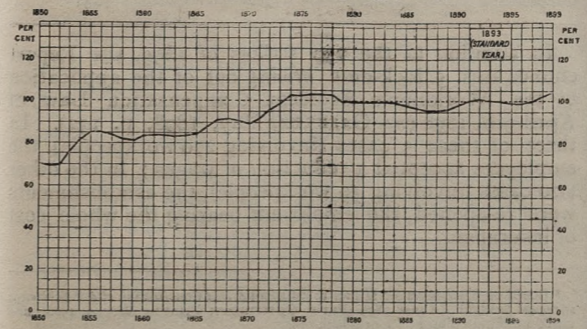
The following Diagrams show the percentage fluctuations in the rates of weekly cash wages paid to ordinary labourers on certain farms in each of the years 1850 to 1899, as compared with the year 1893, which has been used as a statistical basis for this purpose. The first Diagram is based on all the Returns (33) for the period named, from farms in England and Wales, while the second, third, and fourth Diagrams relate to the Returns from farms in the Midland, Eastern, and Southern and South-Western Counties of England respectively. Separate Diagrams are not given for the Northern and Welsh Counties, as a sufficiently representative number of Returns from tenant farmers for such a long period was not obtained. The difficulties of obtaining records of wages from these districts are greater than in others where the men have more defined positions of work and the rates of wages are more uniform. Many of the farmers in the North of England and in Wales are small farmers, who keep no books. Those who employ labour hire men or youths yearly or half-yearly whom they lodge and board in the farm house.

DIAGRAMS SHOWING PERCENTAGE FLUCTUATIONS IN WEEKLY CASH RATES OF WAGES OF ORDINARY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS IN 1850-99.

[The year 1893 is taken as the standard, and the rates prevailing then represented by 100, any rise or fall in other years being shown as a percentage rise or fall on the rates for that year].

I.—England and Wales.

(Based on Returns relating to 33 farms.)



* Cd. 346. Eyre and Spottiswoode. Price 3s. 4d.

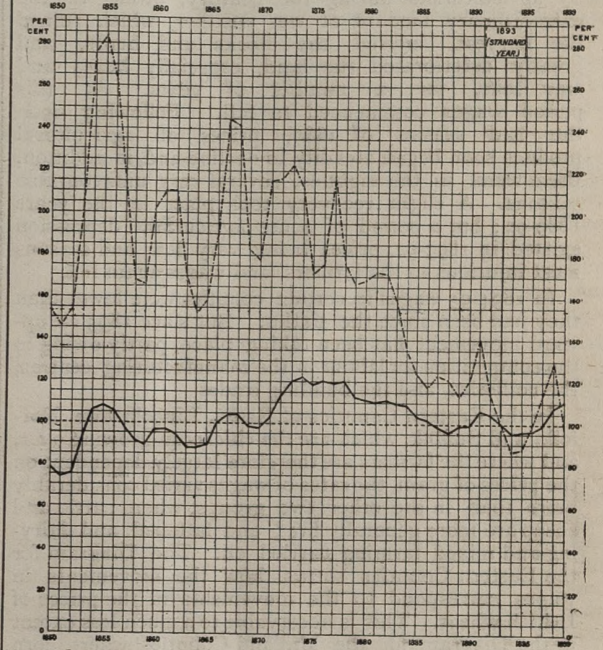
II.—Midland Counties.

(Based on Returns relating to 9 farms.)



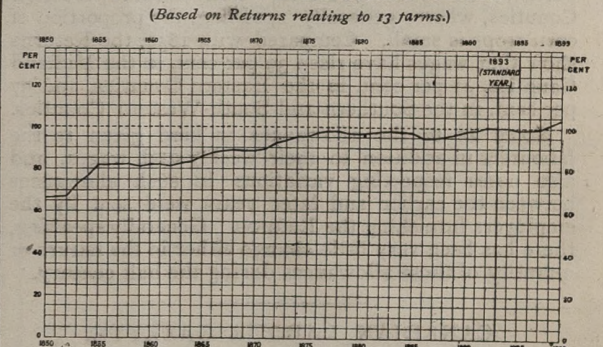
III.—Eastern Counties.

(Based on Returns relating to 6 farms.)



IV.—Southern and South-Western Counties.

(Based on Returns relating to 13 farms.)



In 1899, compared with 1850, the average weekly rates of cash wages paid on the 33 farms in England and Wales (exclusive of extra payments for piecework, harvest, overtime, etc., and also exclusive of the value of allowances in kind) show an increase of 48 per cent., viz., from 9s. 3d. in 1850, to 13s. 8½d. in 1899. The wages were low in 1850 owing to agricultural depression. In fact, the period in which wages were generally the lowest, between 1836 and 1899, was from 1849 to 1853, immediately preceding the period of higher prices during the Crimean war. But, taking the year 1855, when wages were higher (averaging 11s. 2½d. per week on the 33 farms), the increase in 1899 compared with that year is 22 per cent. It may be of interest to add that in 1855 the average price of wheat was 74s. 8d. per quarter, and of barley 34s. 9d. per quarter; and in

1899 25s. 8d. and 25s. 7d. respectively, or 66 per cent. lower in the case of wheat, and 26 per cent. lower in the case of barley.

With the exception of 1899, the highest point which the average wages paid on the 33 farms reached during any year of the period was in the seventies, a period of great commercial and industrial prosperity. In the earlier part of this decade the Franco-Prussian war took place. Another element which influenced wages in a number of counties at this time was the agricultural labourers' dispute in 1874.

In 1877 the average wages were 46 per cent. higher than in 1850, 21 per cent. higher than in 1855, the second year of the Crimean war, and only 1 per cent. lower than in 1899. But the year 1878 was the last one of this high wage period in agriculture. The year 1879 was one of the most disastrous experienced by agriculturists during the century, owing to the extraordinary amount of wet weather, which ruined the harvest, injured the flocks and herds, and greatly deteriorated the land, especially heavy and clay soils, for a number of years. At this period wages commenced to fall. Following upon the bad season of 1880, prices of agricultural produce soon began steadily to decline and, in addition, there were, in the eighties, several very unfavourable seasons. A slight recovery took place in the years 1889-92; but a period of acute agricultural depression existed in 1893-94, prices being very low and seasons most injurious to the farmers, and wages again fell.

In 1894-95 wages in certain counties were lower than they had been since the sixties. But since 1895 an upward movement has been taking place, partly owing to the competition for labour in the manufacturing centres, the collieries, and the building trades.

In the Eastern Counties of Essex, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, and Suffolk, which are the chief corn-growing ones, and where the farmers are therefore largely dependent on the prices of grain, the rates of wages varied considerably more than in the other two groups, where cattle and sheep are more generally bred and fattened, and dairying and mixed farming carried on. The Diagram for the Eastern Counties shows how the movements in wages correspond to the movements in the prices of British wheat. This is observable to a much less extent in the Diagram for the Midland Counties where corn crops are a less important factor, and, to a still less extent, in the Southern and South-Western Counties, where, generally speaking, the proportion of corn crops is small. Compared with 1850, the Returns show that wages have risen 39 per cent. in the Midland Counties, 41 per cent. in the Eastern Counties, and 57 per cent. in the Southern and South-Western Counties.

Notes as to the allowances in kind given to the labourers in addition to their weekly cash wages, and also notes respecting variations in such allowances between the earlier and later years were sent by the employers furnishing the Returns. Generally speaking, there has been very little change either in the nature or quantity of these allowances during the half century.

CANADIAN LABOUR GAZETTE.

THE Conciliation Act passed by the Canadian Legislature, which provided *inter alia* for the creation of a Department of Labour and the publication of a monthly Labour Gazette, was referred to in the GAZETTE for September, p. 262. The first two numbers of this Journal have now been received. The second number is chiefly devoted to a report on the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, which was held at Ottawa from September 18th to 22nd. It also contains reports from local correspondents. A list is given of the Government Contracts of the preceding month with the fair wages schedules in each case. Accounts are also given of the principal recent legal decisions affecting labour. Other subjects dealt with are the Commission on Chinese and Japanese immigration, the settlement of the strike on the Canadian Pacific Railway, the enforcement of the Alien Labour Act, &c.

In an introductory note it is stated that statistical Tables will in future be issued monthly with regard to trade disputes and changes in the rates of wages and hours of labour.

The price of the Labour Gazette is three cents (1½d.).

LABOUR DISPUTES IN FRANCE IN 1899.

BOTH in frequency and importance, the labour disputes of 1899 have surpassed those of any of the other years for which the French Labour Department has collected statistics on the subject (1890 to 1898), the only year which has furnished figures approaching those of 1899 being 1893. The following statement shows the number of disputes which took place in each year from 1893 to 1899, together with the number of workpeople involved:—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Number of Disputes	631	391	497	476	356	368	739
Number of Workpeople who took part in Disputes	170,123	54,576	46,089	49,851	63,875	82,065	176,772

The total number of working days lost in 1899 by workpeople directly and indirectly affected by disputes was 3,550,734, or nearly three times the corresponding figure for the previous year, as may be seen from the following Table, which also shows the extent to which the principal groups of trade were affected by disputes in each year from 1893 to 1899:—

Year	Number of working days lost by all workpeople affected by disputes in the undermentioned groups of trades:—								Total.
	Build- ing.	Mining and Quarry- ing.	Metal.	Textile Trades.	Cloth- ing, &c.	Sea- faring, Dock Labour, Trans- port.	Agricul- ture, Forges- try, Fishing.	Mis- cella- neous.	
1893	244,300	1,528,015	239,939	481,760	25,918	162,940	158,920	329,208	3,174,000
1894	39,950	192,180	94,171	308,225	50,524	2,464	23,003	351,953	1,062,480
1895	69,053	60,916	41,118	191,775	3,800	23,162	53	258,912	618,769
1896	61,870	115,107	153,921	127,625	7,559	1,681	32,735	143,610	641,168
1897	395,794	174,161	59,637	119,496	791	6,093	65,095	58,877	780,944
1898	723,142	42,620	141,109	233,568	2,559	6,530	3,875	61,893	1,316,306
1899	287,131	422,777	561,663	1,066,033	2,589	61,650	31,735	217,656	3,550,734

Demands for an increase or opposition to a reduction of wages were amongst the objects or causes of 467 strikes, participated in by 139,561 workpeople and entailing a loss of 3,227,391 working days in 1899.

On the whole, the results of strikes appear to have been more favourable to the workpeople than in 1898, a great decrease taking place in the proportion of those who took part in strikes which terminated in favour of the employers. The figures are as follows, comparing 1899 with 1898:—

Result.	Percentage of workpeople engaged in disputes of which the results were as stated in col. 1.	
	1898.	1899.
In favour of workpeople ...	12.91	11.95
In favour of employers... ..	47.43	17.47
Compromised	39.66	70.58

In addition to the 739 strikes of 1899, the Report enumerates 5 lock-outs arising out of the application of the Workmen's Accident Compensation Law of April 9th, 1898 (see GAZETTE, May, 1898, p. 132). In three of these 5 cases (involving 270 workpeople), the employees accepted a reduction of wages; in the other two cases (involving 39 workpeople), the establishments were re-opened, the employers bearing the whole cost of insurance.

* Based on *Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage survenus pendant l'Année 1899* (Paris, Government Printing Works, 1900) and corresponding volumes for previous years.
† Includes upholstering, sailmaking, umbrella manufacture, and various minor trades.

CHANGES IN THE STRAW HAT AND PLAIT MANUFACTURE SINCE 1861.

IN 1861 the number of persons returned as employed in the straw plait manufacture in England and Wales was 29,867; the number returned as employed in the straw hat manufacture was 18,176. The sex and age distribution is given in the following Table:—

Age Group.	Straw Plait Manufacture.			Straw Hat Manufacture.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
5 years and under 10 ...	667	1,594	2,261	4	103	107
10 " " 15 ...	673	4,257	4,930	64	1,267	1,331
15 " " 20 ...	221	4,420	4,641	209	3,272	3,481
20 " " 25 ...	127	3,639	3,766	285	2,839	3,122
25 " " 30 ...	283	3,769	4,052	865	6,362	7,227
30 " " 35 ...	131	4,064	4,195	229	2,262	2,491
35 " " 40 ...	26	996	1,022	35	384	419
Total	2,123	27,739	29,867	1,687	16,489	18,176

In 1864 one of the Assistant Commissioners under the Children's Employment Commission reported that the straw plait district extended over portions of Hertfordshire, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the plait being chiefly made in the villages and the hats in Luton and Dunstable.

Children were taught to plait at home usually at four years old and sometimes earlier. After that they were generally sent to plait schools, a task of so many yards being set by the parents, and the duty of the schoolmistress being to act the part of an overlooker in a factory, and see that the proper amount of work was done. Some plait schools were only day schools, *i.e.*, from breakfast to dinner, and from dinner to tea, but in some cases the work went on in the evening from 6 to 8 or 6 to 9. Girls left the plait schools when they were old enough to work steadily without constant supervision, usually at about 13 or 14, after which they worked at home.

These plait schools were found to be often densely overcrowded. Children working for their parents received no wages, but the value of their work ranged up to about 4s. per week. Adult plaiters were said to make generally about 1s. a day, but several were said to make up to 8s. or 10s. per week. The rates of weekly cash wages of ordinary labourers on farms were, at the time, 9s.

Boys were brought up to plaiting as well as girls until old enough for more suitable employment, but in some places even men plaited.

The straw hat manufacture was an entirely distinct trade, but the sewing machine had not been introduced into it, and plait sewing was to a large extent done at the houses of the workers. Hat manufacturers preferred, however, as a rule, to have the better class of work done on their own premises and under their own control. In some of the straw hat manufactories in Luton as many as 200 and 300 persons were employed.

The usual hours in the hat-sewing work rooms were from 8 a.m. or 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., or in the busy three months until 10 p.m. But work was considerably later in the smaller workplaces. Hat sewing being skilled work, and hat sewers being frequently required at short notice and for long hours, wages were good, indifferent workers getting as much as 10s. or 12s., and many young women earning £1 a week and some considerably more.

During the five years 1865-9 the exports of British plait averaged 133,239 lbs. per annum, valued at £40,959. The imports of foreign plait, of which Italian plait was a most important part, during the same period averaged 147,191 lbs. per annum, valued at £64,156.

In 1869 for the first time the import returns show that straw plait was being sent from China. The amount was very small, being only 27,000 lbs. in that year, valued at only £1,789. In 1870 the amount imported from China was 41,204 lbs., valued at £2,380.

From that time forward the Chinese imports steadily increased, and were so much cheaper than English plait that the latter industry rapidly declined. The

sewing machine was introduced into the straw hat trade in Luton in 1874, and therefore not only did the straw plait industry die out in the villages, but the manufacture of straw hats became more and more concentrated in the towns, the commoner work hitherto done in village homes being now machined in the town workshops.

The returns for 1886, the first year after 1870 in which straw plait imports and exports are given separately, show that by that year the net import of straw plait had risen to 5,105,397 lbs, at a declared value of £401,767, three-quarters of the total imports being shipped from Chinese ports.

The introduction of the cheap foreign plait gave a great impetus to the English straw hat trade. But the number of women engaged in the industry was much reduced by the dying out of the plait manufacture and the elimination of the casual worker in the hat trade. The number of men and boys above 15 years of age employed in the manufacture, however, steadily increased.

After 1861 the Census ceased to give separate returns for straw plaiters and straw hat manufacturers. The number occupied in the two trades together, according to the Censuses of 1861-1891, is given below.

NUMBER AND AGE OF PERSONS DESCRIBED IN THE CENSUS RETURNS AS OCCUPIED IN STRAW PLAIT AND HAT MANUFACTURE IN ENGLAND AND WALES.

Age Group.	Males.				Females.			
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
5 years and under 10 ...	671	462	122	92	1,697	1,589	1,939	769
10 " " 15 ...	737	549	418	475	5,824	5,227	4,243	2,218
15 " " 20 ...	430	381	370	527	7,692	6,787	6,835	2,288
20 " " 25 ...	410	381	370	527	6,478	6,685	6,835	2,288
25 " " 30 ...	1,146	1,229	1,305	1,441	15,131	15,366	10,583	5,634
30 " " 35 ...	360	513	688	770	6,326	7,577	5,985	3,207
35 " " 40 ...	61	78	98	120	1,380	2,039	1,398	843
40 " " 45 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 " " 50 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50 years and upwards ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	3,815	3,593	3,001	3,435	44,228	45,270	27,983	14,959

The Education Acts and the Factory and Workshop Acts, which included plait schools as workshops and brought them under inspection, diminished the struggle to compete with China and Japan. But the figures for 1891 must have included a large number of persons returning themselves as straw plaiters, although only very casually employed in the trade, for the annual Factory and Workshops return for 1897 includes, as will be seen from the following Table, a very much smaller number of women and girls returned as employed in straw hat factories and workshops.

PERSONS RETURNED AS EMPLOYED IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS IN THE STRAW HAT MANUFACTURE IN ENGLAND AND WALES IN 1897.

—	Half Timers.		Young Persons.		Persons of 18 years and upwards.		Total Persons.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10 factories ...	—	—	16	43	254	502	270	545
519 workshops	1	3	287	569	1,696	3,852	1,984	4,424
Total	1	3	303	612	1,950	4,354	2,254	4,969

The excess in the number of women returned as engaged in the manufacture of plait and straw hats in 1891 over the number returned as engaged in making straw hats in the factories and workshops in 1897 is about 10,000.

The number now engaged in plaiting is very small. A large manufacturer at Luton estimates that in his factory only about 2 per cent. of the plait used is of British manufacture, and that the proportion used in Luton generally is not much greater.

According to the report of an Assistant Commissioner to the Royal Commission on Labour in 1892,* the amount actually earned by straw plaiters in the villages rarely exceeded ½d. an hour, although in some cases a really efficient worker on difficult plait could make 1½d. an hour. Efforts since then have been made to teach villagers to imitate new patterns instead of confining themselves

* Reports of Assistant Commissioners on Employment of Women [C.—694 —xviii of 1893, page 29].

entirely to a few special ones. But although they have learnt to imitate some of the more complicated patterns imported from Switzerland and Italy, it is stated that the employers still find it more remunerative to get their plait direct from these countries, except in times of pressure when more is wanted than is actually in the market and the English plait can be more quickly obtained.

In the last few years a practice has arisen of taking out plait to be machined at home, and a village home industry is thus springing up, which is much more remunerative than the old straw plait industry.

Broad plaits also have been introduced, which can be sewn by hand, and thus work, at first done in towns, is now being done in the villages. In Luton on certain heavy work men have also taken to machining the plait, their output on machines not driven by steam being greater in such cases than that of women. The blocking of the hats is always done by men and youths.

PROFIT SHARING IN 1899 BY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

The following Table, showing the amount of profit allotted to their employees by workmen's Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom making returns for the year 1899, is based upon returns made to the Co-operative Union and upon reports and balance sheets sent direct to the Labour Department, and includes both distributive and productive employees.

Including the Scottish Wholesale Society, 289 Societies, employing 24,153 persons, allotted a total of £55,922 to their employees out of the profits of the year, this being equivalent to 5.4 per cent. upon the total of £1,032,728 paid in wages during the year by these Societies.

Of the 289 Societies, 234, employing 14,232 persons, were in England and Wales and allotted £30,066, this being equal to 5.2 per cent. upon the wages paid by them; 51 were in Scotland employing 9,894 persons, to whom they allotted £25,831, an amount equal to 5.7 per cent. upon wages; and 4 Societies were in Ireland employing 27 persons to whom £25 or 2.2 per cent. upon wages was allotted.

Of the 289 Societies, 238 were retail Distributive Societies; of these 187 in England and Wales with 9,921 employees allotted £17,254 to them, this being equivalent to 4.8 per cent. upon wages; and 51 were in Scotland and Ireland, employing a total of 3,255 persons, to whom they allotted a total of £11,626 of profit, or 10.9 per cent. upon wages.

In addition to the profit shown in the Table, a sum of £1,228 was allotted to Provident Funds for the benefit of their employees by 23 Productive Societies.

Table showing the amount and ratio of profit allotted to their employees by 289 Workmen's Co-operative Societies making returns for the year ended December 31st, 1899.

Description of Societies.	No. of Societies making returns.	No. of Em- ployees.	Amount of Wages paid.	Amount allotted to Em- ployees out of profits.	Ratio to wages of profit allotted.
ENGLAND AND WALES:—			£	£	Per cent.
Retail Distributive So- cieties ...	187	9,921	361,350	17,254	4.8
Corn Milling and Food Preparation Societies ...	3	122	7,789	263	3.4
Various Manufacturing Societies ...	44	4,189	210,321	12,549	6.0
Totals—England and Wales ...	234	14,232	679,460	30,066	5.2
SCOTLAND:—					
Retail Distributive So- cieties ...	47	3,228	105,730	11,601	11.0
Wholesale Society ...	1	5,401	281,285	9,376	3.3
Breadbaking Society ...	1	900	48,669	4,286	8.8
Various Manufacturing Societies ...	2	365	16,466	568	3.4
Totals—Scotland ...	51	9,894	452,150	25,831	5.7
IRELAND:—					
Retail Distributive So- cieties ...	4	27	1,115	25	2.2
Totals— United Kingdom	289	24,153	1,032,728	55,922	5.4

AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN DENMARK.

The Government Statistical Bureau of Denmark has published* the results of an inquiry which it undertook in 1898 relative to the wages of agricultural labourers in Denmark in 1897. Data obtained by investigations conducted on similar lines for the years 1872 and 1892 are given for comparison. The average yearly cash earnings of male farmhouse servants on yearly engage- ments in 1897 are shown to have been about 14 per cent. higher than in 1892, and about 80 per cent. higher than in 1872. In the case of women servants on farms the increase in earnings amounted to about 11 per cent. on those of 1892, and to about 103 per cent. on those of 1872. The figures are as under:—

Year.	Average yearly cash earnings of adult farmhouse servants engaged by the year.			
	Men.		Women.	
1872	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1892	7	0 0	3	16 8
1897	11	1 1	7	0 0
	12	11 1	7	15 7

The value of a man's board for a year is reckoned at £11 18s. 11d., and that of a woman at £1 less. Married men (foremen, men in charge of cattle, shepherds, horsekeepers and best farm labourers) often have, in addition to money wages and board, free houses, etc. Where the engagements are for 6 months, the average cash earnings of men are about twice as high for the summer as for the winter season, the amounts being £8 10s. and £4 4s. 5d. respectively. The seasonal difference is not so marked in the case of women, their average earnings being £4 16s. 8d. for the summer half-year, and £3 3s. 4d. for the winter half-year.

The following Table shows the average yearly cash earnings of different classes of farmhouse servants engaged by the year in Denmark in 1897, together with the estimated value of their board:—

MALES.				FEMALES.			
Class of Servant.	Cash Earnings per Year.	Value of Board per Day.		Class of Servant.	Cash Earnings per Year.	Value of Board per Day.	
Foremen ...	£ 17	13 4	7½	Dairymaids—	£ 15	7 9	9½
Men in charge of cattle ...	17	10 0	8½	Head ...	15	7 9	9½
Shepherds ...	13	12 3	7½	Ordinary ...	9	10 0	7½
Horsekeepers ...	13	5 7	7½	Milkmaids ...	8	16 8	7½
Wagoners ...	13	14 5	8½	Housekeepers ...	12	7 9	9½
Farm Labourers—				Cooks ...	8	3 4	7½
Best ...	14	2 3	7½	Brewery Maids ...	7	17 9	7
Ordinary ...	11	2 3	7½	Housemaids ...	7	3 4	7½
Oddmen ...	10	6 8	7½	Maids (other) ...	6	15 7	7
Apprentices ...	8	4 5	6½	General Servants ...	6	10 0	6½
Boys ...	5	18 11	6½				

In the case of day labourers, a distinction is made between those constantly, and those only occasionally, employed in agriculture, *i.e.*, between regular and casual day labourers. Including the value of all allowances in kind, such as free cottage, firewood, beer, &c., the average daily earnings in 1897 of a man employed as a regular day labourer boarding himself were 1s. 11½d. in the spring and summer, 2s. 6d. in the harvest, and 1s. 6½d. in the winter months. If boarded by the employer, his average daily earnings were 1s. 3½d., 1s. 10½d. and 10½d. respectively, according to the season. With respect to the annual earnings in 1897 of day labourers permanently employed, these earnings, in the case of a man boarding himself, are shown to have exceeded those which a man of this class earned in 1872, by 31 per cent. In the case of a man boarded by his employer, the increase (as between 1872 and 1897) is 60 per cent. The figures are as given below:—

Year.	Earnings without Board.		Earnings with Board.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1872	22	12 3	12	0 0
1892	27	0 0	17	10 0
1897	29	13 4	19	3 4

* Danmarks Statistik. Statistiske Meddelelser. Fjerde Række, Femte Bind, Copenhagen, 1899. Gyldendal Bookselling Establishment.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Arbitration in the Oldham, Ashton and Hyde Tramway Dispute.

On September 23rd the employees of the Oldham, Ashton and Hyde Electric Tramway, Limited, to the number of about 75, came out on strike to obtain the reinstatement of eight of their colleagues in consequence of the circumstances attending their dismissal. The main question in dispute was whether the dismissal of these men was due to the seasonal decline in traffic or to opposition on the part of the Superintendent to the Trade Union to which they belonged.

On September 28th an application was made on behalf of the men for the intervention of the Board of Trade. After prolonged negotiations both parties agreed to refer the questions at issue to arbitration, and on October 26th the Board of Trade appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith as arbitrator.

As, however, there was still a difference between the parties as to the reinstatement of the men pending arbitration, Mr. Askwith was instructed, on the application of the Company, to act as Conciliator to endeavour to arrange the preliminaries to arbitration. Eventually both parties agreed to accept Mr. Askwith's decision on the matter, and he issued an award on October 31st, deciding that all the men should be reinstated, their pay to commence from November 3rd, various provisions with regard to that reinstatement and the running of the public services of trams being set out in the award. He also provided for the holding of an inquiry, at some future date to be agreed upon, into the circumstances of the dismissal of the eight men, "for the purpose of deciding whether or not the methods employed by the officer having the duty of lessening the staff of the Oldham, Ashton and Hyde Electric Tramway, Limited, in the exercise of his duty, and in dealing with the employees of the company, have been justifiable and conducive to the interests of employers and employed." The dismissal of the men was to stand in the event of an affirmative answer, and the men to retain their positions in the event of a negative answer. The running of trams was duly resumed on November 3rd.

Subsequently the Chairman of the Company informed Mr. Askwith that the officer above referred to would not appear at the enquiry, as he had obtained employment elsewhere. Accordingly Mr. Askwith adjourned the hearing of the case *sine die*.

Demarcation in the London Building Trades.

(1) CARPENTERS AND JOINERS AND SLATERS AND TILERS.

The Carpenters and Joiners' Societies in the London district having claimed that the fixing of battens for slates and tiles was carpenters' work and that claim having been questioned by a member of the London Master Builders' Association, a meeting of the Carpenters' and Joiners' Conciliation Board was held on October 4th. The Board decided in favour of the claim, it being understood

(a) That no objection will be raised to master slaters and master tilers fixing the battens, so long as carpenters are employed upon its execution.

(b) That no objection will be raised to slaters and tilers giving the gauge.

(c) That no action will be taken by the carpenters as regards existing contracts.

(2) BRICKLAYERS AND PLASTERERS.

The following agreement has been entered into between the Operative Bricklayers' Society and the National Association of Operative Plasterers with regard to tiling in the London district:—

A.—Tiling of Hearths.

It is agreed that where the stoves are to be fixed bricklayers shall do the tiling of hearths, also any other tiling in connection with the stove. But where it is found necessary to do away with

either stone or cement hearths, and substitute tiles, it shall be left to the discretion of those in charge of the job whether the said shall be done by bricklayers or plasterers.

B.—Wall Tiling.

It is agreed that where tiles are used of the following description, namely, 9 by 3 and 6 by 3, representing glazed or bordered brickwork, the same shall be fixed by bricklayers, and where the tiles are of other sizes the same shall be fixed by plasterers. The floating and preparation of walls shall be done by plasterers.

C.—Floor Tiling.

It is agreed that this portion of the work shall be left to those responsible to decide whether the same shall be done by bricklayers or plasterers. But it is agreed that all floating and screeding as preparation for same shall be done by plasterers.

D.—Block Partitions.

It is agreed that blocks, when used for the construction of partitions, shall be fixed by bricklayers, but finished by plasterers.

E.—Screeding for Block Floors.

It is agreed that the screeding for block floors, also cement laying, shall be plasterers' work.

F.—Screeding for Frames.

That where there is screeding for frames to be done it shall be left to the discretion of those in charge of the job as to whether the same shall be done by bricklayers or plasterers.

The London Master Builders' Association is not a party to this agreement.

BONUS SCHEME AT CORPORATION GASWORKS.

In April, 1899, a system of bonus, in addition to ordinary wages, was introduced at the gasworks of the Stafford Corporation, at which from 100 to 120 workmen (varying with the time of year) are employed. The system is of the following nature: A standard cost is fixed, to cover interest on capital, contribution to sinking fund, rates and taxes, and all expenses incurred in the manufacture and distribution of gas, including the cost of the coal and other materials used in gas-making, and all wages and salaries paid to the workmen and other employees (including foremen and other superintendents, clerks, collectors and manager), but deducting all sums realised by the sale of coke and other residual products. This standard cost was fixed at 2s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet of gas sold. At the end of the financial year the actual cost of the gas sold during the year is compared with this standard; and, for each penny by which the actual cost is shown to have fallen below the standard, the persons employed in the gasworks, to whom the bonus scheme applies, are to receive a bonus equivalent to 1 per cent. on the amount of their wages during the past year. Up to the present time the scheme applies exclusively to those employees who are on weekly wages. It is, however, stated that the scheme will probably be extended next year to embrace all the employees. In the first year of the existence of the scheme (April 1st, 1899, to March 31st, 1900), the actual cost of the gas sold was 2s. 1¼d. per 1,000 cubic feet, and the bonus payable under the scheme was accordingly at the rate of 4½ per cent. on wages and salaries. The bonus is paid in cash, the distribution taking place after the accounts of each year have been made out.

INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The twenty-seventh report of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics of Pennsylvania gives comparative statistics embodying the returns from establishments in various industries of the State for each of the years 1896 to 1899. The fixed capital, the value of material used, the average number of days in operation, the number of persons employed, the aggregate wages paid and the market value of the products are given for each branch of industry. In all 855 establishments are covered, which employed 181,936 persons in 1899.

Certain of these particulars are also given for 354 establishments for each of the years 1892 to 1899. These establishments in 1899 employed 154,422 persons.

The report also includes an historical account of the growth of the cotton and woolen industries in the State.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official and other reports, newspapers, etc., mostly dated September and October last.)*

Canada.—The season for emigration to Canada is now over for this year. The strike at the Valleyfield cotton mills is now settled.

New South Wales.—The large collieries at Newcastle are very busy, and all coal miners are fully employed. There is, in fact, a scarcity of experienced practical miners, so that there is a good opening for such men in New South Wales at the present time. The price of coal is to be raised to 11s. a ton from January next, with a corresponding rise in the hewing rate. There has been a strike among shearers in the Tamworth district, the men claiming 20s. per hundred sheep.

Victoria.—A report from Horsham states that there is no demand for labourers without money. Disputes continue at the Outtrim and neighbouring coal-mines owing to the demand of the miners for higher wages. Large numbers of unemployed have been provided with work during the last few weeks on railway construction. It has been decided to bring printers, timber-yard employés, coopers, pastrycooks, and some others under the operation of the Factories Act, which enables a special board to be appointed to fix wages and hours in these trades. A communication has been received from the Agent-General for Victoria stating that he is advised by his Government that the reports as to a good demand for a limited number of skilled plumbers in Melbourne which have appeared under this heading in some previous issues of the LABOUR GAZETTE are inaccurate.

Queensland.—Owing to the continuance of the drought, and probable scarcity of employment, the Colonial Government has determined to limit assisted immigration, and therefore the Agent-General in London "will be unable to accept many families or single men as emigrants during the next few months." The strike at Ipswich among some of the coal miners on the question of wages has not yet been settled.

Western Australia.—Official returns for the quarter ending September 30th last show, that the supply of mechanics is sufficient everywhere except at Katanning and Yilgarn, and for good men in the building trades at Perth; that there is no demand for miners anywhere; that farm labour is wanted at Toodyay, Geraldton, Katanning, York, and Beverley; that good unskilled labourers are wanted at Perth, Katanning, York, and Beverley; and that female servants are in demand in nearly all districts.

Tasmania.—A report from the mining town of Zeehan, on the west coast, states that fitters can generally get work at 8s. to 10s. a day, but that otherwise the labour market is, on the whole, well supplied with men. Female servants are in good demand.

New Zealand.—There continues to be plenty of work in New Zealand, and all local labour is for the most part fully employed. There has been a demand for carpenters at New Plymouth and Blenheim, for stonemasons at Dunedin, and for ploughmen near Invercargill; coal miners have been very busy at Westport, and good bush fellers have been wanted in several districts.

South Africa.—Emigrants are again warned against going to South Africa until further notice. Large numbers of refugees from the Transvaal are not yet allowed to return there, and are crowding the labour markets in Cape Colony.

NEWYORK STATE LABOUR STATISTICS.

The seventeenth annual report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of New York State is divided into five parts, dealing with (1) the economic condition of organised labour in the State; (2) the compensation of accidental injuries to workmen, including an account of the working of the legislation on this subject in the principal European countries; (3) employment and wages, 1896-1899, giving comparative figures based on returns from 3,553 employers who employed in 1899 356,278 persons; (4) the report of the State Free Employment Bureau; (5) the text of the labour laws of 1899.

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

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

Coal Mining in September.*—The average number of days worked per week by those employed underground in coal mines in September was 5.98, as compared with 5.94 in August, 1900, and 5.92 in September, 1899. During the month, full time (six days and over per week) was worked by 82 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 18 per cent. of all employed in and about the mines, the percentages in the previous month being 76 and 24 respectively. The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines).

Labour Disputes in September.*—Seventy-six fresh disputes were reported to the French Labour Department in September, the number of workpeople known to have taken part in 67 of the disputes being 14,230. The number of disputes reported in August was 95, in 90 of which 34,536 workpeople were known to have taken part, while in September, 1899, there were 50 disputes, in 46 of which 18,111 workpeople took part. Of the 76 new disputes in September last, 6 occurred in the building trades, 5 in the metal, engineering and ship-building trades, 4 in the textile trades, 24 in dock labour and transport trades, 2 in fishing, 2 in the printing and paper trades, 2 in the woodworking trades, 20 in food and tobacco trades, 2 in the chemical trades, 2 in the laundry trade, and 7 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups.

Two of the disputes begun in September involved 2,000 workpeople each. One was the strike of dock labourers at Bordeaux and Pauillac referred to below; the other was an unsuccessful strike of operatives at 29 oil mills at Marseilles for increased wages lasting from September 5th to September 20th.

Of 64 disputes, of which the termination is reported, 13 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 19 in favour of the employers, while 32 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in September.*—Eighteen cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in September, the workpeople taking the initiative in eight cases, the Justice of the Peace in one, and the employers and workpeople jointly in one case. In the other eight cases it is not stated by whom the demand for conciliation was addressed to the Justice of the Peace. Meetings of conciliation committees were brought about in eleven cases, resulting in the settlement of eight disputes. Another dispute was afterwards settled by arbitration, while in the other two cases, in which conciliation committees met, no agreement could be arrived at. In two instances disputes were settled before the proposed negotiations in the presence of the Justices of the Peace took place, and in five cases the proffered intervention was declined by the employers.

Strike of Dock Labourers at Bordeaux and Pauillac.—In a telegram to the Foreign Office, dated October 13th, Mr. W. R. Hearn, H.M. Consul at Bordeaux, reported that the strike of stevedore labourers at Pauillac had ended. (See October GAZETTE, p. 297.)

Strike at a Biscuit Factory in Calais.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated October 29th, Mr. C. A. Payton, H.M. Consul at Calais, reports the termination of the strike at a large biscuit factory in that town, which had taken place simultaneously with the strike of dock labourers, the settlement of which was reported in the October GAZETTE (p. 297). The conditions of settlement of this dispute are: Guarantee of a rise of 10 per cent. on the wages paid previous to the strike; discussion, after resumption of work (which was to take place on October 29th), of a tariff for piece work based on the prices paid in 1899 augmented by 10 per cent.; no dismissals to be made on account of the strike.

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

Strike of Coal Porters at St. Malo.—In a despatch to the Board of Trade, dated November 10th, 1900, Mr. Spencer Grey, British Acting Consul at Cherbourg, reports that the men engaged in the discharge of coal cargoes at St. Malo have struck for an advance of wages from 3s. 2½d. to 4s. for a day of 10 hours.

GERMANY.

Employment in October.—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment was considerably less favourable than in October, 1899, the average number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at 61 public employment registries making returns to the above journal being 120.4, as compared with 104.9 a year ago. (The corresponding proportion for September, 1900, based on returns from 57 registries, was 100.6).

Labour Disputes in October.—The same journal reports 49 disputes as having begun in Germany in October, as compared with 31 in September. The greatest number of disputes (viz., 9) took place in the woodworking and allied trades; of the other disputes 6 occurred in the building trades, 6 in metal and engineering trades, 4 in textile trades, 4 in clothing trades, 6 in the glass, pottery, etc., trades, 2 in food preparation trades, and 12 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups.

Industrial Employment of School Children.—The current issue of the Quarterly Journal of the Imperial Statistical Department in Berlin* contains the result of an inquiry undertaken on January and April, 1898, into the question of the industrial employment of children under 14 years of age in Germany otherwise than in factories (children employed in agriculture and in domestic service not coming within the scope of the inquiry). The approximate aggregate number of children found to be employed (the term "employed" being taken to include children helping parents at their trade, but not receiving wages) is given as 544,283, or 6.53 per cent. of all children bound to attend school. The proportion, however, varies much as between different districts. Thus, in some places where home work prevails in Saxe-Meiningen the percentage is as high as 57, and in similar centres in Saxe-Coburg-Gotha it reaches 86. The following statement classifies the occupations of 532,283 children:—

Occupation Group.	Children under 14 years of age employed.	
	Total.	Per cent. of children in all Groups.
Industry	306,823	57.64
Commerce	17,623	3.31
Transport and Communication	2,691	0.51
Hotels, Public Houses, &c.	21,620	4.06
Taking out bread, milk, newspapers, books, coals, laundry	135,830	25.52
Ordinary errand work	35,909	6.75
Other occupations coming within the scope of the inquiry	11,787	2.21
Total	532,283	100.00

Of the 306,823 children returned as employed in industry, 143,710 (46.84 per cent.) were employed in the textile trades; 41,801 (13.62 per cent.) in the woodworking and allied trades; and 40,997 (13.36 per cent.) in the clothing and allied trades. The home-work system is stated to form a prominent feature in all three groups of occupations.

As regards duration of daily work, the returns for Prussia shew that 110,682 children (41.05 per cent. of all children in Prussia coming within the inquiry) worked more than 3 hours in the day, 55,933 doing so on 6 days, and 7,621 on all 7 days of the week.

BELGIUM.

Employment in September.†—Great activity continued in the coal mining industry, although the decline in orders for industrial coal became more marked. A further falling off has taken place in the production of iron and steel, owing to the high price of fuel, and a number of establishments previously working short time have shut down. The trades engaged in the production of the heavier kinds of metal goods managed to remain fairly well employed on the whole in executing old orders; but the absence of new orders was beginning

* Vierteljahrshefte zur Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, 9. Jahrgang, 1900, Drittes Heft. Published by Puttkammer and Mühlbrecht, Berlin, 1900.

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

to tell in some places. The glass trade continued disorganised, many furnaces being shut down as a result of the dispute between employers and employed (see below). A slight improvement was reported in the enamel ware trade. The brickmaking season terminated satisfactorily, so far as employment was concerned. The seasonal slackness in the garment-making trades has come to an end. Generally speaking employment was favourable in the building trades, but in some districts slackness set in before the usual time. Flax and cotton manufacture continued well employed in nearly all parts of the country, but at Alost great depression was experienced in the cotton spinning industry, and produced considerable scarcity of employment. The woollen industry of Verviers continued depressed.

Labour Disputes in September.*—Twelve disputes were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in September, involving in all about 400 workpeople, but the dispute in the glass trade of Charleroi (see October GAZETTE, p. 298) continued throughout the whole month, involving about 8,000 workpeople. The number of fresh disputes in August, 1900, was 9, involving about 8,500 workpeople, while in September, 1899, there were 13 disputes, involving 2,483 workpeople. Of the 12 disputes commenced in September last, 3 were in the metal trades, 2 amongst lightermen, 2 in rag-sorting, while one occurred in each of the following trades: Stone-cutting, textile, brewing, printing and engine minding. Of the 10 new and old disputes which terminated in September, 7, involving 223 workpeople, were decided in favour of the employers, and 3, involving 118 workpeople, were compromised.

Old Age Pension Law.—Under the Belgian Old Age Pension Law of May 10th, 1900 (see GAZETTE, June, 1900, p. 163), it is provided that all necessitous Belgians, who are (or have been) workpeople, who reside in Belgium, and who shall have reached the age of 65 years by January 1st, 1901, are to receive from the Government an annual allowance of £2 12s. The same allowance is to be paid on their reaching the age of 65, to persons whose age on January 1st, 1901, shall not be less than 55; but those, who are less than 58 years old on that date, cannot obtain the allowance unless they can show that, for at least 3 years, they have paid into the National Superannuation Fund not less than 2s. 5d. per annum, or not less than 14s. 5d. in the aggregate.

A Royal Decree, dated October 20th, 1900, defines the expressions "workpeople" and "necessitous," as used in the law just referred to, and determines the formalities to be observed in connection with claims for the old-age allowance.

"Workpeople" are defined as "men or women habitually working with their hands for an employer in consideration of a wage, whether such work be performed on time-wage or piece-wage, at home or away from home, and whether it be domestic, agricultural, industrial or handicraft work." Wives or widows of workmen rank as "workpeople," within the meaning of the Act, whether they themselves come within the definition here stated or not.

A person is held to be "necessitous" when his resources are under ordinary circumstances insufficient to enable him to support himself and his family in accordance with the standard of comfort prevailing among workmen of his trade in the district in which he resides. Amongst resources are reckoned the earnings of a husband, wife and children or grandchildren residing with the claimant, and also his and their savings, and any relief which may be received from the poor-law (*la bienfaisance publique*).

AUSTRIA.

Employment in September.†—The returns of the labour registries (public and private) furnishing reports to the Austrian Labour Department for September show that the proportion of applications for work to offers of situations has fallen since the previous month from 119 applications to 112, per 100 situations offered. In September, the average number of applications for each situation, taking the sexes separately, was 1.6 in the case of male, and 0.7 in the case of female workpeople, the number of situations offered to females being, as usual, greater than that of their applications. The proportions were the same in August.

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

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

DENMARK.

Insurance of Fishermen against Accidents.—A Danish law, dated April 3rd, 1900, provides for the insurance of Danish fishermen against accidents which they incur in the exercise of their calling on board Danish fishing vessels at home or abroad.

The insurance indemnities payable under the law are as follows:—If uncertainty exists as to the ultimate effect of the accident, the injured person receives a daily allowance from the end of the 13th week after the accident until the medical treatment has been completed, or disablement resulting from the accident may be pronounced to be permanent, or until death results.

In the case of death the family of a deceased fisherman receives a capital sum equal to about £139.

This law is to take effect on a date to be fixed by the Government, but in no case later than January 1st, 1901.

RUSSIA.

Boiler Attendants in Mines: New Rules.—The Russian Official Gazette of November 4th (N.S.), contains the text of a new Order amending the instructions relative to the supervision of steam boilers in mines.

- Two boilers, where the fuel consists of coal or wood.
Four " " " " naphtha.
Five " " " " gas.

For every five boilers, there must, in addition, be one experienced superintendent, to see that they are working in proper order. Boiler men must not be employed for the double duty of conveying fuel to the furnaces and repairing the boilers.

UNITED STATES.

PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Strike of Anthracite Coal Miners.—According to despatches to the Foreign Office from Mr. W. Powell, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, under dates of October 18th, 19th, and 30th, the strike of anthracite coal miners mentioned in the October GAZETTE, p. 299, has practically terminated, only 3 mines remaining idle on October 30th.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

Illinois State Board of Arbitration.—Mr. W. Wyndham, Her Majesty's Consul at Chicago, has forwarded through the Foreign Office, under date of October 19th, an account of the work of the Illinois State Board of Arbitration in 1899.

Of the decisions of the Board given last year, two relative to the price to be paid for hewing coal were accepted by both parties. In two similar cases the decisions of the Board were rejected, in the one case by the employers and in the other by the men.

except as to the scale for foremen and assistant foremen and compositors in the book and job offices, having been settled between the parties, the Board was asked to adjust this difficulty. The award of the Board, which decided that no change should be made in the wages of the foremen and assistant foremen, but gave the compositors a small advance, was accepted by both sides, and a strike averted.

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 in this industry in October remained about the same as in September, the pits working practically full time. The returns show a slight improvement as compared with a year ago.

The following Table relating to 1,339 pits at which 472,295 workpeople were employed gives the figures upon which the above statement is based:—

Table with columns: District, No. employed in Oct., 1900, at the Collieries included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended, 27th Oct., 1900, 21st Oct., 1899, 22nd Sept., 1900. Includes rows for England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and United Kingdom.

The number of workpeople employed at the pits from which returns have been received for both periods was about 5.9 per cent. greater than a year ago.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. It will be seen that 93.3 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week in October, as compared with 92.2 per cent. in September, and with 90.5 per cent. a year ago.

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

Table with columns: Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks, October, 1900, Corresponding percentages in—, October, 1899, September, 1900. Includes rows for 44 days (full time), 20 and under 24 days, etc.

The Table below, which gives detailed particulars for the different mining districts, shows that in all the districts except Lancashire, Staffordshire, Salop, Worcester and Warwick, Gloucester and Somerset, and South Wales and Monmouth, the average number of days worked per week was greater than in the corresponding period a year ago.

The highest averages during the month were worked in Yorkshire (5.81 days per week), Cumberland, North and South Wales and Monmouth (5.76 days), the Lothians (5.75 days), Ireland (5.72 days), and Derbyshire (5.70 days). The only district in which the average was less than 5½ days was Nottingham and Leicester (5.21 days per week).

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—COAL AND IRON MINING; PIG IRON INDUSTRY; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN OCTOBER, 1900 AND 1899, AND IN SEPTEMBER, 1900.

Table with columns: District, No. employed in Oct., 1900, at the Collieries included in the Table, Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended, 27th Oct., 1900, 21st Oct., 1899, 22nd Sept., 1900, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1900 as compared with A year ago, A month ago. Includes rows for England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and Grand Total & Averages.

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during October amounted to 4,110,568 tons, as compared with 4,115,197 tons in September, and 3,601,090 tons in October, 1899.

(b) IRON MINING IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT continues good and shows no material change as compared with a month or a year ago.

Returns relating to 129 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked by these mines in the four weeks ended October 27th was 5.78 per week, as compared with 5.80 days per week in the four weeks ended September 22nd and in October, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mines covered by the returns was 16,879 (or 251 less than a year ago), of whom 85.1 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks.

The following Table summarises the Returns received:—

Table with columns: District, No. employed in Oct., 1900, at the Mines included in the Table, Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended, 27th Oct., 1900, 21st Oct., 1899, 22nd Sept., 1900, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1900, as compared with A year ago, A month ago. Includes rows for England—Cumberland and Lancashire, etc., Scotland, Ireland, and Total.

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT shows a decline in every district as compared with October, 1899; there is also a general decline as compared with the previous month.

At the works of 117 ironmasters covered by the Returns, sixteen furnaces were damped down or blown out in England and Wales, and three were re-lit during the month, while in Scotland two were damped down. Thus at the end of October there were fifteen furnaces less in operation than at the end of September. As compared with October, 1899, there is a decrease of thirty-eight furnaces in blast.

The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 345 furnaces in blast at the end of October was 23,900.

The following Table shows the number of furnaces in blast in the different districts of the United Kingdom at the three periods specified:—

Table with columns: Districts, Pre-ent time compared with a year ago, Present time compared with a month ago, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1900. Includes rows for England & Wales—Cleveland, etc., Scotland, and Total furnaces included in returns.

(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS* IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT in these industries showed a decline as compared both with September and with a year ago, the aggregate volume of employment (i.e., numbers employed multiplied by average shifts worked), having fallen off by 2.8 per cent., as compared with September, and 5.6 per cent. as compared with October, 1899.

Numbers Employed.

At 208 works covered by the returns 81,867 workpeople were employed in the week ended October 27th, as compared with 82,228 in the week ended September 29th, and 82,173 a year ago.

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

Table with columns: District, Numbers employed in week ending, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1900, as compared with a year ago, a month ago. Includes rows for England and Wales, Scotland, and Total.

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to works employing about 88 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.32 per man, in the week ended October 27th, as compared with 5.45 in the week ended September 29th, and 5.62 in the corresponding week a year ago.

Table with columns: Number of Shifts worked, Number employed in Oct., 1900, so far as returned, Percentage proportion to Total, Corresponding percentage in, Oct., 1899, Sept., 1900. Includes rows for Under 5 per week, 5 per week, etc., and Total.

Assuming that the workpeople not included in this Table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first Table may be estimated at 435,918 in the week ended October 27th, as compared with 448,532 in the week ended September 29th.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—TINPLATE WORKS; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

29th, and 461,712 in the corresponding week a year ago. Thus the volume of employment at the works included in the returns was 2·8 per cent. less than a month ago, and 5·6 per cent. less than a year ago.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS* IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the end of October showed a slight improvement as compared with September, but was much worse than a year ago.

At the end of October 40 works with 216 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 35 others with 223 mills were giving partial employment, 141 of their mills being at work. Thus, in all, 357 mills were working, compared with 354 mills at the end of September, and 415 mills a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation at the end of October is estimated to be about 17,800.

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

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	40	216	—	216
Works giving partial employment ...	35	141	82	223
Total at end of October, 1900†	75	357	82	439
Corresponding Total for September, 1900†	72	354	72	426
Corresponding Total for October, 1899†	83	415	65	470

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

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Oct., 1900.	Sept., 1900.	Oct., 1899.	Oct., 1900.	Sept., 1900.	Oct., 1899.
To United States ...	Tons. 3,751	Tons. 6,925	Tons. 4,366	Tons. 3	Tons. ...	Tons. 815
" Other Countries	17,382	12,429	14,607	4,737	5,211	5,048
Total ...	21,133	19,354	18,973	4,740	5,211	5,863

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

The Agricultural correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 210 Returns from various parts of England, reports as follows:—In the North of England there was a good deal of wet weather during the month of October, which interfered to some extent with potato lifting, storing roots, and preparing the land for wheat, and a few men, chiefly extra hands, lost some time. The great majority of the labourers, however, in the Northern Counties are hired by the year or half year, and are paid for the whole period for which they are engaged without any deduction for absence on account of illness or unfavourable weather. In other parts of the country the weather during October was generally very fine and open, and most favourable for outdoor work. In many districts, however, the land was so dry that ploughing for wheat, and wheat sowing, could not be proceeded with, but, where this could not be done, labourers were generally fully employed taking up and storing potatoes, turnips and mangolds, cleaning the land, carting manure, threshing, hedge trimming, and in some districts apple picking. Complaints are made in

* The figures relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates but also to the manufacture of blackplates.

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

‡ Revised figures.

a number of districts that labourers are scarce, and that difficulty has been experienced in getting sufficient extra men for taking up potatoes and roots, and for threshing. But in most counties employers appear to have generally got the necessary work done without inconvenience.

Northern Counties.—In *Cumberland* employment is said to have been generally regular in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cocker-mouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven, but in some districts some of the casual men were in irregular work owing to wet weather which interfered with potato lifting, turnip storing, and preparing the land for wheat. Reports of a similar character come from *Westmorland*. In *Lancashire* reports from the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, Luteside, and Ulverston state that, though the weather was broken, very little time was lost, as there was plenty of indoor work, such as potato sorting, threshing, etc. In *Durham* reports from the Unions of Chester-le-Street, Durham, and Darlington (*Durham* and *Yorks*) state that work was much retarded on account of the storms, and that men are very scarce owing to the demand for labour at the coal pits. Reports from *Yorkshire* state that employment during October was generally regular in the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Guisborough, Howden, Malton, Ouseburn, Pocklington, and Ripon, but in some districts there was some irregularity of work, owing to wet weather. A number of employers refer to a scarcity of labour.

Midland Counties.—Reports from *Cheshire* state that there was regularity of employment in the Unions of Chester, Macclesfield, Nantwich, Northwich, and Tarvin, the men being busy potato lifting and storing mangolds and turnips. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Derbyshire* in the Union of Chesterfield, and in the *Derbyshire* portions of the Worksop Union (*Notts*, *Derby*, and *Yorks*, *W.R.*), of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*) and of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*). A report from the Worksop Union says that in the last week of October the wet weather interfered with wheat sowing. An employer in the Mansfield Union writes that some farms are being given up in this district owing to the difficulty of getting labour.

Reports from *Shropshire* state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (*Salop* and *Staffs*), Oswestry (*Salop* and *Denbigh*), Wellington, and Wem, and in the *Shropshire* portion of the Whitchurch Union (*Salop* and *Cheshire*). A correspondent in the Bridgnorth Union writes that "extra hands for topping mangolds and turnips are not to be had." A report from the Wellington Union says that "labourers are rather scarce. No extra men about for lifting roots." In the Whitchurch Union the supply of labour is described as scarce. Reports of a similar character come from *Staffordshire* from the Unions of Lichfield, and Tamworth (*Staffs* and *Warwick*). A large employer in the Tamworth Union writes as follows: "Farmers have found it very difficult to get the work done. I generally employ a good deal of extra labour this time of year, but have not been able to get it."

In *Warwickshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Alcester, Coventry, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon (*Warwick* and *Gloucester*), and in the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants*, and *Warwick*). A large employer of labour in the Alcester Union writes as follows: "This has been a fine month, and favourable for getting on with work, especially as the harvest was an early one, and autumn work was commenced in good time."

Agricultural employment in *Leicestershire* is said to be regular in the Unions of Barrow-on-Soar, Blaby, Loughborough (*Leicester* and *Notts*), Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*), Market Harborough (*Leicester* and *Northants*), and Market Bosworth. A report from the Barrow-on-Soar Union states that men are very scarce, especially for special purposes, such as threshing. It adds that abnormally dry weather delayed the farmers ploughing and preparing the land for wheat sowing. A correspondent in the Loughborough Union says that at the end of the month the weather was very favorable for getting in wheat and beans and carting off mangolds. In the Market Bosworth Union the supply of labour is said to be short. Reports from *Nottinghamshire* from the Unions of Bingham, Thetford, and Southwell say that the labourers are well employed, and that they are scarce. A report from the Bingham Union states that men are very difficult to get for any kind of extra work, mangold and potato harvesting taking up many hands. Regularity of work is reported in *Worcestershire* in the Unions of Evesham (*Worcester* and *Gloucester*), Martley, Tenbury (*Worcester* and *Salop*), Shipston-on-Stour, and Upton-on-Severn. A report from the Martley Union states that "every available hand, male and female, is employed on

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

ordinary farm work, gathering fruit, getting up potatoes, etc." Several reports from this county refer to a scarcity of men.

Employment in *Oxfordshire* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Thame (*Oxon* and *Bucks*), Woodstock, and Witney. A correspondent in the Thame Union writes that "milkers are still difficult to obtain. They are constantly changing without due reason." Reports from the Woodstock, and Witney Unions describe the supply of labour as very scarce. In *Berkshire* employment is said to be regular in the Wallingford Union, and men scarce. Agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Towcester (*Northants* and *Bucks*), and Wellingborough, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants*, and *Warwick*). In some districts men are said to be scarce. In the Kettering, and Wellingborough Unions the supply is said to be sufficient. A large employer in the Wellingborough Union writes as follows:—"Still rather short of labour, perhaps not so short as in the spring and summer. Weather on the whole has been dry and favourable for outdoor work." Another employer in the same Union says:—"The sowing of wheat was hindered owing to the lack of rain; on the other hand the weather has been good for carting. Mangolds have come off clean, and manure has been carted with a minimum of damage to land." In *Huntingdonshire* employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Huntingdon, St. Ives, and St. Neots (*Hunts* and *Beds*). In the Huntingdon Union there is said to be a very short supply of labour. A correspondent in the St. Neots Union states that owing to the short supply of men the work of getting up mangolds and turnips was thrown in arrear. Reports from *Buckinghamshire* state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Aylesbury, and Buckingham, and in the *Buckinghamshire* portion of the Henley Union (*Oxon* and *Bucks*). A report from the last-named Union states that no extra hands can be got. Agricultural employment is reported as regular in *Hertfordshire* in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hemel Hempstead, Hitchin, St. Albans, and Watford. The supply of labour in the Hitchin Union is described as about sufficient. In *Bedfordshire* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard, and Luton. A report from Bedford states that extra men for threshing are difficult to obtain. In the Biggleswade Union the supply of labour is said to be about equal to the demand, and in the Leighton Buzzard Union there are said to be plenty of men. An employer in this Union writes as follows: "Weather very fine, which permitted plenty of work getting up potatoes, mangolds, and gathering fruit and cleaning fowl ground. Farm work is getting forward; we are starting wheat sowing. Stockmen, milkers and shepherds are difficult to obtain." A correspondent in the Luton Union says that the work got rather backward, owing to the long spell of dry weather, which retarded ploughing and wheat sowing.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from *Essex* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring. In the Billericay Union the supply of labour is said to be scarce, and in the Dunmow Union it is reported that there is a good supply. In the following Unions the supply is said to be about sufficient—Braintree, Colchester, Maldon and Tendring. An employer in the Maldon Union writes on October 29th as follows: "There is a difficulty in getting married horsemen and stockmen. Many cottages usually occupied by these men are standing empty. The supply of other labourers is about sufficient. Farm work is forward, but very little autumn corn is sown owing to lack of moisture." In *Suffolk* agricultural labourers are generally well employed in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Risbridge (*Suffolk* and *Essex*), Samford, Sudbury (*Suffolk* and *Essex*), and Thingoe. A number of employers state that owing to the dry weather which prevailed during the greater part of the month, it was too dry to plough, and wheat sowing was delayed. An employer in the Plomesgate Union writes: "The weather is too dry to get on with wheat sowing, but employment was found at threshing, carting manure, etc." A large employer in the Bosmere and Claydon Union writes on November 5th: "Drilling on heavy land has been delayed, first because it was too dry and hard, and now a wet spell keeps us off it." In the following Unions the supply of labour is described as "sufficient" or "just sufficient":—Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. In the Hoxne Union teammen are said to be scarce. A correspondent in the Mutford

and Lothingland Union writes: "The supply of labour is still scarce. Milkers are the most sought for."

Regularity of employment is reported in *Norfolk* in the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Docking, Downham, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Giltcross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford (*Norfolk* and *Suffolk*), and Walsingham. In most districts the supply of labour is described as sufficient or just sufficient. In some parishes in the following Unions men were scarce—Aylsham, East and West Flegg, Giltcross, Loddon and Clavering, and Swaffham. The dry weather which prevailed the greater part of the month, was very favourable for outdoor employment. But it was generally too dry to do much ploughing and wheat sowing, particularly on the heavy lands. There was, however, plenty of employment taking in roots, threshing, hedging, etc.

Reports from *Cambridgeshire* state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Chesterton, Linton, North Witchford (*Cambs* and *Herts*), and Wisbech (*Cambs* and *Norfolk*), and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Peterborough Union (*Cambs*, *Northants*, *Hunts*, and *Lincoln*). The supply of labour in these districts is said to be about equal to the demand. A report from the Chesterton Union says that "it has been very dry, and the land in some cases has been too hard and dry to plant, so wheat sowing is rather late." An employer in the Linton Union writes that "as the crops were rather light this year there has been less threshing, but the fine weather enabled all outdoor work to be got on with, and there was plenty of employment cleaning the land, etc." The fine weather which prevailed during the month in *Lincolnshire* enabled all outdoor work to be proceeded with without interruption. Employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Brigg, Caistor (*Notts* and *Lincoln*), Gainsborough, Grimsby, Grantham, Lincoln, Louth, Sleaford, and Spilsby, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Notts* and *Lincoln*).

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Agricultural employment in *Kent* is said to be regular in the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Maidstone, Sevebacks, and Tenterden. Generally speaking the supply of labour is said to be about sufficient, but in the Faversham, and Tenterden Unions men are reported as scarce. An employer in the Faversham Union writes as follows:—"Weather very dry and fine. Roots have been pulled up well. All other crops have been carted weeks ago. Hands very short. Great difficulty has been experienced to get men for the threshing with steam machines." In *Surrey* regularity of employment is reported in the Union of Hambleton, and in the *Surrey* portion of the Farnham Union (*Surrey* and *Hants*). In both these districts men are said to be scarce. The report from the Farnham Union, dated November 4th, says, "The weather being dry and mild, no loss of time has occurred. Hands are not to be obtained for extra work, lifting roots, etc. Labourers being scarce, there has been much delay—in the lifting of roots, which (mangolds especially) ought now to be up before frost sets in." In *Sussex* regularity of work is reported in the Unions of Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. In several districts labour is said to be scarce. An employer in the Cuckfield Union writes that, "the weather has been all that could be desired, and farm work is forward, wheat sowing being almost finished." A large employer of labour in the Newhaven Union writes that, "I have with difficulty got more men (extra hands) for getting up the roots. Many of my neighbours complain of not getting stockmen."

In *Hampshire* employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Hartley Wintney, Havant, Kingsclere, Lymington, Petersfield, Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surrey*). An employer in the Christchurch Union writes on October 30th, that "the supply of labour is sufficient. The wonderfully fine weather in October enabled farm work to be well advanced. Potatoes are mostly housed, and mangolds are now being rapidly got together. There is plenty of work for regular hands." A correspondent in the Hartley Wintney Union writes that "there is not quite as much difficulty to obtain hands. A little time was lost through rain the latter part of the month." Employers in the Havant, and Petersfield Unions state that ploughing for wheat was a month in arrear, owing to the dryness of the soil. In *Berkshire* regularity of work is reported in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage. In both these districts men are said to be scarce.

Reports from *Dorsetshire* state that agricultural employment is regular in the Unions of Blandford, Dorchester, Wareham and

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

Purbeck, and Wimborne and Cranborne; and in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. Several reports from the county refer to a scarcity of labourers, while others say that there are just enough. An employer in the Chippenham Union writes: "I have a neighbour who has been renting a farm of 400 acres who has given it up solely on account of not getting hands to cultivate it." An employer in the Marlborough Union says that there is "a shorter supply of labour, especially milkers, young hands not being willing to learn." Regularity of work is reported in *Gloucestershire* in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Stow-on-the-Wold (*Gloucester and Worcester*), Thornbury, and Wheatenhurst. A correspondent in the Wheatenhurst Union writes: "Employment regular during the whole month, the weather being fine. All hands now fully employed gathering fruit, pulling mangolds, and working the threshing machines. Labour is very scarce in this part of the Union, especially carters, cowmen, and extra hands to milk." An employer in the Barton Regis Union, near Bristol, writes that "all work has been easily got over. Plenty of extra hands to be got when required." In the Cirencester Union men are said to be "very scarce." In the Northleach Union reports say "very short supply." In the Dursley Union "none too plentiful." In the Stow-on-the-Wold Union "very short for threshing and extra work." In the Thornbury Union "short." In the Gloucester Union "short of extra men."

Agricultural labourers in *Herefordshire* are said to be well employed in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore, Ledbury, and Ross. In the Bromyard Union men are said to be scarce, in the Dore Union the supply is said to be limited, but equal to the demand, in the Ledbury Union "the supply is shorter than last year," and in the Ross Union "rather scarce." Reports from *Somersetshire* state that agricultural labourers are well employed in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wells, Wellington (*Somerset and Devon*), Wincanton, and Yeovil. Employers in the Clutton, and Langport Unions say that the supply of labour is sufficient for the demand. An employer in the Wincanton Union writes as follows:—"There has been some difficulty in obtaining good regular hands, but labour for ordinary farm work has been just sufficient." An employer in the Yeovil Union writes: "A very busy month threshing, wheat sowing, apple picking, cider-making, hedge trimming, mangold carting." Reports from *Devonshire* state that there has been plenty of work for agricultural labourers in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Credton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge (*Devon and Cornwall*), South Molton, and Torrington. In the Unions of Axminster, Kingsbridge, Torrington, and South Molton some scarcity of labour is reported, while in the Barnstaple, and Holsworthy Unions the supply is said to be about equal to the demand. In *Cornwall* labourers are said to be scarce in the Camelford Union.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

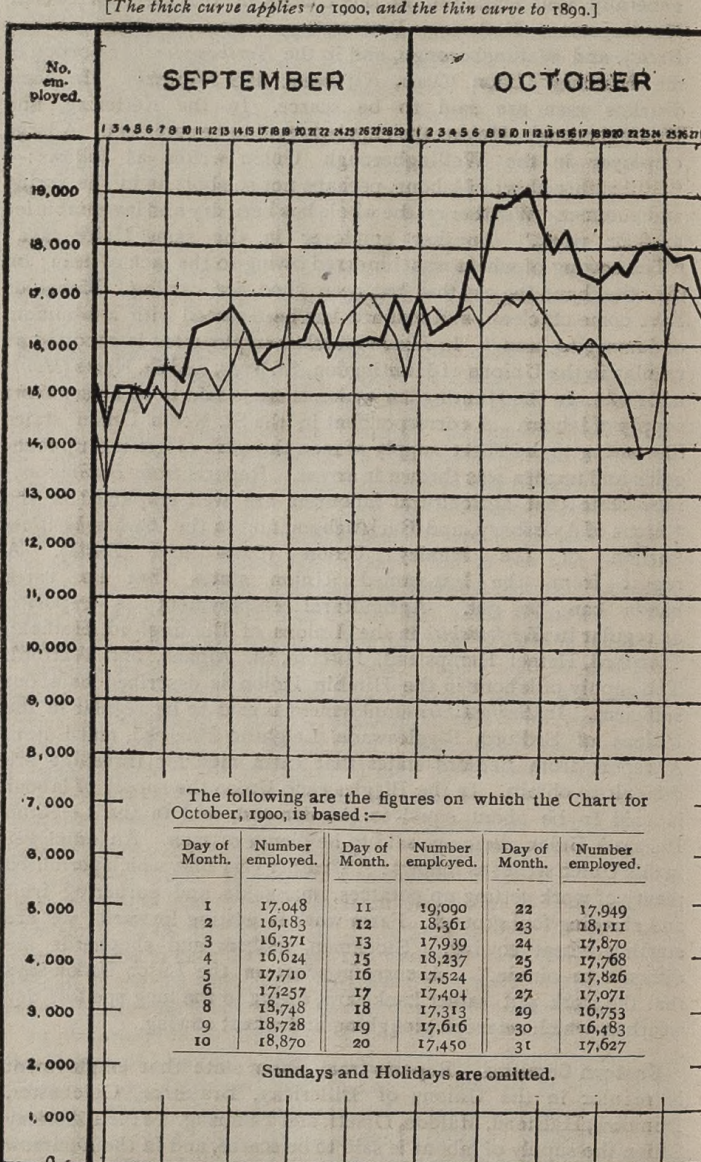
EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves again shows an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves during the four weeks ended October 27th was 17,711, as compared with averages of 15,804 in the preceding five weeks, and 16,228 in the corresponding period of 1899.

(1) Weekly Averages.—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 15 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Oct. 6	7,663	2,652	10,315	6,550	16,865
" " " 13	8,989	2,773	11,762	6,861	18,623
" " " 20	8,703	2,293	10,996	6,595	17,591
" " " 27	8,538	2,419	11,007	6,759	17,766
Average for 4 weeks ending Oct. 27th, 1900	8,486	2,534	11,020	6,691	17,711
Average for Oct., 1899	6,823	2,766	9,591	6,637	16,228
Average for Sept., 1900	7,213	2,302	9,580	6,284	15,804

(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in October ranged from 16,183 on the 2nd to 19,090 on the 11th. During October, 1899, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 13,895 on the 23rd to 17,339 on the 26th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 15 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of September and October, 1900. The corresponding curve for September and October, 1899, is also given for comparison.



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 338.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN OCTOBER.

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

The number of seamen shipped during October as the crews of foreign-going vessels, from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 35,133 or 658 less than during October, 1899. The supply of seamen is stated to have been equal to the demand at most of the ports reported on. At Bristol, however, the supply of A. B.'s is said to be not quite equal to the demand, while a slight scarcity of firemen is reported at South Shields, and of men for sailing vessels at Barry, Liverpool and Glasgow.

During the ten completed months of the year 334,159* men have been shipped, as compared with 346,320 in the corresponding period of 1899. The falling off is due to decreased shipments at the Bristol Channel and East Coast ports and at Liverpool, partly balanced by

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—SEAMEN; WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES; LONDON.

increases at the other ports included in the Table below, notably Southampton and London.

Of the total number shipped during the ten months ended October 31st, 1900, 49,500 (or 14.8 per cent.) were foreigners, the percentage for the corresponding period of 1899 being 14.6. Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in October, 1900 and 1899 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, 1900.*			Total in Oct., 1899.*	Total number shipped in 10 months ended October.*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Oct., 1900.		1900.	1899.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	117	2,631	2,748	2,596	27,596	80,760
Sunderland ...	1	563	564	336	3,379	4,896
Middlesbrough ...	—	184	184	269	2,365	3,488
Hull ...	29	1,054	1,083	1,358	11,835	13,109
Grimsby ...	—	94	94	70	828	884
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	2	511	513	633	4,265	6,016
Newport, Mon. ...	48	732	780	1,019	8,215	10,476
Cardiff ...	255	4,064	4,319	4,892	42,958	60,070
Swansea ...	32	526	558	613	5,670	6,053
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	156	11,360	11,516	12,222	103,323	170,589
London ...	208	6,616	6,824	7,258	63,813	61,790
Southampton ...	—	2,248	2,248	1,763	22,634	14,923
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	—	454	454	341	6,410	6,055
Glasgow ...	111	2,666	2,777	2,694	24,876	24,447
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	—	203	203	188	1,438	1,200
Belfast ...	—	228	228	279	2,783	2,774
Total, Oct., 1900...	999	34,134	35,133	—	334,159	—
Ditto, Oct., 1899 ...	1,259	34,532	—	35,791	—	346,320

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during October showed some improvement in the cotton trade, the percentage employed in mills and factories which were closed for any part of the month being much smaller; there was, however, considerable slackness, especially in the weaving factories. Employment in the woollen and worsted trades showed little change. Information has been received with regard to 582 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 100,560 women and girls, 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.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working Full Time	Working Partial Employment.	Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
October, 1900 ...	64	18	14	4
September, 1900 ...	59	5	19	17
October, 1899 ...	96	3	—	1
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
October, 1900 ...	52	32	13	3
September, 1900 ...	41	24	23	12
October, 1899 ...	97	3	—	—
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
October, 1900 ...	65	28	7	—
September, 1900 ...	67	10	13	—
October, 1899 ...	99	1	—	—
Total of above Trades—				
October, 1900 ...	68	28	12	2
September, 1900 ...	52	18	19	11
October, 1899 ...	97	3	—	—

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton spinning mills reported on is 26,440; of these 64 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 59 per cent. of

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals.
 † Including Avonmouth and Portishead. ‡ Including Barry and Penarth.
 § See also Cotton statistics, page 349.

those for whom returns were received in September, and with 96 per cent. in October, 1899.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton weaving factories reported on is 53,520; of these 52 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 41 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in September, and with 97 per cent. in October, 1899.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 20,600; of these 65 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 67 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in September, and with 99 per cent. in October, 1899.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

General.—During October the state of employment remained fairly good. Returns from 473 branches of 125 unions, having an aggregate membership of 80,566, show that 2,891 (or 3.6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.7 per cent. in September and 2.9 per cent. in October, 1899.

Employment in the *Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding* trades has remained good. Returns from 158 branches of 30 unions with an aggregate membership of 23,727, show that 471 (or 2.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.6 per cent. in September and 2.9 per cent. in October of last year. With sailmakers employment has remained slack generally.

The *Building* trades are scarcely so busy. Returns from 185 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 13,730, show that 378 (or 2.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.6 per cent. in September, and 0.9 per cent. in October, 1899. The stone carvers describe employment as good; the plumbers as moderate; the carpenters and joiners, and stonemasons as fair; the bricklayers and painters and decorators as dull; the plasterers as bad.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has somewhat improved. Returns from 47 branches of 14 unions, with a membership of 6,315, show that 316 (or 5.0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 6.4 per cent. in September, and 2.7 per cent. in October, 1899.

The *Woodworking* trades continue well employed. Reports from 3 unions, with a membership of 895, show that 13 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.4 per cent. in September.

Coopers are fully employed. Reports from 2 societies, with a membership of 1,065, show that only 3 members were unemployed, compared with 18 in September. In October, 1899, there were no unemployed.

Employment with *Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights* is not so brisk. Reports from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,421, show that 33 (or 2.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.3 per cent. in September and 1.6 per cent. in October, 1899.

The *Printing and Bookbinding* trades have continued to improve slightly. Returns from 25 unions, with a membership of 24,543, show that 1,088 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.7 per cent. in September, and 3.8 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades remains slack. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as good; the East End bespoke and stock trades have been quiet; the export trade rather better; the East End military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been busier; the ladies' tailors and mantle makers were busy at the commencement, but slack at the end of the month. Hatters and capmakers are slack; fur skin dressers are also slack.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End hand-sewn boot and shoemakers has been quiet, but improved slightly towards the end of the month; the East End sew-round trade is improving; with boot and shoe clickers and boot and shoe operative employment is bad.

Employment in the *Leather* trades is not so good. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,738, show that 60 (or 3.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.8 per cent. in September and 1.8 per cent. in October 1899.

In the *Glass and Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,446, show that 78 (or 5.4 per cent.) were unem-

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

ployed, compared with 4.2 per cent. in August and September, and 4.3 per cent. in October of last year.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 926, show that 23 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.3 per cent. in September, and 0.9 per cent. in October, 1899.

Gold and Silver Workers are better employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,061, show that 19 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.4 per cent. in September. In October, 1899, only one member was unemployed.

In the **Tobacco** trades employment has continued to improve. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,308, show that 101 (or 4.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 9.6 per cent. in September. The percentage for October, 1899, was 13.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves was 17,711 in the four weeks ended October 27th, as compared with 15,804 in the preceding five weeks, and 16,228 in October, 1899. Employment in mid-stream has been moderate, but irregular during the latter part of the month owing to the lightermen's dispute. Deal porters have been busy. Employment with stevedores, lumpers, and coal porters has been fair; with winchmen moderate; with carpenters fair generally. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been fairly busy, the average daily number of men employed being 326, as compared with 307 in September and 327 in October, 1899.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.**Tyne and Wear District.**

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—Employment is still good at all the collieries. Steam coal pits have averaged 5.41 days, and house coal pits 5.43 days per week for the four weeks ending October 27th. **Durham.**—Some collieries have not worked quite so well. Pits hewing coking, manufacturing, house, and gas coal have averaged respectively 5.67, 5.50, 5.52, and 5.47 days per week as compared with 5.81, 5.75, 5.55, and 5.48 days in September. The returns from 148 pits employing 69,640 men and boys show an average working week of 5.54 days, as against 5.64 days in September. The 6,052 colliery mechanics, deputies and engine and firemen have 6 members unemployed.

Metal Mining.—Most lead mines have worked full time. The iron stone miners have not been quite so well employed.

Quarrying.—Employment in quarries supplying building material has been rather slack. Grindstone makers are busy. Eight lime and whinstone quarries have each worked 5 and 6 days per week.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—The ordnance factory continues exceptionally busy. Most of the marine engine shops are working much overtime. There is still a good demand for turners and machine men. Repair work has been somewhat better. Ship yard riveters, caulkers, and holders-up have worked more steadily; boiler-shop platers are busy. Branches with 12,766 members return 196 (or 1.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 277 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. **On the Wear.**—In several of the yards riveters have been in good demand. Fitters, turners, and machine men continue well employed. Ship smiths are quietly steady. Graving docks and repair shops have been less busy. Branches with 4,935 members have 29 (or 0.6 per cent.) idle, as against 68 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. On both rivers patternmakers describe employment as dull, brass finishers as fairly good, iron and steel moulders as very good. Sailmakers are generally much busier. Employment of shipjoiners has improved; with shipwrights it has been fairly good. Steel plate and angle mills at Newburn have worked 4 shifts; at Jarrow, Consett, and Spennymoor 5 shifts per week. Several steel smelters have been discharged. Chain and anchor smiths have worked full time.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal porters and shippers, trimmers and teamers and Tyne watermen still report employment as good; tug-boat men as fairly good; quayside labourers and casual dock labourers as fair. Lumpers and riggers have been well employed. The demand for sailors and firemen has been less than the supply.

Building Trades.—Slaters and tilers continue busy. On the Tyne employment is reported as bad with plasterers, and slack with stone-masons and plumbers, owing to the bricklayers' and labourers' dispute. Employment is also unsettled on the Wear through the threatened lock-out.

Printing and allied Trades.—Five paper mills have worked full time, two others a little over half time. Bookbinders are fairly employed. Letterpress printers on the Tyne have not maintained the improvement reported. At Sunderland employment is fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers at Newcastle are busy, at Sunderland dull. Lathrenders are slack. Coopers, upholsterers and cabinet makers report employment as fairly good.

Chemical and Glass Trades.—Copper works continue brisk. The stoppage of the black ash department at one chemical factory has thrown 80 men out of work. The bleaching powder makers are steadily employed. Separators in white lead works are slack. In cement works employment remains quiet. Bottle-makers report employment as good, and pressed glass makers as improving.

Fishing.—Trawl boats have landed good catches of white fish; few line boats, however, have been engaged. Prices have been good.

J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—Employment continues fairly good with the Cleveland miners, but two or three mines have been working a day short per week. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines furnishing returns was 5.75 days per week during the four weeks ending October 27th, as compared with 5.81 during the four weeks ending September 22nd, and 5.72 per week in October, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,807, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,805.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment generally at the iron and steel works is not quite so good. It continues good at blast-furnaces, metal expansion works, and general foundries and bridge works, brisk at pipe foundries, moderate at chair foundries.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is reported as good at Middlesbrough, Stockton and South Bank; fair at Hartlepool, and moderate at Darlington and Bishop Auckland. Iron foundries, smiths and strikers, report employment as good. Patternmakers as fairly good. Branches of these trades with 4,420 members have 58 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 61 (or 1.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is reported as fairly good at most yards though interfered with by the weather. Shipwrights, ship joiners, and smiths and strikers report employment as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fair.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as good at Hartlepool, and fairly good at Middlesbrough; dock labourers as good at Hartlepool, slack at Middlesbrough; riverside labourers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Printers report employment as good at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, fair at Darlington and Stockton; millsawyers and machinists as good; pulp, cement and concrete workers, tailors and cabinet makers as fair; salt workers as steady.—*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 continues good in this industry. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 27th, at 21 pits covered by the returns, was 5.76 per week, as compared with 5.81 days in September, and 5.62 days a year ago. The number employed at these pits in October was 6,733, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,499.

Iron Mining.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines continues good. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 27th, at the 45 mines from which returns have been received, was 5.81 per week, as against 5.80 in September, and 5.90 in October, 1899. The workpeople employed at these mines in October, 1900 and 1899, numbered 5,721 and 5,911 respectively.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and Lancashire blast furnaces has continued to decline. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of October was 44, employing an estimated number of 3,675 workpeople, compared with 46 furnaces in September and 54 a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.**Oldham and District.**

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—In Oldham and surrounding districts employment is better than a month ago, and with few exceptions the mills are now working full time. Employment is reported as slack in Rochdale and Milnrow; bad in Mossley; good in Stalybridge; moderate in Ashton-under-Lyne and Stockport. Ring and throstle frame workers report employment as good; card-room operatives as fair; twiners as slack. **Weaving.**—In calicoes employment is reported as slack, in velvets as moderate,

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

and in fustians as bad. Employment in ball-warping is reported as slack; in winding and reeling as moderate.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Woolen workers report employment as good in Rochdale and Milnrow districts; and as slack in Stockport district. The silk dressers of Rochdale again report employment as bad.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment at machine making shops is reported as bad, and at engineering firms as good. Millwrights, ironfounders, boiler-makers, brass founders and pattern-makers report employment as good; gas meter makers, spindle makers, plate and machine moulders and core makers as moderate; tinplate workers, irongrinders and tool makers as slack.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, plumbers, carpenters and joiners report employment as moderate; painters and plasterers as slack.

Coal Mining.—Employment is good and full time continues. *T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in Bolton and immediate district is reported as slightly better. In Leigh and Bedford, Hindley and Atherton a few mills are working short time. Card-room operatives are more regularly employed at most firms. **Weaving.**—Little change is reported.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers, patternmakers, steam engine makers and roller turners are reported as moderately well employed. Machine fitters are still slack and irregularly employed. In Bury, Wigan, Chorley, Farworth and Leigh iron workers generally are moderately employed.

Building Trades.—Employment in Bolton and neighbourhood is fair. At Chorley, Wigan and Bury most branches are reported as less active.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues active throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Tanners are reported as slack; printers, shoemakers and tailors are moderately well employed.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—Employment continues bad in the Blackburn, Preston, Nelson and Colne districts; there is a slight improvement in the Darwen and Burnley districts, but throughout there are still a large number of looms stopped for warps. In the coloured goods weaving trade employment has slightly improved. Weavers in the hard waste trade are now fully employed. Twisters and drawers report a slight improvement. Winders, warpers and warp dressers continue slack. **Spinning.**—Mule and ring spinners and card room workers at Blackburn, Darwen and Accrington are only moderately employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, and warp dressers with 3,472 members, have 182 (or 5.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 167 (or 4.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Employment is fair with calico printers and bleachers.

Building Trades.—Joiners, masons and plumbers are only moderately employed; painters are slack at Blackburn and Burnley, fairly busy at Accrington.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers report employment as bad at Todmorden and Colne, fair at Blackburn; ironfounders as moderate. At machine shops employment continues fair.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners and stone quarrymen continue fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is quiet with cabinet makers; slack with woollen block printers, tailors and brick-makers; fair with letterpress printers.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches with 23,306 members have 794 (or 3.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 668 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers in Manchester report employment as moderate, ironfounders and machine workers as good, sheet metal workers as fair. In Northwich the iron trades are busy. In Warrington wire drawers and wire weavers are fully employed. Smiths and strikers report employment as fairly good.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers are fully employed; cabinet makers are fairly busy; French polishers, upholsterers, and wheelwrights are quiet. In Manchester brewers' coopers are slack, in Warrington and Stockport they are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners report employment as moderate. In Macclesfield silk workers are fairly well employed. Bleachers and dyers report employment as fairly good; dressers and dyers and fustian cutters as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—With bespoke tailors employment is reported as moderate, in the wholesale department as slack; with boot and shoe operatives as bad; with felt hat makers and trimmers as quiet; with shirt makers and cap makers as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as bad; lithographic artists as slightly improving; bookbinders as moderate; pattern card makers and stereotypers as good.

Transport Trades.—Employment continues fair throughout the district.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Boilermakers and iron shipbuilders report employment as slack; whitesmiths and iron and steel dressers as good; iron and brass founders as declining; copper-smiths as fair; patternmakers, fitters, turners and shipjoiners as dull.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen report employment as good; dock labourers, quay and railway carters as improved on account of cotton imports; Mersey flatmen as fair.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coopers, millsawyers and French polishers report employment as fair; cabinet makers as dull; coachmakers as moderate.

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as fair; painters as dull; carpenters and joiners as slack; other branches as showing a slight decline.

Clothing Trades.—All branches of the tailoring trade report employment as slack; boot and shoe makers as slightly improved.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as slack; bookbinders as bad.

Coal Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners report that employment continues good, with an average of five days per week. Quarrymen are fully employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—All branches of glass workers report employment as fair; chemical workers as dull.—*C. Rouse.*

A report from **Winsford** states that employment in the salt trade has further declined. It is fair in the chemical trade at Middlewich, and in the building trades in both towns. Shipwrights, boiler-smiths, brassworkers and barge builders are working full time. Moulders at Winsford and fustian cutters in both towns report employment as good.

YORKSHIRE.**Hull and District.**

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is slack in the shipbuilding yards; moderate in the engineering works and boiler shops and on general repairs. The engineers report employment as good; the patternmakers, ironfounders, smiths and strikers, boiler-makers, iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights and sail makers as bad; other branches as moderate. Shipwrights at Goole report employment as good; at Grimsby, Beverley and Selby as bad; engineers, smiths and boiler-makers at Goole as good; at Beverley, Doncaster, Grimsby and Selby, as slack or moderate.

Building Trades.—At Hull slaters and tilers and builders' labourers report employment as good; carpenters and joiners as fair; bricklayers, stonemasons, plasterers and plumbers as moderate; the painters as good for the season. At Selby employment is reported as good; at Beverley, Grimsby and Goole as moderate; at Doncaster as slack; at Driffield as bad.

Transport Trades.—The seamen and firemen at Grimsby and Goole report employment as fair; at Hull as moderate; the dock labourers and railway workers as good.

Fishing Industry.—At Grimsby the trawl fishermen report employment as good; the line fishermen, curing-house workers, and general fish pontoon and dock labourers as moderate; the steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen as bad. At Hull steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen report employment as fair; trawl fishermen and curing-house and other workers as moderate.

Seed-crushing, Oil-cake, Paint and Colour Trades.—All branches report employment as moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as moderate, the bookbinders and machine rulers as good; the lithographic printers as bad.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coachbuilders report employment as good, the millsawyers and woodworking machinists as fair, the coopers and cabinet makers as moderate.

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

Miscellaneous.—The tanners, leather belt and leather lace makers at Hull, and the curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster report employment as fair; the bakers and confectioners and Jewish tailors, pressers and machinists as moderate; the brushmakers as bad.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches with 7,975 members have 261 (or 3·3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 200 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade generally is fair. Ironmoulders show a falling off; boiler-makers, machine-workers, and steel workers report employment as fair; patternmakers, brassworkers, and wool comb, hackle and gill makers as slack; spindle and flyer makers, and stove grate workers as quiet; tinplate workers as good. At Wakefield engineers and ironfounders are well employed. At Stanningley engineers report employment as fair; boiler-makers as moderate; ironfounders as slack.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the tailoring factories in Leeds has been quiet; with bespoke tailors it is slack, but improving. At the boot and shoe factories employment continues good. Jewish slipper makers are fully employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Leeds mills continues quiet, several running short time. Willeyers and fettlers report employment as bad; warp dressers and twisters as moderate; blanket raisers and linen workers as good. At Yeadon employment is quiet, especially with dyers.

Building Trades.—In Leeds masons and joiners are fairly employed; bricklayers are in excess of the demand, owing to the arrival of a number from other districts. At Harrogate employment is quiet, at Castleford fair.

Mining.—Full time is still being worked at the Leeds, Pontefract and Wakefield collieries.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and curriers are fairly well employed; labourers in tanyards are busier; saddlers and harness makers are slack.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate but improved; lithographers as bad; bookbinders and machine rulers as slightly improved; paper mill workers as slack.

Glass Trades.—Employment in Leeds for glass bottle makers is good; at Wakefield moderate; with flint glass makers it is fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with brush-makers is bad; with cabinet makers and coachmakers quiet.

O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in Bradford and Keighley is described as bad. In Huddersfield the improvement noted continues.

Woollen Trade.—Employment in and around Huddersfield is a little better. Several firms are working overtime. Employment in the heavy woollen trade continues active, many of the workpeople are working overtime, and some manufacturers are running their machinery night and day.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham continues quiet; at Halifax it shows a slight improvement. Dyers at Bradford report employment as slack; at Huddersfield as fair, an improvement on the previous month.

Metal Trades.—Engineers at Huddersfield and Dewsbury report employment as good; at Halifax as fair; at Bradford as declining; at Keighley as bad. The ironfounders report employment as good at Dewsbury; as not so good at Huddersfield; as fair at Keighley; as moderate at Halifax.

Building Trades.—Employment seems to have slightly fallen off in Halifax, and is described as bad in Bradford. In Huddersfield, Dewsbury and Batley it is reported as good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing trades at first declined, but improved towards the end of the month. Miners and glassworkers report employment as good; tailors as quiet.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 16,024 members have 148 (or 0·9 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Branches with 6,662 members have 70 (or 1·1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 97 (or 1·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Engineers, coremakers, iron and steel dressers, boiler and girder makers,

Siemens steel smelters, and engine and crane men report employment as good; iron and steel founders, wire drawers, machine workers, and locomotive engine drivers and stokers as fair; stove-grate workers as moderate; Bessemer steel workers and railway spring-makers as slack. At Barnsley engineers and ironfounders continue well employed. At Rotherham, Parkgate and Masbro', iron and steel workers are busy. Employment with stove-grate and bath makers is better; with tyre and axle makers moderate.

Cutlery and Tools.—Engineers' toolmakers, pen and pocket-blade forgers, and grinders, spring knife cutlery, and table and butcher blade, and file grinders report employment as good; joiners' tool makers, table blade forgers, and the various branches of the razor trade, as fair; saw makers, and file workers as moderate; handle and scale cutters as slack.

Other Metal Trades.—In most branches employment is slack, but the braziers and sheet-metal workers and platers and gilders are busy. At Rotherham brassworkers are rather better employed.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 76 of the principal collieries employing upwards of 53,000 men and boys show an average of 5·81 days per week worked, as compared with 5·76 during September.

Building Trades.—Employment in Sheffield is fair; at Rotherham and Normanton good, at Barnsley moderate.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate; bookbinders and lithographers as fair.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Railway-carriage and wagon-builders and bobbin-makers are busy; coach and cabinet makers are fairly well employed. At Masbro' and Barnsley wagon and box-makers report employment as moderate.

Linen Trade.—Employment is moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the bespoke and ready-made tailoring is bad in Sheffield, moderate elsewhere. The boot and shoemakers at Barnsley are busy.

Glass Trade.—Employment with bottle-makers is slack in the Barnsley district, fair at Rotherham; with flint glass workers it is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Colliery surfacemen, gasworkers, street paviors, electrical workers, and railway workers report employment as good; saddlers, farriers, upholsterers, and general labourers as fair. At Barnsley paper and quilt-makers are well employed, quarrymen moderately so. At Normanton brickmakers, quarrymen and chemical workers are busy.—*S. Utley.*

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

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,774 members have 132 (or 1·7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 232 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers report employment as bad at Glossop and New Mills, moderate elsewhere; boiler-makers as good at Derby, moderate elsewhere; brassmoulders and finishers and wire-drawers as moderate; iron and steel dressers and ironfounders as good; farriers as fair; cycle workers as bad.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 70 collieries employing upwards of 27,400 men and boys show an average of 5·3 days per week worked in October.

Quarrying.—Limestone quarrymen continue rather slack; chert quarrymen are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield report employment as moderate; bespoke tailors as slightly better. Factory tailoring operatives and dress and mantle makers are fully employed.

Textile Trades.—Cotton weavers and card and blowing-room operatives in Glossop report employment as moderate; calico printers in Hayfield, lace workers in Ilkeston and Long Eaton, and elastic web weavers as bad; engravers as fair; surgical bandage makers, hard silk winders, drawers and doublers, wool workers, and makers of underclothing as good; hosiery workers in Belper as slack.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as moderate or fair.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders, and with repairers and lifters. Most timber yards are fairly employed. Coopers report employment as fairly good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as bad, short time being worked.—*C. White-Deacon.*

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

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment on the whole is not good, but it has slightly improved in one or two smaller branches.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment continues bad on the whole in the steam-power branches; in the hand frame branch it remains brisk.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as bad with fitters, smiths and general mechanics at Nottingham, good at Newark, moderate at Beeston and Grantham, fair at Mansfield; as good with ironfounders at Retford, not so good at Mansfield, Nottingham and Grantham; as quiet with tool machinists at Grantham and Beeston, fair at Nottingham; as fair with iron and steel dressers; as moderate with wheelwrights and blacksmiths, smiths and strikers, and machine-workers; as slack with needle-makers; as quiet with boiler-makers at Newark and Grantham; as improved with carriage straighteners; as fair with bobbin and carriage-makers, brassfounders and brassworkers. Blastfurnacemen at Bulwell are not so brisk. Cycle-makers report a slight improvement.

Building Trades.—In the county districts employment generally is reported as fair or good; at Nottingham most branches report employment as dull or moderate.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is reported as having declined with packing case makers; as slightly improved with box-makers; as good with cabinet makers, coachmakers, coopers, upholsterers and mill-sawyers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as good at Nottingham and Retford; lithographic printers and artists as moderate; bookbinders as quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as slack on bespoke tailoring work; as fair in the ready-made tailoring and mantle departments; as moderate with boot and shoe operatives at Nottingham; fair at Mansfield and Hucknall Torkard.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 29 collieries employing about 16,400 men show an average of 5½ days per week worked during October.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is reported as good with railway workers, engine and crane men, stationary engine drivers, colliery engine and fire men, gas workers, and general labourers; as improved with silk-dressers; as fair with saddlers and leather dressers; as moderate with tram and hackney carriage drivers and female cigar makers; as slack with basket-makers, brush-makers, and bakers.—*W. L. Havdstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment is slack at Leicester, Northampton, Kettering, Desborough, and Daventry; fairly good at Raunds and Ringstead; quiet at Higham and Hinckley.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment continues quiet in the wholesale tailoring trade, but has slightly improved in the bespoke branch. It is good with staymakers, fair with dressmakers, milliners and cap makers, quiet with silk hatters, slack with felt hatters.

Hosiery and Woolspinning Trades.—At Leicester employment is good in the shirt and pant branches, dull in the hose and half-hose departments. It is bad in all branches at Loughborough. Dyers and trimmers in the lambswool and cashmere departments are well employed. Woolspinners are in regular work.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment is slack in all branches.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers are generally well employed at Leicester and Northampton. Work is fair with shoe machinery makers, ironfounders and boiler-makers; quieter with toolmakers, patternmakers and turners. All branches are slack at Loughborough.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coal miners is slightly less regular. Stone quarrymen are fully employed. Lime and cement workers are fairly busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment is good with letterpress printers, slacker with lithographic printers, fairly good with bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Employment is less regular in most branches.

Leather Trades.—Tanners and curriers are fully employed; with saddlers employment is improving.

Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.—Coachmakers, tramway and road car builders, and French polishers continue fully employed. Cabinet makers and mill-sawyers are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is brisk with farriers, good with railway workers, moderate with bakers and confectioners, improving with cigar makers, quieter with brick and tile makers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Hollow-ware pressers have averaged about 5½ days per week. Sanitary pressers in many instances are working 3 days per week. Flatpressers are working well. Printers and transferrers employed in the American trade report a decline. Mould makers, throwers, turners and handlers are busy. Still and spur makers, encaustic tile makers, women gilders and decorators and men artists are fairly busy. Ovenmen, kilnmen and saggars makers average about 5 days per week.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is quiet. Puddlers are fairly busy; rollers in some instances are working short time.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is good generally, a decided improvement having taken place at Burslem. Copper and brass workers at Oakmoor and Froghall in the tubing departments are busy; in the brass wire branch a decline is reported.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal and ironstone miners continue busy. Stone quarrymen are working full time.

Textile Trades.—At Leek employment in the silk trade continues good. At Congleton silk dressers report employment as scarce; dyers are fairly busy; fustian cutters are working short time. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives continue busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is quiet with tailors in the Potteries, fair at Crewe. At Stafford and Stone boot and shoe workers report a slight improvement, but a number are still on short time.

Building Trades.—All branches are well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers in the Potteries have 7 per cent. unemployed. At Stafford employment is fair. Lithographic artists and printers report employment as having declined; bookbinders and machine-rulers as moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Railway workers and gas workers report employment as good; brushmakers as fair.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment with steel smelters is good. It continues quiet in the iron bar, angle, hoop and steel trades. In the galvanised sheet mills it has improved. In South Shropshire employment in the steel trade is fairly good; in wire mills it is slack.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Engineers report employment as improved; electrical shops are busy; cycle and motor makers are quiet. Moulders, bridge, girder, tank, and gasometer makers, electrical tram car makers at Hadley, and the malleable iron workers at Walsall are busy. At Madeley and Coalbrookdale employment in engineering works is good.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is good with makers of edge tools, plantation and brazil hoes, steel traps, malleable nails and protectors, electrical and gas fittings, heating apparatus, horse shoes, iron fences and hurdles, with galvanizers, and with the railway axle, tyre and carriage workers, and steel forgers at Wednesbury, and block chain makers at Cradley. It is fair with makers of nuts and bolts, tubes, spectacle-frames, gunlocks, stamped and light hollow-ware, black castings and builders' ironmongery, with filesmiths, stampers and piercers, tinplate-workers, japanners, and brass-workers, and with spike and rivet makers at Blackheath, and iron plate workers at Bilston and Wolverhampton. It is quiet with makers of locks, keys, latches, tips, tacks, cut nails, and steel toys, with hollow-ware tinnery, and with anvil and vice-makers, at Dudley, and anchor-smiths at Cradley Heath. At Old Hill the chain makers and strikers are slack generally. The wrought nail-makers at Halesowen are dull. The ironplate workers report employment as improved at the Lye.

Coal Mining.—On Cannock Chase miners are averaging 5½ days per week. At Tipton, Oldbury, Dudley, and districts, 4½ days, at Old Hill and Halesowen 5 days. The Tamworth pits are fairly well employed. The Shropshire pits are working full time.

Building Trades.—Employment is quiet with painters, moderate in other branches.

Glass Trades.—An improvement is reported in all branches of the flint glass trades.

Leather Trades.—At Walsall employment is good with the harness stitchers, collar makers, and new brown saddlers; quieter with gig saddlers; fairly good with chain, buckle, cart gear, case hame, and spring hook makers.

Carpet Trade.—At Kidderminster employment is generally quiet, except with woolstaplers who are fairly well employed. At Bridgnorth it is good.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND COUNTIES; E. AND S.W. COUNTIES.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made and bespoke tailoring departments is brisk; in the boot and shoe trade it is quiet.

Printing and allied Trades.—Printers report an improvement; the bookbinders are fairly well employed.—C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 19,176 members have 523 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 537 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Three branches of engineers return employment as good, eight as moderate; smiths and strikers as good; patternmakers, toolmakers and ironfounders as moderate. At West Bromwich and Coventry employment is reported as good; at Redditch as moderate. Employment in the cycle trade is reported as quiet. Electrical engineers are reported as fully occupied. In the motor industry at Coventry employment is reported as fair.

Brass and Copper Trades.—In the brass trade employment is returned as fair. Fender and fire brass makers are busier.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-Platers.—Jewellers working in gold report employment as fair; workers in silver as good; Britannia metal workers as good; silversmiths and electro-platers as fairly good.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of stove grates, matchettes, wrought iron and steel tubes, and machine-made nuts and bolts report employment as good; makers of machine-made rivets, cut nails, scale beams, and weighing-machines, iron and tinplate workers as fair; edge toolmakers as improving; nail and oddside casters, and bedstead makers as bad. In the Lye district employment in the ironplate trade is reported as good. At West Bromwich the nut and bolt makers and iron and hollow-ware workers are reported as fairly employed; spring makers as quiet. Employment at Redditch in the fish hook trade is good.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as quiet.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass cutters and flint glass makers report employment as quiet; plate glass bevellers and silverers as fair. At West Bromwich sheet glass makers and cutters are busy; rolled plate glass cutters are working short time.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors and Jewish workers report employment as improving; boot and shoe makers as bad.

Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers, coopers, millsawyers, and woodworking machinists report employment as good, cabinet makers as only fair, wood carvers as bad. In the railway and wagon shops the men continue fully employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the saddlery trades, and with gas-workers and general labourers is reported as good; with gun workers in the military section as good, in the sporting section as bad; with letterpress printers as moderate; with brickmakers as bad. At Coventry employment in the watch trade is reported as steady, in the ribbon industry as bad.—A. R. Jephcott.

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

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are slack. Employment in ready-made tailoring factories is fair; with bespoke tailors good. Dress and corset makers are fully employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull at Norwich, fair elsewhere.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical and general engineers are fully employed. Shipbuilding is good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letter press printers are not very busy; employment with lithographers and bookbinders is fair.

Textile Trades.—Silk and crape workers are slack; mat and matting weavers are busy.

Fishing Industry.—The herring fishing is in full swing at Lowestoft and Yarmouth.

Miscellaneous.—Maltsters, organ builders, horticultural builders, and flour and oil cake mill workers are well employed. G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as good with engineers, boiler-makers and moulders, overtime obtaining in several shops; as fair with shipwrights.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives are busy at Ipswich in the export branch, slack in the home branch. In the ready-made tailoring trade employment at Ipswich continues good; at Colchester it is fair. Corset makers report employment as fair.

Textile Trades.—Employment is reported as good in the mat and matting industry at Hadleigh and Lavenham; fair at Long Melford

dull at Glemsford; good with mat weavers, bad on matting at Sudbury. Silk operatives are well employed; furniture silk weavers at Braintree and hand-loom weavers at Sudbury are quiet.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is fair.

Printing Trades.—Letterpress printers and lithographers have been well employed; bookbinders fairly so.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour has been quiet at Ipswich, fair at Harwich and Parkeston. Employment is reported as good with general labourers, brickmakers, maltsters and farriers.—R. W. Mather.

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

General.—Branches of societies with an aggregate membership of 10,300 have 281 (or 2·7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 126 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives at Kingswood report employment as fair; in Bristol as again slack. Employment with bespoke tailors has improved. Ready-made garment-makers and gloves continue busy. Hatters are dull.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The boiler-makers, ironfounders, brassworkers, patternmakers, toolmakers, and smiths report employment as good; the engineers as moderate; the tinplate workers as fair; the shipwrights as bad.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners in the Bristol and Radstock districts reports employment as good; in the Forest of Dean it is reported as fair with coal miners and iron ore workers, and good with stone quarrymen.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as dull in Bristol, Taunton and Bath, as fair or moderate elsewhere.

Textile Trades.—Employment with weavers is rather slack in the Stroud Valley; slack except on covert coatings at Trowbridge. Silk lace workers at Tiverton are also slack.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Employment is reported as good with cabinet makers, coopers, polishers and coachmakers; moderate with upholsterers and wood cutting machinists; slack with shop and bar fitters.

Printing and allied Trades.—Bookbinders report employment as fair; lithographic printers as moderate; letterpress printers, lithographic artists, paper bag, cardboard box and paper makers as good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with brush makers, glass bottle makers and saddlers; moderate with bakers. Dock labourers are fairly busy; general labourers are slack.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—In tin and copper mines employment continues good. In granite and limestone quarries it is fair; in slate quarries moderate. China clay workers are well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers report employment as good in Plymouth and Devonport, Exeter and Newton, improved in Cornwall. Employment is good with ironfounders, brassworkers, tinplate workers, iron and steel shipbuilders, and shipwrights, in Plymouth and Devonport; fair with shipwrights at Falmouth and Dartmouth. Government establishments are busy. Branches with 2,851 members have only 5 unemployed.

Building Trades.—Stonemasons, plasterers and painters report work as dull in Plymouth and Devonport; plumbers as bad; carpenters and bricklayers as fair. Employment is fair in Exeter; dull in Barnstaple, Bideford, Falmouth and Penzance; bad in Torquay.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers is dull; with lithographers fair; with bookbinders and paper-rulers quiet. At paper mills employment is steady.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is quiet with tailors and in ready-made tailoring factories. Boot and shoe makers report employment as fair, but falling off a little. Short time continues in woollen mills.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally is quiet.

Dock and Quayside Work.—On the quayside general work has continued fairly good; in the docks grain and timber carriers and coal lumpers have been moderately employed.

Fishing Industry.—Catches by trawlers and hookers have been fair; drift boats have had some large catches; river fish have been scarce.

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

Miscellaneous.—Excavators and navvies are fairly employed; brickyard workers, and artificial manure workers are dull. With brushmakers employment is bad. In market and fruit gardens there is little doing.—W. Hedge.

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment continues good at the coal, lead and blende mines.

Quarrying.—Employment has continued good at the slate, granite set, freestone and limestone quarries.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull with painters throughout the district, and with joiners at Llandudno. With carpenters and joiners generally, and with bricklayers it is fair.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers at Oswestry, Sandycroft and Raobon report employment as fair; the coachmakers at Rhyl as dull; the blastfurnacemen at Mostyn as slack; other branches of these trades as good.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—Employment in the flannel and tweed industries of Montgomery continues brisk. Bespoke tailors are fairly well employed.

Printing Trade.—Employment with letterpress printers is fair.

Brick and Terra-Cotta Trades.—Employment generally continues good.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—In the Briton Ferry and Neath district there have been some stoppages, but in other districts the collieries, with few exceptions, have worked fairly regularly.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment has not been so brisk, and some of the mills are temporarily stopped.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been below the average in most ports; pitwood and iron ore imports fairly good; corn imports low. Dock hoblers and general labourers are slack. The shipment of crews has been quiet.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—Branches of engineers and ironfounders, with 3,202 members, have 79 (or 2·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 123 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Boiler-makers, shipwrights, fitters, boiler-makers' helpers and general labourers report employment as bad.

Building Trades.—Employment generally is reported as bad or quiet, except in the outlying districts, where it is reported as fair. Returns from carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,748 members have 92 (or 5·2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 106 (or 6·0 per cent.) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—Wagon builders and repairers report employment as good; metallurgical and chemical workers as quiet; lithographic and letterpress printers as good; patent fuel workers as moderate generally, but brisk at Swansea.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—Employment shows a slight improvement as compared with September, but continues to show a decline when compared with a year ago. At the end of October, 345 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), compared with 342 at the end of September, and 403 at the end of October, 1899. The number of workpeople employed at the end of October is estimated to be about 17,200.

SCOTLAND.**Edinburgh and District.**

General.—Branches of societies with 13,053 members have 606 (or 4·6 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 456 (or 3·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Lothians has been less steady, mainly owing to the want of wagons.

Shale Miners and Oil Workers.—Returns from 30 mines, employing 3,002 workpeople, show that 2,927 were employed in mines working full time, and 75 in mines working 22 and under 24 days during the four weeks ended October 27th.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches with 2,233 members have 97 (or 4·3 per cent.) idle, as against 84 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Branches in Falkirk with 3,565 members have 78 (or 2·2 per cent.) idle, as against 70 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 600 members have 80 (or 13·3 per cent.) idle, as against 72 (or 12·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Textile Trades.—Employment has improved in the woollen industry. In Selkirk spinners are busy, and weavers fairly

well employed; in Galashiels the mills are now running full time; in Hawick both spinners and weavers are busier. The hosiery workers are fully employed; the carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as quiet.

Building Trades.—All branches report employment as slack. The number of unemployed has considerably increased.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,169 members have 53 (or 4·5 per cent.) idle, as against 50 (or 4·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good. The dock labourers and coal porters have been well employed.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches with 2,298 members have 55 (or 2·4 per cent.) idle, as against 33 (or 1·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—The shoemakers, sett makers, saddlers, glass makers and glass cutters report employment as good; the tailors, curriers and bakers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment continues fairly good. Branches with 15,192 members return 429 (or 2·8 per cent.) as idle, as against 450 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment has been fairly good during the month. Branches with 31,989 members return 969 (or 3·0 per cent.) as idle, as against 996 (or 3·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Building Trades.—Employment is still fairly good with slaters, glaziers and joiners; dull in other branches.

Mining.—Employment in coal and ironstone mining continues good throughout the district.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has improved with the bespoke tailors, and is good in the ready-made tailoring, mantle and waterproof departments. Slipper-makers and knee shoemakers report employment as good; boot and shoe operatives as slightly improved.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is good, but it is dull with carpet weavers, and only moderate with thread workers.

Printing and allied Trades.—Employment generally is dull.

Glass Trades.—Bottle makers, and flint glass makers are busy; decorative glass workers and flint glasscutters remain dull.

Transport Trades.—Tramway men, railway men, and hackney carriage drivers are busy; carters, sailors and firemen, and dock labourers are dull.

Miscellaneous.—Tobacco pipe makers and finishers, cigarette makers, curriers, warpers, spindle and flyer makers, scale and beam makers, saddlers, gilders, labourers, sett makers, paviors and rope spinners are busy. Bakers, potters, dyers, basket makers, mattress makers, and brush makers are rather dull.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the jute industry is reported as good on the whole. In the linen trade dullness prevails, and workers are less fully employed.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the collieries in Fifeshire has been good. Returns from pits employing 12,959 workpeople show an average of 5·4 days per week working during the four weeks ending October 27th, as compared with 5·5 days per week in September.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The ironmoulders report employment as dull. In other branches of the engineering trade employment is fair. The shipbuilding yards show more activity. Branches of societies with 2,199 members report 126 (or 5·7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 127 (or 5·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Building and Furnishing Trades.—In the building trades and cabinet and furnishing trades employment is dull. Societies with 1,765 members return 102 (or 5·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 84 (or 4·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Dock Labour.—Vessels with large consignments of jute, flax, etc., having arrived, shore labour has been well employed.

Fishing Industry.—Although there has been some stormy weather the white fishing has been regularly prosecuted, with moderate success.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades has been good on the whole. In the tailoring trade it shows improvement. In the boot and shoe trade it is reported as fair. With floorcloth and bleachfield workers it remains good.—P. Reid.

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

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 5,904 members have 255 (or 4.3 per cent.) idle, as against 175 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Quarrying.—The masons and granite polishers report employment as fair; quarrymen and sett makers as good.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and joiners and painters report employment as dull; masons as bad; plasterers, slaters, and plumbers as fair.

Transport Trades.—The railway servants and carters report employment as good; dock labourers as quiet.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Branches of societies with 1,372 members have 47 (or 3.4 per cent.) idle, as against 35 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, blacksmiths, shipwrights, and drillers and hole cutters report employment as fair; engineers, tinplate workers, brassfinishers, and horseshoers, as good; ironmoulders and patternmakers as dull.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The tailors report employment as fair; mill and factory workers and boot and shoe makers as good; boot and shoe operatives and carpet weavers as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—The letterpress printers and bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good; lithographic printers as fair.

Fishing.—In October, at the Port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 84,308 cwts., valued at £62,048, an increase in quantity and value as compared with September.

Miscellaneous.—The comb makers and bakers report employment as bad; upholsterers as quiet; sawmillers, saddlers, and gasworkers as good; general labourers, hackney carriage drivers, and cabinet makers as fair.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

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

Building Trades.—Plumbers report employment as good; bricklayers as moderate; painters as fair.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Ironfounders, boiler-makers, brass finishers, and gasfitters report employment as good; engineers as moderate; moulders as slack; smiths as dull.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Cabinet makers and cart and wagon builders report employment as fairly good; upholsterers as quiet; coach-builders as bad.

Printing and allied Trades.—The lithographic printers, electrotypers and stereotypers report employment as fair; letterpress printers as quiet; bookbinders as bad. Branches of these trades with 1,449 members have 100 (or 6.9 per cent.) unemployed as compared with 180 (or 12.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—The brush makers, bottle makers, stationary engine drivers, and dock and general labourers report employment as good; hatters, coopers and bakers as fair; bootmakers as dull.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Branches of societies with 8,673 members have 227 (or 2.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 217 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The smiths' helpers and strikers, engineers, ironturners, and patternmakers report employment as dull; blacksmiths as moderate; general labourers and platers' helpers as slack; steam engine makers and ironfounders as middling; boiler-makers, brassfounders, drillers and hole cutters, furnishing trades, machine workers, shipwrights and enginemen, cranemen, and firemen as fair; sheet metal workers as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 3,398 members have 85 (or 2.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 109 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The beetling engine-men and linen lappers report employment as dull; flax dressers, flax roughers, and hackle and gill-makers as moderate; yarn dressers as fair.

Building Trades.—Branches of societies (excluding the carpenters and joiners who are still affected by a dispute) with 1,630 members have 169 (or 10.4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 98 (or 6.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The plumbers and painters report employment as bad; bricklayers and hodsmen as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of societies with 845 members have 61 (or 7.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 79 (or 8.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The French polishers and upholsterers report employment as bad; mill-sawyers as dull; packing-case makers as slack; coachbuilders as moderate; cabinet makers as fair; coopers as good.

Printing and allied Trades.—Branches of societies with 893 members have 58 (or 6.5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 39 (or 4.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The lithographic printers report employment as bad; letterpress printers as dull; bookbinders and lithographic artists as fair.

Clothing Trades.—The tailors and the boot and shoe operatives report employment as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Branches of societies with 1,879 members have 56 (or 3.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 46 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The butchers, bakers, carters, railway servants and municipal employees report employment as fair; locomotive engine drivers and paviors as good. R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as steady in Haulbowline, bad in Passage West, Limerick, and Cork; fitters, turners, and electrical engineers as fair; smiths and brassmoulders as good; shipwrights as dull.

Building Trades.—Carpenters, stone cutters, and painters report employment as fair; masons, bricklayers, and plasterers as bad.

Woodworking Trades.—Coopers report employment as good; mill-sawyers, wood-working machinists and packing-case makers as fair; cork cutters, wagon and cart makers as dull.

Textile and Clothing Trades.—Employment with flax, tweed, and feather operatives continues good. With bespoke and ready-made tailors, and boot and shoe operatives it is fair.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades is dull; with beef and pork butchers, railway and tramway employees good; with plumbers, gasfitters and corporation employees fair; with general quay labourers and coal porters dull.—P. O'Shea.

CHRISTIANIA MUNICIPAL LABOUR REGISTRY AND BOARD OF CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN 1899*.

DURING 1899 (the second year of its existence), the work of this institution as a labour registry has practically doubled. The number of new applicants for work was 11,142 (5,378 in 1898), viz. 8,687 males and 2,455 females (4,087 and 1,291 respectively in 1898). Of a total of 8,915 male applicants for work (including 228, whose names had been retained on the registers since the end of the previous year), 3,598, or 40 per cent. (compared with 49 per cent. in 1898), were found employment; 440 withdrew their applications; and 4,877 were removed from the registers after their names had remained on them for a month. About 84 per cent. of the new male applicants, for whom situations were found in 1899, were entered either as unskilled labourers or as transport workers.

Of the 2,481 female applicants for work (including 26 whose applications had been carried over from the previous year), 1,583, or 64 per cent. (compared with 53 per cent. in 1898), were found employment; 135 withdrew their applications; and 763 were struck off the registers after their names had been on them for a month. Sixty-nine per cent. of the new female applicants for work, for whom situations were found in 1899, were entered under "Miscellaneous Occupations," and 15 per cent. under "Domestic and Hotel Service."

The Registry acts as a free employment agency, being under the direction of a Board elected by the Municipal Administration, and composed of a chairman (with two deputy-chairmen) and eight members (with an equal number of substitutes). One-half of the members (with their substitutes) must be employers and the other half workpeople; and each side must include one woman (with a woman substitute). In the event of a strike or a lock-out, the Registry suspends its operations in respect to the trade, establishment, or workpeople involved.

In all cases of differences between employers and employed (whether a stoppage of work has taken place or not) the Governing Board of the Registry has the duty, if requested by either or both of the parties concerned, of intervening with a view to effecting a settlement, and also, if both sides agree to accept its award, of arbitrating between the parties. The only case, in which the services of the Governing Board of the Registry were utilised for the purpose of conciliation in trade disputes in 1899 was a strike of the workmen employed by the Christiania Municipal Street Cleaning Department, who demanded an advance in their wages. The Budget Committee of the Municipality made a report recommending that the men's wages should be raised, and the strikers, acting on the advice of the Board, resumed work, pending the confirmation of these proposals.

* Kristiania arbeidskontor i aaret 1899, Anden aarsberetning. Christiania. 1900. J. Chr. Gundersen.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during October was 340, or 38 less than in September, and 8 less than in October, 1899.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary Table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,435,110 persons (according to the latest available figures), 312 were reported killed, the same number as in October, 1899, and 8,352 injured by accidents in October, as compared with 7,576 reported injured in October, 1899. These figures give one death in October, 1900, for every 17,420 persons employed in those industries. During the ten completed months of 1900, 3,720 persons were reported killed and 75,406 injured, as against 3,426 reported killed and 69,441 injured in the corresponding period of 1899.

In the remaining occupations included in the Tables, 28 persons were reported killed, and 1,137 injured in October, as compared with 36 killed and 1,085 injured in October, 1899.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Oct., 1900.	Oct., 1899.	Oct., 1900.	Oct., 1899.	
Railway Service— Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	47	51	413	443	534,141
Other Accidents	6	4	901	1,043	—
Total Railway Service	53	55	1,314	1,486	534,141
Mines	79	79	410	353	764,166
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	6	6	82	72	97,995
Shipping	105	112	153	182	231,784*
Factories	69	58	6,393	5,483	3,807,024
Total of above	312	312	8,352	7,876	8,435,110
Workshops	2	1	19	8	—
Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23	20	24	918	885	Cannot be stated.
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	6	11	200	192	—
Grand Total	340	348	9,489	8,661	—

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	Killed.	Injured.	
Railway Service— Brakemen and Goods Guards	5	86	—	19	5
Engine Drivers	3	29	—	52	3
Firemen	2	48	—	74	2
Guards (Passenger)	3	5	—	10	3
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	9	2	83	8
Porters	5	67	1	219	6
Shunters	3	57	—	7	3
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	20	112	3	437	23
Total for October, 1900	47	413	6	901	53
Total for October, 1899	51	443	4	1,043	55

Mines—

	Underground.		Surface.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Explosions of Firedamp	2	16	—	—	2	16
Falls of ground	44	160	—	—	44	160
Shaft accidents	3	10	—	—	3	10
Miscellaneous	21	177	4	47	25	224
Total for October, 1900	70	363	4	47	79	410
Total for October, 1899	71	307	8	46	79	353

Quarries over 20 feet deep.

	Inside.		Outside.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Explosives or Blasting	—	4	—	—	—	4
Falls of ground	5	20	—	—	5	20
During Ascent or Descent	—	1	—	—	—	1
Miscellaneous	1	42	—	15	1	57
Total for October, 1900	6	67	—	15	6	82
Total for October, 1899	7	64	1	16	8	79

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	Killed.	Injured.	
Shipping— On Trading Vessels— Sailing	16	—	19	8	35
Steam	23	2	44	137	67
On Fishing Vessels— Sailing	—	—	1	—	1
Steam	1	—	6	—	7
Total for October, 1900	40	2	69	151	105
Total for 8 months August to October, 1900	147	9	200	499	347
Total for 8 months August to October, 1899	97	35	226	531	323

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Factories— (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons— Adults	54	1,462	—	164	54
Young Persons	15	576	—	102	15
Children	—	15	—	1	—
Total	69	2,053	—	267	69
(b) Other Accidents— Adults	—	3,403	—	78	—
Young Persons	—	552	—	36	—
Children	—	4	—	—	—
Total	—	3,959	—	114	—
Total Factories— October, 1900	69	6,012	—	381	69
October, 1899	68	5,109	—	374	68

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Workshops— Young Persons	1	14	—	1	1
Children	—	4	—	—	—
Total Workshops— October, 1900	1	18	1	1	2
October, 1899	1	6	—	8	1

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Factories & Workshops (classified by trades). Textiles— Cotton	4	214	—	105	4
Wool and Worsted	—	86	—	46	—
Other Textiles	1	54	—	49	1
Non-Textiles— Extraction of Metals	4	127	—	—	4
Founding and Conversion of Metals	11	900	—	3	11
Machines, Engines and Engineering	9	1,413	—	7	9
Ship and Boat Building	3	894	—	—	3
Wood	4	241	—	—	4
Chemicals, &c.	3	161	—	4	3
Other Non-Textile Industries	31	1,937	1	168	32
Total for October, 1900	70	6,030	1	382	71
Total for October, 1899	69	5,115	—	376	69

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Under Factory Act, 1895, Ss. 22, 23 Docks, Wharves and Quays	11	396	—	1	11
Warehouses	—	326	—	—	—
Buildings to which Act applies	9	163	—	2	9
Laundries	—	7	—	23	—
Total for October, 1900	20	892	—	26	20
Total for October, 1899	24	860	—	25	24

	Construction or Repair.		Use or Working.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894— Bridge	—	4	—	—	—
Canal	—	4	—	3	—
Railway	3	67	—	—	3
Tramroad	—	1	—	—	—
Tramway	1	15	—	29	1
Tunnel	—	33	—	—	—
Other Works	1	43	—	1	1
Traction Engines	—	—	—	—	—
Total for October, 1900	6	167	—	33	6
Total for October, 1899	8	189	—	33	11

* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894 (this includes all trading vessels and about a half, say 3,000, of the fishing vessels of 15 tons and upwards). Injuries to members of the crews of fishing vessels employed in and out of Scottish ports and of vessels trading exclusively between Scottish ports, or to Asiatics serving under Asiatic articles of agreement, are not included. With these exceptions, injuries, however trivial, are included. The number of persons stated to be employed is the sum of the number of persons engaged for the first crew of each vessel employed during 1899, and remaining on the Register at the end of that year.

† 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.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1900.

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

Summary.—During October 142,492 workpeople received advances averaging 1s. 11d. weekly per head, and 284 sustained decreases averaging 2s. 6½d. weekly per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those to 132,540 colliery workers in Northumberland and Durham, 3,000 stonemasons in the London district, and 1,500 dock labourers at Bristol.

Decreases.—The principal decrease was that sustained by 275 blastfurnacemen in Cumberland.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting 1,968 workpeople only were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, one of these changes, affecting 1,500 workpeople, being eventually settled by arbitration. Changes affecting 2,697 workpeople in the iron and steel industry took effect under sliding scales. Two changes affecting 130,000 workpeople in the coal mining industry were arranged by Conciliation Boards. The remaining changes, affecting 8,111 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or their representatives.

Summary for First Ten Months of 1900.—For the ten months, January to October, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is 1,065,705. Of these 1,042,944 obtained a net average increase of 3s. 9½d. weekly per head, and 22,761 sustained a net average decrease of 2s. 5½d. weekly per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 3s. 7½d. weekly per head on the wages of the 1,065,705 workpeople affected.

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 the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table for BUILDING TRADES. Includes categories like Bricklayers' Labourers, Builders' Labourers, Stonemasons.

Table for MINING. Includes categories like Coal Miners, Deputies, Winding Enginemen, Hauling and Pumping Enginemen, Colliery Mechanics, Firemen.

Table for IRON AND STEEL MANUFACTURE. Includes categories like Boiler Firemen (Steel Works), Steel Millmen, Steel Workers, Blastfurnacemen, Rail Millmen.

Table for METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES. Includes categories like Smiths, Strikers, Spring Knife Grinders and Finishers, Engineers, File Cutters, Boiler Makers (Repair Work), Engineers.

* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the Table is, in the absence of exact figures, the result of averaging the wages for five summer 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. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table for EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES. Includes categories like Cemetery Workmen, Gasworks Employees, Bricklayers, Stokers, Purifiers, Labourers, Tramway Employees, Car Washers, Enginemen and Boiler-men at Gasworks, Gas Workers, Stokers and Firemen, Coal Wheelers, Labourers, Purifier Men, Lamplighters, Boat Unloader, Blacksmiths, Coal Unloaders, Masons' Labourers.

Table for MISCELLANEOUS TRADES. Includes categories like Tapestry Carpet Printers, Printers, Letterpress Printers, Saddlers (Military Work), Dock Labourers (General Cargo-men), Threaders (Lace Manufacture, Levers Branch), Glass Bottle Makers, Bakers, Glass Bottle Makers.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

IMMIGRATION IN CANADA.

Regulations as to Pauper, Destitute, Criminal and Vicious Immigrants.—By a proclamation made by virtue of the power conferred upon him by "An Act respecting Immigration and Immigrants" (Revised Statutes of Canada, chapter 65) and dated July 23rd, 1900, the Deputy of the Governor-General of Canada has prohibited "the landing of pauper or destitute immigrants in any port in Canada, until such sums of money as are found necessary are provided and paid into the hands of the Canadian Immigration Agent having jurisdiction at the port of landing by the master of the vessel carrying the said immigrants, for their temporary support and transportation to their place of destination."

A second proclamation, dated August 23rd, 1900, prohibits the landing in Canada of any criminal or other vicious class of immigrants from any European or Asiatic port, except upon such conditions for ensuring their re-transportation to the port whence they came or elsewhere with the least possible delay, as the Governor-General in Council prescribes, such conditions including, if the Governor-General deems it necessary, the immediate return or the return with the least possible delay of the vessel and such immigrants to the said port, such prohibited immigrants remaining on board until such return of the vessel.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1899-1900.

The report of the New Zealand Department of Labour, for the year ended March 31st, 1900, states that the year has been one of great prosperity to the workers of New Zealand. The annual returns show that the total number of persons employed in factories rose from 45,305 in 1899 to 48,938 in 1900. These figures do not

include 1,464 persons employed in Government railway workshops. The number of men passed through the books of this department, as obtaining employment was 2,147 (as compared with 2,115 in the previous year); but these cannot all be classed as "unemployed," because all manual workers employed by Government are included in the above figures; thus, out of the 2,147 persons just mentioned, 1,661 were sent to Government works. The women's branch of the Department found employment for 256 domestic servants, compared with 324 in the previous year. In the four chief towns permits for overtime were granted to 5,099 persons, the average overtime allowed being 27 hours per person.

DECREASES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1900.

The only changes in hours of labour reported in October affected 394 workpeople, whose hours were reduced on an average by 1.83 per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1900, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of Reduction per week.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

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. Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.)

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty fresh disputes were reported as having begun in October, 1900, compared with 29 in September, 1900, and 38 in October, 1899. In these 30 disputes 14,160 workpeople were directly and 1,919 indirectly affected, a total of 16,079, which compares with 6,032 in September, 1900, and 5,275 in October, 1899.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 2 disputes took place, involving 153 workpeople; in the mining industry 14 disputes, involving 12,273 workpeople; in the metal and engineering trades 5 disputes, involving 378 workpeople; in the textile trades 5 disputes, involving 1,184 workpeople; and in miscellaneous trades, 4 disputes, involving 2,091 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 30 disputes, 12 arose on demands for advances in wages-rates, 9 on other wages questions, 5 on questions of working arrangements, and 4 on miscellaneous questions.

Results.—Twenty-four new disputes, involving 13,279 workpeople, and 9 old disputes, involving 676 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 33 new and old disputes terminated, 11, involving 9,134 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 9, involving 1,446 persons, in favour of the employers; and 10, involving 3,083 persons, resulted in compromise. With regard to the remaining 3 disputes, involving 292 persons, certain points are still under consideration. At the end of October, 12 old disputes, involving altogether about 1,850 workpeople, were reported to be still unsettled.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The aggregate duration in October of all the disputes, new and old, was about 155,000 days, compared with 96,000 days in September, 1900, and 92,600 in October, 1899.

Summary for the First Ten Months of 1900.—For the ten completed months of 1900 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 499 disputes which commenced in these months was 154,436, as compared with 157,169 in the 637 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1899. The aggregate duration in 1900 of trade disputes was about 2,542,000 working days, as compared with 2,288,000 in the corresponding period of 1899.

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1900.

		2 Disputes.		BUILDING TRADES.		153 Workpeople affected.	
Leeds ...	Bricklayers ...	89	...	2	13	Dispute as to provision of accommodation for meals, increase in wages on account of distance from work, and other matters.	Demands granted.
Tamworth ...	Builders' Labourers ...	64	...	8	8½	For advance in wages from 5½d. to 6d. per hour...	Advance of ½d. per hour granted.
		14 Disputes.		MINING.		12,273 Workpeople affected.	
Barnsley ...	Coal Miners ...	393	...	11	...	For advance in prices for getting coal ...	No settlement reported.
Castleford ...	Coal Miners, Surface Workers, Boys, &c.	800	300	8	3	Objection to employment of new workmen in a new seam	Firm promised to employ some of old workpeople in the new seam.
Wakefield ...	Miners, Daymen and Boys	260	50	4	16	For advance in prices for getting coal in a difficult seam	Modified advances granted.
Bolton (near) ...	Coal Miners and Drawers	50	...	20	1	Against proposed change from day to piecework system	Work resumed on employer's terms by some of the men; remainder found work elsewhere.
Skelmersdale ...	Coal Miners, Drawers, &c.	213	...	24	...	For extra allowances for long distance drawing...	No settlement reported.
Ashby-de-la-Zouch ...	Miners, Banksmen, &c.	200	...	13	1	For advance of 5 per cent. to banksmen as generally granted in district	Demand granted.
Nottingham (near) ...	Pit Lads and other Colliery Workpeople	286	1,130	23	6	Failure of employers to pay the full advance of 5 per cent. as granted in the federated districts	Payment of the full advance made.
Ebbw Vale ...	Miners and Surface-men	1,200	...	30	2	For change in system of working, and provision of shelter in wet weather for surface-men	Amicable settlement arrived at as to system of working; shelter to be provided for surface men.
Llangennech ...	Coal Miners, Trammers, Hauliers, &c.	213	...	1	15	To obtain a new price list ...	Price list arranged, stated to be equal to an advance of about 10 per cent. in earnings.
Lydney ...	Miners and other Colliery Workpeople	81	46	15	6	Dispute as to prices to be fixed for getting coal...	Compromise effected.
Rhondda Valley ...	Coal Miners and Daymen	6,000	...	1	4	Refusal to work with non-unionists ...	Non-unionists joined the South Wales Miners' Federation.
Treorkey ...	Coal Miners	900	...	1	1	To compel non-unionists to join the South Wales Miners' Federation	Non-unionists joined the Federation.
Wrexham (near) ...	Labourers (Lead Mines)	56	...	1	19	For advance in wages of 3d. per day ...	Advance of 1d. per day granted.
Musselburgh ...	Coal Miners	185	...	25	3	Introduction of a "Billy Fairplay" for checking the quantity of dross found in hand-filled coal	Amicable settlement arrived at.
		5 Disputes.		METAL AND ENGINEERING TRADES.		378 Workpeople affected.	
Stanningley ...	Planers and Labourers	10	...	5	1	Dissatisfaction with new working conditions ...	All but two of the men replaced.
Barrow-in-Furness ...	Smiths' Strikers	110	...	8	...	For alteration in system of payment ...	No settlement reported.
South Staffs ...	Iron Pot Casters, Dressers, &c.	73	65	15	...	For advance in wages ...	No settlement reported.
Dudley ...	File Cutters	31	...	1	12	For advance in wages of 5 per cent. as generally granted in district	Advance granted.
Dudley and District ...	Fender and Fire-iron Makers and Other Workpeople	69	20	15	9	Against proposed reduction in wages of 7½ per cent.	Work resumed at old rates.
		5 Disputes.		TEXTILE TRADES.		1,184 Workpeople affected.	
Bolton ...	Frame Tenters, Grinders, Spinners and Piecers	86	60	15	7	Dismissal of six back tenters, and refusal of firm to compensate other operatives pro rata for additional work done	The six back tenters reinstated pending arrangements as to future working.
Colne ...	Cotton Weavers	80	...	4	7	Refusal of firm to conform to Manchester Agreement of July, 1900, with regard to plain work in check looms	Weavers' terms conceded.
Rochdale ...	Silk Dressers	36	...	9	...	Against proposed reduction in wages from 9d. to 8d. per lb. on a certain class of work	No settlement reported.
Shaw ...	Ring Piecers, Reelers, Winders, Warpers, Spinners and Card-room Hands	25	242	24	4	Dissatisfaction with working conditions ...	Work resumed unconditionally.
Cork ...	Flax Bundlers, Spinners, &c.	655	...	12	12	Strike of bundlers for an advance in wages, followed by lock-out of spinners	Work resumed on old conditions.

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

TRADE DISPUTES—continued.

Locality.	Occupation.*	Number of Workpeople affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Di-rectly.	Indi-rectly.*				

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1900—(continued).

		4 Disputes.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		2,091 Workpeople affected.	
Hinckley ...	Boot and Shoe Finishers	15	...	Oct. 8	2	For reinstatement of two discharged fellow workmen	One man reinstated.
River Thames ...	Watermen and Lightermen	2,000	...	12	...	Dispute as to conditions of overtime under arbitrator's award of 1899, and other matters	Still unsettled.
Burtonisland ...	Coal Trimmers	60	...	1	1	Objection to work being sub-let to two contractors	Places of strikers filled by other men.
Dundee ...	Paviors and Labourers (Local Authority)	10	6	5	6	For advance in wages from 7½d. to 8½d. per hour	Advance of 1d. per hour granted while constructing new tramway.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, 1900, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

		2 Disputes.		COAL MINING.		135 Workpeople affected.	
Dowlais ...	Coal Miners	72	...	1 Aug.	67	Dispute as to certain allowances ...	Work resumed pending arbitration.
Ayr (near) ...	Coal Miners	63	...	12 July	68	Against employment of non-unionists	Work resumed unconditionally.
		3 Disputes.		METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES.		308 Workpeople affected.	
Sunderland ...	Drillers	39	...	29 Sep.	6	Against alleged objectionable foreman ...	Assistant foreman appointed.
Oldham ...	Irondressers and Core Makers	23	...	9 Aug.	...	For advance in wages of 2s. per week ...	Some of the men reinstated on old conditions, others replaced.
South Wales and Mon. ...	Smiths' Hammermen	250	...	3 Sep.	37	For advance in wages from 27s. to 30s. per week...	Work resumed on old conditions.
		4 Disputes.		MISCELLANEOUS TRADES.		233 Workpeople affected.	
Ashton-under-Lyne, Denton, Hyde, and Oldham ...	Tram Drivers and Conductors	74	...	23 Sep.	39	Against dismissal of certain employees ...	Men reinstated and work resumed pending arbitration on certain questions (see also p. 329).
Woodborough London E. ...	Framework Knitters ... Bricklayers	86	...	27 July	64	For alteration in system of payment ...	Demand granted.
Dundee ...	Sawmillers and Boys Case and Box Makers and Improvers	36	27	26 Sep.	6	Against others than bricklayers being employed on wall tiling	Agreement arrived at as to demarcation of work (see also p. 329).
						Against alteration in making-up day for wages ...	Work resumed on employers' terms.

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

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October 860 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing Returns, and 864 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 223 persons, of whom 134 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the seven bureaux during October. A Return from the Dundee Labour Bureau is appended, but not included in the summaries.

WORK DONE IN OCTOBER.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
			Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.				
Central Bureau—60, Chancery-lane, W.C. ...	48	59	7	4
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—22, Berners-street, W. ...	37	98	8	15
Y. W. C. A.—26, George-street, Hanover-square, W. (1) ...	624	482	106	18
(2) ...	118	114	36	6
Other Bureaux ...	37	107	17	6
Total of 7 Bureaux ...	864	860	174	4
Summary by Occupations.				
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc. ...	10	76	2	1
Shop Assistants ...	1	14	1	—
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ...	107	66	32	10
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ...	19	75	5	13
Apprentices and Learners ...	21	13	2	1
Domestic Servants ...	569	456	114	20
Miscellaneous ...	47	160	15	4
Total Number in October, 1900 ...	864	860	174	49
Total Number in September, 1900 ...	675	613	101	83
Total Number in October, 1899 ...	1,028	729	238	—
Dundee Labour Bureau ...	25	31	6	8

The number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 502 to 659 and the number of servants applying from 325 to 456, the number engaged for permanent employment rising from 58 to 114. The number of fresh applications from employers for dressmakers and milliners rose from 82 to 107; the number requiring such situations and the number engaged through the bureaux were practically the same as in September.

Of the 25 situations offered at the Dundee Labour Bureau, 16 were for mill and factory operatives and 9 for charwomen; of the 31 wanting situations 12 were millworkers and 13 were charwomen; of the 14 who obtained situations 6 were millworkers and 8 were charwomen.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during October, and the ten completed months of 1900, with comparative figures for 1899—

	Month of Oct.		Ten months ended October—	
	1900.	1899.	1900.	1899.
Imported	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	394,559	327,178	2,437,882	2,590,752
Exported	239,990	269,515	2,407,511	2,560,454
	31,198	24,857	294,050	464,688

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended November 3rd amounted to £6,972,196, an increase of £161,160 (or 2.4 per cent.) over the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,911,318, an increase of £162,791, and those from goods and mineral traffic, £4,060,878, a decrease of £1,631.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during October was £896,336, a decrease of £16,611 as compared with October, 1899. In England and Wales there was a decrease of £28,130, in Scotland an increase of £30,559, and in Ireland a decrease of £19,040.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during October numbered 360, being 34 more than in October, 1899, 12 more than in October, 1898, and 15 less than in October 1897.

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of October was 316,970, corresponding to a rate of 196 per 10,000 of the estimated population of those districts in 1900.

Compared with September, 1900, an increase is shown of 2,491 in the number relieved, and of 2 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. There is an increase in the rate in twenty districts, the largest increases being in Central London (15 per 10,000), Cork, Waterford and Limerick District (9), and Manchester (8). In three districts the rate is unchanged, and the remaining twelve districts show small decreases.

Compared with October, 1899, the number of persons relieved has fallen off by 618, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 2. Twenty-one districts show decreases, the principal decreases being in Belfast (21 per 10,000), Wigan and Wolverhampton (17 each), Leicester (14), Central London (13), and Barnsley and Bristol (12 each). The rate in one district is unchanged, and the remaining 13 show increases, the most marked being Galway (20 per 10,000), and Manchester (15).

Table showing Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1900, and Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with 1899. Columns include Selected Urban Districts, In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of population, and A month ago, A year ago.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October the 10 Bureaux furnishing Returns registered 2,827 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,921 in October, 1899, an increase of 906. Work was found by these Bureaux for 1,591 persons, of whom 1,076 (871 males and 205 females) were engaged by private employers, 171 by Local Authorities, and 344 males by the Salvation Army.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of October was 1,494, as against 1,356 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in October.

Table showing No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, and No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux. Columns include Name of Labour Bureau, Oct. 1900, Oct. 1899, and Engaged by Private Employers, Local Authorities.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during October, 1900.

Table showing No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, and Total. Columns include Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities, and Grand Total for 10 Bureaux.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Table showing Occupation, No. on Register at end of Oct., 1900, Oct., 1899. Columns include Men, Lads and Boys, Women and Girls, and Grand Total for 10 Bureaux.

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities. † Of these 436 were stated to be engaged as boardmen and bill distributors.

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for October.

The trade returns for October, 1900, show an increase as compared with the corresponding period of 1899 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, but a decrease in the exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The imports for October, 1900, were valued at £48,495,608, as compared with £44,130,818 for October, 1899, an increase of £4,364,790, or 9.9 per cent., and the exports amounted in value to £29,729,359, as against £29,259,872 in October, 1899—an increase of £469,487. The exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures alone were valued at £24,742,930 in October, 1900, and £23,699,021 in October, 1899—an increase of £1,043,909, or 4.4 per cent. The value of foreign and Colonial merchandise exported in October, 1900, shows a decrease as compared with October, 1899, of £574,422, or 10.3 per cent.

Imports.—The following Table shows the value of the imports for October, 1900, as compared with October, 1899, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table showing Month ended Oct. 31st, 1899, 1900, Increase, Decrease. Columns include Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufactures, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles, and Total.

The imports of wheat in October, 1900, show an increase of 796,560 cwt. in quantity, and £367,331 in value, as compared with October, 1899. Wheat meal and flour has increased 375,275 cwt., and £234,576; barley, 967,060 cwt., and £272,741; and oatmeal 8,700 cwt., and £11,191. All other kinds of corn (except beans) show a decrease in both quantity and value, viz., oats, 438,800 cwt., and £104,366; peas, 70,468 cwt., and £18,180; maize, or Indian corn, 1,081,150 cwt., and £66,106; maize meal, or Indian corn meal, 51,283 cwt., and £9,119; and other kinds of corn and meal, 89,250 cwt., and £23,548. Beans show a decrease of 20 cwt. in quantity, and an increase of £2,644 in value.

The imports of raw cotton have increased 202,417 cwt. in quantity and £1,628,560 in value, and jute, thrown silk, and goats' wool, other than mohair, also show increases in quantity and value. On the other hand, the imports of flax, hemp, raw silk, and sheep or lamb's wool show decreases in both quantities and values—the latter article by as much as 3,101,775 lbs. and £157,548. Other raw materials in general show increases in quantity and value—especially gutta percha, paper-making materials, sheepskins, and wood and timber.

Exports.—The following Table shows the value of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month ended October 31st, 1900, as compared with a like period of 1899, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table showing Month ended Oct. 31st, 1899, 1900, Increase, Decrease. Columns 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 and Ships), Machinery and Millwork, Ships, new (not registered as British), Miscellaneous, and Total.

The exports of coal, coke, and fuel in October, 1900, show an increase of 509,478 tons and £1,785,713, as compared with October, 1899. The exports of sheep and lambs' wool show a decrease of 1,297,900 lbs. and £49,563.

The exports of cotton yarn have decreased 7,482,100 lbs. and £125,151, of linen yarn 223,000 lbs. and £969, of woollen yarn 14,300 lbs. and £1,335, and worsted yarn 1,368,400 lbs. and £103,399. Jute yarn has decreased 332,500 lbs. in quantity but increased £4,337 in value. Almost all kinds of piece goods (with the exception of jute piece goods and wool damasks) have decreased in both quantity and value—cotton piece goods 88,493,700 yards and £372,831, linen piece goods 4,766,200 yards and £60,084, woollen and worsted tissues 2,330,500 yards and £82,261.

Tonnage of Shipping entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes during October, 1900, amounted to 3,330,706 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,838,903 tons, as against 3,320,228 tons entered, and 3,591,337 tons cleared in October, 1899. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes, during October, 1900, amounted to 2,644,166 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,585,589 tons, as against 2,635,637 tons entered and 2,568,509 tons cleared in October, 1899.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during October was 30,123, or 8,338 more than in October, 1899. Comparing the ten completed months of 1900 with the corresponding period of 1899 there is an increase of 53,729, viz., from 214,183 in 1899 to 267,912 in 1900, the increase being chiefly due to the larger number of passengers proceeding to the United States, and of foreigners bound for British North America.

British and Irish.—Of the 30,123 passengers in October, 1900 were of British or Irish origin, being 5,717 more than in October, 1899. During the ten months ended October, 1900, the number of passengers of British or Irish origin was 151,125, an increase of 18,496, as compared with the corresponding period of last year.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Table showing Destination, October, 1900, October, 1899, Total for ten months ended—October, 1900, October, 1899. Columns include United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places, and Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 30,123 passengers in October, viz., 11,037 were foreigners or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 2,621 as compared with a year ago.

The total number of foreigners, etc., who left the United Kingdom during the ten completed months of the year was 116,787 in 1900, and 81,554 in 1899.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during October was 10,763. Of these 5,103 were stated on the Alien Lists to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, compared with 4,816 so stated in October, 1899. Those not stated on the Alien Lists to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 5,660 (including 1,379 sailors), the corresponding number for October, 1899, being 6,157 (including 1,328 sailors). The figures for October, 1900 and 1899, and also for the ten months ended October in each year, are as follows:—

Table showing Destination, October, 1900, October, 1899, Total for ten months ended—October, 1900, October, 1899. Columns include Aliens not stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, and Total.

* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,379 in October, 1900; 1,328 in October, 1899; and 11,630 and 11,291 respectively for the ten months ended October in each year.

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, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 2 Co-operative Associations for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 24 Friendly Societies, and 47 branches of existing Friendly Societies, and 1 Building Society were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during the month. One Trade Union, 55 Friendly Societies (including 48 branches) and 15 Building Societies are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled. Four Trade Unions and 1 Industrial and Provident Society are reported as having amalgamated with other societies.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Amalgamated Glovers' Society, Duke of Cornwall Hotel, Stoke-under-Ham; Newcastle, Gateshead and District Butchers' Association, 22, Warder-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Tunbridge Wells Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 7, Kensington-street, Tunbridge Wells. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Rathnure Co-op. Poultry Soc., Rathnure, Co. Wexford; Cruagh Co-op. Home Industries Soc., Edmondstown, Co. Dublin. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—Atlas Press Soc., Ltd., 3, Queen's-arcade, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—Loughbrickland Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Loughbrickland, Co. Down. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—None. *Scotland.*—Larkhall Earnest Effort Building Soc., Ltd., 5, Station-road, Larkhall; Larkhall Progress Building Soc., Ltd., Raplock-street, Larkhall. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 9; Dividing, 2; Juvenile, 1; Specially authorised, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 8. *Scotland.*—Collecting, 1. *Ireland.*—Specially authorised, 1. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—41. *Scotland.*—6. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—1. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Notice of Dissolution.—Ormskirk United Operative House Painters', Plasterers', Plumbers', and Glaziers' Association. *Amalgamations.*—Mersey Ship Joiners' Association with Amalgamated Soc. of Carpenters and Joiners; United Steam Sawyers' and Wood Cutting Machinists' Soc. with Amalgamated Soc. of Mill Sawyers, Wood Cutting Machinists and Wood Turners of Great Britain and Ireland; East London Painters' Trade Union with Amalgamated Soc. of House Decorators and Painters; Amalgamated Soc. of Printers' Warehousemen with the Printers' and Stationers' Warehousemen Cutters, etc. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—*Amalgamation.*—Hackleton and Cold Hanworth Provident Soc., Ltd., with Lincoln Equitable Co-op. Industrial Soc., Ltd. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 4. Branches, 1. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 1; Branches, 47. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 5; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 5. *Scotland.*—Notice of commencement of winding-up, 1; notice of termination of winding-up, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Manchester District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will be held for this district on the 21st December, 1900. Intending candidates should communicate on or before 17th December, 1900, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. Thos. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18, King Street, Wigan.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under manager of a mine will be held for this district on 3rd and 4th days of January, 1900. Intending candidates should communicate on or before the 28th December, 1900, with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN OCTOBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
By Owners, Managers, &c.:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to Limewash ...	8	8	13 10 0	2 17 6
Using Bakehouse where sanitary regulations have not been complied with ...	1	1	2 0 0	0 2 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	19	19	53 0 0	10 7 3
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, &c. ...	5	4	2 0 0	3 12 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	32	30	18 0 0	15 8 6
Employing Women and Children in forbidden Trades ...	3	—	—	—
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	68	66	30 3 0	26 13 10
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	20	20	1 9 0	5 17 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	18	18	4 2 6	4 19 0
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays ...	6	6	7 5 0	2 0 6
At night ...	14	14	9 15 0	6 2 0
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. ...	6	5	4 0 0	2 13 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers ...	29	29	25 10 6	10 0 2
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ...	13	13	8 7 0	5 8 4
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	9	9	4 10 6	5 10 10
Obstructing an Inspector in the execution of his duty ...	1	1	20 0 0	10 10 0
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ...	2	2	4 0 0	1 2 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts ...	4	4	2 10 0	2 5 6
By Workmen:				
Employment before or after legal hour ...	2	2	2 0 0	0 16 0
By Parents:				
Allowing Children to be illegally employed ...	1	1	0 10 0	0 9 0
Total for October, 1900 ...	261	252	212 12 6	116 18 5
Total for October, 1899 ...	337	319	208 2 6	128 15 8

II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
UNDER THE MINES ACTS.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					£ s. d.
Registers, Notices, Returns, Plans, &c. ...	3	2	—	1	2 0 0
Miscellaneous ...	10	9	1*	—	39 3 0
By Workmen:					
Safety Lamps ...	5	5	—	—	5 13 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	5	5	—	—	5 6 0
Timbering ...	2	2	—	—	3 17 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c. ...	15	15†	—	—	14 17 0
Miscellaneous ...	14	14	—	—	22 17 6
Total for October, 1900 ...	54	52	1	1	93 14 0
Total for October, 1899 ...	61	60	—	1	106 5 3
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:					£ s. d.
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c. ...	1	1	—	—	3 12 0
Other Special Rules ...	3	3	—	—	5 13 6
Total for October, 1900 ...	4	4	—	—	9 5 6
Total for October, 1899 ...	4	4	—	—	6 4 6

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
By Owners or Masters of Ships:			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Submersion of Disc ...	2	2	30 0 0	1 8 6
Illegal Engagement ...	1	1	0 5 0	—
Overcrowding ...	1	1	2 0 0	—
Life Saving Appliances not ready for use ...	1	1	10 0 0	0 9 6
Total for October, 1900 ...	5	5	42 5 0	1 18 0
Total for October, 1899 ...	3	3	61 0 0	9 13 2

* Defendant was admonished.

† Two offenders were sentenced to 30 days' imprisonment.