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CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

Summary of the State of Employment in October	321
Special Articles and Reports—	
COAL MINERS' WAGES	323
SICKNESS INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1897... ..	323
OLD AGE PENSIONS IN BELGIUM	324
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTION IN 1898	325
SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT	326
ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS IN 1898	327
NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1898	327
RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS... ..	327
WAGES OF SEAMEN IN GERMANY	325
Employment in Certain Industries and Districts—	
REPORTS ON CERTAIN INDUSTRIES.	
COAL MINING	331
IRON MINING	332
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	332
IRON AND STEEL WORKS	332
TINPLATE WORKS... ..	333
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	333
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	334
SEAMEN	335
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	334
DISTRICT REPORTS.	
LONDON	335
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	336
Lancashire	337
Yorkshire	338
Midland Counties	338
Eastern Counties	340
South Western Counties	340
WALES	341
SCOTLAND	341
IRELAND	342
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—	
COLONIES... ..	329
FRANCE	330
GERMANY... ..	330
SWITZERLAND	331
BELGIUM	331
HOLLAND	331
AUSTRIA	331
NORWAY	331
Miscellaneous Reports for October—	
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION... ..	351
LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR	328
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	352
FOREIGN TRADE	351
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES... ..	347
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	347
Statistical Tables for October—	
TRADE DISPUTES	348
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	344
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR	347
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	343
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	352
WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX	347
LABOUR BUREAUX... ..	350
PAUPERISM	350
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	328
Notes and Reviews—	
WORK ON PARIS EXHIBITION BUILDINGS—WARNING TO BRITISH WORKMEN	322
HAND AND MACHINE LABOUR—UNITED STATES REPORT... ..	346
EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1898	342
NEW ZEALAND—EXPENDITURE UNDER CONCILIATION ACT... ..	349
WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES	349
INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES, NEW APPOINTMENT	352
EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES	352

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER.

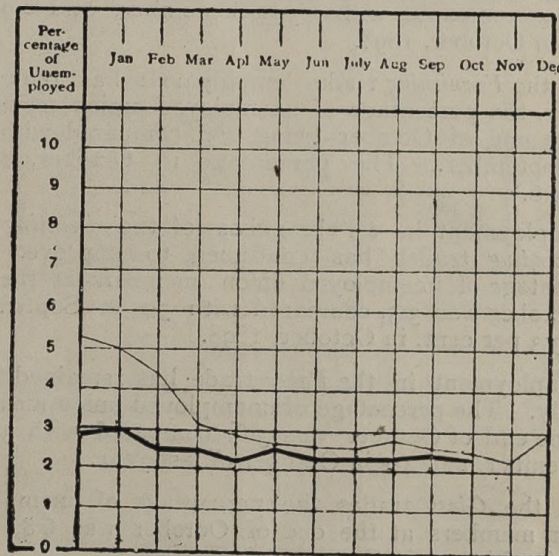
[Based on 2,423 returns, viz.: 1,708 from Employers, 573 from Trade Unions, and 142 from other sources.]

The general state of employment during October has remained very good, and the percentage of unemployed members returned by trade unions is lower than at any similar period since 1889. A large number of workmen, chiefly in the coal mining industry, had their wages raised during the month.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 506,890, 11,674 (or 2·3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of October, compared with 2·4 in September, and with 2·5 per cent. in the 118 unions, with a membership of 469,016, from which returns were received for October, 1898.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each completed month of 1898 and 1899. [The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line to 1898.]



Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment on the whole was better in October than in September and than a year ago. Returns relating to collieries at which 455,640 workpeople were employed show that the average number of days worked per week was 5·58 in the four weeks ended October 21st, as compared with 5·46 in September and 5·44 in October, 1898. (For further details see page 331.)

Iron Mining.—Employment continues good. Returns relating to 126 iron mines and open works, at which 16,973 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked per week was 5·80 in the four weeks ended October 21st, as compared with 5·83 in September and 5·73 in October, 1898. (For further details see page 332.)

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry has improved during October, and continues considerably better than a year ago. At the works of 117 ironmasters 383 furnaces were in blast at the end of October, employing an estimated number of 25,671 workpeople, as compared with 380 furnaces with 25,425 workpeople at the end of September, and 359 furnaces, with 23,555 workpeople at the end of October, 1898. (For further details see page 332.)

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment has further improved and continues better than a year ago. At 216 works covered by the returns 82,099 workpeople were employed in the week ended October 28th, 81,620 in the last week of September, and 78,903 in the last week of October, 1898, the number of shifts worked in these three weeks being 5'65, 5'62, and 5'57 respectively. (For further details see page 332.)

Tinplate Trade.—Employment in this industry continues good, and is much better than a year ago. At the end of October 416 mills were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black-plates) employing an estimated number of 20,733 workpeople. These figures compare with 411 mills employing 20,813 workpeople, at the end of September, and 321 mills employing 16,202 workpeople at the end of October, 1898. (For further details see page 333.)

Employment in the **Engineering and Metal** trades has remained good, with a slight improvement in most branches. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of October was 2'3, compared with 2'6 in September and 2'7 per cent. in October, 1898.

In the **Shipbuilding** trades employment, though still good, has been scarcely so brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 2'9, compared with 1'6 in September and 3'7 in October of last year.

Employment in the **Building** trades has continued good. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of October was 1'1, compared with 1'3 in September, and 0'9 per cent. in October, 1898.

In the **Furnishing** trades employment has remained steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October being 2'3, compared with 2'1 in September. The percentage in October, 1898, was 1'6.

Employment in all branches of the **Printing and Bookbinding** trades has continued to improve. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 3'5, compared with 5'1 in September, and 3'3 per cent. in October, 1898.

Employment in the **Paper** trade has remained fairly steady. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 3'8, compared with 3'6 in September, and 4'1 in October of last year.

In the **Glass** trades the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 6'8, compared with 15'2 in October, 1898.

Employment in the **Leather** trades remains good and has improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 2'1, compared with 3'2 in September, and 4'9 per cent. in October of last year.

Employment in the **Boot and Shoe** trade continues dull in most centres.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the **Tailoring** trade has improved and is fair; in the ready-made branch it continues fairly good on the whole.

Employment continues very good in the **Spinning and Weaving** branches of the **Cotton** trade. Information respecting **Cotton** factories employing about 82,700 women and girls shows that 96 per cent. of those in **Spinning** mills, and 97 per cent. of those in **Weaving**

factories, were working in factories giving full employment during the month, compared with 96 and 98 per cent. respectively in September, and with 92 and 86 per cent. a year ago. (For further details see page 334.)

Employment in the **Woolen and Worsted** trades continues good. In the **Hosiery** trade employment is also good.

Dock and Riverside Labour in London.—Employment at the docks and wharves shows an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. During the four weeks ended October 28th an average number of 16,228 were employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves, as compared with averages of 15,431 in the preceding four weeks, and 15,706 in October, 1898. (For further details see page 334.)

In the month of October **Agricultural Labourers** were generally fully employed lifting and storing potatoes and roots, also ploughing, sowing wheat, threshing, and thatching. The weather was most favourable for outdoor work, and no time was lost owing to wet weather. (For further details see page 333.)

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-eight fresh disputes occurred in October, 1899, involving 5,275 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes in September was 54, involving 8,858 workpeople, and in October, 1898, 54, involving 12,577 workpeople. Of the 38 fresh disputes in October, 1899, 1 occurred in the building trades, 12 in mining and quarrying, 11 in metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, 5 in textile trades, 3 in clothing trades, and 6 in other industries. Of the 42 new and old disputes, involving 6,782 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 18, involving 3,882 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 13, involving 572 persons, in favour of the employers; 8, involving 981 persons, resulted in a compromise, while in the case of the remaining 3 disputes, involving 1,347 persons, no definite result was arrived at. (For further details see page 348.)

Changes in Rates of Wages.—Changes in the rates of wages of 160,516 workpeople were reported during October, of which number 159,990 received advances averaging 11d. per head, and 526 sustained decreases averaging 3s. 1½d. per head. The net result was an increase of about 10½d. per head in the weekly wages of those affected. The increases were mainly in the coal mining and iron and steel trades. The decreases were entirely in the rates of wages of seamen, the high rates obtained in September not having been maintained, especially on the North-east coast. Only 1,759, or 1'1 per cent., of the workpeople who obtained advances were involved in disputes causing stoppage of work; 4,857 workpeople obtained their advances by the operation of sliding scales in the mining and metal trades; 102,900 as the result of conciliation without previous stoppage of work; and 51,000 by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople or otherwise. (For further details see page 344.)

WORK ON PARIS EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

Warning to British Workmen.—The Board of Trade have received through the Foreign Office copies of communications from the offices in London and Paris of the Royal Commission for the Paris Exhibition of 1900 respecting applications from British workmen for employment in connection with the Exhibition buildings. It appears that there has lately been some influx of British workmen into Paris with the object of obtaining work on the buildings, and in view of the number of applications made at the Paris offices of the Royal Commission, it is thought desirable to point out that the French contractors are unlikely to employ foreign labour of any description, while foreign contractors charged with the erection of various foreign buildings import their workmen, as a rule, from their respective countries. Very few British contractors are connected with the construction of the Exhibition buildings. British mechanics, carpenters, plasterers, painters, decorators, and others, would therefore be well advised before undertaking the risk and expense of a journey to Paris to make sure that suitable work will be obtainable by them on their arrival.

COAL MINERS' WAGES.

The practice in the coal mining industry is to regulate the general rate of wages by percentage increases or decreases on the rates paid in a given year—the rates paid in the various collieries in that year constituting the standard or base line on which all subsequent changes are calculated. Thus in Northumberland, Durham, and South Wales the tonnage or field rates paid at certain dates in 1879 constitute the standard, while in the Federated Districts of England and Wales, and in Scotland, the 1888 rates form the basis.

The following table shows the percentage above or below standard at which wages stood at the end of each year (1886 to 1899) in the principal districts:—

Year.	Average Price of Coal per ton.					
	Northumberland.	Durham.	Federated Districts.*	S. Wales & Mon.	Fife and Clackmannan.	West Scotland.
	Percentage of Wages above Standard at end of each Year.					
1886	At Standard	3½	At Standard	5	At Standard	6½†
1887	12½†	3½	At Standard	2½	10	2½†
1888	7½†	3½	10	7½	5	8½
1889	10	25	20	25	37½	50
1890	31½	30	40	52½	50	50
1891	30	35	40	53½	50	50
1892	20	25	40	22½	25	25
1893	20	25	40	20	37½	50
1894	17½	25	30	21½	25	25
1895	7½	15	30	12½	12½	12½
1896	3½	15	30	10	At Standard	12½
1897	6½	17½	30	11½	12½	12½
1898	18½	25	32½	20	42½	50
1899	25	33½	40	28½	53½	56½

This table enables the general rise and fall of wages in each district to be traced from year to year, and it will be seen that the wages of coal miners are subject to considerable fluctuations in most of the districts. For example, the wages of the Northumberland hewers at the end of 1888 were 7½ per cent. below standard, but at the end of 1890 were 31½ per cent. above. From this they declined steadily to 3½ per cent. above standard in 1896, but now stand at 25 per cent. above standard.

Taking all districts together it will be seen that from 1888 to 1891 wages rose very rapidly; from 1892 to 1896 they steadily fell, and, during the last three years have been rising again towards the 1891 level.

In the following table the net effect upon the weekly wages bill of the country of all changes in the coal-mining industry reported to the Department is shown for the seven years 1893-99:—

Year.	No. of Workpeople (separate individuals) affected by changes.	Net effect of changes on weekly wages.	
		Increases.	Decreases.
1893	292,000	£ 14,850	£ —
1894	326,000	—	46,180
1895	314,000	—	31,750
1896	203,000	—	5,660
1897	240,000	6,560	—
1898	660,000	56,600	—
1899	611,000	46,000	—

In nearly every district methods have been arranged between the representatives of the employers and workpeople for the amicable settlement of wages' questions. The methods at present adopted in each coal district can be readily shown in tabular form:—

District.	Approximate Number of Miners whose Wages are Regulated by		
	Sliding Scales.	Conciliation and Wages Boards.	Negotiation between Representatives of Employers and Workpeople.
Northumberland	...	...	32,500
Durham	...	103,000	...
Federated Districts	...	300,000	...
S. Staffordshire and E. Worcestershire	...	10,000	...
Forest of Dean	...	...	5,000
South Wales and Monmouthshire	125,000	...	...
Scotland	...	80,000	...
Total	125,000	493,000	37,500

* Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Leicester, Shropshire, part of Stafford, part of Worcester, Warwick, Bristol, and North Wales.
† Below standard.

This table shows that the most general method at the present time for determining changes in miners' wages is that of a Conciliation Board. The only district in which wages are now regulated by an automatic sliding scale is South Wales and Monmouthshire, where wages vary with variations in the ascertained selling price. In Northumberland the average selling price is ascertained and published quarterly. It is possible, therefore, to give below the ascertained averages in these districts during recent years. The approximate average price per ton at the mines of all coal raised in the United Kingdom, as published in the Home Office Reports, is also added.

Year.	Average Price of Coal per ton.		
	In Northumberland, for all classes at pit's mouth.	In South Wales, for certain classes free on board.	In the United Kingdom, at the mines. (Home Office Reports.)
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1886	4 7'23	8 4'77	4 10'5
1887	...	8 0'25	4 9'37
1888	4 4'82*	8 4'22	5 0'09
1889	5 4'70	10 5'38	6 4'25
1890	7 7'65	12 0'10†	8 3
1891	7 4'06	13 4'89†	8 0
1892	6 6'50	11 6'84†	7 3
1893	5 11'35	9 8'68	6 9'51
1894	6 5'99	10 9'335	6 7'43
1895	5 6'68	9 6'910	6 0'42
1896	5 0'74	9 1'701	5 10'26
1897	5 2'91	9 2'837	5 10'93
1898	6 1'36	—	6 4'22
1899	6 10'88‡	—	—

SICKNESS INSURANCE IN GERMANY IN 1897.

The mean number of persons insured against sickness in the German Empire in 1897 under the Workmen's Sickness Insurance Law was 8,337,119, as compared with 7,944,820 in 1896, the figures being in both cases exclusive of miners, who are insured in separate funds, the returns from which are not incorporated in the volume from which the figures given in the present article are taken.

The relative importance of the various other classes of funds for effecting the insurance prescribed by law may be seen from the following table showing their number and membership in 1897, compared with 1896:—

Class of Fund.	1896.		1897.	
	Number.	Membership.	Number.	Membership.
Communal	8,160	1,337,662	8,254	1,370,822
Local	4,513	3,660,732	4,535	3,850,858
Factory	6,712	2,032,475	6,880	2,160,074
Building Works	87	24,609	79	19,958
Trade Guild	560	132,081	586	145,819
Friendly Society	1,652	756,951	1,666	769,588
Total	21,684	7,944,820	22,000	8,337,119

(1) The **Communal** Funds are managed by the municipal authorities, and are intended for the insurance of all persons (irrespective of their trade) whose obligation to insure is not being effected through one or other of the remaining classes of funds. (2) **Local** Funds. A commune or municipality has power to establish what is called a "Local Fund" for the purpose of insuring (generally) not less than 100 persons of the same district and belonging to the same trade. Such a fund is administered by a board representing the employers and the insured. (3) **Factory** Sick Funds. A person who employs at least 50 insurable workpeople may, if he think fit, and in certain cases can be compelled to, establish a special fund for his own works. If the nature of the work which he carries on should present special danger of sickness to those engaged in it, an employer may be compelled to effect their insurance in this way even though he should employ less than 50

* One ascertainment only.
† In 1890, 1891 and 1892, the selling price of large, colliery screened coal produced from anthracite collieries was excluded in obtaining the average.
‡ The general average for the year 1898 has not yet been furnished. The sliding scale was in abeyance from 31st March till 1st September.
§ For 9 months.
¶ Statistik der Krankenversicherung im Jahre 1897. Tabellenwerk. Compiled by the Imperial Statistical Office, Berlin. Published by Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht, Berlin, 1899. Price 5 marks (5s.).

Industries carried on by Co-operative Societies of all Classes.	No. of Societies to which the Particulars relate.	Number of Persons employed in Production at end of 1898.			
		Men.	Women.	Young Persons under 18 years of age.	Total.
Building...	52	1,594	1	81	1,676
Mining and quarrying	3	360	—	11	371
Metal, engineering and ship-building	25	543	101*	149	793
Textiles...	27	891	1,159	360	2,410
Clothing—					
Boots and shoes...	369	5,223	1,329	1,214	7,766
Tailoring, mantles and shirtmaking	221	2,173	1,870	626	4,669
Dressmaking and millinery	231	—	1,614	791	2,405
Farming, dairying and fishing	156	799	205	37	1,041
Printing and allied trades	16	596	265	243	1,104
Woodworking and furnishing	20	627	64	128	819
Soap and candle making	2	166	26	129	321
Food preparation—					
Bread making and confectionery	446	3,165	364	547	4,076
Corn milling	24	852	23	17	892
Other foods	27	389	600	210	1,199
Leather trades	7	57	—	3	60
Other trades	5	247	191	64	502
Totals, United Kingdom	865*	17,682	7,812	4,610	30,104
Percentages	—	58.7	26.0	15.3	100.0

Production by Retail Distributive Societies.

Of the total £10,200,598 of production in 1898, £3,683,529, or 36.1 per cent., was produced by 613 retail distributive societies, who employed 12,008, or 39.1 per cent., of the total employees engaged in production. Of the 613 societies, 460, with production to the value of £2,553,321, were in England and Wales, and 153, with £1,130,208, in Scotland.

Breadmaking and confectionery amounted to 53.7 per cent. of the total production by these societies; corn-milling to 16.2; and boot and shoemaking and tailoring to 17.5. The following table shows the number of societies and employees engaged in each group of trades, together with the value of productions sold, or transferred from productive to distributive departments. In a few cases it has been necessary to estimate the value of the productions:—

Group of Industries.	No. of Societies making Returns.	No. of persons employed in production at end of 1898.	Total estimated value of own productions sold or transferred from productive to distributive departments in 1898.
Building	41	837	£ 110,074
Metal	6	24	2,536
Textile	9	274	49,653
Clothing—			
Boots and shoes	344	2,512	314,414
Tailoring	208	2,594	328,750
Dressmaking and millinery	231	2,405	161,646
Shirtmaking	8	20	1,650
Farming and Dairying	38	230	53,309
Woodworking and furnishing	10	117	11,485
Food preparation—			
Corn Milling	14	171	597,580
Breadmaking and confectionery	428	2,685	1,978,900
Other foods	22	120	66,840
Brush and matmaking	2	19	6,694
Totals, United Kingdom	613*	12,008	3,683,529

Profit allotted to Productive Employees.

Of the 865 societies of all classes making returns, 109, employing in production a total of 9,736 members, and paying in 1898 a total of £475,746 in wages, stated that they had allotted to or for the benefit of their employees the sum of £23,726 out of the profits of the year. This amounts to about £2 8s. 8d. per head of the persons employed, and to 5.0 per cent. on the wages paid to them.

The following table shows the number of societies of each class which made returns of the profit allotted to their productive employees, together with the number of employees, amount of wages paid, and of profit allotted.

* Some societies carry on two or more industries, and are entered under several heads; consequently this column does not add up.

Classes of Societies.	No. of Societies.	No. of Productive Employees.	Productive Wages Paid.	Profit Allotted to Productive Employees.	
				Amount.	Percentage on Wages.
England and Wales—			£	£	
Productive Associations...	38	3,387	163,803	10,279	6.3
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies...	52	775	44,607	1,807	4.1
Total—England & Wales...	90	4,162	208,410	12,086	5.8
Scotland—					
Productive Associations...	4	1,333	66,517	4,555	6.8
Productive Departments of Retail Distributive Societies...	13	459	26,446	2,003	7.6
Productive Departments of the Scottish Wholesale Society...	1	3,782	174,373	5,082	2.9
	18	5,574	267,336	11,640	4.4
Totals—Great Britain	108	9,736	478,746	23,726	5.0

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT.

By "The Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899," which received the Royal assent on August 9th, provision is made for empowering Local Authorities to advance money for enabling persons to acquire the ownership of small houses in which they reside, "ownership" being defined to be "such interest or combination of interests in a house as, together with the interest of the purchaser of the ownership, will constitute either a fee simple in possession or a leasehold interest in possession of at least 60 years unexpired at the date of the purchase." Any such advance must not exceed four-fifths of the market value of the ownership; must in no case be a greater sum than £240, or, in the case of a fee simple or leasehold of not less than 99 years unexpired, £300; and must be repaid with interest within such period not exceeding 30 years as may be agreed upon. The interest to be charged shall be at such rate as may be agreed upon, not exceeding 10s. above the rate at which the Local Authority can borrow from the Public Works Loan Commissioners the money for the advance.

The repayment of a loan granted under the Act may be made either by equal instalments of principal or by an annuity of principal and interest combined, and all payments on account of principal or interest shall be made either weekly or at any periods not exceeding a half year, as agreed.

The proprietor of a house, in respect of which an advance has been made, may at the usual quarter-days after one month's written notice, and on paying all sums due on account of interest, repay to the Local Authority the whole of the outstanding principal of the advance, or any part thereof being £10 or a multiple of £10, and where the repayment is made by an annuity of principal and interest combined, the amount so outstanding and the amount by which the annuity will be reduced where a part of the advance is paid off, shall be determined by a table annexed to the instrument securing the repayment of the advance.

No advance will be made unless the Local Authority is satisfied that the house is in good sanitary condition and good repair; and every house, the ownership of which has been acquired by means of an advance, shall, so long as the loan is outstanding, be held subject to the condition that every sum due for principal or interest shall be punctually paid, that the proprietor shall reside in the premises, and that they shall be kept insured against fire, and in good sanitary condition and good repair.

The proprietor may, with the permission of the Local Authority (which shall not be unreasonably withheld), at any time transfer his interest in the house; but any such transfer shall be made subject to the conditions imposed by the Act. He may also, without requiring to obtain the permission of the Local Authority, borrow money on the security of his interest, but so that any charge on such interest made by him shall not affect any rights or powers of the Local Authority under the Act.

A Local Authority for the purpose of this Act shall be the council of any county or county borough; and if the council of any urban district not being a county borough, or of any rural district, pass a resolution undertaking to act under this Act, that council shall, subject in the case of the council of a district containing a population of less than 10,000 to the consent of the County Council, be the Local Authority in that district for the purpose of this Act to the exclusion of any other authority.

The Act applies, with certain modifications, also to Scotland and Ireland, as well as to England.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS IN 1898.*

In 1898 there were 504 servants of railway companies or contractors killed, and 4,149 reported as injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned. These figures may be compared with 510 killed and 4,129 reported as injured in 1897, and 447 killed and 3,986 reported as injured in 1896. The figures for previous years are not comparable as regards those injured, as a new order of the Board of Trade came into force in 1896, the effect of which was to bring in a large number of reports of accidents which under the old system would not have been reported. The number killed may, however, be given, the average for the ten years, 1886-1895, being 464, and for the previous ten years, 548 per annum.

Of the total number, 18 railway servants were killed and 481 injured whilst employed in the coupling and uncoupling of vehicles, as compared with 19 killed and 492 injured in 1897 and 18 killed and 488 injured in 1896. The total number killed and injured in all shunting operations was 129 killed and 2,164 injured in 1898, 97 killed and 2,400 injured in 1897, and 136 killed and 2,548 injured in 1896.

Exclusive of accidents to contractors' servants, of whom 14 were killed and 32 injured, and whose numbers cannot be estimated, it appears that of 534,141 servants of railway companies employed in 1898 a proportion of 1 in 1,090 were killed, and 1 in 130 injured. The proportion varies considerably in the different classes of railway servants, being lowest (1 in 5,151 killed and 1 in 1,840 injured) among the mechanics, and highest (1 in 197 killed and 1 in 15 injured) among the shunters.

All the above figures are exclusive of accidents on the premises of the companies in which the movement of railway vehicles was not concerned. These amounted in 1898 to 38 servants of companies or contractors killed, and 8,830 reported as injured.

NUMBERS EMPLOYED AND ACCIDENTS AT MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1898.†

Persons Employed.

The total number of persons employed at mines and at the quarries under the Quarries Act in the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man during the year 1898 was 875,603, as compared with 852,083 in 1897.

These persons were distributed as follows:—

Class of Mine or Quarry.	Employed under ground or inside quarries.	Employed above ground or outside quarries.	Total.	Increase of 1898 over 1897.
Coal Mines	556,364	137,297	693,661	12,130
Iron Mines	13,241	4,011	17,252	17
Other Mines	17,692	12,520	30,212	265
Quarries over 20 feet deep	62,752	71,726	134,478	11,108
Total for 1898	650,049	225,554	875,603	23,520
Total for 1897	637,071	215,012	852,083	—

The figures for 1898 include 7 women and girls employed inside quarries, 1505 employed at factories and workshops outside the quarries, as compared with 8 inside and 1,462 outside in 1897. The number of women and girls employed above ground at mines was 5,126, as compared with 5,074 in 1897.

The increase in numbers employed at coal mines has been general except in the Lancashire and Cheshire, North Wales and Irish coal fields. It is especially marked in the case of the Scottish and the Yorkshire coalfields. The increase in the South Wales coalfield notwithstanding the fact that for five months of the year the majority of the collieries were closed during the dispute, shows that the figures returned by the owners have been based not on the average number employed throughout the year, but on the number ordinarily employed when the mines are working.

There has again been an increase in the number of persons engaged in the iron mines of England, though

* General Report upon the Accidents on the Railways of the United Kingdom during 1898. (C. 9185. Price 3s. 6d.)
† Mines and Quarries: General Report and Statistics for 1898. Part II.—LABOUR (C.—9,517). Price 8d.

it is not so great as the increase in the previous year over 1896. In Scotland there is a further falling off in the number of persons employed.

The decrease in England and Scotland at the mines producing minerals other than coal and iron apparent in 1897 is even more marked in 1898; but it is in this year more than counterbalanced by the increase in Wales, which has chiefly occurred at the slate and zinc mines. The decrease in England and Scotland chiefly occurred in the Cornish mines and the Edinburgh oil-shale mines.

The county table of persons employed in or about quarries shows an increase in nearly every case. It is pointed out that the increase observable is probably not wholly a real increase, but in part an apparent increase due to more complete notification by owners of quarries as the Act has become more widely known.

Fatal Accidents.

In the LABOUR GAZETTE for February last (p. 37) preliminary figures were given of the number of deaths from accidents at mines and quarries. The following are the revised figures:—In and about mines and quarries 990 separate fatal accidents occurred, causing the loss of 1,075 lives. Of these, 859 accidents, causing the loss of 941 lives, happened at mines, and 131 causing the loss of 134 lives happened at quarries. These figures correspond to a death rate of 1.27 per 1,000 employed at mines and of 1.00 per 1,000 employed at quarries. The death rate among underground workers in coal mines was 1.36 per 1,000 persons employed, and among aboveground workers .93 per 1,000. The death rate per 1,000 persons employed inside the quarries was 1.59, or higher than among underground workers at mines.

The following table gives the number of deaths from accidents of various natures in mines and quarries in 1898, 1897 and 1896, the average figures for the period 1891—1895 being also added in the case of mines:—

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM ACCIDENT.

	1898.	1897.	1896.	Average for 1891-95.
Mines—				
Explosions of Firedamp and Coal Dust	27	19	173	141
Falls of Ground	451	490	439	459
In Shafts	66	59	79	111
Miscellaneous Underground	262	307	244	270
Total Underground	806	875	935	980
Total Surface	135	104	130	123
Total Mines	941	979	1,065	1,103
Quarries—				
Inside	100	93	90	...
Outside	34	30	34	...
Total Quarries	134	123	124	...
Gross Total	1,075	1,102	1,189	...

With regard to the first class of accidents it may be of interest to state that the first Order regulating the use of explosives in coal mines made by the Secretary of State under Section 6 of the Coal Mines Act, 1896, took effect from July 1st, 1897, as regards the roads, and from January 1st, 1898, as regards all other parts of the mines. Certain modifications were subsequently made in the schedule of permitted explosives, but the body of the Order remained unchanged throughout 1898.

RECENT CONCILIATION & ARBITRATION CASES & COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board.—Arbitration in the Printing Trade.

A DISPUTE having arisen early in September between a firm of printers in the City of London and their warehousemen and cutters, owing to the introduction of alleged underpaid labour, the matter was submitted to the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board. The award, dated October 31st, provides that the Printers' and Stationers' Warehousemen and Cutters' Trade Union shall, in their next report, repudiate any tampering with machines or gas that may have taken place; undertake that all further proceedings against the firm are at an end; and express their disapproval of the men leaving the employ of the

firm without notice. In the event of the firm agreeing to take back any of these men they shall apologise. The firm on their part agree to forego exercising their legal rights against the men who left; when vacancies occur to give preference to men who had previously been in their employment; and during the continuance of the agreement to pay the recognised Trade Union rate of wages for warehousemen and cutters. It is further mutually agreed that in the event of any dispute arising between the firm in question and the Trade Union, it shall be referred for decision to the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board.

Board of Conciliation for the Durham Coal Trade.

The Board, which was dissolved in 1896, has been re-established by agreement between the Durham Coal Owners' Association and the Durham County Mining Federation, the rules being practically identical with those which governed the former Board. The Board deals with proposed changes in county rates of wages, or county practices and any other questions, not falling within the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee, that it may be agreed between the parties to refer to it. It is to continue in existence until either of the parties shall give six months' notice of withdrawal, and in any case until the end of 1902.

At the first meeting of the Board on 4th November at Newcastle, Sir David Dale was elected Chairman, and it was agreed to invite Lord Davey to accept the position of Umpire. An advance in wages of 3½ per cent., to take effect immediately, was also arranged.

South Wales Siemens-Martin Steel Works.

After several conferences between the workpeople employed in the South Wales Steel Works and their employers, an agreement affecting 16 firms and about 2,000 workpeople was finally arrived at on October 4th, fixing the standard rates of wages and other conditions of work. The effect of this agreement on wages is estimated by the representative of the workpeople as equal to a 7½ per cent. advance to 1,150 workpeople employed in the smelting shops, and of 2 per cent. to 790 workpeople employed in the mills. The agreement also provides that the hour of stopping work on Saturdays shall be 2 p.m., and that the work of charging shall not be commenced on Sundays before midnight. The introduction of this rule is stated to have resulted in a considerable reduction in the hours of labour.

The agreement came into operation on October 1st. See also tables on pp. 345 and 347.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Compiled from returns supplied by the Home Office.)

The following table shows the number of cases of lead poisoning (classified by industries) and of phosphorus poisoning reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during October. The majority of the cases of lead poisoning reported affected males (80 out of 89). Lead works accounted for 38 cases, as compared with 41 in October, 1898.

The death of one adult male from lead poisoning was reported in October. Fatal cases include all deaths reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not:—

Disease and Industry.	Adults.		Young Persons.		Children.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Lead Poisoning—									
China and Earthenware	10	2	—	1	—	—	10	3	13
Glass	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
White, Red, and Orange Lead Works	34	4	—	—	—	—	34	4	38
Paints and Colours	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Smelting	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7
File Making	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Coach Making, &c.	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Other Industries	16	2	1	—	—	—	17	2	19
Total Lead Poisoning	79	8	1	1	—	—	80	9	89
Total for Oct. ber, 1898	100	16	2	3	—	—	102	19	121
Phosphorus Poisoning—									
Lucifer Match Works	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Total for October, 1898	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

LADDER NOT "A SCAFFOLDING."

The Workmen's Compensation Act applies "only to employment on or in or about a railway, factory, mine, quarry, or engineering work, and to employment on or in or about any building which exceeds 30 feet in height, and is either being constructed or repaired by means of a scaffolding, etc." A house-painter sued the firm, by which he was employed, for compensation in respect of injuries received by him while in their employment. He was painting beams or joists in a dead meat market, for the purpose of preserving them from decay, and was standing at the time on a ladder provided by his employers, when the occupier of one of the stands for exhibiting carcasses swung round the carcass of a bullock for the inspection of an intending purchaser, with the result that the carcass came violently in contact with the ladder, and the painter was knocked off, and fell to the ground, fracturing his skull. The sheriff-substitute decided that the ladder was not a scaffolding within the meaning of the Act, and dismissed the application. The case came, on appeal, before the Court of Session, the question of law for the opinion of that Court being whether the ladder used by the painter at the time of the accident was a scaffolding within the meaning of the Act. The Court of Session decided the question in the negative, and found the employers entitled to expenses.—*James McDonald v. Hobbs and Samuel, Court of Session, October 17th.*

ABSENCE OF PARTY: DECREE BY DEFAULT.

In an action of suspension at the instance of a colliery company against a pitheadman, the complainers asked suspension of a charge at the instance of the respondent to make payment of the sum of 14s. 6d. per week contained in a decree pronounced in a sheriff court on December 22nd, 1898, in an action under the Workmen's Compensation Act at the instance of the respondent. They averred that that decree was pronounced in their absence, and that their absence was due to an assurance of the judge that they would be duly notified of the next diet of the court, which they were not. The respondent stated that it was the duty of the complainers' agent to have inquired as to the next diet at the sheriff-clerk's office, and the alleged assurance, on which the complainers' agent was said to have relied, was not admitted. In the Outer House suspension was refused, with expenses; but, on the case coming before the Court of Session, that Court recalled the interlocutor, and granted suspension, with expenses to the complainers. The Court dealt with the case on the assumption that the non-comparing party was to blame for not appearing at the diet of proof, and held that the holder of the judgment had failed in establishing that it was the duty of the sheriff, under the existing circumstances, to grant decree by default. It was the duty of the sheriff, although one of the parties was absent, not to give decree by default, but to ascertain the amount of compensation. The extent of the investigation by the sheriff must depend upon the subject-matter before him; he should adopt due and judicial criticism to test the evidence placed before him. Whether the sheriff ought to examine witnesses for himself, must depend upon the nature of the particular case presented to him.—*United Collieries, Limited, v. Gavin, Court of Session, October 27th.*

(2) Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act: Merchant Shipping Act.

BESSETTING: ILLEGAL SUPPLY OF SEAMEN.

The president of a seamen's trade union and six other persons were summoned by the superintendent of the River Tyne Police "for that they did . . . with a view to compel 38 seamen and firemen to abstain from doing certain acts which the said parties had a legal right to do, to wit, to remain on board the s.s. *Siren*, and fulfil engagements made by them with the Shipping Federation, Limited, wrongfully and without legal authority beset a certain place, where the said parties happened to be, to wit, the said s.s. *Siren*, and the approach thereto." It was stated on behalf of the prosecution that there had been a dispute in the shipping trade with regard to the wages of seamen and firemen, that men, who were willing to join ships at a rate of wages not approved of by the trade union referred to, were at a recent period subject to annoyance and interference from pickets, and that, with a view to affording protection from this kind of procedure, the Federation appointed the s.s. *Siren*, which was moored at Jarrow Slake, to be utilised as a depot ship. On the day mentioned in the summons six picket boats, containing altogether about 40 men, came alongside the *Siren*, the trade union official in question being in one of these boats. Evidence was given that the men in the boats shouted and jeered at the men on the *Siren*, that this official spoke to the men on board that vessel to the effect that they had been brought there on false pretences, that the boats stayed by the *Siren* until ordered away by an officer of the river police, and came back again afterwards, that this trade union official endeavoured by promises of board and money, and by threats and abuse, to induce some of the men on the *Siren* to leave that ship, that the boats remained by the ship for some time, and on their leaving one of the men in them fired a revolver. Two of the defendants were discharged on the ground that there was no evidence against them, and the case proceeded against the remaining defendants, evidence being given on their behalf contradicting that given on behalf of the prosecution.

On behalf of the defence it was contended, that, as the Federation held no licences from the Board of Trade, they could not legally supply seamen, and that the men themselves were not legally entitled to be on the *Siren*, or to fulfil their engagements; and on this ground the whole of the cases were dismissed. On the application of the prosecution a case was granted on the legal point raised.—*South Shields Police Court, October 6th and 12th.*

(3) Factory and Workshop Acts.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS IN OVERTIME.

A firm of jam manufacturers were summoned for employing four young girls overtime contrary to the law relating to factories and workshops. Evidence was given by one of the girls referred to that on Wednesday, July 12th, she worked an hour overtime, her work consisting in emptying jam pots, and by another girl that on that day she dusted empty jars in overtime, and the remaining two girls gave similar evidence. By section 13 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1878, as amended by section 36 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, the period of employment for young persons in a non-textile factory (such as that in the present case) on week days other than Saturdays was limited to 12 hours in the day (6 a.m.—6 p.m., or 7 a.m.—7 p.m., or 8 a.m.—8 p.m.), with certain fixed meal-times. This limitation of employment, however, by virtue of section 32 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, does not apply "to the process of cleaning and preparing fruit so far as is necessary to prevent the spoiling of the fruit on its arrival at a factory . . . during the months of June, July, August, and September." On behalf of the prosecution it was contended that the work, on which the four girls in question were engaged, was not any part of the process of cleaning and preparing fruit mentioned in the Act of 1891. For the defendants, on the contrary, it was contended that this work was included in the process referred to in that Act. The magistrates fined the defendants 5s. and costs in the first case, and 1s. and costs in the other three.—*Manchester County Police Court, October 5th.*

AERATED WATERS MANUFACTURE: FAILURE TO WEAR GLOVES AND GOGGLES.

A number of workmen, employed by a firm of mineral water manufacturers, were summoned, on the information of the factory inspector, for failing to wear gloves and goggles when wiring, and others for failing to wear these articles when labelling aerated waters, and certain others for failing to wear a face guard or mask when bottling aerated waters, as required by special rules made under the Factory and Workshop Acts. One of the defendants gave evidence that he had tried to wear the goggles, but found them very injurious to the sight, and that the gauntlets were cumbersome, and work was more dangerous with them than without. He had been a wiper 14 or 15 years, but had never met with an accident, and had never known of one. The magistrates fined each of the defendants 6d., without costs. A number of workwomen, employed by another firm, were summoned for failing to wear gloves and goggles, when labelling aerated waters. The defendants said they had tried the goggles, but could not wear them more than a quarter of an hour at a time. Each was fined 6d.—*Norwich Guildhall, October 7th.*

(4) Shop Hours Acts.

WHAT IS EMPLOYMENT "IN OR ABOUT A SHOP"?

A firm of shopkeepers were summoned for having infringed the Shop Hours Act, 1892, which provides that "No young person shall be employed in or about a shop for a longer period than seventy-four hours, including meal times, in any one week," the term "young person," being there defined to mean "a person under the age of eighteen years." It was admitted on behalf of the defendants that a vanboy, under the age of 18 years, had worked 82½ hours in a week. The boy stated that he seldom went into the shop unless it was to get delivery notes; but on behalf of the prosecution it was urged that he also had to go into the shop for goods. The magistrate held that on the evidence the boy did not come within the Act, not being "employed in or about a shop" within the meaning of the statute, and dismissed the case.—*West Ham Police-court, October 31st.*

(5) Housing of Working Classes Act.

DAMAGES RECOVERED BY TENANT OF INSANITARY PREMISES.
The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, enacts that, "In any contract made after the fourteenth day of August, 1885, for letting for habitation by persons of the working classes, a house, or part of a house, there shall be implied a condition that the house is, at the commencement of the holding, in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation." This provision applies to the letting of a house or part of a house at a rent not exceeding the following amounts:—As to England, if the premises are situated in the Metropolitan, £20; at Liverpool, £13; at Manchester or Birmingham, £10; elsewhere, £8; in Scotland or Ireland, £4. On August 27th, 1898, the wife of a painter, whose wages averaged £2 a week, acting by her husband's instructions, took, at a weekly rent of 6s., the basement of a house in Paddington. Between December, 1898, and the expiration of the tenancy, the children of the painter suffered from various illnesses. The house was condemned as insanitary by the sanitary inspector. The painter sued the owner of the house for damages. The county-court judge said, that upon the evidence there could be no doubt that the drains of the house were out of order, and that the premises were not "reasonably fit for human habitation" for some time previously to January, 1899, and the question was whether the right inference to be drawn from the evidence was that they were out of order and unfit for habitation at the commencement of the holding on August 27th, 1898. The judge held that such was the right inference, and that the plaintiff was entitled to recover

from the defendant damages, which he fixed at £19, made up as follows:—In respect of four weeks' wages, actually lost while the plaintiff's employment was suspended on account of fever in his house, £8 16s.; doctor's bill, £3 5s.; expenses of nursing and extra nourishment and expenses of moving, £2 2s.; and by way of general damages an additional sum of £4 17s. From this amount of £19 the judge allowed the defendant to deduct 12s. for rent due to him; and he gave judgment in favour of the plaintiff for £18 8s., and costs, leave to appeal being allowed.—*Newman v. Sanger, Marylebone County Court, reported October 30th.*

(6) Miscellaneous.

LIABILITY OF INSURANCE COMPANY FOR COSTS AWARDED AGAINST EMPLOYERS INSURED.

A plater, employed by a shipbuilding and engineering company, who had been injured through the fall of a derrick while in their employment, raised an action against the company in the sheriff's court in respect of his injuries, in which he was awarded £150 and expenses. An appeal was taken to the Court of Session, and was dismissed, the pursuer receiving a further award of expenses. He then sued an insurance office, with which the company had insured themselves against employers' liability, concluding for two sums of £55 6s. and £32 15s., being the amounts of the expenses awarded to him, as above mentioned, in the sheriff's court and the Court of Session respectively. He averred that the present defenders (the insurance office) were the true *dominus litis*, as they carried through the defence of the action, and stated that he had not succeeded in recovering payment from his employers (the shipbuilding and engineering company) of the sums decreed for against them, and that that company were insolvent and in liquidation. The defenders pleaded that they were not liable; that the company failed to give them the absolute conduct and control of the defence of the action, and that the policy was thereby rendered void. In the Outer House decree was given in favour of the pursuer; and, on appeal to the Court of Session, that Court adhered to this judgment, with expenses, holding that the defenders (the insurance office), who, in their contract with the company, had stipulated that they should have control of the action, were *dominus litis*, and, as such, liable to pay to the pursuer the expenses awarded to him in his action against the company. The principle applicable to the case was that "if any party is put to expenses to vindicate his rights, he is entitled to recover it from the persons by whom the expenses is created." That was the basis of the practice, by which expenses followed the result, and it was also the practice that the expenses could be recovered in a separate action.—*Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation, Limited, v. John Kerr, Court of Session, October 20th.*

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—It is too late in the year for the ordinary emigrant to go to Canada in search of work.

Victoria.—A report from the large town of Bendigo states that there is no demand for miners, general labourers, or mechanics, but that female servants are wanted. About 50 bookbinders and paper-rulers recently struck work in Melbourne on being refused to have their minimum wage raised from 52s. per week to 60s.; their places have since been filled. The Melbourne Board of Works has fixed the following minimum wages for men employed on the Board's contracts:—Carpenters, masons, bricklayers, plasterers, painters, plumbers (water), and engine-drivers, 8s. a day; blacksmiths, plumbers (sanitary), and tinsmiths, 9s. a day; boiler-makers, engine-fitters, moulders, &c., 10s. a day; and pattern-makers, 11s. a day. Altogether, there is no improvement in the demand for labour in Melbourne.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for farm labourers, miners, and female servants, for a few engine fitters, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, galvanised-ironworkers and coopers, and for married couples in pastoral districts. Free passages are being offered to farm labourers and female servants from 17 to 35 years of age.

Western Australia.—Gold miners have been well employed, especially in the south-west, and the yield of gold for the first nine months of this year exceeds that of the whole of last year. The demand for female servants continues, and free passages are being again offered to 50 persons of this class, principally to cooks. There is a good demand for farm labourers; and employment for mechanics is increasing, but there is no demand for more men at present.

Tasmania.—The timber trade in the south-west is busy, and men in sawmills have been fully employed.

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

There is work for good miners on the West Coast. The demand for farm labourers and others in the agricultural district of New Norfolk is small.

New Zealand.—The timber mills in the Auckland district are all working full time; in Auckland itself building continues to go on rapidly in all parts of the town. A report from Wellington states that there is a demand for miners, farm labourers, and female servants, but not for mechanics. At Wanganui men in the building trades have had plenty of work. At Christchurch the building and engineering trades have been busy. At Dunedin and Invercargill men in the engineering trades have been fully employed. In country districts competent men have found good employment in bush-felling, scrubcutting, flaxcutting, flaxmilling, sawmilling, roadmaking, and latterly in shearing, spring sowing, and other farming operations.

South Africa.—There is no opening in South Africa at the present time for emigrants in search of professional or manual work.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Provincial Law forbidding Employment of Chinamen in Mines declared "ultra vires."—By a statute passed by the Legislature of British Columbia (a province of the Dominion of Canada) it is enacted that "no Chinaman shall be employed in or allowed to be for the purpose of employment in any mine to which the Act [the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1890] applies, below ground."

In a case (*Union Colliery Company of British Columbia v. Bryden—The Attorney-General for British Columbia intervening*) which recently came, on appeal, before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the question was raised whether the enactments above set forth were or were not *ultra vires* of the Legislature of British Columbia. The Privy Council determined this question in the affirmative, holding that, by virtue of the British North American Act, 1867, which distributes all subjects of legislation between the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada and the several Legislatures of the Provinces of Canada, the Legislature of the Dominion is invested with exclusive authority in all matters which directly concern the rights, privileges, and disabilities of the class of Chinamen who are resident in the Provinces of Canada. The exclusive legislative authority in regard to "naturalisation and aliens" belongs to the Legislature of the Dominion, and does not fall within the competency of the Legislature of any of the Provinces of the Dominion. Their lordships accordingly decided that the enactments referred to, which established a statutory prohibition affecting aliens or naturalised subjects, and therefore trenching upon the exclusive authority of the Parliament of Canada, were *ultra vires* of the Provincial Legislature of British Columbia, and for this reason illegal.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in October.**—The state of employment continued favourable in the mining industry, and in the metal and engineering, electrical, watch and clock-making, jewellery, cotton and wool-spinning and weaving, silk, glove-making, hat-making, cabinet-making, coachbuilding, coopering, food, etc., preparation and hide and skin-working trades. Among linen-weavers, trimmings and ribbon makers, boot and shoemakers, garment makers, printers, confectioners and pastrycooks there was a resumption of a civility, but employment became less plentiful for quarrymen and for persons belonging to the building trades. The hours of labour in the building trades have again been reduced by one per day, as is usual at this part of the year, and the slack season has commenced for tin-box makers.

The proportion of unemployed among the 87,000 members of the 540 trade unions (exclusive of the unions of miners in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais districts) who furnished reports as to the state of employment on October 15th, was rather more than 6 per cent. of their total.

*Labour Disputes in October.**—Seventy-two labour disputes, in which 15,415 workpeople took part, were reported to the French Labour Department during October, as compared with 31 disputes and 31,777 participants in the corresponding month of 1898. Of

* Information supplied by the courtesy of the French Labour Department.

the 72 new disputes 25 took place in the metal trades, 23 in the textile trades, 3 in the building trades, 2 in the paper trades, and one in each of the following occupations:—Sweeping, carting, rosary-bead making, straw-hat making, indiarubber manufacture, ready-made clothing manufacture, military equipment making, tramway service, pianoforte making, galosh making, box and trunk-making, mining, pipe-moulding, umbrella-handle making, pottery making, sugar refining, tobacco manufacture, brickmaking, and glass manufacture. Among the most frequent causes of disputes were demands for increase of wages (44 disputes), and demands for the dismissal of workpeople and foremen (12 disputes).

Of the 45 disputes which came to an end in October, 9 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 16 in favour of the employers, and 20 were compromised.

Re-organisation of the Higher Council of Labour.—By Decree of September 1, 1899, the Higher Council of Labour, instituted by Decree of January 22nd, 1891, is re-organised.

The Council, hitherto composed of 60 members (all but 10 of whom were nominated by the Minister of Commerce, Industry and the Colonies), will in future consist of 66 members. Of these 22 are to be elected by employers, 22 by workpeople, while the remaining 22 will consist of 3 senators elected by the Senate, 5 deputies elected by the Chamber of Deputies, 4 members selected by the Minister of Commerce from amongst competent persons, and ten members as follows:—The President of the Paris Chamber of Commerce, the Treasurer of the Consultative Chamber of Workmen's Associations for Production, the Vice-President of the Consultative Commission of the Paris Labour Exchange, the President of the Paris Municipal Council, the Director-General of Government Manufactories, the Director of Roads, Navigation and Mines attached to the Ministry of Public Works, the Director of State Railways, the Director of Industry in the Department of Commerce, Industry, Posts and Telegraphs, the Director (or, in his absence, the Sub-director) of Labour in the same department, and the Chief of the Division of Insurance and Thrift in that Department.

Of the 22 employer-members, 15, representing 15 groups of trades, are to be elected by members of the chambers of commerce and the consultative chambers of arts and manufactures, and the other 7 by employer-members of the Councils of *Prud'hommes*. Similarly, of the 22 workmen-members, 15, representing 15 groups of trades, are to be elected by the workmen's trade unions, and 7 by the workmen-members of the councils of *Prud'hommes*.

The Higher Council of Labour is to have a permanent committee of 21 members, viz., 7 employers, 7 workpeople, 1 member of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies, and 5 *ex officio* members. At the request of the Minister of Commerce, the permanent committee is to hold inquiries concerning the conditions of labour, the condition of labourers, and the relations between employers and workpeople. It may also report to the Minister, at his request, upon the causes and circumstances of a labour dispute, or of a coalition of employers.

*Coalmining in September.**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in September was 5.92 (compared with 5.84 in the previous month, and 5.92 in September, 1898). In September, full time (6 days and over) was worked by 82 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 17 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 78 and 20 respectively. The above particulars are 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 coal mines).

GERMANY.

Employment in October.—*Der Arbeitsmarkt* reports the condition of the labour market in October as having been more favourable than in the corresponding month last year. The proportion, which applications for work bore to offers of situations at the public

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail, September and October, 1899.

employment registries, rose from 98.9 per cent. in September to 108.8 per cent. in October this year; whereas last year it rose from 98.4 per cent. in the former to 111.3 in the latter month.

Labour Disputes in October.—The same journal reports 47 disputes as having begun in Germany in October, as compared with 52 in September. The group, in which the greatest number of disputes took place, was that of the metal and engineering trades, which had 14 disputes; the woodworking trades had 6 disputes, the building trades 5 disputes, the textile and food, etc., preparation groups, each had 4 disputes, and the glass, pottery, etc., group had 2 disputes.

Voluntary Expenditure by Employers for the benefit of Workpeople.—The current number of *Der Arbeiterfreund** gives a summary table of sums voluntarily devoted by employers to various schemes for the benefit of workpeople and other persons of limited means during the three months, July-September, 1899. The total amount for the period mentioned is £555,644, of which £373,005 was furnished by 204 private firms, and £182,639 by 165 joint stock companies.

Legal Decision against Picketing.—A turner in Berlin, acting as picket outside a factory upon which a block had been declared by the trade union, was ordered away by a police officer, and refusing to comply, was charged before the magistrate and sentenced to a fine. The workman appealed against this sentence, on the ground that his standing in the street was not likely to lead either to an obstruction of the traffic or to a breach of the peace, and that consequently the police officer was not justified in ordering him away. Counsel for the Crown, however, maintained that, in view of the well known likelihood of a conflict arising between a picket and workpeople who were willing to work, the police officer's action was justifiable. The Court concurred in this view and dismissed the appeal.—*Soziale Praxis*.

SWITZERLAND.

Compulsory Sickness and Accident Insurance Law.—According to *Schweizerische Blätter für Wirtschafts und Sozialpolitik*, a law introducing compulsory insurance for workpeople against sickness and accident has been passed by both of the Swiss legislative chambers. January 1, 1903, has been fixed as the date for the coming into operation of this law.

BELGIUM.

Addition to the List of Establishments classed as Dangerous, &c.—By a Royal Decree, dated August 18th, workshops, in which stone is cut, sculptured or polished, are added to the list of trades classed as dangerous, etc. (and therefore subject to inspection).

HOLLAND.

Social Science Information Bureau.—A Royal Decree, dated October 5th, has granted official recognition to a society, formed in Amsterdam on September 11th, which has for its objects to furnish, upon request, information concerning the organisation and administration of institutions and schemes established with the aim of improving the condition of the industrial classes; to collect and disseminate information concerning institutions and schemes of this nature; and to collect books, reports, etc., dealing with social questions.

The society will derive the funds necessary for carrying on its work from the contributions of members, from gifts, subsidies and legacies, and from fees charged for information supplied. The secretary and director of the society is Professor W. M. F. Treub.

Proposed increase in Staff of Factory Inspectors.—According to *Sociaal Weekblad* of October 14, the estimates of the Department of Dykes, Commerce and Industry for next year provide for the addition of five members (including two women) to the staff of factory inspectors, at an additional cost of £1,300. The Minister in charge of the Department is reported as remarking upon the fact that, with the existing staff, each establishment can be visited only about once in every four to seven years.

AUSTRIA.

Labour Disputes, October 4th to November 1st.—Notices of 17 disputes, which began in Austria between October 4th and November 1st, are contained in *Die Gewerkschaft* (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee). Five of these disputes were in the textile trades; three each in the metal and engineering trades and the woodworking trades; two each in the mining and the food, etc., preparation trades, and two in trades not coming within any of the foregoing groups.

The disputes, in which the largest number of workpeople are reported to have taken part, were (1) a strike of 400 weavers (at one factory) owing to the gates having been closed against a number of operatives who came late; (2) a strike of 300 coalminers in sympathy with other coalminers already on strike in the same

* *Der Arbeiterfreund*, Jahrgang 1899, Heft. 3 (the quarterly journal of the Central Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Working Classes); edited by Professor Victor Bohmert, late chief of the Royal Statistical Bureau of Saxony. Published by Leonard Simion, Berlin.

district; and (3) a strike of 240 cotton-weavers (at one factory) for a 10-hours day and the removal of various grievances. Up to November 3rd, none of these disputes had been reported terminated.

NORWAY.

Factory Inspection in 1898.—The Report on Factory Inspection in Norway in 1898,* just issued by the Norwegian Home Department shows the total number of establishments registered as subject to inspection in that year to have been 2,921, employing 73,148 workpeople. Of these, 65,369 were adults (54,119 men and 11,250 women); 7,107 were between the ages of 14 and 18 (4,996 young men and boys, and 2,111 young women and girls); and 672 were children of 12 to 14 (537 boys and 135 girls). Of the 73,148 workpeople employed in establishments subject to inspection, there were, roughly speaking, 16,800 in the timber and woodworking trades, 15,000 in the metal and engineering trades, and 9,500 in the textile trades.

REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was better in England and Wales, though not so good in Scotland, in October as compared with both September and a year ago.

The comparative tables below, for the first time for some months include the South Wales and Monmouthshire district, work having been resumed in that district early in September 1898.

Returns relating to 1,290 pits at which 455,640 workpeople were employed show that an average of 5.58 days per week was worked by these pits in the four weeks ended October 21st, as compared with 5.46 days per week in September and 5.44 days a year ago.

The following table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified:—

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		21st Oct., 1899.	22nd Oct., 1898.	23rd Sept., 1899.
England and Wales	417,821	5.61	5.44	5.47
Scotland	37,241	5.30	5.44	5.32
Ireland	578	5.67	5.15	5.62
United Kingdom	455,640	5.58	5.44	5.46

In the following 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 90.5 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per week as against 85.0 per cent. in September, and 85.2 per cent. a year ago.

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

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	October, 1899.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	October, 1898.	September, 1899.
24 days (full time)	153,583	33.7	25	26.8
20 and under 24 days	259,005	56.8	60.2	69.7
16 " " 20 " "	36,939	8.1	11.7	11.3
12 " " 16 " "	4,953	0.9	2.1	3.1
8 " " 12 " "	1,378	0.3	0.3	0.6
Under 8 days	670	0.2	0.7	...
Total	455,640	100.0	100.0	100.0

From the following table, in which detailed particulars are given for the different mining districts, it will be seen that in all the English and Welsh districts except Cumberland employment was better than a year ago. There was, however, a falling off in all the three Scottish districts. The most noticeable improvement on the figures of both a year and a month ago is that of half a day in Staffordshire.

In Nottingham and Leicester alone an average of less than five days per week continued to be worked. In Derbyshire, Northumberland, Fife and West Scotland the average amounted to less than 5½ days. In all other districts it amounted to over 5½ days per week, the highest averages being in Gloucester and Somerset (5.92 days), Staffordshire, and South Wales and Monmouth (5.83 days each.)

* *Aarsberetninger fra Fabrikinspektørerne for 1898*, published by the Norwegian Home Department. Christiania, 1899. W. C. Fabritius & Sons.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—COAL AND IRON MINING, PIG IRON, AND IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRIES.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN OCTOBER, 1899 AND 1898, AND IN SEPTEMBER, 1899.

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1899, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1899 as compared with	
		21st Oct., 1899.	22nd Oct., 1898.	23rd Sept., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND & WALES						
Northumberland ...	34,545	5'33	5'31	5'30	+ '02	+ '03
Durham ...	90,940	5'54	5'51	5'64	+ '03	- '10
Cumberland ...	6,174	5'62	5'75	5'83	- '13	- '21
Yorkshire ...	65,234	5'76	5'64	5'46	+ '12	+ '30
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	46,433	5'70	5'37	5'43	+ '33	+ '27
Derbyshire ...	36,674	5'45	5'41	5'28	+ '04	+ '17
Nottingham and Leicester ...	25,246	4'94	4'86	4'71	+ '08	+ '23
Staffordshire ...	24,482	5'83	5'32	5'32	+ '51	+ '51
Salop, Worcester and Warwick ...	7,232	5'71	5'59	5'41	+ '12	+ '30
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,723	5'92	5'83	5'48	+ '09	+ '44
North Wales ...	11,270	5'72	5'68	5'50	+ '04	+ '22
South Wales & Mon. ...	62,868	5'83	5'45	5'83	+ '38	...
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	20,896	5'25	5'40	5'32	- '15	- '07
The Lothians ...	3,641	5'52	5'61	5'73	- '12	- '21
Fife ...	12,704	5'31	5'46	5'21	- '15	+ '10
IRELAND.						
...	578	5'67	5'15	5'62	+ '52	+ '05
Grand Total & Averages:	455,840	5'58	5'44	5'46	+ '14	+ '12

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during October amounted to 3,601,090 tons, as compared with 3,763,206 tons in September, and 3,299,177 tons in October, 1898.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT continues good in this industry. The average number of days worked in October was slightly greater than a year ago.

Returns relating to 126 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 21st was 5'80 per week, as compared with 5'83 in September and 5'73 in October, 1898. The number of workpeople employed in October was 16,973, of whom 93'8 per cent. were employed in mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as compared with 91'3 per cent. in September and 86'3 a year ago. The number employed in October, 1898, was 16,758.

The following table summarises the returns received.

District.	No. employed in Oct., 1899, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1899, as compared with	
		21st Oct., 1899.	22nd Oct., 1898.	23rd Sept., 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	5,945	5'90	5'95	5'89	- '05	+ '01
Cleveland ...	6,815	5'72	5'69	5'78	+ '03	- '06
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	714	5'99	5'98	5'96	+ '01	+ '03
Northamptonshire ...	683	5'96	5'73	5'87	+ '23	+ '09
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,295	5'78	5'47	5'64	+ '31	+ '14
Other places in England ...	157	5'48	5'52	5'57	- '04	- '09
SCOTLAND ...	1,243	5'67	4'97	5'98	+ '70	- '31
IRELAND ...	121	6'00	6'00	6'00	...	...
Total ...	16,973	5'80	5'73	5'83	+ '07	- '03

(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry improved during October. It continues to be considerably better than a year ago.

At the works of 117 ironmasters the number of furnaces in blast at the end of October was 383, or 3 more than at the end of September, and 24 more than at the end of October, 1898. During the month the number of furnaces in blast in the Cleveland district decreased by 1, but 4 furnaces were relit in other districts. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 25,671 at the end of October, 25,425 at the end of September, and 23,555 at the end of October, 1898.

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

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Oct., 1899.	Oct., 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1899.	Oct., 1899.	Sept., 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1899.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	96	95	+ 1	96	97	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks...	54	46	+ 8	54	53	+ 1
Yorkshire ...	19	19	...	19	18	+ 1
Lincolnshire ...	16	14	+ 2	16	16	...
Midlands ...	103	95	+ 8	103	102	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon. Other districts ...	22	16	+ 6	22	22	...
...	9	9	...	9	9	...
Total England and Wales...	319	294	+ 25	319	317	+ 2
SCOTLAND ...						
...	64	65	- 1	64	63	+ 1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	383	359	+ 24	383	380	+ 3

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during October amounted to 151,413 tons, as compared with 131,845 tons in September, and 92,190 tons in October, 1898.

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

Employment in these trades has improved as regards both the numbers employed and the average number of shifts worked. It continues better than a year ago.

At 216 works covered by the returns 82,099 workpeople were employed in the week ended October 28th, being 479 more than at the end of September, and 3,196 more than at the end of October, 1898. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers Employed.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1899, as compared with	
	Numbers employed in week ending			a year ago.	a month ago.
	Oct. 28th, 1899.	Oct. 29th, 1898.	Sept. 30th, 1899.		
England and Wales ...	69,072	66,654	68,470	+ 2,418	+ 602
Scotland ...	13,027	12,249	13,150	+ 778	- 123
Total ...	82,099	78,903	81,620	+ 3,196	+ 479

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to about 88 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5'65 in the last week of October, 5'62 in the last week of September, and 5'57 in the last week of October, 1898.

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Number employed in Oct., 1899, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in Oct., 1898.	
		
Under 5 per week ...	1,208	1'7	3'9	...
5 " ...	22,547	31'4	34'2	...
5½ " ...	1,185	1'6	2'1	...
6 " ...	45,930	63'9	58'5	...
Above 6 " ...	1,003	1'4	1'3	...
Total ...	71,871	100'0	100'0	...

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 463,845 in the last week of October, 458,395 in the last week of September, and 439,634 in the last week of October, 1898.

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

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—TINPLATE INDUSTRY; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good, and is much better than a year ago. Nearly 30 per cent. more mills are now at work than in October, 1898. The corresponding increase in the estimated number of workpeople employed is 4,531, or nearly 28 per cent.

At the end of October, 59 works with 295 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 24 others with 174 mills were giving partial employment, 121 of these mills being at work. Thus in all, 416 mills were working, and giving employment to an estimated number of 20,733 workpeople. These figures compare with 411 mills employing 20,813 workpeople at the end of September, and 321 mills employing 16,202 workpeople a year ago.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed 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.			Estimated No. of Workpeople employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
Works giving full employment	59	295	—	295	14,736
Works giving partial employment	24	121	53	174	5,997
Total at end of Oct., 1899*	83	416	53	469	20,733
Corresponding Total for September, 1899*	83	411	68	469	20,813
Corresponding Total for October, 1898*	66	321	43	364	16,202

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

	Tinplates.			Blackplates.		
	Oct. 1899.	Sept. 1899.	Oct. 1898.	Oct. 1899.	Sept. 1899.	Oct. 1898.
To United States ...	4,366	6,909	3,760	815	500	6
Other Countries ...	14,607	15,412	14,543	5,048	5,829	6,811
Total ...	18,973	22,321	18,303	5,863	6,329	6,817

(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 202 returns from all parts of England, reports as follows:—Agricultural labourers were generally busily employed throughout the month of October lifting and storing potatoes, mangolds, swedes, and turnips, also ploughing, sowing wheat, and threshing. In some of the western counties the men were also busy picking apples and making cider. The weather was most favourable throughout the month for outdoor work, it being mild and dry, and farm work is said to be generally well forward. In a number of counties the supply of labour is said to be short, and in some districts the difficulty is said to have been increased by the calling up of the Army Reserves, but in most districts employers have been able to get through their work without much inconvenience. This result is partly due to the fine weather, and in some cases to the fact that the root crops were light, and consequently fewer men were required.

Northern Counties.—In Northumberland agricultural labour is reported as regular, and in Cumberland, in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Longtown, Penrith, and Wigton. A correspondent in the Penrith Union writes that: "In some of the late districts, where the corn did not get ripe before the weather broke,

* The figures in the table 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 in the table are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

it was not secured until the middle and latter part of October, and this in several cases was owing to the farmers being unable to get labourers." A large employer of labour in the Carlisle Union states that labour is very difficult to get, as the young men will not stop on the land. Reports of a similar character come from Westmorland and North Lancashire. A correspondent in the last named district, referring to South Westmorland and the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster, and Ulverston, says: "No broken time through bad weather. Perfect weather for lifting potatoes and turnips and clearing up all outdoor-work. Indoor work stood over, so that there is plenty of employment in any bad weather in November." A report from the Darlington Union of Durham states that all agricultural labourers are fully employed. In Yorkshire correspondents state that owing to the fine weather, outdoor work was carried on without interruption, and that all hands were fully employed at potato lifting, getting in turnips, ploughing, wheat sowing, and threshing. Reports of this character come from the Unions of Beverley, Easingwold, Howden, Knaresborough, Malton, Pocklington, Guisborough, Ripon, and Thirsk. In several districts labourers are said to be difficult to obtain.

Midland Counties.—Employment in Cheshire is said to be regular in the Unions of Macclesfield, Nantwich, and Tarvin. Reports state that the weather in October was all that could be desired, and the condition of the land very favourable. In both these districts labour is said to be scarce. Reports of a similar character come from Derbyshire from the Unions of Ashbourne, Chesterfield, and Hayfield, and from the Derbyshire portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (Staffs and Derby). In both these districts labour is said to be difficult to get. An employer in the last-named district states that "there is not likely to be quite so much work for odd men shortly, as the turnip crops are very light." Agricultural labourers in Shropshire are said to be well employed in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (Salop and Staffs), Oswestry, Wellington, Wem, and Whitchurch. In a number of these districts labour is said to be scarce. But, generally speaking, reports from this county say that the root crops were light, and that this lessened the demand for labour. Similar conditions are said to prevail in Staffordshire in the Union of Tamworth. It is said that there are very few Irish labourers in this district this autumn, and that in consequence farmers are finding it difficult to get potatoes lifted.

In Warwickshire agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in the Unions of Alcester, Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick, and in the Warwickshire portion of the Banbury Union (Warwick, Oxon, and Northants). Labour is said to be scarce in the Unions of Atherstone, Alcester, Foleshill, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick. A correspondent in the Stratford-on-Avon Union attributes the scarcity of labour to the cottages being bad. Employment in Leicestershire is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Blaby, Melton Mowbray, Market Bosworth, and Lutterworth. A correspondent in the Market Bosworth Union writes: "The weather, with the exception of a few days, has been good; consequently threshing operations are in full swing, but it is difficult to get extra hands." An employer in the Lutterworth Union writes: "Weather being so good for potato and mangold lifting, every available hand has been fully employed. Turnips being such a failure in the district, there will not be the usual work of turnip-cleaning in prospect." In the Oakham Union of Rutland, and in Nottinghamshire, in the Unions of Bingham, Southwell, and Retford, agricultural labour is said to be well employed. An employer in the Retford Union writes that "All labour that could be found was wanted to raise the potato crop, the weather being all we could desire for the purpose." He also complains that scarcity of agricultural labour is becoming a very serious matter to employers. There is said to be no scarcity of employment in Worcestershire in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, Tenbury, and Upton-on-Severn. A scarcity of labour is said to exist in a good many districts. In the Evesham Union a correspondent writes, "Owing to excellent crops of apples and pears, both for market and cider, all hands are fully employed."

Agricultural labourers in Oxfordshire are said to be well employed in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the Oxfordshire portion of the Wallingford Union (Oxon and Berks). A correspondent in the Thame Union writes as follows:—"The demand for milkers still continues. They object to seven day continuous work. In past times the very early harvest coupled with dry weather would have enabled farmers to reduce their staff, but they cannot venture to do so now, as the men would get employment elsewhere." Another correspondent says that the calling out of the Reserves has made labour more scarce. Agricultural employment is said to be regular in Northamptonshire

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; TEXTILE TRADES.

in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Pottersbury, Towcester, Wellingborough, and the Northamptonshire portion of the Banbury Union (Oxon, Northants and Warwick). It is generally reported in this county that labour is scarce, but that as root crops are not good so much extra labour has not been required. Employment in Huntingdonshire is said to be regular in the Unions of Huntingdon and St. Neot's (Hunts. and Beds.), and in Bedfordshire in the Bedford, Biggleswade, and Luton Unions. In both these counties extra labour is said to be difficult to obtain.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from Essex state that agricultural employment is regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Orsett, and Tendring, and in Suffolk in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Mutford and Lothingland, Plomesgate, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. Some scarcity of labour is referred to in several reports from Essex and Suffolk. Reports from both these counties state that the weather was very favourable for outdoor employment during October. In Norfolk agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Aylsham, Blcfield, Docking, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Freebridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. In a good many districts in this county labour is said to be scarce. In some districts, at the end of the month, wet weather interfered with wheat sowing.

Reports from Cambridgeshire state that there is no scarcity of work in the Unions of Caxton and Arrington, Chesterton, Linton, North Witchford, and Whittlesea, and in the Cambridgeshire portion of the Peterborough Union (Northants, Cambs, Hunts and Lincoln). A report from the North Witchford Union states that "The supply of labour is barely adequate for getting up the root crops, and in the neighbourhood as much as 2s. 6d. a day has been given to labourers for getting up roots." Employment in Lincolnshire is said to be regular in the Unions of Boston, Gainsborough, Lincoln, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and in the Lincolnshire portion of the Newark Union (Lincoln and Notts).

Home Counties.—Agricultural labourers in Buckinghamshire are said to be well employed in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow, and in Berkshire in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage. In both these districts in Berkshire labour is described as very scarce. Regularity of work is also reported in Surrey in the Unions of Godstone and Hambleton, and in the Surrey portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). An employer in the last-named district speaking of the whole Poor Law Union of Farnham, says: "The weather being open and mild, mangold lifting is being done extensively. Also potato lifting is being hurried on where hands can be had."

Reports from Kent state that there is no lack of agricultural employment in the Unions of Blean, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, and Tenterden. In the Elham, Faversham and Hollingbourne Unions labourers are said to be rather scarce. In Hertfordshire agricultural employment is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hemel Hempstead, Hitchin, and Watford. All reports from Hertfordshire refer to an increasing difficulty in getting men.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment in Sussex is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. In the Cuckfield Union a few casual labourers were not fully employed. In Hampshire agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Droxford, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the Hampshire portion of the Farnham Union (Hants and Surrey). In the last-named district, an employer near Aldershot writes that the calling-up of the Reserves has made labour scarce.

In Dorsetshire agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, and Wimborne and Cranborne; and in Wiltshire in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown.

In several districts labour is said to be scarce. An employer in the Chippenham Union writes: "The supply of labour is not equal to the demand. It is a great difficulty to get hands to thresh, consequently carters have been threshing and the horses standing idle. There are many things left undone for want of hands." Regularity of work is also reported in Gloucestershire in the Unions of Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, and Thornbury. An employer in the Thornbury Union writes: "Wheat planting is forward, plenty of apple gathering and cider-making to keep hands em-

ployed." Reports from Herefordshire state that agricultural labourers are fully employed in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (Hereford and Monmouth), Ross, and Ledbury.

In Somersetshire agricultural labourers are said to be fully employed in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wincanton, Wells, and Yeovil. An employer in the Yeovil Union says that "apple picking, cider making, wheat sowing and thatching straw ricks are keeping all hands fully employed." Agricultural employment in Devonshire is said to be quite regular in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Torrington, and Tavistock. An employer in the Barnstaple Union refers to a great scarcity of female servants for farmhouse work. In Cornwall employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bodmin, and Stratton. In the Stratton Union cattlemen are said to be scarce.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month continued very good in the textile trades. Information has been received with regard to 590 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 101,500 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.	With Full Employ-ment.	Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
October, 1899	96	3	—	1
September, 1899	96	4	—	—
October, 1898	92	6	—	2
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
October, 1899	97	3	—	—
September, 1899	98	2	—	—
October, 1898	86	12	—	2
Woollen and Worsted Trades—				
October, 1899	99	1	—	—
September, 1899	97	3	—	—
October, 1898	71	16	13	—
Total of above Trades—				
October, 1899	97	3	—	—
September, 1899	97	3	—	—
October, 1898	84	11	3	2

Cotton Trade.—Spinning.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 26,100; of these, 96 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 96 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September, and with 92 per cent. in October, 1898.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 56,600; of these 97 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 98 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September, and with 86 per cent. in October, 1898.

Woollen and Worsted Trades.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 18,800; of these 99 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 97 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September, and 71 per cent. in October, 1898.

(h) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves continues to show an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. In the first two weeks it was better on the whole than in the latter half of the month.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended October 28th was 16,228, as compared

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

with an average of 15,431 in the preceding five weeks and with 15,706 in the corresponding period of 1898.

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

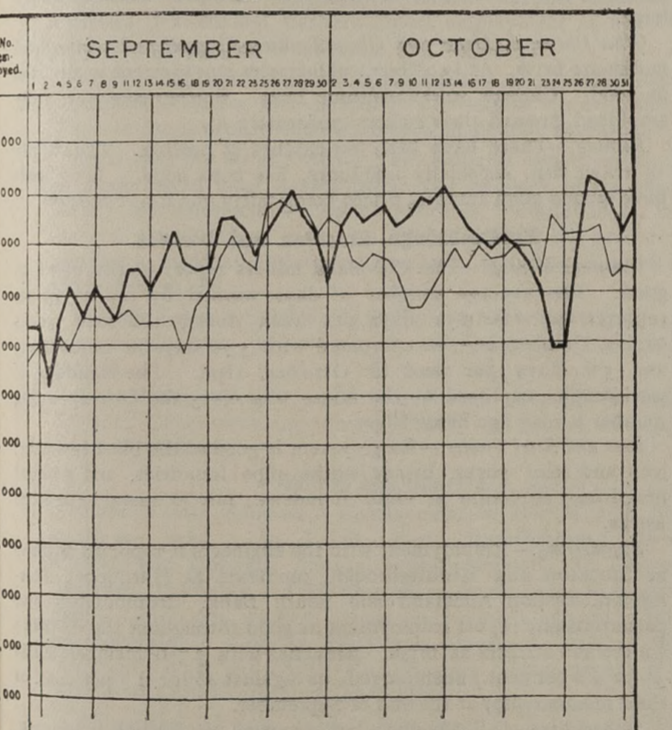
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending Oct. 7	7,337	2,604	9,941	6,614	16,555
" " " 14	7,089	2,839	9,928	6,836	16,764
" " " 21	6,365	2,709	9,074	6,713	15,787
" " " 28	6,511	2,913	9,424	6,387	15,811
Average for 4 weeks ending Oct. 28th, 1899	6,825	2,766	9,591	6,637	16,228
Average for Oct., 1898*	6,940	2,807	9,747	6,469	16,216
Average for Sept., 1899	6,736	2,648	9,384	6,047	15,431

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves during September and October is shown on the chart below. The numbers in October ranged from 13,895 on the 23rd to 17,339 on the 26th.

During October, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 14,696 on the 11th to 16,566 on the 24th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of September and October, 1899. The corresponding curve for September and October, 1898, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1899, and the thin curve to 1898.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for October, 1899, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	16,360	12	17,128
2	16,764	13	16,688
3	16,422	14	16,356
4	16,596	15	16,053
5	16,803	16	15,910
6	16,388	17	16,074
7	16,596	18	15,960
8	16,941	19	15,624
9	16,835	20	15,120
10		21	
11		22	
12		23	13,895
13		24	13,958
14		25	15,733
15		26	17,339
16		27	17,211
17		28	16,732
18		29	16,132
19		30	16,771

Sundays and Holidays are omitted.

Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," on page 336.

* Amended figures.

(i) 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 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 35,791, or an increase of 2,698, as compared with October, 1898. The ports contributing most largely to the increase are Liverpool and London. The supply of seamen is generally reported as being quite equal to the demand.

During the ten completed months of the year the number of seamen shipped at the selected ports shows an increase of 9,144 over the number for the first ten months of last year, mainly due to largely increased shipments at Cardiff, Liverpool, Newport and London, partly balanced by decreases at ports on the North East coast.

Of the total number shipped during the ten months (viz., 346,319*) 50,472, or 14.6 per cent. were foreigners, as compared with 14.0 per cent. in the first ten months of 1898, in which period the total number of British and foreign seamen shipped was 337,175.* 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, 1899 and 1898 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, 1899.*			Total in Oct., 1899.*	Total number shipped in 10 months ended October*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Oct., 1899.		1899.	1898.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Port	127	2,469	2,596	3,224	30,750	38,768
Sunderland	1	325	326	333	4,898	6,974
Middlesbrough	19	250	269	430	3,388	3,645
Hull	—	1,298	1,298	1,024	13,109	14,285
Grimsby	—	70	70	105	883	1,568
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	4	629	633	441	5,016	6,138
Newport, Mon.	39	980	1,019	796	10,476	6,414
Cardiff	354	4,038	4,392	4,978	50,070	34,736
Swansea	—	513	513	447	6,038	6,698
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	196	12,086	12,282	10,461	110,889	104,844
London	365	6,893	7,258	6,099	61,790	69,009
Southampton	2	1,781	1,783	1,412	14,923	14,985
SCOTLAND.						
Leth. Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	—	341	341	575	6,055	8,921
Glasgow	140	2,454	2,594	2,889	24,447	26,490
IRELAND.						
Dublin	—	138	138	131	1,900	1,085
Belfast	12	267	279	348	2,774	2,971
Total, Oct., 1899	1,289	34,532	35,791	—	346,319	—
Ditto, Oct., 1898	1,436	31,657	—	33,093	—	337,175

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—During October employment has remained steady on the whole, and in several industries an upward tendency was observable towards the end of the month. Returns from 446 branches of 110 unions, having an aggregate membership of 75,835, show that 2,235 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 3.6 in September, and 3.3 per cent. in October, 1898.

Employment in the Engineering, Metal and Shipbuilding trades has remained steady. Reports from 147 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,652, show that 632 (or 2.9 per cent.) were unemployed, as in September. The percentage for October, 1898, was 4.1.

The Building trades still continued brisk. Returns from 179 branches of five unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 12,133, show that 109 (or 0.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.5 per cent. in August and September. The percentage for October, 1898, was also 0.9. The bricklayers, carpenters and

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

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS—LONDON; NORTHERN COUNTIES.

joiners, and stone-carvers described employment as good; the stone-masons and plasterers as fair; the painters and decorators and plumbers as moderate.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades has remained fairly steady. Reports from 48 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,707, show that 184 (or 2.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.4 per cent. in September, and 2.1 in October, 1898.

Coopers remain busy. Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, return no unemployed. In September, and also in October, 1898, less than 1 per cent. were unemployed.

Coachbuilders and *Wheelwrights* continue well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,406, show that 23 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.6 in September, and 1.5 per cent. in October, 1898.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has improved. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 23,501, show that 899 (or 3.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5.9 in September, and 3.1 per cent. in October, 1898.

Employment in the *Clothing* trades has been quiet, but is improving. The West End bespoke tailors describe employment as fair; the East End bespoke trade has also been fair; the contract trade is improving; the stock trade is busy; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses have been only partially employed; with ladies' tailors and mantle-makers employment was fair at the commencement, but bad at the end of the month. Employment with hatters has slightly improved; with capmakers it has been fair; with fur-skin dressers slack; with silk-weavers fair.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with West End hand-sewn boot and shoe makers has been quiet, improving towards the end of the month; in the East End sewround trade good; with boot and shoe operatives quiet.

Employment in the *Leather* trades is good. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,617, show that 29 (or 1.8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.2 in September and 4.6 per cent. in October, 1898.

In the *Glass* and *Pottery* trades returns from 8 unions, with a membership of 1,500, show that 65 (or 4.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.4 in September, and 4.2 per cent. in October of last year.

Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.—In these trades, returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 908, show that 8 (or 0.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.3 in September and 2.4 per cent. in October, 1898.

Gold and Silver Workers are well employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,119, show that only 1 was unemployed. The percentage for last month was 0.3, and for October, 1898, 2.5.

Employment in the *Tobacco* trades has still further improved. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,820, show that 36 (or 1.3 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 3.8 in September, and 2.8 per cent. in October, 1898.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 16,228 in the four weeks ended October 28th, as compared with averages of 15,431 in the preceding five weeks and 15,706 in the corresponding period of 1898. Employment in mid-stream has been fair and steady during the month. It has been good with deal porters, lumpers, stevedores, and winchmen; fair with coal porters and lightermen; moderate with corn porters. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been well employed, the average daily number employed being 327, as against 320 in September.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal-Mining.—*Northumberland*.—All collieries have worked fuller time, steam and house coal pits averaging 5.34 and 5.50 days per week for the four weeks ending October 21st, as against 5.21 and 5.37 days in September. Of the 22,099 union miners none are unemployed. The 2,260 colliery deputies, mechanics, engine, and firemen have 0.1 per cent. of their membership idle. *Durham*.—Collieries producing coking, house, and gas coal, have averaged 5.72, 5.48, and 5.46 days per week respectively as against 5.67, 5.53, and 5.50 days in September. Returns received from 137 pits employing over 67,000 men and boys show an average of 5.55 days worked per week as compared with 5.58 days a year ago. There are 94 or 0.15 per cent. of union miners receiving "stoppage relief" as against 129 or 0.21 per cent. in September. Colliery mechanics, deputies, and engine men with 5,213 members have 6 idle. The 3,400 cokeyard workers continue fully employed.

Metal Mining.—Iron ore miners continue quiet; two lead mines are fairly busy.

Quarrying.—Employment at several lime and whinstone quarries is reported as brisk.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—*On the Tyne*.—In two or three engine shops fitters are slack, but employment generally is good or fair in all branches. Branches of engineers, boiler-makers, and iron and steel shipbuilders with 12,628 members have 457 (or 3.6 per cent.) out of work, as against 270 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. *On the Wear*.—Frame benders, riveters and caulkers have worked fuller time. Outside fitters have been better employed. Copper-smiths are dull. Forgemasters and ship-smiths are still busy. Of the 5,265 union members of these trades 76 (or 1.4 per cent.) are idle, as against 78 (or 1.5 per cent.) at the end of September. The 1,954 iron and steel moulders, and drillers and hole cutters on both rivers return 89 (or 4.6 per cent.) as unemployed. Sailmakers are not so brisk, and ship joiners and painters are rather slack. Steel-plate mills have worked full time; angle mills at Consett, 5 shifts per week; smelting shops, chain and anchor smiths, 6 shifts.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The coal porters and shippers have worked full time. Trimmers and teamers report shipments as being fairly good. Steam tug boat men are well employed. The demand for sailors and firemen has been better. Tyne watermen and lumpers and riggers and quayside labourers generally have had fuller employment.

Building Trades.—With the exception of plumbers and painters all branches continue busy.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers on the Tyne are quiet. At Sunderland employment is better. Two paper mills are busy; at five others 139 shifts have been worked out of a possible 240.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment with cabinet-makers in some shops is quiet; with upholsterers fair. Coopers continue fairly busy.

Other Chemical, Metal and Glass Trades.—Copper and white lead works are brisk. At two chemical factories employment is reported as good. Cement works continue busy. Bottle makers are fully employed, pressed glass makers moderately so.

Fishing.—There have been few catches of herring. The supply of trawl fish, especially haddocks, has been good. Line-boats have landed good catches, prices being fairly good.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Ironstone Mining.—The Cleveland miners report employment as good. The average number of days worked by the 21 mines reported on was 5.72 days per week during the four weeks ending October 21st, as compared with 5.78 days in September, and 5.69 days per week in October, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,815 the corresponding number a year ago being 6,699.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is good at the blast furnaces, iron and steel works, bridge works, pipe foundries, and general foundries; moderate at chair foundries; fair at metal expansion works.

Engineering.—Employment with the engineers is reported as good at Stockton and Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool, Darlington, Bishop Auckland and South Bank. Ironfounders and patternmakers report employment as good throughout the district; smiths and strikers as brisk. Branches with 3,756 members have 31 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 48 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Shipbuilding.—All the yards are reported as fairly full of work. Smiths and strikers report employment as brisk; shipwrights as good; shipjoiners as fair throughout the district.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Sailors and firemen report employment as moderate both at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool; dock labourers as slack at Middlesbrough, good at Hartlepool; riverside labour as good all along the river.

Building Trades.—Employment with plumbers at Stockton, and painters generally, is moderate. Other branches throughout the district are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Cement and concrete workers report employment as brisk; pulp-workers as steady; saltworkers as fair; woodcutting machinists and mill-sawyers, and printers as good; cabinet-makers as dull; tailors at Middlesbrough as slack.—*A. Main.*

Cumberland and Barrow District.

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

Coal Mining Industry.—Employment in this industry remains good. There is, however, a falling off in the number of days

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

worked as compared with both a month and a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 21st, at the 20 pits covered by the returns, was 5.62 per week, as compared with 5.83 days in September, and 5.75 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed in October, 1899, at these pits was 6,174, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,111.

Iron Mining Industry.—Employment continues good at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended October 21st at the 45 mines from which returns have been received was 5.90 per week, as compared with 5.89 days in September and 5.95 days a year ago. There were 5,945 workpeople employed at these mines in October, the corresponding number for October, 1898, being 5,992.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces continues better than either a month or a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of October was 54, as compared with 53 in September and 46 in October, 1898. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces was 4,404, or 118 more than in September, and 865 more than a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning*.—In Oldham and the surrounding districts, as well as in Rochdale, Ashton, Mossley, Stalybridge, Stockport, Dukinfield and Droylsden, employment continues good, full time being general. In the twinning trade, employment continues slack. Employment with card-room workers, ring frame spinners and throstle-frame tenters is good. Reeling is reported as slack, winding as moderate. *Weaving*.—Weavers of calico goods are reported as busy. Employment on fustians is slack; on velvets moderate. Employment in ball-warping remains good. Twisters, drawers and slashers report employment as fair; beam and sectional warpers as moderate.

Woolen and Silk Trades.—Employment in the woollen trade in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport districts is reported as good. The silk dressers of Rochdale are only moderately employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers report employment as moderate in most departments, but as slack in the machine shops; pattern-makers, tinplate workers, brassfounders, boiler-makers, ironfounders, and gas meter-makers as good; iron-grinders as moderate; plate and machine moulders as slack; and toolmakers as bad.

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

Coal Mining.—Employment is reported as good in Oldham, Royton, Chadderton and Shaw districts, the miners working full time.—*T. Ashton.*

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Spinning*.—Employment in Bolton and vicinity continues brisk. In Leigh, Bury, Ramsbottom, Heywood, Chorley and Horwich unusual activity prevails. In Farnworth, Walkden, Tyldesley and Westhoughton employment is reported as good. Cardroom workers report employment as good in Bolton; as moderate in Chorley, Bury and Heywood; and as fair in Atherton, Leigh, and Farnworth. *Weaving*.—Employment is good with most firms throughout the district.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Engineers in Bolton and district report employment as good. Steam engine makers, roller turners, moulders and brassfinishers are well employed at most firms. In Wigan, Leigh, Hindley and Chorley employment is good; at Bury, Farnworth and Heywood fairly good with engineers, active with machine workers and enginemen.

Building Trades.—Employment is good, except with plumbers and slaters at Chorley and Wigan, who report it as moderate.

Coal Mining.—Much activity prevails at most collieries throughout the district, miners working an average of 5½ days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Beltmakers and leather-workers, printers, bookbinders, cloggers and tailors report employment as fairly good.—*R. Tootill.*

Blackburn, Burnley and District.

Cotton Trade.—*Weaving*.—Employment continues good in the weaving trade in the Blackburn, Burnley, Darwen, Preston, Nelson and Colne districts; in the coloured weaving trade there is a slight improvement. In the hard waste weaving

trade overtime is being worked. Twisters and drawers, tapers, winders and warpers are fully employed. *Spinning*.—Spinners report employment as good at Blackburn, Preston, Darwen and Accrington. Cardroom workers and ring spinners are fully employed throughout the district. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, with 3,323 members, have 91 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

Building Trades.—Employment with painters and plumbers is fair; masons and bricklayers are affected by the weather.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment in all branches continues good.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coal miners are busy throughout the district; stone quarrymen are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers report employment as good; tailors as fair; boot, shoe and slipper makers as moderate; cabinet-makers as steady; calico printers as fair; wcolled block printers as good.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 22,070 members have 449 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 560 (or 2.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In Northwich engineers and boiler-makers report employment as good, smiths and strikers as moderate. In Manchester engineers describe employment as moderate, boiler-makers as slack, sheet metal braziers as fair, ironfounders, brassfounders, and finishers and machine-workers as good. In Warrington, engineers, wire-drawers, wire-weavers, boiler-makers, and ironworkers in general are fully employed. In Stockport, workpeople in the engineering and kindred trades are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—In Manchester bricklayers report employment as good; carpenters, masons and concreters as fair; otherwise employment generally is moderate throughout the district.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the cotton spinning trade is described as moderate throughout the district. Woollen spinners in the Manchester district are on short time. The cotton operatives in Macclesfield and Stockport continue busy in all branches, with the exception of winders and warpers, who are not so well employed. Every branch in the silk trade is fully employed at Macclesfield; fustian cutters are moderately so. Employment is reported as moderate with bleachers, dressers, dyers and finishers.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors is moderate; in the ready-made tailoring branch it has improved. In all other branches of the clothing trades it is good generally.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers are fairly well employed. Cabinet-makers, French polishers and coopers report employment as good; upholsterers as busier; wheelwrights as moderate.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as improved; stereotypers and pattern-card makers as good; bookbinders as moderate; lithographic artists and printers as fair.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders, shipwrights and ship-joiners, brass and iron founders, iron and steel dressers, whitesmiths, drillers and hole-cutters report employment as good; engineers, ship-painters and patternmakers as fair.

Transport Trades.—Seamen and firemen, quay and railway carters report employment as good; dock labourers as moderate; Mersey flatmen and coal-heavers as fair.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Coachmakers, coopers and mill-sawyers report employment as good; upholsterers and French polishers as moderate; cabinetmakers as fair.

Printing and Allied Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as improved; lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders and stereotypers as fair.

Building Trades.—Plumbers and painters report employment as moderate. All other branches are fully employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is dull in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade, fair in the ready made branch. Boot and shoe makers are rather quiet.

Coalmining and Quarrying.—Coalminers have averaged five days per week. Quarrymen are fully employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers and all branches of glassmakers report employment as good; chemical workers as improving.—*C. Rouse.*

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

A report from Winsford states that employment in the salt trade has further declined. Shipwrights, boiler-smiths and brass-finishers are fully employed; moulders moderately so. At both Winsford and Middlewich employment is better with fustian cutters; rather dull in the building trade. In the chemical trade it has improved.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.—The engineers, steam engine makers, machine-workers, ironfounders, iron and steel dressers, braziers and sheet metal workers report employment as good; the brassfounders and finishers, smiths and strikers, pattern-makers, boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders, shipwrights, drillers and hole-cutters, and general labourers as moderate; the sailmakers as bad. At Beverley, Doncaster and Grimsby smiths report employment as fair; engineers and boiler-makers as moderate; at Selby, engineers, boiler-makers and shipwrights report employment as good; at Goole engineers and smiths report employment as good; boiler-makers as moderate.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, slaters and tilers, carpenters and joiners, and builders' labourers report employment as good; plasterers and stonemasons as fair; painters as moderate; plumbers as bad. At Grimsby employment is good.

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

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen at Hull and Grimsby report employment as good; the steam fishing-vessel engineers and firemen at Hull as fair; at Grimsby as moderate; curing-house workers and pontoon and general labourers as fair.

Seed Crushing, Paint, Oil, and Colour Trades.—Employment in all branches is reported as good.

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

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—The coachbuilders at Doncaster report employment as good; the coopers at Hull as fair; the mill-sawyers and wood machinists, coachbuilders, cabinet-makers and brushmakers as moderate.

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

Miscellaneous.—The Jewish tailors, pressers and machinists, and the bakers and confectioners report employment as good; the gas workers and general labourers as moderate.—W. G. Millington.

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 8,613 members have 152 (or 1.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 183 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers pattern-makers, and stove-grate workers is reported as good; with spindle and flyer makers as quiet; with brassworkers as fair, but declining; with tin-plate workers as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—The tailoring factories have been fairly busy throughout the month. Jewish operatives report employment as brisk; bespoke tailors as moderate. The boot and shoe operatives in Leeds have been steadily employed.

Textile Trades.—In Leeds woollen spinners, wileys and fettlers, blanket raisers and linen workers continue well employed. At Wakefield and Merley the mills are working full time. At Yeadon employment has slightly improved. In the dyeing trade employment has improved, but the men still have to take days off in turn.

Building Trades.—In Leeds employment with bricklayers, masons, joiners and plasterers is good; with painters moderate; with plumbers fair. Employment is brisk at Harrogate; fair at Wakefield.

Coal Mining.—All the pits in the Leeds district have worked full time, except one, where a breakdown has caused a stoppage for a few days.

Leather Trades.—Tanners report employment as improved and fairly good; curriers as improving; saddlers and harness makers as quiet.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers has been fair; with lithographers, bookbinders and machine rulers good.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle makers at Leeds and Wakefield is good, at Castleford fair; with flint glass makers good; with decorative glass workers moderate.

Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and brushmakers are fairly well employed; cabinet-makers and coach-makers moderately so.—O. Connellan.

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Worsted Trade.—In Bradford, Halifax, Keighley, and the Worth Valley employment is fairly good. In Huddersfield it is hardly quite so good as last month, but is still fairly good.

Woollen Trade.—In and around Huddersfield employment is busy. A fair quantity of mills are running night and day, whilst others are working until 8 and 9 o'clock. In the heavy woollen district employment is a little quieter, but is still considered good.

Other Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Manningham is reported as moderate; at Halifax as good; in Brighouse as fairly good; in the cotton trade at Huddersfield, Halifax and Brighouse as fair. Shoddy-workers are well employed.

Metal Trades.—The engineers in Bradford, Halifax and Dewsbury report employment as good, in Keighley and Huddersfield as moderate; ironfounders throughout the district as good.

Building Trades.—Employment remains good throughout the district.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with glassworkers; moderate with tailors, printers, and painters.—A. Gee.

Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 12,453 members have 89 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 100 (or 0.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Employment continues good throughout the district. In some firms Sunday labour is being done. Branches with 6,178 members have 49 (or 0.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 62 (or 1.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. At Parkgate both iron and steel workers are busy.

Cutlery and Tools.—Employment in nearly all branches is either good or fair.

Other Metal Trades.—Silversmiths report employment as quiet, silver and metal stampers, hollow-ware buffers and brassworkers as moderate; silver and electro-plate finishers, platers and gilders and spoon and fork makers as good. Britannia metal-workers are quiet. At Rotherham brassworkers are not so busy.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 61 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.75 days per week worked during October.

Building Trades.—All sections in Sheffield, Rotherham and Normanton report employment as good. At Barnsley it is slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers report employment as fair. Lithographers and bookbinders are busy.

Linen Trade.—Employment at Barnsley continues fair.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Coachmakers and cabinet-makers are fairly well employed. Railway wagon and carriage builders and bobbin makers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with bespoke tailors in Sheffield, and with the ready-made tailoring operatives in Barnsley, is fair. Employment in the boot and shoe trade continues good.

Glass Trades.—Bottle makers at Mexbro' and Rotherham report employment as good, at Barnsley as only moderate; employment with flint glass workers is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Railway men, brickmakers, quarrymen, chemical workers, harness makers and saddlers, down quilt makers, and general labourers report employment as good, except at Barnsley, where labourers are slack. Potters are quiet.—S. Uttley.

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,848 members have 58 (or 0.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Cycle-workers in Long Eaton and Draycott report employment as bad; most other branches as good generally.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 77 collieries employing upwards of 30,000 men show an average of 5.3 days per week worked, as against 5.5 days in September. Owing to local holidays several pits were idle from one to three days during the month.

Quarrying.—Limestone and chert quarrymen continue well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby and Long

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

Eaton. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as good. Most timber yards are fairly well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment is good with cotton operatives, surgical bandage makers, hosiery workers, silk and merino workers, dyers and bleachers; fairly good with calico printers and engravers; improving with elastic web weavers and lace workers.

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

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine-rulers report employment as good.—C. White-Deacon.

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment in the levers section has much improved; in the plain net it is good; in the curtain bad; in the warp lace moderate, but improved. Auxiliary lace workers report employment as brisker; warpers and card punchers as good; curtain readers and correctors, designers and draughtsmen as only moderate. Employment at Beeston is dull; at Stapleford moderate; at Bulwell fair. Bleachers are well employed; dyers fairly so.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment in Nottingham is reported as very good; at Sutton-in-Ashfield, Mansfield and Arnold as fair. The wool and Shetland shawl branch at Hucknall Torkard continues quiet.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Mechanics, fitters and smiths report employment as moderate to bad; cycle-makers as only moderate; lace machine builders, bobbin and carriage makers, carriage straighteners, ironfounders, brassfounders and brassworkers, wheelwrights, blacksmiths and farriers as good; boiler-makers as good except at Newark. At Grantham employment is good, at Beeston bad with most sections. Branches with 2,980 members have 83 (or 2.8 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 92 (or 3.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Coal Mining.—Employment is good throughout the county. Returns from 27 collieries employing 16,243 persons show an average of 4.75 days per week.

Building Trades.—Employment in Nottingham is rather quiet. In other towns in the district it is reported as regular.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers, chair-makers, coopers, mill-sawyers, French polishers and coachmakers report employment as good; upholsterers as quiet; boxmakers as moderate; packing-cas makers as less busy.

Printing and allied Trades.—Letterpress printers and bookbinders report employment as good; lithographic printers and artists as moderate, printers' cutters as fair.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with bespoke tailors; as good in the ready-made tailoring branch and with mantle-makers. Boot and shoe operatives are fairly well employed.

Railways.—Throughout the county employment is full, with overtime in a few districts.

Miscellaneous.—Female cigar-makers are busy. Gasworkers report employment as good and improved; colliery enginemens, stationary engine-drivers, and engine and crane men as good; cab and hackney carriage employees, bakers and confectioners as quiet; maltsters at Newark as improved; brickmakers as good.—W. L. Hardestaff.

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment in Leicester and surrounding towns continues fairly regular for the time of year. It has slightly improved at Higham and Rushden, but is slackening at Northampton, Kettering and Rothwell.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is rather slacker in the wholesale tailoring trade, but improving in the bespoke branch. It is good with corset-makers, silk hatters and capmakers, improving with milliners and dressmakers; slack with felt hatters.

Hosiery and Woolspinning.—At Leicester operatives in all branches of the hosiery trade are fully employed. At Loughborough the hose and half hose branches are working overtime. Employment is good in the wool factories and with dyers and trimmers.

Elastic Web Trade.—In the cord, braid, and narrow webbing branches employment is good; with weavers in the shoe gusset branch work is slacker.

Engineering Trades.—General engineers at Leicester, and electrical engineers at Loughborough are regularly employed. Employment with pattern-makers and turners is rather slacker; it is good with ironfounders and boiler-makers, improving with toolmakers, less regular in the cycle trade.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment with coal miners and stone quarrymen continues good. Ironstone and lime and cement workers are also in full work.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment is fairly good with letterpress printers at Leicester and Loughborough, quieter at Northampton and Rugby; good with lithographic printers and bookbinders.

Building Trades.—Employment is good with bricklayers, builders' labourers, stonemasons, plasterers, slaters and plumbers; fair with carpenters and joiners, and slacker with house painters and decorators.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Employment is good with coachmakers, road and tram car builders, painters, railway wagon-repairs and cabinetmakers; slacker with upholsterers.

Leather Trades.—Employment is good with tanners at Northampton, slack at Market Harborough; dull with curriers in all departments.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with cigar-makers, brush-makers, basket-makers, tilemakers, railway workers and gas stokers; fair with mill sawyers and gas fitters; slack with bakers.—T. Smith.

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Sanitary pressers continue busy; hollow ware pressers have no members unemployed; flat-pressers, encaustic tilemakers, stilt and spurnmakers, packers, cratemakers and oven men are fully employed. Printers and transferrers report employment as good; women gilders and decorators and men artists as fairly good; designers, modellers and moulders as improved. Throwers and turners in the general trade are busy, and in the furniture and electrical branches an improvement is reported.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Full time is general in all branches throughout the district.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers, boiler-makers, and moulders in North Staffordshire continue well employed, except at Burslem. At Stafford a decline is reported. At Crewe all branches continue busy. At Oakamoor and Froghall copper-workers are well employed, but the brass wire branch reports a slight decline.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment continues good at all collieries and ironstone mines in North Staffordshire. At Cheadle a further improvement is reported. Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue busy.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the silk trade at Leek is brisk; at Congleton silk dressers are working overtime, and fustian cutters maintain the improvement recently reported; silk and tape workers at Cheadle and Tean are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors throughout the district report employment as fair; boot and shoe makers at Stafford and Stone as quiet; corset-makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne as good.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good in all branches except with painters.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers have been fairly busy. Lithographic artists and printers report no change. Bookbinders and machine rulers are well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Railway servants continue busy. Brushmakers and basket-makers report employment as good; gasworkers as showing a further improvement.—I. S. Harvey.

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues good with steel smelters. Full time is worked in the iron bar, angle, hoop, steel and sheet trades. In Shropshire the mills and forges are running full time.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Employment is not quite so good in the engineering trade, but is good with moulders and bridge, boiler, girder, tank and gasometer makers. At Coalbrookdale employment has declined; at Madeley it is good. With malleable iron workers at Wallsall it is fair. Cycle makers are slack.

Hardware Trades.—Employment is reported as good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, iron fences, hurdles, spring and coach ironwork, electrical and gas fittings, black castings, spring traps, builders' ironmongery, gunlocks, tips and cut nails, malleable nails and protectors, stamped hollow-ware, and with galvanizers, stampers and piercers. It is moderate with makers of horseshoes, edge-tools, spectacle frames, locks, keys and latches, and with brassworkers and tinplate workers. Steel toymakers and filesmiths are quiet. Employment with the ironplate workers at Wolverhampton, Bilston and the Lye is generally good. The wrought

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

nail makers at Halesown are fairly well employed. In Old Hill and district the chain makers and strikers report employment as good. At Cradley Heath the block chain makers are well employed; anchor smiths at Cradley are quiet. At Dudley the anvil and vice makers report no improvement. The Wednesbury iron and steel forges are well employed.

Coal Mining.—On Cannock Chase, in Shropshire, and at Tamworth colliers are working full time. In the Old Hill, Oldbury, Tipton and Dudley districts they are averaging 5½ days per week.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as moderate with bricklayers, fair in other branches.

Glass Trades.—Employment in all branches of the flint glass trade at Wordsley and Stourbridge is reported as good.

Leather Trades.—At Walsall employment with the harness makers and gig saddlers is quieter, with brown saddlers fair. The chain, buckle, cart gear, case, hame and spring hook makers report employment as good.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the carpet trade is fairly good at Kidderminster, good at Bridgnorth. The Tamworth tape mills are running full time.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in ready-made and bespoke tailoring has improved. In the boot and shoe trade it is fair.

C. Anthony.

Birmingham and District.

General.—Branches with 21,437 members have 315 (or 1·5 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 407 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering.—In Birmingham seven branches of engineers report employment as moderate, and four as good; toolmakers as moderate, patternmakers as fair, ironfounders and smiths and strikers as good. In West Bromwich and Coventry employment is returned as fair; at Redditch as moderate. The motor industry at Coventry is only moderate. Throughout the district the cycle industry is quiet.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment is good with brass-workers; fairly good with copper tube makers; moderate with brass and copper wire drawers. At Dudley employment in the fender trade is good.

Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro-platers.—Jewellers, Britannia metal workers, plate-glass bevellers and silverers report employment as good, electro-plate workers as fairly good.

Other Metal Trades.—Makers of bedsteads, nuts and bolts, gas, steam and water tubes, wrought iron and steel hinges, and steel toys and nails, and odd side casters, return employment as good. Makers of cut nails, edge tools, scale beams, and weighing machines, and grinders and polishers are fairly occupied. File-cutters by hand report employment as moderate; iron and tinplate workers as improving; wire nailmakers as fairly brisk. At West Bromwich the iron and hollow ware workers are fully employed; springmakers and workers in the minor industries fairly so. At Redditch the needle and fish-hook makers are fully employed. In the Lye district the ironplate workers return employment as moderately good.

Building Trades.—Employment in Birmingham is fairly good; at Coventry moderate; at Redditch quiet.

Glass Trades.—The flint glass makers and flint glass cutters again return employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors report employment as good, the Jewish tailors and boot and shoe makers as fair.

Woodworking Trades.—Mill-sawyers and machinists, coachmakers and coopers, return employment as good; cabinetmakers as fair, and carvers as bad. Employment in the railway and wagon shops continues to improve.

Miscellaneous.—Gasworkers, gasfitters, and general labourers, saddlers, and harnessmakers return employment as good; letterpress printers as moderate; leather bagmakers as fair; cycle-workers in leather as improving; gunmakers in both sections as rather quiet. At Coventry, the watchmakers are fairly employed, the ribbon weavers are quiet. At Redditch the fancy casemakers are busy.—A. R. Jephcott.

ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.

Norfolk and neighbouring District.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade at Norwich is bad on double-sole work, fairly good on turn shoe work. Clickers are not busy. Ready-made tailoring factories are on full time; employment with bespoke tailors is fair. Dressmakers and corset-makers are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—All branches are fairly well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Electrical and general engineers, boilermakers and ironworkers generally are well employed in all parts of the district. Employment with shipwrights at Gorleston and Yarmouth has improved; at Lowestoft it is good.

Printing and Bookbinding.—Lithographic printers and bookbinders are fairly well employed. Letterpress printers are not busy.

Textile Trades.—Mat and matting weavers are well employed. Silk and crape factories are running full time.

Fishing Trade.—The herring fishing at Lowestoft and Yarmouth is good, and great activity prevails at Yarmouth in preparing and packing the herrings for export. Trawl fishing is dull. Shell fishing at Lynn continues fair.

Miscellaneous.—Steam flour, oil cake, and saw-mill workers, horticultural builders, coach builders, navvies, riverside-workers, and maltsters are well employed. Organ-builders are fairly busy.—G. Cleverley.

Suffolk, Essex and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers, boiler-makers, moulders and shipwrights report employment as good.

Clothing Trades.—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate. In wholesale tailoring employment is good. Bespoke tailors are slack. Corset-makers are well employed.

Textile Trades.—The silkworkers at Halstead report employment as good; at Sudbury as fairly good; the mat weavers as satisfactory.

Building Trades.—Carpenters, bricklayers, stonemasons and plumbers report employment as good; painters and plasterers as fair.

Furnishing Trades.—Cabinetmakers and upholsterers report employment as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour is moderate at Ipswich, fair at Harwich and Parkeston; maltsters and gasworkers are busy; brickmakers and general labourers are well employed.

R. W. Mather.

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.

Bristol and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 9,381 members have 97 (or 1·0 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of September.

Building Trades.—Employment is moderate with painters; good with other branches.

Coal Mining.—Employment is good throughout the district.

Engineering and allied Trades.—Branches of ironfounders, engineers, boilermakers, sheet iron and tinplate-workers, pattern-makers, smiths and strikers, and brassmoulders report employment as good; toolmakers and machinists as fair; shipwrights as dull.

Printing Trades.—The lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as slack. The letterpress printers report employment as good at Hereford, Gloucester, Bath and Bristol, and quiet at Weston-super-Mare.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—The cabinet-makers and woodcarvers report employment as fair; the coachmakers and fitters as moderate at Swindon, slack at Gloucester, good at Bristol; other branches as good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good with bespoke tailors; quiet with silk hatters. The boot and shoe operatives in Bristol report an improvement; employment in the heavy nail branch at Kingswood continues good. In the wholesale tailoring trade it has declined, with some factories on short time. Shirt and collar makers are busy.

Textile Trades.—Employment generally is good, with overtime in the Somerset district.

Miscellaneous.—Brick and tile makers, potters, and quarrymen report employment as brisk; dock labourers as fair and improving; oil and colour men are busy.—J. Curle.

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.—Among tin and copper miners work is plentiful, and preliminary steps are being taken for the restarting of further mines. Granite, limestone, and slate quarrymen and china clay workers are well employed.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers continue well employed in Plymouth, Devonport, and Newton, and moderately so in Exeter

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

and the Cornish towns. Iron and steel shipbuilders and boiler-makers are busy. Ironfounders are slack. Shipwrights are busy in Plymouth and Devonport, but only moderately employed elsewhere. In Government establishments overtime is being worked. Branches with 2,121 members have 14 unemployed, as compared with 16 at the end of September.

Building Trades.—In Plymouth and Devonport employment is good with stonemasons and carpenters; moderate with plasterers, bricklayers, and plumbers; quiet with painters. In Exeter, Torquay, and Tavistock, employment is rather quiet; in the Cornish towns and Barnstaple fair.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In Plymouth and Devonport work declined with letterpress printers at the beginning, but improved at the end of the month; in Exeter they are busy; in Torquay quiet. Lithographers, bookbinders, and paper-rulers continue dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Millsawyers and wood-working machinists are well employed; in joinery works and cabinet factories employment is regular; upholsterers are quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors and ready-made tailoring operatives are quiet. Boot and shoe operatives are fairly employed. Lace-makers are busy.

Dock and Quayside Work.—In the docks employment with the grain carriers has been quiet, with coal lumpers and timber workers good, and on general work fair.

Fishing Industry.—Trawl-fishing has been fairly good. The Cornish boats that have returned from the Irish mackerel fishery have not been very successful. Drift-fishing (pilchards) has been good in the west, but herrings have been scarce.

Miscellaneous.—Navvies, excavators, and brickyard workers continue well employed. In artificial manure works employment is steady. Very little is doing in market and fruit gardens.

W. Hedge.

WALES.

North Wales District.

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

Quarrying.—The slate quarrymen, granite sett makers and free-stone, limestone and roadstone quarrymen are well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good with bricklayers, fair with carpenters and joiners and plasterers, quiet with painters.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment with the engineers at Oswestry and Sandycroft is reported as moderate, at Ruabon as fair, at Cefn as good. Steel and ironworkers, ironfounders, wagon makers and spelter workers are well employed.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The Montgomeryshire flannel and tweed industries have been fully employed. The bespoke tailors at Wrexham report employment as moderate, at Rhyl as good, at Carnarvon, Bangor, and Oswestry as quiet.

Brick, Terra Cotta, and Chemical Trades.—Employment continues good throughout the district.—G. Rowley.

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Collieries in Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Blaenavon, Ebbw Vale, Rhymney, and Tredegar are returned as working to their fullest capacity. Out of 80 collieries in the Aberdare, Mountain Ash and Rhondda districts only 4 collieries have had a stoppage and that for one day each only.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Coal shipments have been normal, rising above the average at the end of the month. General cargo shipments have been quiet; the iron ore and pitwood trades have been fairly brisk; the corn trade quiet. Dock hoppers and ship painters and scrapers have good average employment. Shipment of crews has been quiet.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment is good at the principal works.

Engineering and Ship Repairing.—All branches have been better employed. Returns from branches of engineers and ironfounders, with 2,981 members have 82 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 126 (or 4·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The engineering shops and foundries in the colliery and inland districts are busy.

Building Trades.—Several districts report employment as good, others as moderate. Branches of carpenters and joiners and plumbers, with 1,802 members have 40 (or 2·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the fuel trade is brisk at Swansea, moderate elsewhere. The metallurgical and chemical works are quiet. Lithographic and letterpress printers report employment as good.—T. Davies.

Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire.—Employment has been good, except at a few works where breakages have occurred, or where (as in the Llanelly district) the supply of water has run short. At the end of October 404 mills in the district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of black plates), giving employment to an estimated number of 20,168 workpeople. These figures compare with 399 mills, employing 20,250 workpeople at the end of September, and 307 mills employing 15,629 workpeople a year ago.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 16,751 members have 231 (or 1·4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 218 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Coal Mining.—Employment continues good.

Shale Miners and Oilworkers.—Returns from 29 mines employing 3,147 workpeople (as compared with 2,731 in October, 1898), show that 2,516 were employed at mines working full time during the four weeks ended October 21st, and 627 at mines working 23 days.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches in Edinburgh and Leith with 2,229 members have 33 (or 1·5 per cent.) idle, and branches in Falkirk with 3,675 members have 30 (or 0·8 per cent.) idle, the same percentages as at the end of September.

Shipbuilding.—Branches with 601 members have 38 (or 6·3 per cent.) idle, as against 24 (or 4·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Textile Trades.—Employment continues good with woollen spinners and weavers in Selkirk, Hawick, and Galashiels, hosiery workers in Selkirk and Hawick, and carpet weavers in Midlothian.

Building Trades.—Branches with 5,637 members have 49 (or 0·9 per cent.) idle, as against 34 (or 0·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.—Branches with 1,300 members have 17 (or 1·3 per cent.) idle, the same percentage as at the end of September.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The seamen and firemen report employment as good; the coal porters and dock labourers are fairly well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,295 members have 45 (or 2·0 per cent.) idle, as against 55 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—The settmakers, glasscutters and saddlers report employment as good; the tailors, curriers, shoemakers, and glass-makers as fair; the bakers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—Employment is still good. Branches with 14,577 members return 267 (or 1·8 per cent.) as idle, as against 279 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment continues good. Branches with 29,805 members return 570 (or 1·9 per cent.) as idle, as against 618 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Building Trades.—Employment is good in all branches except with painters.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire work has been better: in Dumbartonshire it has been steady on the five days per week policy. In Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and Renfrewshire it has been good.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is good in the bespoke and ready-made branches of the tailoring trade, and with mantle and water-proof makers. Knee shoemakers have been busy. Boot and shoe operatives report employment as fairly good; slipper-makers as busy. Curriers are well employed.

Textile Trades.—Employment in Greenock is quiet; otherwise it is reported as good throughout the district.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress and lithographic printers are still dull. Electrotypers and stereotypers remain busy. Bookbinders report employment as improved.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass cutters and makers report employment as good; decorative glass workers as still dull. Bottlemakers are busy.

Miscellaneous.—Gilders, paviors, sett makers, scale beam makers, cigarette makers, potters, saddlers, spindle and flyer makers, tobacco pipe makers and finishers, and brushmakers are busy. Seamen are still dull. Dock labourers are well employed. Carters, railwaymen, tramway men, and hackney carriage drivers are busy.

A. J. Hunter.

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

Dundee and District.

Textile Trades.—Employment has continued good in the jute industry and is better in the linen trade, but hundreds of operatives were thrown idle through fires at Arbroath.

Coal Mining.—Employment at the collieries in Fifeshire has been fairly steady on the whole. Returns from pits employing upwards of 12,000 workpeople show an average of 5·2 days per week worked during the four weeks ending October 24th, the same average as that for September.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Slackness still prevails in the engineering industry, and at the shipbuilding yards work is quieter than for some time past. Branches of societies with 2,215 members return 112 (or 5·1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 125 (or 5·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—Employment with masons is still good, but it has declined in other branches of the building trade. The furniture and upholstery trades are rather quiet. Societies with 1,763 members report 44 (or 2·5 per cent.) as idle, as against 22 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Dock Labour.—Employment has been slack.

Fishing Industry.—Stormy weather has to some extent interfered with the haddock line fishing, and the results have not been very good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the printing and allied trades is reported as fairly good; in the tailoring trade as still quiet; with boot and shoe makers as moderate. Bleachfield workers and floorcloth and linoleum makers remain busy.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Branches of societies with 6,755 members have 142 (or 2·1 per cent.) idle, as against 87 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Quarrying.—The quarrymen, masons, granite polishers and sett-makers report employment as good.

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

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

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron and steel shipbuilders and engineers report employment as moderate; shipwrights and tinplate-workers as fair; ironmoulders as fairly good; blacksmiths, brass-finishers, horseshoers, pattern-makers, drillers, and hole-borers as good. Branches with 1,480 members have 41 (or 2·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 13 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Clothing and Textile Trades.—The boot and shoemakers, boot and shoe operatives, and mill and factory workers report employment as good; carpet-weavers as bad; tailors as quiet.

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

Fishing.—In October, at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 78,625 cwt. of fish, with a value of £49,065, an increase in quantity, but a decrease in value, as compared with the previous month.

Miscellaneous.—The sawmillers and saddlers report employment as good; upholsters, comb-makers and cabinet-makers as fair; bakers as bad.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull with the painters, but is otherwise fairly good.

Metal Trades.—Work is returned as good with the boiler-makers, electrical workers and farriers; fairly good with brassfinishers, moulders and gasfitters; fair with silver-plate workers and whitesmiths; moderate with engineers; declining with ironfounders.

Woodworking Trades.—Employment is returned as good with the coachmakers and cart and wagon builders; fair with the cabinet-makers; steady with the upholsters.

Printing Trades.—All branches report employment as fair. Branches with 1,362 members have 91 (or 6·7 per cent.) unemployed compared with 104 (or 7·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—The dock labourers report employment as good; the grain labourers as fair; the grain weighers as dull; the brush-makers and bottlemakers as good; the saddlers and ropemakers as fair.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Societies with 8,815 members have 231 (or 2·6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 255 (or 3·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The blacksmiths, strikers and helpers, brassfounders, engineers, furnishing trades, carpenters and joiners, ironfounders and pattern-makers report employment as quiet or moderate; cranesmen, enginemakers and firemen as fair; boiler-makers, steam engine makers, machine-workers, drillers and hole cutters, tinplate-workers, and shipwrights as good.

Linen Trades.—Branches with 4,171 members have 37 (or 0·9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 67 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The flax dressers and yarn bundlers report employment as fair; power loom tenters as improving; beetling enginemakers, flax roughers, hackle and gill makers, linen lappers, yarn dressers, and women workers as good.

Building Trades.—Branches with 2,030 members have 105 (or 5·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 104 (or 5·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. All branches report employment as dull.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches with 814 members have 31 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 53 (or 6·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The cabinet-makers and French polishers report employment as fair; the upholsterers, coopers, millsawyers and coachbuilders as dull; the packing case makers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 938 members have 69 (or 7·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 91 (or 9·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The lithographic printers and artists report employment as bad; the letterpress printers as fair; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as good.

Clothing Trades.—The boot and shoe operatives are well employed. The tailors are still quiet.

Miscellaneous.—Branches with 1,851 members have 60 (or 3·2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 55 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The municipal employees report employment as improving; the bakers, butchers and carters as fair; the locomotive engine-drivers and railway servants as good.

R. Sheldon.

Gork and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is reported as fair throughout the district with fitters, turners, and general machinemakers; as good with smiths, brass-finishers and moulders, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders.

Building Trades.—Employment in Cork, Waterford and Tralee is dull.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors and wholesale tailoring operatives are quiet throughout the district.

Printing Trades.—All branches report employment as good.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is fair with general quay labourers, coal porters, stationary enginemakers and railway servants; good with tramway employees; moderate with beef and pork butchers and grocers' assistants.—P. O'Shea.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1898.

THE report of the New Zealand Department of Labour for the year ended March 31st, 1899, states that the steady upward tendency of trade and business continued during the year, and that the labour market kept pace in its records of employment with the general expansion of industry. Generally speaking, there was full employment for all classes of workpeople. Printers and boot-makers did not, however, share in the general prosperity. During the year employment was found, or temporary advances of passages, etc., granted to 2,115 men, as compared with 2,035 in the preceding year. Of this total 1,727 were labourers, 111 were carpenters, 117 belonged to other branches of the building trades, and 37 were miners. The women's branch of the Department at Wellington found employment for 426 women and girls as compared with 296 in the previous year. The number of workpeople employed in registered factories was returned as 45,305, as against 39,672 in the previous year. These figures do not include 1,400 persons employed in railway workshops. Overtime has not been applied for so frequently, but this is attributed to the fact that in some establishments ordinary overtime was not sufficient, and double shifts were arranged.

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 348, being 54 more than in September, and 22 more than in October, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following summary table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,383,534 persons (according to the latest available figures), 312 were reported killed, and 7,576 injured by accidents during October, as compared with 311 reported killed and 6,913 injured in October, 1898. These figures give one death in October for every 17,255 persons employed in those industries. During the ten completed months of 1899, 3,426 persons were reported killed and 69,441 injured, as against 2,908 reported killed and 56,241 injured in the corresponding period of 1898.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 36 persons were reported killed, and 1,085 injured in October, as compared with 15 reported killed and 934 injured in October of last year.

SUMMARY TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Number Employed according to latest Returns.
	Oct., 1899.	Oct., 1898.	Oct., 1899.	Oct., 1898.	
Railway Service—					
Accidents connected with movement of vehicles	51	39	443	346	534,141
Other Accidents	4	4	1,043	754	
Total Railway Service	55	43	1,486	1,100	534,141
Mines	79	78	353	400	741,125
Quarries (over 20 feet deep)	8	20	72	153	134,478
Shipping	112	114	182	168	230,372*
Factories	58	56	5,483	5,092	3,743,418
Total of above	312	311	7,576	6,913	5,383,534
Workshops	1	—	8	9	Cannot be stated.
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23	24	15	885	792	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	11	—	192	133	

DETAILED TABLE.

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.
	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles.	By other accidents on the Companies' Premises.	
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods	—	—	—	—	—
Guards	4	69	—	18	4
Engine Drivers	3	36	1	51	4
Firemen	2	54	—	77	2
Guards (Passenger)	1	7	—	13	1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	10	20	—	101	10
Porters	8	64	1	274	9
Shunters	3	68	—	9	3
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	20	125	2	500	22
Total for Oct., 1899	51	443	4	1,043	55
Total for Oct., 1898	39	346	4	754	43

	Underground.		Surface.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Mines—					
Explosions of Firedamp	1	13	—	—	1
Falls of ground	43	132	—	—	43
In shafts	6	6	—	—	6
Miscellaneous	21	156	8	46	29
Total for Oct., 1899	71	307	8	46	79
Total for Oct., 1898	65	349	13	51	78

	Inside.		Outside.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Quarries over 20 feet deep					
Explosives or Blasting	—	—	—	—	—
Falls of ground	2	14	—	—	2
During ascent or descent	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	5	37	1	18	6
Total for Oct., 1899	7	54	1	18	8
Total for Oct., 1898	16	87	4	66	20

	Killed.		Injured.		Total.	
	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	By Wreck or Casualty.	By other Accidents.	Total.	Total.
Shipping*						
On Trading Vessels—						
Sailing	14	—	16	22	30	22
Steam	12	23	56	121	68	149
On Fishing Vessels—						
Sailing	3	—	3	1	6	1
Steam	2	—	6	10	8	10
Total for October, 1899	31	23	81	154	112	182
Total for 3 months August, 1899, to October, 1899	97	95	226	531	323	566
Total for 3 months August, 1898, to October, 1898	83	15	192	566	275	551

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Factories—					
(a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons—					
Adults	46	1,170	—	151	46
Young Persons	11	524	—	139	11
Children	—	15	1	6	1
Total	57	1,709	1	296	58
(b) Other Accidents—					
Adults	—	2,935	—	60	—
Young Persons	—	448	—	19	—
Children	—	12	—	4	—
Total	—	3,395	—	83	—
Total Factories—					
October, 1899	57	5,104	1	379	58
October, 1898	55	4,773	1	319	56

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Workshops—					
Adults	1	4	—	2	1
Young Persons	—	2	—	—	—
Children	—	—	—	—	—
Total Workshops—					
October, 1899	1	6	—	2	1
October, 1898	—	7	—	2	—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Factories & Workshops (classified by trades).					
Textiles—					
Cotton	5	228	—	133	5
Wool and Worsted	4	98	—	52	4
Other Textiles	1	47	—	26	1
Non-Textiles—					
Extraction of Metals	4	57	—	—	4
Founding and Conversion of Metals	7	576	—	3	7
Machines, Engines and Engineering	12	1,500	—	4	12
Ship and Boat Building	8	804	—	—	8
Wood	3	179	—	1	3
Chemicals, &c.	1	134	—	6	1
Other Non-Textile Industries	14	1,492	—	151	14
Total October, 1899	59	5,115	—	376	59
Total October, 1898	55	4,780	1	321	56

	Males.		Females.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Under Factory Act, 1895, ss. 22, 23					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	14	418	—	—	14
Warehouses	1	375	—	—	1
Buildings to which Act applies	9	61	—	—	9
Laundries	—	6	—	23	—
Total for October, 1899	24	860	—	24	24
Total for October, 1898	15	778	—	14	15

	Construction or repair.		Use or Working.		Total.
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	
Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894—					
Bridge	2	3	—	—	2
Canal	—	2	3	5	3
Railway†	—	60	—	—	—
Tramroad	—	1	—	26	—
Tramway	—	7	—	—	—
Tunnel	—	—	—	—	—
Other Works	4	86	—	2	4
Traction Engine‡	—	—	—	—	—
Total for October, 1899	8	159	3	33	11
Total for October, 1898	—	105	—	28	—

* 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 1898, 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, 1899.

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

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during October affected about 160,516 workpeople. The net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 10 1/2 d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those granted to 135,440 miners and other colliery workpeople in Northumberland and Durham, 8,000 ironstone miners and limestone quarrymen in Cleveland and Weardale, and 1,650 colliery workpeople in the Manchester District; 2,000 steelworkers at Barrow, 1,150 steelworkers in South Wales, and 1,000 blastfurnacemen in South Staffordshire.

Decreases.—At several ports on the North-East coast, the predominant rate for various voyages was decreased—526 seamen shipped during October, sustaining a decrease compared with the predominant port rate of the preceding month.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 1,759 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 4,857 workpeople took effect under sliding scales—all in the mining and metal trades—and changes affecting about 102,900 workpeople were brought about by conciliation, without stoppage of work. The remaining changes, affecting about 51,000 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or were conceded voluntarily by the employers.

Summary for First Ten Months of 1899.—For the ten months, January to October, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 1,014,508. Of these, 1,009,346 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 6 1/2 d. per head, and 5,162 sustained a net average decrease of 1s. 1 1/2 d. per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 1s. 6d. per week in the wages of the 1,014,508 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 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, and MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

* 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 with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week. Includes sections for MINING AND QUARRYING, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, and TEXTILE TRADES.

† See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. § A few of these men are stated to have received an advance of 2s. per week.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

Table with columns: Port, No. shipped at new rate during October, Rates of Wages, Particulars of Change, No. shipped at new rate during October, Rates of Wages.

NOTE.—The changes entered in the table are those in which the port rate (i.e., the rate at which the bulk of the men are shipped for a particular voyage) is altered, but there were others in which some men had their wages changed, but not in sufficient numbers to affect the predominant port rate.

HAND AND MACHINE LABOUR. The Thirteenth Annual Report* of the Commissioner of Labour for the United States contains the result of an investigation authorized by a joint resolution of Congress in 1894 into the effect of the use of machinery upon labour, and the cost of production, the relative productive power of hand and machine labour, and the cost of manual and machine power as they are used in the productive industries.

include agriculture; the manufacture of boots and shoes, brushes, carriages, pottery, cotton goods, cutlery, furniture, hosiery, iron and steel bolts, nuts, rivets, chains and forgings, jewellery, machinery and stonework, tools, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, and many other articles; mining, quarrying and transport. The data for the hand method were secured wherever accurate information was found available. In the case of a very few units, they represent work performed abroad, the necessary information not being obtainable in the United States.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN OCTOBER, 1899.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during October were all decreases and affected 2,661 workpeople, whose hours are reduced on an average by 29 hours per week.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Reduction per week.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October 734 fresh applications for work were registered by eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 1,025 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 239 persons, of whom 134 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency and the Manchester, Liverpool and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during October:—

Table with columns: No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers, No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations, No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.

The applications for domestic servants rose from 626 in September to 728 in October, the number of servants applying rising from 340 to 397, and the number engaged through the bureaux from 108 to 134. The demand for dressmakers and milliners rose from 98 to 169; the supply fell from 71 to 54, and the number engaged from 52 to 42.

* Exclusive of overtime. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages. ‡ Stopping time on Saturday fixed at 2 p.m., equal to an average reduction of 2 hours per week, and Sunday labour reduced by from 3 to 6 hours, making a total reduction of about 5 hours per week. § In addition to 6 temporary engagements of waitresses and 19 temporary engagements of secretaries.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—During October 21,865 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, or 590 less than a year ago. Comparing the first ten months of 1899 with the corresponding period of 1898, the number of emigrants has increased by 33,456, viz., from 181,055 in 1898 to 214,511 in 1899.

British and Irish.—Of the 21,865 passengers in October, 13,435 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 2,338 as compared with a year ago, mainly due to a falling off in the numbers bound for South Africa. For the ten completed months of 1899 the total number amounts to 132,974, as against 124,909 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 8,065, chiefly due to a larger number proceeding to the United States. The following table gives the figures for the different periods:—

Table with columns: Destination, Oct., 1899, Oct., 1898, Total for ten months ending Oct., 1899, Total for ten months ending Oct., 1898.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 21,865 passengers in October, viz., 8,430, were foreigners or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 1,748 as compared with October, 1898.

Alien Immigration.—During October 10,968 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 4,816 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,996 as compared with October, 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 6,152,* or 1,557 more than a year ago. The figures for October, 1899 and 1898, and also for the 10 months ended October in each year, are as follows:—

Table with columns: Oct., 1899, Oct., 1898, Total for ten months ended Oct., 1899, Total for ten months ended Oct., 1898.

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 the month of October, and the ten completed months of the year 1899, with comparative figures for 1898:—

Table with columns: Month of Oct., 1899, 1898, Ten months ended Oct., 1899, 1898.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom, during the four weeks ended November 4th amounted to £6,737,354, an increase of £263,868 (or 4.1 per cent.) over the corresponding period of last year. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,736,031, an increase of £134,159, and those from goods and mineral traffic £4,001,323, an increase of £129,709.

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during October was £913,419, an increase of £207,577 as compared with October, 1898. In England and Wales there was an increase of £170,774, in Scotland of £16,363, and in Ireland of £20,440.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during October numbered 326, being 22 less than in October, 1898, 49 less than in October, 1897, and 47 less than in October, 1896.

* The figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,327 in October 1899, 1,094 in October, 1898; and 21,272 and 10,327 respectively in the ten months ended October in each year.

* Thirteenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1898. Hand and Machine Labour, Vol. I., Introduction and Analysis. Vol. II., General Table.—Government Printing Office, Washington.

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-eight fresh disputes were reported as having begun in October, 1899, compared with 54 in September, and 54 in October, 1898. In these 38 disputes 4,284 workpeople were directly affected and 991 indirectly affected, a total of 5,275, compared with 8,858 in September, and 12,577 in October, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 1 dispute took place, involving 12 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 12 disputes, involving 3,392 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 11 disputes, involving 978 workpeople; textile trades, 5 disputes, involving 552 workpeople; clothing trades, 3 disputes, involving 133 workpeople; and in other industries, 6 disputes, involving 208 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 38 disputes, 24 arose chiefly on wages questions, 6 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 3 on questions of working arrangements, and 5 from other causes.

Results.—Twenty-six new disputes, involving 3,858 workpeople, and 16 old disputes, involving 2,924 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 42 new and old disputes terminated, 18, involving 3,882 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 13, involving 572 persons, in favour of the employers; 8, involving 981 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining 3 disputes, involving 1,347 persons, no definite result was arrived at. At the end of October, 30 old disputes were reported to be unsettled, involving altogether about 1,900 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total aggregate duration in October of all the disputes, new and old, was about 92,600 days, compared with 454,000 in September, and 202,500 in October, 1898.

Summary for the First Ten Months of 1899.—For the ten completed months of 1899 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 637 disputes which commenced in those months was 157,169, as compared with 238,133 in the 561 reported in the corresponding period of 1898. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 2,288,000 as compared with 15,040,000 for the corresponding period of 1898, which included the South Wales coal dispute.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople Affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Section I: DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1899. Sub-sections: BUILDING TRADES (12 Workpeople affected), MINING AND QUARRYING (3,392 Workpeople affected), METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES (978 Workpeople affected).

* 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).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Section I: DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1899—(continued). Sub-sections: TEXTILE TRADES (658 Workpeople affected), CLOTHING TRADES (133 Workpeople affected), MISCELLANEOUS TRADES (208 Workpeople affected).

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, 1899, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly, Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result. Section II: DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, 1899, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH. Sub-sections: BUILDING TRADES (2,187 Workpeople affected), MINING AND QUARRYING (380 Workpeople affected), TEXTILE TRADES (134 Workpeople affected), MISCELLANEOUS TRADES (223 Workpeople affected).

* 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.

NEW ZEALAND.

Expenditure under Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act.—From a return to an order of the New Zealand House of Representatives of the expenditure under this Act in the year ended 31st March, 1899, it appears that the expenses of the Arbitration Court and the various Conciliation Boards during the year were as follows:—

Table with columns: Entity, Amount (£ s. d.). Rows include Arbitration Court, Conciliation Boards (Auckland, Wellington, Westland, Canterbury, Otago, General), and Total.

All the Boards, except that for Westland, dealt with disputes, the expenses of that Board being solely connected with the publication of its election.

Workmen's Compensation Schemes.

DURING the period October 12th to November 12th, 1899, the following schemes have been certified, under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies:—Plumstead Vestry (in connection with Sanitary, Disinfectant, and other Vestry work); Shipley Collieries' Disability, Old Age Pensions, Widows and Orphans', and Funeral Society, Shipley, Derby. These schemes affect 51 and 2,050 workpeople respectively, and bring the total number of schemes now certified by the Chief Registrar up to 72.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October the 10 bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,921 fresh applications for work, as compared with 2,066 in October, 1898, a decrease of 145. Of the 1,107 persons for whom work was found, 596 (431 males and 165 females) were engaged by private employers, 217 (214 males and 3 females) by Local Authorities, and 294 men by the Salvation Army Authorities.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of October, 1899, was 1,356, as against 1,589 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in October.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux (Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities), Oct. 1899, Oct. 1898.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during October, 1899.

Table with columns: Category (Engaged by Private Employers, Local Authorities, Salvation Army Authorities), No. permanently engaged, No. temporarily engaged, Total.

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

Table with columns: Occupation, No. on Register at end of (Oct. 1899, Oct. 1898).

* Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities.

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 317,588. This corresponds to a rate of 198 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with September, 1899, the number of persons relieved has increased by 1,309 and the rate per 10,000 of population by one. Sixteen of the 35 districts show increased rates, the most marked increases occurring in the Central and Eastern Metropolitan districts, viz., 14 and 8 per 10,000 respectively. Of the remaining districts decreases are shown, North Staffordshire showing the greatest decrease (9 per 10,000), followed by Stockton and Tees and Leicester districts (6 each).

Compared with October, 1898, there is a decrease of 5,971 in the number relieved and of 6 in the rate per 10,000. In 28 out of the 35 districts there are decreases, of which the most important are in the Stockton and Tees district (39 per 10,000), Bristol (29), Wolverhampton, and Cardiff and Swansea districts (18), Newcastle (17), North Staffordshire and Cork, Waterford and Limerick districts (14 each). In two districts the rate remains the same, and in five increases occur.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of October, 1899, Rate per 10,000 of estimated population, Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with (Month ago, A year ago).

Table for ENGLAND & WALES* showing data for Metropolis, West Ham, and Other Districts.

Table for SCOTLAND* and IRELAND† showing data for Glasgow, Edinburgh, and other districts.

* 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.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

The trade returns for the month of October last show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, in that of the exports of British and Irish produce and manufacture as well as of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The Imports for October, 1899, were valued at £44,130,818, an increase of £5,531,616, or 14.3 per cent., and the Exports amounted in value to £29,259,872, as against £24,962,602 in 1898, of which British and Irish produce and manufactures in October, 1899, alone amounted to £23,699,021, an increase of £3,836,002, or 19.3 per cent. The latter increase, however, it should be observed, includes the value of new ships, viz., £442,369, this being the first year for which these exports are shown. Foreign and colonial merchandise exported amounted in value to £5,560,851, an increase of £461,268, or 9 per cent. as compared with October, 1898.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for October, 1899, as compared with October, 1898, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

Table with columns: Category, Month ended Oct. 31st (1898, 1899), Increase, Decrease.

The increase in articles of food is chiefly due to larger importations of wheat, oats, and Indian corn, beef, mutton, butter, eggs, and sugar, and in raw materials to greater quantities and values of raw cotton, jute, silk, and wool. In the case of metals the chief articles contributing to the increase were copper, iron ore, lead and tin, while among manufactured articles leather alone shows an increase of £83,384, cotton manufactures £76,251, and woollen manufactures £87,268.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for October, 1899, as compared with October, 1898, and the increase in each principal category:—

Table with columns: Category, Month ended Oct. 31st (1898, 1899), Increase, Decrease.

The value of coal, coke and fuel shipped last month was £246,566 in excess of the corresponding month of the previous year, of cotton piece goods and other manufactures £510,200, linen piece goods and other manufactures £83,832, and woollen and worsted tissues £108,209. The value of iron unwrought and wrought exported increased by £936,929, and of telegraphic apparatus, £279,930. Machinery increased by £91,610.

In the ten months ended October 31st, 1899, the Imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £400,134,971, as compared with £383,248,614 for a similar period of 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £218,050,218 (including £6,732,101, the value of new ships not registered as British, and not included prior to 1899) as compared with £192,592,177 for the ten months ended October 31st, 1898. The Exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for the ten months amounted in value to £54,224,146, as compared with £50,553,983 in 1898.

Tonnage of Vessels Entered and Cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions during October, 1899, amounted to 3,320,228 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,591,267 tons, as compared with 3,085,090 tons entered and 3,514,263 tons cleared in October, 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during October, 1899, was 2,635,637 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,568,509 tons, as against 2,620,940 tons and 2,545,796 tons respectively in October, 1898.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

Profit Sharing by Co-operative Societies.

The following table, showing the amount of profits allotted to their employees by workmen's co-operative societies in Great Britain in 1898, 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. It shows that 273 Societies (including the Scottish Wholesale Society) employing 21,532 persons, allotted out of their profits a total of £47,846 to their employees, this being equivalent to 5.5 per cent. upon the £872,117 paid in wages by these societies during the year.

Of the 273 Societies, 220 in England and Wales, with 12,387 employees, allotted £25,686, this being equal to 5.0 per cent. upon wages. The remaining 53 Societies were in Scotland (including the Scottish Wholesale Society), and employed 9,145 persons, to whom £22,160 was allotted, equivalent to 6.3 per cent. upon wages.

Of the 273 Societies, 229 were retail co-operative distributive Societies; of these 181 in England and Wales, with 9,000 employees, allotted £15,407 to them, this being equal to 4.3 per cent. upon wages, and 48 in Scotland, with 3,016 employees, allotted £10,588, this being equal to 10.9 per cent. upon wages.

Table showing the amount and ratio of profit allotted to their employees by 273 co-operative societies making returns for the year ended December, 1898.

Table with columns: Description of Societies, No. of Societies making returns, No. of Employees, Amount of Wages paid, Amount allotted to Employees out of profits, Ratio to wages of profit allotted.

Investments in House Property by Co-operative Societies.

RETURNS collected by the Co-operative Union and published in its Annual Report, show that at the end of 1898, 446 workmen's Co-operative Societies in the United Kingdom had capital amounting to £2,780,556 (compared with 429 Societies and £2,622,711 in 1897) invested in house property, let or sold (the whole or part of the purchase money remaining on mortgage) to their members.

Of this amount £2,533,481 belonged to 377 retail distributive (store) Societies in England and Wales and £228,876 to 60 in Scotland, the remaining £18,199 being divided between the English Wholesale Society (£6,339) and 8 productive societies with £11,860.

Agricultural Co-operation.

A new organisation—the British Agricultural Organisation Society—for the promotion of agricultural co-operation in Great Britain has been registered, having as its objects the formation of co-operative dairying and agricultural societies, poultry and egg societies, agricultural credit banks, and other forms of combination by agriculturists upon the lines already adopted in Ireland and on the Continent.

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.:-				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	2	1	£ 0 0	£ 17 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	18	17	15 0 0	9 1 6
Allowing Children to clean Machinery in motion, or to work between fixed and traversing parts of a machine in motion ...	3	—	—	1 10 6
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	40	40	40 11 6	18 10 8
Employing Child under legal age ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 13 6
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—				
Before or after the legal hour ...	79	77	35 0 0	30 9 10
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	37	37	4 15 6	17 1 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	41	39	25 16 0	7 6 10
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays... ..	2	2	0 2 6	0 7 6
At night	28	28	22 1 0	11 4 4
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c.	2	2	2 10 0	1 7 2
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—				
Not keeping Registers	23	20	17 9 0	11 0 8
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts	11	11	6 15 0	4 12 2
Not sending Notices required by Act	12	11	6 17 6	7 6 6
Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules	6	6	9 10 0	3 5 0
Prosecutions under Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1889	4	3	14 9 6	2 1 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts	7	3	1 0 0	0 11 0
By Workmen:-				
Prosecutions for Breach of Special Rules ...	17	17	0 8 6	—
Making false entry in Register	1	1	0 10 0	0 9 6
Neglecting to Fence Machinery	1	1	2 14 0	0 6 0
By Parents:-				
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	2	2	0 12 6	0 13 6
Total for October, 1899	337	319	208 2 6	128 15 8
Total for October, 1898	309	290	178 17 6	127 0 6

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.:-					
Shafts and Manholes	3	3	—	—	£ 26 12 3
Miscellaneous	3	3	—	—	16 18 6
By Workmen:-					
Shot-firing and Explosives	1	1	—	—	0 18 0
Timbering	7	7	—	—	9 6 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c.	11	11	—	—	19 9 6
Riding on Trams	10	9	—	1	5 19 0
Miscellaneous	26	26	—	—	27 1 6
Total for Oct., 1899	61	60	—	1	106 5 3
Total for Oct., 1898	45	45	—	—	57 9 9
UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.					
By Owners, Managers, &c.:-					
Registers, Notices, Returns, &c.	3	3	—	—	£ 5 11 0
By Workmen:-					
Explosives and Blasting	1	1	—	—	0 13 6
Total for Oct., 1899	4	4	—	—	6 4 6
Total for Oct., 1898	3	3	—	—	3 8 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:-				
Submersion of Disc	2	2	£ 60 10 0	£ 4 14 6
By Seamen:-				
False Statement of Last Ship	1	1	1 0 0	4 18 8
Total for Oct., 1899	3	3	61 0 0	9 13 2
Total for Oct., 1898	3	3	7 0 0	6 8 6

H.M. Inspectors of Factories.—*New Appointment.*—Mr. F. Wells, 14, Finsbury-circus, E.C., has been appointed an Inspector of Factories and Workshops, under the title of Inspector's Assistant.

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 5 Trade Unions, 3 Co-operative Associations for Distribution, 4 Co-operative Associations for Production, one other Industrial and Provident Society, 2 Building Societies, 23 Friendly Societies, and 27 branches of existing Friendly Societies were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during October. Two Trade Unions, 2 Industrial and Provident Societies, 18 Building Societies, and 30 Friendly Societies (including 12 branches) are reported as having ceased to exist, commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled.

ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—Chesterfield and District Potters' Trade Society, Anchor Inn, Factory-street, Brampton, Chesterfield; Walsall Builders' Labourers' Soc., New Royal Exchange Inn, Rushall-street, Walsall; Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation, 925, Ashton Old Road, Manchester; Liverpool District Bricklayers' Labourers' Union, Railway Hotel, 2, Tunnel-road, Edgehill, Liverpool. *Scotland.*—Amal. Slaters' Soc. of Scotland, 139, Park-street, Kinningpark, Glasgow. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) Associations for Distribution.—England and Wales.—Sunningdale and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Rise, Sunningdale, Ascot. *Scotland.*—Cobbinshaw Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Cobbinshaw by Carstairs. *Ireland.*—Monaghan Co-op. Lace Soc., Ltd., Monaghan. **(B) Associations for Production.—England and Wales.**—Derby Builders, Ltd., 43, Arundel-street, Derby; Leeds Plasterers' Soc., Ltd., 76, Samuel-street, Leeds; Darwen Printing and Publishing Union, Ltd., The Works, Hey Fold Mill, Darwen. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Cavan Creameries, Ltd., Ballyhaise. **(C) Miscellaneous.—England and Wales.**—Borough of Greenwich Progressive Club, Ltd., 54, Earlswood-street, E. Greenwich. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—(A) New Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 12; Dividing, 4; Specially Authorised, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 5. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1. **(B) New Branches of Existing Societies.—England and Wales.**—17. *Scotland.*—8. *Ireland.*—2.

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

ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—General Labourers' English Union for Leeds and District, New Inn, Armley, Leeds; London Society of House Decorators and Painters, 37, Wynford-road, Caledonian-road, N. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—Registry cancelled by request:—Glassmakers' Productive Society, Ltd., 43, Beckton-road, Canning Town, E. Resolution to wind-up received: Chelsea and Fulham Industrial Co-op., Soc., Ltd., 312, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Dividing, 2; Working Men's Clubs, 1; Branches, 1; Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 5; Juvenile, 1; Specially authorised, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 1; Branches, 11. *Scotland.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

Building Societies.—England and Wales.—By instrument of dissolution, 3; notice of commencement of dissolution, 4; notice of termination of dissolution, 10. *Scotland.*—Notice of termination of dissolution, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

Examination for Mining Managers' Certificates.

Newcastle District.—An examination for certificates of competency as manager or under-manager of a mine will shortly be held for the Newcastle District. Intending candidates should at once communicate with the Secretary of the Examination Board, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

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