

# THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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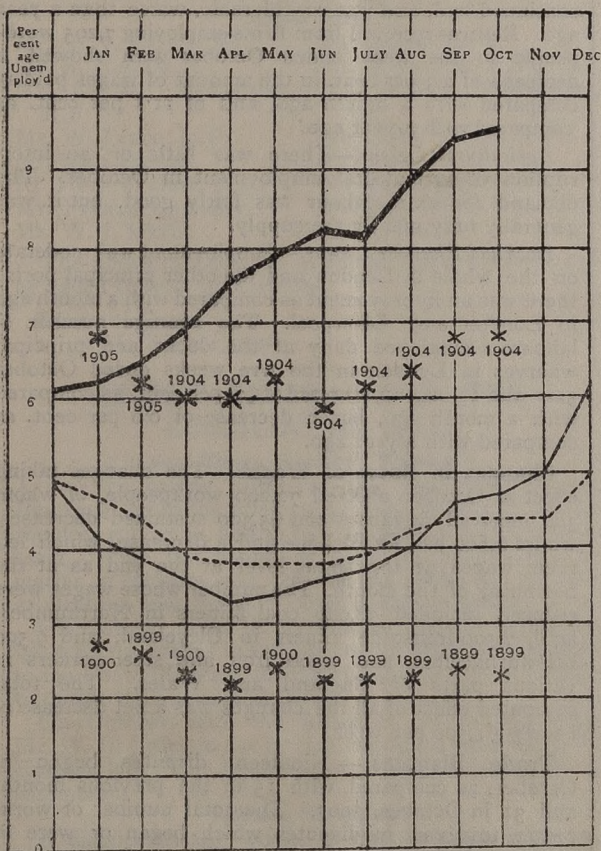
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

## EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF  
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1908.      —— Thin Curve=1907.  
----- Dotted Curve=Mean of 1898-1907.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1898-1907 with the dates thereof.



### NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For October, 1908, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 591,053 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 62,254	Printing & Bookbinding 55,836
Coal Mining ... .. 128,798	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering ... .. 156,718	nishing ... .. 35,230
Shipbuilding ... .. 59,185	Miscellaneous ... .. 20,753
Other Metal Trades ... 31,015	Total ... .. 591,053
Textiles ... .. 41,264	

## STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN OCTOBER.

[In addition to the 2,697 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,712 were received from employers relating to 1,104,795 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,409 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in October was, on the whole, much about the same as in September. There was some decline in the engineering, building, furnishing and woodworking trades, and an improvement in the pig iron industry. The printing and bookbinding trades showed a seasonal improvement. The dispute in the cotton industry continued throughout the month.

As compared with a year ago employment in all the principal industries, except the boot and shoe trade, showed some decline.

In the 257 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 591,053, making Returns, 56,200 (or 9.5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of October, 1908, compared with 9.4 per cent. at the end of September, 1908, and 4.7 per cent. at the end of October, 1907.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment during October, though still fairly good, showed a slight decline as compared with September. It was not so good as a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended October 24th, 1908, was 5.23, as compared with 5.34 in September, 1908, and 5.64 in October, 1907.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment continued good, and was about the same as a year ago. During the four weeks ended October 24th, 1908, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.83 as compared with 5.82 a month ago and a year ago.

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment in this industry during October, though still moderate, was better than a month ago. It was worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 22,100 workpeople showed 287 furnaces in blast at the end of October, as compared with 277\* in September, 1908, and 335 in October, 1907.

**Iron and Steel Works.**—Employment at iron and steel works during October continued about the same as in the previous month. It was considerably worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended October 24th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received was 0.5 per cent. less than in the week ended September 26th, 1908, and 11.2 per cent. less than a year ago.

**Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.**—Employment during October continued very good, and was slightly better than a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 447 tinplate and sheet mills were working, as compared with 446 a month ago and 444 a year ago.

\* Revised figure.

**Engineering Trades.**—Employment continued slack, with a considerable amount of short time, and was much worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 12.7, as compared with 12.2\* a month ago and 4.5 in October, 1907.

**Shipbuilding Trades.**—Employment during October continued bad, and was considerably worse than a year ago. Much short time was reported. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 26.3, as compared with 26.6 a month ago, and 11.6 a year ago.

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment in the *Spinning and Weaving* branches was greatly disorganised during October by the dispute. Apart, however, from the adverse effects of the dispute, employment in both branches was bad, and much worse than in October, 1907. Much short time was worked at the mills which remained open during the month.

**Woolen Trade.**—Employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,010 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Worsted Trade.**—Employment was quiet, and worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,396 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Linen Trade.**—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 46,521 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 13.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Jute Trade.**—Employment continued fair, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,079 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Silk Trade.**—Employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,506 workpeople, and paying £5,568 in wages, in the week ended October 24th, showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 8.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Lace Trade.**—Employment was moderate, and showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,714 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 11.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Hosiery Trade.**—Employment in England was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in Scotland it continued good, and was slightly better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,399 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

**Tailoring Trade.**—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London showed a seasonal improvement, but was slightly worse than a year ago; in the provinces it was dull. In the *ready-made* branch it was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

**Hat Trade.**—Employment in the *Silk Hat* trade continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the *Felt Hat* trade it continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—Employment continued moderate during October. It showed little change compared with a year ago. Returns from firms employing 62,964 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed an

\* Revised figure.

increase of 0.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 0.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Other Leather Trades.**—Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,403 had 8.5 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 8.2 per cent. in September, and 4.9 per cent. a year ago.

**Paper Making Trades.**—Employment in these trades continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Some short time was worked.

**Printing and Bookbinding Trades.**—Employment was slack and worse than a year ago, but showed a seasonal improvement compared with September. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed in the printing trades at the end of October was 5.9, as compared with 7.2 a month ago and 4.9 a year ago. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same dates were 5.5, 7.2, and 3.5 respectively.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continued slack, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment showed a further decline, and was bad; it was much worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 9.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 9.1 per cent. a month ago, and 5.2 per cent. a year ago.

**Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment in the *Pottery* trades continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it was very bad. Much short time was worked.

**Glass Trades.**—Employment in the glass trades continued bad, and was considerably worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,295 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 11.1 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Agricultural Labour.**—There was little or no interruption of agricultural employment in October. The demand for extra labour was fairly good, but it was generally fully met by the supply.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—Employment was moderate on the whole in London and the other principal ports; there was an improvement as compared with a month ago in London and Liverpool. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London in the five weeks ended October 31st was 13,029, an increase of 9.8 per cent. as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 0.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—The changes taking effect in October affected 72,200 workpeople, of whom 300 received advances and 65,300 sustained decreases, whilst 6,600 had an advance and a decrease, which left their wages at the same level at the end as at the beginning of the month. The number whose wages were reduced included 38,000 coal miners in Northumberland, 7,500 ironstone miners in Cleveland, and 9,500 blastfurnacemen and 7,500 iron and steel workers in various parts of England and Wales. The total computed effect of all the changes was a net decrease of nearly £1,500 per week.

**Trade Disputes.**—Nineteen disputes began in October, as compared with 15 in the previous month, and 31 in October, 1907. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during October, 1908, was 133,894, or 3,294 less than in September, 1908, and 113,628 more than in October, 1907.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 3,393,500 working days, or 2,126,700 more than in September, 1908, and 3,264,000 more than in October, 1907.

Definite results were reported in the case of 25 disputes, new and old, directly involving 6,671 persons. Of these 25 disputes, 6 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 9 were compromised.

### COURT OF ARBITRATION.

With reference to the scheme for an Arbitration Court recently framed by the Board of Trade (see LABOUR GAZETTE for September, p. 271), the following have accepted the President's invitation to serve on the respective panels:—

#### Panel of Chairmen.

The Duke of Devonshire.  
Rt. Hon. Viscount Selby.  
Rt. Hon. Viscount St. Aldwyn.  
Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, K.T.  
Rt. Hon. Lord James of Hereford, G.C.V.O.  
Rt. Hon. Lord Lochee.  
Rt. Hon. Lord Macdonnell, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.  
Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Fry, G.C.B.  
Sir John P. Dickson-Poynder, Bart., M.P.  
Sir Francis J. S. Hopwood, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.  
Sir Alfred Bateman, K.C.M.G.  
Mr. Ernest Moon, K.C.  
Mr. G. R. Askwith, K.C.  
Mr. A. A. Hudson.  
Mr. W. B. Yates.

#### Employers' Panel.

Rt. Hon. Lord Pirrie.  
The Lord Glantawe.  
Sir Hugh Bell, Bart.  
Sir W. T. Lewis, Bart.  
Rt. Hon. Sir Charles McLaren, Bart., M.P.  
Sir S. B. Boulton, Bart.  
Sir A. Spicer, Bart., M.P.  
Sir W. Holland, Bart., MP.  
Sir F. Forbes Adam, C.I.E.  
Sir Benjamin Browne.  
Sir C. Furness, M.P.  
Mr. T. Ratcliffe Ellis.  
Mr. C. G. Hyde, M.P.  
Mr. L. A. Martin.  
Mr. W. H. Mitchell.  
Mr. Alexander Siemens.  
Mr. Douglas Upton.

#### Labour Panel.

Mr. G. N. Barnes, M.P.  
Mr. R. Bell, M.P.  
Mr. C. W. Bowerman, M.P.  
Mr. W. Brace, M.P.  
Mr. John Burnett.  
Rt. Hon. T. Burt, M.P.  
Mr. Francis Chandler.  
Mr. W. J. Davis.  
Mr. James Gavin.  
Mr. A. H. Gill, M.P.  
Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P.  
Mr. G. D. Kelley, M.P.  
Mr. J. D. Prior.  
Mr. E. L. Richardson.  
Mr. D. J. Shackleton, M.P.  
Mr. T. Smith.

The above lists are not complete, and the panels will be added to from time to time.

Board of Trade,  
17th October, 1908.

### RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

#### Coal Miners, Blackwell, Alfreton.

A DISPUTE having arisen at the Swanwick Colliery, Blackwell, as to the price to be paid for getting coal in the deep soft seam, and in two districts in the deep hard seam, where the holing is done by machinery, the matter in dispute was referred for settlement to two arbitrators, who, however, were unable to agree.

On October 10th, in accordance with an agreement between the parties to the dispute, the arbitrators applied to the Board of Trade for the appointment of an umpire to decide the question at issue.

On October 28th, the Board of Trade appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act in that capacity, with Mr. J. T. Robson, late H.M. Inspector of Mines, as his technical assessor.

#### Painters, Harrogate.

A dispute having arisen in the painting trade at Harrogate, a joint application was made to the Board of Trade on October 30th by the Harrogate Master Painters' Association and the Harrogate Branch of the National Amalgamated Society of Operative Painters, asking for the appointment of an arbitrator to deal with the matters in dispute.

The Board of Trade, on November 6th, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in that capacity.

#### Joiners, Glasgow.

On November 9th, an application was made to the Board of Trade by the Conciliation Board for the

Carpenter and Joiner Trade in the Glasgow District for the appointment of a "conciliator" to decide a matter upon which the Conciliation Board had been unable to agree.

The Board of Trade, on November 16th, appointed Mr. A. A. Hudson to act in that capacity.

### DISPUTE IN THE COTTON SPINNING INDUSTRY.

THE Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations decided, at their annual meeting held on July 24th, to take steps to secure a 5 per cent. reduction in the wages of their workpeople. Notice of this intention was given by the Federation to the three associations of operatives concerned (the spinners, the card and blowing room operatives, and the warpers, reelers, and winders), who were invited to attend a joint conference to discuss the matter. A conference was accordingly held on August 4th, but it broke up without effecting a settlement, as the employers insisted upon the reduction, while the operatives' representatives refused to recommend acceptance of the reduction to their constituents.

The Federation thereupon on the same date circularised their members as to whether they were in favour of giving one month's notice, under the Brooklands Agreement, for a 5 per cent. reduction in wages, and whether they would lock out their operatives if necessary, provided that manufacturers owning 80 per cent. of the spindles in the Federation (both American and Egyptian) agreed likewise. Replies from owners of 92 per cent. of the spindles in the Federation were in favour of enforcing the demand by a lock-out, and the Federation on August 20th accordingly gave one month's notice of the reduction to the three trade unions concerned, to come into force on September 21st.

The operatives then took a ballot of their members on the subject of accepting or resisting the reduction. The result of the ballot was as follows:—

Spinners:—			
Against accepting reduction ...	...	...	15,916
For accepting reduction ...	...	...	1,301
Majority against ...			14,615
Cardroom Workers:—			
Against accepting reduction ...	...	...	34,714
For accepting reduction ...	...	...	2,818
Majority against ...			31,896

The warpers, reelers and winders did not take a ballot.

On September 10th a conference between the committees of the Employers' Federation and of the Operatives' Amalgamations was held at Manchester to discuss the question of the reduction. The operatives asked for a postponement of the question until the middle of January, 1909, when, if trade was no better, they would be prepared to recommend the reduction. The employers declined to accept this proposal; they insisted upon the reduction being unconditional, but offered to postpone the date of reduction until the first pay day in January, 1909. This was declined by the operatives, who, however, offered to submit the proposal to their constituents, and give a reply in four weeks. The employers did not agree to this suggestion, and the conference ended without any settlement having been effected.

On September 12th the Spinners' Amalgamation decided to take a further ballot as to whether an unconditional 5 per cent. reduction, to take effect on the first pay day in January, should be accepted or not. The executive of the card-room operatives offered on September 15th to take a further ballot of their members if two weeks were allowed them for the purpose. The employers, however, refused to post-date the notices for the period asked for, and no second ballot of the card-room operatives was taken.

On September 14th the Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester addressed a communication to the parties offering the use of the Town Hall for a joint conference. The operatives expressed their willingness to attend, but

the employers replied that they could not at the present attend at the Town Hall, as the operatives had not definitely declined the latest offer from the Federation.

On September 18th the result of the spinners' ballot was announced as follows:—

For accepting reduction in January ... ..	4,530
Against ... ..	12,677

As the proportion against acceptance was only 73.67 per cent. of those voting, and therefore did not reach the 80 per cent. required by the rules of the Spinners' Amalgamation before a strike can be declared, the spinners sought a further conference with the employers. The conference took place on September 18th. The spinners first of all made a proposal that the mills, whether in the Federation or outside of it, should stop for a month from September 28th to October 26th; and they offered to use the influence of their organisation to obtain a stoppage of the non-federated mills which the Employers' Federation could not influence. At the end of the month they were prepared to go into the whole matter again, and, if trade was not then profitable, to recommend their members to accept a 5 per cent. reduction. The employers refused this proposal. The operatives then signed an agreement accepting the 5 per cent. reduction on and after the first pay day in January, 1909, under the terms of the Brooklands Agreement.

As, however, the card-room operatives and the reelers, winders, and warpers had made no agreement with the employers, the Federation issued instructions to all their members to close their mills at noon on September 19th, and not to re-open them until an agreement had been effected with these classes of workpeople. Accordingly, on September 21st, a stoppage of work commenced, involving directly and indirectly about 100,000 operatives at the establishments immediately affected by the dispute; and this number was eventually increased to 120,000, including workpeople at establishments owned by non-Federated employers who had been induced to close their mills. In addition, thousands of weavers at establishments not immediately involved were thrown out of work during the course of the dispute, through want of yarn. The principal districts affected were Oldham and Bolton; but the stoppage also extended to Rochdale, Manchester, Bury, Middleton, Stockport, Ashton-under-Lyne, Mossley, Hyde, Glossop, Hadfield, Leigh and Chorley.

On October 10th the General Federation of Trade Unions, acting on behalf of the Trade Unions concerned, sent to the employers the following proposals for a settlement of the dispute:—

"That work be resumed in November, or earlier, on a 5 per cent. reduction, the question of restoration of the same to be considered in three months' time from date of resuming work."

The Employers' Federation rejected these proposals, as not being in accordance with the Brooklands Agreement, which provides that no change in wages shall be made within twelve months of the previous change. They expressed their readiness, however, to meet the representatives of the cardroom operatives and of the warpers, reelers, and winders at any time. The General Federation subsequently decided to leave further negotiations entirely in the hands of the three Trade Unions involved.

On October 27th, the operative spinners requested the Employers' Federation to release them from their agreement of September 18th, accepting the reduction from January, on the ground that its removal would facilitate the opening up of further negotiations for a settlement. The Federation, having agreed to this, were then asked for a joint conference to discuss terms of settlement. A conference was accordingly held on November 3rd, at which the operatives made the following proposal:—

"On condition that the mills are opened at once we are prepared to accept a 5 per cent. reduction in January next, if at that time the margin on 34's twist and 40's web American is not over 2½d. per pound, and on 60's twist Egyptian not over 4½d. per pound."

The employers were unable to accept these terms, and the conference broke up without effecting a settlement. The operatives' representatives subsequently decided to take another ballot of each of the Associations involved on the question whether opposition to the employers' proposals should be continued.

In the meantime the Mayor of Salford had called together the mayors of a number of towns in Lancashire interested in the cotton trade, who had passed a resolution urging the parties to the dispute to effect a settlement. Upon the failure of the joint conference to arrive at an agreement, the Mayor of Salford entered into communication with the parties, as the result of which further negotiations took place; and finally, on November 6th, the following agreement was signed at a meeting of the Emergency Committee of the Employers' Federation and the three organisations of the operatives:—

"It is hereby agreed:

"That on and after the first pay day in March, 1909, the wages of the operatives in the departments covered by the operatives' organisations shall be reduced 5 per cent., such reduction to be under the terms and conditions of the Brooklands Agreement."

The Agreement was signed by the respective secretaries on behalf of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations; the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners; the Amalgamated Association of Card and Blowing Room Operatives; and the Amalgamated Northern Counties Association of Warpers, Reelers and Winders. Work was accordingly resumed at most of the mills on November 9th, the dispute having lasted seven weeks.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CHECKWEIGHING IN DOCKS.

THE Departmental Committee appointed to consider and report "what would be the best means of securing to persons employed in dock labour who are paid by weight or measurement the means of checking the correctness of the wages they receive" have presented their report.\*

The Committee found that in some cases, e.g., in the case of coal, iron ore and grain—cargoes are weighed or measured at the point of loading or unloading. They accordingly recommend that, where dock labourers are paid at piece-work rates, and the goods they handle are weighed or measured by their employer at or near the place where the work is done, the workpeople should have the right to appoint a check-weighman at their own expense. This check-weighman should have similar rights and be under similar restrictions to those prescribed by the Coal Mines Regulation Acts for check-weighmen at mines.

In a majority of cases, however, cargoes are not weighed or measured at the point of loading or unloading; as a rule shipowners have to rely on the merchants' statements of weights and measurements, which are said to be sometimes inaccurate. The majority of the Committee, however, were unable to recommend that merchants should be required to furnish proof of the accuracy of their figures, on the ground (among others) that this would be imposing an obligation on the merchants for the benefit of workmen not in their employ. They accordingly recommend that the employer should be required to furnish to the men a certificate of the quantities of goods handled by them, based on such information as the employer himself can obtain. Where this certificate is questioned by the workmen, the employer should be required to furnish reasonable evidence of its accuracy to a representative of the men.

The Committee recommend that it should be left to the discretion of the workmen employed whether they should appoint one of themselves or an outsider as their representative. Provision should be made for the punishment of any such representative found guilty of abusing his position.

\* Cd. 4380: Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1½d.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN OCTOBER.

NOTE.—Labour Bureaux which are identical with Distress Committees are included in this Table. For particulars of other Labour Bureaux see page 362.

THE following additional Distress Committees have re-opened their registers during October:—Croydon, East Ham, Edmonton, Hornsey, Leyton, Tottenham, Walthamstow, Willesden; Bournemouth, Brighton, Bristol, Bury, Cardiff, Dartford, Derby, Dudley, Handsworth, Hastings, Huddersfield, Newcastle, Nottingham, Rochdale, Rotherham, Swansea, Tynemouth, Kilmarnock, Paisley and Belfast.

The Committees were requested, in making up their returns, to exclude all who were known to have found work, or to have left the neighbourhood, since registration; and those who, on investigation, were found to be ineligible or disqualified. The Table given below shows the number of applicants to the various Distress Committees returned as "known to be out of work" at the end of October, 1908:—

Distress Committees.	No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of Oct., 1908	Distress Committees.	No. returned as "known to be out of work" at end of Oct., 1908
London (County area):		Bury ... ..	289
Battersea ... ..	1,087	Cardiff ... ..	314
Bermondsey ... ..	1,625	Coventry ... ..	889
Bethnal Green ... ..	625	Devonport ... ..	440
Camberwell ... ..	2,315	Gorton ... ..	318
Chelsea ... ..	318	Halifax ... ..	335
City of London ... ..	52	Hastings ... ..	537
Deptford ... ..	667	Huddersfield ... ..	256
Finsbury ... ..	556	Hull ... ..	770
Fulham ... ..	1,138	King's Norton and Northfield ... ..	275
Greenwich ... ..	741	Leeds ... ..	3,914
Hackney ... ..	1,134	Leicester ... ..	1,044
Hammersmith ... ..	499	Liverpool ... ..	2,568
Hampstead ... ..	256	Manchester ... ..	3,956
Holborn ... ..	152	Middlesbrough ... ..	305
Islington ... ..	1,213	Northampton ... ..	260
Kensington ... ..	773	Norwich ... ..	1,064
Lambeth ... ..	1,312	Nottingham ... ..	997
Lewisham ... ..	647	Oldham ... ..	673
Marylebone ... ..	333	Plymouth ... ..	740
Paddington ... ..	500	Portsmouth ... ..	1,067
Poplar ... ..	2,461	Preston ... ..	463
St. Pancras ... ..	1,325	Salford ... ..	1,882
Shoreditch ... ..	703	Sheffield ... ..	2,711
Southwark ... ..	1,480	South Shields ... ..	1,164
Stepney ... ..	738	Stockport ... ..	477
Stoke Newington ... ..	178	Sunderland ... ..	1,809
Wandsworth ... ..	1,059	Swansea ... ..	405
Westminster ... ..	254	Tynemouth ... ..	598
Woolwich ... ..	1,061	Wallasey ... ..	295
Total, London ... ..	25,262	Walsall ... ..	410
Outer London:		West Bromwich ... ..	480
Croydon ... ..	463	West Hartlepool ... ..	672
East Ham ... ..	809	Wolverhampton ... ..	498
Edmonton ... ..	1,217	York ... ..	591
Erith ... ..	400	Other Towns (19) ... ..	2,870
Hornsey ... ..	155	Total, England and Wales ... ..	81,711
Leyton ... ..	662	Aberdeen ... ..	1,021
Tottenham ... ..	1,371	Dundee ... ..	1,595
Walthamstow ... ..	859	Edinburgh ... ..	1,656
West Ham ... ..	2,078	Glasgow ... ..	4,468
Willesden ... ..	986	Govan ... ..	1,240
Total, Outer London ... ..	9,930	Greenock ... ..	637
London ... ..		Kilmarnock ... ..	138
Aston Manor ... ..	556	Leith ... ..	251
Barrow-in-Furness ... ..	1,708	Paisley ... ..	270
Birkenhead ... ..	254	Partick ... ..	797
Birmingham ... ..	2,802	Pollakshaws ... ..	161
Blackburn ... ..	437	Total, Scotland ... ..	12,204
Bolton ... ..	1,026	Ireland (Belfast only) ... ..	1,144
Bradford ... ..	1,851	Total, United Kingdom ... ..	95,059
Brighton ... ..	992		
Bristol ... ..	1,441		
Burnley ... ..	916		

The great majority of the applicants to the Distress Committees were labourers; but artisans in the building trades were also numerous; and artisans in other trades accounted for a considerable proportion of the applicants in some towns, principally centres of the metal and engineering trades.

No general comparison can be made between the figures for last month and for October, 1907, as a large number of the Distress Committees outside London were not in operation in October last year; but the following figures may be quoted for some of the principal towns:—Bradford, 1,851 against 385 in October, 1907; Bristol, 1,441 against 283; Hull, 770 against 1,098; Norwich, 1,064 against 752; Sunderland, 1,809 against 622; Edinburgh, 1,656 against 955; Glasgow, 4,468 against 168.

\* This is the number on the register of the Distress Committee proper; the number on the "unemployment register" was 6,529.

The following Table shows the amount of employment provided by the London Central Body and by the various Distress Committees on works carried on as specifically "relief works."

Distress Committees.	No. given Employment-relief.†	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.‡	Total Amount of Wages paid.
London (Central Body):		Days.	£
At Hollesley Bay ... ..	478	5,856	683
In Parks, &c. ... ..	1,501	6,043	1,292
In Women's Workrooms ... ..	137	2,628	267
Total, London ... ..	2,116	14,527	2,242
Outer London:			
Croydon ... ..	66	Not stated.	Not stated.
East Ham ... ..	216	975	195
Erith ... ..	80	388	82
Leyton ... ..	28	528	117
Tottenham ... ..	138	484	85
Walthamstow ... ..	106	530	114
West Ham ... ..	159	1,846	221
Willesden ... ..	75	450	82
Blackburn ... ..	83	436	87
Bolton ... ..	109	1,354	254
Burnley ... ..	268†	2,100†	378
King's Norton and Northfield ... ..	105	740	111
Leeds ... ..	599	4,508	768
Liverpool ... ..	412	7,546	968
Manchester ... ..	1,063	11,810	2,178
Salford ... ..	708	8,496	1,158
Smethwick ... ..	112	1,456	128
Sunderland ... ..	381	1,998	306
West Hartlepool ... ..	139	739	117
Wolverhampton ... ..	184	577	96
Other Towns (9) ... ..	356	3,198	397
Total, England and Wales ... ..	7,513	65,086	10,144
Aberdeen ... ..	310	3,000	392
Dundee ... ..	281	5,626	732
Edinburgh ... ..	603	7,981	862
Glasgow ... ..	1,500	21,466	2,700
Govan ... ..	245	3,155	416
Greenock ... ..	195	2,895	340
Leith ... ..	98	1,295	19
Paisley ... ..	97	1,064	258
Pollakshaws ... ..	49	1,078	119
Total, Scotland ... ..	3,289	47,165	5,838
Ireland (Belfast only) ... ..	80	1,200	200†
Total, United Kingdom ... ..	10,882	113,451	16,182

It will be seen that the average number of days' employment-relief given was about 10½, and the average amount of wages paid was about 30s. per man, or 2s. 10½d. a day.

EMIGRATION IN 1907.

FROM the Report on Emigration and Immigration during 1907||, it appears that the gross number (634,949) of out-going passengers to non-European countries last year was the greatest recorded, being 77,212 (or 14 per cent.) greater than in 1906, which was itself a record year. Of these 634,949 passengers, 110,041 were cabin passengers, and 524,908 were steerage passengers. This is the first time that the number of cabin passengers has exceeded 100,000, or the number of inward steerage passengers 500,000. The number of inward passengers from non-European countries was 293,633 (also a record number). Assuming that the numbers of passengers travelling for pleasure or for business reasons in each direction were about equal, it would appear that the "balance outward" of passengers, i.e., the difference between the outward and the inward movements, roughly represents the number of actual emigrants. The number of "emigrants" so calculated was 341,316, which was again the greatest number recorded, and the number of British and Irish "emigrants" 235,092, a number more than 40,000 in excess of that for 1906, and the highest number recorded except in 1883, which was a year of very active emigration from Ireland.

The following Table, abridged from a Table in the Report, shows the number of British and Irish "emigrants," calculated on the above assumption, i.e., the balance outward of British and Irish passengers, to the principal countries during the years specified:—

† Including some not registered by the Distress Committees.  
‡ The number given employment-relief includes 107 on piecework, the aggregate duration of whose employment cannot be stated.  
§ All on piecework; the aggregate duration of the employment-relief cannot be stated.  
|| Estimated.  
H.C. 291: Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1907. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 8d.

Year.	To British North America.	To Australia and New Zealand.	To Cape Colony and Natal.	To United States.	TOTAL to all Countries.
1877	2,033	25,501	—	603	31,305
1882	34,344	30,418	5,564	153,435	224,055
1887	25,177	23,925	1,543	143,183	196,012
1892	13,044	5,344	3,744	87,541	112,262
1897	5,631	4,556	6,158	31,689	51,239
1902	14,730	4,366	28,014	51,617	101,547
1903	45,866	3,693	28,017	65,392	147,036
1904	31,284	5,240	833*	68,799	126,854
1905	64,503	7,251	3,221	60,997	139,365
1906	91,263	9,920	3,160*	85,941	194,671
1907	117,525	13,896	4,787*	99,944	235,092

The outstanding features of this Table are the rapid increase in emigration to British North America in recent years; the decline in emigration to Australia and New Zealand (though there has been some recovery in the last four years); the fluctuations in emigration to South Africa; and the comparative decline in emigration to the United States, but with a tendency to increase in recent years. Another Table in the Report shows the statistics of immigration into the United States, as officially recorded in that country, from which it appears that the majority of the immigrants into that country in recent years have arrived from Russia, Italy, and Austria-Hungary; the immigration from Germany and Scandinavia, as well as from Great Britain, having relatively declined.

An analysis of the figures relating to the outward passenger movement according to nationality and sex shows that the number of males greatly exceeds the number of females in the case of English and Scotch passengers, but that the two sexes are nearly equal in the case of Irish passengers. The proportion of children to the total has varied in recent years from 12 to 16 per cent. in the case of English and Scotch passengers, but only from 6 to 9 per cent. in the case of the Irish passengers.

Of the British and Irish adult male passengers from this country, 13 per cent. belonged to the agricultural and 9 per cent. to the commercial and professional groups. Twenty-two per cent. were described as belonging to skilled trades, and 31 per cent. as labourers. The only definite occupation to which any considerable number of the female emigrants belonged was "domestic and other service," the majority being of no stated occupation.

An appendix to the Report shows the number of emigrants from the principal European countries which publish such statistics. No information is available with regard to Russia, France or Roumania; but of the other countries Italy and Austria-Hungary supply the largest contingent of emigrants, the total number emigrating from Italy in 1906 having been over 520,000. The great majority of the emigrants from Northern Europe (Norway, Sweden, Germany, &c.), and also from Austria-Hungary, go to the United States; of the Italian emigrants about two-thirds go to the United States, but large numbers also go to the Argentine Republic and to Brazil.

**EARNINGS AT CORN HARVEST IN 1908.**

ACCORDING to the Returns furnished to the Department, the earnings of farm labourers from the corn harvest in 1908 showed little variation from a year ago in the Eastern Counties; in the Midland and Southern and South-Western Counties, however, the earnings in 1908 were somewhat less than in 1907. The harvest, which was considerably prolonged by rain, was generally of greater total duration than that of 1907, but the number of days on which harvesting was done was rather less in most districts, the crops on the whole being lighter than in the previous year. The extensive use of machinery lessened the demand for extra labour, and in many districts there were men who were unable to obtain employment.

The following Table shows the average cash earnings, exclusive of the value of any food and drink which may have been provided in addition, of men employed on certain farms in the Eastern, Midland, and Southern and South-Western Counties of England respectively for the corn harvest of 1908:—

\* Balance inward (excess of incoming over outgoing passengers).

District.	Number of Men employed at Harvest on Farms included in Table.	Average duration of Harvest from start to finish (including Sundays).	Average Number of Days on which Harvesting was done.	Average Cash Earnings for Harvest per Man.
		Days.	Days.	£ s. d.
Eastern Counties ...	589	35	27	7 13 5
Midland Counties ...	341	41	24	5 13 10
Southern and South-Western Counties	607	34	20	4 15 2

It will be seen that the earnings were highest in the Eastern Counties, which comprise the great corn-growing counties of Huntingdon, Cambridge, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. The payments in these counties ranged from about £6 10s. to £8, though more was earned by some men on piecework in the Fen districts. In parts of Norfolk and in Suffolk and Essex the usual system of payment is for the labourer to contract with the farmer to perform the harvest work for a fixed sum, irrespective of the number of days occupied. A short harvest is thus a profitable one for the labourer, as he gets back to ordinary farm work at weekly wages sooner than in a year when the harvest is lengthened by unfavourable weather.

In the Midland and in the Southern and South-Western counties the systems of payment are frequently on a time-work basis, so that harvest earnings fluctuate from year to year according to the duration of the harvest.

The various methods of payment are as follows (apart from that already described for certain Eastern counties): To give the work in separate portions as piecework; to give the ordinary weekly wages, and, in addition, a bonus of a pound or two at the end of the harvest; to give extra time wages for a month certain, and then to pay the ordinary weekly wages; to pay double the ordinary weekly wages during harvest; to pay a certain rate per day as long as harvest lasts. Occasionally the ordinary weekly wage is paid and overtime money given.

The Northern Counties have been excluded from the above Table, as the majority of the farm servants in the North are hired by the year or half-year, and paid a regular wage with free board and lodging during the whole period for which they are hired, and are given no extra money for harvest, though they are often given extra food and drink. Except in Northumberland and Durham, where the system of engagement closely resembles that in the Border Counties of Scotland, the married men attached to the staff of a farm generally get from about £4 to £6 for a month at harvest, some food and drink being frequently given in addition. Extra hands, both English and Irish, in these districts sometimes get rather higher payments than the regular men, and often more food. The Irishmen are usually provided with lodging in barns or outhouses on the farms.

**CO-OPERATION IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1907.**

(Based upon Returns made direct to the Department by the societies concerned, and upon Returns made to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and to the Co-operative Union.)

The following particulars relate to distribution and production by co-operative societies in Great Britain, exclusive of societies and departments of societies concerned with agriculture. Agricultural co-operative societies and departments in the United Kingdom and other co-operative societies in Ireland will be dealt with separately.

**SUMMARY.—Production and Distribution.**

Returns from Workmen's Co-operative Societies for Production and Distribution in Great Britain show that 1,541 such societies were at work in 1907. These societies had a total membership of 2,352,814, or 10.3 per cent. of the estimated population of Great Britain of 20 years of age and upwards. Their total capital amounted to £45,131,840, being made up of £31,717,170 shares, £9,816,096 loans, and £3,598,574 reserve and insurance funds. Compared with 1906 there was a decrease of 16

in the number of societies, but increases of 4.4 per cent. in membership and of 6.0 per cent. in total capital.

On a total trade of £119,664,710 the net profit for the year was £11,935,938, which is equal to 37.6 per cent. upon the total share capital of all the societies, compared with £10,908,022, or 36.5 per cent., in 1906. The total number of persons directly employed by the 1,541 societies was 112,182, an increase over 1906 of 5.2 per cent.

The societies may be divided into three groups, viz.: (1) Societies established primarily for Production; (2) Societies established primarily for Wholesale Distribution; and (3) Societies established primarily for Retail Distribution; but as the Wholesale Societies and many of the Retail Stores produce a portion of the goods distributed by them, it will be convenient to group the figures according to the nature of the business and to present the totals under the following heads: (1) Production; (2) Wholesale Distribution; and (3) Retail Distribution.

The Table below shows the trade under each of these heads for each of the years 1897-1907, together with the total trade of all the groups.

Year.	Production.	Wholesale Distribution.	Retail Distribution.	Total Trade
1897	£ 8,677,770	£ 16,325,997	£ 40,074,960	£ 65,088,727
1898	9,482,540	17,267,078	42,521,258	69,270,876
1899	9,881,591	19,226,564	44,985,490	74,093,645
1900	10,271,540	21,507,590	49,080,816	80,859,946
1901	11,875,573	23,344,825	52,670,719	87,891,117
1902	13,012,193	24,456,678	55,209,122	92,678,993
1903	13,724,722	25,728,530	57,373,252	96,826,504
1904	14,500,223	26,610,468	59,161,707	100,272,398
1905	14,284,218	27,745,207	60,601,553	102,630,978
1906	16,333,617	29,650,218	63,152,503	109,136,338
1907	19,396,787	32,390,028	67,877,895	119,664,710
Increase 1907 over 1897	10,709,017	16,064,031	27,802,935	54,575,983
Percentage Increase	123.3	98.4	69.4	85.8

**1.—Production.**

The Returns received for the year 1907 show that 2 wholesale and 917 retail societies for distribution, 6 corn mills, and 121 other productive societies, or a total of 1,046 societies of all classes, had 47,537 employees engaged in the production of goods amounting in value to £19,396,787, the total amount paid in wages being £2,632,509. Of these societies 830, with 33,319 employees and a total production of £14,014,622, were in England and Wales, and 216, with 14,218 employees and a production of £5,382,165, were in Scotland.

Year.	Value of Production by Societies established primarily for				Total Production by all Classes of Societies.
	Production.		Wholesale Distribution.	Retail Distribution.	
	Corn Milling Societies.	Other Productive Societies.			
1897	£ 1,261,402	£ 1,372,766	£ 2,798,188	£ 3,252,414	£ 8,687,770
1898	1,408,646	1,426,983	3,016,691	3,620,220	9,482,540
1899	1,184,895	1,542,919	3,306,515	3,850,505	9,881,591
1900	1,226,995	1,624,045	3,627,086	4,093,414	10,071,540
1901	1,234,311	1,659,403	4,334,210	4,647,845	11,875,573
1902	1,303,682	1,712,871	4,810,016	5,151,614	13,012,193
1903	1,377,703	1,741,891	5,189,673	5,415,512	13,724,722
1904	1,345,207	1,773,712	5,515,161	5,956,143	14,500,223
1905	1,318,328	1,785,009	5,854,355	6,266,826	15,284,218
1906	1,658,018	1,890,355	6,804,924	6,673,320	16,333,617
1907	1,954,733	2,067,136	8,102,980	8,271,938	19,396,787
Increase or Decrease in 1907 over 1897	309,669†	694,370	5,304,792	5,019,524	10,709,017
Percentage Increase or Decrease.	24.5†	50.6	189.6	154.3†	123.3

In the following Table the total production (£19,396,787) of all classes of societies in 1907 is shown according to the nature and extent of the principal industries carried on by each class of society separately:—

\* In these societies the goods produced are usually transferred to the distributive departments, and not sold direct from the productive departments.

† Decrease, due partly to the fact that two corn mills were amalgamated in 1906 with the English Co-operative Wholesale Society.

‡ A considerable part of the increase in the value of production by retail societies is due to a much larger number than usual making returns of the slaughtering of cattle.

Industries carried on by Societies of all classes.	127 Associations for Production, including Corn Milling.	2 Associations for Wholesale Distribution.*	917 Associations for Retail Distribution.†	Totals.
	£	£	£	£
Food and Tobacco ...	1,733,648	5,197,161	6,452,548	13,383,357
Clothing ...	473,546	1,191,531	1,491,474	3,158,551
Soap, Candle and Starch Making ...	...	772,669	...	772,669
Textiles ...	430,567	368,851	8,134	747,552
Building, Quarrying, Woodworking and Furnishing ...	88,695	367,780	279,626	736,101
Printing, &c. ...	164,454	185,541	5,158	355,153
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	111,263	50,596	15,882	177,746
Other Industries ...	17,691	28,871	19,116	65,678
Total for 1907 ...	3,021,869	8,102,980	8,271,938†	19,396,787
Total for 1906 ...	2,855,373	6,804,924	6,673,320	16,333,617
Percentage increase in 1907 over 1906	5.8	19.1	24.0†	18.8

It will be seen that food and tobacco account for nearly 70 per cent. of the total production, the clothing group accounting for about 16 per cent.

The number of employees engaged in production in 1907 and the wages paid to them are stated below, for the same groups of industries and classes of societies as in the preceding Table:—

Industries.	127 Associations for Production, including Corn Milling.		2 Associations for Wholesale Distribution.		917 Associations for Retail Distribution.		Totals.	
	No. of Em- ploy-ees.	Wages paid. \$	No. of Em- ploy-ees.	Wages paid. \$	No. of Em- ploy-ees.	Wages paid. \$	No. of Em- ploy-ees.	Wages paid. \$
Food and Tobacco ...	1,050	136,119	3,444	108,811	6,699	447,376	12,193	783,506
Clothing ...	2,853	128,510	7,789	370,292	12,544	610,117	23,214	1,108,919
Soap, Candle and Starch Making ...	...	...	786	45,815	...	...	786	45,815
Textiles ...	1,543	96,530	1,391	67,360	97	2,225	3,031	166,115
Building, Quarrying, Woodworking and Furnishing ...	553	39,744	2,209	150,066	1,752	131,930	4,514	322,540
Printing, &c. ...	857	50,878	1,325	66,771	31	898	2,213	118,547
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding ...	781	42,169	174	12,154	103	6,988	1,058	61,311
Other Industries ...	207	7,637	208	9,363	212	8,956	627	25,956
Total for 1907 ...	8,774	501,587	17,327	921,432	21,436	1,209,490	47,537	2,632,509

It will be seen that 49 per cent. of the total number of employees engaged in production were employed in the clothing trades, and 25 per cent. in the preparation of food and tobacco.

Of the total number of employees engaged in production 26,558, or 56 per cent., were men; 13,433, or 28 per cent., were women; and the remaining 7,546, or 16 per cent., were young persons under 18 years of age.

Of the 1,046 societies of all classes 160 allotted sums to their employees engaged in production out of the profits of the year. The total amount so allotted was £35,737 to 13,890 employees of societies and departments paying £734,712 in wages, this being equal to £2 11s. 5d. per head, or 4.9 per cent. on the wages paid, compared with £2 8s. per head, or 4.5 per cent. on wages, allotted in 1906 by 158 societies.

Out of a total of 121 societies (excluding cornmilling societies) established primarily for production, 112 societies, with 95.8 per cent. of the total sales of the 121, gave figures showing the extent to which the workpeople employed by them share in the membership, capital, and control of the societies by which they are employed. As regards the proportion of the production which is under the direct control of the employees, the returns show that in 44 societies (with 58.3 per cent. of the total sales of the 112 societies) the employees were not represented on the managing committees; in 40 societies (with 16 per cent. of the sales) some of the committeemen (with less than a majority, were employees; while in 28 societies (with 25.7 per cent. of the total sales of the 112 societies) employees formed the majority of the managing committee. Fourteen of these 28 societies were engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes.

§ These figures are exclusive of the number and wages of employees engaged in distribution.

In the Table below these returns are summarised.

	1906.		1907.	
I.—Number of Societies* to which particulars relate	120		112	
II.—Membership: The total membership consisted of:—	No.	Per-centage	No.	Per-centage
1. Employees ... ..	3,495	12.9	3,411	13.2
2. Other Individuals ... ..	19,176	70.8	17,888	69.2
3. Societies ... ..	4,399	16.3	4,533	17.6
Total Membership ... ..	27,070	100.0	25,837	100.0
III.—Employees: The persons employed consisted of:—				
1. Members ... ..	3,495	43.5	3,411	42.4
2. Non-Members ... ..	4,536	56.5	4,659	57.6
Total Employees ... ..	8,031	100.0	8,050	100.0
IV.—Share and Loan Capital: The Share and Loan Capital was held by:—	£		£	
1. Employees ... ..	83,990	7.8	82,990	7.5
2. Other Individual Members ... ..	276,506	25.6	278,355	25.4
3. Societies ... ..	585,452	54.4	591,095	53.9
4. Non-Members (Loans) ... ..	131,413	12.2	144,542	13.2
Total Share and Loan Capital ... ..	1,077,161	100.0	1,096,982	100.0
V.—Management: The Management Committees consisted of:—	No.		No.	
1. Employees ... ..	299	27.7	303	29.3
2. Other Individual Members ... ..	521	48.4	485	46.8
3. Representatives of Societies ... ..	257	23.9	246	23.9
Total Number of Committeemen	1,077	100.0	1,036	100.0

II.—Wholesale Distribution.

The following Table shows the growth in the distributive trade of the two Co-operative Wholesale Societies during each of the years 1897-1907:—

Year.	English Society.	Scottish Society.	Total, Great Britain.
1897	£ 11,920,143	£ 4,405,854	£ 16,325,997
1898	12,574,748	4,697,330	17,272,078
1899	14,212,375	5,044,189	19,256,564
1900	16,043,880	5,463,631	21,507,511
1901	17,642,082	5,700,743	23,342,825
1902	18,397,559	6,059,119	24,456,678
1903	19,333,142	6,395,488	25,728,630
1904	19,869,196	6,801,272	26,670,468
1905	20,785,469	6,939,738	27,725,207
1906	22,510,035	7,140,183	29,650,218
1907	24,786,568	7,603,460	32,390,028
Increase in 1907 over 1897	12,866,425	3,197,606	16,064,031
Percentage Increase	107.9	72.6	98.4

III.—Retail Distribution.

The Returns for 1907 show that 1,412 Retail Stores were trading in that year. Their total membership was 2,316,001, an increase of 4.6 per cent. over 1906; their total share, loan, and reserve capital was £35,242,062, an increase of 5.8 per cent.; their total sales amounted to £67,877,895, an increase of 7.5 per cent.; and their total profit was £10,884,094, an increase of 9.3 per cent. The total number of persons employed by these Stores in the work of distribution was 59,117, an increase of 4.4 per cent. over 1906.

Of the 1,412 retail stores, 210 allotted out of the profits of the year to 14,870 employees engaged in the work of distribution the sum of £39,738, or an average of 5.1 per cent. upon the wages paid to these employees.

The following Table shows the sales of the Retail Stores in England and Wales and in Scotland respectively for each of the years 1897-1907.

Year.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Total, Great Britain.
1897	£ 31,797,430	£ 8,277,530	£ 40,074,960
1898	32,581,525	8,939,733	41,521,258
1899	33,414,337	9,570,933	42,985,270
1900	39,326,406	10,654,410	49,980,816
1901	41,543,850	11,126,669	52,670,519
1902	43,498,094	11,711,028	55,209,122
1903	45,083,306	12,289,746	57,373,052
1904	46,209,621	12,951,886	59,161,507
1905	47,568,418	13,333,135	60,901,553
1906	49,336,474	13,816,029	63,152,503
1907	53,161,784	14,716,111	67,877,895
Increase in 1907 over 1897	21,364,354	6,438,581	27,802,935
Percentage Increase	67.2	77.8	69.4

\* Excluding Corn Mill Societies.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

Canada.

It is too late in the year for emigrants to go to Canada; they must wait till the winter is over. During this year work has been more difficult to obtain, and in many centres there has been a considerable number of unemployed. Wages have been lower than in 1907 in many cases. The attention of all emigrants is called to the following regulations: (1) Every emigrant, male or female, 18 years of age or over, who arrives in Canada, must have in his or her possession the sum of 25 dols.—or between January 1st and February 15th, 1909, the sum of 50 dols.—in addition to a ticket to his or her destination; unless satisfactory evidence is furnished that the emigrant is going to some definite employment or to relatives or friends already settled in Canada who would take care of such emigrant; (2) All emigrants sent out by British charitable societies or public funds must be certified as suitable by the Canadian authorities in London; (3) Any immigrant who within two years of his landing in Canada becomes a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or charitable institution may, after investigation of the facts, be deported, together with those dependent on him.

Australia.

Cheap passages may be obtained by certain classes of emigrants to New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. Reports received from these States show that there is a good demand for farm labourers and female servants, but a very limited one for mechanics or miners. Queensland and Western Australia offer 160 acres of land free to approved settlers.

New Zealand.

There is a good demand for farmers, farm labourers, and female servants, and reduced passages are granted to approved members of these classes. During the last two or three months the building and engineering trades have been slack except in one or two localities, and some men have been unable to find work. This slackness was mainly owing to the season (end of winter, and to the wet weather, but the summer is now beginning and work is more plentiful. There is a continued scarcity of good farm hands and dairymen, and of boys and girls—as well as of experienced workers—for jam, tailoring, clothing, and boot factories.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—The supply of men exceeds the demand in the building, engineering, and other trades throughout the Colony, Kimberley being one of the places where the depression is greatest. In Cape Town the masons have been on strike owing to the proposed reduction in their wages to 1s. 3½d. an hour instead of 1s. 8d.; but the strike is now off, the old rate of wages being maintained.

Natal.—There is a considerable number of unemployed in the building and other trades.

Transvaal.—Persons are warned against going to the Transvaal in search of work, as many men already on the spot have been unable to obtain work for a long time. There is an occasional demand for female servants, who should apply to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—The Orange River Colony Government has issued a notice warning persons in search of employment not to come to Bloemfontein in order to obtain work there, as there is no work obtainable. The arrangements which the Government is making to provide work for the unemployed are intended for those only who have resided in the town for several months.

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

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 333 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.

Employment in September.\*—Employment in the building and allied trades continued good. In the metal trades there was no change on the whole; there was some improvement for tin-box makers on the coast of Brittany, but much unemployment among watchmakers and diamond workers. The depression in the textile trades appeared to continue in the Nord Department, only a few districts reporting any improvement, and short time, amounting to several hours per week, was worked in the Normandy and Roanne centres. At Rheims and in the Ardennes there was a decline, but employment continued good in the Vosges. In silk manufacture there was an improvement, especially for power-loom weavers in the Lyons district; at Croix-Rousse weavers continued busy. Employment in the garment making and hat trades began to improve. In the printing trades employment continued good in Paris, but there was no improvement in the provinces. In leather dressing at Annony and Mazamet there was a slight improvement. The vintage gave full employment to vineyard workers in the south of France, and the majority of woodcutters found work in threshing, as well as in sowing and in beetroot and potato lifting. Employment continued good for gardeners in the Paris district, and for agricultural workers in the Seine-et-Marne Department.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in September were received by the French Labour Department from 935 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 219,881. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais, 7.2 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 8.2 per cent. in the previous month and 6.5 per cent. a year ago.

Coal Mining in September.\*—The average number of days worked per week by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during September was 5.92, as compared with 5.66 in August and 5.92 in September, 1907. Taking surface and underground workers together, 77.49 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week), and 22.51 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 85.63 and 12.52, and in September, 1907, 82.32 and 17.47.

Labour Disputes in September.\*—Sixty-three disputes (62 strikes and one lock-out) were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in September, compared with 63 in the previous month and 64 in September, 1907. In 49 of the new disputes 3,258 workpeople took part, as compared with 4,860 who took part in 57 of the August disputes, and 7,095 who took part in 52 disputes in September, 1907. The trades in which most disputes occurred were building (20), textiles (12), transport and warehousing (8), leather, and mining and quarrying (5 each), and printing (4). Of 54 new and old disputes the results of which were reported, 6 terminated in favour of the workpeople and 29 in favour of the employers, while 19 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in September.\*—Four instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department in September. In two cases committees of conciliation were formed, which succeeded in settling one of the disputes. In the two other cases the employers refused to take part in conciliation proceedings; but in one of these the dispute was eventually settled by arbitration.

Dispute in the Glass Trade in Normandy.—Despatches from H.M. Ambassador at Paris and H.M. Consul General at Havre, dated September 8th to October 28th,

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

† Revised figure.

report a strike of glassworkers at a factory at Blangy for the re-instatement of a dismissed workman. Employers in this industry in the valley of Bresle intervened and (except in factories where the workpeople were not affiliated to the General Federation of Labour) locked out their workpeople, to the number of about 2,000, on September 6th. On October 27th the dispute came to an end, the men resuming work next day. The principle for which the employers primarily contended—the right to dismiss a workman—was upheld, but efforts to induce the locked-out men to cease their connection with the Federation were not successful.

GERMANY.

Employment in September.—The following is a translation of a statement which appears in the issue of the Reichsarbeitsblatt (the journal of the German Labour Department) for the month of October: "The labour market in September was characterised by the usual activity in a number of seasonal trades, and a continuance of the decline in certain branches of the larger industries. Pig-iron manufacture, as before, was slack, and larger stocks were accumulated, while in iron founding the unsatisfactory situation already reported was maintained with scarcely any change. In cotton spinning the scarcity of buyers was the cause of the continuously unfavourable state of business. The dearth of export orders was still a subject of complaint in the larger chemical trades. Some decline was observable in the Ruhr coal mining district owing to a further decrease in the demand for manufacturing coal; in other districts employment was good. So far as blooms, billets, railway materials and shaped iron are concerned, steel works and rolling mills were about as busy as in August. On the whole, orders were satisfactory in the electrical industry. In the building trades the anticipated improvement did not take place, and there was consequently a surplus of labour in many places. The trades in which an improvement set in with the month of September belonged to the clothing group, as, for example, the manufacture of wearing apparel (for the home market), hat-making, feather cleaning, corset-making, &c. There was also some improvement in commercial employment.

Unemployment in Third Quarter of 1908.—The source referred to above states that returns relating to unemployment during the third quarter of 1908 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership, at the end of the quarter, of 1,272,549. From certain branches of the Unions reporting, however, no returns as to the members out of work were available; omitting these, the membership covered was 1,263,818, of whom 34,046 (or 2.7 per cent.) were stated to be unemployed on September 26th, as compared with 34,355 (also 2.7 per cent.) on August 22nd, and 34,624 (also 2.7 per cent.) on July 25th. The corresponding percentage for the end of September, 1907, was 1.4. [These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentage for the United Kingdom given on p. 333.]

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal Unions for which figures are available, the membership at the end of the third quarter of 1908, the percentage of members returned as out of work on a certain day towards the end of each month of the quarter, and the corresponding percentage for the end of the third quarter of 1907:—

Name of Union.	Membership on Sept. 26th, 1908.	Percentage of Membership returned as Unemployed on			
		Sept. 26, 1908.	Aug. 22, 1908.	July 25, 1908.	Sept. 28, 1907.
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	365,593	3.1	2.8	2.9	1.0
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Duncker)	38,265	1.6	1.6	1.8	0.8
Woodworkers ... ..	145,793	3.4	3.3	3.0	1.9
Miners ... ..	112,256	*	0.1	*	*
Printers ... ..	52,472	6.9	7.5	6.4	5.3
Transport Workers ... ..	88,140	1.3	1.4	1.4	0.6

\* Less than 0.1 per cent.

BELGIUM.\*

**Employment in September.**—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 5.3 per cent. of the 37,961 members of 191 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 5.9 per cent. in August and 1.4 per cent. in September, 1907. (As regards foreign unemployment returns in general, see note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 341.)

**Labour Disputes in September.**—Four strikes affecting 996 workpeople (756 directly and 240 indirectly) were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in September. The termination of 4 strikes (including 3 of the above) was reported. Of these 2 (involving 363 strikers) terminated in favour of the employers, and 2 (involving 692 strikers) were compromised.

HOLLAND.†

**Employment in September.**—In the building trades employment continued bad on the whole, being satisfactory in a few towns only. In the larger metal and engineering establishments employment was less favourable than in August, but in shipbuilding it continued good. There was no change in the unfavourable state of employment in the textile trades, and in the tailoring and dress-making trades the autumn revival was not very satisfactory. The slackness in the woodworking trades continued, employment again being especially bad for cabinet makers. Notwithstanding a slight improvement in the printing trade, employment continued very unfavourable. In bulb cultivation there was full employment. The diamond trades at Amsterdam continued to improve. There was some revival in the cocoa and chocolate trades, and employment became steadier.

**Labour Disputes in September.**—Seven disputes, 5 of which directly affected 322 workpeople, were reported to have commenced in September. Ten disputes (including 5 of the new ones) terminated during the month. Of 5 disputes of which the results were known, 1 ended in favour of the workpeople, 2 in favour of the employers, and 2 were compromised.

NORWAY.

**Unemployed Benefit Fund: State Grant increased.**—In the GAZETTE for July, 1906, an account was given of the Norwegian law of June 12th, 1906, which provided that any unemployment benefit fund complying with certain conditions should have refunded to it by the State one-fourth of the amount which it pays to its members in unemployed benefit. A law dated July 25th, 1908, increases the proportion to be repaid by the State from one-fourth to one-third.

**Employment in September.**—The following Table shows the percentages of members unemployed in certain Trade Unions which made returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics for each of the three months September, 1908, August, 1908 and September, 1907:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.	Sept., 1908.	Aug., 1908.	Sept., 1907.
Metal Workers ...	5,290	5,287	5,092	2.8	1.7	1.0
Carpenters, &c. ...	724	730	699	5.4	3.0	7.0
Painters ...	553	550	600	...	0.7	8.5
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	347	355	244	...	0.6	...
Printers ...	1,997	1,309	1,245	2.9	2.4	3.1
Bakers ...	210	200	158	13.3	6.5	10.1
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers ...	785	772	612	...	...	0.2
Sawyers and Planers ...	294	303	411	...	...	...
Cabinet Makers ...	110	100	80	...	...	...
Total ...	9,607	9,606	9,141	2.6	1.7	1.8

(As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 341.)

\* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).  
 † *Maandchrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).  
 ‡ Based on a despatch from H.M. Chargé d'Affaires at Christiania.  
 § Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN OCTOBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 477 Returns—432 from Employers, 34 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry, though still fairly good, showed a slight decline as compared with September. It was not so good as a year ago.**

Returns relating to 1,355 pits employing 655,577 workpeople showed that the average number of days\* worked per week during the four weeks ended October 24th, 1908, was 5.23, as compared with 5.34 in September, and 5.64 a year ago.

Of the 655,577 workpeople covered by the Returns 488,848 (or 74.6 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended October 24th, 1908, while 332,570 (50.7 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest averages were in South Wales and Monmouthshire, 5.60 days; and in North Wales, 5.58 days. The lowest average was in Lancashire and Cheshire, 4.62 days.

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended October 24th, 1908, together with the figures for similar periods in September, 1908, and October, 1907:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Oct., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+ or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with	
		Oct. 24th, 1908.	Sept. 26th, 1908.	Oct. 26th, 1907.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	43,905	5.30	5.41	5.46	+ .11	+ .16
Durham ...	117,499	5.35	5.39	5.53	+ .04	+ .18
Cumberland ...	6,725	5.55	5.30	5.71	+ .25	+ .16
South Yorkshire ...	69,539	5.30	5.45	5.82	+ .15	+ .52
West Yorkshire ...	24,444	5.05	5.07	5.54	+ .02	+ .49
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	57,732	4.62	4.75	5.56	+ .13	+ .94
Derbyshire ...	43,291	4.88	5.19	5.62	+ .31	+ .74
Nottingham and Leicester ...	34,800	4.80	5.20	5.35	+ .40	+ .55
Staffordshire ...	28,716	5.02	5.33	5.69	+ .31	+ .67
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	8,365	5.38	5.26	5.76	+ .12	+ .38
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,178	5.00	5.14	5.64	+ .14	+ .64
North Wales ...	11,756	5.58	5.81	5.86	+ .23	+ .28
South Wales and Mon. ...	143,593	5.60	5.60	5.91	...	+ .32
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	<b>698,843</b>	<b>5.24</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>5.67</b>	<b>+ .11</b>	<b>+ .43</b>
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland ...	27,164	4.94	5.13	5.12	+ .19	+ .18
The Lothians ...	4,466	5.25	5.26	5.43	+ .01	+ .18
Fife ...	24,705	5.43	5.46	5.59	+ .03	+ .16
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>56,335</b>	<b>5.18</b>	<b>5.27</b>	<b>5.33</b>	<b>+ .09</b>	<b>+ .15</b>
<b>IRELAND</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>5.57</b>	<b>5.46</b>	<b>5.26</b>	<b>+ .11</b>	<b>+ .31</b>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>655,577</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>5.64</b>	<b>+ .11</b>	<b>+ .41</b>

Compared with September, 1908, there was an improvement in Cumberland, and in the Warwick, Worcester and Salop districts. In South Wales and Monmouthshire there was no change. In the other districts of England and Wales and in Scotland there were decreases, the most marked being in the Nottingham and Leicester district, in Derbyshire, and in Staffordshire. Compared with October, 1907, there was a decline in every district except Ireland; the decline was greatest in the Lancashire and Cheshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Gloucester and Somerset districts.

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

\* The figures in this article only show the number of days (allowance being made in all the calculations for short days) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

employing 220,413 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." Compared with September, 1908, there was a slight improvement at pits producing anthracite and coking coal, while there was a decline at pits producing all other classes of coal. Compared with a year ago there was a decline at all pits except anthracite; the decline was greatest at pits producing house coal.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Oct., 1908, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with	
		Oct. 24th, 1908.	Sept. 26th, 1908.	Oct. 26th, 1907.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
Anthracite ...	8,743	5.88	5.74	5.82	+ .14	+ .06
Coking ...	33,745	5.35	5.30	5.67	+ .05	+ .32
Gas ...	41,288	5.38	5.41	5.53	+ .03	+ .15
House ...	82,655	4.89	5.10	5.40	+ .21	+ .57
Manufacturing and Steam ...	168,743	5.35	5.44	5.73	+ .09	+ .38
Mixed ...	220,413	5.15	5.27	5.62	+ .12	+ .47
<b>All Descriptions</b>	<b>655,577</b>	<b>5.23</b>	<b>5.34</b>	<b>5.64</b>	<b>+ .11</b>	<b>+ .41</b>

The Exports of coal, coking, and manufactured fuel in October, 1908, amounted to 6,093,006 tons, or 428,699 tons more than in September, 1908, but 75,494 tons less than in October, 1907.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 86 Returns—70 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT** continued good in iron mines, and showed little change compared with a month ago and a year ago. It continued good in shale mines.

In tin and copper mines it was bad generally. In lead mines it was fairly good. In quarries it continued moderate.

Mining.

**Iron Mining.**—During the four weeks ended October 24th, 1908, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.83, as compared with 5.82 both a month ago and a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. employed in the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1908, as compared with	
		Oct. 24th, 1908.	Sept. 26th, 1908.	Oct. 26th, 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cleveland...	7,323	5.96	5.98	5.84	+ .02	+ 0.12
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,816	5.81	5.73	5.88	+ 0.05	+ 0.07
Scotland ...	732	5.65	5.64	5.49	+ 0.01	+ 0.16
Other Districts ...	2,464	5.54	5.57	5.75	+ 0.03	+ 0.21
<b>All Districts</b>	<b>18,335</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>5.82</b>	<b>5.82</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>	<b>+ 0.01</b>

Of the 15,335 workpeople covered by the Returns 13,955, or 90.3 per cent., worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended October 24th, as compared with 88.7 per cent. a month ago and 87.8 per cent. a year ago.

**Shale Mining.**—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,344 workpeople were employed in the four weeks ended October 24th, as compared with 3,386 in the previous month, and 3,203 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended October 24th, 1908, was 5.69, as compared with 5.77 in September and 5.73 a year ago.

**Tin and Copper Mining.**—Employment continued bad in the Calstock district; at other centres it showed some decline as compared with a month ago.

**Lead Mining.**—Employment in North Wales was good. In Weardale it was fair on the whole.

Quarrying.

**Slate.**—Employment was bad in North Wales, and much short time was worked. At Ballachulish (Argyllshire) short time was worked until the 23rd of the month, when the quarries were closed for the installation of new machinery.

**Granite.**—Employment continued good in the macadam branch in Leicestershire. It was bad, and worse than a month ago, at Aberdeen. It was dull on Dartmoor and in Cornwall, but showed some improvement as compared with a month ago.

**Limestone.**—Employment was good in North Wales, and moderate in the Upper Weardale district. In the Somerset blue lias quarries, in the Plymouth and Buxton districts and in Cumberland it was bad.

**Other Stone.**—Employment continued good in the Clee Hill road material quarries. It was fair in the Forest of Dean and moderate in the Bath stone quarries. In the Sheffield district employment was fairly good. With grindstone makers at Barnsley it was quiet. In the building stone and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district it was dull, and worse than a month ago. At sandstone quarries in North Wales it was good. With freestone quarrymen in the Gateshead district employment was quiet, and short time was worked. At the Bakewell chert quarries employment was good, and full time was worked. In Forfarshire it continued bad, and was worse than a year ago.

**Settmaking.**—Employment continued fair on the whole in Scotland. In Leicestershire it was good and better than a month ago; in the Clee Hill district it continued dull.

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

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 113 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT** in this industry during October, though still moderate, was better than a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

The total number of furnaces in blast at the end of October, 1908, was 287, as compared with 277 in September, 1908, and 335 in October, 1907. During October 13 furnaces were re-lit (5 in Cleveland, 2 in Staffordshire, 2 in North Wales, 2 in Lanarkshire, 1 in South Wales, and 1 in Ayrshire), and 3 were blown out (1 each in Worcestershire, North Wales, and Lanarkshire). The number of workpeople employed at the works respecting which returns were received was 22,100 in October, 1908; an increase of 3.2 per cent. as compared with the previous month, but a decrease of 10.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago. The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with	
	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES.</b>					
Cleveland ...	82	77	86	+ 5	- 4
Cumberland & Lancs.	26	26	33	...	- 7
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	10	10	16	...	- 6
Derby & Nottingham	30	30	43	...	- 13
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	26	...	...
Stafford & Worcester	33	32	38	+ 1	- 5
S. Wales & Monmouth	8	7*	17	+ 1	- 9
Other districts ...	7	6	8	+ 1	- 1
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>214*</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>+ 8</b>	<b>- 15</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>- 3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>277*</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>+ 10</b>	<b>- 18</b>

The Imports of iron ore in October, 1908, amounted to 540,935 tons, or 26,499 tons more than in September, 1908, but 60,562 tons less than in October, 1907.

\* Revised figures.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in October, 1908, amounted to 113,365 tons, or 3,634 tons less than in September, 1908, and 49,502 tons less than in October, 1907.

**IRON AND STEEL WORKS.**

(Based on 212 Returns—197 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 4 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works during September continued about the same as in the previous month. It was considerably worse than a year ago.

The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended October 24th, 1908, at the works from which Returns were received, was 0.5 per cent. less than in the week ended September 26th, 1908, and 11.2 per cent. less than a year ago. The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended October 24th, 1908, by all the workpeople included in the Returns, was about 462,300, as compared with 464,700 a month ago, and 520,600 a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.			
	In week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with A month ago.	In week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Year ago.
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
<b>IRON :</b>						
Puddling Forges ...	9,874	+ 144	4,881	- 0.03	- 0.30	
Rolling Mills ...	3,938	+ 9	4,477	- 0.05	- 0.33	
Forging ...	445	+ 21	5,414	+ 0.35	- 0.07	
Founding ...	1,802	+ 67	5,793	- 0.03	- 0.14	
Other Departments ...	619	- 50	5,900	+ 0.05	+ 0.13	
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,742	- 95	5,511	+ 0.03	+ 0.01	
<b>Total, Iron ...</b>	<b>18,420</b>	<b>+ 64</b>	<b>4,985</b>	<b>- 0.03</b>	<b>- 0.28</b>	
<b>STEEL :</b>						
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	7,651	+ 91	5,781	- 0.04	- 0.05	
Cruible Furnaces ...	513	- 14	4,065	+ 0.03	- 1.37	
Bessemer Converters ...	1,791	+ 246	5,011	+ 0.06	+ 0.10	
Rolling Mills ...	13,953	- 3	4,966	- 0.04	- 0.38	
Forging and Pressing ...	2,577	- 49	5,044	- 0.25	- 0.66	
Founding ...	6,742	- 114	5,800	+ 0.02	- 0.09	
Other Departments ...	6,377	- 348	5,638	- 0.08	- 0.17	
Mechanics, Labourers ...	7,150	- 134	5,871	- 0.08	- 0.03	
<b>Total, Steel ...</b>	<b>48,754</b>	<b>- 503</b>	<b>5,845</b>	<b>- 0.04</b>	<b>- 0.22</b>	
<b>IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):</b>						
Rolling Mills ...	10,339	- 185	5,000	- 0.13	- 0.26	
Forging and Pressing ...	7,133	+ 50	5,174	- 0.14	- 0.30	
Founding ...	691	+ 23	5,844	- 0.08	- 0.02	
Other Departments ...	3,306	+ 418	5,774	- 0.16	+ 0.11	
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,506	+ 343	5,777	...	+ 0.13	
<b>Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ...</b>	<b>21,885</b>	<b>+ 647</b>	<b>5,338</b>	<b>- 0.08</b>	<b>- 0.07</b>	
<b>Grand Total ...</b>	<b>86,729</b>	<b>+ 198</b>	<b>5,333</b>	<b>- 0.04</b>	<b>- 0.19</b>	
<b>Districts.</b>						
Northumberland & Durham ...	9,623	+ 657	4,821	- 0.15	- 0.64	
Cleveland ...	7,923	+ 8	5,621	- 0.01	+ 0.01	
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	15,402	- 197	5,366	- 0.03	- 0.30	
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns ...	4,138	- 156	5,311	+ 0.04	- 0.37	
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches. ...	8,848	+ 844	5,444	+ 0.03	+ 0.12	
Staffordshire ...	9,907	- 187	5,299	- 0.09	- 0.16	
Other Midland Counties ...	4,722	- 75	5,211	+ 0.08	- 0.27	
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,292	- 112	5,455	- 0.11	- 0.17	
<b>Total, England and Wales ...</b>	<b>70,855</b>	<b>+ 782</b>	<b>5,311</b>	<b>- 0.06</b>	<b>- 0.22</b>	
Scotland ...	15,874	- 584	5,377	- 0.04	- 0.12	
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>86,729</b>	<b>+ 198</b>	<b>5,333</b>	<b>- 0.04</b>	<b>- 0.19</b>	

Compared with a month ago there were increases in the number of workpeople employed in Northumberland and Durham, and in Cumberland and Lancashire, while there were decreases in Yorkshire, the Midland counties, Wales and Monmouth, and Scotland. As regards departments the principal increases were at iron puddling forges and in the Bessemer converting department; the principal decrease was in "other departments" of steel works.

As compared with a year ago there was an increase in the number employed in the Cleveland district, and decreases in all other districts; the decline was greatest in Cumberland and Lancashire, in Northumberland and Durham, and in Scotland. Nearly all

departments were affected by this decline, which was greatest at steel rolling mills and at open-hearth steel melting furnaces.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week was 5.33, as compared with 5.37 in September, 1908, and 5.52 in October, 1907. Compared with a month ago the decreases chiefly affected the Northumberland and Durham and the Wales and Monmouthshire districts. In the departments the most noticeable change was a decrease of 0.25 of a shift in the steel forging and pressing department. Compared with a year ago there were slight increases in Cumberland and Lancashire and in Cleveland. All other districts and most of the departments showed decreases, which were most marked in the Northumberland and Durham district, and in the steel forging and pressing and the iron and steel rolling departments.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during October, 1908, amounted to 118,058 tons, or 14,983 tons more than in September, 1908, and 17,490 tons more than in October, 1907.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during October, 1908, amounted to 186,421 tons, or 6,576 tons more than in September, 1908, but 53,976 tons less than in October, 1907.

**TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.**

(Based on 58 Returns—55 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

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

At the works covered by the Returns, 400 tinplate mills were working at the end of October, as compared with 399 a month ago, and 392 a year ago. The numbers of sheet mills working during the same months were 47, 47 and 52 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 22,300 workpeople.

Works.	Number of Works open.*		Number of Mills in operation.			
	At end of Oct., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	At end of Oct., 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Year ago.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Tinplate Works	75	- 1	400	+ 1	+ 8	
Steel Sheet Works	9	+ 1	47	...	- 5	
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>+ 1</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	

Exports.—The Table below shows the quantity of tinplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, exported during the months stated:—

To	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a			Month ago.	Year ago.
	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.		
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.		
United States ...	2,107	1,500	6,265	+ 607	+ 4,158
British East Indies ...	4,598	4,411	4,253	+ 122	+ 310
Germany ...	3,013	2,355	3,445	+ 638	- 432
France ...	2,364	1,530	1,693	+ 834	+ 671
Netherlands ...	2,644	1,373	2,872	+ 1,271	- 228
Other Countries ...	24,598	17,247	19,487	+ 7,351	+ 5,111
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>39,289</b>	<b>28,416</b>	<b>38,015</b>	<b>+ 10,873</b>	<b>+ 1,274</b>

To	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.				
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United States ...	2,107	1,500	6,265	+ 607	+ 4,158
British East Indies ...	4,598	4,411	4,253	+ 122	+ 310
Germany ...	3,013	2,355	3,445	+ 638	- 432
France ...	2,364	1,530	1,693	+ 834	+ 671
Netherlands ...	2,644	1,373	2,872	+ 1,271	- 228
Other Countries ...	24,598	17,247	19,487	+ 7,351	+ 5,111
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>39,289</b>	<b>28,416</b>	<b>38,015</b>	<b>+ 10,873</b>	<b>+ 1,274</b>

To	Black Plates for Tinning.			
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
United States ...	6,632	4,094	6,882	+ 2,538
Other Countries ...	...	...	...	- 280
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>6,632</b>	<b>4,094</b>	<b>6,882</b>	<b>+ 2,538</b>

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

**ENGINEERING TRADES.**

(Based on 1,004 Returns—8 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 954 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 42 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued slack, and was slightly worse than a month ago. It was much worse than a year ago, especially in the Northern Counties, Scotland and Ireland. Short time was reported in many cases.

Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 156,718 show that at the end of October the percentage unemployed was 12.7 as compared with 12.2\* a month ago, and 4.5 in October, 1907.

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		North-East Coast ...	7,612	23.6	29.5	8.8
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,959	12.4	12.3	3.9	+ 0.1	+ 8.5
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,433	13.2	11.0	2.8	+ 2.2	+ 10.4
West Riding Towns ...	12,846	16.4	14.4	4.8	+ 2.0	+ 11.6
Hull and Lincolnshire District	4,064	8.9	9.9	2.5	- 1.0	+ 6.4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,141	9.1	9.8	3.3	- 0.7	+ 5.8
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,369	10.4	9.3	3.5	+ 1.1	+ 6.9
London and Neighbouring District	12,071	8.1	7.3	5.5	+ 0.8	+ 2.6
South Coast ...	4,520	5.2	5.6	2.7	- 0.4	+ 3.1
South Wales and Bristol District	7,173	8.5	8.4	3.6	+ 0.1	+ 4.9
Glasgow and District ...	16,003	23.2	23.1	5.9	+ 0.1	+ 17.3
East of Scotland ...	4,097	20.8	19.5	5.1	+ 1.3	+ 15.7
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,566	18.7	14.5	7.4	+ 4.2	+ 11.3
Other Districts ...	6,134	13.8	13.0	3.1	+ 0.8	+ 10.7
<b>United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)</b>	<b>156,718</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>12.2*</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>+ 0.5</b>	<b>+ 8.2</b>

On the North-East Coast employment continued slack, and nearly one-fourth of the trade union members were out of employment at the end of the month. It was, however, better than a month ago, except with pattern makers, who reported no change. There was an increase in the number of firms working night shifts in the Newcastle district. On the Wear employment continued very bad, but at Darlington it was moderate. On the Humber also it was bad.

In Lancashire employment continued bad generally, and much short time was worked. With makers of textile machinery, however, it was good at Oldham, where some overtime was reported, and fair at Bolton.

In Yorkshire employment was slack generally, and continued to decline. Short time was reported to be general.

In the Midland Counties employment continued slack generally, and on the whole showed little change from the previous month. With hosiery machine builders at Nottingham it was moderate; with bobbin and carriage makers it was fairly good. With makers of refrigerating machinery at Derby it continued fair. In the cycle and motor industry at Birmingham and Coventry an improvement was shown. At Leicester employment was fair with tool makers, and good with shoe machinery builders. At Crewe, Lincoln and Peterborough employment continued fair.

Employment was slack in London and on the South Coast. It was fair at the Royal Dockyards, and better than a month ago. In South Wales it continued slack generally, but was fair with some branches of ironfounders.

In Scotland employment remained bad generally and a considerable amount of short time was reported. At Belfast and Dublin employment continued bad.

The Imports of machinery in October, 1908, amounted to £308,047, as compared with £271,919 in September, 1908, and £432,757 in October, 1907; and the Exports for the same months amounted to £2,925,208, £2,413,179, and £3,093,307 respectively.

\* Revised figure. † Exclusive of Superannuated members.

**SHIPBUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 355 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 332 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during October continued bad, and was considerably worse than a year ago. Much short time was reported.

Branches of Trade Unions with 53,185 members had 15,543 (or 26.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of October, 1908, as compared with 26.6 per cent. in September, 1908, and 11.6 per cent. a year ago.

Compared with a month ago there was an increase in the percentage unemployed in every district, except in the Wear, Tees, and Mersey districts, in the two latter of which there were decreases of 5.0 and of 6.8 per cent. respectively. As compared with a year ago there was an increase in every district, most marked on the North East Coast and in the East of Scotland. The increases on the Clyde and at Belfast were also considerable.

District.	No. of Members* at end of October, 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Tyne and Blyth ...	9,956	29.6	27.1	12.7
Wear ...	3,820	50.7	53.1	22.4	- 2.4	+ 21.9
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,973	38.5	43.5	12.0	- 5.0	+ 26.5
Humber ...	2,733	29.7	25.0	10.1	+ 4.7	+ 19.6
Thames and Medway ...	4,334	13.9	12.4	9.1	+ 1.5	+ 4.8
South Coast ...	4,964	6.4	3.3	3.7	+ 3.1	+ 2.7
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,419	21.7	19.8	18.2	+ 1.9	+ 3.5
Mersey ...	4,149	21.3	28.1	11.9	- 6.8	+ 9.4
Clyde ...	13,124	20.7	25.3	11.1	+ 1.4	+ 15.6
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	4,457	41.7	40.4	13.3	+ 1.3	+ 28.4
Belfast ...	3,138	17.9	16.6	3.5	+ 1.3	+ 14.4
Other Districts ...	3,098	16.2	14.1	5.8	+ 2.1	+ 10.4
<b>United Kingdom ...</b>	<b>59,185</b>	<b>26.3</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>- 0.3</b>	<b>+ 14.4</b>

On the Tyne employment continued slack generally, but with shipwrights at Blyth it was reported as good on repair work; with riveters and caulkers at Gateshead there was some improvement. On the Wear employment continued very bad. On the Tees and Humber it was bad generally; there was, however, some improvement at Middlesbrough, and on repair work at Hartlepool employment was moderate. At Barrow employment continued moderate.

In London employment was quiet. On the South Coast it continued fair generally, but was not so good as a month ago. At the Bristol Channel ports it was slack. On the Mersey employment was bad, but rather better than in the previous month.

On the Clyde employment continued slack. At Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen it continued bad. At Belfast and Cork it was dull.

**MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.**

(Based on 96 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 68 from Trade Unions, and 25 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT remained dull on the whole, and was worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,809, had 4.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, compared with a like percentage in the previous month, and 3.0 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers was generally slack. It continued bad with bedstead makers at Birmingham.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment was bad at Blackheath. With nut and bolt makers at Birmingham it was quiet; at West Bromwich it was fair; and at Winlaton bad. It continued fair with wire nail makers at Birmingham, and moderate with cut nail makers.

Wire.—Employment generally was moderate; it was bad with wire weavers at Warrington, Birmingham, and Middlesbrough.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Employment was generally bad.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment continued slack, with much short time.

\* Exclusive of superannuated members.

**Cutlery, Tools, etc.**—At Sheffield employment continued slack. At Redditch it showed some improvement in the needle trade, and was moderate in the fish-hook trade.

**Tubes.**—Employment remained moderate in South Staffordshire. Some improvement was shown in the brazed copper and brass tube sections in Birmingham.

**Chains, Anchors, and Springs.**—Employment continued bad at Cradley Heath. It was bad with chain makers at Winlaton, and with railway spring fitters at Sheffield. It was fair in the spring and axle trades at West Bromwich; slack in road axle and tyre work at Wednesbury. It continued slack in the anvil and vice trade at Dudley.

**Sheet Metal, etc.**—Employment was generally bad with braziers and sheet metal workers, and with tin-plate workers; it was, however, good with braziers and sheet metal workers on the Tyne, and fair with tin-plate workers at Nottingham. Employment was fairly good with iron-plate workers.

**Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.**—Employment with silver and electro-plate workers was generally dull at Birmingham and Sheffield. It was better than a month ago with goldsmiths and jewellers in London and Birmingham, but in Birmingham it was quiet for the time of the year. With britannia metal workers employment was fair at Birmingham, slack at Sheffield. It continued bad with watchmakers at Coventry.

**Farmers.**—Employment was fair on the whole.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the value of cutlery and hardware imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	October, 1908.	Sept., 1908.	October, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Cutlery ... ..	19,734	12,253	16,069	+ 7,481	+ 3,665
Hardware ... ..	88,300	82,610	92,428	+ 5,690	+ 4,128
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Cutlery ... ..	54,308	54,537	76,019	- 229	- 22,611
Hardware ... ..	191,366	169,039	243,867	+ 26,327	+ 48,501
Implements and Tools ...	168,031	164,376	201,299	+ 3,655	- 33,228

**COTTON TRADE.**

(Based on 468 Returns—380 received from Employers, 79 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

**EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning and Weaving branches** was greatly disorganised during October by the dispute. Apart, however, from the adverse effects of the dispute employment in both branches was bad, and much worse than in October, 1907. Much short time was worked at the mills which remained open during the month.

Though a large number of the firms usually making returns were entirely closed during the whole of October, others continued working, and the following table summarises the information received. Returns relating to 77,105 workpeople in the week ended October 24th show that as compared with the previous month there was no change in the number employed, but a decrease of 5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 3.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 16 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

As compared with a month ago there was no considerable change in the number employed in any department, but the amount of wages paid showed a marked decrease in the weaving and "other" departments. As compared with a year ago there was a general decrease in both numbers employed and wages paid, most marked in the case of the wages in the weaving department, which declined 18.8 per cent.

As compared with a month ago there was no marked change in any district in the number employed, but the amount of wages paid showed a decrease in every

district except Bolton and Manchester; the greatest decreases being in the Stockport and in the Burnley and Nelson districts. As compared with a year ago the numbers employed and wages paid decreased in every district. In the Oldham, Manchester, Burnley and Yorkshire districts the wages paid decreased over 20.0 per cent., and in five other districts the decrease exceeded 12.0 per cent.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. paid Wages in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Total ... ..	77,105	- 0.0	- 3.2	62,284	- 5.0	- 16.0		

Districts.	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Ashton District ... ..	2,565	- 1.3	- 3.8	2,056	- 6.5	- 13.6		
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde ... ..	6,409	+ 0.3	- 3.4	5,394	- 9.3	- 12.8		
Oldham District ... ..	1,655	- 1.5	- 11.0	1,286	- 4.6	- 23.4		
Bolton and Leigh ... ..	4,542	- 1.3	- 3.1	3,560	+ 4.2	- 7.8		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden Manchester ... ..	7,161	+ 0.2	- 0.2	6,145	- 4.8	- 11.7		
Manchester ... ..	6,096	- 0.2	- 4.9	3,523	+ 0.9	- 24.7		
Freston and Chorley ...	11,134	+ 0.9	- 2.4	8,619	- 3.1	- 12.1		
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen ... ..	11,193	- 1.3	- 1.9	10,642	- 3.9	- 7.3		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson ... ..	13,487	+ 0.9	- 2.7	11,731	- 9.3	- 26.5		
Other Lancashire Towns ...	3,381	- 0.2	- 3.4	2,611	- 2.6	- 12.9		
Yorkshire Towns ... ..	5,278	+ 0.0	- 5.1	4,160	- 6.5	- 20.3		
Other Districts ... ..	4,204	+ 0.4	- 5.9	2,557	- 4.0	- 12.0		
Total ... ..	77,105	- 0.0	- 3.2	62,284	- 5.0	- 16.0		

The remaining firms usually furnishing monthly returns to the Department only gave employment to 4,556 workpeople in the week ended October 24th, 1908, as compared with 42,413 workpeople in the week ended September 19th, 1908, and 44,108, in October, 1907.

**Raw Cotton.**

**American Cotton.**—During the month of October the average price of raw cotton "midding American" at Liverpool was 5.02d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 5.18d. per lb. and the lowest 4.95d. The price for September, 1908, was 5.36d. per lb., and for October, 1907, 6.40d. per lb. For the period from November 1st to 10th, the average price of "midding American" was 5.04d. per lb.

**Egyptian Cotton.**—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during October averaged 7.38d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.7d. and the lowest 7.1d. per lb. The price for September, 1908, was 7.15d. per lb., and for October, 1907, 9.59d. per lb. For the period from November 1st to 10th, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 7.50d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on November 6th, 1908, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 631,080 bales, as compared with 740,880 bales on November 8th, 1907.

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

Description of Cotton.	October, 1908.	Sept., 1908.	October, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American ... ..	Bales. 154,786	Bales. 159,252	Bales. 244,832	- 4,466	- 90,046
Brazilian ... ..	9,108	7,659	18,221	+ 1,449	- 9,113
East Indian ... ..	2,935	4,868	5,355	- 1,933	- 2,420
Egyptian ... ..	9,065	15,352	26,164	- 6,287	- 17,099
Miscellaneous ... ..	5,400	4,839	8,817	+ 561	- 3,417
Total ... ..	181,294	191,970	303,389	- 10,676	- 122,095

**Exports of Cotton Goods.**

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

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1908, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
<b>Cotton Yarn and Twist—</b>					
Grey ... ..	13,465	15,344	19,123	- 1,879	- 5,658
Bleached and Dyed ... ..	3,299	3,438	2,713	+ 159	+ 586
Total ... ..	16,764	18,802	21,836	- 2,068	- 5,072
<b>Cotton Piece Goods—</b>					
Grey or Unbleached ... ..	163,501	173,922	184,516	- 10,421	- 21,015
Bleached ... ..	131,453	119,312	145,121	+ 12,111	- 13,668
Printed ... ..	80,185	83,131	93,251	- 2,946	- 13,066
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn ... ..	80,548	83,881	98,763	- 3,333	- 18,215
Total ... ..	455,687	460,276	521,681	- 4,589	- 65,994

**WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.**

(Based on 405 Returns—381 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 15 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

**Woollen Trade.**

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 29,010 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Huddersfield district employment continued fair, but it was not so good as a year ago; some overtime and nightwork were again reported. In the Leeds district employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. In the Dewsbury and Batley district there was a decline in the spinning branch, but employment in the weaving branch continued fair. Employment was reported as good at Selkirk, fair at Galashiels, and slack at Hawick.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting ... ..	651	+ 0.2	- 3.7	601	+ 1.5	- 4.1		
Spinning ... ..	5,786	- 0.9	- 3.6	5,078	- 0.4	- 7.7		
Weaving ... ..	12,392	+ 1.6	- 3.7	10,083	- 0.5	- 8.4		
Other Departments ... ..	8,118	+ 0.3	- 0.9	8,911	- 0.4	- 4.6		
Unspecified ... ..	2,063	+ 0.8	- 0.1	1,859	+ 0.1	- 5.7		
Total ... ..	29,010	+ 0.7	- 2.6	25,632	- 0.4	- 6.8		

Districts.	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Huddersfield District ...	4,680	+ 0.1	- 5.0	4,989	+ 0.5	- 10.8		
Leeds District ... ..	3,838	+ 0.3	- 7.0	3,217	+ 0.6	- 9.2		
Dewsbury & Batley District	4,906	+ 0.4	- 2.1	4,736	- 1.4	- 5.8		
Other Parts of West Riding	2,127	+ 2.3	+ 0.6	1,865	+ 2.5	- 1.7		
Total, West Riding ... ..	15,551	+ 0.5	- 3.9	14,839	+ 0.1	- 7.8		
Scotland ... ..	6,900	+ 1.6	- 2.8	5,800	- 0.9	- 7.1		
Other Districts ... ..	6,559	+ 0.2	+ 0.5	4,913	- 1.2	- 3.4		
Total, Woollen ... ..	29,010	+ 0.7	- 2.6	25,632	- 0.4	- 6.8		

**Worsted Trade.**

Employment was quiet, and worse than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 49,396 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Bradford district employment continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. In the Keighley and Halifax districts it showed a decline. In the Huddersfield district employment was fair. Some short time was reported in all the above districts.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting & Combing ...	5,405	- 1.9	- 3.1	5,211	- 2.3	- 6.6		
Spinning ... ..	26,961	+ 0.5	- 0.0	14,436	- 1.1	- 4.1		
Weaving ... ..	9,764	+ 2.2	- 7.3	8,280	+ 0.8	- 11.4		
Other Departments ... ..	5,834	- 0.8	- 1.9	5,650	+ 0.7	- 4.9		
Unspecified ... ..	1,432	+ 0.1	- 5.2	958	+ 0.8	- 13.0		
Total ... ..	49,396	+ 0.4	- 2.3	34,455	- 0.8	- 6.7		

Districts.	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Bradford District ... ..	24,341	+ 0.9	- 3.9	16,712	- 0.4	- 9.0		
Keighley District ... ..	6,927	+ 0.4	- 1.0	5,032	- 1.7	- 6.5		
Halifax District ... ..	5,487	- 0.3	+ 2.1	3,409	- 1.9	- 1.9		
Huddersfield District ...	5,599	- 0.4	- 0.9	4,981	- 1.7	- 4.9		
Other Parts of West Riding	3,313	+ 0.6	- 0.5	1,985	- 0.9	- 4.6		
Total, West Riding ... ..	45,711	+ 0.5	- 2.1	32,119	- 2.1	- 7.0		
Other Districts ... ..	3,685	- 0.0	- 3.8	2,336	+ 2.6	- 2.0		
Total, Worsted ... ..	49,396	+ 0.4	- 2.3	34,455	- 0.8	- 6.7		

**Prices of Raw Material.**

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

Average Prices:	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Pence per lb.		
				8	12	15
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	9 1/2	10 1/2	10 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2
40's Crossbred tops ... ..	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2

Course of Prices during the month:	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Pence per lb.		
				8	12	15
Lincoln Hogs ... ..	8	8 1/2	8	12	12	12
40's Crossbred tops ... ..	10, 9 1/2	10 1/2, 10	10 1/2, 10 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2	15 1/2
60's Super Botany tops ...	23 1/2, 23	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2

**Imports and Exports.**

**Imports and Exports.**—The following Table shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of woollen and worsted yarns and piece goods, for the months stated.

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS').</b>					
Imports ... ..	30,128	31,894	30,955	- 4,766	- 827
British Exports ... ..	4,439	4,065	2,809	+ 374	+ 1,630
Re-Exports of Imported Wool ... ..	36,170	6,872	19,376	+ 29,298	+ 16,794
<b>British and Irish Manufactures Exported.</b>					
Woolen ... ..	136	149	217	- 13	- 91
Worsted ... ..	4,434	4,147	4,959	+ 287	- 525
Alpaca & Mohair ... ..	1,270	1,293	1,695	- 23	- 425
Total, Yarn ... ..	5,840	5,589	6,881	+ 251	- 1,041
<b>Piece Goods:</b>					
Woolen ... ..	4				



Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing ...	6,185	+ 0.5	- 0.6	2,974	+ 0.6	- 14.7
Spinning ...	11,804	+ 0.1	+ 1.1	4,955	+ 0.5	- 14.8
Weaving ...	14,774	+ 0.8	- 3.6	8,373	+ 1.4	- 16.3
Other ...	7,035	+ 1.1	- 1.1	5,272	+ 2.9	- 6.8
Not specified ...	6,723	+ 1.8	+ 0.3	3,470	- 2.3	- 15.6
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>46,521</b>	<b>+ 0.8</b>	<b>- 1.1</b>	<b>25,042</b>	<b>+ 0.9</b>	<b>- 13.9</b>

In the Belfast district employment continued bad, and much short time was worked. In the other parts of Ireland employment was still very slack, but showed a slight improvement compared with September. In Fifehire employment was slack; in the other parts of Scotland there was a slight improvement.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and piece goods, for the months stated:—

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Cordilla) ... Tons	4,106	4,768	3,703	- 662	+ 403
<b>Exports:</b>					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	12,319	10,578	14,619	+ 1,741	- 2,300
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	148,087	126,624	158,924	+ 21,463	- 10,837

**JUTE TRADE.**

(Based on 34 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was not so good as a year ago. Some short time was reported.

Returns from firms employing 18,079 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,079 workpeople covered by the Returns, 15,613 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
Preparing ...	4,264	- 1.5	- 3.2	2,750	+ 1.0	- 3.2
Spinning ...	5,194	- 1.1	- 0.2	3,184	+ 0.6	- 1.1
Weaving ...	5,817	+ 0.2	- 5.7	4,208	- 1.0	- 7.6
Other ...	1,947	+ 0.1	- 3.6	1,969	- 0.2	- 4.5
Not specified ...	877	- 2.4	- 2.3	515	- 2.4	- 22.3
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>18,079</b>	<b>- 0.4</b>	<b>- 2.8</b>	<b>12,626</b>	<b>- 1.2</b>	<b>- 5.3</b>

Compared with a month ago the amount of wages paid showed a slight increase in the preparing and spinning departments, but a decline in the weaving and other departments. Compared with a year ago the number employed and the amount of wages paid showed a decline in every department.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and piece goods for the months stated.

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Jute ... Tons	35,224	14,118	35,201	+ 21,106	+ 23
<b>Exports:</b>					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	36,471	45,434	52,866	- 8,963	- 16,395
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	186,278	182,917	173,508	+ 3,361	+ 10,770

**LACE TRADE.**

(Based on 93 Returns—84 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate, but showed an improvement compared with a month ago; it was worse than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 8,714 workpeople in the week ended October 24th, showed an increase of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 4.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 11.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Description.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Branches.</b>						
Livers ...	2,254	+ 2.7	- 12.2	2,643	+ 7.7	- 20.6
Curtain ...	2,642	+ 0.3	- 0.1	2,546	+ 0.8	- 1.7
Plain Net ...	2,893	+ 0.8	- 1.6	2,171	+ 1.9	- 9.0
Others ...	925	+ 5.4	- 7.4	645	+ 4.4	- 10.5
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,714</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>- 4.8</b>	<b>8,005</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>	<b>- 11.3</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
Nottingham City ...	2,020	+ 1.3	- 8.4	1,787	+ 3.5	- 13.6
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,441	+ 3.9	- 4.3	1,806	+ 7.1	- 12.8
Other English districts	3,385	+ 1.7	- 5.4	2,729	+ 4.6	- 14.0
Scotland ...	1,868	+ 0.1	+ 0.2	1,683	- 1.4	- 1.7
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,714</b>	<b>+ 1.6</b>	<b>- 4.8</b>	<b>8,005</b>	<b>+ 3.6</b>	<b>- 11.3</b>

At Nottingham employment was reported as bad in the levers branch, fair in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch; some short time was still worked, but an improvement was shown as compared with September. In the Long Eaton district and in the West of England employment showed an improvement. In Scotland employment was fair, but showed a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the values of lace imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Silk Lace ...	24,312	17,926	24,632	+ 6,386	+ 9,680
<b>Exports:</b>					
Cotton Lace ...	200,544	282,832	405,197	+ 7,712	- 114,653
Silk Lace ...	8,766	10,459	9,309	- 1,693	- 543

**SILK TRADE.**

(Based on 56 Returns—54 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,506 workpeople, and paying £5,568 in wages in the week ended October 24th, showed that, as compared with a month ago, there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 6.3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 8.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Description.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Branches.</b>						
Throwing ...	987	- 1.8	- 18.4	398	- 3.2	- 16.9
Spinning ...	2,728	- 0.5	- 3.4	1,995	- 0.3	- 6.1
Weaving ...	3,500	- 0.1	- 8.3	2,466	- 0.4	- 12.9
Other ...	1,291	+ 7.1	+ 7.2	939	+ 2.4	+ 1.2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>- 6.3</b>	<b>5,568</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>- 8.8</b>
<b>Districts.</b>						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,327	- 1.4	- 6.0	4,471	+ 0.9	- 6.5
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	955	+ 1.8	- 5.7	664	- 0.3	- 6.7
Eastern Counties ...	2,373	+ 4.1	- 3.6	1,343	+ 1.3	- 9.1
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,851	- 0.9	- 8.3	1,090	- 3.6	- 14.2
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>8,506</b>	<b>+ 0.6</b>	<b>- 6.3</b>	<b>5,568</b>	<b>- 0.1</b>	<b>- 8.8</b>

At Macclesfield employment was moderate with throwsters and fair with spinners; it was fair with powerloom weavers and outside handloom weavers, and good with handloom weavers in factories, and showed some improvement as compared with September. At Leek and Congleton employment was bad generally, and much short time was worked. It was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. In the Eastern Counties employment though still dull showed some improvement as compared with a month ago; it remained worse than a year ago.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated.

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Raw Silk ... Lbs	104,962	132,895	181,091	- 27,933	- 76,129
Thrown Silk ...	41,477	37,632	52,873	+ 3,845	- 11,396
Spun Silk Yarn ...	29,943	22,806	22,940	+ 7,137	+ 7,003
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,496,441	5,654,086	5,686,445	- 157,645	- 190,004
<b>Exports:</b>					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs	4,647	5,638	3,696	- 991	+ 951
Spun Silk Yarn ...	44,972	44,749	87,993	+ 223	- 43,021
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	495,936	383,955	386,757	+ 22,881	+ 19,179

**HOSIERY TRADE.**

(Based on 111 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; in Scotland it continued good, and was slightly better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 18,399 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease of 1.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago; at Hinckley it was quiet in some departments, and moderate in others; at Loughborough it was fair. With power-frame workers at Nottingham and in Derbyshire employment continued moderate, and was worse than a year ago; some short time was reported; with hand-frame workers in the country districts employment continued moderate. In Scotland employment continued good, and was slightly better than a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
Leicester ...	8,832	- 1.1	- 2.6	6,627	- 3.7	- 6.6
Leicester Country District ...	2,400	+ 0.1	- 1.7	1,805	- 3.6	- 6.7
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	3,998	- 1.1	- 3.4	3,023	+ 2.1	- 2.4
Scotland ...	2,393	+ 0.2	+ 3.2	1,642	- 0.2	+ 0.4
Other Districts ...	866	+ 2.0	- 3.1	596	- 4.8	- 9.3
<b>Total, United Kingdom</b>	<b>18,399</b>	<b>- 0.6</b>	<b>- 1.8</b>	<b>13,693</b>	<b>- 2.1</b>	<b>- 5.0</b>

The Imports (less re-exports) of woollen and cotton hosiery in October, 1908, amounted to £35,889 and £114,486 respectively, as compared with £35,823 and £149,257 in September, 1908, and £30,290 and £113,620 in October, 1907.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in October, 1908, amounted to £80,441 and £30,231 respectively, as compared with £109,294 and £35,724 in September, 1908, and £121,234 and £43,071 in October, 1907.

**OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.**

(Based on 57 Returns—21 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 23 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

**Carpet Trade.**

Employment in this industry continued bad, and much short time was worked. It showed a slight improvement on a month ago, but was worse than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 5,239 workpeople and paying £4,043 in wages in the week ended October 24th, showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 5.1 per cent. in the number employed and of 11.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

**Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.**

**Woollen and Worsted Dyers.**—Employment in the West Riding continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. The majority of the Trade Union dyers worked short time.

**Cotton Dyers.**—Employment continued bad, and was worse than a year ago; it was affected by the dispute in the cotton trade.

**Silk Dyers.**—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield, and fair at Leek.

**Calico Printers, &c.**—Employment generally with machine calico printers continued slack, and was worse than a year ago; much short time was reported. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago. In Glasgow it continued bad with calico printers and engravers; with block printers it was good.

**Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.**—At Hinckley employment continued bad; at Loughborough much short time was reported. With dyers at Nottingham employment was reported as good; with bleachers at Basford it was quiet; with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was moderate; on the whole employment in Nottinghamshire was better than a month ago, but not so good as a year ago.

*Calenderers, &c.*—At Glasgow employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago. At Dundee it was reported as fair with bleachfield workers, and slack with calender workers.

**TAILORING TRADE.**

(Based on 124 Returns—92 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in both the *bespoke* and *ready-made* branches was dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

**Bespoke Branch.**

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

Firms paying £11,252 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended October 24th showed an increase of 15.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

*Other Centres.*—Employment was reported as dull at Liverpool, Dublin, and Belfast, slack at Edinburgh, and bad at Glasgow.

**Ready-made Branch.**

*London.*—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

*Leeds.*—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 5,876 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment with Jewish operatives showed a decline, the majority working short time.

*Other Centres.*—Employment was dull at Manchester, Bristol, Norwich, and Glasgow, and worse than a year ago.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in October, 1908, were valued at £277,333, as compared with £302,192 in September, 1908, and £303,858 in October, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months at £387,041, £414,023, and £423,120 respectively.

**HAT TRADE.**

(Based on 15 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, and 12 from Trade Unions.)

EMPLOYMENT during October in the *Silk* hat trade continued bad, and was worse than a year ago. In the *Felt* hat trade it continued quiet, and was worse than a year ago.

In the *Silk* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 16.5, compared with 16.2 a month ago, and 12.1 a year ago.

In the *Felt* hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 2.9, compared with 3.0 a month ago, and 2.6 a year ago. Employment was quiet at Denton and bad at Stockport, with much short time. In Warwickshire it was fairly good, but not so good as a year ago.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
All kinds ... ..	25,559	25,174	28,140	+ 385	- 2,581
<b>Exports:</b>					
Felt ... ..	39,808	45,873	42,751	- 6,275	- 3,153
Straw ... ..	21,664	30,935	36,928	+ 1,729	+ 4,264
Other Sorts ... ..	8,132	8,707	4,435	- 575	+ 3,697
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>80,394</b>	<b>85,515</b>	<b>84,114</b>	<b>- 5,121</b>	<b>- 3,720</b>

**BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.**

(Based on 500 Returns—482 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondents, 6 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued moderate during October. It showed little change compared with a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 62,964 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. both in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Leicester was bad, and much short time was worked. There was, however, some improvement as compared with a month ago. At Northampton employment continued quiet; at Kettering it was slack, and worse, on the whole, than in September; with army bootmakers it was also worse. At Bristol employment was worse than both a month ago and a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood employment was fairly good. At Leeds, though still moderate, it was better than a month ago. In Scotland employment was fair, and better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Per cent.
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London ... ..	2,469	- 0.3	2,534	- 2.8	- 3.9	
Leicester ... ..	13,323	+ 1.1	12,855	+ 3.7	+ 3.9	
Leicester Country District ... ..	3,246	+ 1.9	2,848	+ 0.1	- 2.8	
Northampton ... ..	6,624	- 0.6	8,848	- 2.9	+ 0.8	
Northampton Country District ... ..	8,915	- 0.6	8,419	+ 1.9	- 0.5	
Kettering ... ..	3,669	+ 0.1	3,546	- 2.3	+ 1.5	
Stafford & District ... ..	2,349	+ 0.6	1,954	- 0.7	+ 1.7	
Norwich & District ... ..	3,269	+ 0.7	2,765	...	+ 1.5	
Bristol & District ... ..	1,781	- 4.1	1,622	- 4.4	- 2.5	
Kingswood ... ..	1,993	+ 0.3	1,913	- 1.9	- 0.4	
Leeds & District ... ..	1,983	+ 0.3	1,750	+ 4.8	- 1.5	
Manchester & District ... ..	2,785	+ 0.8	2,576	- 2.4	- 1.0	
Birmingham & District ... ..	821	- 1.6	647	- 6.2	+ 0.5	
Other parts of England and Wales ... ..	2,660	+ 0.5	2,247	- 0.7	+ 1.2	
ENGLAND & WALES ... ..	58,795	+ 0.2	54,564	...	+ 0.7	
SCOTLAND ... ..	3,873	+ 0.9	3,693	+ 2.3	+ 2.8	
IRELAND ... ..	256	+ 0.7	224	- 1.3	+ 7.7	
UNITED KINGDOM ... ..	62,964	+ 0.2	58,481	+ 0.2	+ 0.9	

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

	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports (less Re-Exports)</b>					
Quantity ... ..	48,219	31,396	36,899	+ 16,823	+ 11,320
Value ... ..	104,514	72,942	96,114	+ 31,572	+ 8,400
<b>Exports (British and Irish)</b>					
Quantity ... ..	108,674	90,259	102,634	+ 18,403	+ 5,988
Value ... ..	246,708	210,024	228,197	+ 36,744	+ 20,571

NOTE.—For imports of hides and of leather see below under "Other Leather Trades," p. 351.

**OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.**

(Based on 176 Returns—166 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the retail dressmaking trade was fair, and better than a year ago; in the court dress making trade it was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades in London it was fairly good, and better than a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was considerably worse than a year ago; it was fairly good in the corset trade.

*Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.*—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,740 dressmakers in the week ended October 24th, showed an increase of 8.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers employing 1,133 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed an increase of 9.4 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 8.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate. With milliners in the West-End employment was good.

In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, under-clothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,425 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 2.6 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good, and better than a year ago.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed a considerable decrease in the demand for dressmakers and milliners, and a slight decrease in the supply compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was fairly good, and about the same as a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade firms employing 1,748 workpeople in the week ended October 24th showed a decrease of 1.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but an increase of 5.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fair, but not so good as a year ago.

*Shirt and Collar Trade.*—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,409 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers), and paying £4,095 in wages, in the week ended October 24th, showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 9.5 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

*Corset Trade.*—Returns received from corset manufacturers, employing 3,129 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended October 24th, showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

**OTHER LEATHER TRADES.**

(Based on 41 Returns—25 from Trade Unions and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,403 had 8.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 8.2 per cent. at the end of September, and 4.9 per cent. a year ago.

*Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers.*—Employment with skinner showed an improvement, and was good at Birmingham and Leeds, moderate in London. With curriers it continued bad in London and Birmingham, but was fair at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Leeds. With leather workers generally employment was quiet at Leeds; slack at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan; bad at Manchester.

*Saddle and Harness Makers.*—With saddlers and harness makers employment was bad at Walsall. It was also bad in London with harness makers, but showed some improvement with brown saddlers. At Glasgow and Dublin it was fair generally.

*Miscellaneous Leather Trades.*—With fancy leather workers employment continued bad generally; but was good with fancy leather and morocco finishers in London. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment was fair in London, and bad at Manchester.

**Imports and Exports.**

The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	October, 1908.	Sept., 1908.	October, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Imports:—</b>					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	37,653	40,245	27,552	- 2,592	+ 10,101
Ditto, wet ... ..	49,303	57,190	60,113	- 7,887	- 10,810
Total, hides, dry and wet	86,956	97,435	87,665	- 10,479	- 709
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	1,382,755	1,124,077	766,026	+ 258,678	+ 616,729
Sheep skins, (value) £	206,834	198,977	356,180	+ 7,857	- 149,346
<b>Leather* ... ..</b>	<b>103,871</b>	<b>98,205</b>	<b>110,436</b>	<b>+ 5,666</b>	<b>- 6,565</b>
<b>Exports:—</b>					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	43,836	33,158	60,538	+ 10,678	- 16,702

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

(Based on 403 Returns—111 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 272 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 20 from Local Correspondents.)

**PAPER TRADES.**

Employment in these trades continued moderate on the whole, and was worse than a year ago, short time being worked at a number of mills.

Returns received from firms employing 22,863 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from employers:—

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of October, 1908, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties ... ..	6,619	- 0.3	+ 0.2
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ... ..	1,913	- 3.0	- 3.7
Southern Counties ... ..	7,318	+ 1.2	+ 8.4
Scotland ... ..	6,153	+ 1.1	+ 0.7
<b>Total, Machine-made Paper, &amp;c.</b>	<b>22,003</b>	<b>+ 0.4</b>	<b>+ 2.6</b>
Hand-made Paper ... ..	860	- 0.1	- 0.9
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>22,863</b>	<b>+ 0.3</b>	<b>+ 2.4</b>

Trade Unions in the *machine-made paper* trade with 1,720 members had 3.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 2.8 per cent. a month ago and 1.6 per cent. a year ago. In the *hand-made paper* trade, Trade Unions with 584 members had 6.5 per cent. unemployed, compared with 6.0 per cent. a month ago, and 6.1 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of paper in October, 1908, amounted to £495,235, as compared with £488,537 in September, 1908, and £547,126 in October, 1907; and the **Exports** for the same months amounted to £195,655, £179,531, and £213,979, respectively.

**PRINTING TRADES.**

Employment in these trades was slack, and worse than a year ago, but showed a seasonal improvement compared with September.

*London.*—Employment was slack generally and worse than a year ago. With letterpress printers, however, it was much better than a month ago. Machine managers remained fairly well employed. At the end of October

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

6.3 per cent. of the Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 9.0 per cent. a month ago and 6.0 per cent. in October, 1907.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	20,459	6.3	9.0	6.0	- 2.7	+ 0.3
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,381	6.1	6.2	3.0	- 0.1	+ 3.1
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,668	5.8	6.0	5.2	- 0.2	+ 0.6
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,395	4.2	4.8	2.7	- 0.6	+ 1.5
West Midlands ... ..	2,559	5.3	5.4	4.6	- 0.1	+ 0.7
S. & S.W. Counties and Wales	3,665	3.6	4.6	2.4	- 1.0	+ 1.2
Scotland ... ..	5,476	4.4	4.8	2.5	- 0.4	+ 1.9
Ireland ... ..	2,465	10.9	11.1	10.1	- 0.2	+ 0.8
United Kingdom	49,068	5.9	7.2	4.9	- 1.3	+ 1.0

**Other Centres.**—Employment was slack on the whole; rather better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. With letterpress printers at Newcastle, Leeds, Hull, and Derby it was worse than a month ago. At Edinburgh none of the Trade Union compositors were unemployed at the end of the month, but machine managers showed a slight decline in employment. At Aberdeen, Dundee, Bolton, Sheffield, and Nottingham, and in the Eastern Counties employment was good at the end of the month. With lithographic printers employment was much worse than a year ago.

**BOOKBINDING TRADES.**

Employment was slack generally. It was better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1908, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ... ..	3,580	4.6	6.6	3.0	- 2.0	+ 1.6
Other Districts	3,188	6.6	8.0	4.0	- 1.4	+ 2.6
United Kingdom	6,768	5.5	7.2	3.5	- 1.7	+ 2.0

**BUILDING TRADES.**

(Based on 1,740 Returns—759 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 924 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 57 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in October continued slack, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.				Labourers.			
	No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Oct.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		No. of Work-people paid wages on the last pay-day of Oct.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with			
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
London ... ..	6,981	- 714	- 571	4,702	- 592	- 231		
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,190	- 108	- 385	1,753	- 115	- 344		
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,823	- 151	+ 9	3,338	- 167	- 29		
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,388	- 322	- 104	2,012	- 219	- 27		
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	2,955	- 157	- 182	1,643	- 187	- 557		
England and Wales ... ..	18,337	- 1,452	- 1,233	13,458	- 1,280	- 1,178		
Scotland ... ..	2,908	- 222	- 134	1,552	- 204	- 161		
Ireland ... ..	491	- 40	- 317	630	+ 6	- 168		
United Kingdom	21,736	- 1,714	- 1,684	15,640	- 1,478	- 1,507		

District.	Lads and Boys.			Total.
	No.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.	
London ... ..	534	+ 24	- 84	12,317
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	486	- 10	- 84	4,429
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	958	+ 8	+ 5	8,129
Midland & Eastern Counties	340	- 3	- 20	4,780
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	438	- 8	- 68	5,036
England and Wales ... ..	2,766	+ 11	- 167	34,861
Scotland ... ..	645	- 22	- 108	8,105
Ireland ... ..	71	- 12	- 2	1,192
United Kingdom	3,482	- 23	- 277	40,888

Returns received from 693 firms employing 40,858 workpeople at the end of October and summarised in the preceding Table show that there was a decrease in the number employed in every district compared with both a month ago and a year ago, the total decrease in the number of skilled tradesmen employed being 7.3 per cent. compared with a month ago, and 7.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; while in the case of labourers the decrease amounted to 8.6 per cent. compared with September, 1908, and to 8.8 per cent. compared with October, 1907.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of October was 12.5, as compared with 11.0 a month ago and 7.1 a year ago; and for plumbers, at the same dates, the percentages were 12.8, 11.7, and 8.3 respectively.

**London.**—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Union Returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district show that 15.3 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 12.0 per cent. a month ago, and 10.6 per cent. in October, 1907. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 17.0, 13.2, and 14.9 respectively.

**Other Districts.**—Employment continued slack in nearly all districts and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. It was moderate, however, at Oldham, and with plumbers at Bolton and Blackburn. It showed an improvement with bricklayers at Sunderland, Middlesbrough, Ipswich and Cardiff, and was reported as fair with masons at Dundee, in Derbyshire, and at Bristol and Cardiff. Carpenters and joiners reported a slight improvement at Manchester, and were fairly well employed at Dundee.

**FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.**

(Based on 189 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 154 from Trade Unions, and 31 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT showed a further decline, and was bad; it was much worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 35,230 reported 9.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 9.1 per cent. a month ago, and 5.2 per cent. a year ago.

**Furnishing Trades.**

Employment generally was bad with cabinet makers, upholsterers and french polishers, it was worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Much short time was worked. Trade Unions reported 12.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 11.0 per cent. a month ago and 6.7 per cent. a year ago. With cabinet makers at Nottingham there was some improvement.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in October, 1908, were valued at £36,360, as compared with £25,898 in September, 1908, and £41,994 in October, 1907, and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £69,224, £63,445, and £101,636 respectively.

**Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.**

Employment continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 10.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 9.8 per cent. a month ago, and 5.3 per cent. a year ago. At Hull employment was reported as fair.

**Imports.**—The Table below shows the quantities of hewn and sawn timber, and the values of house frames, &c., imported for the months stated.

Description.	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn ... ..	85,149	89,868	86,918	- 3,719	- 769
" sawn ... ..	766,878	739,605	884,155	+ 27,273	- 117,277
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 20,640	£ 17,650	£ 20,112	+ £ 3,010	+ £ 528

**Coopers.**

Employment on the whole was fair, but not so good as either a month ago or a year ago. It was reported as bad at Burton and Liverpool.

**Coachbuilding.**

Employment generally continued bad, and worse than a month ago. Trade Unions reported 9.6 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, compared with 9.0 per cent. a month ago, and 5.4 per cent. a year ago.

**Miscellaneous.**

**Brushmakers.**—Employment was bad on the whole, but showed some improvement on the previous month; it was considerably worse than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 9.5 per cent. a month ago, and 2.2 per cent. a year ago.

**Other Trades.**—Employment was bad with packing-case makers. It remained bad with basket makers generally, and with skipmakers at Oldham.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in October, 1908, were valued at £30,234, as compared with £26,743 in September, 1908, and £31,027 in October, 1907; and the Exports for the same periods at £16,166, £16,321, and £19,494 respectively.

**GLASS TRADES.**

(Based on 93 Returns—60 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 23 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the glass trades continued bad, and was considerably worse than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 7,295 workpeople in the week ended October 24th, and paying £8,706 in wages, showed a decrease of 3.6 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 2.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The decline was principally in Yorkshire.

As compared with a year ago there were decreases of 12.1 per cent. in numbers employed and of 11.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the decline being most marked in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.				Earnings.			
	Number paid Wages in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 24th, 1908.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with			
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
Glass Bottles ... ..	4,439	- 56	- 153	5,393	- 41	- 149		
Plate Glass ... ..	688	- 24	- 186	865	- 35	- 112		
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	1,808	+ 0.4	- 1.0	2,624	+ 2.8	+ 0.8		
Other Branches ... ..	360	- 0.3	- 3.2	424	- 0.9	- 5.7		
Total ... ..	7,295	- 3.6	- 12.1	8,706	- 2.3	- 11.1		

Districts.	No. of Work-people	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a year ago.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
North of England	765	+ 3.5	- 5.8	918	+ 10.3	- 7.6
Yorkshire ... ..	3,638	- 7.0	- 14.1	4,352	- 6.1	- 15.1
Lancashire ... ..	673	- 1.5	- 22.0	742	- 4.5	- 16.5
Worcester and Warwick	1,202	- 2.0	- 7.3	1,522	+ 0.5	- 2.3
Scotland ... ..	688	+ 1.0	- 10.5	844	- 0.5	- 7.0
Other parts of the United Kingdom	329	...	+ 1.2	323	+ 0.5	+ 0.9
Total ... ..	7,295	- 3.6	- 12.1	8,706	- 2.3	- 11.1

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol; fair in the North of England and at Dublin; moderate at Leeds and in Scotland; slack at Mexborough and Barnsley; bad at Castleford and Wakefield; and very bad in Lancashire. With medical glass bottle makers employment was fair at Rotherham and quiet at Leeds. With flint glass makers employment was fair on the whole; in Scotland it was good. With flint glass cutters employment was moderate. Employment with plate glass bevellers at Birmingham was bad. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it was fair. With pressed glass makers it was moderate on the Wear, and very bad on the Tyne, short time being general. Employment with London glass blowers continued to decline. With decorative glass workers employment was bad at Manchester and fair at Liverpool.

**Imports and Exports.**—The Table below shows the quantities of the various descriptions of glass imported and exported during the months stated:—

Description.	October, 1908.	Sept., 1908.	October, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1908, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
<b>Imports:</b>					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 109,171	cwts. 96,360	cwts. 130,735	+ 12,811	- 21,564
Plate ... ..	30,413	25,565	28,219	+ 4,848	+ 2,194
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	64,331	66,607	75,006	- 2,276	- 10,675
Manufactures, other sorts...	354	223	663	+ 131	- 614
Bottles ... ..	93,388	112,122	123,903	- 18,734	- 30,515
<b>Exports:</b>					
Plate ... ..	cwts. 18,027	cwts. 18,350	cwts. 12,248	- 323	+ 5,779
Flint ... ..	6,624	5,418	6,670	+ 1,206	- 46
Manufactures, other sorts ...	44,673	46,487	41,488	- 1,814	+ 3,185
Bottles ... ..	65,825	60,115	79,205	+ 5,710	- 13,380

**POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.**

(Based on 25 Returns—5 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 8 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trades continued bad, and was much worse than a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was very bad. Much short time was worked.

**Pottery Trade.**—Employment in Staffordshire continued bad, short time being general. At Glasgow it was very bad, and worse than in the previous month. It was fair in Devonshire and at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and good at Portobello and Kirkcaldy. With earthenware makers in South Yorkshire employment continued bad. It was also bad with makers of china at Longton. With insulator turners and throwers in the Potteries employment was bad, much short time being worked. With clay tobacco-pipe makers employment was good at Manchester, quiet at Gateshead, and bad at Glasgow.

**Brick and Tile Trades.**—Employment was good in South Wales and Monmouthshire. It was fair at Wrexham, but at Ruabon it showed a decline. In the Tees and Hartlepoons district it was moderate. Employment was bad at Peterborough and Sheffield and in South Staffordshire, and dull in Norfolk, Cambridge, and Bedfordshire. In Leicestershire it was slack. It was also slack in Shropshire and at Stourbridge. It was very dull in Devonshire, and quiet in Suffolk and Essex and at Birmingham. At Nottingham it was bad.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in October, 1908, were valued at £82,068, as compared with £74,734 in September, 1908, and £88,434 in October, 1907; and the Exports for the same months at £198,321, £165,998, and £256,257 respectively.

**AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.**

(Based on 212 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

There was little or no interruption to employment in October from the weather, which was fine on the whole. The demand for extra labour was fairly good, but it was generally fully met by the supply, and in several districts there was some surplus; in certain districts in the Eastern Counties, however, there was not a sufficient number of men for potato digging.

**Northern Counties.**—There was a fairly good demand for extra labour in Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire, chiefly for potato lifting, but the supply was sufficient. Employment was generally regular in Yorkshire, where there was a good deal of employment on the potato and mangel crops; in some districts, however, day labourers were not able to get regular work.

**Midland Counties.**—Employment was regular in Cheshire, where there was a fairly evenly balanced supply of and demand for labour. Work on the potato and mangel crops and threshing caused a good and constant demand for extra men in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, which was fully met by the supply. Employment was regular in Staffordshire, but day labourers tended to be somewhat in excess of the demand. There was a good demand for extra labour in Shropshire, and a correspondent in the Wellington Union reports that more men would have been employed if they could have been obtained. There was generally regular employment in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, though a few day labourers were reported as in irregular work. Lifting potatoes and mangels and carting manure afforded a good deal of employment to day labourers in Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire; the supply of this class of labour was said to be ample. Employment was fairly regular in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire.

**Eastern Counties.**—There was a good demand for extra men in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, the supply being insufficient in certain districts. Work was plentiful in Lincolnshire on account of threshing, and of the potato and mangel crops. Although many Irish labourers were employed, the supply of extra labour in some districts was not equal to the demand. It was reported that day labourers were also in some demand in certain Unions in Norfolk and Suffolk, but generally speaking the supply of extra men in these counties and in Essex was quite sufficient for requirements.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Raising potatoes and mangels, threshing and hedge trimming caused a fair demand for labour in Kent and Surrey, but the supply was generally in excess of the demand, and there was some irregularity of employment among day labourers. Similar reports come from Sussex and Hampshire. A demand for extra labour was reported from certain districts in Berkshire. In Wiltshire the demand was fair, but in some districts was more than met by the supply. Threshing and other work generally provided regular employment in Dorset. Some interruption to outdoor work due to rain was reported in Somerset, where otherwise employment was regular, and the supply of labour on the whole about equalled the demand. There was generally regularity of employment in Herefordshire. In Gloucestershire there was some irregularity of employment among day labourers, the supply being in excess of the demand. Employment was generally regular in Devonshire and Cornwall, where raising the mangel and potato crops, threshing and hedge trimming caused a demand for extra men in several Unions.

**DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.**

(Based on 136 Returns—116 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

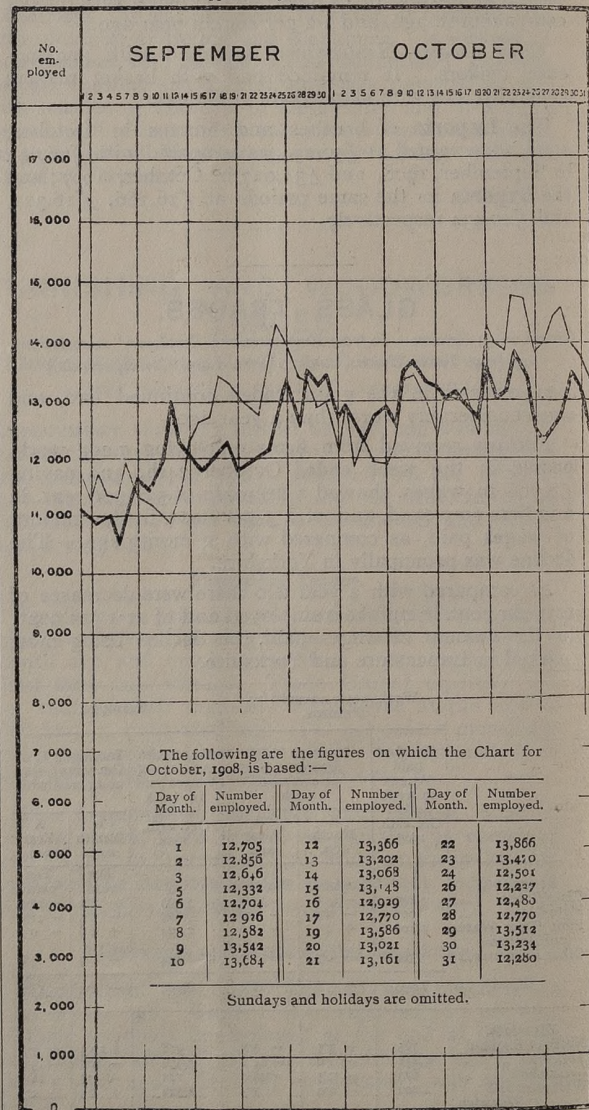
EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole in London and the other principal ports; there was an improvement as compared with a month ago in London and Liverpool.

London.\*—Employment, though moderate generally, was better than a month ago; the improvement was due principally to the wool-sales and to the imports of dried fruit. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended October 31st was 13,029, an increase of 0.8 per cent. as compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 0.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.				
	In Docks*			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Oct. 3rd	4,816	2,193	7,009	6,076	13,085
" " 10th	5,063	1,701	6,764	6,197	12,961
" " 17th	4,774	2,019	6,793	6,287	13,080
" " 24th	4,459	2,421	6,880	6,387	13,267
" " 31st	4,172	2,278	6,450	6,302	12,752
Average for 5 weeks ended Oct. 31st, 1908	4,657	2,122	6,779	6,250	13,029
Average for Sept., 1908	3,947	2,187	6,134	5,734	11,868
Average for Oct., 1907	4,605	2,295	6,900	6,203†	13,103†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of September and October, 1908. The corresponding curve for September and October, 1907, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1908, and the thin curve to 1907.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for October, 1908, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
1	12,705	12	13,366	22	13,866
2	12,856	13	13,202	23	13,470
3	12,616	14	13,068	24	12,501
5	12,332	15	13,148	26	12,227
6	12,704	16	12,929	27	12,480
7	12,916	17	12,770	28	12,770
8	12,382	18	13,356	29	13,512
9	13,522	19	13,021	30	13,234
10	13,684	21	13,161	31	12,280

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

The daily number in October, 1908, ranged from 12,237 on the 26th to 13,866 on the 22nd. During

\* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

**FISHING INDUSTRY.**

(Based on 16 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in October, 1908, showed a decrease in quantity, but an increase in value as compared with October, 1907.

Employment at the principal ports during October was fair generally.

At Yarmouth it was good with all classes of work-people in the industry, and better than a month ago. At Grimsby it was good with fishermen and fish dock labourers, but moderate with fish curers; on the whole it was not so good as either a month ago or a year ago. At Hull employment was moderate generally, and worse than a year ago. At Lowestoft it was fair with all classes, and rather better than a month ago and a year ago. At Aberdeen it continued good; at Macduff it was moderate; at Fraserburgh it was good with fishermen, and moderate in other branches; at Peterhead it was bad with fishermen and fish dock labourers and fair with fish curers. Off the south-west coast of England only moderate catches were made.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in October, 1908 and 1907:—

	Quantity.		Value	
	Oct., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Oct., 1908.	Oct., 1907.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales ...	2,025,044	2,135,648	£ 933,573	£ 891,984
Scotland ...	396,360	303,897	150,000	139,474
Ireland ...	41,599	48,777	17,670	19,567
Total ...	2,463,003	2,590,292	1,101,244	1,051,025
Shell Fish ...	—	—	36,343	40,929
Total Value ...	—	—	1,137,587	1,091,954

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in October, 1908, were valued at £337,992, as compared with £508,788 in September, 1908, and £464,449 in October, 1907.

**TRADE UNIONS IN ITALY IN 1908.**

In the August issue of the *Bolletino dell'Ufficio del Lavoro* (the journal of the Italian Labour Department) are published statistics of Trade Unions in Italy at the beginning of 1908. Twenty-two Trade Federations with 2,550 branches and a membership of 191,599 were in existence at that date, as compared with 21 Trade Federations with 2,045 branches and 204,271 members at the beginning of 1907.

The following Table shows the number of Trade Federations, the number of their branches, and their membership at the beginning of each of these two years:—

Group of Trades.	No. of Trade Federations at the beginning of		No. of Branches at the beginning of		Membership at the beginning of	
	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.	1908.	1907.
Building ...	1	1	474	508	48,877	51,605
Metal and Engineering ...	2	1	100	111	17,110	26,906
Textile ...	1	1	93	69	12,079	9,355
Clothing ...	2	3	109	143	9,042	14,320
Transport ...	1	2*	1,251	717	40,030	57,553
Printing ...	2	2	80	133	13,823	10,593
Woodworking ...	1	1	68	65	3,135	3,114
Chemical, Glass and Pottery	6	5	108	83	11,411	9,381
Food Preparation ...	1	1	103	86	8,136	5,566
Hotels and Restaurants ...	1	†	22	†	5,052	†
State Employees ...	1	1	63	54	17,473	9,587
Other ...	3	3	79	76	5,450	6,287
Total ...	22	21	2,550	2,045	191,599	204,271

Statistics of the organisation of agricultural workers are given separately. At the beginning of 1908 there were 1,809 unions of such workers, with a membership of 425,983, as compared with 1,292 unions with 273,698 members at the beginning of 1907, and 982 unions with 221,913 members in 1906.

\* Including in 1907 (but not in 1908) the federation of seamen, with 17 branches and 15,558 members, which was afterwards dissolved. † Not in existence in 1907.

October, 1907, the numbers ranged from 11,910\* on the 9th to 14,753\* on the 24th.

The mean daily numbers employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,154 during October, as compared with 1,224 during September, and 1,170 during October, 1907.

Employment with dock labourers at the South Docks at Liverpool was slack, but rather better than a month ago; at the North Docks it was fair, and considerably better than a month ago. It was dull with quay and railway carters.

**Other Ports.**—On the Tyne and Wear employment with dock and quayside labourers was worse than a month ago. With dock labourers it continued slack at Hartlepool and moderate at Middlesbrough; with riverside labourers at Middlesbrough it was reported as bad, and worse than a month ago. An improvement took place with dock labourers at Hull and Grimsby, where employment was moderate; at Goole it was bad; with coal porters at these ports employment was fair, and better than a month ago. Employment was fairly good at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Lynn, but dull at Harwich. There was some decline in employment at Plymouth. There was an improvement at Bristol and the South Wales ports, where employment was generally fair. Employment was also fair at Manchester. At Leith employment was slack with dock labourers, but good with coal trimmers; there was an improvement with both sections. An improvement was reported at Dundee, but at Glasgow and Aberdeen employment continued dull. It was slack with dock labourers at Dublin and Belfast.

**SEAMEN SHIPPED IN OCTOBER.**

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

RETURNS from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during October 41,054 seamen†, of whom 4,089 (or 10.0 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with October, 1907, there was a decrease of 1803. There was an increase of 774 at the Tyne Ports, but marked decreases occurred at Liverpool and Glasgow.

For the ten months ended October, 1908, the total number of seamen‡ shipped was 411,146, a decrease of 3,270 as compared with the corresponding period of 1907. The chief increase was at Southampton. At Glasgow, Cardiff, Hull, and Middlesbrough there were large decreases.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen‡ shipped in					
	October,			January-October,		
	1907.	1908.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1908.	1907.	1908.	Inc.(+) or Dec.(-) in 1908.
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	1,857	2,631	+ 774	25,335	25,216	- 119
Sunderland ...	191	291	+ 100	3,828	3,851	+ 23
Middlesbrough ...	485	375	- 111	4,170	2,991	- 1,179
Hull ...	961	950	- 11	12,363	10,557	- 1,806
Grimsby ...	67	56	- 11	1,235	1,707	+ 472
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	739	701	- 38	6,346	6,010	- 336
Newport, Mon. ...	1,052	867	- 185	9,301	9,686	+ 385
Cardiff ...	5,045	4,986	- 60	50,927	48,030	- 2,897
Swansea ...	466	432	- 34	5,020	4,267	- 753
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	15,963	14,555	- 1,408	154,224	154,586	+ 362
London ...	6,798	6,705	- 93	61,533	61,968	+ 365
Southampton ...	4,345	4,403	+ 57	33,921	40,741	+ 6,820
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith ...	295	226	- 69	4,431	3,736	- 695
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	195	166	- 29	2,356	2,118	- 238
Glasgow ...	4,203	3,525	- 678	36,701	33,001	- 3,700
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	70	78	+ 8	573	597	+ 24
Belfast ...	132	117	- 15	2,052	2,054	+ 2
Total ...	42,867	41,064	- 1,803	414,416	411,146	- 3,270

\* Revised figures.

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

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of bread on November 2nd, 1908, have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources. These Returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

District.	and Nov., 1908.			1st Oct., 1908.			1st Nov., 1907.		
	Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.			Predominant Prices per 4 lbs.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5½	4½	5·2	5½	4½	5·3	5½	4½	5·0
E. & N.E. ...	5½	5	5·3	5½	4½	5·3	5½	4½	5·1
S.E. ...	6	5	5·5	6	5	5·5	6	5	5·7
S.W. ...	6	5½	5·8	6	5½	5·8	6	5½	5·9
W. & W.C. ...	6	5½	5·7	6	5½	5·7	6	5	5·5
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5	5·8	7	4½	5·7	7	5½	5·9
Midlands ...	6	5	5·4	6	5	5·4	6½	5	5·7
Eastern Counties ...	6½	5	5·4	6½	5	5·4	6	5	5·9
Southern Counties	6½	4½	5·9	6½	4½	5·9	7	5	6·2
S. Western Counties and Wales	6	5	5·5	6	5	5·5	7	5	5·8
Scotland ...	7	5½	6·2	7	5½	6·2	7	5	6·2
Great Britain ...	7	4½	5·6	7	4½	5·6	7½	4½	5·8

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices remains unaltered. As compared with a year ago a slight decrease is shown.

Price of Bread in 28 Large Towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lbs. on Nov. 2nd, 1908	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
London ...	5½	...	...	Oct. '07	- ½
Birmingham ...	5 & 5½	...	- ½	Aug. '08	+ ½
Bolton ...	6	...	...	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff ...	5 & 5½	...	- ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Derby ...	5	...	...	April '08	- ½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	5	...	- ½	Mar. '08	- ½
Ipswich ...	6	...	...	Oct. '07	+ ½
Leeds ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ 1
Lefcester ...	5	...	- ½	Feb. '08	- ½
Liverpool ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Manchester ...	5	+ ½	- ½	Oct. '08	+ ½
Middlesbrough ...	5½	...	- ½	April '08	- ½
Newcastle ...	5½	...	...	Jan. '08	- ½
Norwich ...	5	...	- ½	Feb. '08	- ½
Nottingham ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '08	+ ½
Oldham ...	4½	...	...	Aug. '08	+ ½
Plymouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries ...	5	...	...	Aug. '08	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	5	...	- ½	Feb. '08	- ½
Aberdeen ...	5½	...	...	May '08	- ½
Dundee ...	5½ & 6½	...	- ½	Dec. '07	- ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast ...	6	...	...	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin ...	6	...	...	Mar. '08	- ½

As compared with a month ago, the only change in price occurred at Manchester, where the predominant price of the 4-lb. loaf is now 5d. instead of 4½d. As compared with a year ago, 19 of the towns (including London) show no change, 8 show decreases of ½d., and 1 (Cardiff) a decrease of ¾d. per 4lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September-October, 1908, amounted to 15,443,800 cwts., or 2,251,000 cwts. less than in the corresponding months of 1907. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-October 1908, amounted to 2,013,130 cwts., or 636,090 cwts. less than in September-October, 1907.

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

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt.* s. d.	(Average Declared Value.)		
			Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
October 1907.	...	8 0	8 9½	11 1½	12 9½
September 1908.	...	7 3	8 6	10 7½	11 4½
October 1908.	...	7 2	8 7½	10 10½	11 3½

HOME OFFICE ORDERS.

**Factory & Workshop Act, 1901: Special Exceptions: Florists.**—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that a woman or young person must not, except during the period of employment, be employed in the business of a factory or workshop outside the factory or workshop on any day during which the woman or young person is employed in the factory or workshop, both before and after the dinner hour. Where, however, it is proved to the satisfaction of the Home Secretary that the customs or exigencies of any particular trade require that the trade should be excepted from the operation of this provision, he may by special order grant such special exception as may be necessary. In pursuance of this power the Home Secretary has made an Order,† dated October 13th, 1908, granting a special exception to Florists' Workshops, allowing women and young persons on a day on which they are employed in the workshop before and after the dinner hour to be employed in the business of the workshop outside the workshop before or after the period of employment for a further period not exceeding two hours, which shall not begin before 6 a.m. nor end later than 10 p.m. The exception is subject to certain conditions contained in the Order.

The Home Secretary has also in the case of Florists' Workshops, by another Order‡ of the same date, extended to women and young persons employed in such workshops an exception permitting them to have the times allowed for meals at different hours of the day; and also an exception permitting them during the times allowed for meals to be allowed to remain in a room in which a process or handicraft is being carried on. A notice must, however, be affixed in the workshop showing the names of the women and young persons employed and the times allowed to each of them for meals. By a further Order§ of the same date, applying to Florists' Workshops and also to Hospital Laundries in Scotland, the Home Secretary has granted a special exception authorizing the occupier to allow all or any of the annual whole holidays or half-holidays on different days to any women and young persons employed or to any sets of those women and young persons, and not on the same days.

**Special Exception: Overtime.**—It is provided by the Act that in cases of certain non-textile factories and workshops women may be employed overtime, subject to certain conditions, on any day except Saturday (or the day substituted for Saturday), between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., or between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., or between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. The Home Secretary, however, has power to extend this exception to other non-textile factories and workshops, for certain good reasons, where he is satisfied that such employment will not injure the health of the women affected. In pursuance of this power, the Home Secretary has by Order¶ dated October 13th, 1908 (revoking Orders dated December 29th, 1903, and November 15th, 1904), extended the exception to certain non-textile factories and workshops, on condition that there shall be at least 400 cubic feet of space in each room for each person employed therein, and that a woman shall only be employed overtime on the process named. The factories and workshops named in the Order are those in which the following processes, or any of them, are carried on, viz.:—

1. The making of cardboard and millboard.
2. The colouring and enamelling of paper, other than wall-papers.
3. The stamping in relief on paper and envelopes.
4. The making of postage stamps, stamped post cards, and stamped envelopes.
5. The making of Christmas and New Year cards, and of cosques.

\* In accordance with Section 8 of the Corn Returns Act, 1882, the rate of conversion from quarters to cwts. is made at the rate of 60 imperial pounds = 1 bushel of wheat.  
 † Statutory Rules and Orders, 1908, No. 806. Wyman & Sons. Price rd.  
 ‡ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1908, No. 807. Wyman & Sons. Price rd.  
 § Statutory Rules and Orders, 1908, No. 808. Wyman & Sons. Price rd.  
 ¶ Statutory Rules and Orders, 1908, No. 809. Wyman & Sons. Price rd.

6. The making of meat pies, of mince-meat, and of Christmas puddings.
7. The bottling of beer.
8. The making of boxes for aerated water bottles.
9. The washing of bottles for use in the preserving of fruit.
10. The making and mixing of butter and the making of cheese.
11. The making of fireworks.
12. The calendering, finishing, hooking, lapping, or making up and packing of any yarn or cloth. Provided that in Lancashire and Cheshire this exception shall not apply unless such processes are the only processes carried on in the factory.
13. The warping, winding, or filling of yarn, without the aid of mechanical power, as incidental to the weaving of ribbons.
14. The making up of any article of table-linen, bed-linen, or other household linen, and processes incidental thereto.
15. The making of bouquets or wreaths or similar articles from natural flowers or leaves, or process in which natural flowers or leaves are otherwise adapted for sale.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

**ACCIDENT ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT: ENGINE DRIVER CROSSING RAILWAY FOR HIS OWN PURPOSE.**

Under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, a workman injured by accident is entitled to compensation only where the accident was one which arose out of or in the course of the employment.

An engine driver in the employment of a railway company, while his engine was at rest and taking in water, walked across some lines of railway to get a book from a fireman on another engine. Having got the book, he was re-crossing the lines on his way back to his own engine when he was struck by some trucks which were being shunted, and was so seriously injured that he died soon afterwards. The book had nothing whatever to do with the man's duties. His widow took proceedings for compensation, and was awarded the sum of £300 by the County Court judge. The company appealed and the Court of Appeal decided in their favour. The widow appealed to the House of Lords.

The House of Lords decided that the Court of Appeal were right, and that the widow was not entitled to compensation as the accident was not one arising out of or in the course of the employment. The deceased man (they held) was in a place in which his duty did not require him to be, and was not working but pleasing himself. He had exposed himself to risk, not in the execution of his duty or in the interest of his employers, but entirely for a purpose of his own.—*Reed v. Great Western Railway Co., House of Lords, October 30th, 1908.*

WORKMAN OR CONTRACTOR?

No one is entitled to compensation under the Act unless he is a "workman." "Workman" means a person who has entered into, or works under, a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer, whether by way of manual labour, clerical work or otherwise, or whether the contract is express or implied, is oral or in writing.

A man, who was the owner of a horse, was engaged by a firm of timber merchants to bring his horse to the water-side, and with it drag certain logs of timber from a ship which they were discharging. He was remunerated by a payment of 8s. a day for himself and his horse. In the course of the work this man met with an accident, and he subsequently brought a claim for compensation against the timber merchants on the ground that he was in their employment as a workman.

The Sheriff-Substitute decided that the claimant was an independent contractor, and not a workman within the meaning of the Act. The claimant appealed, but the Court of Session affirmed the decision of the lower Court.—*Chisholm v. Walker & Co., Court of Session, October 28th, 1908.*

DEPENDANTS: FATHER AND SISTERS: DEPENDENCE UPON EARNINGS.

Where a workman is killed or injured by an accident only his dependants are entitled to compensation under the Act. "Dependants" means such of the members of the workman's family as were wholly or in part dependent upon the earnings of the workman at the time of his death. "Member of a family" includes father and sister.

A young man in the employment of a colliery company lived with his father up to June, 1907, and two sisters also lived with the father. The young man regularly paid over to his father for the maintenance of the father and his two sisters, as well as for his own maintenance, his weekly earnings of 36s. In June, 1907, the young man left his father's house, went to live in another town, and ceased to contribute towards the maintenance of his relations. In October, 1907, he was killed in an accident which occurred in one of the coal pits of his employers. The father and his two daughters claimed compensation on the grounds that they were in part dependent upon the earnings of the deceased at the time of his death. The Sheriff-Substitute, however, held that the claimants were in no way dependants upon the earnings at that time, and refused an award of compensation. The claimant appealed.

The Court of Session decided that the question of dependency

was wholly a question of fact, and that the facts clearly showed that there was no dependency whatever between the claimants and the deceased. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Seymour v. Hayhill's Colliery Company, Court of Session, October 28th, 1908.*

(2) Trade Disputes Act.

TRADE DISPUTES ACT: RETROSPECTION OF ACT.

By the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, an action against a trade union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union shall not be entertained by any court.

An action was commenced, before the Act came into operation, against a trade union, in which an injunction and damages were claimed for inducing certain persons to break contracts into which they had entered with the plaintiff. The action, however, did not come before the court for hearing until after the Act had come into operation. In these circumstances it was contended for the union that, according to the provisions of the Act, the action could not be entertained by the court. The judge, however, decided that in his opinion the Act was not retrospective in the sense that it put an end to an action begun before the Act was passed.

The Court of Appeal upheld this decision of the judge on the ground that no statute should be construed so as to have a retrospective operation unless such construction appears clearly in the terms of the Act or arises by necessary and distinct implication.—*Smithies v. National Association of Operative Plasterers, Court of Appeal, October 28th, 1908.*

(3) Trade Unions.

TRADE UNION: ACTION BY MEMBER SUPPORTED BY UNION: COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER AND UNION: PRIVILEGE.

It is a general rule of law that communications between a party to an action and his legal advisers are privileged, and no other party to the action can obtain discovery of such communications.

A signman in the employment of a railway company was dismissed by the company. He maintained that he had been wrongfully dismissed, and he communicated with the trade union of which he was a member, with a view of persuading the union to take up his case, and support him in bringing an action against the railway company for damages for wrongful dismissal. Before the union would take up his case he had to submit to them a written statement of his case, and several letters and documents passed between him and the union before the union decided to send the matter to their solicitors. After an action was commenced, the railway company obtained an order that the plaintiff should make discovery to them of some of these letters and documents. The plaintiff appealed against the order, and the Court of Appeal held that as the documents were not meant by the writer to be laid before the solicitors in order that the solicitors might advise him, but were intended to give the union sufficient information as to the facts, to enable them with the advice of their solicitors to determine whether to take up the case, therefore the documents were not covered by the principle that communications between a litigant and his solicitors are privileged. The order for discovery was therefore affirmed, and the appeal dismissed.—*Jones v. Great Central Railway Co., Court of Appeal, October 13th, 1908.*

(4) Merchant Shipping Acts.

SEAMEN: OFFENCES AGAINST DISCIPLINE: WHAT IS WILFUL DISOBEDIENCE?

It is provided by the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, that if a seaman is guilty of wilful disobedience to any lawful command he shall be liable to punishment by fine and imprisonment.

Six men were engaged as firemen on board a steamship homeward bound from a foreign port. Two days out on the voyage these men were ordered, after performing their ordinary work as firemen, to clean out the engine-room. They refused to obey this order on the ground that they were too tired. The captain then sent for the men, but they persisted in their refusal, and gave the same excuse. The captain then explained to them the consequences of refusing to obey a lawful order, and gave them twenty-four hours to reconsider their conduct. At the end of that time, however, the men again refused to clean out the engine room, saying, as before, that they were too tired. Eventually the work had to be done by other members of the crew. On arrival in this country the shipowners took proceedings in a Metropolitan Police Court against the six men for wilful disobedience to a lawful command, contrary to the Act. At the hearing the defendants contended that the ship was undermanned, and that they were unable, in addition to the work of firemen, to do the extra work which was required of them. Evidence was also given on their behalf that other steamships of the same kind and of about the same tonnage and horse-power, carried at least eight firemen, and that in the circumstances, there only being six firemen, it was unreasonable to command them to do the cleaning.

The magistrate dismissed the charge against the men, but stated a case for the opinion of the High Court. He stated as facts that cleaning the engine room, as the men were required to do, was necessary and proper work for firemen; that the men were physically capable of performing that work; that when they were commanded to perform it, they were tired by their ordinary work; and that they did disobey the lawful command. The magistrate in effect found that if the men were too tired by their ordinary work to obey the command, their disobedience did not necessarily amount to wilful disobedience within the meaning of the Act. He doubted the degree of fatigue from which they were suffering at the time that they refused to do the cleaning; but he gave them the benefit of the doubt, and on these grounds dismissed the charge against them.

The High Court refused to interfere with the magistrate's decision.—*Carroe v. Bayliss and others, King's Bench Division, 22nd October, 1908.*

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during October was 66, all of which were cases of lead poisoning. In addition to the above, 31 cases of lead poisoning (6 of which were fatal) were reported during October among house painters and plumbers. There were 4 cases of anthrax reported during October.

During the ten months ended October, 1908, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 633, as compared with 523 in 1907. The number of deaths during the same period was 33, as against 36 in 1907. In addition there were 189 cases of lead poisoning (including 33 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first ten months of 1908, as compared with 140 cases (including 32 deaths) in the first ten months of 1907.

Analysis by Industries.

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

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Oct., 1908.	Ten Months ended Oct., 1907.	Month of Oct., 1908.	Ten Months ended Oct., 1907.
		1908.		1907.
<b>Lead Poisoning.</b>				
Smelting of Metals ...	5	64	17	2
Brass Works ...	1	5	7	1
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	2	13	4	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	4	26	12	—
Printing ...	5	27	22	1
File Cutting ...	1	8	10	—
Turning and Enamelling of Iron	4	9	21	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works ...	12	67	56	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	10*	105	86	1
China and Earthenware* ...	1	2	8	—
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	2	4	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	1	6	2	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	—	22	16	—
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	1	20	27	—
Paint and Colour Works ...	2	10	18	—
Coach Making ...	5	35	39	1
Shipbuilding ...	10	63	39	5
Paint used in other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
<b>Total in Factories and Workshops</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>4</b>
House Painting and Plumbing ...	31	189	140	6
<b>Other Forms of Poisoning.</b>				
<b>Mercurial Poisoning—</b>				
Batometer and Thermometer Making	—	2	—	—
Furriers' Processes ...	—	4	4	—
Other Industries ...	—	3	1	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Phosphorus Poisoning—</b>				
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	1	1	—
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Arsenic Poisoning—</b>				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	—	16	4	—
Other Industries ...	—	6	4	—
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Anthrax.</b>				
Wool ...	2	17	21	1
Handling of Horsehair ...	1	11	17	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	—	11	10	—
Other Industries ...	1	5	6	—
<b>Total, Anthrax ...</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>

Return of Deaths of Seamen.—A Return of Deaths of Seamen reported to the Board of Trade is issued by the Registrar-General of Seamen each month, and copies may be seen at all Free Libraries, Mercantile Marine Offices, and Sailors' Homes throughout the country.

\* Of the 10 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry, 4 were females.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during October, 1908, was 240, an increase of 27 as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 46 as compared with a year ago.

The mean number for October in the years 1903-1907 was 247, the maximum year being 1907 with 286 deaths, and the minimum year 1905 with 192 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in October, 1908, was 105, as compared with 101 in September, 1908, and 119 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshop Act during October, 1908, was 92, as compared with 74 in the previous month, and 106 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 36, 35, and 56 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during October, 1908, was 134, as compared with 115 in September, 1908, and 111 in October, 1907.

During the ten months ended October, 1908, the total number of workpeople (exclusive of seamen) reported as killed in the course of their employment was 2,416, as compared with 2,478 in the corresponding period of 1907. The total number of seamen reported as killed during the same period was 1,051 in 1908, and 1,155 in 1907.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, as compared with a	
	Oct., 1908.	Sept., 1908.	Oct., 1907.	Month ago.	Year ago.
<b>Railway Service—</b>					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	2	4	—	-2
Engine Drivers ...	1	1	4	—	-3
Firemen ...	—	1	1	—	-1
Guards (Passenger) ...	1	—	2	+	-1
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	10	9	10	+	—
Porters ...	4	4	5	—	-1
Shunters ...	4	2	3	+	+1
Miscellaneous ...	14	14	25	—	-11
Contractors' Servants ...	—	2	2	—	-2
<b>Total, Railway Service</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>-20</b>
<b>Mines—</b>					
Underground ...	91	84	105	+7	-14
Surface ...	8	10	10	—	-2
<b>Total, Mines</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>+5</b>	<b>-16</b>
<b>Quarries over 20 feet deep</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>+2</b>
<b>Factories and Workshops—</b>					
<b>Textile—</b>					
Cotton ...	—	5	9	—	-9
Wool and Worsted ...	4	4	3	—	+1
Other Textiles ...	—	2	1	—	-1
<b>Non-Textile—</b>					
Extraction of Metals ...	5	6	2	—	+3
Founding and Conversion of Metals	6	2	15	+	-9
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	1	2	1	—	—
Ship and Boat Building ...	8	11	5	—	+3
Wood ...	1	3	4	—	-3
Chemicals ...	3	3	6	—	-3
Laundries ...	1	—	1	—	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	25	24	29	—	-4
<b>Total, Factories ...</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-22</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—</b>					
Docks, Wharves and Quays ...	20	6	12	+14	+8
Warehouses ...	4	—	3	+4	+1
Buildings to which Act applies	14	6	15	+8	-1
<b>Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>+26</b>	<b>+8</b>
<b>Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+2</b>
<b>Total, exclusive of Seamen</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>+27</b>	<b>-46</b>
<b>Seaman—</b>					
<b>On Trading Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ...	11	54	45	-43	-34
Steam ...	116	53	54	+63	+62
<b>On Fishing Vessels—</b>					
Sailing ...	—	—	4	—	-4
Steam ...	7	8	8	—	-1
<b>Total, Seamen</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>+19</b>	<b>+23</b>
<b>Total, including Seamen</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>+46</b>	<b>-23</b>

TRADE DISPUTES IN OCTOBER.\*

**Number and Magnitude.**—Nineteen disputes commenced in October, 1908, as compared with 15 in September, 1908, and 31 in October, 1907. By the 19 disputes, 3,306 persons were directly and 3,968 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before October, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 133,894 workpeople involved in trade disputes during October, 1908, compared with 137,188 in September, 1908, and 20,266 in October, 1907.

**New Disputes in October, 1908.**—In the following Table the new disputes in October are summarised by trades:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining ...	10	2,588	3,868	6,456
Textile ...	4	79	100	179
Other Trades ...	5	639	—	639
<b>Total, October, 1908</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3,306</b>	<b>3,968</b>	<b>7,274</b>
<b>Total, September, 1908</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>185,512</b>
<b>Total, October, 1907</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3,889</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>6,964</b>

**Causes.**—Of the 19 new disputes, 3 arose on demands for increased wages, 7 on objections to reductions in wages, and 4 on other wages questions, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 1 on details of working arrangements.

**Results.**—Definite results were reported in the case of 14 new disputes, directly involving 2,277 persons, and 11 old disputes, directly involving 4,394 persons. Of these 25 new and old disputes, 6, directly involving 1,556 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10, directly involving 346 persons, were

decided in favour of the employers; and 9, directly involving 4,769 workpeople, were compromised.

**Aggregate Duration.**—The aggregate duration in October of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 103,800 working days. In addition, 3,289,700 working days were lost in October owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in October of all disputes, new or old, was 3,393,500 working days, compared with 1,266,800 in the previous month and 129,500 in October, 1907.

**Summary for the First Ten Months of 1907 and 1908.**—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the ten months January—October, 1907 and 1908, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-Oct., 1907.			Jan.-Oct., 1908.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building ...	20	1,001	22,300	19	2,796	71,300
Mining and Quarrying...	93	46,167	458,400	114	60,039	1,014,800
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	91	15,076	400,600	45	57,729	3,784,500
Textile ...	128	47,481	574,600	58	131,270	4,759,400
Clothing ...	45	7,810	112,100	27	3,822	66,400
Transport ...	24	7,268	88,800	16	2,320	16,800
Other Trades ...	65	4,859	81,600	40	3,671	61,300
<b>Total ...</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>124,682</b>	<b>1,738,400</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>261,647</b>	<b>9,777,800</b>

**Principal Disputes.**—Particulars of the principal disputes which began, or were settled, in October are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress in October are not separately stated in this Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Date when Dispute began in 1908.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
<b>Coal Mining—</b>						
Putters and other Colliery Workpeople	Morpeth ...	80	1,420	20 Oct.	1	Complaint as to irregular supply of tubs. Manager promised to redress any grievance.
Pony Drivers (lads), Miners, Daymen Surfmen, &c.	Leeds (near)	230	776	14 Oct.	—	Against 5 per cent. reduction in wages. No settlement reported.
Pit Lads, Hewers, &c.	Mansfield (near)	84	873	6 Oct.	1	Against payment below price list ... Advances given to boys found to be below the price list. Man reinstated.
Coal Miners	Nottingham...	1,205	—	9 Oct.	1	For reinstatement of a suspended workman. Man reinstated.
Pit Lads, Hewers, &c.	Eastwood ...	70	700	7 Oct.	5	Alleged reduction in wages by more than the general 5 per cent. Amicable settlement effected.
Coal Miners	Cardiff (near)	2,500	—	11 Sept.	39	Dispute as to payment for working in abnormal places, method of screening coal, and other matters. Minimum wage agreed to for working in abnormal places; amicable settlement on other questions.
<b>Oilcake Manufacture—</b>						
Pressroom men, Trackers, &c., and Labourers	Liverpool ...	397	25	—	—	For advance in wages of 2s. per week to pressroom men. Advance of 1s. per week granted.

\* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days. † In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly involved," i.e. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

NOTE.—An account of the Lancashire Cotton Spinners' dispute is given on p. 335.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE Home Secretary has appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the increase in the number of reported accidents in certain classes of factories and workshops, and other premises under the Factory Acts, and to report what additional precautionary measures are in their opinion necessary or desirable.

The Committee is constituted as follows:—H. J. Tennant, Esq., M.P. (Chairman); A. M. Carlisle, Esq.,

of the firm of Messrs. Harland and Wolff; Sir William D. Cramp, I.S.O.; A. H. Gill, Esq., M.P., Secretary of the Bolton and District Operative Cotton Spinners' Provincial Association; J. Ramsay Macdonald, Esq., M.P.; J. B. Tattersall, Esq., President, Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association, and Vice-President of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations; J. S. Taylor, Esq., of Messrs. Taylor and Challen, engineers, Birmingham; Henry Vivian, Esq., M.P.; Miss Mona Wilson.

The Secretary to the Committee is Alexander Maxwell, Esq., of the Home Office.

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

Wages.

Changes taking effect in October.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in October, 1908, was a decrease of £1,499 per week, as compared with a decrease of £19,136 per week in September, 1908, and an increase of £3,745 per week in October, 1907. The number of workpeople affected was 72,202, of whom 295 received advances amounting to £22 per week, and 65,307 sustained decreases amounting to £1,521 per week; whilst 6,600 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the month. The total number affected in the preceding month was 395,111, and in October, 1907, 56,761.

Five changes, affecting 44,940 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and sixteen changes, affecting 16,987 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 10,275 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for the ten completed months of 1908.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, in the ten months ended October 31st, 1908, was 902,676, as compared with 1,206,628 in the corresponding period of 1907. The changes arranged gave 61,591 workpeople a net increase of £4,379 per week, and 461,295 workpeople a net decrease of £60,892 per week, whilst the remaining 379,790 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of the changes was thus a decrease of £56,513 per week, as compared with an increase of £184,951 per week in the corresponding period of 1907.

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

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, January-October 1907, 1908. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron, &c., Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Other Metal Trades, Textile Trades, Printing, &c., Trades, Glass, &c., Trades, Other Trades, Employees of Local Authorities, and Total.

Hours.

The only change in hours of labour taking effect in October, 1908, affected 485 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 1,940 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the ten months ended October 31st, 1908, was 16,472. Of these, 3,099 had their aggregate working time increased by 13,186 hours per week, and 13,373 had reductions amounting to 24,116 hours per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in October.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES IN OCTOBER.

Table with columns: Trade, Locality, Date from which change takes effect in 1908, Occupation, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Rows include Coal Mining, Ironstone Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, and Brick Making.

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in November it was arranged that the rates of wages of deputies, mechanics and enginemen in Northumberland should be reduced by 1/3d. per day, and those of firemen by 2 per cent., and those of miners in Durham by 3/4 per cent.

Pig Iron Manufacture.—A reduction of 2 1/2 per cent. took effect early in November in the rates of wages of blastfurnacemen in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Under the sliding scale arrangements, the rates of wages of steel melters, &c., in Great Britain were reduced by 1 1/2 per cent. early in November.

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

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for October.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

Table with columns: October 1906, 1907, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, compared with 1907, 1906. Rows include I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post); Total value of Imports.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Table with columns: October 1906, 1907, 1908, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1908, compared with 1907, 1906. Rows include I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco; II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured; III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured; IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post); Total value of Exports of British produce.

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £7,141,882 in October, 1906; £6,873,392 in October, 1907; and £7,082,070 in October, 1908.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

LIST OF MEMBERS ELECTED.

The persons named below have been duly returned on behalf of the employees as members of the Conciliation Boards on the following Railways:—

DUBLIN & SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY.

Sectional Board No. 1.—J. Howell, signman, Bray; E. Sullivan, ticket collector, Kingstown; J. Whelan, goods guard, Wexford; J. Byrne, passenger guard, Dublin (Westland Row).

Sectional Board No. 2.—J. Howard, fireman, Dublin (Grand Canal Street); R. Nolan, engine driver, Wexford; P. Reid, fireman, Dublin (Grand Canal Street); C. L. Toole, engine driver, Bray.

Sectional Board No. 3.—T. Dowling, ganger, Killiney; J. Kavanagh, milesman, Wexford; C. Martin, milesman, Bray; J. Stephens, ganger, Dublin (Amiens Street).

MIDLAND RAILWAY (IRELAND).—NORTHERN COUNTIES COMMITTEE.

Sectional Board No. 1.—H. McClure, engine driver, Belfast; F. E. King, engine driver, Ballyclare; A. Blair, engine driver, Belfast; J. P. O'Toole, engine driver, Larne.

Sectional Board No. 2.—A. Blain, signman, Belfast; A. Dixon, passenger guard, Magherafelt; R. Reilly, goods guard, Ballymena; S. McMullan, shunter, Belfast.

Sectional Board No. 3.—P. Cushman, platelayer, Cookstown Junction; J. Doherty, platelayer, Londonderry; J. Taylor, platelayer, Kilrea; J. Clarke, ganger, Portrush.

Sectional Board No. 4.—F. R. Belshaw, passenger porter, Greencastle; R. J. Allen, checker, Belfast Goods; A. McNeice, goods porter, Belfast Goods; C. Tinsley, ticket collector, Belfast.

Sectional Board No. 5.—A. Farrell, carter, Belfast; H. S. Glover, foreman carter, Belfast; L. McCurdy, carter, Belfast; W. Scott, carter, Belfast.

\* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.

† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.

‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c., hides and skins, &c.

§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

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

The number of paupers relieved on one day in October, 1908, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 224 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with September, 1908, the total number of paupers increased by 6,949 (1.8 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 4. The number of indoor paupers increased by 3,200 (1.8 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 3,749 (1.7 per cent.). Increases occurred in 18 districts, the most marked being in the East district of the Metropolis (19 per 10,000), and in the Stockton and Tees district (17 per 10,000). In 14 districts there were decreases (mostly, however, of very small amount), and in three districts there were no changes.

Compared with October, 1907, the rate per 10,000 increased by 13. The number of indoor paupers increased by 10,739 (6.4 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 16,042 (7.7 per cent.). In 26 districts there were increases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (176 per 10,000); in the remaining nine districts there were decreases.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of Oct., 1908 (Indoor, Outdoor, TOTAL), Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population, Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with (A month ago, A year ago). Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, Metropolis, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND.

\* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals or the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.\*

NOTE.—Labour bureaux whose registers are identical with those of Distress Committees are excluded from this Table. For statistics of the work of Distress Committees in October, see page 363.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 45 Labour Bureaux during October; of these Bureaux 28 were in London (including West Ham), and 17 in the Provinces. Of the 28 London Bureaux, 25 are affiliated to the Central Employment Exchange, and are under the control of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 34,636, of which 22,575 were in London, and 12,061 in the Provinces. The number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 4,689, or 13.5 per cent. of the applications received, and 75.0 per cent. of the situations offered. The number of permanent situations filled was 3,152 (or 67.2 per cent.), and temporary 1,537 (or 32.8 per cent.). The majority of situations found were in unskilled occupations. The persons for whom situations were found through the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange were divided by trades, as follows: building trades (artisans and labourers), 183; wood-working trades, 81; metal and engineering trades, 203; other skilled trades,

83; "transport and general," 302; other trades, 166; boys, 481; women and girls, 897. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 162; metal and engineering trades, 94; carters and stablemen, clerks, warehousemen, porters and messengers, 212; general labourers, 238; bill distributors, 156; employees of local authorities, 622; charwomen and domestic servants, 269; other occupations, 314. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 226 men.

At 42 of the Bureaux mentioned below, figures for 1907 are available. The number of applicants registered at these Bureaux was 35,525 in October, 1908, as compared with 15,417 in October, 1907. Employers offered 6,044 situations during October, 1908, of which 4,531 were filled. In October, 1907, 3,342 situations were offered, and 2,943 filled. The number of workpeople on the registers at the end of October, 1908, was 31,834, as compared with 15,953 in October, 1907.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING OCTOBER, 1908.

Table with columns: Name of Bureau, New Applicants, Situations offered, Situations Filled (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, All Situations), Applicants Remaining on the Registers (Building Trades, Metal and Engineering Trades, Transport and General, Other Occupations, Men & Boys, Women and Girls, Total).

\*The figures for the London Bureaux affiliated to the Central Exchange relate to the 5 weeks ended October 30th, 1908; for the other Bureaux the particulars relate to work done during the calendar month.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October 1,071 fresh applications (633 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 9 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 775 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 270 persons, of whom 157 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 270 situations found for applicants, 205 were of a more or less permanent character, while 65 were temporary only.

The demand for cooks and parlourmaids was in excess of the supply; the supply of housekeepers, housemaids, ladies' maids, companions, and children's nurses was in excess of the demand.

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

Table showing work done by Women's Employment Bureaux during October, 1908. Includes columns for Applications by Workpeople during, Situations offered by Employers during, and Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanent, Temporary).

In addition to the above registered applications, the Returns show that 38 persons in London, 23 in Watford, and 22 in Edinburgh were referred to other Agencies; 286 persons in London and 34 in Dublin were given advice as to training, &c., but were not registered.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended October 31st, 1908, amounted to £4,429,062, a decrease of £332,738 (or 7.0 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

During the forty-four weeks ended October 31st, 1908, the receipts amounted to £46,087,211, a decrease of £2,209,959 (or 4.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1907.

Table showing Railway Goods and Mineral Traffic Receipts for 4 weeks ended October 31st, 1908, and 44 weeks ended October 31st, 1908. Lists various railway lines and their respective receipts.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING OCTOBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

(All the United Kingdom Official Reports may be obtained from Wvman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct, or through any bookseller.)

Mines and Quarries, 1907. Part III. Output. General report and statistics relating to the output and value of the minerals raised in the United Kingdom, the amount and value of the metals produced, and the exports and imports of minerals. Home Office. [Cd. 4343: pp. 137: price 1s. 6d.]

Report to Home Office on the Circumstances attending an Explosion in the Slyving Vein Incline at Norton Hill Colliery on April 9th, 1908. By Joseph Martin. [Cd. 4330: pp. 10: price 4d.]

Report to the Secretary of the Board of Trade upon the working of the Boiler Explosions Acts, 1882 and 1890, for the year ended June 30th, 1907. Number of preliminary inquiries, formal investigations, particulars of findings, orders, &c. [Cd. 3627: pp. 26: price 3d.]

Statistics of Proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897, 1900, and 1906, and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, during the year 1907. Home Office. [Cd. 4333: pp. 51: price 5d.]

Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1907. Board of Trade. [H.C. 292: pp. 26: price 8d.]

The Unemployed. Statement relative to certain Loans sanctioned by the Local Government Board or with respect to which application for sanction has been made to them. [Cd. 4370: pp. 4: price 3d.]

Housing of the Working Classes Acts. Return of Loans contracted by Local Authorities in Ireland under the Public Health and Housing of the Working Classes Acts. [H.L. 209: pp. 7: price 1d.]

Old Age Pensions Regulations, 1908. Dated October 15th, 1908. [H.C. 304: pp. 28: price 2d.]

36th Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1906-7. Supplement containing the Report of the Medical Officer. Contains "Local housing conditions and administration, illustrated by extracts from reports made by Medical Inspectors in 1906-7." [Cd. 4,289, pp. xix. + 321: price 1s. 9d.]

Police of the Metropolis. Report of the Commissioner for the year 1907. Authorised strength of the force, length of service, &c., number of new houses built and mileage of new streets and squares formed, 1880 to 1907. [Cd. 4308: pp. 76: price 10d.]

Seventeenth Report of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland for the year ending 31st March, 1908. Labourers' cottages, fishery loans, home industries, migration, &c. [Cd. 4340: pp. 157: price 8d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. The Labour Gazette, September, 1908. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during August; Dominion legislation affecting labour in 1908, &c.

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, September, 1908. Condition of trade and employment as at 31st August, cases under the Workers' Compensation Act, &c.

New South Wales. The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records. Vol. VII., Part I., 1908. Reports of 15 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 84.]

Report on the working of the Factories and Shops Act, Early Closing Acts, Shearers' Accommodation Acts, &c., during the year 1907. Annual Report of the Department of Labour and Industry. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer: pp. 50 with diagrams.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States. Department of Commerce and Labour. Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour, No. 77, July, 1908. Wages and hours of labour, 1890-1907: retail prices of food, 1890-1907; Act granting compensation for injuries of artisans and labourers in the service of the United States.

State of New York. Department of Labour Bulletin, September, 1908. State of employment; strikes and lockouts in April, May, and June; intervention by Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration; arbitration by private agencies, &c.

Missouri. Surplus Products of Missouri Counties, 1907. State Labour Bureau. [Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Co.: pp. 151, with map.]

Wisconsin. Thirteenth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics, 1907-1908. Part I. Industrial Accidents and Employers' Liability in Wisconsin. [Madison, Wis.: Democrat Printing Co.: State Printers: pp. 143.]

France. Journal of the French Labour Department, September, 1908. Co-operative distributive societies on January 1st, 1908; work of National Old Age Pension Fund in 1907. [Paris: Berger-Levrault & Co.: price 2d.]

Germany. Journal of the German Labour Department, October, 1908. Statistics of unemployment in July, August and September, 1908. [Berlin: Carl Heymann: price 1d.]



