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CLASSIFIED CONTENTS TABLE.

	PAGE
Summary of the State of Employment in October	321
Special Articles and Reports—	
THE RISE IN PRICE OF BREAD AND WHEAT	336
STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN 1895	337
DISPUTE IN THE NORTH WALES QUARRY TRADE	339
LABOUR DISPUTES IN ITALY, 1894	337
THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS... ..	348
THE SITUATION IN THE TINPLATE TRADE	335
Employment in Special Industries and Districts—	
REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.	
COAL MINING	323
IRON MINING	323
PIG IRON MANUFACTURE	324
STEEL AND TINPLATE WORKS, PUDDLING FURNACES, AND ROLLING MILLS	324
AGRICULTURAL LABOUR	325
WOMEN IN TEXTILE TRADES	326
LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR	326
SEAMEN	327
DISTRICT REPORTS.	
LONDON	327
ENGLAND: Northern Counties	328
Lancashire	328
Yorkshire	330
Midland Counties	331
Eastern Counties	332
South Western Counties	333
WALES	333
SCOTLAND	334
IRELAND	335
Labour in the Colonies and Abroad—	
COLONIES	340
FRANCE	340
GERMANY	341
SWITZERLAND	341
BELGIUM	342
AUSTRIA-HUNGARY	342
ITALY	342
UNITED STATES	342
Miscellaneous Reports for October—	
CONCILIATION, ARBITRATION, AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS	338
FOREIGN TRADE	343
MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES	343
EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION	343
LABOUR CASES	344
RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION	348
DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS	349
INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS	352
Statistical Tables for October—	
INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS	344
LABOUR BUREAUX	345
PAUPERISM	345
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS	349
TRADE DISPUTES	346
CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES	350
CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR... ..	352
Notes and Reviews—	
THE LONDON CAB TRADE IN 1895... ..	335
PRODUCTION OF PIG IRON	352
FACTORY INSPECTORS	352
EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES	352
TRADE UNIONS IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA... ..	343
QUEENSLAND LABOUR BUREAU	343

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER.*

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

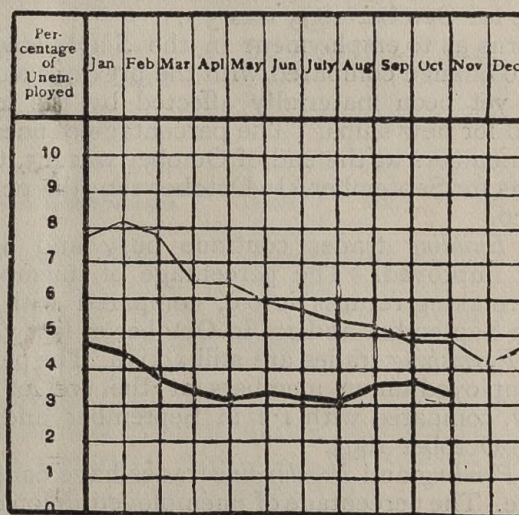
DURING October the tendency of the Labour Market has been generally in an upward direction. On the whole the Trade Union returns show a diminished percentage of unemployed, though the figures have not yet been affected by the recent increase of activity in the Shipbuilding Trade. Employment has been active in the coal, iron and steel industries, but shows a decline in the cotton trade. The labour market has been comparatively little disturbed by important disputes, and such changes of wages as have been recorded have been mostly advances.

In the 111 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 437,371, making returns, 14,582 (or 3·3 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of October, compared with 3·6 per cent. in September, and with 4·9 per cent. in the 88 unions, with a membership of 395,991, from which returns were received for October 1895.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1895, and of each completed month of 1896.

[The thick line applies to 1896, the thin line to 1895.]



The proportions of unemployed in the 111 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent.	81	301,015
3 and under 5 per cent.	13	55,282
5 and under 7 per cent.	6	28,353
7 and under 10 per cent.	5	5,971
10 per cent. and upwards	6	46,750

Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.

—Employment in this industry in October was good generally. The number of days worked per week was greater than in the previous month, and nearly the same as in 1895 at the same period of the year. At pits employing 408,997 persons an average of 5·02 days per week was worked in October, compared with 4·89 in September, and 5·03 in October 1895. Unemployed miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted to 1·6 per cent. of the membership at the end

* The reports on the State of Employment refer strictly to the month of October, and do not cover any changes which may have occurred between October 31st and November 14th.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—GENERAL SUMMARY.

of October, as compared with 1·2 per cent. at the end of September, and 1·9 per cent. at the end of October 1895.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good during October. At 132 mines and open works making returns the 16,519 persons employed worked an average of 5·73 days per week, as compared with 5·78 days in September, and 5·59 days in October 1895. The number employed was higher by about 4½ per cent. than a year ago.

In the **Pig Iron Industry** employment was about the same as in September, and much better than a year ago. At the end of October the ironmasters making returns had 345 furnaces in blast, employing 22,325 workpeople, or 18 more furnaces and 1,404 more workpeople than a year ago, and 1 furnace less and 85 workpeople more than at the end of September.

Employment at **Steelworks** at the end of October was about the same as at the end of the previous month, and considerably better than a year ago. At 127 works making returns 36,718 persons were employed, as compared with 36,717 persons at the end of September, and 30,878 persons at the end of October 1895.

Employment at **Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills** has also remained unchanged, the number employed at 89 works being 17,755 at the end of October, compared with 17,781 at the end of September. The number a year ago was 17,576.

In the **Tinplate** trade employment recovered somewhat during October, and at the end of the month, of the 88 works covered by the returns received, 52 were giving full employment, compared with 45 a month ago. Altogether 322 mills were reported as working at the end of October, as compared with 306 at the end of September. This applies to the state of things before the recent stoppages (see p. 335).

Employment in the **Engineering** and kindred trades shows further improvement, the percentage of unemployed union members having fallen from 2·8 at the end of September to 2·3 at the end of October. The percentage for October 1895 was 5·7.

Returns as to employment in the **Shipbuilding** trades show no change compared with the previous month, not having yet been materially affected by the increased demand for new ships. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 9·5, the same figure as for September. In October 1895 the percentage was 12·0.

The **Building** trades continue busy and have still further improved. The percentage of unemployed in unions making returns is 0·9, compared with 1·3 per cent. in September and 1·9 in October of last year.

The **Furnishing** trades are still active. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 1·7, compared with 1·2 in September and 1·9 per cent. in October 1895.

The **Printing and Bookbinding** trades have continued to improve. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October was 3·4, compared with 5·0 a month ago, and 3·8 in October of last year.

Employment in the **Paper** trade remains steady, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October being the same as in September, viz., 2·8, compared with 4·8 in October 1895.

In the **Glass** trade employment continues slack, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of October being 13·1, compared with 13·8 per cent. in September and 11·2 in October 1895.

Employment in the **Leather** trades has somewhat improved, the percentage of unemployed having fallen from 3·9 at the end of September to 3·1 in October. The percentage for October 1895 was 2·6.

Employment in the ready-made **Boot and Shoe** trade has varied very much in different districts. On the whole it has maintained the improvement shown in September, but is still slack in some centres. In the bespoke branch it is fairly good.

In the ready-made **Clothing** trade employment is good

in East London and in Glasgow, but shows a decline in Leeds and some other centres; in the bespoke branch employment has improved.

Employment in the **Spinning** branch of the **Cotton** trade continues moderate; in the **Weaving** branch it shows a further decline.

Employment in the **Woollen** trade continues fair, and in the **Worsted** trade shows signs of improvement.

In the **Hosiery** trade employment is fair in some branches, slack in others.

As regards the employment of **women** in the **Textile** trades, information respecting 495 mills employing about 81,500 women and girls, shows that 77 per cent. were in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 79 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for September; 22 per cent. in mills giving only partial employment or running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month. The decline took place in the cotton trade.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—At most ports dock and riverside labourers have been well employed. In London the average number of labourers employed during October at the docks and principal wharves was 15,767, as compared with 13,797 during September, and 14,870 during October 1895.

Agriculture.—The state of agricultural employment was generally satisfactory in the month of October. In the earlier part there was, in a few districts, some slight irregularity of work on account of wet weather, but in the latter part labourers were generally fully employed, as farm work was backward in consequence of the wet autumn.

Trade Disputes.—The number of fresh disputes occurring in October was 55, involving about 11,000 workpeople, as compared with 51, involving about 9,000 workpeople in September, and 77, involving about 18,000 workpeople, in October 1895. Fifteen disputes took place in the engineering and shipbuilding trades; 8 each in the building, mining and quarrying and textile trades; 5 in the miscellaneous metal trades; 3 in the clothing trades; 2 in connection with seafaring, and 6 in a miscellaneous group of trades. Of the 55 new and old disputes, involving about 15,000 workpeople, of which the settlement has been reported, 21, involving about 4,700 persons, terminated in favour of the workpeople; 17, involving about 3,100, in favour of the employers, and 10, involving about 1,100, in a compromise; the results of the remaining 7 disputes, involving about 6,100 persons, cannot yet be stated.

Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour.—The changes in rates of wages reported during October affected about 12,000 workpeople, of whom 11,800 received an advance averaging about 1s. 7d. per head per week, and 167 sustained decreases. The increases include 9,000 workpeople engaged in the engineering and shipbuilding industries. Changes affecting 10,800 workpeople were arranged, without any strike, after negotiation or by mutual arrangement. Other changes affecting about 900 workpeople were preceded or accompanied by strikes, and one change, involving 300 workmen was determined under a wages board. Wages of agricultural labourers rose 1s. a week in several districts of Norfolk.

Of the 3,823 workpeople whose hours of labour were changed, 3,623 had them shortened by an average of 2·77 hours per week, and 200 had them lengthened by 2 hours per week.

Pauperism.—In 35 selected urban districts 320,654 persons were relieved on one day in the second week of October. These figures correspond to a rate of 207 per 10,000, or 1 more per 10,000 than in September last, but 5 less per 10,000 than in October 1895.

Emigration.—The number of British and Irish passengers who left the United Kingdom during October for places out of Europe was 25,554, as compared with 27,588 in October 1895.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

II.—REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.

(a) COAL MINING IN OCTOBER.

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

Summary.—Employment in this industry in October was better than in September, and practically the same as at the end of October 1895. At pits producing gas coal and steam coal employment was not quite so good as in the previous month. At other pits, and especially at those producing house coal, there was an improvement, partly of a seasonal character.

Returns received respecting 1,359 pits, employing 408,997 persons, show that during the four weeks ended October 24th an average of 5·02 days per week was worked, as compared with 4·89 days in September, and 5·03 days in October 1895. The following table gives the average number of days worked in each division of the United Kingdom:—

District.	No. employed in Oct. 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per week in four weeks ending		
		24th Oct. 1896	26th Oct. 1895	26th Sept. 1896
England and Wales	374,961	4·99	5·01	4·86
Scotland	33,402	5·36	5·25	5·20
Ireland	634	4·88	4·84	4·72
United Kingdom	408,997	5·02	5·03	4·89

The following table gives the average number of days worked at pits in which the coal raised was chiefly of the class named. It will be seen that the chief improvement in employment took place in pits producing house coal, the improvement amounting to nearly half a day per week.

Description of Coal.	Number of days worked per week.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct.
	October.	September.	
Coking Coal	5·63	5·45	+·18
Gas "	5·17	5·23	-·06
House "	4·97	4·52	+·45
Manufacturing Coal	5·30	5·10	+·20
Steam "	4·94	5·03	-·09
Mixed "	4·93	4·74	+·19
All Classes of Coal	5·02	4·89	+·13

If the workpeople be classified according to the number of days worked by the pits at which they were employed, it will be seen that 62·5 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 days or more per week, a greater proportion both than in October 1895, when it amounted to 62·3 per cent., and in September 1896, when it amounted to 56·0 per cent.

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

Number of days* on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	October 1896.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	October 1895.	September 1896.
24 days (full time)	38,571	9·4	8·9	6·0
20 and under 24 days	216,984	53·1	53·4	50·0
16 " " 20 " "	102,351	25·0	25·5	25·5
12 " " 16 " "	38,510	9·4	9·4	8·2
8 " " 12 " "	8,801	2·2	2·2	5·3
Under 8 days	3,780	·9	·3	1·0
Total	408,997	100·0	100·0	100·0

The number of workpeople now employed at the pits covered by the returns is almost exactly the same as a year ago, an increase of 2,876 in England, Wales and Ireland, being just outweighed by a decrease of 2,982 in Scotland.

Comparison by Districts.—The greatest improvement in the time worked as compared with a year ago

* Allowance is made in all the calculations for short days.

was in North Wales, which, however, was then the district with the lowest average. The improvement amounts to about four-fifths of a day. In Cumberland the improvement amounts to nearly three-quarters of a day. In three other districts it amounts to more than a quarter of a day. In six districts there was a falling off, reaching its maximum in Notts and Leicester, where only 4·01 days were being worked per week, or about three fifths of a day less than last year.

In nine districts an average of over five days per week was worked in October, viz., West Scotland (5·55), The Lothians (5·46), Salop, Worcester and Warwick (5·41), Cumberland (5·38), Durham (5·35), Stafford (5·15), South Wales and Monmouth (5·04), Fife, and Lancashire and Cheshire (5·02 each). Notts and Leicester was the only district in which less than 4½ days were being worked per week. In South Wales and Monmouth the house coal pits gave employment for about half a day more per week than the steam coal pits. On the other hand, in Salop, Worcester and Warwick steam coal pits gave about three-fifths of a day per week more employment than house coal pits.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN OCTOBER 1896 AND 1895, AND IN SEPTEMBER 1896.

District.*	No. employed in Oct. 1896 at the Collieries included in the Table.	Days worked per Week in four weeks ending		
		24th Oct. 1896	26th Oct. 1895	26th Sept. 1896

(a) Districts in which October 1896 exceeds October 1895.

North Wales	10,694	4·91	4·07	4·32
Cumberland	6,081	5·38	4·65	5·12
Staffordshire	23,484	5·15	4·68	4·70
Salop, Warwick and Worcester	8,373	5·41	4·98	4·83
West Scotland	18,583	5·55	5·22	5·25
Gloucester and Somerset	8,363	4·98	4·82	4·42
Lancashire and Cheshire	46,695	5·02	4·89	4·71
Yorkshire	42,872	4·97	4·93	4·70
The Lothians	3,014	5·45	5·42	5·69
Ireland	634	4·88	4·84	4·72
Total and averages for group	168,790	5·12	4·90	4·78

(b) Districts in which October 1896 is less than October 1895.

Durham	84,284	5·35	5·41	5·29
Fife	11,805	5·02	5·14	4·99
South Wales and Monmouth	63,319	5·04	5·80	5·30
Derbyshire	23,854	4·64	4·66	4·40
Northumberland	30,702	4·67	5·10	4·77
Notts and Leicester	25,743	4·01	4·62	3·74
Total and averages for group	240,207	4·95	5·17	4·97
Grand Total and Averages	408,997	5·02	5·03	4·89

The percentage of **unemployed** miners in trade unions in Northumberland and Durham amounted to 1·6 per cent. at the end of October, the percentage at the end of September being 1·2, and at the end of October 1895, 1·9.

Exports of Coal.—The quantity of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel exported during October was 3,056,735 tons, as compared with 2,914,758 tons in September, and 3,068,587 tons in October 1895.

(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continued good in October. The average number of days worked was nearly the same as in September, and greater than a year ago. The number of workpeople employed has increased in the twelve months by about 4½ per cent.

At 132 iron mines and open works included in the returns an average of 5·73 days per week was worked during the four weeks ended October 24th, the average for the previous month being 5·78 days, and for the corresponding month last year 5·59 days. In four districts an average of over 5½ days per week was worked, these being the same four that headed the list last month, viz., Cumberland and Lancashire, Cleveland, Scotland, and Ireland. The number employed at the 132 mines and open works was 16,519 at the end of

* The coal districts are arranged according to the differences in the number of days worked in October 1896 and October 1895.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

the period dealt with, or 697 more than at the corresponding period last year. Of these workpeople 86·8 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as against 85·8 per cent. in September, and 83·6 per cent. in October, 1895.

The tables below summarise the returns received:—

(1) Days worked per week by the mines in each district

District.	No. of mines from which returns were received.	Total No. of work-people employed at 24th October.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended		
			24th Oct. 1896.	26th Oct. 1895.	26th Sept. 1896.
ENGLAND—					
Cumberland & Lanc	47	6,187	5·84	5·63*	5·98
Cleveland ...	19	6,289	5·79	5·87	5·80
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	13	713	5·32	5·89	5·48
Northamptonshire	12	556	5·31	5·71	5·49
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	14	1,223	5·29	4·82	5·37
Other places in England ...	13	276	5·14	5·35	5·40
SCOTLAND ...	6	988	5·86	5·63	5·68
IRELAND ...	8	287	5·94	6·00	5·81
Total ...	132	16,519	5·73	5·59	5·78

(2) Percentage proportion of workpeople, included in the returns, who were employed at mines working the undermentioned number of days in four weeks.

Number of days worked by mines.	Per cent.		
	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1895.	Sept. 1896.
24 days (full time) ...	49·4	55·0*	51·0
22 and under 24 days ...	37·4	28·6*	34·8
20 " 22 " ...	4·3	2·8	10·9
Under 20 days ...	8·9	13·6*	3·3
Total ...	100·0	100·0	100·0

(c) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN OCTOBER.

EMPLOYMENT has been much the same as in September, and is considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received from 106 ironmasters owning 93 per cent. of the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom, state that they had 345 furnaces in blast at the end of October, being 17 more in England and Wales and one more in Scotland than at the end of October 1895. The number of workpeople employed at these furnaces was 22,325, as compared with 20,921 at the corresponding period last year, the number employed having increased by 1,229 and 175 in England and Wales and in Scotland respectively.

As compared with September the number of furnaces in blast was unaltered in England and Wales, three having been relit, two blown out, and one damped down. In Scotland the number is one less. The number of workpeople employed has increased by 85.

The subjoined table gives:—

Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of October 1896 with the number in blast at end of October 1895, and at end of September 1896, so far as included in the returns made to the Department by 106 ironmasters owning 93 per cent. of all the furnaces in blast in the United Kingdom:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1896.	Sept. 1896.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct. 1896.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ...	97	92	+ 5	97	97	...
Cumberland & Lancs	41	40	+ 1	41	42	- 1
S. and S.W. Yorks...	16	11	+ 5	16	16	...
Lincolnshire ...	14	14	...	14	13	+ 1
Midlands ...	88	82	+ 6	88	87	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	19	17	+ 2	19	20	- 1
Other districts ...	8	10	- 2	8	8	...
Total England and Wales...	283	266	+17	283	283	...
SCOTLAND ...	62	61	+ 1	62	63	- 1
Total furnaces included in returns ...	345	327	+18	345	346	-1

* Amended figures.

The shipments of pig iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during October amounted to 122,839 tons, as compared with 87,630 tons in October 1895, and 78,185 tons in October 1894.

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

ACCORDING to returns received from 236 employers in the above industries, employment at the end of October showed little change as compared with the preceding month. It continued markedly better than a year ago, the number of workpeople employed having increased by 4·7 per cent. The total number of persons employed at all the works covered by the returns was 78,956 at the end of October, 79,058 at the end of September, and 75,390 at the end of October, 1895.

Of these 78,956 persons, 36,718 were employed at 127 Steelworks, or 1 more than last month, and 5,840, or 18·9 per cent., more than a year ago.

The number employed at 89 Iron Puddling Furnaces and Rolling Mills was 17,755, or 26 less than in September, and 179, or 1·0 per cent., more than a year ago.

Table showing the number of persons employed* in the undermentioned occupations at the end of October 1896 and 1895 and September 1896 respectively, by 236 employers making returns:—

Occupation	Number Employed.		
	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1895.	Sept. 1896.
Steel Making, Casting, Melting, Rolling and Forging.			
England and Wales ...	30,991	25,974	31,108
Scotland ...	5,727	4,904	5,609
Total ...	36,718	30,878	36,717
Iron Puddling and Rolling.			
England and Wales ...	13,837	13,493	13,886
Scotland ...	3,918	4,083	3,895
Total ...	17,755	17,576	17,781
Tinplate Manufacture.			
England and Wales ...	11,277	14,473	11,378
Other Workpeople who cannot be separately classified as above.*			
England and Wales ...	12,169	11,445	12,142
Scotland ...	1,037	1,018	1,040
Total ...	13,206	12,463	13,182
Grand Total ...	78,956	75,390	79,058

Returns relating to 88 Tinplate Works in South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire show that at the end of October 52 were giving full employment, 11 partial employment, the remaining 25 being idle, as compared with 45 giving full employment, 17 partial employment, and 26 idle at the end of September. The number of mills at work increased by 16, being 322 at the end of October, and 306 at the end of September. The following table summarises the returns:—

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

	No. of Works.	No. of Mills.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	52	279	—	279
Works giving partial employment ...	11	43	20	63
Works idle ...	25	—	142	142
Total for October ...	88	322	162	484
Corresponding Total for September	88	306	176	482

* The table does not include workpeople engaged in machining or other engineering or constructive processes.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Returns received from the owners of 53 tinplate works show that they had 11,277 persons employed at the end of the month, or 101 less than at the end of September, and 3,196 (or 22·1 per cent.) less than at the end of October, 1895.

The exports of tinplates and sheets from the United Kingdom during October amounted to 25,201 tons, as compared with 18,368 tons in September and 34,179 tons in October, 1895. Of these quantities the United States took 10,599 tons in October, 7,167 tons in September, and 19,805 tons in October, 1895.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 200 returns from various parts of the country, reports that, generally speaking, the month of October was a favourable one for agricultural employment, and a rise in agricultural wages is reported from several districts of Norfolk.

Early in October there was some irregularity of work in certain districts, owing to wet weather, but in the latter part there was generally plenty of employment, such as mangel and potato lifting, ploughing and wheat drilling, farm work being backward, owing to the prolonged period of wet weather. Also towards the end of the month there was a good deal of threshing done, particularly in the Eastern Counties. A number of reports state that employers found it difficult during the last two weeks to get sufficient men for lifting potatoes and mangels, operations which had been delayed, and which farmers were anxious to get completed in case severe frosts set in. A report from Lincoln states that in one district farmers were paying extra wages during potato and mangel lifting, and finding other work for the men when too wet to go on the land, in order to retain their services, and a report from the Whittlesea Union of Cambridge states that a higher rate of wages was also paid there. In some mining districts men for farm work were said to be scarce, owing to the good employment in the mines.

In some of the Northern Counties the farmers have had a very trying autumn, owing to the exceptionally wet weather. In some high-lying districts the corn crops at the end of October were standing in stooks, comparatively in a worthless state, while the lifting of potatoes had been much delayed. As the great majority of the labourers in these districts are hired yearly or half-yearly, the loss occasioned by wet weather falls on the employers. Odd men and also Irish labourers, however, in some of these localities, were not able to get regular work all the month.

Employment in the Midland Counties was generally satisfactory, though there was some irregularity in districts in the counties of Leicester, Nottingham, Oxford, Hunts, and Beds.

In the Eastern Counties the reports are generally favourable. There was some slight irregularity of work owing to wet weather, but chiefly in the case of odd men, who go with threshing machines.

Returns from the Home Counties are generally favourable. In the Wantage Union of Berkshire, however, there was some irregularity of employment throughout the month, and in the earlier part in a Union in Herts, and also in Kent.

In the Southern and South-Western Counties the state of employment was generally satisfactory, but there was some slight irregularity of work in districts in the counties of Sussex, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

Seasonal changes of wages took place amounting to a reduction of 1s. to 2s. a week in districts in the counties of Essex, Gloucester, Hereford, Kent, Leicester, Oxford, Rutland, Sussex, Wilts and Yorks.

In Norfolk, on the other hand, a rise took place towards the end of October of 1s. a week (10s. to 11s.) in the following Poor Law Unions: Aylsham, Blofield, Erpingham, Docking, Smallburgh and Walsingham, and in a few villages in the Henstead Union.

In the Lincoln Union of Lincolnshire the usual seasonal change from 15s. a week to 13s. 6d. is said to have been postponed, and again in the Rye Union of Sussex the usual seasonal decrease has not taken place.

Northern Counties.—In the counties of Cumberland, Northumberland and Westmorland employment was generally regular in the month of October; but in the Carlisle Union of Cumberland some irregularity of work is reported. In Lancashire favourable reports come from the Unions of Fylde, Garstang, Lancaster and Ulverston, and in Durham in the Unions of Chester-le-Street, Darlington and Durham. In parts of the Chester-le-Street Union a few odd men and Irishmen were in irregular work before turnip-pulling commenced. In Yorkshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Easingwold, Knaresborough, Malton, Ouseburn and Ripon.

Midland Counties.—Favourable reports come from Cheshire from the Unions of Nantwich, and Tarvin. In Derbyshire work is reported as generally regular in the Chesterfield Union; also in portions of the Worksop Union (Notts) and the Burton-on-Trent Union (Staffordshire) which are situated in Derbyshire; in the Uttoxeter and Lichfield Unions of Staffordshire, and in the part of the Tamworth Union situated in Staffordshire. Favourable reports come from Shropshire from the Ellesmere and Market Drayton Unions; from Worcestershire from the Evesham and Tenbury Unions; from Warwickshire from the Unions of Atherstone, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, Stratford-on-Avon, and Warwick; and from Leicestershire from the Unions of Blaby, Billesdon, Barrow-on-Soar, Market Bosworth, and Melton Mowbray. In the Lutterworth Union, in the Leicestershire portion, a few men are said to have been in irregular work during the earlier part of the month, owing to wet weather, and a report from the Warwickshire portion states that a few odd men who work with threshing machines have been in irregular work from the same cause. Reports of a favourable character come from the Oakham Union of Rutland, and from Nottinghamshire from the Unions of Newark, and Worksop, but an unfavourable one comes from the Southwell Union. Employment is said to be regular with few exceptions in Oxfordshire in the Unions of Banbury, Thame, Wallingford, and Witney. A report states that a few men were out of work in the Headington Union. Reports from Northamptonshire state that work is generally regular in the Unions of Pottersley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Peterborough, and Potterspury; in Huntingdonshire in the Unions of Huntingdon and St. Ives. In the St. Neots Union, in both the Beds and Hunts' portions, and also in the Leighton Buzzard, and Luton Unions of Beds, there was some irregularity, owing to wet weather.

Eastern Counties.—Reports from Essex state that work is generally regular in the Unions of Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett and Tendring; but in the Unions of Billericay and Braintree there was some irregularity, chiefly among day labourers, during the month, owing to unfavourable weather. In Norfolk favourable reports come from the Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Depwade, Downham, Erpingham, Freebridge Lynn, Guilt-cross, Henstead, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Launditch, St. Faith's, Smallburgh, Swaffham, and Walsingham. In the following Unions some irregularity of work is reported during the month, chiefly among day labourers, owing to wet weather—namely, Docking, East and West Flegg, Forehoe, Hoxne, and Wayland. In Suffolk work is reported as regular, with but few exceptions, in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Hartismere, Mutford and Lothingland, Risbridge, and Samford. In the following Unions there was some slight irregularity, generally owing to wet weather, namely, Cosford, Mildenhall, Sudbury, and Thingoe. Favourable reports come from Cambridgeshire from the Unions of Chesterton, Ely, Linton, North Witchford, Royston, and Whittlesea; from Lincolnshire from the Unions of Boston, Louth, Lincoln, Spilsby, Sleaford. In the Brigg Union a report states that men lost a good deal of time at potato lifting owing to wet weather, and also in the Grimsby Union there was some irregularity.

Home Counties.—In Buckinghamshire work is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. An unfavourable report comes from Berkshire, from the Union of Wantage. It is stated that about 10 per cent. of the able-bodied labourers were in irregular work in October. In Surrey there is said to be no difficulty in obtaining employment in the Union of Farnham (Surrey and Hants), but a report from the Godstone Union refers to some slight irregularity. In Kent favourable reports, with but few exceptions, come from the Unions of Bridge, Faversham, Hoo, Hollingbourne, Milton, and Sevenoaks; and in Hertfordshire, in the Unions of Hatfield, Hertford and

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

Hitchin. In the Hemel Hempstead Union (Herts) there was some irregularity, particularly during the first part of the month, owing to wet weather, and in the Cranbrook Union (Kent).

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Employment in *Sussex* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Cuckfield, Chailey, and Horsham, but in the Rye Union some irregularity is reported. Favourable reports come from *Hampshire* from the Unions of Hartley Wintney, and Kingsclere; from *Dorsetshire*, from the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, and Wimborne. In the Union of Dorchester an unfavourable report is given of one parish, otherwise the state of employment in the Union is not unsatisfactory. In *Wiltshire* work is said to be generally regular, with but few exceptions in the Unions of Devizes, Pewsey, Warminster, and Wilton; in *Gloucestershire* in the Unions of Barton Regis, Cirencester, Gloucester, and Winchcombe; in *Herefordshire* in the Unions of Bromyard, and Ledbury; in *Somersetshire* in the Unions of Langport, and Wellington; in *Devonshire* in the Unions of Barnstaple, Crediton and Tavistock. In the Torrington Union of Devon some slight irregularity of work is reported, and also in the Truro Union of Cornwall. A favourable report comes from the Bodmin Union.

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents employment for women in the cotton trade during October showed a decline, a considerable number of mills having gone on short time. The decline was most marked in the weaving districts. In the woollen and worsted trade employment improved.

Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 495 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills, which is summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate Number of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage for Oct.	Percentage for Sept.
Full time	409	63,050	77	79
Ditto, but partial employment	36	7,440	9	14
Short time	45	10,020	13	4
Closed for repairs, bad trade, and other causes	5	1,020	1	3
Total	495	81,530	100	100

Cotton Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on is 67,670. Of these 79 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 82 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September); 8 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; 12 per cent. in mills running short time; while mills employing 1 per cent. were closed during the whole or part of the month.

Woollen and Worsted Trade.—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 12,130. Of these 73 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 66 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in September); 15 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 12 per cent. in mills running short time.

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

Employment for dock and wharf labourers, which has for some time been falling off, recovered remarkably in October. The recovery took place both in the docks and in the wharves on both sides of the river. Both dock and wharf labourers were better employed than a year ago, and considerably better than in September. It is now possible for the first time to give a comparison of employment as a whole at the docks and wharves with its condition a year ago as well as a month ago.

The average daily number of labourers employed at all the docks and at 112 of the principal wharves during the four weeks ended October 24th was 15,767, or 1,970 more than the average for the four preceding

weeks, and 897 more than a year ago. The improvement at the wharves was slightly more marked on the North than on the South side. The estimated daily number at work varied from 14,980 on October 3rd to 16,902 on October 19th.

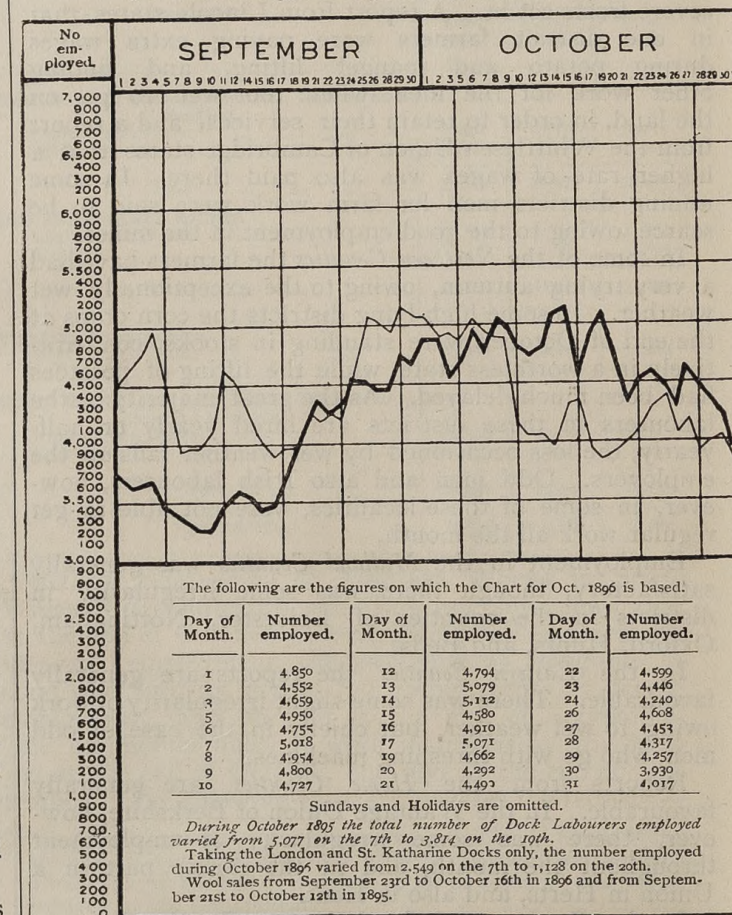
Detailed Figures.—(1) The following table shows the estimated daily average number of dock and wharf labourers employed in each week of the month:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 112 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Shipowners, &c.	Total.		
1st week of October	7,749	1,836	9,585	5,912	15,497
2nd " " "	7,637	1,808	9,445	6,185	15,630
3rd " " "	7,476	1,846	9,322	6,258	15,580
4th " " "	7,657	2,206	9,863	6,498	16,361
Average for 4 weeks ending Oct. 24, 1896	7,630	1,924	9,554	6,213	15,767
Average for 4 weeks ending Oct. 26, 1895	7,306	1,551	8,857	6,013	14,870
Average for 4 weeks ending Sept. 26, 1896	6,351	1,953	8,304	5,493	13,797

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of dock labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during September and October is shown on the chart below. The numbers in October ranged from 5,112 on the 14th to 3,930 on the 30th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers* employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of September and October 1896. The corresponding curve for September and October 1895 is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1896, and the thin curve to 1895.]



Work in mid-stream has been good during the month. Coal porters and tank men have had fair employment. Corn porters have been fairly busy in the lower docks, and moderately so in the Surrey and Millwall Docks. Lumpers, stevedores and lightermen have had fairly brisk employment. Deal porters have been busy. The fruit porters in Thames Street have been well employed, the average daily number of men employed being 357, as against an average of 301 for September.

* Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—LONDON.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN OCTOBER.

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

The number of men shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which over 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 34,703 in October, being 602 more than in October 1895. For the ten completed months of the year the number shipped shows an increase of 10,951 over the figures for the corresponding period of last year. The supply of seamen and firemen was at most ports equal to or in excess of the demand. At Middlesbrough, however, it was reported as not equal to the demand, and at Barry it was said to be scarce; at Dublin, men for sailing vessels were reported as scarce, and it was stated that at Leith some masters obtained their crews with difficulty.

Increases in the rates of wages of seamen and firemen during the month were reported from Swansea and Dublin, and the increased rates paid at Bristol at the end of September were maintained. Further particulars of changes will be found in the Table of Changes in Rates of Wages on page 351.

Table showing the number* of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in October 1896 and 1895 respectively, together with the number* shipped in the ten months ended 31st October in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in October 1896.			Total in Oct. 1895.	Total number shipped in 10 months ended October.	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in Oct. 1896.		1896.	1895.
ENGLAND.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	79	3,039	3,118	3,763	31,269	30,836
Sunderland ... ..	...	594	594	537	6,213	6,580
Middlesbrough	56	345	401	474	5,223	5,722
Hull	53	1,450	1,503	1,053	12,311	10,721
Grimsby ... ..	...	95	95	778	1,108	1,486
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ... ..	...	265	265	180	2,377	1,973
Newport, Mon.	27	1,037	1,064	1,006	11,228	10,925
Cardiff ... ..	...	296	5,038	5,324	53,104	50,909
Swansea	85	673	758	655	6,461	6,291
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	286	10,363	10,649	10,327	98,611	97,193
London	304	6,214	6,518	6,158	60,658	56,011
Southampton	5	1,653	1,658	1,536	13,215	14,639
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	29	548	577	776	7,340	7,181
Glasgow	73	2,063	2,136	2,526	22,782	21,380
IRELAND.						
Dublin	23	60	83	48	703	387
Belfast	13	238	251	220	1,600	1,418
Total Oct. 1896	1,329	33,374	34,703	...	334,503	...
Ditto, Oct. 1895	1,840	32,267	...	34,701	...	323,552

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

Employment in various Industries.—On the whole, the state of employment has been active, and has somewhat improved during the month. Returns from 398 branches of 104 unions, with an aggregate membership of 70,615, show that 2,253 (or 3·2 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 3·6 per cent. for August and September and 3·5 per cent. for October 1895.

The *Engineering, Metal* and *Shipbuilding* trades continue busy. Reports from 114 branches of 24 unions, with 22,180 members, show that 777 (or 3·5 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 3·4 in September and 5·7 per cent. in October 1895.

The *Building* trades are still actively employed. Reports from 183 branches of 8 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 11,310, show that 190 (or 1·7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 1·2 per cent. in September and 1·7 per cent. in October 1895. The bricklayers,

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

stonecarvers and millers describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair; the stonemasons and plumbers as moderate; and the painters as dull.

Employment in the *Furnishing* trades, though still good, is scarcely so brisk. Reports from 33 branches of 9 unions, with a membership of 5,461, show that 67 (or 1·2 per cent.) were unemployed, as against 0·5 per cent. in September and also in October of last year.

The *Coopers* have continued to improve, and are now busy. Two societies with a membership of 960 report only 2 (or 0·2 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 0·7 in September and 1·3 per cent. in October 1895.

The *Coachbuilding* trades, though still well employed, are scarcely so busy. Reports from 12 branches of 9 unions with a membership of 1,248 show that 30 (or 2·4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of October, compared with 1·5 last month and 4·1 per cent. in October 1895.

The *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades have considerably improved. Reports from 19 unions with a membership of 20,548 show that 603 (or 2·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·7 in September and 2·7 per cent. in October of last year.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the wholesale clothing trade has been fairly good; in the East End bespoke trade rather dull, but with an upward tendency; the West End bespoke trade improved during the month, and at the close was fairly good; the mantle trade is busy; the hat trade is extremely dull; the cap trade is busy; the fur-skin dressers are very slack; the furriers are busy, overtime being worked and a demand for men existing.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—The machine branch continues very slack; the high-class bespoke trade has been fairly good; the slipper-makers are still busy.

The *Leather* trades continue steadily employed. Returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 1,289, show that 31 (or 2·4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2·3 in September and 1·2 per cent. in October 1895.

Glass and Pottery Trades.—Employment in these trades has improved. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,578, show that 61 (or 3·9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·6 in September, and 5·9 per cent. in October of last year.

Workers in Fibre, Hair, &c.—Employment in these trades has considerably improved. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 979, show that 18 (or 1·8 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4·6 per cent. in September and 2·9 in October 1895.

The *Gold* and *Silver* trades continue busy. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,106, show less than 1 per cent. unemployed. The same was the case in September, and in October of last year.

The *Tobacco* trades have still further improved. Returns from 3 unions, with a membership of 2,099, show that 85 (or 4·0 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 5·7 in September, and 4·1 per cent. in October, 1895.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment at both the docks and wharves showed a remarkable improvement during October. An average daily number of 15,767 were employed during the four weeks ended October 24th at the docks and at 112 of the principal wharves. Work in mid-stream has been good. Employment has been fair with coal porters and tankmen, good with deal porters and fruit porters, fairly brisk with lumpers, stevedores and lightermen. Corn porters have been fairly busy in the lower docks, moderately so in the Surrey and Millwall Docks. For further details, see p. 326.

Disputes and Trade Movements.—Three fresh disputes have been reported during the month in the building, furnishing, and metal trades respectively, involving about 116 persons. The ironfounders in the London district, to the number of 1,300, secured an advance of 2s. per week from October 5th. The cab dispute on the "privilege" system, referred to in last month's GAZETTE, was still unsettled at the end of October, when nearly 2,000 drivers were said to be directly involved. On 29th October the Cab-drivers' Union called out all drivers working for owners who did not apply for the Union pennant to be exhibited on the drivers, whips indicating opposition to the privilege system. On the same date the cabmen attempted to "boycott" the railway stations by declining to drive persons within their precincts, but this course was abandoned by the men's union on 1st November, having been decided by magistrates to be illegal.

Labour Bureaux.—The five London bureaux which furnished returns for both October 1896 and 1895 registered 1,368 fresh applications for work during October, being 820 less than in

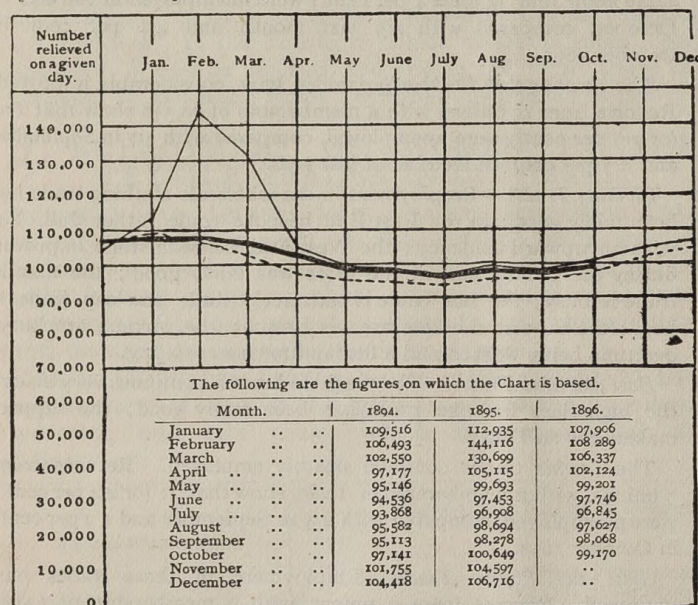
EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—NORTHERN COUNTIES AND LANCASHIRE.

October last year, when the number was 2,188. Work was found during October for 814 persons through these bureaux (713 being engaged by private employers and 101 by local authorities), as compared with 1,797 (1,654 by private employers and 143 by local authorities) in October 1895.

Pauperism.—The number of persons relieved on the last day of the second week of October was 99,170. This is an increase of 1,102 on the number relieved on the corresponding day of September. As compared with October 1895, there was a decrease in all the Metropolitan districts, except the Western, which showed a slight increase. The total decrease amounted to 1,479.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1894, 1895 and 1896:—

[The thick curve represents 1896; the thin curve 1895; and the dotted curve 1894.]



The number of vagrants in London on one day in the second week in October was 1,210, as compared with 1,308 in October 1895.

In West Ham the number of paupers on one day in the second week was 8,477 in October, 8,459 in September, and 8,538 in October 1895.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—Northumberland.—House coal pits have averaged 5.43 days per week, steam coal collieries 4.20 days per week, as against 4.58 in September. The steam coal pits worked better the last two weeks of the month. Of the 20,054 union miners 3 are unemployed, as against 6 in September. Durham.—Gas and house coal pits have, with a few exceptions, worked full time. Coking collieries have not been so well employed. Returns from 78 pits, employing nearly 46,000 men and boys, show an average of 5.25 days worked per week during the month. Several collieries were idle in the third week owing to holidays. There are 1,288, or 2.2 per cent., of union miners unemployed owing to bad trade, as against 1,611 per cent. at the end of September. In addition, 443 miners are idle owing to other causes.

Metal Mining.—One ironstone mine in Weardale is working moderately well; two mines are stopped. Of the six lead mines, only two are fully employed.

Quarrying.—At Gateshead and district the quarries are working well. At Blyth employment continues good. Limestone quarries in and around Stanhope are working full time, with one or two exceptions.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—On the Tyne.—Branches with 10,503 members have 490 (or 4.6 per cent.) idle, as against 534 (or 5.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Locomotive shops are busy. Two electrical firms have much work in hand. The Elswick factory continues brisk. Employment in the engine and boiler shops remains good. One or two shipyards in mid-river are somewhat slack; those employed on special work are busy; at others work is fair. A number of men have received notice of discharge at one yard in Blyth. On the Wear.—Branches of the engineering and iron shipbuilding trades with 4,191 members have 511 (or 12.2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 594 (or 14.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Employment at four

yards has much improved. In the engine shops work is busier, turners being well employed. Sailmakers report employment as much better. The shipwrights on the Wear have 60 union members idle. Of joiners (house and ship) on both rivers less than 1 per cent. are out of work. Out of 450 pattern-makers 2 are returned as idle. Steel smelting works and plate and angle mills continue on full time. At Consett all furnaces are now in blast.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—The demand for sailors and firemen has been fairly good. Coal porters and shippers report employment as improving; trimmers and teamers as good; quayside labourers as much better. Employment for contract "craftage" on the Tyne is reported as above the average.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers are dull in Sunderland, with 6 per cent. idle; on the Tyne they are fully employed. Masons, slaters and tilers on the Wear continue quiet.

Woodworking Trades.—The mill-sawyers on both rivers are steadily employed. Coopers are slack in cement works, fully employed in breweries and white lead factories. The closing of a chemical factory has led to the discharge of 15 coopers.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Letterpress printers at Sunderland have no members idle; on the Tyne there are 55 (or 9.8 per cent.) out of work. The bookbinders have 4 per cent. of their members unemployed. Five paper mills continue working a little over half time; three are employed full time, and one other has worked 3 days per week.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—The pressed glass makers have few members wholly idle; bottle-makers at Sunderland and Seaham Harbour are working full time. White lead factories are reported as not so busy. Cement works show little improvement. Chemical factories in one or two departments continue slack. At copper works employment is steady.

Fishing.—Trawl and line fishing have been interrupted by unsettled weather. Prices, however, have been good.—J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

Iron Mining.—The men at the Cleveland mines have been well employed during the month.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Employment has been good at the finished iron and steel works, and at the blast furnaces, foundries, and bridge works.

Engineering.—Employment has improved at Hartlepool and Stockton, but has fallen off at Middlesbrough. Pattern-makers report employment as good, especially at Stockton and Hartlepool. The moulders report employment as good at Middlesbrough, a dispute which has existed for some months having been settled; as good at Stockton and Hartlepool. Branches of these trades with 3,099 members (have 61 (or 2.0 per cent.) unemployed, as against 131 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Shipbuilding.—With two exceptions employment has improved in nearly every yard in the district, the improvement being most marked at Thornaby and the Hartlepoons. The smiths and strikers report employment as better; the shipjoiners as good at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, with none unemployed.

Building Trades.—All branches report employment as good.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as moderate at both ports. Dock labour has been fairly good at Hartlepool, but quiet at Middlesbrough. Riverside labour is moderate.

Miscellaneous.—Employment with the tailors and printers is fair; with the saltworkers steady.—A. Main.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the cotton-spinning industry is reported as moderate in Oldham, Rochdale, Mossley and Ashton-under-Lyne, and as fair in Stalybridge. Out of 9,181 union members 308 (or 3.4 per cent.) are on unemployed benefit, as against 312 (the same percentage of their membership) at the end of September. The Oldham cardroom operatives with a membership of 10,898, have 433 (or 4.0 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 570 (or 5.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. In Mossley, out of 860 members, 124 are on unemployed benefit; two mills have been closed on account of trade depression. The weavers and powerloom overlookers report employment as slack in the velvet trade; as moderate in the calico trade; as fair in sectional warping and winding, and indifferent in reeling. Ring spinners are fully employed; twiners moderately so.

Woollen Trade.—Employment is reported as fair in Rochdale, Milnrow, and Stockport districts, and full time is being worked.

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

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches of engineers, with a membership of 2,194, have 42 (or 1.9 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, as against 51 (or 2.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Brassfounders, tinplate workers, gasmeter-makers, and irongrinders report employment as good; the pattern-makers, spindle and flyer-makers, machine-makers and ironfounders as fair.

Building Trades.—Branches of the painters, plasterers, bricklayers, plumbers and carpenters and joiners, with 825 union members, have none on their unemployed fund.

Coal Mining.—In Royton, Shaw and Oldham, the miners are employed five days per week, except in one colliery, where they are working 3½ days per week.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

Cotton Trades.—Spinning.—Employment in the spinning branch in Bolton and the immediate district is not quite so brisk as at the end of September, and one large firm has started short time. Chorley, however, shows a slight improvement. In Bury no change is reported. The card-room operatives are fairly well employed. Weaving.—Employment in Bolton is not brisk, and many looms are idle. In Chorley weavers are most inactive, with much waiting for warps. In Bury no change is reported.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—The engineers report employment as exceptionally good in Bolton. There are 30 on the 'out-of-work' books, out of a total membership of 1,800. The machine making departments of one firm are not so busy as at the end of September. In Wigan and Bury great activity prevails among engineers, steel smelters, steel rollers, and cycle makers. Smiths and strikers, engine and iron-grinders, roller-makers, spindle and flyer-makers, are well employed. In Chorley the engineers are more actively engaged.

Coal Mining.—In Bolton, Walkden, Little Lever, Darcy Lever, Little Hulton, and Radcliffe, employment is reported as slightly better, with fewer unemployed. In Wigan some collieries are showing more activity.

Building Trades.—These trades in some branches are not so well employed. The bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, plumbers, flaggers and paviors are fairly busy, with few unemployed; the slaters and masons are moderately busy in Bolton. All branches in Bury and Wigan show a slight decline.

Miscellaneous.—Carters and lurrymen, bookbinders, printers, coachmakers, brushmakers, corporation employees and gas workers are fairly well employed.—R. Tootill.

Blackburn, Burnley, and District.

Cotton Trade.—Weaving.—During the past month employment in the weaving industry has considerably declined. In Burnley it is computed that half the firms are on short time, working by daylight only, and that 5,000 looms are totally stopped for various causes. In Colne fully 1,000 persons engaged in the weaving trade are on short time. In the Nelson and Blackburn districts short time is also being worked. Employment in the coloured goods trade shows no improvement. Employment in the hardwaste trade is good, and in some cases overtime is being worked. Warp dressers are only moderately employed, work being irregular. In Burnley the looming and drawing industry is slack; in Blackburn work is irregular, although only 1 per cent. of the members are on the out-of-work fund. Spinning.—Employment in this branch is considered moderate in Preston and Accrington, only 11 out of 912 members being on the out-of-work fund; employment is also moderate at Darwen and Burnley. Cardroom workers generally are fairly well employed.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners in the Blackburn district report employment as good, with no unemployed; in Accrington as fair, with only one member unemployed. Masons, bricklayers and plumbers are also fairly well employed.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Employment is not quite so brisk. There are, however, but few men unemployed, and some departments are still working overtime.

Coal Mining.—The miners in the Burnley district report employment as fair, five days per week being the average; in Towley the average is still four days per week.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers are busy. Calico printers and dyers are working full time. Stone quarrymen find work fairly brisk for the season. Brickmakers are fairly busy. W. H. Wilkinson.

Manchester and District.

General.—Branches with 23,506 members return 478 (or 2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 426 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The engineers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, brassfounders and finishers, machine-workers, sheet metal-workers, smiths and strikers, wire drawers, wire weavers, and filesmiths report employment as good. At Macclesfield and Stockport moulders and fitters are fairly well employed. Branches with 9,599 members return 180 (or 1.9 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 146 (or 1.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Textile Trades.—Cotton spinners continue busy. Cotton workers generally throughout the district are fairly well employed. Silk-weaving (hand loom and power loom) remains slack in Macclesfield. Employment in other branches of the silk trade is moderate, except with silk winders and finishers, who are busy. The fustian cutters are not busy. The dressers, bleachers, dyers and finishers report employment as moderate. Doublers and plush-raisers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors in Manchester and Macclesfield are reported as busy; in Warrington and Stockport as moderately so. Employment in the ready-made branch of the tailoring trade is moderate; ready-made mantle makers are busy; cap makers are only moderately employed. The boot and shoe makers report employment as moderate; the hatters as brisk on ladies' felt hats, and bad on men's felts. Waterproof garment makers and umbrella makers are busy, and shirt makers fairly so.

Building Trades.—Employment in Manchester, Warrington and Northwich is fair. The carpenters have fewer unemployed; the bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers and bricklayers' labourers report employment as good; the stonemasons and fret lead glaziers as moderate; the painters as bad. Branches with 5,882 members, return 28 (or 0.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 40 (or 0.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. In Macclesfield employment is only moderate, and in Stockport there has been a slight decline.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment for letterpress printers in Manchester continues unsatisfactory; in Stockport it is described as moderate. Lithographic printers and bookbinders report employment as moderate. Pattern-card makers are busy.

Salt and Chemical Workers.—Employment is slack in the salt trade; in the chemical trade at Northwich it is reported as moderate.

Furnishing and Coachbuilding Trades.—The cabinet-makers report employment as good; the French polishers and upholsterers as moderate. Coachmakers, both in railway and private shops, continue well employed. In Warrington and Stockport coopers and cabinet-makers are busy. Branches with 1,475 members, return 34 (or 2.3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 23 (or 1.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.—G. D. Kelley.

Liverpool and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The boiler-makers report employment as moderate, the engineers and pattern-makers and shipwrights as fair, the shipjoiners as slack upon repairs. Brassfounders, whitesmiths, and iron and steel dressers continue well employed. Branches of boiler-makers, iron and brass founders and iron and steel dressers, with 3,721 members, have 319, or 8.6 per cent., unemployed, as compared with 231 (or 6.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers continue well employed. French-polishers, upholsterers and coopers report employment as fair, coachmakers as moderate, sawyers and wood-working machinists as rather quiet.

Clothing Trades.—Employment has improved in the bespoke tailoring trade, and continues fair in the ready-made branch. Boot and shoe makers are well employed.

Building Trades.—Employment is slack with painters, improving with plumbers, moderate with carpenters and joiners. Other branches are well employed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches of letterpress and lithographic printers and bookbinders with 1,228 members have 80 (or 6.5 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 47 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen report employment as moderate; dock labourers as dull at South Docks, but improved at Northend and Bootle; the Mersey flatmen as fairly good; coalheavers as moderate; saltheavers as dull.

Mining and Quarrying.—Coalminers in St. Helens district are fairly well employed; in Skelmersdale district no change is reported. Stone quarrymen are well employed.

Glass and Chemical Trades.—Glass bottle makers and sheet glass makers report employment as fair; chemical workers as dull.

C. Rouse.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—YORKSHIRE.

A report from *Winsford* states that employment in the salt trade of that place has continued slack, but has shown some improvement at Middlewich. Employment in the building trades has been moderate at Winsford, brisk at Middlewich. The moulders at Winsford report employment as fair; the chemical workers at Middlewich as unchanged.

YORKSHIRE.

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Employment in the marine and general engineering and boiler shops continues good. The dispute between the engineers and a marine engineering firm still affects employment in allied trades. The pattern-makers report employment as moderate; the ironfounders as declining. At Doncaster about 300 men at the railway plant works are still working short time. Employment in the shipbuilding yards is only fair, and on repair work slack. The sailmakers report employment as moderate and falling off; the drillers and hole-cutters as moderate.

Building Trades.—Branches of the bricklayers and plasterers, masons, joiners, plumbers, millers, lathrenders and builders' labourers, with 2,331 members, have 8 (or 0.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 22 (or 1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The painters again report employment as moderate.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen and the dock labourers report employment as good, with fewer unemployed.

Fishing Industry.—The trawl fishermen report employment as moderate, and the steam trawling engineers and firemen as good. Branches with 1,200 members return 84 (or 7 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 46 (or 3.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Seed Crushing, Paint, Oil, and Colour Works.—Employment in the seed crushing mills and in the paint and colour works is reported as fairly good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Branches with 391 members return 12 (or 3.1 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 23 (or 5.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—The coachbuilders in Hull and Doncaster report employment as moderate; the coopers, tanners, lace cutters, belt-makers and flour millers as good; the brushmakers as moderate; the tailors at Doncaster as moderate.—*W. G. Millington.*

Leeds and District.

General.—Branches with a membership of 7,795 have 306 (or 3.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 335 (or 4.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment in the engineering trade continues good in Leeds, with many firms working overtime; moderate at Wakefield. Ironfounders and boiler-makers are well employed; pattern-makers, steelworkers, brassworkers, machine workers, and stove grate workers are fairly busy. Branches of societies with 3,444 members have 83 (or 2.4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 112 (or 3.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Clothing Trades.—The improvement reported in the boot and shoe industry has been well maintained, many factories now running overtime. In the ready-made clothing trade employment was good at the beginning of the month, but quiet at the end; in the bespoke tailoring trade it is reported as good.

Textile Trades.—Willeyers and felters and woollen spinners report employment as fair. Blanket-raisers are busy; linen-workers moderately so; flaxworkers are fully employed. In Leeds wool dyers are fairly busy; stuff and cloth dyers are slack. At Wakefield employment in the mills is fair; at Stanningley bad; at Yeaton the number on short time has increased considerably.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers and plumbers are well employed, joiners and painters slack. Masons are slack, owing to scarcity of stone, the wet weather having prevented quarrymen from working. At Wakefield employment is good; at Stanningley moderate. Branches of joiners, bricklayers, plumbers and painters, with 1,432 members, have 98 (or 6.8 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 62 (or 4.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Mining.—In Leeds employment in the house coal trade has improved, some pits working five and six days. At Wakefield the collieries are working five days per week. Ironstone miners are fully employed.

Leather Trades.—The tanners, curriers, and leather shavers still have a considerable number unemployed.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers has been fairly good; with lithographers bad; with bookbinders and machine rulers bad, but improving at the end of the month. Paper mill workers are busy.

Glass Bottle Trade.—At Hunslet employment is reported as fair; at Wakefield it continues moderate.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Cabinet-makers are quiet; coachmakers slack; brushmakers well employed.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford and Huddersfield District.

Worsted Trade.—Employment in the Bradford district seems to have improved slightly. The woolcombers report a slight improvement, and a similar report comes from the Worth Valley. In the weaving, twisting and drawing branches employment is still bad. In Halifax and Huddersfield employment shows no change.

Woollen Trade.—Employment shows little change. A fair number of mills are still working overtime, and one or two all night. These are chiefly in the Colne Valley; but even in this district some firms are slack. Employment in the heavy woollen trade remains fair.

Silk Trade.—At Manningham employment is stated to be only moderate, except in sewing silk, which is fair. Employment in Brighouse is reported as good.

Metal Trades.—Employment in the iron trade is reported as good in Huddersfield and Dewsbury, fair in Halifax, and moderate in Bradford. The engineers in these four districts, with 1,838 members, return 77 (or 4.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 62 (or 3.4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The ironfounders at Bradford, Halifax, Huddersfield, Keighley and Dewsbury, with 747 members, have 20 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, the same number as at the end of September.

Building Trades.—Employment is still good.

Miscellaneous.—Improvement is reported in the printing and tailoring trades.—*A. Gee.*

Sheffield, Barnsley and Rotherham District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 14,118 members have 137 (or 1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 160 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Iron and Steel Industries.—Blast furnacemen, iron rollers and patent shot and shell, sword and bayonet makers continue well employed. Employment on steel forgings and railway material is good. Crucible steel smelters are making full time, and in the Bessemer and Siemens shops employment is improving, although the armour plate departments are quiet. Engineers and ironfounders report employment as good. Branches in Sheffield with 5,017 members have 65 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 62 (the same percentage of their membership) at the end of September. At Barnsley the ironfounders are quieter; the engineers are all well employed. At Rotherham forgemen, steel smelters, tyre rollers, axle and spring makers are busy. At Thorncliffe blast-furnace workers, ironmoulders, iron pipe and stove-grate makers are busy.

Cutlery and Tools.—Engineers' and joiners' toolmakers, table blade forgers and grinders, file forgers, grinders and cutlers, table knife cutlers, steel fork forgers, scissor forgers and haft and scale pressers report work as plentiful; edge tool grinders and sawmakers as fair; pen and pocket blade and razor blade forgers and saw handle makers as moderate; the razor grinders as improved; the spring knife cutlers as slack. Societies with 6,073 members report 26 (or 0.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 38 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Other Metal Trades.—Branches of the silver and Britannia metal workers, with 793 members, report no unemployed. In Rotherham the brass trade is exceedingly busy.

Coal Mining.—A decided improvement is reported. Out of 52 of the principal collieries 27 are working 6 days per week, and 18 are averaging 5 to 5½ days, only 2 working less than 4 days. Most of the miners thrown out by the stoppage at Kiveton Park have found places, but several are still out of employment.

Building Trades.—In Sheffield the stonemasons and bricklayers report work as fair; the carpenters and joiners, plasterers and plumbers as good. In Barnsley all branches are well employed, and in Rotherham employment is fair.

Linen Trade.—In Barnsley this industry continues slack, one of the principal factories only working four days per week.

Clothing Trades.—Bespoke tailors are slack. At Barnsley employment in the ready-made branch is moderate; the boot and shoe factories are well employed.

Glass Bottle Trade.—The mineral water branch at Mexborough,

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

Swinton and Barnsley is slack. The medicine-bottle branch is busier. Employment in the flint glass trade is slack.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment continues bad in the printing trade. Bookbinders report employment as fair.

Miscellaneous.—Coachmakers report employment as good; cabinet-makers as improved; railway employees as good in all branches.—*S. Uttley.*

ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Derbyshire District.

General.—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 5,701 members have 116 (or 2 per cent.) unemployed, as against 75 (or 1.3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Branches with 2,338 members have 45 (or 1.9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 1.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Employment is good at the locomotive works at Derby, with continued overtime in some departments. In the bridge, girder and boiler yards employment continues fair; ironfounders continue slack in Derby; in Long Eaton and Draycott the cycle trade continues brisk; stove grate workers in Derby, Langley Mill and Belper report employment as fair; iron wagon builders in Long Eaton as rather dull; lace machine builders in some firms are slack.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 22 collieries show an average of nearly 4½ days worked per week, a decided improvement on September. Employment in the coking trade is fair.

Quarrying.—Most limestone quarries are in full work.

Building Trades.—Branches of brickmakers, bricklayers, masons, carpenters and joiners, plumbers and painters, with 1,271 members, have 22 (or 1.7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 8 (or 0.6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Textile Trades.—Employment with cotton spinners and weavers is moderate in Glossop, Belper, and Borrowash; slack in Hayfield. Elastic web weavers report employment as bad, many working short time; surgical bandage makers as good. In Long Eaton and Ilkeston employment in the lace trade is improving. Calico printers and engravers at Hayfield, Dinting, and New Mills report employment as moderate.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors and dress and mantle-makers continue briskly employed. Boot and shoe operatives are moderately so.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Employment with the railway carriage and wagon builders in Derby continues to improve, five days per week being worked; carriage-builders in private shops are fairly well employed. In most timber yards employment is regular. The coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as moderate; wooden wagon builders and repairers in Long Eaton as slack.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, with 7 per cent unemployed, and many working short time; lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers continue fairly well employed.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—Employment has improved in the levers and curtain branch, and continues good in the plain net branch. The warp lacemakers, warpers, designers and draughtsmen report employment as moderate; the female laceworkers as slack; bleachers and dyers and finishers are not fully employed.

Hosiery Trade.—The rotary-power hosiery workers are slack on common goods, but fairly busy on combinations. Rib top workers report employment as improved; shirt and pantaloons workers as moderate; wool shawl and fall makers at Hucknall and Kirkby as slack. The hand frame branch at Sutton-in-Ashfield report many unemployed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Employment is generally good in engineering branches, although steam engine makers, stove grate workers, and ironfounders at Mansfield, and engineers at Newark, report employment as moderate. Blast furnacemen are well employed. Branches with 2,625 members have 42 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 53 (or 2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Cycle and machine builders are busy at Beeston and Nottingham.

Building Trades.—All branches, except painters and masons, are fairly well employed. Employment is good at Mansfield, Worksop, and Retford; moderate at Newark. Branches with 2,844 members report 43 (or 1.5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 16 (or 0.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report a slight improvement; the boot and shoe makers a decline.

Railways.—Employment continues good at Nottingham, Newark, Mansfield, Worksop, Retford, Colwick, and Netherfield, and fair at Toton sidings.

Coal Mining.—Returns from 28 collieries, employing nearly 17,000 men, show an average of a little over 3½ days worked per week, a slight improvement on September. Several pits remain closed down.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers are rather busy. Employment with the lithographic printers is fair, and quiet with the bookbinders.

Miscellaneous.—The cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and brush-makers are busy, the coachmakers fairly so. Box-makers and stationery cutters are quiet. The silk-dressers are only working four days a week.—*W. L. Harstaff.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Industry.—In the boot and shoe trade employment is reported as moderate in the Leicester district and at Wellingborough. It is quiet at Northampton and Kettering, where numbers are on short time. There is little improvement in the leather dressing trades.

Other Clothing Trades.—Employment is better in the wholesale clothing trade, overtime being worked at Kettering, but remains moderate with bespoke tailors. Stay and corset makers are fully employed. Work is fairly plentiful with milliners and mantle-makers, but not quite so brisk with dressmakers. Hatters in the ladies' felt and capmaking branches are fully employed; silk hatters are slack.

Hosiery, Yarn, and Woolspinning Trades.—Except in the shirt, pant, and ribbed cashmere departments of the hosiery trade, employment is not so regular. Work continues steady in the yarn and wool-spinning trades, and generally good in the dyeing and trimming branches.

Elastic Web Trade.—Employment continues full in the cord, braid and narrow goods branch, but it is slack with shoe web weavers.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Many hosiery machine builders, pattern-makers, fitters, moulders, dynamo and electric lamp makers are working overtime. Work is also good with smiths, turners and boiler-makers, and improving with shoe machinery makers.

Mining and Quarrying.—Employment is reported as now more satisfactory with the coal miners in this district. Returns from 14 collieries employing nearly 4,500 men show an average of slightly over 4 days per week. Ironstone workers and the men engaged in the stone quarries continue in regular work.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Societies with 411 members report 5 (or 1.2 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 9 (or 2.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, builders' labourers, stonemasons, slaters, and plasterers report employment as good; carpenters and joiners as fairly good, and house painters as only moderate; gas-fitters, plumbers and glaziers are busier.

Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.—Cabinet-makers are not so busy. Employment is moderate with coachmakers, and slack with road and tramcar-builders, painters and upholsterers.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with cigar-makers, leather gaiter and legging-makers, and gas stokers, and with railway employees in the mineral and goods departments. It is fairly good with brick, tile and terra cotta-workers, basket-makers, brush-makers, bakers and confectioners, and slacker with railway navvies and outdoor labourers.—*T. Smith.*

Potteries District.

Pottery Trades.—Six societies, with a membership of 3,836, report 101 (or 2.6 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, the same percentage as at the end of September. Hollow-ware pressers report employment as slack, but sanitary pressers as much improved. Printers and transferers are still averaging 3 days per week; modellers are better employed. Women decorators are averaging less than 4 days per week. Throwers and turners are slack in some departments, but working overtime in others. Flat pressers are averaging less than 3 days per week; employment with figure-makers is improving; encaustic tilemakers are not so busy; stilt and spur makers are busy; ovenmen are averaging about 3½ days per week.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The improvement in employment is well maintained. Puddlers are exceptionally busy. The ironworkers have none out of employment. Anchor chainmakers are well employed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Engineers at Crewe, Stafford, and the Potteries, with 2,276 members, have only 2 out of work. A

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

night turn at Stoke has been suspended, but all the men have found employment at Cliff Vale. At Longport the heavy brass moulders and finishers are well employed. Copper-workers at Oakmoor and Froghall are busy. Agricultural engineers and moulders at Uttoxeter and Rugeley are well employed. At Crewe steel moulders are working overtime, but malleable ironmoulders are working short time.

Coal Mining.—Miners are better employed than for some time, several pits are working full time, others average about 4½ days per week.

Textile Trades.—At Leek the silk trimming weavers report an improvement in employment. Hard silk workers are slack. Dyers are working overtime. At Congleton trimming weavers are slack. Silk throwsters are working short time, but pickers are fairly employed. At Cheadle and Tean both silk and tape workers are busy.

Clothing Trades.—Tailors report a slight improvement. At Stafford boot and shoe operatives report an improvement. Gaiter-makers are busy. At Stone shoemakers are slack. Corset-makers at Uttoxeter are busy.

Building Trades.—Carpenters and joiners in the Potteries report employment as fair. Bricklayers are busy. Bricklayers' labourers, painters and plumbers are slack. At Leek bricklayers have a small percentage out of work; joiners are fully employed. At Crewe and Stafford employment is moderate.

Printing and kindred Trades.—In the Potteries letterpress printers are still slack, 18 per cent. being out of work, and short time being common; at Stafford, in the jobbing department, 3 days per week is the average. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately employed. Bookbinders report no change.

Miscellaneous.—Stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington are busy. Tanners at Rugeley report an improvement. Colour-makers are well employed. Gasworkers are busy. Railway servants at Crewe, Stafford and Stoke are fully employed.—*I. S. Harvey.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Iron and Steel Trades.—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire steel smelters are reported as fully employed. Employment in the steel and iron bar trades is good; in the sheet trade it is not so brisk as in September. Mills and forges are reported as fully employed. In South Shropshire employment has improved in the iron trade. In Snedshill, Heybridge, Stinchley and Wombridge forges are working four days per week. Wire rollers are rather slack.

Engineering and kindred Trades.—Branches of engineers with 1,091 members are reported as fully employed. Electrical shops are working overtime. Boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gas-holder makers, moulders, and cycle-makers are busy. In Coalbrookdale the ironfounders are well employed, in Tamworth moderately so.

Hardware Trades.—Chainmakers are well employed on best dollies, hammer, medium and small chains; quiet on county block, anchor and cable chains. Vice and anvil makers, galvanizers, tube makers, makers of locks and keys, latches, edge tools, plantation hoes, files, traps, nuts and bolts, wrought iron odd work, builders' ironmongery, iron fences and hurdles, tinplate workers and brass-workers are fully employed, with some working overtime. Steel toy and wrought cut nail makers report employment as moderate; the ironplate workers are slack. Employment is reported as bad with japanners on high-class work. Bathmakers at Stourbridge are reported as busy.

Coal Mining.—On Cannock Chase employment at most of the collieries has improved; at one or two pits full time is being worked, but in a few cases only three days. In South Shropshire full time is being worked at most pits.

Building Trades.—The carpenters and bricklayers report full employment; the plumbers and plasterers are moderately employed; the painters have many out of employment.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass makers at Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Brierley Hill report full employment; cutters are working overtime, making 7 days to the week. Electrical shade makers are very busy.

Textile Trades.—At Kidderminster employment in the carpet trade is reported as slack, some firms running short time; weavers are partially employed; spinners fairly well employed.—*C. Anthony.*

Birmingham and District.

Engineering.—Employment is good all round. Those engaged in making machinery for steel tubes and cycle work are working

overtime. There are none unemployed. Smiths and strikers are busy, and the majority are working overtime.

Brass and Copper Trades.—Employment is good on chandelier, electrolier and gasfitting work, plumbers' brass foundry, art metal work, cabinet work, brass locks and coffin furniture, clock cases, and copper work. On cased tubes, brass and copper tubes, and metal rolling and working, overtime is being made. Out-casters are pressed with work, and cannot get enough labour. On bedstead and fender mount work and metal spinning employment is moderate.

Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.—Employment in the jewellery trade is good. Silversmiths and electro-plate workers are well employed; Britannia metal workers are fairly busy.

Other Metal Trades.—Bedstead-workers and ironplate-workers report employment as fair, though some of the latter in the Lye district are on short time. Ironfounders, tinplate workers and file-smiths on handcut work are reported as busy. There is still further expansion in the cycle trade in Birmingham, Coventry and Redditch. Japanners are doing well. Employment has improved in the needle trade in Redditch, and in the watch trade in Coventry.

Building Trades.—The carpenters report employment as good; the bricklayers, plasterers and plumbers are in full work. There is great activity in all branches of the building trade in Coventry.

Glass Trades.—Flint glass blowers report a further improvement in employment. Of the bevellers and silverers 25 per cent. are working overtime. Stained glass workers are not active.

Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.—Coopers and cabinet-makers are fairly busy; brushmakers report employment as improving, but still slack; coachbuilders are busy on railway work, but in the private trade employment is falling off.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the boot and shoe trade is fair, though some are on short time; tailors are busier; printers report employment as moderate; gasworkers are fully employed. Employment has fallen off in Walsall in the harness and bridle bit trades. Coventry silk and woollen operatives are better employed.

—*W. J. Davis.***ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.****Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

General.—Branches with 2,634 members return 88 (or 3¼ per cent.) as unemployed, as against 56 (or 2¼ per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Building Trades.—At Norwich bricklayers, carpenters and joiners and painters are growing slack, with several idle. Plumbers are fairly well employed. In the rest of the district employment is fair, except with painters.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Engineers at Norwich are fairly busy. At Melton Constable and Lynn employment is good; at Theford dull; at Yarmouth slack. The shipwrights report employment as good at Lowestoft; bad at Yarmouth.

Clothing Trades.—At Norwich the clothing factories are running full time, and employment is fair. Bespoke tailors throughout the district are busier. Boot and shoe riveters and finishers are slack. The sew-round branch is fairly busy. Clickers are on full time, being to a great extent employed on the cutting of leather leggings.

Textile Trades.—At both Norwich and Yarmouth the silk and crape factories are working full time.

Fishing Trade.—At both Yarmouth and Lowestoft a great improvement has taken place. The Scotch boats are doing well.

Miscellaneous.—Navvies and labourers are well employed throughout the district. Maltsters are busy. Brushmakers at Norwich, Wymondham and Diss are fairly busy.—*G. Cleverley.*

Suffolk, Essex, and District.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—Employment is good with engineers at Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, Chelmsford, Braintree, Halstead, and Earl's Colne; fair at Leiston; dull at Ipswich, Beccles and Wickham Market. At Ipswich employment is slack on milling machinery; good in the plough-making department. The boiler-makers report employment as moderate; the moulders as declining; the shipwrights as dull.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with the boot and shoe operatives at Ipswich and Colchester is reported as moderate. Employment is good with bespoke tailors at Ipswich; declining in the ready-made branch at Ipswich, and moderate at Colchester. The corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury continue well employed.

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

Textile Trades.—Employment is reported as good with the mat-weavers at Sudbury, Long Melford and Lavenham; moderate at Glemsford; dull at Hadleigh and Braintree; as good with horse-hair weavers at Lavenham. Employment in the silk trade is slack at Halstead and Braintree; moderate at Sudbury.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as good at Ipswich, Felixstowe, Chelmsford, Braintree, and Hadleigh; as moderate at Colchester, Halstead, Sudbury and Beccles.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment is reported as good at Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, and Beccles; as moderate at Colchester.

Miscellaneous.—Shipping and dock labour has been fair at Ipswich. Horticultural workers are well employed at Ipswich and Chelmsford. Employment in the leather trade is bad at Colchester; fair at Ipswich. General labour is fair at Ipswich, dull at Halstead and Colchester.—*R. W. Mather.*

ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.**Bristol, Somerset, and Gloucestershire District.**

General.—Branches with 6,389 members have 84 (or 1¼ per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 87 (or 1¼ per cent.) at the end of September.

Coal Mining.—A continued improvement is reported from the Radstock district. In the Forest of Dean employment with house coal miners is reported as improving; with steam coal miners as good.

Engineering.—Branches of engineering, boiler-makers, ironfounders, coach builders, toolmakers and smiths and strikers with 2,718 members have 30 (or 1¼ per cent.) unemployed, as against 33 (or 1¼ per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Employment is reported as fair in Bristol, good elsewhere.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment for sailors and firemen continues brisk. Dock labourers report improvement in Bristol. At Gloucester employment is reported as good with deal runners and slack with cornporters.

Clothing Trades.—The wholesale garment makers report employment as declining; the bespoke tailors as good.

Boot and Shoe Trades.—Employment with boot and shoe operatives in Bristol is reported as moderately good with some firms; unchanged with others. In the Kingswood district employment is good.

Textile Trades.—Employment at Wellington is reported as slack, the sorting, spinning and finishing departments being on three-quarter time. Slackness continues at Trowbridge.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The lithographic printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as fair; the letterpress printers as good at Bristol, Hereford and Gloucester, and slack at Bath.

Woodworking Trades.—The upholsterers, cabinet-makers, coopers and brushmakers report a continued briskness.

Miscellaneous.—Brick and tilemakers are busy. Employment with glass bottle-makers is improving.—*J. Curle.*

Plymouth and South-Western District.

Mining, Quarrying, and Clay Industry.—The metal-mining industry of Cornwall remains unchanged. About 40 miners have emigrated during the month. The quarrymen and clay workers continue well employed.

Engineering and allied Trades.—The engineers, ironfounders, and boiler-makers, with a membership of 1,381, have only 2 unemployed. The smiths and wheelwrights and brassfounders and finishers are well employed.

Clothing Trades.—Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade has continued fair, and in the bespoke branch has improved. The improvement among the boot and shoe operatives has been maintained, and employment has improved in the bespoke branch.

Building Trades.—Employment in the building trades continues fairly good, except in Torquay, where there is no improvement. Branches of masons, joiners, bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers, and painters, with 2,452 members, have only 11 unemployed, as against 20 at the end of September.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—Employment with sailors and firemen remains unchanged; with dock and quayside labourers it has been favourable.

Printing Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as good, with none unemployed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—The cabinet-makers, brush-

makers, upholsterers and polishers report employment as fair. The coachbuilders continue well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the brickyards is fair; with the gasworkers it has improved; in the fishing industry it remains unchanged.—*J. Welland.*

WALES.**North Wales District.**

Mining.—Employment at the various collieries throughout the district has been good, the majority in the Ruabon district having worked full time, *i.e.*, 5 days one week and 6 days the other. Of 27 coal mines in Flintshire and Denbighshire, 7 worked 6 days per week, 13 worked from 5 to 6 days, 2 from 4 to 5 days, and 5 less than 4 days. Lead miners are fully employed.

Slate Quarrying.—Employment is good in the slate quarrying industry, except in the Penrhyn quarry, which is still stopped by a dispute (*see p. 339*). Employment is moderate in the freestone, granite and limestone quarries.

Iron and Steel and Engineering Trades.—Employment continues good in the steel works at Brymbo, and in the ironworks at Mostyn. Employment at the tinplate works at Mold is moderate. The men employed at the railway waggon works and timber yards at Johnstown, Ruabon, are fully employed. The engineers at Oswestry report employment as moderate; at Ruabon and at Sandycroft as good. Employment continues good at the railway coach-building works at Oswestry.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers at Wrexham and Oswestry, and the carpenters and joiners at Oswestry, report employment as moderate; the painters at Wrexham as slack. Employment in the building trade of Ruabon and district continues good in all branches.

Brick and Terra Cotta Industry.—Employment is good round Wrexham, Ruabon, Rhos, Penybont, and Buckley.

Chemical Trades.—The chemical workers at Ruabon continue on full time. At the flint works employment continues slack.

Miscellaneous.—Tweedmakers are fully occupied; bespoke tailors at Oswestry report employment as slack.—*G. Rowley.*

South Wales District.

Coal Mining.—Employment at steam collieries has fallen off. Returns from steam coal collieries employing over 49,000 men show a weekly average of 4.97 days worked during the four weeks ended October 24th, as compared with 5.30 days in September.

Building Trades.—These trades have not been so well employed. Branches of carpenters and joiners, including shipjoiners, have 54 (or 4.5 per cent.) unemployed out of a membership of 1,212, as against 37 (or 3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. Masons, plasterers, plumbers, painters and paperhangers report employment as dull, bricklayers as moderate, builders' labourers as declining.

Ship-repairing and Engineering.—In nearly every seaport employment is reported as bad. Branches of engineers with 2,462 members have returned 132 (or 5.4 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 152 (or 6.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The boiler-makers report employment as bad, with 35 per cent. unemployed; the moulders as moderate. The shipwrights return 50 per cent. unemployed. Engineering firms not dependent on shipping have been fairly busy. Many helpers and general labourers are out of employment. Four shipbuilding yards have been on short time for part of the month.

Iron and Steel Trades.—Returns from Ebbw Vale, Dowlais, Cyfarthfa, Briton Ferry, Neath and Llanelly state that mills and furnaces are going regularly. At Blaenavon there is a slight decline. The works at Cardiff are still not going very regularly.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen have in some cases been successful in raising wages. Every class of shipping has been slack. A number of large steamers, usually taking cargoes of coal, have been despatched with bunker coal and ballast only, on account of improved homeward freights. Employment in the iron ore, grain, pitwood and timber trades has been exceptionally slack. The dock hoblors complain of want of employment owing to the crews being frequently employed on hoblors' work.

Miscellaneous.—Wagon-builders and lifters report employment as not so brisk; patent fuel workers as dull.—*T. Davies.*

The Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire.—During the month the number of unemployed decreased, some new mills having been restarted, and other trades having absorbed some of the unemployed tinplate-workers. At 88 works, respecting which returns have been received, 322 mills were at work at the end of

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—SCOTLAND.

the month, or 16 more than at the end of September. Fifty-two works with 279 mills were giving full employment, and 25 works with 142 mills were idle. The remaining 11 works were giving partial employment, 43 of their mills being at work, and 20 idle.

An account of the wages movement in the trade will be found on p. 335.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

General.—Branches with a membership of 14,737 have 348 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 400 (or 2·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Coal Mining.—Employment in the Lothians continues good. In East and Mid Lothian the miners, with the exception of about 5 per cent., are working full time. In West Lothian full time is generally obtained.

Mineral Oil Trades.—All classes of workers in these trades continue well employed. Of the workpeople employed at 27 shale mines, in Mid and West Lothian, 77·7 per cent. were employed at mines which worked full time during the four weeks ended October 24th. The number of men at work in these mines was 3,580, as against 3,687 in October 1895.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Branches of these trades in Edinburgh and Leith with 2,125 members have 51 (or 2·4 per cent.) idle, the same number as at the end of September.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in these trades continues bad. Returns from three branches with 586 members show 135 (or 23 per cent.) idle, as against 188 (or 32 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Textile Trades.—Employment in the Dunfermline linen industry continues slack. The improvement in the woollen industry in Hawick has scarcely been maintained. Employment in the hosiery industry shows some improvement in the hand-made departments the machine-made departments are busy. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as quieter.

Building Trades.—Branches of these trades with 4,973 members return 96 (or 1·9 per cent.) idle, as against 64 (or 1·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Branches of these trades with 1,003 members return 8 (or 0·8 per cent.) idle, as against 5 (or 0·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Shipping and Dock Labour.—The sailors and firemen, dock labourers and coal porters report employment as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Returns from seven branches of these trades, with 2,187 members, show 37 (1·7 per cent.) idle, as compared with 63 (or 2·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Miscellaneous.—The tailors report employment as good; the shoemakers and saddlers as fair; the curriers as improved; the glass makers and glass cutters as good; the set makers as good.

Trades in Falkirk.—Branches of the engineering and metal trades in Falkirk and district with 1,785 members return 5 (or 0·3 per cent.) idle, the same number as at the end of September.

J. Mallinson.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Shipbuilding.—In all branches throughout the district employment is reported as good. Branches with 6,917 members return 210 (or 3 per cent.) as unemployed.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In all branches of these trades at Glasgow and all along the Clyde, and at Kilmarnock, Paisley, and Motherwell, favourable reports have been received. Branches with 23,715 members return 433 (or 1·8 per cent.) as unemployed.

Mining.—In Stirlingshire no slackness is reported, the men working about 11 days per fortnight. In Ayrshire full work is being obtained. In Lanarkshire employment is reported as excellent. In Renfrewshire district the coal and ironstone miners are fully employed.

Building Trades.—Employment continues good throughout the district. Branches with 12,221 members return 302 (or 2·5 per cent.) as unemployed.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment continues good except with the coopers. Branches with 3,880 members return 99 (or 2·6 per cent.) as unemployed.

Textile Trades.—In Glasgow cotton weavers are fully employed; employment on woollen and coloured work is fair; on silk weaving it is still bad. In New Mills all branches remain well employed;

in Kilbirnie linen thread workers are busy; in Greenock the woollen mills have resumed full time; in Port Glasgow canvas-weavers are working full time; in Paisley employment in the thread mills is dull, the finishing departments being still on short time.

Clothing Trades.—The bespoke tailors report employment as considerably improved; the clothiers' operatives as busy in all branches of the wholesale clothing trade during the month. The boot and shoe operatives, knee shoemakers, and pump and slipper makers, report employment as fair; the curriers as good.

Dock Labour.—The dock labourers report employment as still good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—The letterpress and lithographic printers, and the stereotypers and electrotypers, report employment as good; the bookbinders as fair.

Miscellaneous.—The calico engravers report employment as slightly declining; the bottle-makers as still dull; the flint glass cutters and the tobacco pipe makers as better; the gilders and the carters as dull; the brushmakers, settmakers, spindle and flyer-makers, railway men, and tramway men, and hackney carriage drivers as good.—A. J. Hunter.

Dundee and District.

General.—Societies (not including textile workers) with 3,801 members return 170 (or 4·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 177 (or 4·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Textile Trades.—The jute industry generally remains fairly satisfactory. One firm has, however, commenced running five days per week, and, through a breakdown, a number of workers at another factory were temporarily unemployed. Employment in the linen trade continues quiet, and there has been some additional stoppage of machinery.

Coal Mining.—The working time at the Fifeshire pits has been much the same as in September; at some pits employment is steady, while others are working short time. Returns from 35 collieries, employing some 11,000 workpeople, show a weekly average of 5 days worked during the four weeks ended October 24th.

Engineering and Shipbuilding.—The engineering trade is still busy, and overtime is general at the foundries. In the shipbuilding industry an improvement has set in. Eight branches of these trades, with 2,100 members, report 144 (or 6·9 per cent.) as unemployed, as compared with 154 (or 7·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Building and Woodworking Trades.—In most branches of the building trade employment continues good; painters are, however, slack. The cabinet and furnishing industry remains brisk. Ten societies, with 1,417 members, report 21 (or 1·5 per cent.) as idle, as against 22 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Dock and General Labour.—Employment at the docks and jetties shows an improvement consequent upon the arrival of a number of vessels from India with cargoes of jute. General labourers in the city continue moderately well employed.

Fishing Industry.—Fishing has been rather irregular in consequence of stormy weather; but, as a rule, the takes of haddock and other white fish have been good.

Miscellaneous.—The printing and kindred trades remain fairly busy. Tailors report an improvement, and boot and shoe makers are well employed, in the hand-sewn branch especially. Floorcloth and linoleum makers are still busy.—P. Reid.

Aberdeen and District.

General.—Societies with 4,489 members have 170 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 193 (or 4·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Quarrying.—The monumental masons report employment as dull, with a number idle; settmakers and quarrymen as good; granite polishers as fair.

Building Trades.—Branches of joiners, plumbers, plasterers, painters, slaters and sawmillers, with 1,386 members, have 54 (or 3·9 per cent.) unemployed, as against 74 (or 5·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The masons and painters report employment as moderate; the other branches as good.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders and shipwrights report employment as dull; the blacksmiths, ironmoulders, brassfounders and finishers, engineers, pattern-makers and horseshoers as good; the tinsplate workers as fair. Branches with 1,069 members return 109 idle (or 10·2 per cent.), as against 101 (or 9·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER—DISTRICT REPORTS.—IRELAND.

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

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

Fishing.—In October, at the port of Aberdeen, the trawl and line boats landed 44,489 cwts., realising £31,666, as against 48,944 cwts., realising £32,915, in September.

Miscellaneous.—Employment is good with combmakers; fair with cabinet-makers and upholsterers; good with railway servants and with general labourers.—W. Johnston.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building Trades.—Work has been brisk in nearly all departments during the month. The painters and paviors, however, report employment as dull, and the sawyers as moderate.

Woodworking Trades.—The brushmakers, cart and wagon builders, and organ builders have been fully employed; the upholsterers, coopers, coachmakers and saddlers fairly so; the cabinet-makers dull.

Metal Trades.—Employment is reported as good with the brass finishers, engineers and smiths; as fair with the whitesmiths; moderate with the boiler-makers. Branches with 814 members have 38 (or 4·7 per cent.) unemployed, as against 39 (or 4·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Employment with letterpress printers improved, and towards the close of the month was fair. The lithographers, stereotypers, paper-cutters, machine assistants and despatch assistants report employment as fair; the bookbinders and machine rulers as dull. Of the 1,314 members in this group 94 (or 7·2 per cent.) are returned as unemployed, as compared with 119 (or 9·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September.

Clothing Trades.—Employment with the tailors was fair; with the bootmakers and riveters dull.

Miscellaneous.—The labourers are fairly busy, but one society has a large number still idle. Employment is fair with railway servants and seamen.—J. P. Nannetti.

Belfast and District.

General.—Societies with a membership of 19,668 have 446 (or 2·3 per cent.) unemployed, as against 1,337 (or 6·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The great reduction is chiefly due to the settlement during the month of the dispute with the holders-up.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Societies with a membership of 8,567 return 128 (or 1·5 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 998 (or 11·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as moderate and improving; the strikers, brassfounders, engineers, general labourers, and platers' helpers as fair; the blacksmiths, machine workers, pattern-makers, ironfounders, shipwrights, enginemen, cramenen and firemen, and the carpenters and joiners as good.

Linen Trades.—Societies with 4,180 members report 119 (or 2·8 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 126 (or 3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The yarddressers report employment as dull; the flax dressers, flax roughers, linen lappers, yarn bundlers, and women workers as fair; the power-loom tenters as bad; and the beetling enginemen, hackle and gill makers, and spindle and flyer makers as good.

Building Trades.—Societies with a membership of 2,848 have 62 (or 2·2 per cent.) out of employment, as against 58 (or 2·1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The painters, mill-sawyers and plasterers report employment as fair; and the bricklayers, bricklayers' labourers, carpenters and joiners, and plumbers as good.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Societies with 640 members report 21 (or 3·3 per cent.) out of work, as against 28 (or 4·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The coachbuilders report employment as dull; the upholsterers and brushmakers as quiet; the packing case makers as slack; the cabinet makers and French polishers as fair; the coopers as good.

Printing and kindred Trades.—Societies with 856 members return 54 (or 6·3 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 56 (or 6·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the bookbinders, machine-rulers, and the lithographic printers as fair; the lithographic artists as good.

Clothing Trades.—Societies with 858 members report none unemployed; the tailors report employment as fair, and the boot and shoe operatives as good.

Miscellaneous.—Societies with 1,719 members report 62 (or 3·6 per cent.) as unemployed, as against 71 (or 4·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of September. The sailmakers report employment as bad; the butchers as quiet; the bakers and carters as fair; and the locomotive engine drivers, railway servants, tinplate workers and paviors as good.—R. Sheldon.

Cork and District.

Shipbuilding and Engineering.—Boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders throughout the district report employment as moderate. Engineers are slightly better employed in Limerick, Cork, and Waterford; shipwrights, shipjoiners, brass and iron foundries, and ship painters report employment as fair.

Building Trades.—Employment is reported as fair in Cork, except with the carpenters, with whom it is dull, in consequence of a dispute; in Limerick and Waterford as unchanged.

Clothing Trades.—Employment is dull with tailors and boot and shoe makers; drapers' assistants continue busy; flax and tweed operatives in Douglas, Millfield and Blarney are well employed.

Furnishing and Woodworking.—Cabinet-makers, French polishers, upholsterers, and painters report employment as quiet; the coopers as bad in Ballincollig and Cork; the millsawyers and coachmakers as good.

Fishing.—Sea fishing, especially mackerel, has been exceptionally good.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers, farriers, railway servants, stationary engine men, and gasworkers report employment as good; corporation labourers, quay and coal porters as fair.—P. O'Shea.

THE SITUATION IN THE TINPLATE TRADE.

DURING March, April and May last a general reduction in the wages of tinplate workers in South Wales, Monmouth and Gloucestershire took place. Although most firms made independent arrangements with their workpeople, a decrease of 15 per cent. off the 1874 amended list of prices was generally accepted.

At a Council Meeting of tinplate workers held in Swansea on 19th September it was determined to endeavour by united action to regain the amended 1874 list. Accordingly notice was given on 3rd October to employers, owning 45 works, intimating that work would cease if, within a month, the amended 1874 list were not granted.

With a few exceptions, the employers refused to concede the list, and on Monday, 2nd November, many of the mills were brought to a standstill. At one of the largest works in Llanelly, however, an arrangement was arrived at during the day, and the men resumed work on 3rd November on the understanding that during November they should work at a reduction of 5 per cent. off the 1874 amended list, and that the full list should be paid from 1st December. Similar arrangements were made subsequently at other works.

On the 12th inst. it was reported that in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire about 4,500 tinplate workers were on strike, while at five works the workpeople were being paid the full 1874 list. Four works, were stated to be working at a reduction of 10 per cent., and thirteen at a reduction of 5 per cent., but with a promise of the full list from December.

THE LONDON CAB TRADE IN 1895.*

Number of Drivers.—During 1895 the total number of licences issued to drivers of hackney carriages was 13,498, showing a decrease of 1,174 as compared with 1894. This decrease is partly due to the refusal to grant more than one licence to one man, partly to the refusal of licences to men known as "butterflies," who do not regularly use them as a means of livelihood; and partly to greater strictness in granting renewals to persons convicted of drunkenness, furious driving, &c. The number of licences to hackney drivers has steadily decreased from 15,219 in 1891 to 13,498 in 1895. The limit of age of applicants for licences has been raised to 21 years.

Number of Public Carriages.—During 1895 the number of licences issued to proprietors of hackney carriages was 10,961. Of these 7,425 were for two-wheel hackney carriages, an increase of 105 on the number in 1891 (which was larger than in the three succeeding years), while 3,536 were for four-wheel hackney carriages, as compared with 3,629 in 1894 and 3,809 in 1891.

* Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1895 [C. 8199]. Price 6d.

THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF BREAD AND WHEAT.

BREAD.

PUBLIC attention having recently been attracted by the rise in the retail price of bread, following on the rise in the price of wheat, inquiries have been made by the Department with the view of obtaining materials for a comparison between the present price of bread in various districts and that which obtained a month and two months ago respectively. The inquiries have been addressed to selected retail bakers and baking companies, and also to co-operative bakeries and societies with a baking department. The returns obtained from co-operative societies have been much fuller than those from retail shops, the time for the inquiry being very limited. 201 co-operative returns have been received covering a weekly sale of 993,784 quarter loaves, compared with 40 returns from retail shops, with a weekly sale of 319,357 quarter loaves. It is believed that the aggregate returns from both classes of establishments afford a fairly good basis for calculating the true average retail price of bread of the quality most largely consumed.

It is to be clearly understood that the figures given refer solely to the weeks specified below, the last being that ending November 7th. Since then there has in some cases been a further rise in price.

Returns from 241 establishments in Great Britain, with weekly sales equivalent to 1,313,141 4 lb. loaves, show that the average price of bread (excluding fancy bread) during the week ending November 7th 1896 was 4.91d. per 4 lb. loaf, compared with 4.48d. in the week ending October 10th, and 4.25d. in the week ending September 12th. Thus on the average there has been a rise of .43d. per 4 lb. loaf in the last month, and of .23d. in the previous month, making a total average advance in the two months of .66d. per 4 lb. loaf, or 15½ per cent.

The following table summarises the returns from various parts of the country:—

Districts.	Weeks ending						Average rise in price.	
	12th Sept.		10th Oct.		7th Nov.		In four weeks ended Nov. 7th.	In four weeks ended Oct. 10th.
	No. of 4 lb. loaves.	Average price per 4 lb. loaf.	No. of 4 lb. loaves.	Average price per 4 lb. loaf.	No. of 4 lb. loaves.	Average price per 4 lb. loaf.		
North of England	198,253	4.33	200,043	4.44	195,708	4.90	0.46	0.11
Mid. and East. Counties	252,836	4.08	259,388	4.16	263,258	4.65	0.49	0.08
Other places in England and Wales	218,346	4.52	226,737	4.65	232,602	5.13	0.48	0.13
Scotland	594,896	4.21	615,912	4.57	621,573	4.94	0.37	0.36
Total...	1,264,331	4.25	1,302,084	4.48	1,313,141	4.91	0.43	0.23

It will be seen that the average price, so far as shown in the returns, is highest in the South and lowest in the Midland districts. The average in the South is raised by the relatively high figure (5.22d.) for London and Home Counties. In the North (where working-class families bake largely at home) the price of bakers' bread appears to be usually somewhat higher than in the Midlands. (See Returns of Retail Prices of Food in LABOUR GAZETTE 1894, pp. 55, 154, 280.)

The rise in price during the last two months ranges from .57d. per quarter in the North, Midland and Eastern Counties to .73d. in Scotland. In Scotland the rise appears to have begun sooner than elsewhere, the average rise during September being .36d. in Scotland and only .11d. in England and Wales. On the other hand, the average advance during October was greater in England than in Scotland (.48d. compared with .37d.)

The following table is also of interest, grouping the returns according to the amount of the advance:

Rise in price of 4-lb. Loaf.	Amount of the Advance.	
	No. of 4 lb. Loaves or their equivalents sold at undermentioned rises of prices during week ending	
	Nov. 7th compared with week ending Oct. 10th.	Oct. 10th compared with Sept. 12th.
No rise	148,606	819,630
Under .3d.	16,047	28,800
.3d. and under .3d.	41,515	18,720
.3d.	953,644	432,734
Over .3d. and up to .3d.	56,083	—
1d.	97,246	2,196
Number of 4-lb. Loaves ...	1,313,141	1,302,080

It will be seen that during the past month far the most general amount of advance was ½d. per quarter.

Number of 4 lb. loaves sold at each price.

In the following table the amount of bread sold during the week ending November 7th by the establishments making returns is classified according to its price:—

Price per 4 lb. loaf. (to nearest ¼d.)	No. of 4 lb. loaves returned as sold at undermentioned prices in				
	North of England.	Mid. and East Counties.	Other places in England and Wales.	Scotland.	Total.
d.	—	—	—	8,093	8,093
¾	—	788	—	—	788
4	21,042	42,318	4,859	22,578	90,797
4½	8,052	—	—	—	8,052
4¾	61,137	125,882	37,898	110,957	335,874
5	4,810	—	—	—	4,810
5½	31,397	70,712	115,230	376,569	593,908
6	23,520	—	—	4,314	27,834
6½	22,171	19,700	42,411	98,765	183,047
7	23,579	3,858	32,704	297	59,938
Totals ...	195,708	263,258	232,602	621,573	1,313,141

WHEAT.

The rise in the price of wheat during October, to which the rise in bread prices is due, is clearly brought out in the following table:—

Average Price of British Wheat.

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
September.				
1st week	s. d. 25 7	s. d. 21 7	s. d. 23 1	s. d. 23 1
2nd "	25 0	20 5	22 10	23 9
3rd "	26 9	19 8	22 7	24 0
4th "	27 6	18 9	23 0	24 4
October.				
1st week	27 10	18 2	23 6	25 2
2nd "	27 9	17 7	24 3	26 7
3rd "	27 6	17 6	24 11	27 10
4th "	27 6	17 7	25 5	28 11
5th "	27 4	18 0	25 11	30 9
November.				
1st week	27 4	18 4	26 4	31 6

It is, however, to be observed that the great rise in the average price of British wheat in October, compared with 1894 (over 50 per cent.), is partly due to an improvement in quality, the quality of this year's crop being much better than that of 1894, which was partly spoiled by rain. The average "declared value" of wheat imported from abroad during October 1896 was about 25 per cent. higher than in the corresponding month of 1895 (6s. 8.14d. per cwt., compared with 5s. 4.60d.).

The rise is attributed to a short crop in all exporting countries, the world's wheat crop being estimated this year in the leading corn trade journals at about 290 million quarters, compared with about 310 million quarters last year, a decline of about 6 per cent.

In the United States and Russia the yield per acre this year is small, while in the Argentine the crops have been greatly damaged by locusts. Both Australasia and India, which, on an average of the last four years, exported 2,033,500 quarters to the United Kingdom, are this year largely importing wheat, owing to failure of crops.

The effect of this on imports is brought out in the following table, showing the imports of wheat from the

chief exporting countries to the United Kingdom during the ten months ending October 1896, 1895, and 1894:—

Imports of Foreign Wheat.

Countries from which imported.	Quantity imported in ten months ended		
	October 1896.	October 1895.	October 1894.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Russia	13,720,100	20,098,035	13,447,567
Roumania	3,720,700	846,700	103,658
United States	25,264,800	22,359,020	22,110,198
Argentine Republic	4,383,100	11,031,160	11,525,288
Chili	1,528,700	924,200	1,598,536
British North America	3,183,000	1,689,600	2,458,445
British East Indies	2,053,340	8,121,050	4,775,298
Australasia	8,500	3,339,520	3,421,234
Other Countries	2,002,430	2,599,330	1,109,033
Total	56,394,720	70,938,615	60,549,257

LABOUR DISPUTES IN ITALY, 1894.*

THERE were fewer industrial strikes in Italy in 1894 than in any year since 1888, but the number of days of work lost by those directly participating in such strikes exceeded that of any year for which statistics on the subject have been published. The figures relating to both these points from 1889 to 1894 are as follows:—

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Industrial Strikes Reported	126	139	132	119	131	109
Industrial Strikes for which number of Participants is known	125	133	128	117	127	103
Number of Participants ...	23,322	38,402	34,733	30,800	32,109	27,595
Strikes for which number of days lost by the Participants is known	123	129	123	114	122	103
Number of days lost ...	215,880	167,657	258,059	216,907	234,323	323,261

The total number of days of work missed owing to industrial strikes in 1894 was 332,482, which includes 9,221 days lost by persons other than the strikers themselves. Of the 27,595 persons known to have been directly engaged in industrial strikes, 3,939 were under 15 years of age, the rest, consisting of 19,766 males, who lost 221,431 days, and 3,890 females, who lost 31,940 days.

In each year since 1890 the greater part of the workpeople engaged in industrial strikes has consisted of textile operatives, miners (principally sulphur workers), and day labourers. In 1894 there were 48 strikes among these classes, directly involving at least 18,876 workpeople. Eleven strikes of sulphur miners alone occasioned a loss of 222,860 days of work, more than two-thirds of the total number lost through industrial strikes in 1894.

In the following statement the industrial strikes of 1894 are classified according to objects and results:—

Objects.	Percentage of strikers for undermentioned objects who were		
	Successful.	Partially Successful.	Unsuccessful.
For increased wages	15	25	60
For shorter working day	6	54	40
Against reduction of wages	68	4	28
Against extension of working day	—	—	100
Other	28	11	61
All objects	19	24	57

Agricultural strikes are treated separately in the Italian statistics. Eight such strikes, involving an aggregate of 4,748 workpeople, took place in 1894, as compared with 23, involving 12,390 persons, in 1893. Four of the 1894 strikes were entirely and one partially successful, the rest being unsuccessful.

Eleven lock-outs, affecting 1,526 workpeople, and occasioning the loss of 37,419 days of work, took place in 1894. All except one were due to State or communal measures, regulating the taxation or price of articles of daily necessity.

None of the Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration (*Collegi di Probi Viri*) provided for in the Law of June 15th, 1893† had been definitely established at the end of 1894, but 19 towns are mentioned in which such boards were in course of formation.

* Statistica degli Scioperi avvenuti nell'Industria e nell'Agricoltura durante l'anno 1894. Ministero di Agricoltura, Industria e Commercio, Rome. On sale at the Libreria Bocca. Price, 1 lira (about 10s.).
† For précis of Bill on which this Law is based, see BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL of June 1893.

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS IN 1895*

Eighth Annual Report of the Chief Labour Correspondent.

CERTAIN preliminary information on the strikes and lock-outs of 1895 was published in the LABOUR GAZETTE for February 1896 (page 49). The figures then published were, however, subject to revision in the light of later and more complete information, which has been used in the preparation of the Eighth Annual Report of the Chief Labour Correspondent, which also deals with the subject in much greater detail.

From the Report it appears that the labour disputes of 1895 show a material diminution compared with previous years, whether judged by the number of stoppages, the number of persons affected, or the aggregate duration of the disputes.

In spite of the important disputes in the boot and shoe and engineering trades which took place during the year, the total number of working days lost through strikes and lock-outs in 1895 has been the smallest recorded during the period of six years for which comparative figures exist.

In all there were 876 disputes resulting in stoppage of work during 1895, involving 263,758 workpeople, as against 1,061 disputes and 324,245 workpeople in 1894. So far as can be ascertained the disputes of 1895 were confined to 2,753 establishments, as compared with 3,713 in the previous year.

The table below shows the aggregate days estimated to have been lost through disputes in the past three years in various groups of trades:—

Groups of Trades.	Aggregate Number of Working Days lost in		
	1893.	1894.	1895.
	Days.	Days.	Days.
Mining and quarrying	27,077,893	6,547,683	981,392
Metal trades (including shipbuilding)	863,578	1,087,696	1,547,212
Building trades	840,177	350,656	370,022
Seafaring, dock labour and transport	466,589	277,019	30,058
Textile trades	422,184	768,068	793,647
Clothing trades	204,483	118,967	1,747,373
Miscellaneous trades	430,158	171,107	74,948
Total	31,205,062	9,322,096	5,542,652

It is again noticeable that a very small number of disputes account for a very large proportion of the persons involved. Thus it is found that 4.2 per cent. of the total disputes embraced no less than 60.9 per cent. of the total persons concerned, while the remaining 95.8 per cent. of disputes only supplied 39.1 per cent. of the persons. In like manner it is found that the six principal disputes (those involving 5,000 persons and upwards) furnish more than one-half (53.4 per cent.) of the aggregate number of working days lost in all the disputes of the year.

The majority of the disputes (56 per cent.) affected under 100 persons, and only 36 disputes were recorded during the year affecting 1,000 persons or upwards.

These facts are shown in the following statement of number of disputes and persons involved, arranged in groups according to magnitude, with aggregate number of working days lost, and average number of working days lost per head. In this table only those disputes are included where both duration and numbers involved are known:—

Groups according to Magnitude.	Disputes where both Duration and Numbers are known.			Average number of Working days lost per head by those involved.
	No. of Disputes.	No. of Persons affected.	Aggregate number of Working days lost.	
Disputes affecting 5,000 persons and upwards	6	103,800	2,960,800	28.5
Disputes affecting 1,000 to 5,000 persons	30	56,682	771,237	13.6
" " 500 to 1,000 "	48	31,921	560,930	17.6
" " 100 to 500 "	230	50,680	967,613	19.1
" " under 100 "	401	12,917	282,072	21.8
Total	715	256,000	5,542,652	21.6

* Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent on the Strikes and Lock outs of 1895 (C.—823). Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 2s. 4d.

The largest number of disputes furnished by any one group of trades is that of the building trades, which had 197 disputes, or somewhat over one-fifth of the total; but their comparative unimportance is shown by the fact that they embraced only about one twenty-sixth of the total persons involved. The number of disputes, and the number of persons affected in groups of trades, is given below:—

Groups of Trades.	Number of Disputes.	Workpeople affected by Disputes.	
		Number.	Percentage.
Mining and quarrying	191	83,879	31.8
Metal trades (including shipbuilding)	176	46,314	17.6
Building trades	197	9,898	3.7
Textile trades	132	57,415	21.8
Clothing trades	53	57,078	21.6
Miscellaneous	127	9,174	3.5
Total	876	263,758	100

The large number of persons affected by disputes in the clothing trades is accounted for by the boot and shoe dispute, which involved about 46,000 persons.

As regards the success or failure of the workpeople concerned, it is found that 24 per cent. of all the persons affected during the year were successful, compared with 22.1 per cent. in the preceding year. There were 47 per cent. partially successful, compared with 34.2 per cent. in the previous year, while only 28 per cent. were entirely unsuccessful, as compared with 42 per cent. in the year before. Thus the average of success was higher and of failure lower than the previous year; a fact to be anticipated with a rising labour market.

Geographically distributed, the disputes occurring in England and Wales affected 68 per cent. of the total persons engaged, those in Scotland 23.8 per cent., and those in Ireland 4.6 per cent. With regard to individual counties, Forfarshire heads the list with 35,013 persons (owing to the dispute in the Dundee jute trade). Lancashire, Monmouthshire and Yorkshire follow with 23,313, 22,648 and 22,478 persons respectively. Lancashire and Yorkshire, however, were the seats of most frequent disputes, having 140 and 134 respectively.

The general tendency of the wages movement of the year is also shown by the fact that 66.2 per cent. of the persons engaged in wages disputes struck in support of demands for advanced wages, as compared with 49.8 per cent. in the previous year. Disputes about hours of labour were of little importance, and affected only 2,858 persons, as against 6,105 in the previous year. The following table shows the extent to which success or otherwise attended upon disputes for special causes or objects:—

Main Groups of Causes of Disputes.	Number of persons affected so far as known.	Percentage of persons affected by disputes of which the results were			
		Successful.	Partially successful.	Unsuccessful.	Indefinite or not known.
Wages	143,168	24.6	39.6	34.8	1.0
Hours of labour	2,858	26.6	11.0	62.4	—
Working arrangements	84,393	17.8	65.8	16.0	1.4
Class disputes	4,467	32.0	35.7	30.5	1.8
Unionism	6,614	49.7	16.6	33.4	3
Other causes or objects	22,046	35.0	40.0	23.0	2.0
Causes not known	182	—	—	—	100.0
Total	263,758	24.1	47.1	27.9	.9
Total for 1894	384,216	22.1	34.2	42.1	1.6

The more generally successful character of the disputes of the year to the operatives is reflected in the modes of settlement. The percentage of persons concerned in the disputes of 1895 which were settled by one or other of the modes of conciliation and negotiation was 74.8, as against 56.7 in 1894, while in the cases of submission of workpeople and replacement of hands, which may be taken as indications of utter defeat, only 21 per cent. of persons were concerned, as compared with 47 per cent. in 1894.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

Arbitration in the Scarborough Building Trades.

A strike of builders' labourers at Scarborough for an increase of wages from 5½d. to 6d. per hour has been referred to arbitration. The men resumed work on September 28th, and the arbitration proceedings took place on October 24th, when a meeting was held between two arbitrators appointed by the masters and the men respectively, with Mr. J. W. Woodall as umpire. It was decided that wages should remain at 5½d. per hour.

Arbitration in the Boot and Shoe Trade.

Three points in dispute with regard to the proposed new rules for the Leicester Board of Conciliation were submitted to the decision of Lord James of Hereford (the umpire under the terms of settlement of the general dispute of 1895) on October 16th. The first and third related to the name and area of operations of the Board. The men claimed that it should be called the Board for "Leicester and district," and the employers the Board for "Leicester." The men also asked for the insertion of a new rule (quoted in full below) extending the area of the work of the Board to any districts not covered by other Boards. The employers asked for an amendment of the rule prescribing procedure for the settlement of disputes. Lord James's award, which was received by the parties on October 24th, fixed the name of the Board as "the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for Leicester," and declined to make the alteration of procedure desired by the employers. The decision with regard to the new rule proposed by the men was as follows:—

Thirdly, Mr. Inskip applied to me to insert the following rule in the draft rules:—"That any decision given by the (Leicester) Board shall be binding on each and every employer connected with the federation, and the workmen's union, always providing that such decision shall only apply to an area or district which is not covered by any other local Board connected with the federation and union." I determine that, having regard to Resolution 5, Sub-section A, of the terms of settlement of April 19th 1895, "No Board shall claim jurisdiction over the conditions and terms of employment of workpeople outside its districts, provided that no actual work shall be sent out of a district which has been the subject of an award in the district.", I have no power to admit such rule.

Midland Iron and Steel Wages Board.

The puddlers at an ironworks stopped work on September 30th, alleging that the pig iron supplied was difficult to work. Neither employers nor employed belonged to the Board, though at the time of the dispute they were taking steps to join. Legal proceedings were taken by the firm against the workmen, but before the cases were heard, both parties sought the intervention of the Board. Ultimately it was agreed to submit the case to the Standing Committee, the men meanwhile resuming work, and the summonses being withdrawn. The Committee in its decision censured the employers to accept their assurance that no stoppage would take place in future. The parties have now decided to join the Board.

Forest of Dean Miners' Wages Agreement.

An agreement has been signed by the coalowners and miners of the Forest of Dean governing the wages rate for the ensuing year. An agreement has been in force for some two years, but came to an end on September 30th. The men expressed a willingness to sign the old agreement for another year, but the employers objected that if they signed for a year, and the wages of the miners in the Midlands were reduced, with a consequent reduction in the price of coal, they would be cut out of the market. In the first instance they proposed to sign the agreement for six months only, but afterwards made an alternative proposition to sign the agreement for a year, if a provision was inserted enabling them to make a reduction, should a reduction take place in the "Federated Districts." This proposal was accepted by the men, and the agreement signed.

Wages Agreement in the Heywood Winding Trade.

A joint meeting of representatives of the Operative Winders' Association and the Employers' Federation was held on October 5th at Manchester, under the terms of the Brooklands' Agreement. The pirl winders at a mill at Heywood had been paid a fixed wage of 14s. per week. Both winders and employer had been desirous of establishing piece-work wages, but some difficulty had arisen about the rate to be paid. At the meeting the price to be paid was fixed temporarily, it being agreed that if either side was dissatisfied the matter should be re-opened in six weeks' time.

DISPUTE IN THE NORTH WALES QUARRY TRADE.

DURING the whole of October a dispute has been in progress affecting practically the whole of the quarrymen and others employed at the Penrhyn Slate Quarry, Bethesda, North Wales, numbering about 2,800 workmen.

For some time past dissatisfaction has been expressed on behalf of the men with regard to some of the conditions of their employment, especially the standard rate of wages, the system of large contracts, and the conditions under which the so-called "Rybelwyr" work. It may be explained that the greater part of the work of the quarrymen is carried out on the bargain system. The quarrying of slate in a certain part of the quarry is let for a month to a "crew" usually consisting of three partners, sometimes employing a journeyman. The price fixed depends on the advantages or disadvantages of the place as regards the difficulty of getting the slate, the quality of the slate rock, &c., the variations in the price of the letting being supposed to neutralise these differences of advantage. The basis of letting is a list of prices for slate quarrying adopted many years back, a greater or smaller addition being made to these prices, known as "poundage." Thus if for every £1 provided for in the price list it be agreed to pay £2 10s. in a certain case, the men would be said to work at a poundage of 30s. The "Rybelwyr" are men for whom a bargain cannot be found, or who are incapable of undertaking work on the bargain system, and boys who are learning the trade. The system of large contracts complained of applies to the employment of "bad rock men," i.e., those who are employed in clearing away bad rock rather than getting slate. This work is usually undertaken by contractors and not on the monthly bargain system. By the standard rate of wages is meant the daily amount which it is expected that an average quarryman should be able to earn under the bargain system, and which is kept in view in determining the poundage.

Among the principal claims of the men were a rise in the standard rate from 4s. to 5s. 6d. a day, with a minimum wage of 4s. 6d. a day, to be paid irrespective of the results of the bargain, an increase in the wages of sawyers, masons, carpenters, and other classes of workmen; that apprentices should receive 10s. poundage; that large contracts should be abolished, and contracts should be confined to ordinary bargains; and that the "Rybelwyr" should be diminished in number and admitted to monthly bargains. These and other minor claims were formulated by a quarry committee, which, however, has not been recognised by the owner of the quarry.

With regard to this matter it appears a workmen's committee, with power to consider complaints, had been recognised in the quarry under the previous management between 1874 and 1885, but in the latter year this had been put an end to by the present owner, the arrangement not being considered to have worked satisfactorily. The existing committee, therefore, which consists of delegates elected by the men working in the various galleries, has had no official dealings with the management, though no objection is taken by the owner of the quarry to the men belonging to a trade union. One of the claims of the men is the recognition either of this committee or of some form of protective combination among the men through which negotiations can be carried on.

The men's claims formed the subject of interviews and correspondence between the owner of the quarry and a representative deputation of the men during the months of August and September, the owner's final reply being dated September 25th. In this reply or in previous communications he promised consideration of the question of poundage for apprentices, and stated his intention to reduce the number of the "Rybelwyr," whose numbers (278 men and 260 boys) appeared excessive, by admitting no more boys into the quarry until further notice. As regards the system of large contracts, while denying that "sweating" had been proved, he announced that instructions had now been given to prevent "the possibility of a contractor subletting his contract in such a manner as to place him in a position of simply receiving financial benefit through obtaining a sub-contractor to do the work for him at a less price, whilst he (the contractor) neither worked upon the contract himself nor paid any of the expense, nor incurred any financial risk." The men's claims as to minimum wage and a rise in the standard rate were refused. It may be stated that in December 1895 a rise of 5 per cent. in wages was conceded, this increase taking the form not of an advance in the standard rate, but of an addition of 5 per cent. to the men's bills. Similar advances of 5 per cent. had been made in February 1892 and February 1893, though the standard rate of 4s. has not been altered. It is, however, claimed by the representatives of the men that the above method of advancing wages is not so satisfactory as an increase in the standard rate.

On September 26th two men who had been summoned to attend at the office twelve days previously, and had declined on the advice of the quarry committee to go, and had therefore been suspended from work, were dismissed. On the same day a resolution was passed at a mass meeting of the men to strike in March next, unless the more important points of their requests were conceded in the meantime. The following resolution was also passed:—

That we are of opinion that, as workmen anxious to bring the present differences between us and our employer, if possible, to a peaceful settlement, it is our duty to call the attention of the Board of Trade to the matter, and to ask for their intervention under the provisions of the Conciliation Act of August 1896.

On September 28th, 71 men, including the whole of the members of the Quarry Committee, were suspended from work. On the same day the men met and passed the following resolution:—

That this general meeting of the workmen at Caebraichycafn Quarry, having been given to understand that our representatives on the general quarry committee have been suspended for an indefinite period from to-morrow (Tuesday) night, hereby determine that it is our duty also to cease working until we are afforded an explanation of this action on the part of the management.

On the following day a notice was posted that the men who had refused their bargains must remove their tools, and the men were informed that reasons for the suspension of the 71 men would be published in due course. The document giving these reasons, which has since been published (dated October 12th), alleges misrepresentation, insubordination and inciting the men to strike, on the part of the quarry committee. In accordance with their resolution the men did not as usual take up their monthly bargains at the beginning of October. Since then the whole of the quarries have been laid idle, and the men have removed their tools. On September 30th an application was made on behalf of the men to the Board of Trade to take action under Section 2 of the Conciliation Act, 1896, for the purpose of promoting a settlement of the dispute. The Board of Trade have accordingly placed themselves in communication with Lord Penrhyn and the men's representatives, and obtained full information both through correspondence and documents, and by personal interviews with both sides, with regard to the causes and circumstances of the dispute. Up to the present, however, the dispute continues unsettled. A good many men are said to have left the district, and to have procured employment elsewhere. A relief committee has been formed to deal with cases of distress.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.—Emigrants should not go to Canada during the winter season. There are good openings in Canada for farmers who have a little capital; cattle and partially cleared farms are very cheap, and prospects are improving. Among the many new districts which are being developed, that of Temiscamingue, North-West of Ottawa, is doing very well. The mining of gold and silver in the West Kootenay district of British Columbia is being actively pushed forward, and large numbers of miners continue to go there.

New South Wales.—A report from the Broken Hill Silver Mines states that there is an ample local supply of men in the building and metal trades, of workers in stone, tailors and bootmakers; women do most of the tailoring, and earn 20s. to 30s. a week. A report from the rich valley of the Hunter states that there is a demand for skilled farm labourers and dairymen, but none for mechanics or miners. Another report from the valuable dairying district of Kiama, south of Sydney, states that there is no demand for labour; land there is selling at £24 an acre, and renting at 30s., so that farmers going there require some amount of capital. Settlement on the land in 1895, under the Land Act of that year, was very satisfactory; the greatest rush was in the Riverina district, but land in other parts, as Narrabri, Cootamundra, Young, Forbes, Condobolin, and Dubbo was also largely taken up. At Goulburn, an important place 134 miles south-west of Sydney, "the greatest distress prevails at the present, and it is a matter of the utmost difficulty to find employment for workers."

Victoria.—The Settlement of Lands Act 1893, which was primarily intended to relieve the unemployed, has—so far as the principle of co-operation has been concerned—proved a decided failure; but in other respects the communities formed under the Act have done fairly well with the liberal assistance of the Government. The Commission appointed to enquire into the financial failure of the Mildura Irrigation Colony has reported that it was mainly due to the insufficiency of the irrigation works, and that the Government contributed to this result by their neglect. They recommend that a loan of £30,000 should be advanced by the Government on security of the land, and that the original concession should be cancelled. The supply of labour in Victoria is sufficient.

South Australia.—A report from the farming and fruit district of Mintaro states that there are more farm and station hands in the district than are wanted, farmers employing very little labour outside their own families, except for seeding and harvest work. Short time is still being worked in the principal Government railway shops, and a reduction in the number of employees is recommended by the railway authorities. Owing to the want of rain, especially in the north, the demand for agricultural labour throughout the colony has been small.

Queensland.—There is a slight improvement in most trades at Brisbane, but there is no demand for more hands, except for general female servants, who are in great request. In the pastoral country, 200 miles west of Rockhampton, there has lately been a good demand for married couples at £60 to £100 a year. At Maryborough sufficient labour is reported in all trades. Throughout Queensland at the present time there appears to be a fair amount of work, so that those on the spot are for the most part employed; there is not, however, any demand for more labour, except in the case of domestic servants, the supply of whom is much less than the demand. The recent annual report of the railways also indicates the development of industries, as all the principal lines show increased earnings.

Western Australia.—The farmers are in great want of agricultural labourers, who are attracted to the gold-fields by the higher pay which is offered to them there. The Government are erecting or enlarging numbers of hospitals, police quarters, schools, court houses, telegraph

stations and other buildings in all parts of the country, so that men in the building trades are well employed. There are now 150 free farms taken up under the Homestead Act of 1893. Some 80 railway men have struck work at Fremantle on their demand, that their wages should be increased from 8s. a day to 10s., being refused. The dispute between the masons and their employers at Fremantle has been settled by the masons' wages being raised from 11s. a day to 12s. Contractors complain of a scarcity of men in every branch of the building trade; the plasterers' association, on the other hand, states that the supply of men in all classes is more than the demand.

Tasmania.—The progress of the mining industry has been fully maintained this year, especially on the West Coast, and the yield of gold, silver and coal has increased considerably. New railways to the mines are being constructed, or have been authorised, and a large increase in the output of minerals and in the employment of labour may naturally be anticipated in the near future. A report from the fruit and hop district of New Norfolk states that there is no demand whatever for more labour there, and that the labouring class is steadily leaving for the mining fields; nor is there any demand in the agricultural district of Evandale.

New Zealand.—In Auckland City the building trades and sawmills are active. The gold mining industry in Auckland Province makes steady progress, and the number of miners employed is larger than it has ever been before. In other parts of the Colony employment has been fairly good in the building trades; and the boot factories have been busy at Wanganui, Timaru, Oamaru, and New Plymouth. Trade seems to have been duldest at Napier, Westport, and Christchurch. At Wellington brass-finishers, woodsawyers and machinists, and brick-makers have been busy, but there seems to be no difficulty in getting men. Farm hands are fully supplied, but there is a good opening for dairy farmers with a little capital.

Cape Colony.—At Robertson and Montagu, in the South-West of the Colony, there is no opening whatever for any kind of labour, not even for domestic servants; the wages are low and the hours are long; "masons have to do all kinds of work in building, e.g., bricklaying, plastering, &c.; carpenters must also be able to do all branches of the trade; painters do glazing and paperhanging." At Cape Town the hours for carpenters and joiners have in nearly all cases been reduced from 51 a week to 48, and the wages been raised from £3 a week to £3 6s. Large numbers of persons continue to arrive in the Colony.

Natal.—The Crown Lands at Port Shepstone, in the South of the Colony, have just been thrown open for purchase, by Europeans only, in blocks of 2 to 126 acres, at an upset price of £4 to £10 per acre, payable by instalments. Application must be made to the Surveyor-General. The purchaser must, within twelve months of his purchase, erect buildings on the land of the value of not less than £200. Coalminers have been busy in the North, and the output of coal continues to increase.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.*

Employment in October.—Four hundred and ninety trades unions, having 117,000 members, reported a little over 7 per cent. unemployed on October 15th, or the same percentage as in September.

As in September, the *Textile* (silk excepted) and *Metal* trades had plenty of work. The *Coal Mining*, *Printing*, and *Clothing* (including the *Boot and Shoe*) trades have slightly improved. The seasonal slackness in the various branches of the *Building* trade is accentuated, owing to the incessant rains of the past month.

Coal Mining in September.—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in September was 5.85, compared with 5.65 in August. In September full time (six days or over) was worked by 50 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 48 per cent. of

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the French Office du Travail.

the miners, while in August only 2 per cent. worked full time and 95 per cent. 5 to 6 days per week. The pits making these returns employ over 100,000, or three-fourths of the coal miners of France.

Labour Disputes in October.—Twenty-two strikes took place in October, compared with 25 in September and 22 in October 1895. In addition, 10 strikes begun before October were still in progress at the beginning of that month. The number of participants in the new strikes was 4,858, the trades affected being as follows:—Textile, 6; metal, 4; mining and quarrying, 3; porcelain and pottery, 3; unclassified trades, 6 disputes.

A strike of coal miners at La Grand' Combe (Gard), begun on the 3rd and terminated on the 16th of October, was the most serious, the number of participants, from October 10th to 16th, being 3,000. The strike was caused by the proposal to reduce, by a penny, the price per tub of coal mined. On October 5th the men asked the *juge de paix* to bring about a conciliation meeting, and handed in a list of their demands, which included a general revision of the task prices and daily rates of wages. The company at first rejected, but ultimately accepted, the proposals for conciliation, and on October 16th a compromise was effected and work resumed. Of 17 disputes terminated in October, three ended in favour of the workpeople, who were unsuccessful in six and partially successful in six. In two cases the result was indefinite.

Conciliation and Arbitration in October.—In addition to the case mentioned above, recourse was had in 6 others to the Conciliation and Arbitration law, the *juge de paix* taking the initiative in five cases and the workpeople in one. Conciliation committees were formed in two cases, in one of which a settlement was effected.

Ninth National Co-operative Congress.—*The ninth National Congress of French co-operative societies was held on October 25th, 26th and 27th in Paris. There were represented at this Congress 158 distributive societies, stated to number about 120,000 members, the Orleans Society of Agricultural Production (a federation of nine societies, carrying on both production and distribution, with a total membership stated to be about 18,000), and the Co-operative Union of Productive Societies ("La Chambre Consultative des Associations Ouvrières de Production"), embracing 109 distinct associations, which have a total membership stated at about 4,000, and which are stated to give regular employment to about 1,500 of these persons. The subjects discussed related mainly to matters of internal organisation. Much attention was devoted to the consideration of the proposals recently made in the Legislature to compel the co-operative societies to pay the license tax exacted from ordinary commercial enterprises, but from which the societies, unless selling to non-members, as well as to members, have hitherto been exempt. To these proposals it was decided to offer opposition.

GERMANY.

Disputes in the Printing Trade.—The most serious of the October disputes have been in the printing and allied trades. *Die Graphische Presse*, a German trade union organ of lithographic workers, contains particulars of a strike begun on October 19th in all lithographic establishments in Berlin, in which certain demands had not been conceded on October 17th. These demands included (a) an eight-hour day for lithographic artists and nine hours for the other classes of workpeople; (b) abolition of overtime, or payment at rates of time and a quarter; (c) piece-wage rates to be so fixed as to secure certain specified minimum earnings for each branch. It is said that 32 firms had conceded these demands, when the general strike was precipitated by the formation of an employers' association, whose members executed the work of those whose operatives had struck. On November 6th the number of strikers was stated to be about 3,000. About 1,000 letterpress printers of Hamburg, Altona and Ottensen struck on October 6th for increased wages and a shorter working day.

Other Disputes in October.—The *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* and the *Korrespondenzblatt* of the German workmen's unions (*Gewerkschaften*) reported on 26 disputes (besides the above) in October, 10 of that number being said to involve some 3,200 workpeople. Of 20

* Information supplied by an officer of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade, who was present.

disputes reported for the first time, 3 each occurred in the printing, building, metal working and textile trades, 2 in the furnishing trades and 1 each among ship painters and cleaners, lightermen, lignite miners, fancy paper-makers, cigar-makers and wood-turners. A compromise was arrived at on October 24th in the dispute at the Flensburg shipyard, where 1,500 operatives had been out since July 22nd (see *GAZETTE*, October 1896, p. 310). The demand for a 9-hour day has not been conceded, but that for 3.6d. per hour has been granted those who have been employed in the yard for a year.

Double-loom Weaving.—The *Deutscher Reichs-Anzeiger* of October 1st states that the introduction of the double-loom system continues to cause trouble with the textile operatives. Numerous conferences are being held in Aix-la-Chapelle and Burtscheid between employers and employed, with a view to inducing the weavers not to resist the double-loom system. In the strike against the introduction of double looms at a mill in Eupen (see *GAZETTE*, October 1896, p. 310) the operatives have been successful.

Application of the new wages and hours list for book printers.—The new list had, on October 18th, been applied in 333 localities, by 1,229 establishments, employing 18,000 workpeople. (See *GAZETTE* August, 1896, p. 244.)

Württemberg Municipal Labour Registries in September.—The figures which have hitherto comprised returns from 10 municipal labour registries, now comprise returns from 11, the additional registry being that of Ludwigsburg, established in May 1896, but for which the September figures are the first available. The 11 municipal registries found work in September for 1,966 persons (1,428 males and 538 females), the situations applied for by the workpeople numbered 4,153, and those offered by employers 3,959.

SWITZERLAND.

Shareholding by Employees.—From *La Reforme Sociale*, supplemented by information supplied by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul-General at Zürich, it appears that arrangements have recently been made by a trust company or syndicate for enabling the employees of three establishments engaged in branches of the typographical and allied trades to acquire a financial interest in the companies by which these establishments are conducted. The syndicate (the capital in which, amounting to £160,000, in £8 shares, of which one-half is paid up, so far as it has not been subscribed for by the employees in question, is the exclusive property of a Zürich firm) has taken over the great bulk of the shares in the three companies above referred to; and, with a view to enabling the employees of these companies to take shares in the syndicate, an arrangement of the following nature has been made with a bank. The bank has advanced to the syndicate (on the guarantee of the Zürich firm) a sum of £20,000, representing one-fourth of the paid-up capital of the syndicate. These 5,000 shares the employees are invited to acquire by paying for them in cash, or by allowing a small weekly sum to be retained out of their wages; in the latter case the men are debited with interest on the amount unpaid, but they are treated from the first as the owners of their shares, and are credited with the dividends on these shares, which more than balance the sums debited to them in respect of the interest. Up to the present, 72 per cent. of the employees concerned have subscribed for shares, 34 per cent. having paid the whole £4 called up on each share, and 38 per cent., who paid no cash as subscription, having authorised their employers to deduct the sum (about 6½d. on each share) payable in respect of their shares from the wages due to them each week.

Labour Disputes in October.—The only new dispute reported in *Der Grütliener* in October was in the woodworking trade (in Brugg), and confined to a single establishment, where the men struck successfully against an increase in the length of the working day. A strike of cloth weavers at a mill in Menziken, begun in August, is still in progress, the employer, it is said, insisting that the operatives shall leave their union.

Labour Disputes in 1895.—The ninth annual Report of the Swiss Labour Department (*Arbeitssekretariat*),* relating to the year 1895, contains figures as to labour disputes in that year, corresponding to those published for the first time in the Report for 1894 (see *GAZETTE*, October 1895, p. 310). The total number of cases in which workpeople combined in 1895 to obtain better conditions of employment or to resist conditions regarded as the reverse was 94.

* Neunter Jahresbericht des leitenden Ausschusses des Schweizerischen Arbeiterbundes und des Schweizerischen Arbeiterssekretariats für das Jahr 1895 &c. Zürich, 1896. Buchhandlung des Schweiz. Grütlivereins.

among which were 33 strikes and 6 lock-outs. The strikes consisted of 12 in the building trades, 5 among metal-workers, 3 in the clothing trades, 2 each among brewers, coopers and workers in the printing and allied trades, and 7 in unclassified trades. Fifteen strikes were successful, 5 partially so, and 13 unsuccessful. All of the lock-outs terminated adversely to the workpeople. No information is given in a tabular form as to the causes, objects or extent of the disputes.

Abolition of Unemployed Insurance in St. Gall.—According to *Der Grütliener* of November 10th, the Communal Assembly of the town of St. Gall has passed a resolution by which unemployed insurance as existing in that town under the law of June 25th, 1894, is abolished from January 1, 1897.

BELGIUM.

*Employment in October.**—The state of the labour market has, on the whole, undergone little change as compared with September. The *Metal* and *Coal* trades continue to display considerable activity. Some improvement has taken place in the *Glassworking* trade, and the *Clothing* trades have revived a good deal in view of the approach of winter. The usual seasonal slackness in the *Building* trades has been deferred by the mildness of the weather, and work is more plentiful than expected for the time of year. *Spinning* is slack in the *Carded Wool*, but very active in the *Combed Wool* branch. Coalminers are agitating for increased wages, owing to the rise in the price of coal.

Labour Disputes in October.—The Belgian Labour Department has had information of 17 strikes during October. Fourteen of these involved, in the aggregate, 984 workpeople (belonging to 14 establishments), directly, and 707 indirectly. Eight of the disputes arose in the textile trade, and five in the coal mining industry. Seven were due to demands for increased wages, and one to a reduction of wages; two arose on questions as to the length of the working day, and the remainder on appointments or dismissals of employees, workshop rules, &c.

Out of 13 disputes terminated in October, 6 were unsuccessful from the point of view of the workpeople, who were, however, successful in three and partially successful in three. One was settled through mutual explanation. Three strikes (all in East Flanders) caused 69 workpeople to lose their situations.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Labour Disputes in October.—The disputes, of which accounts appeared in the principal Austrian labour papers† in October, numbered 27, of which 18 were reported for the first time. Some 3,500 workpeople are said to have been directly involved in 10 disputes, for which information on this point is given. Of the new disputes, 6 were in the metal trades, 5 in the textile trades, 2 among walking-stick turners, the rest consisting of one each among bookbinders, printers, cabinet-makers, paper-hangers, and marble-workers. A strike of jute spinning and weaving operatives at two mills in Vienna, which began on October 16th, ended unsuccessfully for the workpeople towards the end of the month, when they resumed work unconditionally, about 100 losing their situations. The chief object of the strike was the reduction of the working day from 10½ to 10 hours.

The dispute between the State Railway Company and their operatives in Vienna, referred to last month (see GAZETTE, p. 311), terminated on October 10th with the partial success of the workpeople, who obtained a reduction of their daily working hours from 10 to 9½, and other concessions. Eight hundred are said to have been on strike.

The operatives in the boot and shoe trade in Vienna have for some time been organising strikes at different establishments, in some cases to oppose a price list framed by the associated employers, in other cases to enforce the acceptance of one of their own. On October 24th the chief inspector of factories brought about a joint conference at his office, where it was decided to appoint a committee of six employers and six operatives, to discuss terms of settlement. The employers agreed, pending the proceedings of the committee to withdraw their own list, and to restore the operatives' list where it had been superseded. Work has been resumed in the meantime. A point upon which the parties disagree is the abolition of home work.

Austrian Employers and Compulsory Insurance.—The Congress of Austrian Manufacturers, which met at Vienna on October 25th,

* Supplied through the courtesy of the Belgian Labour Department.
† *Die Arbeiter-Zeitung, Die Gewerkschaft, &c.*

formulated a series of demands for reforms in the existing workers' insurance laws. The chief of these demands are as follows:—(1) The extension of accident insurance to agricultural and to all classes of industrial workers; (2) the gradual fusion of the accident with the existing sickness insurance, and the proposed old age and invalidity insurance; (3) compensation for accidents to be based on the diminution, not of actual earnings, but of earning capacity; (4) the rate of wages used to determine premiums and compensation to be based, not on the wages of the individual workpeople, but on wage categories; (5) abrogation of the clause which makes an employer liable to the insurance office for the cost of an accident caused by gross neglect on the part of himself or his authorised representative; (6) the establishment of a central State insurance department, so as to procure uniformity in administration and in the settlement of insurance questions; (7) that the existing system, under which employers have, each year, to contribute the capitalised value of the accident indemnities originating in that year (*Capitaldeckungsverfahren*) be superseded by the German system under which the annual current expenses only have to be covered (*Umlageverfahren*); (8) the State to contribute towards the expenses of accident insurance. (*Handels Museum*, Nov. 5, 1896.)

ITALY.

*Report of the Naples Chamber of Labour.**—A report, dated September last, giving an account of the origin and growth of the Chamber of Labour of Naples, has been issued by the Executive Committee. The initial steps towards the formation of this Chamber were taken in May 1893 by the local branch of the Association of Italian Printers. The institution was formally opened on January 6th, 1894, when promises of annual grants are stated to have been obtained from the Neapolitan Provincial Council and the Municipal Council. As the Municipal grant has never been received, the Chamber has been embarrassed for want of money, and in this contrasts unfavourably with other Italian Labour Chambers, all of which receive Municipal grants varying from £60 to £800 per annum.

The affiliated unions at present number 1,805 members, the largest being that of the printers, with 300 members. No statistical record has been kept of the operations of the Chamber as a labour registry, or as an institution for the settlement of disputes. A number of instances are, however, given in the report, in which it is claimed that strikes have been settled by the Chamber.

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based on a report by Mr. A. G. Vansittart, H.M. Consul at Chicago, dated Oct. 26th:—

The state of labour throughout the consular district is at present unsatisfactory.

The strike of silver miners in Leadville (Colorado).—With respect to the great silver miners' strike in Leadville (see GAZETTE, October 1896, p. 311), the latest phase is, that about 125 miners from Missouri arrived in Leadville on October 20th, escorted by troops, to take the places of the strikers in the Bison mine, which has been heavily barricaded. They are to be paid 12s. 4d. a day, but surfacemen and trammers in dry parts of the mine are to receive 10s. 4d. The union's demand is that all alike shall have 12s. 4d.

In spite of the efforts of the Governor of Colorado, who has recently held numerous conferences with the officials of the union, the mine manager and delegations of leading citizens, no compromise has been come to. The injurious effects of this strike have been felt in other industries, and smelters have closed down.

Other Disputes.—The trades principally affected at the present time owing to recent strikes are the electricians, gasfitters, plumbers, steamfitters, hoisting engineers, painters, carpenters, bricklayers, ironworkers, lathers, and hodcarriers. A general strike, involving over 2,000 men, broke out at the beginning of October in the coal region of Hillsboro (Illinois), the men employed by the Hillsboro Coal Company demanding an increase in the price for mining, from 1s. 7d. to 2s. 0½d. per ton nett weight. The mines at Rentschler Station, Wilderman Station, St. Clair, and Freeburg are closed on account of a strike in which 1,500 men are involved. The marble setters and carpenters employed in completing a new public library in Chicago struck on September 29th. The men demand that the marble-setters' helpers be paid 7s. 2½d. instead of 6s. 2d. per day.

* Provincia di Napoli, Camera del Lavoro. Relazione Morale-Finanziaria 1894-6. Naples, 1896. Lanciano e Pinto. Cortile S. Sebastiano, 51.

FOREIGN TRADE FOR OCTOBER.

Imports.—The imports for October were of the total declared value of £39,576,290, being an increase over the value for October 1895 of £2,716,422, or 7.4 per cent. For the ten months ended October 31st there is an increase amounting to £15,174,170, the value being £355,926,761, as compared with £340,752,582 for the corresponding period of last year.

The following table gives the declared values of the imports grouped in large classes for October 1896 and 1895:—

Class of Goods.	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	18,236,569	16,508,151	1,728,418	—
Metals ...	1,708,863	1,647,964	60,899	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,113,964	1,179,068	—	65,104
Raw Materials for Manufacture ...	9,716,085	8,566,361	1,149,724	—
Manufactured Articles ...	7,321,867	7,625,071	—	303,204
Miscellaneous ...	1,478,942	1,333,253	145,689	—
Totals ...	39,576,290	36,859,868	2,716,422	—

Wheat shows an increase in the quantity imported of 694,320 cwt., and in value of £576,750. Other kinds of corn have also increased on the whole, the increase in value amounting to £363,914. Substantial increases are also seen in apples (£256,803), cheese (£244,001), and tea (£226,801). Metals, with the exception of silver ore and copper, have decreased. Among raw materials, cotton shows an increase of £1,487,663, while sheep and lambs' wool has decreased by £148,361. Wood shows an increase amounting to £227,093. Among manufactured articles there are decreases of £170,079 in the import of leather, and of £230,673 in woollen stuffs.

British and Irish Exports.—The declared value of goods exported during October was £20,654,997, being £173,869 (or 0.8 per cent.) less than in October 1895. An increase of £13,641,847 (or 7.3 per cent.) is shown for the 10 completed months of the year, as compared with the first 10 months of 1895, the respective totals being £201,091,150 and £187,449,303.

The total declared values of the exports for October 1896 and 1895, grouped in large classes, are as follows:—

Class of Goods.	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1895.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	1,217,159	1,227,198	—	10,039
Raw Materials ...	1,546,948	1,686,563	—	139,615
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	8,139,223	8,802,586	—	663,363
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	3,139,132	2,764,583	374,549	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,638,508	1,591,979	46,529	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,974,027	4,755,957	218,070	—
Totals ...	20,654,997	20,828,866	—	173,869

Cotton piece goods show a decrease of over 23½ million yards in the quantity exported, but an increase in value of £1,692. Woollen and worsted tissues again show a large decrease, amounting in October to £460,729, chiefly due to a decline of £401,964 in the exports of these goods to the United States, which country, however, took a large quantity of these tissues in October of last year, the increase in that month over the figure for October 1894 being £398,069. Copper (unwrought and wrought) has again decreased, the falling off amounting to £94,185, while the imports of unwrought and part wrought copper have increased by £127,703. Iron and steel have increased by £290,137, notwithstanding a falling off in tinplates and sheets of £110,976, the increase being most noticeable in railroad iron and steel. The exports of coal and patent fuel were less by 11,852 tons in quantity, and by £39,296 in value, than in October 1895.

Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.—These amounted in October to £4,799,026, as against £5,460,404 in October of last year. For the ten completed months of the year there is a decrease of £4,105,945, or 8.1 per cent.

Tonnage of vessels entered and cleared.—The total tonnage of vessels from Foreign Countries and British Possessions entered at all ports of the United Kingdom during October was 2,928,273 tons, or 151,612 tons more than in October 1895. The tonnage cleared was 3,292,029 tons, being 4,825 tons more than in October of last year. Of vessels entered *Coastwise* the tonnage amounted to 2,757,473, and of vessels cleared to 2,626,838 tons, the figures for October 1895 being 2,687,545 and 2,640,091 tons respectively.

TRADE UNIONS IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.

The tenth annual report on Trade Unions in the above colony states that financial returns were received for the year 1895 from five registered unions, which, however, are reported as bearing but a small proportion to the large number of unregistered unions existing in the colony. Six registered unions returned their membership as 6,426. The greatest recorded membership of registered unions was 49,613, in 1890.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—During October the imports of raw cotton were 1½ times as large as during October of last year, though, as compared with October 1894, the increase is not quite so marked. American cotton is again responsible for the great increase, the number of bales of this class imported during October being 290,229; October 1895, 142,991; and October 1894, 199,428. The quantity forwarded to inland towns from ports shows a falling off as compared with both October 1895 and 1894. The imports for the ten completed months of the year are less by 440,002 bales (or 15.9 per cent.) than for the corresponding period of 1895, mainly due to a decline of 474,880 bales in the imports of American cotton.

The figures for the different periods are as follows:—

	Imports.		Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.		Exports.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	
October 1896 ...	347,594	279,567	34,441	34,441	
" 1895 ...	197,190	293,217	35,865	35,865	
" 1894 ...	225,086	336,078	49,205	49,205	
Ten months ending					
October 1896 ...	2,318,254	2,503,393	307,751	307,751	
" 1895 ...	2,758,256	2,627,853	365,172	365,172	
" 1894 ...	2,576,157	2,708,473	412,867	412,867	

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the five weeks ended 31st October amounted to £7,654,027, being £175,814 (or 2.4 per cent.) more than for the corresponding period of 1895. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,134,824, an increase of £82,684 (or 2.7 per cent.), and from goods and mineral traffic, £4,519,203, an increase of £93,130 (or 2.1 per cent.).

Fishery Statistics.—The total value of the fish (including shell-fish) landed on the coast of the United Kingdom during October was £651,714. This amount is less by £26,423 than that for October 1895, the value landed in England and Wales having decreased by £11,483, in Scotland by £12,702, and in Ireland by £2,238.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during October numbered 373, or 12 less than in October 1895, 22 less than in October 1894, and 69 less than in October 1893.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during October was 25,554, as compared with 27,588 in October 1895.

British and Irish.—Of the 25,554 passengers, 17,460 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 1,195 as compared with October of last year. The decrease is in the number proceeding to the United States, all other countries detailed below showing increased numbers. During the ten months ended 31st October there were 146,904 British and Irish passengers, being 20,877 (or 12.4 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1895.

The figures for October 1896 and 1895 are as follows:—

Destination.	October 1896.	October 1895.
United States ...	8,654	11,048
British North America ...	1,461	1,261
Australasia ...	1,701	1,660
South Africa ...	3,177	2,592
Other places ...	2,467	2,094
Totals ...	17,460	18,655

Foreign.—The remainder of the 25,554 passengers, viz., 8,094 were foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, being 839 less than for October 1895.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during October was 6,381, of whom 2,390 were stated to be en route to America, compared with 3,614 so stated in October of last year. Those not said to be bound for America numbered 3,991 (including 796 sailors), as against 3,079 (including 758 sailors) in October 1895.

QUEENSLAND LABOUR BUREAU.

The report for 1895 of the Government Labour Bureau, of Queensland, states that the number of persons registered by the Bureau as applicants for employment in 1895 was 5,589 (a decrease on 1894 of 1,278), of whom 3,865 "passed through to employment, or were sent to localities where it was available, leaving a balance, presumably, unprovided for, of 1,724" (a decrease on 1894 of 554). With respect to Government relief, the number of persons relieved at Brisbane in 1895 was 1,481 (543 adults and 938 children); the total cost of relief throughout the Colony in 1895 was £6,006 8s. 6d., of which £4,246 18s. 4d. was expended at Brisbane.

LABOUR CASES IN OCTOBER.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases of the month specially affecting labour. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.*

The Engagement of a Little Piecer.—The father, of a boy who was killed in a mill while acting as a little piecer, brought an action for damages against the employers. The case for the plaintiff was that the deceased was employed by the defendants, and that his death was caused by the negligence of a minder who was in superintendence. On the other hand, it was contended by the defendants that the deceased was not their workman, but that of the minder who engaged him and paid him his wages. The minder, however, stated in evidence that the defendants, as well as himself, could dismiss the deceased. The Judge held that deceased was in the employment of defendants. He considered that there was no clause in the Employers' Liability Act, or the Employers and Workmen Act, which could be interpreted to mean that a person who had occupied a position such as the deceased was not a "workman," and he quoted the judgment of Lord Herschell in the case of Wilde and Waygood, which showed that it was not necessary to have an express contract with the employer within the meaning of the Act. On the question of negligence the Judge gave judgment for plaintiff for £70, but stayed execution for a month in case of an appeal.—Bolton County Court, October 21st.

Taking Ordinary Precautions.—The widow of a man who was killed while employed on work in sewers sued his employers, under Lord Campbell's Act, for damages. The deceased had gone down a manhole into a sewer to clean a screen, and, being shortly overcome by noxious gas, he fell down dead while attempting to get out. There were three other men under the control of an engineer or foreman near to the scene of the accident, who went down in turn to rescue, including the foreman, and were all killed. The plaintiff contended that there had been negligence on the part of the defendants, because there was no cradle or lifeline in use in case of emergency, because two ventilating pipes, through which foul air ought to have escaped, were allowed to be blocked up, and because the engineer had not tested the air in the manhole before the deceased went into the sewer. A fellow workman, who had worked three months with deceased, said that deceased frequently went down the manhole, and had never complained of being injuriously affected by it; that ropes were kept near, which could be procured in a few minutes. A medical witness spoke of the effect of sulphuretted hydrogen, and stated that the neighbourhood of a screen was more dangerous than any other part of the sewer. To detect sulphuretted hydrogen he said that the lead test, or the letting down of a live bird or mouse were simple expedients. The Judge held that no negligence had been proved. The duty of defendants was to take all ordinary precautions, and no sewage authority had been shown to have had reason to apprehend danger from such a cause, or to have ever used the precautions suggested. Judgment for defendants.—Queen's Bench Division, October 30th.

Negligence.—Use of Explosives.—Plaintiff, a labourer, had been awarded £187 damages in the County Court for injuries sustained owing to the explosion of a cartridge while blasting on some excavation works, using gelignite for the purpose. The evidence was that gelignite became hard in cold weather, and that when in that condition it should not be used. The accident happened in November 1895, when the weather was cold. The plaintiff's father, who was a ganger, and who was working with him, said that he had "thawed" the cartridge to the best of his ability before he gave it to his son, but that he had no warmer for this purpose. For the defence it was urged that the defendants had warmers in store, and that if the ganger had wanted one he could have asked for it. The Court dismissed the appeal with costs, holding that the defendants were bound to take every possible care in the use of so dangerous an article as gelignite, and that the neglect to provide a warmer to thaw the cartridges was negligence.—Queen's Bench Division, October 30th.

(2) FACTORY ACTS.

Neglecting to wear respirators while "nodding."—Four women were summoned for not wearing respirators while engaged in "nodding," that is stretching, yarns after they had been dyed by yellow chromate of lead. The employers provided respirators, but had experienced great difficulty in getting their workpeople to make use of them, and had repeatedly cautioned them. It was stated that seven girls working in the room had suffered serious injury to their health, and that one had died. Each defendant was fined 1s. and 2s. 6d. costs.—Manchester Police Court, October 2nd.

Provision of Overalls.—A firm of earthenware manufacturers was fined £10s., and costs, for failure to provide overalls and head coverings for females employed in the dipping house.—Glasgow Sheriff Court, October 8th.

Maximum Limit of Humidity.—Two firms of cotton cloth manufacturers were fined £5 each, and costs, for exceeding maximum limit of humidity; and another firm was also fined £5, and costs, for such offence, and, in addition, for failure to register temperatures within prescribed period, and for failure to keep instruments in proper order.—Haringden Police Court, October 19th; Blackburn Police Court, October 22nd.

(3) MISCELLANEOUS.

Lord's Day Observance Act.—Two chimney sweeps were fined 5s. and costs under the Lord's Day Observance Act for sweeping chimneys in some buildings at a military camp. It was stated that there was no necessity for undertaking this work on the day in question.—Oshampton Petty Sessions, October 14th.

* Under this heading are also included actions at Common Law to recover from employers compensation for injuries to workpeople.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN OCTOBER.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.*

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Informations laid, Convictions, Amount of Penalties, Amount of Costs. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; By Parents; Total for Oct. 1896; Total for Oct. 1895.

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

II.—Under the Mines Act.*

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs. Rows include By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen; Total for Oct. 1896; Total for Oct. 1895.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † Excluding costs. ‡ Withdrawn at request of Magistrates, costs paid by defendants. § Including costs in two cases only.

III.—Under the Quarries Act.*

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases withdrawn, Cases dismissed, Amount of Fines and Costs. Rows include By Owners and Managers; By Workmen; Total for October 1896.

* Supplied by the Home Office. † A special case has been applied for. ‡ No Prosecutions were reported for October 1895.

IV.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

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

Table with 5 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Penalties, Total Costs. Rows include By Owners or Masters of Ships; By Boarding-house Keepers; Total for Oct. 1896; Total for Oct. 1895.

* Defendant went to prison for 14 days.

V.—Under the Friendly Societies Acts and the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts.

(Supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

Table with 3 columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Fines and Costs. Row: Failing to send Annual Returns.

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

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

The number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of October was 320,654. This corresponds to a rate of 207 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1896.

Compared with September last there is an increase of 1,941 in the number relieved, and of 1 in the rate per 10,000. In eighteen districts the rate increased, the largest increases per 10,000 being Central London and Coatbridge and Airdrie (13 each), Cork, Waterford and Limerick (12), and Paisley and Greenock (11). In the South London, West Ham, Liverpool, Sheffield, Bristol, Dundee and Dunfermline districts the rate was unchanged; and in the eleven remaining districts it decreased slightly.

Compared with October 1895 the number relieved is less by 4,138 and the rate per 10,000 by 5. The decrease was almost entirely confined to outdoor pauperism. In eight districts the rate has increased, viz., in Bristol, Coatbridge and Airdrie and Dublin (10 each), Leicester (4), Edinburgh and Leith, Dundee and Dunfermline (2 each), and Manchester and Bradford districts (1 each). In West London and North Staffordshire the rate remained the same. The greatest decreases took place in Barnsley (32), Stockton and Tees (27), Sheffield (20), Wolverhampton (17), Hull (15), Halifax and Huddersfield (13), and Nottingham (12).

Table with 6 columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of October 1896, Paupers on corresponding date in previous year, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, Total Number, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population. Rows include ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, WEST HAM, OTHER DISTRICTS, SCOTLAND, IRELAND, and Total for previous month.

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Board; 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.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October, 3,101 fresh applications for work were registered by the 13 bureaux making returns. Private employers engaged 1,102 persons, and local authorities 205. Of these 1,307 persons engaged, 612 are stated to have obtained work of a temporary character only. Of the 3,238 workpeople on the registers at the end of the month, 2,061 were men, 1,071 women and girls, and 106 lads and boys.

Taking the figures of the 9 bureaux which also furnished returns for October 1895, it will be seen that the number of fresh applicants for work decreased by 34.2 per cent., the total for October being 1,831 and for October 1895, 2,781.

(I.) Work Done in October.

Table with 8 columns: Name and Address of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during, No. of Situations offered by Employers during, No. of Workpeople found by Private Employers, No. of Workpeople found by Local Authorities. Rows include London, BATTERSEA, ISLINGTON, HACKNEY, SALVATION ARMY, Y.W.C.A., PROVINCIAL, SALFORD, IPSWICH, PLYMOUTH, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW.

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

Table with 10 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building-Engineers and Metal Trades, Carmen Stable-men, Horse-men, &c., Clerks and Warehouse-men, Porters and Messengers, General Labourers, Other Occupations, Total Men. Rows include London, BATTERSEA, ISLINGTON, HACKNEY, SALVATION ARMY, PROVINCIAL, SALFORD, IPSWICH, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW.

Table with 10 columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Dress-makers and Seamstresses, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total. Rows include London, BATTERSEA, ISLINGTON, HACKNEY, SALVATION ARMY, Y.W.C.A., PROVINCIAL, SALFORD, IPSWICH, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW.

* Particulars relating to men only have been furnished. † Cannot be given. ‡ Women and Girls are not registered at Hackney and Plymouth.

TRADE DISPUTES IN OCTOBER.

Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, returns from Employers and Trade Unions, and newspaper reports. Applications for particulars is made to the Employers and Trade Unions affected in each dispute, and the information so obtained up to the time of going to press is used.

Number and Magnitude.—Fifty-five fresh disputes occurred in October 1896, compared with 51 in September, and 77 in October 1895. In 50 of these disputes 10,433 workpeople were affected, compared with 8,181 in September, and 17,291 in October 1895, so far as known.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 8 disputes occurred, 7 involving 173 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 8 disputes involving 2,961 workpeople; engineering and shipbuilding, 15 disputes, 13 involving 4,962 workpeople; miscellaneous metal trades, 5 disputes involving 553 workpeople; textile trades, 8 disputes, 6 involving 1,231 workpeople; clothing trades, 3 disputes involving 165 workpeople; seafaring, 2 disputes involving 96 workpeople; miscellaneous trades, 6 disputes involving 292 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 55 new disputes, 26 arose chiefly upon wages questions; 12 upon matters connected with working and other arrangements; 6 upon the question of the employment of non-unionists; 2 upon the question of reduction in hours; 3 arose in defence of fellow-workmen or officials; 2 on questions of the apportionment of work to certain trades; 2 were caused by objection to certain officials; 1 was a lock-out by employers to compel labourers in one firm to return to work; and the cause of the remaining dispute is not yet to hand.

Results.—Twenty-two old disputes (21 involving 5,714 workpeople) and 33 new disputes (29 involving 8,474 workpeople) have been reported as settled. In 21 of these disputes (19 involving 4,357 persons) the workpeople were successful; in 17 (16 involving 2,925 persons) unsuccessful; in 10 (9 involving 926 persons) partially successful; and in 7 disputes (6 involving 5,980 persons) the results cannot at present be definitely stated.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1896.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Bricklayers & Labourers	London, E.C.	Objection to action of clerk of the works...	1	20	Oct. 15	Oct. 15	Dispute amicably arranged by intervention of architect.
Plasterers & Labourers	Nottingham	Against the employment of a non-unionist plumber	1	2	1	10	Work resumed on termination of plumbers' general dispute (see Section II. of this Table).
Masons & Labourers	Port St. Mary & Port Erin, Isle of Man	For advance to 6d. per hour for masons, 4d. per hour for labourers, and for code of working rules	...	...	5	7	Advance conceded and modified code of rules agreed to.
Joiners	Leeds	Alleged breach by employer of rule as to payment for walking time on a certain job	1	40	15	22	Men returned to work, but not on the job in question, which is to be suspended until the matter is decided by a conference of the men's and employers' associations.
Slaters	Hull	Alleged excessive number of apprentices	6	45	22	31	Dispute amicably arranged, but without mutual agreement as to degree of restriction. Man joined the union.
Stonemasons	Morecambe	Against the refusal of a workman to join the union	1	25	12	16	Work resumed and the dispute referred to a conference of master builders, master painters and operative painters, which assigned the work to painters, and requested Architects' Association to place the disputed work in painters' specification in future.
Painters	Birmingham	Against the employment of labourers on work alleged to belong to painters	1	27	15	21	Still unsettled.
Glass Painters, Fret Lead Glaziers, &c.	Belfast	Alleged excessive number of apprentices	1	14	24	...	Still unsettled.
Mining & Quarrying.							
Coal Miners	Pemberton	Against proposed new system of getting coal	1	130 dir. 16 indir.	5	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Port Talbot	Against proposed substitution of fortnightly for weekly pays	1	311	6	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Aberdare Junc.	Dispute as to the price to be paid for coal cutting on account of disagreement as to identity of seam	1	275	11	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Near White-croft	Inability to agree upon a tonnage rate for coal getting in substitution for day wage	1	40	19	...	Ditto.
Ditto	Barnsley	Men stopped for filling alleged dirty coal	1	249 dir. 10 indir.	15	23	Men agreed to send out [the] coal as clean as possible.
Hauliers	Ebbw Vale	Hauliers demanded to be paid at the rate of 4s. "turns" for the four long "turns" worked on account of stoppage of the short turns on Saturdays and Mondays	1	1,500 dir. & indir.	27	28	Work resumed pending a further discussion of the matter in dispute.
Hurriers	Near Wakefield	For advance in wages of 6d. per day	1	364 dir. & indir.	...	...	Details of settlement not yet to hand.
Settmakers and Random-makers	Enderby, Leicester	Refusal to unload their blocks without payment	1	66	9	17	Work resumed on old terms.
Engineering & Shipbuilding Trades.							
Smiths' Strikers and Angle Iron Smiths' Strikers	Blackburn	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	3	48	5	15	Immediate advance of 1s. per week to smiths' strikers, with another advance of 1s. on 16th November; the angle iron smiths' strikers to be advanced 2s. per week on 16th November. Still unsettled.
Engineers	Bury	Certain men came out because not included in general advance	1	15	12	...	Ditto.
Plate and Machine Moulders	Burnley	For advance in wages...	5	95	12	...	Ditto.
Brassfounders	London, E.C.	Against the introduction of piecework	1	6	12	20	Ditto.
Labourers (Iron Trade)	Blackburn	For advance in wages of 1s. per week	1	100	12	20	Dispute to be referred to arbitration.
Engineering Trade Employees	Sheffo	Lock-out by employers on account of above dispute	5	About 2,000	14	20	Work resumed on termination of the above dispute.
Moulders	Sheffield	For a reduction in hours from 54 to 53 per week without decrease of pay	...	836	19	23	Men's demands conceded.
Ditto	Preston	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	5	100	21	29	Advance granted.
Engineers	Leeds	Against the employment of two labourers on work alleged to belong to engineers	1	1,300 dir. & indir.	23	26	The men objected to were put to other work.
Pattern-makers	Kilmarnock	For advance in wages of 1s. per week	2	28	28	28	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Birmingham	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	1	...	...	...	Advance granted.
Fitters and Turners	Newlay, Leeds	Ditto	1	4	30	...	Still unsettled.
Engineers	Openshaw	For advance in wages...	1	...	...	...	Still unsettled.
Ship Joiners	Grangemouth	For advance of 4d. per hour on old work	1	38	7	10	Advance granted.
Platers' Helpers	Middlesbrough	For reinstatement of a fellow-workman discharged on account of dispute with pay clerk	1	392	26	28	Discharged man reinstated, the union undertaking that disturbance should not be repeated.
Miscellaneous Metal Trades.							
Blastfurnacemen	Workington	For reinstatement of a discharged fellow workman	1	350	2	9	Men summoned, but summonses withdrawn on men paying all expenses; discharged man not reinstated.
Brass Casters	Rotherham	Refusal to employ members of trade union	1	50 dir. & indir.	2	...	Still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1896—continued.

Trade	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Estab-lish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.
Bedstead Mount and Fender Support Makers	Birmingham	Alleged refusal of employer to pay the trade bonus of 10 per cent.	1	9	Oct. 10	Oct. ...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Ditto	Dispute as to price to be paid for making a new article, and against the deduction of the trade bonus from the wages of two men	1	24	17	...	Ditto.
Hinge Makers	Ditto	For reduction in hours from 58 to 53 per week	1	120	15	29	Work resumed on old terms by all except three.
Textile Trades.							
Cotton Operatives	Oldham	For discharge of operatives who had taken the places of hands on strike	1	235	29	...	Still unsettled.
Cotton Weavers	Haslingden	Alleged unfair fines imposed by cloth looker	1	200	15	16	Weavers' complaint to be enquired into.
Ditto	Nelson	Objection to new manager	1	150 dir. & indir.	15	21	Work resumed unconditionally.
Ditto	Farnworth	For payment for certain extras	1	19	22	23	Work resumed on a compromise.
Ditto	Pendleton	Dispute as to fines	1	...	22	22	Work resumed on a promise that the fines would be reduced.
Linen weavers	Newburgh	Full details of cause not yet to hand	1	75 dir. 430 indir.	16	22	Work resumed unconditionally.
Jute Preparers	Dumdee	Against dismissal of foreman	1	128	14	16	Work resumed under new foreman.
Laceworkers	Kimberley, Nottingham	Against the employment of non-unionists	1	...	22	...	Still unsettled.
Clothing Trades.							
Machinists, Tailors, Pressers and Finishers	Glasgow	One employer locked out his men on account of presser refusing to work unless supplied with new stove. The men in the other firms thereupon struck work, the locked-out men also demanding increased wages	7	143	20	...	Ditto.
Lasters (Slipper-making)	Manchester	Dispute as to price to be paid for certain class of work	1	8	26	27	Men received 3s. 3d. per dozen instead of 2s. 6d. per dozen previously offered.
Riveters and finishers	Leicester	Refusal to pay statement prices for children's boots and shoes	1	14	26	...	Still unsettled.
Seafaring, &c.							
Sailors and Firemen Firemen & Deck-hands (trawling)	Dublin Granton	For advance in wages of 5s. per month ... For advance in wages of 10s. per week to firemen, and 3s. 6d. to deck hands	1	16 80	3 18	3 26	Advance granted. Ditto.
Miscellaneous Trades.							
Cabinet-makers and Upholsterers	Glasgow	Employer objected to men belonging to trade union	1	6	10	...	Men have found work elsewhere.
Cabinet-makers	London, E.	For abolition of piece work	3	90	17	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Manchester	Against the employment of a man at wages below the recognised rate	1	9	20	2 Nov.	Men returned on satisfactory conditions.
Cabinet-makers (photographic)	Calton, Glasgow	Against being required to turn out more work without extra pay	1	13	27	...	11 of the hands have found work elsewhere.
Employees in Tannery	Leeds	Objection to new system of "booking" the work	1	150	13	...	Still unsettled.
Sanitary Pressers (Pottery Trade)	Church Gresley	For advance in wages	1	24	26	...	Ditto.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE OCTOBER, AND WERE SETTLED IN THAT MONTH.

Building Trades.								
Plumbers	Nottingham	For advance in wages from 8½d. to 9½d. per hour, reduction in hours from 54 to 50 per week, and alterations in working rules	40	92	27 July	Oct. 10	Wages advanced 3d. per hour, hours of labour to remain the same. (Dispute settled by mediation.)	
Plumbers	Swansea	Against the employment of joiners on work alleged to belong to plumbers	1	6	25 Aug.	5	Men's demands granted.	
Masons' Labourers	Motherwell	For advance in wages from 5½d. to 6d. per hour	2	37	12 Aug.	28	Hands replaced.	
Mining & Quarrying.								
Coal Miners	Barnsley	Against an alteration in the list of prices alleged to entail a reduction in wages	1	About 450	20 May	31	Work resumed on old conditions, pending introduction of coal-getting machines, for which a list has been arranged.	
Ditto	Durham	Alleged refusal of employers to pay house rent (as per county custom) at their collieries	3	About 2,000	11 July	21	Dispute amicably arranged.	
Ditto	Swalwell	For an advance in wages	1	155 dir. 125 indir.	18 July	17	Work resumed and dispute referred to arbitration.	
Ditto	Wrexham	Against a new system of deductions for small coal	1	186 dir. 325 indir.	26 Aug.	3	Work resumed on employer's terms.	
Ditto	Port Talbot	To compel non-unionists to join the union	1	254	29 Sept.	3	The non-unionists, with one exception, joined the union.	
Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.								
Pattern-makers	Oldham & district	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	13	55	8 Aug.	Oct.	Advance granted.	
Ditto	Sheffield	Alleged excessive number of apprentices	1	3	14 Sept.	10	Agreement as to restriction arrived at.	
Ditto	Derby	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	3	23	21 Sept.	27	9 of the men obtained the advance, the others found work elsewhere.	
Fitters, Turners, &c.	Ebbw Vale	For advance in wages from 19s. to 25s. per week	1	89	28 Sept.	13	Wages advanced to a minimum of 23s. per week.	
Moulders	Colne	For advance in wages of 2s. per week	1	10	28 Sept.	11	Advance granted.	
Ditto	Alloa	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour on time work, and 2½ per cent. on piece work	1	136 dir. & indir.	25 Sept.	22	Ditto.	
Grinders	Leeds	For advance in wages	1	8	16 Sept.	...	Hands replaced.	
Shipbuilding—Shipwrights	Wivenhoe	For advance in wages	1	27	18 Aug.	1	Most of the men resumed work at the old rate of wages, the rest left the town.	
Holders-up	Belfast	For advance in wages on tank-riveting work	1	About 1,000 dir. & indir.	16 Sept.	1	Advance in wages granted of 4d. per 100 rivets.	
Metal Trades.								
Puddlers	Tipton	Alleged inferior quality of material	1	...	30 Sept.	10	Work resumed pending consideration of the question by the Wages Board.	
Textile Trades.								
Cotton Weavers	Blackburn	Alleged bad material	1	257 dir. 110 indir.	30 Sept.	5	Work resumed on old terms, the weavers paying 6d. per loom penalty for striking without notice.	
Clothing Trades.								
Tailors	Leicester	Against refusal of employers to continue to pay log prices as enforced by men in busy season	4	50	6 July	27	Some of the men have been replaced by non-unionists, the others have agreed to a revision of log prices.	
Miscellaneous Trades.								
Coopers	Glasgow	Against the employment of non-unionists	1	11	28 Aug.	23	Work resumed unconditionally.	
Ditto	Ditto	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour and 5 per cent. on piece work	About 20	245	31 Aug.	24	Work resumed at old rate of wages.	

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as commencing in September were still unsettled:—Carpenters and joiners, Winsford; slate quarrymen, Bethesda; moulders, Hamilton; engineers, London, E.C.; fustian cutters, Congleton; military cork head-dress makers, London, S.E.; warp dressers, Colne; laceworkers, Nottingham.

The following disputes which commenced before September were also still unsettled:—Carpenters and joiners, Cork and Chorley; engineers, Hull; fustian weavers, Norden; engineers, Keighley and Shipley; brassfinishers, Halifax; silk dyers, Macclesfield; fitters, &c., Dowlais; coal miners, Stanton, Notts; cotton spinners, Slaithwaite; cabinet-makers, Halifax (dispute still continues in one shop); cotton weavers, Padiham.

The following disputes commencing before October, of which information has only recently been received, are also still unsettled:—

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Establishments.	Workpeople.	Date of Commencement.
Plumbers	Stockport	For payment of standard rate of wages	1	5	24th Aug. 19th Sept.
Gladstone Bag Makers...	London, S.E.	Alleged inability to earn sufficient wages under present piece-work system	1	43	
Woollen Weavers	Tiverton... ..	Against weaving a certain class of goods on fast looms, alleged to involve a reduction in wages	1	30	25th Sept.
Moulders	Dublin	Against the employment of labourers on moulding	1	2	28th Sept.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE Second International Co-operative Congress was held at Paris on October 28th to 31st, and was attended by 294 persons, of whom 223 are stated to have been delegates of co-operative organisations (19 federations of societies and 167 separate societies) and 71 to have been individuals, not delegates. The nationality of the 223 delegates was as follows: 149 were French, 29 came from the United Kingdom, 19 from Holland, 14 were Italian, 6 Spanish, 2 Belgian, 2 German, 1 Russian, and 1 Swiss. Mr. Schloss was present on behalf of the Labour Department of the Board of Trade. Among the subjects brought under the notice of the Congress were the best methods for carrying into practical effect the principles of co-operation, the application of co-operation to agriculture, and the development of commercial relations between the co-operative associations in each country among themselves and with those in foreign countries. It was resolved that it is desirable that committees shall be formed in all countries to organise by means of publicity, visits, the diffusion of statistical information, and all other available methods, the formation of direct international commercial relations between co-operators; that the co-operative distributive societies bind themselves in purchasing goods to give the preference (quality and price being equal) to co-operative productive (including agricultural) associations; that these associations, in return, bind themselves to offer their goods to the distributive societies on the most favourable terms; and that the organising committee of each country shall investigate the practicability of establishing sample rooms for co-operative goods in great centres of population. The Congress appointed an international committee for studying the questions of profit-sharing and of co-partnership, and for collecting, so far as may be necessary to complete the information published by existing organisations or administrations, statistical details in regard to the businesses in which profit-sharing obtains. The Congress also appointed a committee charged with the duty of superintending the publication of an international year-book of co-operation, giving the names and addresses of the co-operative societies in different countries, together with a certain amount of information as to their membership, sales, &c. In pursuance of the resolution adopted at the First International Co-operative Congress, held in London in August 1895 (see GAZETTE, September 1895, p. 280), a revised constitution of the International Co-operative Alliance was presented to the Congress, and was adopted, with certain modifications, the subject which gave rise to the greatest amount of discussion being the proposals which were made during the debate that it should be made a condition of membership of the Alliance that a society practise profit-sharing in regard to its employees. These proposals were not accepted; but, in their place, the following resolution was passed by the Congress:—

“ Having regard to the fact that profit-sharing with employees is the distinctive characteristic of every type of co-operation, the aim of the Alliance is to employ every method of propagandist effort at its disposal to bring about, at the earliest possible moment, the adoption, by every association which calls itself co-operative, whether formed for production, distribution, building, agriculture, or credit, of profit-sharing in favour of all its employees without exception, and the insertion in its constitution of a rule definitely establishing their right to share in profits.”

It was determined that the next congress shall be held, in the first half of September 1897, at Delft, in Holland.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

United Kingdom.—During the past month reports for the third quarter of 1896 have been received from 613 co-operative associations for distribution in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 922,665, as compared with 439 associations with 825,529 members for the third quarter of 1895.

The 613 associations show total sales for the quarter amounting to £6,275,653, as compared with £5,787,911 in the corresponding period of 1895, 481 of the associations showing an increase, and 131 a decrease, the net increase being £487,742, or 8.4 per cent.

Returns collected by the Co-operative Union, and published in its annual report, show that, at the end of 1895, 364 workmen's co-operative associations had capital amounting to £1,803,641 invested in house and cottage property, which was let on rental, or sold on mortgage, to their members. Of this amount £1,661,948 belonged to 321 English and Welsh, and £129,432 to Scottish retail distributive associations, the balance of £12,261 belonging to the English wholesale society and three productive associations.

From the same report it appears that of 1,439 retail distributive associations in the United Kingdom, making returns for 1895, 204 paid “bonus on wages” to their employees amounting to a total of £18,953. Of these, 154 associations, paying £11,189, were in England and Wales; 45, paying £7,692, were in Scotland; and five, paying £72, were in Ireland.

England and Wales.—During October two new distributive and three new productive associations were registered in England and Wales, and fourteen new branches and departments were opened by thirteen existing distributive associations.

Reports for the third quarter of 1896 have been received from 486 co-operative associations for distribution in England and Wales with a total membership of 787,982, as compared with 328 associations, with 698,220 members, for the corresponding period of 1895. The 486 associations show total sales for the quarter amounting to £5,171,227, as compared with £4,785,103 in the corresponding period of 1895.

Three hundred and eighty-seven of the associations show an increase, and 99 a decrease, the net increase being £386,124, or 8.1 per cent.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society has purchased land at Banbury for the erection of its first buttermaking factory in England.

Scotland.—No new co-operative associations have been registered in Scotland during the month, but five new branches were opened by existing distributive associations.

Reports for the third quarter of 1896 have been received from 120 co-operative associations for distribution in Scotland, with a total membership of 133,555, as compared with 111 associations, with 127,309 members, for the corresponding period of 1895. The 120 associations show total sales for the quarter amounting to £1,097,048, as compared with £995,492 in the corresponding period of 1895. Ninety-one of the associations show an increase, and 28 a decrease, the net increase being £101,556, or 10.2 per cent.

Ireland.—One new Agricultural and Dairy Society was registered in October.

Reports for the third quarter of 1896 have been received from seven associations for distribution, with a total membership of 1,128. These societies show total sales for the quarter amounting to £7,378, and net profit* amounting to £570, or 7.7 per cent. on sales. The increase in sales over the corresponding period of 1895 was £62.

During the month a series of 17 district conferences of delegates from co-operative agricultural and dairy societies were held in various parts of Ireland. Reports of 15 of these show that a total of 55 societies were represented by 188 delegates. The conferences were held under the auspices of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, and the resolutions adopted bore largely on the promotion of technical training.

At Nenagh District Conference it was resolved to form societies throughout the district for the marketing of the pigs raised by the members.

* After allowing for interest on capital and depreciation of property.

Erratum.—In the article on “Dividends on Purchases,” on page 307 of last month's issue, the figures “1895” at beginning of the seventh line should read 1896, and the words “fourth quarter of 1895” at end of article should read “first quarter of 1896.”

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

THE numbers of workpeople of the undermentioned classes killed or injured by accidents reported in October 1896 and 1895 respectively were as follows:—

Occupations.	Killed.		Injured.	
	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1895.	Oct. 1896.	Oct. 1895.
	Railway Servants... ..	38	45	1,363	566*
Seamen	85	177	165	†
Miners	69	77	439	688
Quarrymen	8	3	69	43
Factory and Workshop Operatives	44	56	1,864	1,232
Others (so far as reported)	10	5	118	107
Totals	254	363	5,416	—

* See note to Table I. below. † No returns.

The particulars are given in greater detail in the following Tables:—

I. Railway Servants.

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured by accidents in which the movement of railway vehicles was concerned during the month of October 1896.

[The number of Servants employed by the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom was 465,112 on 31st December 1895.]

Class of Service.	Killed.	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total Injuries.
		Causing Amputations.	Dislocations, Fractures, and Internal Injuries.	Contusions and Bruises.	Cuts, Sprains, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.		
Brakesmen and Goods Guards	2	1	8	26	23	23	81	
Engine Drivers	3	3	11	12	16	16	42	
Firemen	1	2	9	11	17	39	70	
Guards (Passenger)	1	...	1	2	1	4	5	
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	...	3	3	2	8	16	
Porters	5	...	17	8	10	43	65	
Shunters	3	...	3	19	14	21	57	
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	12	2	11	31	14	30	88	
Total for Oct. 1896	33	3	38	117	86	126	370	
Total for Oct. 1895	38	6	...	103	96	205	...	

NOTE.—In addition to the above the companies have reported 5 servants killed and 998 injured by accidents occurring on the companies' premises, but in which the movement of vehicles was not concerned, during October. These figures have been reported in accordance with a new order recently issued by the Board of Trade, and are scarcely comparable with those for October 1895.

II. Seamen (Fatal and Non-fatal Accidents).

(Supplied by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen.)

Table showing the number of persons forming the crews of registered vessels of the undermentioned classes, belonging to the British Islands, reported during the month of October 1896 as having been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers or harbours.

[The returns of non-fatal injuries are probably far from complete, the tabulation being first made in February last.]

Cause and Class of Accident.	Number reported as Killed or Injured.					Total for 3 months Aug. 1896 to Oct. 1896.	Corresponding total for 3 months of 1895.
	In October 1896.						
	On Trading Vessels.	On Fishing Vessels.	Total in Oct. 1896.	Total for 3 months Aug. 1896 to Oct. 1896.	Corresponding total for 3 months of 1895.		
Sailing.	Steam.	Sailing.	Steam.				
I.—By Wreck or Casualty—							
Killed	5	10	2	1	18	104	227
Fractures and Dislocations	1	1	...	...	2	6	No returns.
Other or unspecified Injuries ... ..	...	2	1	...	3	17	
II.—By other Accidents—							
Killed	18	42	6	1	67	210	226
Fractures and Dislocations	2	26	...	3	36	100	No returns.
Other or unspecified Injuries	12	104	6	2	124	364	
III.—All Accidents—							
Total Killed	23	52	8	2	85	314	453
Total Injured	15	133	12	5	165	487	No returns.

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

III. Miners and Quarrymen.*

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in and about mines and quarries during the month of October 1896. [The number of persons employed in and about mines was returned as 733,657, and in and about quarries as 104,625 in 1895.]

Cause of Accident.	MINES.		QUARRIES.	
	Number of Persons Killed.	Number of Persons Injured.	Cause of Accident.	Number of Persons Killed. Injured.
Underground:—				
Explosions of Fire-damp ... ..	...	21	Explosives or Blasting	1
Falls of ground	32	177	Falls of ground	3
In shafts	7	18	During Ascent or Descent ... ..	...
Miscellaneous	17	184	Miscellaneous	4
Total	56	400		
Surface:—				
Miscellaneous	13	39		
Total for Oct. 1896	69	439	Total for Oct. 1896...	8
Total for Oct. 1895	77	688	Total for Oct. 1895...	3

* Supplied by the Home Office.

IV. Factory and Workshop Operatives.*

Table showing the number of persons reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons as killed or injured during the month of October 1896.

[The classes of accidents reported are those specified in Section 18 of the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895.]

Class of Service.	Killed.	Number of Persons Injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.						Total persons Injured.†
		Causing Amputations.	Fractures.	Injuries to Head or Face.	Loss of Sight of one or both Eyes.	Lacerations, Contusions, and other Injuries.		
Males.								
Adults (over 18)	34	124	54	74	2	502	756	
Young Persons	8	83	27	15	...	278	403	
Boys	1	4	4	...	...	11	19
Total Males	43	211	85	89	2	791	1,178	
Females.								
Adults (over 18)	1	21	9	1	...	82	127	
Young Persons ... ..	...	18	3	...	...	56	84
Girls ... ..	...	3	1	...	...	4	8
Total Females	1	42	13	22	1	142	220	
Total Males and Females for Oct. 1896	44	253	98	111	3	933	1,398	
Total for Oct. 1895	56	...	...	...	...	1,232	...

* Supplied by the Home Office. † There were also 1,864 other non-fatal accidents only required to be reported to H.M. Inspectors.

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

(Supplied by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade.)

Table showing the number of persons killed and injured in accidents reported to the Board of Trade under the Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, during the month of October 1896.

Nature of Works, &c.	Construction or Repair.				Use or Working.			
	Number of Persons.				Number of Persons.			
	Killed.	Fractures and Dislocations.	Other Injuries.	Total.	Killed.	Fractures and Dislocations.	Other Injuries.	Total.
Bridge	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Canal ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Railway*	6	1	49	50	...	...	...	...
Tramroad ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tramway ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	8
Tunnel ... ..	...	3	19	22	1	...	...	...
Other Works†	2	4	27	31	...	...	2	2
Traction engine†	Act does not apply.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total for Oct. 1896	9	8	96	104	1	3	11	14
Total for Oct. 1895	5	8	63	71	...	7	29	36

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

(Based on Home Office Return.)

DURING October 74 cases of lead poisoning in factories and workshops were reported, as compared with 87 cases in September. Of those affected 36 were men, 36 women, and 2 young persons (lads). Two cases of anthrax (men) were also reported.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

(Based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers* and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many Employers, Employers' Associations and Trade Unions.)

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during October affected a total number of about 12,000 workpeople, of whom 11,800 received increases amounting on the average to 1s. 7d. per week, and 167 sustained decreases.

Increases.—Of the 11,800 workpeople who received increases, 9,000 were employed in the engineering and shipbuilding trades. The latter number includes 4,000 ironfounders, of whom 1,300 are employed in the London and 1,300 in the Manchester districts, and 1,160 boiler-makers and 2,500 platers' helpers on the Clyde and at Belfast. In the other metal trades, 450 brassworkers at Manchester and 300 coffin furniture makers at Birmingham have secured advances. The coopers at Edinburgh and at Belfast, to the number of 650, have also received increases. During the month the rates of seamen and firemen shipped at Swansea and Dublin have advanced, and the increase which took place at Bristol during the previous month has been maintained.

Decreases.—No decrease of any importance has been reported.

Method by which Changes of Wages were made.—Of the 12,000 workpeople whose wages were changed, 300 received an increase under a Wages Board, and 10,800 had their wages altered, without any strike, after negotiation or by mutual arrangement. The changes in the case of the remaining 900 persons were preceded or accompanied by strikes, although in some cases only a section of the men whose wages were altered actually struck work.

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

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, EMPLOYEES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, and SEAMEN.

* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is enquired into before the information is used here. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for five summer weeks and two winter weeks. When a change in wages is accompanied by a change in hours of labour, the weekly wages before and after change are computed on the basis of the old and new hours respectively.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, exclusive of overtime, Increase or Decrease in a full week, exclusive of overtime. Includes sections for ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES, TINPLATE TRADE, OTHER METAL TRADES, TEXTILE TRADES, CLOTHING TRADES, WOOD-WORKING AND FURNISHING TRADES, MISCELLANEOUS TRADES, and SEAMEN.

Rise in Agricultural Wages.—In East Norfolk a rise of 1s. a week, (10s. to 11s.), took place in the wages of most of the agricultural labourers in the Poor Law Unions of Aylsham, Blofield, Erpingham, Docking, Smallburgh and Walsingham, and in a few cases in the Henstead Union.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED DURING OCTOBER.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during October affected 3,823 workpeople, of which number 3,623 had their working hours shortened by an average of 2·77 hours per week and 200 had them lengthened by 2 hours per week. At Sheffield 836 moulders have secured a reduction of 1 hour per week, and after some dispute with their employers it was agreed that wages should remain as before change. At Leeds arrangements affecting 1,500 workpeople have been made, by which the hours of labour in the Jewish tailoring trade are to be reduced to 61 per week. The operatives in the cardmaking and wire-drawing industry in the Spen Valley have induced 13 firms to reduce the working hours to 56 per week. Particulars are given in the table for 7 firms, employing 784 workpeople.

An increase affecting 200 telephone wiremen and labourers in five Yorkshire towns is reported. The wages of these men have, however, been increased 1s. per week.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. or Inc. per week.
DECREASES.						
Metal Trades.						
Enginemen, Cranemen, Boilermens and Firemen	Brightside, nr. Sheffield	24th Oct.	91	58½	54	4½
Iron and Steel Moulders	Sheffield ...	24th Oct.	836	54	53	1
Clothing Trades.						
Under Pressers (Jewish Tailoring Trade)	Leeds ...	4th Oct.	100	73	61	12
Tailors, Pressers, Machinists, &c (Jewish)	Ditto ...	25th Nov.	1400	62	61	1
Other Trades.						
Wire Drawing and Card Making	Cleckheaton	Nov.	624 (5 firms)	59	56	3
Card Makers ...	Mirfield ...	26th Oct.	100	59	56	3
Cardsetters (piece workers)	Lindley ...	9th Nov.	60	57	56	1
Yardmen in Gasworks	Leeds ...	Nov.	150 average	54	48	6
Tramway Drivers	Nottingham	10th Oct.	48	87	60	27
Workpeople in Printing and Bookbinding Firms	Rochdale, Littleborough & Castleton	30th Nov.	130	54	52	2
Yardmen at Gasworks	Longton ...	1st Oct.	20	56½	53	3½
Co-operative Society's Employees	Retford ...	16th Nov.	12	58	55	3
INCREASES.						
Telephone Wiremen, Labourers, &c.	Yorkshire (W. Riding)	12th Oct.	200	50	52	2*

* See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN OCTOBER.

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

FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in October it will be seen that 4 Trade Unions, 1 Trade Federation, 2 Co-operative Associations for Distribution and 4 for Production, 5 Miscellaneous Associations, 15 new Friendly Societies, and 18 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Ten Building Societies, 7 Industrial and Provident Societies and 2 Trade Unions are reported as having ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding up," or to have had registry cancelled.

NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Postal Porters' Association and Mutual Benefit Soc. of the United Kingdom, 11 Bartholomew Close, E.C.; Leicester Farriers' Protection and Benefit Soc., Craven Arms Hotel, Humberstone Gate, Leicester; Western Districts of London Ladies' Hand-sewn Boot and Shoemakers' Soc., Prince Arthur Inn, Golborne Rd., Westbourne Park, W.; Amal. Waiters' Soc., 33 Southwick St., Cambridge Sq., W.; Cabinet Trades' Federation, 24 Coleman St., E.C. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Sleaford District Produce Supply Association, Farmers' Department, Grantham Rd., Sleaford; Pontyrhyl Co-op. Ind. Soc., 7 Beach Rd., Pontyrhyl. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

(B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Wigan Co-op. Cabinet Makers' Soc., The Works, Royal Oak Yard, Standishgate, Wigan; Caeran Builders' Soc., Bridge St., Maesteg; Walthamstow Reporter, 7 Courtenay Place, St. James' St., Walthamstow. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Barn-darrig Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Barn-darrig, Co. Wicklow.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—King William the Fourth Loan Soc., 99 Main St., Bulwell, Nottingham; Rushden Windmill Club and Institute, Windmill Rd., Rushden; National Temperance Nurses' Co-operation, 8 Great Marylebone St., Portland Place, W.; Anchor Savings' Bank, 99 Lemn St., E.; Co-op. Orchestra, 11 Camden St., N.W.

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

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—I.O. Rechabites, 4 (including 1 branch for Females); A.O. Foresters, 2; L.O.A. Shepherds, 3; various others, 4. *Scotland.*—Various, 4. *Ireland.*—I.O. Rechabites (Female), 1.

OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—Byker United Soc. of Drillers and Hole Cutters; United Kingdom Butchers' Association, Liverpool.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—Hales-owen and District Prudential Co-op. and Ind. Soc.; Kensington and Notting Hill Co-op. and Ind. Soc.; Solicitors' Stationery Association, London; Wigton Ind. Co-op. Soc.; Sheffield Co-op. Coal Supply Soc.; Tylorstown Ind. Co-op. Soc.; Potteries Co-op. Productive Builders' Soc.

Building Societies.—By instrument of dissolution, 3; notice of commencement of dissolution, 1; notice of termination of dissolution, 6.

PRODUCTION OF PIG-IRON.

THE make of pig-iron during the first half of the current year, according to the returns recently issued by the British Iron Trade Association, amounted to 4,328,444 tons, an increase of 606,574 tons on the amount produced in the first half of 1895. If this production is kept up during the second half of the year the total output will be greater than the greatest hitherto recorded, viz., 8,586,680 tons in 1882. The improvement on the first half of last year has been visible in all districts except Leicestershire and North Staffordshire, in both of which there has been some falling-off. In Cleveland the increase amounts to 143,000 tons, in Scotland to 140,000 tons, and in Lancashire to 108,000 tons.

FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Inspectors of Mines, Factories, &c.—*New Appointments.*—Mr. C. L. Robinson, of Howlish Offices, Bishop Auckland, Durham, has been appointed an Assistant Inspector of Mines and an Inspector of Factories and Workshops. He has also been directed to act as an Inspector for the purposes of the Metalliferous Mines Acts, and of the Quarries Act.

Mr. W. J. Bremner-Davis, 41 Waverley-road, Redland, Bristol;

Mr. H. J. Peacock, Town Hall, Bradford, Yorks;

Mr. W. J. Neely, 28 Trinity College, Dublin; have been appointed H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

EXAMINATIONS FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

THE following examinations will be held for certificates of competency for the position of Manager or Under Manager of a Mine. Intending candidates should apply to the respective Secretaries of the Examination Boards:—

North and East Lancashire and Ireland Mining District, 19th December. Secretary, Mr. T. Ratcliffe Ellis, 18 King Street, Wigan. (Applications to be sent in on or before 14th December.)

Newcastle-upon-Tyne District (will be held shortly). Secretary, Mr. M. Walton Brown, Neville Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (Applications should be sent in at once.)

NOTICE.

Communications respecting the contents of the GAZETTE should be addressed to:—

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