

THE Board of Trade LABOUR GAZETTE.

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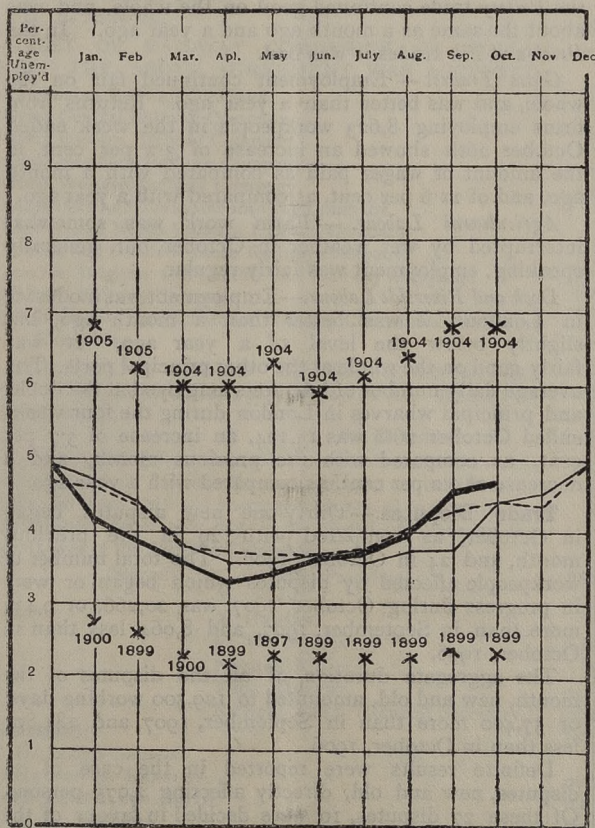
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve—1907. ——— Thin Curve—1906.
..... Dotted Curve—Mean of 1897-1906.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For October, 1907, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 638,788 members in the following trades:—

Building... ..	65,666	Printing & Bookbinding	55,881
Coal Mining	121,234	Woodworking and Fur-	
Engineering	162,478	nishing	34,778
Shipbuilding	58,017	Miscellaneous	21,862
Other Metal Trades ...	31,070		
Textiles	87,802	Total	638,788

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN OCTOBER.

[In addition to the 2,700 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,797 were received from employers relating to 1,113,594 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,497 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in October was on the whole not quite so good as in September. There was a decline in the metal and engineering industries, but some improvement in the woollen and worsted trades and in the boot and shoe trade. Coal mining continued very busy and the building trades dull.

Compared with October, 1906, there was some decline in the building, and metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and an improvement in the textile trades, and in the boot and shoe trade.

In the 272 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 638,788, making Returns, 30,079 (or 4.7 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of October, 1907, compared with 4.6 per cent. at the end of September, 1907, and 4.4 per cent. at the end of October, 1906.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued very good, and was better than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended October 26th was 5.64 as compared with 5.63 in the previous month and 5.49 a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment, though still good, showed a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during October, though still good on the whole, showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing over 24,000 workpeople showed 335 furnaces in blast at the end of October, as compared with 344 in September, 1907, and 344 in October, 1906. At the end of October, 1907, four furnaces were reported damped down owing to a dispute.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works was not so good as a month ago or a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended October 26th, 1907, at the 202 works from which Returns were received, was 2.5 per cent. less than in the week ended September 21st, 1907, and 1.9 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment in this industry during October, 1907, was good, though not quite so good as a month ago. It was better

than a year ago. At the works covered by the returns 444 tinsplate and sheet mills were working, as compared with 449 in September, 1907, and 441 in October, 1906.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in October was fair, but showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 4.5, compared with 4.1 a month ago, and 3.1 at the end of October, 1906.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment remained dull, and was worse than a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 11.6, as compared with 11.7 in September, and 10.4 per cent. in October, 1906.

Cotton Trade.—Employment during October in the Spinning branch was good, and better than a year ago; in the Weaving branch it was fairly good, but not quite so good as a year ago, short time being worked in all the principal districts, though not to such an extent as in the previous month.

Woolen Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,721 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,902 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 6.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,129 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 4.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,491 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 8.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was fairly good generally; it showed little change as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,907 workpeople in the week ended October 26th, 1907, showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.9 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment on the whole was fair. In England there was a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago; but in Scotland it was better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 7,887 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was good in Scotland, and fairly good in England; on the whole it was better than a month ago and a year ago. Firms employing 19,738 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 5.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoken branch in London showed a further seasonal improvement, but was slightly worse than a year ago; in the provinces it was quiet. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and slightly better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during October in the Silk Hat branch was bad; in the Felt Hat branch it was fair. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of October in the Silk Hat trade was 12.1, compared with 10.9 a month ago and a year ago. The corresponding percentages in the Felt Hat trade were 2.6, 2.0, and 3.5.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment generally was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 61,216 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was moderate; rather worse than a month ago, but somewhat better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,719 had 4.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 4.5 per cent. in September, and 5.6 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was fair on the whole, and showed a seasonal improvement. It was about the same as a year ago. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 4.9, as compared with 5.9 in September, and 4.9 in October, 1906. In the bookbinding trades the percentages for the same periods were 3.5, 4.6, and 3.0 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in October was dull, and rather worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment during October was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 5.2 per cent. of their members out of work at the end of October, 1907, as compared with 4.6 per cent. in the previous month, and 4.5 per cent. a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the Pottery trade continued good on the whole, and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was bad.

Glass Trades.—Employment continued fair on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,623 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 11.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Farm work was somewhat interrupted by wet weather in October, but, generally speaking, employment was fairly regular.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment was moderate in London: it was better than a month ago, but slightly below the level of a year ago. It was fairly good on the whole at the other principal ports. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended October 26th was 13,124, an increase of 5.7 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 2.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-one new disputes began in October, as compared with 29 in the previous month, and 24 in October, 1906. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during October, 1907, was 20,266, or 9,433 more than in September, 1907, and 8,064 less than in October, 1906.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 129,500 working days, or 57,400 more than in September, 1907, and 284,800 less than in October, 1906.

Definite results were reported in the case of 27 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 2,975 persons. Of these 27 disputes, 10 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 10 in favour of the employers, and 7 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in October affected 68,700 workpeople, of whom 68,200 received advances and 500 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included over 41,000 coal miners in Northumberland, 8,000 blast-furnacemen in various parts of England and Wales, and over 7,000 building trade operatives in Liverpool and Birkenhead. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net advance of about £5,000 per week.

RAILWAY DISPUTE.

WITH reference to the recent railway dispute the following agreements in regard to a scheme of conciliation and arbitration on questions relating to rates of wages and hours of labour of certain classes of railway employees was signed at the Board of Trade on November 6th, 1907, as the result of conferences which had taken place, presided over by the President of the Board of Trade.

I.—AGREEMENT SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF CERTAIN RAILWAY COMPANIES.

6th November, 1907.

The undersigned duly authorised representatives of the Railway Companies named below declare that they are prepared on their behalf to adopt a system of Conciliation and Arbitration for the settlement of questions relating to the rates of wages and hours of labour of various classes of their employees, on the general lines of the scheme appended to this Agreement.

They will also use their good offices to induce the other Railway Companies to adhere to this Agreement. Such adherence may be notified at any time within the next three months.

(Signed) STALBRIDGE.
ALLERTON.
ERNEST PAGET.
C. BINE RENSRAW.
ALEX. HENDERSON.
CLAUD J. HAMILTON.
W. GUY GRANET, (Secretary of Committee).

(Countersigned)

D. LLOYD-GEORGE.
HUDSON E. KEARLEY.
H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.
G. R. ASKWITH.

II.—LIST OF RAILWAY COMPANIES ON WHOSE BEHALF THE ABOVE AGREEMENT WAS ACCEPTED.

Caledonian Railway Company.
Great Central Railway Company.
Great Eastern Railway Company.
Great Northern Railway Company.
Great Western Railway Company.
Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company.
London and North-Western Railway Company.
London and South-Western Railway Company.
London, Brighton and South-Coast Railway Company.
Midland Railway Company.
South Eastern and Chatham Railway Companies' Managing Committee.

III.—AGREEMENT SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.

6th November, 1907.

The undersigned duly authorised representatives of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants accept, on behalf of its members, the terms of this Agreement with regard to Conciliation and Arbitration signed this day at the Board of Trade by the representatives of the Railway Companies.

(Signed) J. R. BELL, (President)
T. OWEN.
A. HARBER.
C. W. BEARDSLEY.
NATHAN RIMMER.
THOS. MURPHY.
RICHARD BELL, (General Secretary).

(Countersigned)

D. LLOYD-GEORGE.
HUDSON E. KEARLEY.
H. LLEWELLYN SMITH.
G. R. ASKWITH.

IV.—OUTLINE OF SCHEME FOR CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

(a) Boards to be formed for each Railway Company which adheres to the Scheme to deal with questions referred to them, either by the Company or its employees, relating to the rates of wages and hours of labour of any class of employees to which the Scheme applies, which cannot be mutually settled through the usual channels.

(b) The various grades of the employees of the Company who are covered by the Scheme, to be grouped for this purpose in a suitable number of Sections, and the area served by the Company

to be divided if necessary for purposes of election into a number of suitable districts.

(c) The employees belonging to each Section so grouped to choose from among themselves one or more representatives for each district, these representatives to form the employees' side of a Sectional Board, to meet representatives of the Company to deal with rates of wages and hours of labour exclusively affecting grades of employees within that Section.

(d) The first election of representatives to be conducted in a manner set out in the Rules of Procedure. Subsequent elections to be regulated by the Boards themselves.

(e) Where a Sectional Board fails to arrive at a settlement, the question to be referred on the motion of either side to the Central Conciliation Board, consisting of representatives of the Company and one or more representatives chosen from the employees' side of each Sectional Board.

(f) In the event of the Conciliation Boards being unable to arrive at an agreement, or the Board of Directors or the men failing to carry out the recommendations, the subject of difference to be referred to arbitration. The reference shall be to a single Arbitrator appointed by agreement between the two sides of the Board, or in default of agreement to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Master of the Rolls, or in the unavoidable absence or inability of one of them to act then by the remaining one. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be binding on all parties.

DURATION OF SCHEME.

The present Scheme to be in force until twelve months after notice has been given by one side to the other to terminate it. No such notice to be given within six years of the present date.

INTERPRETATION.

If any question should arise as to the interpretation of this Scheme, it shall be decided by the Board of Trade, or, at the request of either party, by the Master of the Rolls.

OUTLINE OF SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION AND PROCEDURE OF CONCILIATION BOARDS.

N.B.—The following outline is intended as a general "model," to be amended in detail to suit the circumstances of particular Companies.

CONSTITUTION OF BOARDS OF CONCILIATION.

Boards to be constituted in the first place for the more important Sections (the list to be subject to modification to suit particular Railways).

The following are suggested merely as examples:—

Railway A.

- (1) Locomotive Drivers, Firemen, and Cleaners.
- (2) Signalmen, Pointsmen, &c.
- (3) Permanent Way-men, Platelayers, &c.
- (4) Traffic Department men other than signalmen.

Railway B.

- (1) Locomotive Drivers, Firemen, and Cleaners.
- (2) Signalmen and Pointsmen.
- (3) Goods Guards and Shunters.
- (4) Passenger Department Guards, Ticket Examiners, Shunters, and Porters.
- (5) Telegraph and Permanent Way.
- (6) Goods Checkers, Porters, Carmen, Vanmen, Stablemen, and Labourers.

Note.—Variations may be made in the above classification, care being taken to provide, so far as possible, for the inclusion of other grades of wage-earning employees engaged in the manipulation of traffic on one or other of the Boards.

If the employees belonging to any Section not included at the outset should desire hereafter to participate in the Scheme, they may make application to the Central Board, which, if it thinks it desirable, may either admit them to an existing Sectional Board or arrange for the constitution of a new Board.

The electoral districts to be based so far as practicable on districts already in existence for the purpose of the Railway Company (e.g., District Superintendents' or District Goods Managers' districts) which may, if necessary, be grouped for the purpose.

[Note.—It seems desirable that the districts should be as few as possible (preferably not more than four, and in no case exceeding six), in order to admit of two operative representatives instead of only one being elected for each district on each Board. This will give opportunity for variety of representation—e.g., for a fireman as well as an engine driver to be elected on Board I., without unduly increasing the number of members of the Boards.]

The term of office of a Conciliation Board to be three years. Casual vacancies through death, resignation, or loss of qualification, to be filled by co-optation by the remaining members on the same side of the Board.

ELECTION OF CONCILIATION BOARDS.

The following rules to apply to the first election. Subsequent elections to be regulated by the Conciliation Boards themselves.

(1) Nomination papers proposing candidates for the various Boards signed by not less than 20 adult employees belonging to the same section and district to be sent to the Board of Trade on or before a date to be arranged.

(2) The Board, after satisfying themselves that the nominations are in order, to prepare voting papers and arrange for them to be circulated to the adult employees on a given pay day.

(3) The Board of Trade to receive and count the voting papers of the men, and also to receive from the Company a list of its proposed representatives on the various Boards.* The result to be published with as little delay as possible.

Note.—For the purpose of these Rules "adult" means a person aged 20 and upwards.

[*Note.—It is desirable that at least one of the Company's representatives on each Board should be a Director.]

PROCEDURE.

Each side of a Conciliation Board to select its own Chairman.

Every Board to meet for business as required at the request of either side. A fortnight's notice to be given of all meetings. No meeting shall be called in August or September.

Meetings to be convened by the Secretary, who shall be appointed by agreement between the two sides of the Board. Failing agreement, each side to appoint a Secretary from among the employees of the Company. The Agenda to be circulated with the notices, and no question not on the Agenda to be brought up except with the consent of both sides.

Each side of a Board to vote separately, and all decisions to be arrived at by agreement between the two sides.

MODE OF DEALING WITH APPLICATIONS.

Before a Conciliation Board can entertain any proposal for a change in the rates of wages or hours of labour of any class of employees, an application for such change must previously have been made in the usual course through the Officers of the Department concerned.

After any such application has been made by the employees they shall be informed, as soon as practicable, and in any case within two months, of the Company's decision with regard to the request or of their desire to refer it to a Conciliation Board. In the event of the decision not being accepted, or of no reply being received within the specified time, the men may require the matter to be referred to a Conciliation Board, which shall be at once convened to consider the matter so referred.

NOTE.—For the purpose of this rule the months of August and September shall not count.

Any proposal agreed to by a Conciliation Board involving increased expenditure shall be placed before the Directors for their acceptance at their next ordinary Board meeting, or if that meeting takes place within a week of the proposal, then at the next meeting but one, and failing this, shall be referred forthwith to arbitration.

Any proposal agreed to by a Conciliation Board involving a reduction of rates of wages shall be communicated to the men, and if rejected by them within a month, shall be referred forthwith to arbitration.

Subject to the above provisos the decision of a Conciliation Board to be final and binding on the parties, and no decision to be re-opened within 12 months.

Where a Sectional Board fails to arrive at a settlement, the question to be referred on the motion of either side to the Central Conciliation Board.

Should the Central Conciliation Board fail to agree, the question to go forthwith to arbitration at the request of either party.

Proceedings before the Arbitrator shall be regulated by him, including the period during which the award shall be binding.

EXPENSES.

In the absence of an agreement to the contrary the expenses of arbitration proceedings and Conciliation Boards to be divided equally between the company and its employees.

Note.—It is agreed that in order to keep procedure simple and inexpensive, Counsel should not appear in these cases.

V.—NOTICE OF ADHESION TO THE SCHEME SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATED SOCIETY OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AND FIREMEN.

6th November, 1906.

On behalf of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers

and Firemen, we accept the arrangements entered into to-day at the Board of Trade.

(Signed) ALBERT FOX, (Secretary).
J. M. BLISS (E. C. Member.)
ARTHUR S. TIPPETT.

VI.—NOTICE OF ADHESION TO THE SCHEME SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GENERAL RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION.

On behalf of the members of the General Railway Workers' Union, I accept the arrangements agreed to to-day at the Board of Trade.

(Signed) THOMAS LOWTH (General Secretary.)

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Music Hall Artistes.

Certain questions having arisen between managers and artistes as to payment for matinees, salaries and contracts, in relation to the award given on June 14th, 1907, by Mr. Askwith, the arbitrator appointed in this dispute (see LABOUR GAZETTE for June, p. 163), Mr. Askwith met the parties on September 6th and October 17th, and issued a supplementary award on October 18th.

In this award Mr. Askwith decided that salaries are to be based on evening performances (six or twelve a week) only, and should not be inclusive, *i.e.*, covering matinees; that the amount of salary to be received is a matter of free bargain between the manager and artiste, but that of the salary so fixed one-seventh or one-twelfth, as the case may be, shall be given for each matinee, and is in addition to the salary which in future bargains the artiste may estimate his value at, and the manager be prepared to pay. Salaries should not be fixed in less multiples than ten shillings.

The arbitrator also decided that in the case of certain music halls all contracts made after July 14th, but on or before September 7th, 1907, should stand in the terms made; but that contracts made subsequent to September 7th should stand with the addition of matinee payment, unless the same has been specifically provided for.

Hat Makers, Stockport.

In the October GAZETTE, page 292, particulars were given of a conference, presided over by Mr. W. B. Yates, the nominee of the Board of Trade, to consider a dispute in which the Trade Union employees of a firm of hat makers at Stockport had ceased work on account of their objection to work with non-unionist women trimmers.

The Memorandum drawn up by the conference was submitted to the parties for approval, but was rejected by the Trade Union.

Subsequently further negotiations took place between the parties, with the result that the following agreement was arrived at on October 23rd:—

- (1) That the men present themselves for work to-morrow (Thursday) morning;
- (2) That on their appearance at the works the non-union girls join the Union;
- (3) That no entrance fee be charged [to the girls so joining].

Brassworkers, United Kingdom.

In the LABOUR GAZETTE for October, page 291, notification was made of an application from the joint secretaries of the Conciliation Board for the brass-working industry, for the appointment by the Board of Trade of an arbitrator to decide certain questions upon which the Conciliation Board had been unable to agree.

On October 16th the Board of Trade appointed Sir J. T. Woodhouse, to act in that capacity.

Shipbuilding Demarcation Dispute (Drillers v. Shipbuilders), Cardiff.

A dispute having occurred in the shipbuilding industry at Cardiff between certain drillers, who were members of the Associated Shipwrights' Society, and members of the United Society of Boiler Makers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders, with reference to the demarcation of work between the members of the two societies, the matter was referred to two arbitrators, in accordance with the

rules of the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding trades. On November 6th, application was made to the Board of Trade on behalf of these arbitrators for the appointment of an Umpire.

The Board of Trade, on November 13th, appointed Mr. J. Burnett to act in that capacity.

REPORT ON RULES OF CONCILIATION BOARDS.

THE Labour Department of the Board of Trade have recently issued a Report* on the Rules of Voluntary Conciliation and Arbitration Boards and Joint Committees in the United Kingdom. The Report deals with the constitution and financial arrangements of the Boards now in existence; with their procedure, and the means taken to prevent stoppages of work; and with the machinery provided for the final settlement of questions upon which the Boards fail to agree.

The rules of the Boards are printed in the Report *in extenso*, but have been classified under certain headings (Functions of Board, Constitution, Procedure, &c.) for convenience of reference.

An appendix to the Report classifies the various conciliatory agencies according to the methods adopted for the final settlement of disputes (*e.g.*, by reference to Board of Trade, by reference to permanent neutral chairman, and so on); while further appendices give a list of the Boards, with the names and addresses of their secretaries, and show the number of cases settled by the Boards during the last 10 years.

The number of Boards and Committees engaged in the settlement of disputes in particular trades, known to be in existence at the present time is 194; and the number of workpeople covered by all the conciliatory agencies in these trades is estimated at more than 1,250,000. In addition, there are two Boards whose work is restricted to questions affecting employees of Co-operative Societies, and 15 District Boards not confined to any particular trade.

Friendly discussion between representatives of employers and of workpeople at joint conferences is now a very generally recognised method of settling wages questions and other matters in dispute in most of the principal trades in the United Kingdom. Thus, in the coal mining and iron and steel industries, wages—the most frequent cause of disputes—are in most districts controlled by Conciliation Boards or similar arrangements. In the cotton trade, conciliation is provided for the spinning branch by the Brooklands Agreement, while the weaving branch has a Joint Committee. In the engineering trades, the Terms of Settlement provide conciliatory means of arranging disputes by local or central conferences for nearly the whole of the United Kingdom. In the shipbuilding industry machinery is in existence at the important centres for the demarcation of work between the various trades employed—a common cause of disputes in this industry. In the building trades, Conciliation Boards were, up to 1905, of a local character only; but in that year a national scheme of conciliation was instituted.

The functions of Conciliation and Arbitration Boards vary considerably. Thus, a number limit their work to fixing the general level of wages for their particular industry over a large area, without considering local questions; others deal only with disputes at individual works; others deal with the demarcation of work between different trades; while the last and most numerous class consider all questions, whether general or affecting individual works, and whether relating to wages or to other matters affecting employers and employed within their trade and area.

The value of these Boards or Committees as a means of preventing stoppages of work is shown by the fact that, of the 7,248 cases settled by such agencies in the last ten years, only 92 (or 1 per cent.) were preceded by a stoppage of work. In the majority of cases the rules provide that no suspension of work shall be brought about by either party until the question in dispute has

been considered by the Board; while some of the Boards, in the event of a stoppage taking place, refuse to consider the disputed matter until work has been resumed. Most of the Boards provide that their decisions, or the awards of arbitrators or umpires appointed by them, shall be final and binding; and some Boards even impose a money penalty in case of breach of agreement or award.

It is satisfactory to note that 96 Boards and Committees, covering the majority of the important industries, have provided full automatic machinery for the settlement of disputes when a deadlock is threatened in consequence of the parties being equally divided. The machinery adopted is of various kinds; for example, reference in the final instance may be either to (1) an arbitrator or umpire appointed by the Board of Trade, or (2) a permanent neutral chairman or arbitrator, or (3) an arbitrator appointed *ad hoc*, or (4) two arbitrators and an umpire, or (5) three arbitrators, with decision by the majority. In 55 other cases full machinery for the settlement of disputes is provided, which can, however, be put into operation only by the mutual consent of the parties. There remain 27 cases in which no provision appears to be made to avoid a deadlock.

LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY IN 1906.

THE report* of the Imperial Statistical Department states that the number of labour disputes which were begun during 1906 was 3,683, as compared with 2,711 in the previous year. Since 1901, when 1,109 disputes occurred, there has been a continuous increase each year in the number of disputes. Of the disputes in 1906, 3,378 were strikes and 305 lock-outs.

With respect to the disputes which terminated during the year, though the number of these (3,626) was larger than that for the previous year, the number of workpeople affected was less by 30.6 per cent., falling from 542,564 in 1905 to 376,415 in 1906. The strike of miners in the Ruhr district, and the lock-out of electrical workers in the Berlin district, both of which took place in 1905, accounted to some extent for the larger number affected by disputes in that year. The number of workpeople above mentioned who were involved, either directly or indirectly, in disputes during 1906, represented 44.9 per cent. of the total employed in the particular works affected. The greater number of disputes were of short duration, 38.1 per cent. lasting 5 days or less; on the other hand, 24.7 per cent. lasted more than 30 days.

The following Table shows the number of workpeople affected directly and indirectly by strikes and lock-outs in each group of trades in 1906, the corresponding total for 1905 being added for purposes of comparison:—

Group of Trades.	1906.			Corresponding Total for 1905.
	Strikes.	Lock-outs.	Total.	
Building...	87,570	15,318	102,888	87,407
Mining, Smelting, Salt, &c...	25,698	103	25,801	23,425
Metal and Engineering...	43,832	36,787	80,619	94,534
Textile...	34,299	10,847	45,146	38,387
Clothing and Cleaning...	10,844	1,800	12,644	30,500
Transport...	13,061	19	13,080	3,935
Printing and Paper...	9,829	5,374	15,203	2,938
Pottery and Chemical...	19,740	4,796	24,536	9,797
Woodworking...	21,660	3,039	24,699	23,681
Food Preparation...	7,960	573	8,533	6,579
Leather...	8,471	473	8,944	5,553
Commerce...	12,939	422	13,361	6,295
Other...	1,748	13	1,761	533
Total...	296,651	79,764	376,415	542,564

As shown by the above Table, the building trades account for the largest number of persons affected by strikes in the past year. This group of industries has been disturbed by disputes in a constantly increasing degree each year since 1901. Compared with 1905, the increase in the number of workpeople affected was 17.7 per cent., while in the mining, &c., industry there was a decrease of 88.9 per cent.

* Cd. 3,788. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 1s. 4d.

* *Streiks und Aussperrungen im Jahre 1906. (Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, Band 188.)* Berlin, 1907. Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht. Price 2s.

MINES AND QUARRIES IN 1906.

NUMBER EMPLOYED, ACCIDENTS, AND OUTPUT.

The Home Office have recently issued their annual reports for 1906* on the number of persons employed and the number of accidents, and on the output of minerals, at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom.

Number of Persons employed.

The total number of persons employed at mines, and at the quarries under the Quarries Act, in 1906, was 1,004,092. This is the first time that the number so employed has exceeded a million. There was an increase of 25,052 at mines (nearly all at coal mines) but a decrease of 3,303 at quarries, as compared with the preceding year. Of the 1,004,092 persons employed 867,152 were at coal mines; 16,840 at iron mines; 28,584 at other mines; and 91,516 at quarries.

Coal Mines.—The following Table shows the number employed in the principal coalfields in 1905 and 1906, the corresponding numbers for 1900 being added for purposes of comparison:—

Coalfield.	No. employed in		
	1900.	1905.	1906.
Yorks (W. Riding), Derbyshire and Notts. ...	175,000	195,000	200,000
Northumberland and Durham ...	154,000	170,000	177,000
S. Wales and Monmouthshire ...	148,000	166,000	175,000
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	88,000	94,000	92,000
Midlands (Staffordshire, &c.) ...	70,000	74,000	77,000
Minor Coalfields in England and Wales ...	34,000	35,000	36,000
Scotland ...	98,000	108,000	109,000
Ireland ...	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total ...	767,000	843,000	857,000

It will be seen that, as compared with 1905, there has been an increase in all the coalfields except Lancashire. As compared with 1900, there has been an increase in all the important coalfields, the total increase in the six years being 100,000.

About four-fifths of the persons employed at coal mines are employed underground, the percentage so employed varying from 77.1 per cent. in the Midland coalfield to 85.0 per cent. in the South Wales coalfield. The surface workers in 1906 included 5,417 females, of whom 721 were under 16. The number of these female workers, who were mostly employed in Lancashire and in Scotland, shows a decrease of 434 as compared with the preceding year, but an increase of 647 as compared with 1900.

The number of boys and lads was 60,458, or 7 per cent. of the total number employed, divided as follows:—

	No. employed in		
	1900.	1905.	1906.
Underground:			
Boys aged 13 and under 14 ...	47,144	6,022	5,964
Lads aged 14 and under 16 ...	13,314	37,421	38,477
On surface:			
Boys aged 12 and under 14 ...	14,722	2,559	2,665
Lads aged 14 and under 16 ...	1,012	12,693	13,352
Total ...	61,866	58,695	60,458

It will be seen that, as compared with 1905, there was an increase in every class, except in boys under 14 employed underground. As compared with 1900 the number of lads and boys employed underground has decreased.

Fatal Accidents.

The total number of fatal accidents in or about mines and quarries in 1906 was 1,190, of which 1,098, causing 1,178 deaths, occurred at mines. The principal classes of fatal accidents at mines were as follows:—

Classes of Accidents.	Number of		Proportion of Deaths due to each cause.
	Fatal Accidents.	Deaths.	
Underground:			
Falls of Ground ...	544	562	47.7
Explosions of Fire-damp or Coal Dust ...	17	55	4.7
Other Accidents ...	462	419	35.5
Accidents on Surface ...	135	142	12.1

* Mines and Quarries: Report for 1906. Part II. (Labour). Cd. 3,770: price 8d.; Part III. (Output). Cd. 3,774: price 1s. 5d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

As usual, falls of ground are responsible for the largest number of fatal accidents during the year, the death-rate from this cause being 77 per 100,000 of underground workers. Unlike other classes of underground accidents, falls of ground have shown little diminution in fatality for a long period. The Report states that "the inspectors of mines are unanimously of opinion that [accidents of this class] are capable of reduction by greater attention to timbering by miners and officials."

The death rate from explosions was only 7.6 per 100,000, the lowest rate recorded in any year, except 1897-8, 1900 and 1903-4. The death-rate from this cause has fallen from an average of 128 per 100,000 in the quinquennial period 1851-5, to 41 per 100,000 in 1881-5, and to 12 per 100,000 in 1901-5. The most numerous class of accidents due to explosions, including nearly all the non-fatal accidents, were due to the use of naked lights.

The death-rate from all classes of accidents, underground and on the surface, has fallen from an average of 430 per 100,000 in the quinquennial period 1851-5 to 201 per 100,000 in 1881-5, and to 129 per 100,000 in 1901-5 and in 1906. The decline has been greatest in explosion accidents (as above mentioned) and in shaft accidents, which have fallen from 130 per 100,000 in 1851-5 to 12 per 100,000 in 1901-5.

Output of Minerals.

The following Table shows the total output of the principal minerals in the years 1900, 1905 and 1906:—

Principal Minerals.	Output (in thousands of tons).		
	1900.	1905.	1906.
Coal ...	225,181	236,129	251,068
Iron Ore ...	14,028	14,591	15,500
Clay and Shale ...	14,050	15,135	15,291
Limestone and Chalk ...	16,278	17,037	17,508
Sandstone ...	5,020	5,641	5,261
Slate ...	586	515	493
Igneous Rocks (Granite, &c.) ...	4,634	5,957	6,160
Tin Ore (dressed) ...	7	7	7
Oil Shale ...	2,282	2,497	2,547
Salt ...	1,701	1,890	1,965
Lead Ore ...	32	28	31

The total value of all the minerals raised in the United Kingdom during 1906 was £105,843,000, as compared with £95,829,000 in 1905; an increase of £10,014,000, or 10 per cent. In 1900 the total value was £135,957,676.

PROCEEDINGS OF DISTRESS COMMITTEES, DURING 1906-7.

The Local Government Board have issued a Report* on the proceedings of Distress Committees in England and Wales under the Unemployed Workmen Act, during the year ended March 31st, 1907.

The number of Distress Committees constituted was 29 in London, 10 in the districts immediately adjoining London, and 79 in provincial towns. Only 66 of the provincial Committees, however, received applications during the year.

Applications Received.—The total number of applications received during the year was 87,001, as compared with 110,835 in the previous season. The number of applications received in London was 28,181; in the 10 districts immediately adjoining London 15,322; and in the 66 provincial towns which received applications during the year, 43,498. The proportion of applicants to the population was 6.0 per thousand for London as a whole, but rose to 11 per thousand or upwards in Bermondsey, Poplar, and Woolwich; it was 12.1 per thousand for the 10 London suburbs, rising to 16 per thousand or upwards in West Ham, Tottenham, and

* H.C. 326 of Session 1907: Price 3d.

Edmonton; and it was 4.7 per thousand for the provincial boroughs, rising to 11 per thousand or upwards in Brighton and Hastings, Norwich and Yarmouth.

Applications Entertained.—The number of applications entertained, i.e., found qualified for assistance under the Act, was 60,416, or 69 per cent. of the applications received. The proportion was only 4.7 per cent. in London, while in the provinces it ranged from 100 per cent. in several boroughs (including Manchester) to 12 per cent. at Bradford. The 60,416 applicants whose applications were entertained had 152,801 dependants.

Twenty-six per cent. of the qualified applicants were between 20 and 30 years of age, 28 per cent. between 30 and 40 years of age, and 23 per cent. between 40 and 50.

As regards the occupations of the qualified applicants, more than half belonged to the "general or casual labour" class; and in some boroughs, notably at some of the ports, three-fourths of the applicants or more belonged to this class. Other occupations largely represented were the building trades (17.7 per cent. of the total), and the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades (6.8 per cent.). The building trades accounted for a large proportion of the applicants in London and neighbourhood, and at Brighton, Hastings, Reading, Bristol, Newport, and Southampton.

Work Provided.—Work was found, or provided, for 36,280 of the applicants, being 60.1 per cent. of the number of qualified applicants. The proportion in London was only 4.1 per cent. of the qualified applicants, and in the provinces 65 per cent. Twenty-seven provincial committees reported that no work had been "provided," either directly by themselves, or by the local authority through their agency; but in some of these cases work was found for applicants with private employers.

The work provided was mostly on works undertaken by the local authorities of the several areas, and was generally rough work such as making roads, draining, laying sewers or water mains, levelling recreation grounds and open spaces, &c. Four committees (Southampton, Hull, Leicester and Oldham), rented land on which men were employed in works of cultivation; but West Ham was the only committee outside London which carried on a farm colony.

The rate of pay varied between 4d. and 6½d. an hour, 5d. being the predominant rate.

The average time worked varied considerably. In many cases an average of not more than seven or eight days' work, or even less, could be provided; but in a fair proportion of districts several weeks' employment was provided.

Emigration.—The number of persons assisted to emigrate during the year (including the dependants of the actual applicants) was 4,532; nearly three-quarters of these (1,112 men, with 2,127 dependants) were emigrated by the Central Body for London. Twenty-eight Committees outside London also assisted applicants and their dependants to emigrate, including Bristol with 368, West Ham with 267, and Leeds with 196.

Only 216 persons (including 117 dependants) were assisted to remove to other areas in England and Wales. Of these, 47 were in London, and 33 at Northampton.

Labour Bureaux.—The Central (Unemployed) Body for London established 25 labour exchanges in the various metropolitan boroughs; also a central exchange, which acts as a clearing house for the local exchanges. The local exchanges are kept entirely distinct from the work of the local Distress Committees; and it is reported that "as this is getting understood, the industrial quality of the workpeople registering is improving." The number of applications registered from August 20th, 1906 (when the first local exchange was opened) to March 31st, 1907, was 56,491, including 8,129 applications from women. Work was found for 7,614 persons, including 1,706 women.

In all but nine of the provincial towns, on the other hand, the Committees, however, utilise their ordinary

registers for the purpose of obtaining work for applicants with private employers. In some cases the Committees referred to their operations in this respect under the names of "employment registers," "labour exchanges," or "labour bureaux"; but, with the exception of the nine boroughs referred to above, they had no separate organisation for labour bureau purposes.

Receipts and Expenditure.—The following table shows the receipts and expenditure of the Central Body for London, and of the provincial Distress Committees, during the year:—

	London.	Districts adjoining London. (10)	Provincial Towns. (79)	Total.
Receipts.				
From Rates ...	£66,880	£4,061	£19,147	£90,088
From Parliamentary Grant ...	31,640	40,815	15,340	87,795
From Queen's Unemployed Fund ...	18,616	3,905	2,145	24,666
From Voluntary Contributions ...	97	980	10,456	11,533
From Other Sources, including Re-payments for Work Done ...	20,883	1,742	8,129	30,759
Total ...	138,121	51,506	55,217	244,844
Expenditure.				
Cost of Work Provided:				
On Farm and Labour Colonies ...	£59,600	£10,135	...	£69,735
Other ...	29,855	31,169	29,001	90,025
Cost of Labour Exchanges, &c. ...	3,828	1,348	6,681	11,857
Cost of Emigration or Removal ...	23,418	1,341	6,722	31,481
Other Expenditure ...	14,951	2,455	5,211	22,617
Total ...	133,652	46,448	47,615	227,715

The receipts are exclusive of sums of £17,225 paid to the London Central Body, and of £400 paid to the East Ham Distress Committee, from the Parliamentary grant before the 31st March, but not brought into the accounts at that date. The total amount distributed from the Parliamentary grant was therefore £105,420, of which London received £48,865; West Ham, £25,000; other London suburbs, £16,215; and 23 provincial boroughs, £15,340.

The expenditure is exclusive of a sum of £34,214 spent by the London Central Body (out of loan) on the purchase of the Hollesley Bay Estate; and of £2,039 expenditure out of loan by the Bradford Committee.

The Table shows that London and the suburbs were responsible for more than three-fourths of the total expenditure under the Act.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

It is too late in the year for emigrants to go to Canada, especially those with families. Work in outdoor trades has become much slacker at the approach of the winter season. Emigrants should wait till the winter is over, and be ready to start in the spring. Wages have risen generally during the last season, but rents and the cost of some articles of food have risen also.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—Assisted passages at £6 to £8 a head for persons skilled in rural industries, and at £3 to £6 a head for female servants, are now granted by the New South Wales Government on application to the Agent-General, at 123, Cannon Street, E.C. There is a good demand for female servants everywhere. There is also a good demand for miners, general labourers, men on sheep and cattle stations, and first class mechanics, and a very great demand for farm labourers. On the Richmond River (which is in an excellent district) there is a good demand for families, or single persons, as dairy hands. There is a demand at the large Broken Hill Silver Mines for skilled shaftsmen, miners, and carpenters, but the number of surface men is sufficient.

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

Victoria.—The Victorian Government contributes £6 a head towards the passages of approved emigrants such as agricultural labourers and female servants. There is little demand for miners or general labourers, but there is a good demand for farm labourers in the season, for men on sheep and cattle stations, for bricklayers, carpenters, plasterers, and female servants. Disputes have arisen in the bakery trade on the question of wages.

South Australia.—There is a good demand for farm and general labourers, masons and bricklayers, carpenters, blacksmiths and female servants; but there is not much demand for men on sheep and cattle stations, for plasterers, or iron workers. The wages of copper miners and smelters have been reduced at one or two of the mines, and many men have been discharged.

Queensland.—Cheap passages are granted to approved agricultural labourers, and residents in Queensland can now obtain passages for their friends or relatives here at £2 a head for females from 12 to 40 years, and at £4 for males, or at half these rates if the immigrants are properly provided for on landing. There is a good demand for farm labour in the rich Darling Downs district and elsewhere, and a general demand for female servants.

Western Australia.—Cheap passages from £6 a head are granted to suitable emigrants. There is little demand for mechanics, but good farm hands are wanted in several districts. Free grants of 160 acres are made to settlers.

Tasmania.—Skilled miners can obtain work on the West Coast, and farm labourers in farming districts from October to March.

New Zealand.

Farmers and farm labourers with £25, and domestic servants with £2, are eligible for reduced passages. All trades have been well employed, but the supply of mechanics seems to have been quite sufficient except in two or three cases, e.g., moulders and fitters at Invercargill, and a few carpenters and stone masons at Christchurch. In several places such as Gisborne, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Christchurch, Dunedin and Invercargill, there has been a continuing demand for good female machinists in the boot and clothing trades, and for tailoresses. The summer season having now commenced, there is an excellent demand in country districts for general farm hands and especially milkers.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony at the present time in search of work, as the supply of labour largely exceeds the demand. The Town Council of Cape Town has issued a warning to this effect, and in other parts of the Colony, as Kimberley, East London, and Port Elizabeth, there are many cases of distress owing to the scarcity of work.

Natal.—Emigrants should avoid Natal at the present time, as there is a large excess of labour. Many skilled married mechanics, such as masons, bricklayers, carpenters, painters, &c., and a few unskilled labourers, are being given work by the Maritzburg Town Council at 4s. a day, which is the usual wage of coloured labourers, whose places they take.

Transvaal.—The Mayor of Johannesburg has issued a notice warning persons against going there; in view of the depressed state of the labour market, there is only a very remote possibility of employment being obtainable, and, as the cost of subsistence is high, those having small means would speedily descend to a state of destitution. Over 500 white men are now being employed as an experiment on the drainage works at Johannesburg, earning 5s. to 6s., and in some cases 10s., a day. A strike of letterpress printers has begun in the Transvaal.

Orange River Colony.—There is no demand whatever for more labour, and there are many unemployed.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 321 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in September.—Employment continued good in the building and allied trades, and in the metal trades, but was slack in the Paris automobile trade. It was satisfactory on the whole in the textile trades in the Nord, Ardennes, and Marne, and improved in Normandy and the Roanne district; in the Vosges and the smaller centres of the Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres it was not so good. Silk workers at St. Etienne reported employment as slack, but at Lyons power-loom weavers were busy, and employment in the smaller workshops improved. There was, on the whole, no improvement in the garment trades, and employment in the printing trades showed no change from a month ago. Coachbuilders at Paris reported an improvement. Employment improved for vineyard workers in the south of France, but was less plentiful than it usually is at this time of year. Woodcutters, who were engaged principally in threshing, were not so well employed as during the harvest. Paris gardeners continued well employed.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in September were received by the French Labour Department from 959 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 213,360. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 6·5 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 8·4 in the preceding month and 5·9 in September, 1906.

Coal Mining in September.—The average number of days per week worked by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during September was 5·92, as compared with 5·98 in the previous month, and 5·93 in September, 1906. Taking surface and underground workers together, 82·32 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week) and 17·47 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 88·87 and 11·13, and in September, 1906, 77·78 and 22·22 respectively.

Labour Disputes in September.—Fifty-seven disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in September, compared with 77 in the previous month and 82 in September, 1906. In 52 of the new disputes 7,095 workpeople took part, as compared with 7,874 who took part in 74 of the August disputes, and 11,265 who took part in 77 of the disputes in September, 1906. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were building (15), transport and warehousing (10), textiles (8) and metal (8). Of 57 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 11 terminated in favour of the workpeople, 16 in favour of the employers, and 30 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in September.—Seven instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred in September, committees of conciliation effecting a settlement in two of the seven cases.

GERMANY.†

Employment in September.—Employment continued good generally. In the building trades it varied in different localities, and declined somewhat towards the end of the month. The demand for workpeople in the coal mining industry exceeded the supply. In the

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department), October, 1907.

metal, engineering, electrical, and chemical trades, employment continued good. In the textile trades, with local exceptions, the outlook was favourable. Employment in hotel and restaurant service and in the transport trades was affected by the early termination of the holiday season, owing to the bad weather. Unskilled labour was not so scarce as a year ago.

Returns relating to the state of employment during the third quarter of 1907 were supplied to the Imperial Statistical Office by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership at the end of the quarter of 1,325,473. From certain branches of the Unions reporting, however, no returns of the numbers unemployed were available, and, allowing for these, the membership covered was 1,303,862, of whom 18,249 (or 1·4 per cent.) were unemployed on September 28th, as compared with 17,718 (or 1·4 per cent.) on August 24th, and 18,520 (or 1·4 per cent.) on July 27th. The percentage for September 29th, 1906, was 1·0. These figures are not strictly comparable with the unemployed percentage for the United Kingdom, given on page 321.

The following Table shows, for each of the six principal Unions for which figures are available, the number of members to whom the returns as to unemployment relate, and the percentage of such members unemployed:—

Name of Union.	Number of Members to whom Returns as to Unemployment relate.		Percentage of such Membership Unemployed on		
	Sept. 28, 1907.	Sept. 29, 1906.	Sept. 28, 1907.	Aug. 24, 1907.	Sept. 29, 1906.
Metal Workers (Soc. Dem.)...	559,970	517,781	1·0	1·0	0·6
Engineers & Metal Workers (Hirsch-Dancker)	41,618	51,537	0·8	0·7	0·5
Woodworkers ...	150,691	147,584	1·9	1·3	1·2
Miners ...	111,235	104,550	...	...	...
Printers ...	51,256	46,610	5·3	6·3	5·1
Transport Workers ...	90,039	64,892	0·6	0·6	0·6

BELGIUM.

Employment in September.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 1·4 per cent. of the 36,744 members of 147 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1·3 per cent. in the previous month and 1·8 per cent. in September, 1906. (These figures do not include particulars relating to miners, home workers, or agricultural labourers. See also note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 328.)

Labour Disputes in September.—Twelve strikes, involving 2,710 workpeople (2,400 directly and 310 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in September. In addition to these, 4 strikes and 2 lock-outs, which commenced in previous months, were in progress during part or the whole of the month. The bulk of the workpeople directly affected by these 18 disputes were employed in the engineering trades, collieries, the textile trades, or the transport trades. The termination of 13 disputes was reported. An account of the Antwerp dock strike appears below. Of the others, 2, directly affecting 229 persons, ended in favour of the workpeople, and 1, directly affecting 488 persons, in favour of the employers; while 7, directly affecting 1,700 persons, were compromised. In the remaining two cases the results were indeterminate.

Dispute of Dock Labourers at Antwerp.—The resumption of work at the Antwerp docks, on September 26th and 28th, was recorded in the October GAZETTE (page 297). A further despatch to the Foreign Office, from H.M. Consul-General at Antwerp, states that on October 14th the Union for the Protection of Labour (a body upon which both employers and workpeople are represented, its object being to examine all claims for increases in wages) decided to raise the wages of all

* Less than 0·1 per cent.

† Revue du Travail (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department), October 15th and 31st.

workers on wood and grain cargoes from 5 to 5½ francs (4s. to 4s. 5d.) per day from October 16th. In addition, a special commission will be appointed to examine the conditions of labour in the handling of certain grain cargoes which are injurious to health, with a view to granting further increases where it is found expedient.

HOLLAND.*

Employment in September.—Employment in the building trades showed no improvement, except with painters. It continued satisfactory in the larger metal and engineering establishments, and brisk with shipbuilders. Employment in the textile trades continued slack, and in the clothing and boot and shoe trades showed a further decline. There was a slight improvement in some branches of the wood-working trades and in the diamond trades at Amsterdam, but none in the printing trades. Employment in bulb culture showed the usual seasonal activity. In the baking and confectionery trades it slightly improved, and the approach of the busy season was felt in the cocoa and chocolate trades. In the margarine trade there was a decline.

Labour Disputes in September.—Nine strikes, 7 of which directly affected 2,275 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in September. Three of the strikes were in the diamond trades. Two lock-outs, both in the tobacco trades, involving 23 workpeople, also commenced in September. Three of the strikes came to an end during the month, and in addition one which began in August also came to an end. The results of 2 of the strikes which ended in September are known; one of these terminated in favour of the workpeople, the other was compromised. No lock-out came to an end in September.

NORWAY.†

Employment in September.—Of 15,595 members of Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 207, or 1·3 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of September. The figures for September and August, 1907, and for September, 1906, for certain Unions which made returns for each of these months, are given for comparison. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 328.)

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Sept., 1907.	Aug., 1907.	Sept., 1906.	Sept., 1907.	Aug., 1907.	Sept., 1906.
Metal Workers and Moulders	5,910	5,968	4,957	0·3	0·5	0·7
Carpenters, etc.	541	546	672	1·3	0·7	1·9
Painters and Masons...	850	811	510	9·9	...	3·3
Printers ...	1,245	1,272	1,007	3·1	3·9	1·9
Cabinet Makers ...	325	326	238	...	...	0·3
Timber-boom Labourers ...	243	244	233	...	...	...
Tinned Goods (Food Preparation)	271	244	234	...	...	1·3
Total ...	9,415	9,431	7,911	1·9	0·9	1·1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Disputes of Dock Labourers at New Orleans.—On October 4th the lock-out of cotton screwmen at New Orleans (see October GAZETTE, p. 297) developed into a general strike of all dock labourers, numbering 8,580, at that port. An agreement concerning the cotton screwmen was finally reached on October 24th, under which each gang of five men was to receive the old rate of wages, 26 dollars (£5 8s. 4d.) per day, for stowing 180 bales of cotton instead of 160, the previous number, pending an investigation into port charges by a committee whose decisions are to be binding on both sides. All the dock labourers had resumed work by October 26th.

* Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek. (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office.)

† Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics.

‡ Based on despatches from H.M. Consul-General at New Orleans.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT
IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES
IN OCTOBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 511 Returns—450 from Employers, 48 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during October, showing little change as compared with the previous month. It was better than a year ago, especially in the Midland Counties and in Lancashire and Cheshire.

Returns relating to 1,373 pits employing 628,961 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended October 26th, 1907, was 5.64, as compared with 5.63 in the previous month and 5.49 in October, 1906. The figure for October, 1907, is higher than for any October since the statistics were first recorded in 1894.

Of the 628,961 workpeople covered by the Returns, 595,490 (or 94.7 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended October 26th, 1907, and of these 505,504 (or 80.4 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in October was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.92), and the lowest in West Scotland (5.12).

Compared with a month ago, employment in England and Wales was, on the whole, unchanged; in Scotland there was a slight decline. The improvement in Ireland was due principally to the termination of a dispute. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in the Midland Counties and in Lancashire, ranging from 0.37 of a day per week in the Nottingham and Leicestershire district to 0.65 in the Derbyshire district. In West Scotland and the Lothians there was a decline.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Oct., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with	
		Oct. 26th, 1907.	Sept. 21st, 1907.	Oct. 20th, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	44,571	5.46	5.46	5.47	...	- .01
Durham ...	112,213	5.53	5.51	5.51	+ .08	+ .02
Cumberland ...	8,058	5.71	5.65	5.79	+ .06	+ .08
South Yorkshire ...	65,097	5.82	5.73	5.80	+ .09	+ .02
West Yorkshire ...	23,529	5.54	5.54	5.31	...	+ .23
Lancashire and Cheshire	56,240	5.56	5.49	5.08	+ .07	+ .48
Derbyshire ...	38,557	5.62	5.62	4.97	...	+ .65
Nottingham and Leicester	31,743	5.35	5.36	4.98	- .01	+ .37
Staffordshire ...	29,583	5.69	5.64	5.21	+ .05	+ .48
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	11,792	5.76	5.79	5.28	- .03	+ .48
Gloucester and Somerset	7,993	5.64	5.62	5.38	- .18	+ .26
North Wales ...	10,446	5.86	5.82	5.61	+ .04	+ .25
South Wales and Mon. ...	136,820	5.92	5.88	5.89	+ .04	+ .03
ENGLAND AND WALES	876,642	5.67	5.66	5.49	+ .01	+ .18
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	26,473	5.12	5.26	5.35	- .14	- .23
The Lothians ...	5,663	5.43	5.52	5.70	- .09	- .27
Fife ...	19,581	5.59	5.55	5.61	+ .04	+ .02
SCOTLAND	51,717	5.33	5.40	5.50	- .07	- .17
IRELAND ...	602	5.26	5.82	5.36	+ 1.44	- .30
United Kingdom ...	628,961	5.64	5.63	5.49	+ .01	+ .18

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were employed. At pits employing 205,302 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (short days being counted as fractions of a day) on which coal was heven 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.

are entered in the Table under the term "mixed." Compared with a month ago there was a slight decline in employment at coking coal and house coal pits, and a slight improvement at pits producing other classes of coal. Compared with a year ago, there was a general improvement, most marked at pits producing house coal.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Oct., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with	
		Oct. 26th, 1907.	Sept. 21st, 1907.	Oct. 20th, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Anthracite ...	7,674	5.82	5.78	5.81	+ .04	+ .01
Coking ...	31,857	5.67	5.73	5.64	- .06	+ .03
Gas ...	38,224	5.53	5.49	5.41	+ .04	+ .12
House ...	82,110	5.46	5.50	5.41	- .04	+ .02
Manufacturing and Steam	263,794	5.73	5.69	5.66	+ .04	+ .07
Mixed ...	205,302	5.62	5.63	5.41	- .01	+ .21
All Descriptions ...	628,961	5.64	5.63	5.49	+ .01	+ .18

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in October, 1907, amounted to 6,168,500 tons, or 493,782 tons more than in September, 1907, and 858,940 tons more than in October, 1906.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING
AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 82 Returns—68 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines, but showed a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In shale mines it was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Employment continued good in tin, copper, and lead mines. It was fair on the whole in quarries, but showed some decline as compared with a month ago.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended October 26th the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.82, as compared with 5.92 a month ago and 5.90 a year ago.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. employed in Oct., 1907, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with	
		Oct. 26th, 1907.	Sept. 21st, 1907.	Oct. 20th, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland...	7,541	5.84	5.97	5.99	- .13	- .15
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,192	5.88	5.94	5.94	- .06	- .06
Scotland ...	1,002	5.49	5.65	5.69	- .16	- .20
Other Districts ...	2,547	5.75	5.80	5.71	- .05	+ .04
All Districts ...	16,282	5.82	5.92	5.90	- .08	- .08

Of the 16,282 workpeople covered by the Returns 14,293 (or 87.8 per cent.) worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended October 26th, as compared with 96.6 per cent. a month ago, and 97.0 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received 3,203 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended October 26th, as compared with 3,145 in the previous month, and 3,080 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended October 26th was 5.73, as compared with 5.66 a month ago and 5.61 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued good in Cornwall.

Lead Mining.—Employment continued good in North Wales and in Weardale.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack in North Wales, especially in the Festiniog district, where short time was worked.

Granite.—Employment was bad, and worse than a month ago, in Aberdeenshire. In Leicestershire it showed an improvement. It was bad, but somewhat improved, on Dartmoor. It continued moderate in the Penryn district.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Weardale. It was fairly good in North Wales, and quiet in the Plymouth district; in both these districts wet weather interrupted employment. In Cumberland, employment was bad, and worse than a month ago; it was also bad in the Somerset blue lias quarries.

Other Stone.—Employment was moderate in the grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. It was good with grindstone makers in the Barnsley district. It continued bad, with short time, in Forfarshire. It continued good in the Clew Hill road-material quarries. Employment continued slack in the Bath stone quarries and in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries. In the Gateshead district it was moderate, and short time was worked.

Settmaking.—In Aberdeenshire employment was bad. It continued slack in North Wales and in Leicestershire, and short time was worked. Employment was regular at Airdrie, but bad in the Glasgow district. It continued good in the Clew Hill district.

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

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 114 Returns—108 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during October, 1907, though still good on the whole, showed a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 24,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of October was 335, as compared with 344* in September, 1907, and 344 in October, 1906. During October 3 furnaces were re-lit (one in Derbyshire and two in Staffordshire) and 12 were either damped down or blown out (five in Lanarkshire, of which four were damped down on account of a dispute, three in Cleveland, three in Cumberland, and one in Staffordshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with	
	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	86	89	90	- 3	- 4
Cumberland & Lancs.	33	36	38	- 3	- 5
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	16	16	16	...	...
Derby & Nottingham	43	42	40	+ 1	+ 3
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	27	...	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	38	37	35	+ 1	+ 3
S. Wales & Monmouth	17	17	17	...	...
Other districts ...	8	8	7	...	+ 1
England & Wales	267	271*	270	- 4	- 3
Scotland ...	68	73	74	- 5	- 6
Total ...	335	344*	344	- 9	- 9

The Imports of iron ore in October, 1907, amounted to 601,497 tons, or 49,989 tons more than in September, 1907, and 52,287 tons less than in October, 1906.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in October, 1907, amounted to 162,867 tons, or 17,880 tons more than in September, 1907, and 9,964 tons more than in October, 1906.

* Revised figures.

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 216 Returns—202 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 3 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works was not so good as a month ago or a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 529,200, as compared with 542,700 a month ago, and 539,500 a year ago.

The volume of employment (i.e., number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended October 26th, 1907, at the 202 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 2.5 per cent. less than in the week ended September 21st, 1907, and 1.9 per cent. less than a year ago.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.	
	In week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	In week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with
IRON :				
Rolling Forges ...	10,793	- 145 + 143	5.15	+ 0.02 - 0.02
Rolling Mills ...	4,610	+ 22 + 38	5.04	+ 0.04 - 0.12
Forging ...	448	- 28 - 37	5.46	+ 0.34 - 0.13
Founding ...	1,931	- 205 - 232	5.90	+ 0.04 - 0.01
Other Departments ...	624	+ 31 + 46	5.81	- 0.04 - 0.09
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,691	+ 7 + 77	5.57	- 0.02 - 0.03
Total, Iron ...	20,097	- 380 - 83	5.27	+ 0.01 - 0.04
STEEL :				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,832	- 184 + 80	5.84	... - 0.03
Crucible Furnaces ...	580	- 10 - 4	5.46	- 0.21 - 0.32
Bessemer Converters ...	1,227	- 340 - 309	5.17	- 0.04 + 0.07
Rolling Mills ...	15,240	- 623 - 306	5.36	- 0.03 - 0.08
Forging and Pressing ...	2,872	- 68 - 50	5.69	+ 0.05 + 0.04
Founding ...	8,113	- 245 - 307	5.89	... - 0.01
Other Departments ...	6,560	- 78 - 65	5.84	- 0.01 - 0.01
Mechanics, Labourers ...	9,592	- 206 - 80	5.90	- 0.02 - 0.02
Total, Steel ...	82,996	- 1,734 - 1,241	5.69	- 0.01 - 0.03
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills ...	11,157	- 155 - 244	5.25	- 0.05 - 0.04
Forging and Pressing ...	841	+ 42 + 160	5.71	+ 0.06 + 0.14
Founding ...	739	- 10 - 27	5.83	- 0.10 - 0.00
Other Departments ...	2,882	- 11 + 123	5.91	+ 0.03 + 0.06
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,277	- 13 - 108	5.81	... + 0.05
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,902	- 147 - 96	5.35	- 0.03 ...
Grand Total ...	94,995	- 2,281 - 1,420	5.57	- 0.01 - 0.03
Districts.				
Northumberland & Durham	11,569	- 656 - 730	5.49	- 0.08 - 0.12
Cleveland ...	6,498	- 1,539 - 1,424	5.61	... + 0.17
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	18,555	+ 69 + 118	5.68	+ 0.02 - 0.06
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns	4,604	+ 51 + 231	5.69	+ 0.16 + 0.15
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	10,426	+ 480 + 346	5.50	+ 0.01 - 0.07
Staffordshire ...	10,704	+ 53 + 243	5.46	- 0.02 - 0.01
Other Midland Counties ...	5,339	+ 57 + 213	5.54	- 0.08 + 0.04
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,253	- 322 + 261	5.63	- 0.03 - 0.04
Total, England and Wales	77,948	- 1,807 - 742	5.58	- 0.01 - 0.02
Scotland ...	17,047	- 474 - 678	5.55	+ 0.01 - 0.04
Total ...	94,995	- 2,281 - 1,420	5.57	- 0.01 - 0.03

A considerable decline in the number of workpeople employed, as compared with both a month ago and a year ago, took place in Cleveland, Northumberland and Durham, and Scotland, while in Wales and Monmouth the number employed was also less than a month ago, though greater than a year ago. In Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire there was an increase in the number of workpeople employed; in Yorkshire, excluding the Cleveland district, and in the Midlands also, the number employed was somewhat greater than either a month ago or a year ago. Taking all districts together, the number of workpeople employed in the week ended October 26th was 2.3 per cent. less than in the week ended September 21st, 1907, and 1.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week remained about the same as a month ago and a year ago.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during October, 1907, amounted to 100,568

tons, or 37,452 tons more than in September, 1907, and 9,106 tons more than in October, 1906.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during October, 1907, amounted to 240,397 tons, or 15,046 tons more than in September, 1907, and 206 tons more than in October, 1906.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 57 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during October was good, though not quite so good as a month ago. It was better than in October, 1906. The supply of, and demand for, labour were about equal.

At the works covered by the Returns, 392 tinplate mills and 52 sheet mills were working, as compared with 394 and 55 respectively in September, 1907, and 385 and 56 respectively in October, 1906.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of September and October, 1907, and October, 1906. The works to which these figures relate are chiefly in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and employ about 22,200 work-people:—

	October, 1907.		September, 1907.		October, 1906.	
	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinplate Mills ...	75	392	76	394	73	385
Sheet Mills ...	9	52	9	55	9	56
Total ...	84	444	85	449	82	441

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

	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<i>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</i>					
To United States ...	Tons. 6,265	Tons. 2,590	Tons. 6,860	+ 3,675	- 595
British East Indies ...	4,253	3,070	3,495	+ 1,243	+ 248
Germany ...	3,445	3,281	4,563	+ 154	- 1,218
France ...	1,593	1,407	1,517	+ 286	+ 76
Netherlands ...	2,872	1,765	1,687	+ 1,107	+ 1,185
Other Countries ...	19,487	12,888	15,283	+ 6,599	+ 4,204
Total ...	38,015	24,941	33,513	+ 13,074	+ 4,500
<i>Black Plates for Tinning.</i>					
Total ...	6,882	5,502	6,078	+ 1,380	+ 804

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 998 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 947 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 42 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair on the whole, but showed a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 162,478, and shows that at the end of October the percentage unemployed was 4.5, as compared with 4.1 a month ago and 3.1 a year ago. As compared with a month ago most of the principal districts showed some decline in employment, the greatest decline being on the North-East Coast. As compared with a year ago there was an increase in the percentage unemployed in nearly every district, the most noticeable being on the North-East Coast, in the West Riding towns, and in the Belfast and Dublin district.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Oct., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		North-East Coast ...	15,852	8.8	7.6	6.0	+ 1.2	+ 2.8
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,893	3.9	3.8	2.5	+ 0.1	+ 1.4
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	12,714	2.8	2.6	2.1	+ 0.2	+ 0.7
West Riding Towns ...	13,137	4.8	4.4	2.8	+ 0.4	+ 2.0
Hull and Lincolnshire District	4,935	2.5	2.2	2.9	+ 0.3	- 0.4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,824	3.3	3.3	2.3	...	+ 1.0
Notts, Derby and Leicester District	4,204	3.5	3.5	2.7	...	+ 0.8
London and Neighbouring District	12,407	5.5	5.0	3.7	+ 0.5	+ 1.8
South Coast ...	4,144	2.1	2.5	2.4	- 0.4	- 0.3
South Wales and Bristol District	6,965	3.6	4.1	2.7	- 0.5	+ 0.9
Glasgow and District	16,258	5.9	5.2	4.9	+ 0.7	+ 1.0
East of Scotland ...	3,980	5.1	4.5	4.2	+ 0.6	+ 0.9
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,380	7.4	8.2	3.8	- 0.8	+ 3.6
Other Districts ...	6,134	3.1	2.6	2.1	+ 0.5	+ 1.0
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	162,478	4.5	4.1	3.1	+ 0.4	+ 1.4

On the North-East Coast employment generally showed a further decline. On the Tyne it was bad with fitters in the Newcastle and Gateshead district; but at Wallsend, Howdon, and Jarrow some overtime was worked. Locomotive works were fairly busy. On the Wear employment was generally worse than a month ago; at Sunderland a large number of men were idle, and others on short time. With engineers at Middlesbrough, Stockton and Darlington employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago; at Hartlepool it was bad. Employment was bad generally with patternmakers. With ironmoulders it was fairly good at Newcastle and Stockton, but slack on the Wear and at Hartlepool; with brassmoulders it was quiet; with brassturners fair.

In Lancashire employment continued good with textile machinery makers, considerable overtime being worked. In general engineering shops employment remained fairly good, except at Liverpool, where it was slack. Boilermakers and moulders at Manchester reported a decline in employment. Moulders generally were well employed.

In the West Riding employment continued fairly good generally, but was dull at Sheffield, and declined at Leeds. With patternmakers employment was slack generally. With engineers at Bradford, Huddersfield, Keighley and Wakefield employment was good, with some overtime. At Hull employment declined, and was moderate.

In the Birmingham district employment was moderate, except in the cycle industry, which further declined. With moulders employment was not so good as a month ago. In the Wolverhampton district employment was fair on the whole.

At Derby employment was quiet in general engineering, but in the railway workshops much overtime was worked. At Nottingham employment was fairly good on the whole, but quiet with brassfounders, patternmakers, and moulders. At Leicester and Loughborough employment had further declined with general engineers; but it was fair with shoe-machinery makers.

In London employment continued dull, being worse than a month ago and a year ago.

At the Royal Dockyards employment remained fairly good. At Southampton it was good with marine engine makers, and moderate with boilermakers. In the South Wales and Bristol district it was moderate on the whole. At Swindon it improved with engineers, constant overtime being worked in the wagon shops; but boilermakers were reported as slack.

In the Glasgow district employment was fair, with overtime, except at Greenock where it remained slack. It continued to decline with patternmakers, and was not good with iron, steel and brass dressers. Employment at Edinburgh was dull; at Falkirk it continued bad, with much short time; at Dundee it

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

continued good generally, but with patternmakers it was rather worse than a month ago. At Aberdeen employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago.

Employment at Belfast was slack generally, largely owing to a strike of patternmakers. At Dublin employment was bad, and at Cork it was slightly worse than a month ago.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of the Imports and Exports of machinery for the months stated:—

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Steam Engines ...	£ 6,477	£ 6,690	£ 4,966	- £ 213	+ £ 1,511
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	426,280	367,821	402,264	+ 58,459	+ 24,016
Exports:					
Steam Engines ...	814,072	644,260	620,144	+ 169,812	+ 193,928
Other Machinery (including Electrical)	2,279,235	1,935,275	1,851,181	+ 343,960	+ 428,054

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 374 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 357 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT remained dull. It showed little general change compared with a month ago, but was worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,017 members had 6,714 (or 11.6 per cent.) unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 11.7 per cent. at the end of September, and 10.4 per cent. at the end of October, 1906.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago, the principal changes in the percentages unemployed were an increase on the Wear and a decrease on the Mersey. On the Tyne there was a slight decrease in the percentage unemployed compared with September, but a considerable increase compared with a year ago. The East of Scotland ports also showed a decrease compared with September and an increase compared with October 1906.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Oct., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
		Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		Tyne and Blyth ...	10,016	12.7	13.1	7.1	- 0.4	+ 5.6
Wear ...	5,179	22.4	14.8	6.1	+ 7.6	+ 16.3
Tees and Hartlepool ...	4,880	12.0	11.4	11.8	+ 0.6	+ 0.2
Humber ...	2,774	10.1	7.2	11.2	+ 2.9	- 1.1
Thames and Medway ...	4,567	9.1	11.5	11.4	- 2.4	- 2.3
South Coast ...	4,066	3.7	4.3	3.6	- 0.6	- 1.9
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,435	18.2	16.9	16.7	+ 1.3	+ 1.5
Mersey ...	3,729	11.9	18.5	23.9	- 6.6	- 12.0
Clyde ...	12,355	11.1	11.4	12.2	- 0.3	- 1.1
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	2,474	13.3	16.9	7.9	- 3.6	+ 5.4
Belfast ...	2,730	3.5	4.3	5.7	- 0.8	- 2.2
Other Districts ...	3,012	5.8	6.1	7.4	- 0.3	- 1.6
United Kingdom ...	58,017	11.6	11.7	10.4	- 0.1	+ 1.2

On the Tyne and Wear employment was slack, and much worse than a year ago. Overtime was still worked at some places in the Newcastle district; but on the Wear employment was much worse than a month ago, one yard being idle, another about to close, and some others working short time. On the Tees, employment continued fairly good at Middlesbrough; at Stockton and Hartlepool it was dull. On the Humber it was bad on trawler building and ship repairs, and moderate on merchant shipbuilding; it was worse generally than a month ago, with much short time.

Employment remained slack on the Thames, the Bristol Channel, and the Mersey, though on the Mersey the percentage of trade union members unemployed was much less than a month ago and a year ago.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

At the Royal Dockyards employment was good. At Southampton it was fair on ship work and moderate on yacht work.

On the Clyde employment was slack, and worse on new work than a month ago; in repair work it was reported as good. At Leith employment remained dull, and was worse than a year ago. At Dundee it was fairly good, and better than a month ago. At Aberdeen it was slack with steel and iron shipbuilders, fair on the whole with shipwrights.

At Belfast employment was good with steel and iron shipbuilders and moderate on the whole with shipwrights. It was better than a year ago. At Barrow it was reported as worse than a month ago and a year ago. It remained good with shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 94 Returns—3 from Employers' Associations, 62 from Trade Unions, and 29 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during October was fair on the whole. It was better than a month ago but not so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,672 had 3.0 per cent. out of work at the end of October, as compared with 3.6 per cent. in September and 2.5 per cent. in October, 1906.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment with brassworkers was fair at Birmingham, and better than a month ago; it was bad in London and Wolverhampton, moderate at Manchester, fair at Nottingham and Leeds, and good at Bolton, Bury and Wigan. With bedstead makers at Birmingham it continued bad.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment was good. At Birmingham it was fairly good with nut and bolt makers; with shoe rivet and wire nail makers quiet; with cut nail makers moderate. In South Wales short time was worked by nut and bolt makers.

Wire.—Employment continued good generally. It was slightly worse than a month ago at Warrington and Birmingham.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Employment in the lock and latch trades at Wolverhampton and Willenhall continued bad. In the hollow-ware trade employment was good at Wolverhampton, and moderate at West Bromwich.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Rotherham employment was quiet; at Falkirk and at Glasgow it was bad, with much short time, and worse than a month and a year ago.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—Employment in the Sheffield district was good with cutlers, filemakers and sawmakers. At Birmingham it continued fair in the edge tool trade. At Redditch it continued good in the needle and fish-hook trades.

Tubes.—Employment was good in South Wales and in South Staffordshire; fairly good at Birmingham.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was moderate with block chain-makers, and slack with anchor smiths, cable chain makers and strikers. At Dudley it was slack with anvil and vice makers. It was quiet with railway spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield; fair with spring and axle makers at Birmingham and at West Bromwich. With anchor smiths on the Wear employment was fair.

Sheet Metal, etc.—At Manchester employment with braziers and sheet metal workers was fair, and better than a month ago; at Bolton it was good. With sheet metal workers it was bad in London, and fair in Glasgow. With iron plate workers at Birmingham it was fair, and better than last month; and it had improved in the Lye district.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment was fair with goldsmiths and jewellers; better than a month ago and a year ago. With silver workers it was also fair, and better than a month ago. At Birmingham employment continued to improve with

jewellers and with silversmiths. At Sheffield it was moderate with silversmiths.

Farriers.—Employment was fair generally.

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

Description.	October, 1907.	Sept., 1907.	October, 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in October, 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Cutlery	16,069	13,852	10,799	+ 2,217	+ 5,270
Hardware	92,428	77,705	90,592	+ 14,723	+ 1,836
Exports:—					
Cutlery	76,919	66,547	66,915	+ 10,372	+ 10,004
Hardware	243,867	201,326	220,564	+ 42,541	+ 23,303
Implements and Tools...	201,299	177,805	188,779	+ 23,494	+ 12,520

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 459 Returns—372 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 77 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch was good, and better than a year ago; in the Weaving branch it was fairly good, but not quite so good as a year ago, and short time was worked in all the principal districts.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended October 26th was 128,104, being 0.1 per cent. more than a month ago, and 1.9 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Description.	Workpeople.		Earnings.	
	No. paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a month ago.
Departments.				
Preparing	14,916	+ 0.1	13,701	+ 0.7
Spinning	27,284	+ 0.0	26,920	+ 0.4
Weaving	59,300	+ 0.1	53,097	- 0.3
Other	10,862	+ 0.0	12,178	+ 0.2
Departments not specified	15,742	+ 0.4	17,571	+ 2.0
Total	128,104	+ 0.1	123,568	+ 0.2
Districts.				
Ashton District	8,900	- 0.0	9,001	- 0.7
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	7,694	- 0.5	7,403	+ 0.6
Oldham District	14,533	+ 0.2	15,681	+ 1.3
Bolton and Leigh	14,203	- 0.0	13,463	+ 0.1
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	11,198	+ 0.0	10,887	+ 1.0
Manchester District	9,949	- 0.6	7,881	+ 0.7
Preston and Chorley	15,499	- 0.1	10,907	- 3.0
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	17,127	+ 0.3	17,247	+ 0.5
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	15,247	+ 0.2	17,557	- 0.1
Other Lancashire Towns	6,786	+ 1.2	5,345	+ 3.5
Yorkshire Towns	4,790	+ 0.4	4,672	+ 0.5
Other Districts	5,178	+ 0.6	3,524	+ 0.2
Total	128,104	+ 0.1	123,568	+ 0.2

In the preparing and spinning departments very little change was shown as compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was an increase in both departments in the amount of wages paid, mainly owing to the recent advance in the rates of wages. In the weaving branch there was a decline in the amount of wages paid compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Short time was again worked in all the principal weaving districts, but not to such an extent as in September.

Compared with a month ago, there were increases in the amount of wages paid in nine districts. The most marked decrease in the remaining three districts was in the Preston district. Compared with a year ago,

the principal increases were in the Bolton and Oldham districts. There were decreases in three districts, the greatest decrease being in the Preston district.

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of October the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 6.40d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.68d. per lb., and the lowest 5.81d. The price for September was 7.06d. per lb., and for October, 1906, 6.18d. per lb. For the period from November 1st to 11th, 1907, the average price of "middling American" was 5.96d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during October averaged 9.59d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.11d., and the lowest 9.4d. per lb. The price for September was 9.96d., and for October, 1906, 8.92d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 11th November, 1907, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.6d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on November 8th, 1907, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 740,880 bales, as compared with 649,720 bales on November 9th, 1906.

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

Description of Cotton.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
American	244,832	185,666	255,480	+ 59,166	- 10,648
Brazilian	18,221	15,520	19,589	+ 2,701	- 1,368
East Indian	5,355	4,761	3,213	+ 594	+ 2,142
Egyptian	26,164	9,394	19,017	+ 16,720	+ 7,147
Miscellaneous	8,817	9,831	10,429	- 1,064	- 1,612
Total	303,389	225,822	307,728	+ 77,567	- 4,339

Exports of Cotton Goods.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with	
				A month ago.	A year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist.					
Grey	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Bleached and Dyed	19,123	17,424	14,369	+ 1,609	+ 4,754
Total	21,856	20,058	17,479	+ 1,778	+ 4,357
Cotton Piece Goods.					
Grey or Unbleached	184,547 yds.	152,918 yds.	178,781 yds.	+ 31,629	+ 5,766
Bleached	145,120	127,334	136,895	+ 17,786	+ 8,225
Printed	93,251	99,036	97,417	- 5,785	- 4,176
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	98,763	94,423	96,845	+ 4,340	+ 1,918
Total	521,681	473,711	509,948	+ 47,970	+ 11,733

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 414 Returns—394 received from Employers, 11 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in these trades was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 28,721 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms during the week ended October 26th showed no change compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.2 per cent. compared

with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 1.8 per cent. compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.
Wool Sorting	770	- 0.6	759	- 0.1
Leeds District	5,944	- 0.5	5,342	+ 1.3
Weaving	11,857	- 0.0	10,107	+ 2.5
Other Departments	8,027	+ 0.6	8,142	+ 1.1
Unspecified	2,123	- 0.1	2,012	- 2.0
Total	28,721	+ 0.0	26,362	+ 1.8
Districts.				
Huddersfield District	4,547	- 0.9	5,114	+ 3.5
Leeds District	4,483	- 0.4	3,935	+ 0.1
Dewsbury & Batley District...	3,707	- 0.1	3,682	+ 0.9
Other Parts of West Riding...	3,265	+ 1.8	2,026	+ 2.5
Total, West Riding	15,002	- 0.4	14,778	+ 1.8
Scotland	7,501	+ 1.0	6,578	+ 3.1
Other Districts	6,218	- 0.1	5,006	+ 0.6
Total, Woollen	28,721	+ 0.0	26,362	+ 1.8

In the Huddersfield and Colne Valley district employment was good, nightwork being reported in the spinning and preparing departments and overtime in the weaving departments. In the Leeds district employment was good; in the heavy woollen district it continued good, but showed some decline as compared with a year ago. At Selkirk it continued good; at Hawick and Galashiels it was fairly good.

Worsted Trade.

Employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 48,902 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.4 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 6.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In the Bradford district employment with wool-combers showed a further decline, but continued good in the other branches of the trade. In the Keighley district employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. In Huddersfield it was good; in Halifax spinners were well employed.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.		Earnings.	
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,518	- 0.3	5,447	- 2.0
Spinning	26,282	+ 0.0	14,482	+ 1.0
Weaving	10,238	+ 1.2	9,320	+ 2.3
Other Departments	5,659	+ 0.6	5,589	+ 0.3
Unspecified	1,225	+ 3.5	804	+ 9.4
Total	48,902	+ 0.4	35,642	+ 0.9
Districts.				
Bradford District	24,776	+ 0.1	17,793	- 0.3
Keighley District	6,725	+ 0.1	5,114	+ 0.4
Halifax District	5,643	- 0.5	3,655	+ 0.9
Huddersfield District	5,978	+ 1.9	5,605	+ 4.3
Other Parts of West Riding...	3,058	+ 0.6	1,915	+ 2.6
Total, West Riding	46,180	+ 0.3	34,082	+ 0.8
Other Districts	2,722	+ 2.2	1,560	+ 2.8
Total, Worsted	48,902	+ 0.4	35,642	+ 0.9

Prices of Raw Material.

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

	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.
Average Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	12 1/2	12 1/2	13 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	30	28 1/2	26 1/2
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hogs	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	14-13 1/2
40's Crossbred tops	16 1/2-15 1/2	16 1/2-15 1/2	17-15 1/2
60's Super Botany tops	29 1/2-30	28-29	27-26

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS')					
Imports 1,000 lbs.	30,955	22,638	22,023	+ 8,297	+ 8,932
Re-Exports of Imported Wool ..	2,809	5,072	2,909	- 2,263	- 100
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	227	235	178	+ 8	+ 49
Worsted	4,959	4,535	4,809	+ 424	+ 150
Alpaca & Mohair ..	1,695	1,382	1,323	+ 313	+ 172
Total, Yarn	6,881	6,152	6,310	+ 729	+ 371
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	5,592	6,956	5,816	- 1,364	- 224
Worsted	6,611	7,269	5,821	- 658	+ 790
Total, Piece Goods	12,203	14,225	11,637	- 2,022	+ 566

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 115 Returns—107 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 48,129 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago the weaving department showed a decline in the amount of wages paid, but every other department showed an increase.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.	
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a month ago.
Preparing	6,224	+ 0.5	3,543	+ 0.6
Spinning	11,672	+ 1.5	6,025	+ 1.0
Weaving	16,599	- 0.2	10,126	- 1.3
Other	6,843	+ 1.5	5,826	+ 1.8
Not specified	6,791	+ 1.8	4,310	+ 0.7
Total	48,129	+ 0.8	29,830	+ 0.3
Districts.				
Belfast	16,426	+ 1.8	10,251	+ 1.1
Other Places in Ireland	16,439	+ 1.2	9,358	+ 0.2
Total, Ireland	32,865	+ 1.5	19,609	+ 0.7
Fife	6,851	- 0.6	4,372	- 1.2
Other Places in Scotland	6,499	- 0.2	4,628	- 0.3
Total, Scotland	13,350	- 0.4	9,000	- 0.7
England	1,934	- 1.6	1,221	+ 0.8
United Kingdom	48,129	+ 0.8	29,830	+ 0.3

In Ireland and in England employment was good; a slight improvement was shown as compared with a month ago, and a more marked improvement as compared with a year ago. In Scotland employment was good, and on the whole better than a year ago, but in Fifeshire there was a slight decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	3,703	4,409	3,123	- 706	+ 580
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	14,619	11,763	12,060	+ 2,856	+ 2,559
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	158,924	133,608	145,673	+ 25,316	+ 13,251

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 35 Returns—32 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns received from firms employing 18,491 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,491 workpeople covered by the Returns, 16,043 (or 87 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing ...	4,295	+ 0.4	+ 4.6	2,812	+ 1.4	+ 10.2
Spinning ...	5,153	+ 0.3	+ 3.9	3,200	- 0.1	+ 10.3
Weaving ...	6,241	- 0.4	+ 0.6	4,632	...	+ 5.8
Other ...	2,102	- 0.1	+ 4.0	2,171	+ 0.6	+ 11.4
Not specified ...	700	+ 1.9	+ 0.6	526	+ 0.8	+ 5.4
Total ...	18,491	+ 0.1	+ 2.8	13,351	+ 0.4	+ 8.7

Compared with a month ago, the spinning and weaving departments showed little change in the amount of wages paid, and the other departments showed an increase. Compared with a year ago every department showed a considerable increase.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	35,201	7,524	50,027	+ 27,677	- 14,826
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	52,866	54,529	66,712	- 1,663	- 13,846
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	175,503	131,938	151,681	+ 43,570	+ 23,827

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 104 Returns—95 from Employers, 6 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fair. In England there was a decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland it was better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 7,887 workpeople in the week ended October 26th, and paying £8,026 in wages, showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.9 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was fair in the levers branch and in the curtain branch, and good in the plain net branch. In the Long Eaton district it was moderate; in the West of England employment showed a slight decline. In Scotland employment on the whole was fair, and better than a month ago; it showed little change compared with a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Levers ...	2,462	+ 0.2	+ 2.4	3,237	- 2.6	- 7.9
Curtain ...	2,880	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	2,843	+ 4.1	+ 3.9
Plain Net ...	1,540	- 0.6	+ 10.7	1,225	- 5.0	+ 8.6
Others ...	1,005	- 0.4	+ 6.2	721	+ 6.5	+ 3.9
Total ...	7,887	+ 0.2	+ 3.9	8,026	+ 0.7	- 0.6
Districts.						
Nottingham City ...	1,899	+ 0.8	+ 5.7	1,932	+ 1.0	- 0.9
Long Eaton and other outlying districts ...	1,767	- 0.1	+ 2.4	2,411	- 0.2	- 0.2
Other English districts ...	2,206	- 0.3	+ 8.5	1,837	- 3.6	- 1.9
Scotland ...	2,015	+ 0.3	- 1.1	1,846	+ 3.4	+ 0.7
Total ...	7,887	+ 0.2	+ 3.9	8,026	+ 0.7	- 0.6

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Silk Lace ...	14,632	14,147	13,730	+ 485	+ 902
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	405,197	336,433	331,459	+ 68,764	+ 73,738
Silk Lace ...	9,369	8,727	5,062	+ 582	+ 4,247

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 52 Returns—48 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good generally; it showed little change as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,907 workpeople and paying £6,030 in wages on pay-day in the week ended October 26th, 1907, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 5.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.9 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Throwing ...	1,115	- 2.7	+ 5.9	482	- 2.2	+ 9.5
Spinning ...	2,682	...	+ 5.9	2,005	+ 0.9	+ 11.4
Weaving ...	3,843	- 0.1	+ 4.3	2,557	- 0.4	+ 5.7
Other ...	1,084	+ 0.6	+ 6.2	867	- 1.5	+ 0.8
Not Specified ...	183	- 5.2	- 5.7	119	...	- 2.5
Total ...	8,907	- 0.4	+ 5.0	6,030	- 0.3	+ 6.9
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,537	- 1.1	+ 2.9	2,544	- 1.3	+ 6.6
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	847	+ 2.7	+ 6.3	602	+ 4.7	+ 6.4
Eastern Counties ...	2,540	+ 0.2	+ 8.3	1,474	- 1.1	+ 7.5
Other Districts, including Scotland	1,983	- 1.1	+ 4.0	1,310	+ 0.5	+ 7.1
Total ...	8,907	- 0.4	+ 5.0	6,030	- 0.3	+ 6.9

At Macclesfield employment was good with spinners and throwsters; fair, and better than a month ago, with handloom weavers; moderate with powerloom weavers. At Leek it was good with spinners, moderate with throwsters. At Congleton it was good with throwsters, spinners and dressers; moderate with trimming weavers, who were on short time. In the Eastern Counties employment continued fair.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... Lbs	181,091	117,973	185,129	+ 63,118	- 4,038
Thrown Silk ... "	52,873	50,215	58,578	+ 2,658	- 5,705
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	22,940	16,056	27,822	+ 6,884	- 4,882
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	5,686,445	4,967,541	6,900,076	+ 718,904	- 1,213,631
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs	3,696	3,480	686	+ 216	+ 3,010
Spun Silk Yarn ... "	87,993	67,267	90,648	+ 20,726	- 2,655
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	386,757	293,591	573,898	+ 93,166	- 187,141

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 104 Returns—97 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England was fairly good; in Scotland it was good. On the whole it was better than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 19,738 workpeople, and paying £15,495 in wages in the week ended October 26th, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 5.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment generally was fairly good. At Loughborough it was fairly good in the fashioned hose department, moderate in other branches. At Hinckley employment was slack with the makers of seamless hose and cotton goods, but full time was worked in the shirt and pant branches. Employment at Nottingham was reported as fairly good on the whole with power framework knitters, and slightly better than a month ago. In Derbyshire employment continued fair. With framework knitters generally it was slack,

and worse than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester ...	9,400	+ 0.3	+ 4.7	7,748	+ 1.1	+ 6.7
Leicester Country District ...	2,983	+ 0.2	+ 3.1	2,333	+ 1.2	+ 3.2
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	4,535	+ 0.7	+ 1.0	3,464	+ 1.6	+ 1.7
Scotland ...	2,044	+ 0.4	+ 3.7	1,443	+ 3.9	+ 7.0
Other Districts ...	776	- 1.4	+ 0.6	507	...	+ 7.4
Total, United Kingdom	19,738	+ 0.3	+ 3.3	15,495	+ 1.5	+ 5.1

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in October, 1907, amounted to £38,928 and £121,454 respectively, as compared with £29,393 and £118,456 in September, 1907, and £38,885 and £88,062 in October, 1906.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in October, 1907, amounted to £121,234 and £43,071 respectively, as compared with £138,304 and £44,178 in September, 1907, and £97,795 and £44,221 in October, 1906.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 23 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was on the whole rather better than a year ago. About half the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about one-third worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment generally was moderate, and worse than a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield; fair at Leek.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers was fair on the whole, but rather worse than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers it was good. In Glasgow it was fair with calico printers and block printers, and dull with engravers to calico printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—Employment at Leicester showed a further improvement and was fairly good, but the majority were still on short time. At Loughborough it continued slack. With dyers at Nottingham employment was bad, with bleachers at Basford it was moderate, with hosiery trimmers it continued fair; on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was worse than a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment continued fair, and was about the same as a year ago. At Dundee it was fair with calender workers; with bleachfield workers it was good.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 129 Returns—92 from Employers, 10 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London showed a further seasonal improvement, but was slightly worse than a year ago; in the provinces it was quiet. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and slightly better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during October showed a further seasonal improvement as compared with a month ago; it was slightly worse than a year ago.

Firms paying £11,711 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended October 26th showed an increase of 28.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 0.9 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as bad at Glasgow and Dublin, fair at Belfast, quiet at Edinburgh; at Liverpool some improvement was shown.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment on the whole was moderate, and showed little change compared with a year ago. The Trade Union cutters reported it as good on contract work, fair on shipping, and dull on stock work.

Leeds.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and slightly better than a year ago. Firms employing 6,893 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 2.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. The Jewish operatives reported a further improvement.

Other Centres.—Employment in Manchester was fair. In Bristol it was fair, and slightly better than a year ago. In Norwich employment showed an improvement. In Glasgow it continued good, and some overtime was reported.

The **Imports** of apparel, not waterproofed, in October, 1907, were valued at £303,858, as compared with £279,865 in September, 1907, and £282,210 in October, 1906; and the **Exports** for the same months at £423,120, £477,229, and £443,518, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 504 Returns—487 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 6 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Firms employing 61,216 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 0.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. employed during week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a Month ago.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
London	2,039	+ 1.9	+ 3.8	2,219	+ 3.5	+ 3.4
Leicester	12,409	+ 0.2	- 0.4	12,111	+ 7.3	+ 1.3
Leicester County District	3,170	- 1.1	- 0.6	2,931	+ 3.4	+ 3.0
Northampton	8,930	+ 0.6	+ 5.8	8,727	+ 1.5	+ 14.9
Northampton County District	8,451	- 0.1	+ 3.9	8,103	+ 3.6	+ 6.5
Kettering	3,934	+ 0.5	- 2.0	3,854	- 2.3	- 1.7
Stafford & District ...	2,546	...	+ 0.9	2,121	- 0.3	+ 7.0
Norwich & District ...	3,318	+ 1.5	- 1.0	2,836	+ 0.2	+ 5.3
Bristol & District ...	1,634	- 10.1	- 12.9	1,534	- 9.4	- 8.1
Kingswood	1,774	+ 3.2	- 7.2	1,855	+ 1.6	- 8.3
Leeds & District ...	2,436	+ 2.2	- 2.7	2,233	+ 2.8	- 5.1
Manchester & District ...	2,531	- 0.7	- 1.0	2,340	- 0.6	- 3.7
Birmingham & District ...	1,017	+ 0.3	- 3.4	814	- 0.2	- 2.2
Other parts of England and Wales	2,929	+ 1.1	- 1.3	2,508	+ 2.5	+ 1.2
ENGLAND & WALES ...	57,138	+ 0.1	+ 0.3	54,206	+ 2.4	+ 3.1
SCOTLAND	3,788	+ 1.2	+ 1.3	3,710	+ 2.8	+ 7.8
IRELAND	290	- 2.0	+ 2.1	208	+ 6.7	+ 1.0
UNITED KINGDOM ...	61,216	+ 0.2	+ 0.4	58,124	+ 2.5	+ 3.4

Employment at Leicester was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Northampton it was fairly good, and much better than a year ago; at Higham and Rushden it was fair; at Kettering it was moderate. The decline at Bristol was due to a dispute. In the heavy boot trade employment was good at Kingswood, moderate at Leeds. At Glasgow employment was fairly good; at Maybole it was good.

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

	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	16,488	12,147	20,885	+ 4,341	- 4,397
Value £	70,882	51,864	84,518	+ 19,018	- 13,636
Exports (British and Irish)					
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	69,400	68,640	70,632	+ 760	- 1,232
Value £	188,292	183,056	190,637	+ 5,236	- 2,345

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 14 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 11 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during October in the **Silk** hat branch was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the **Felt** hat branch it was fair.

In the **Silk** hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 12.1 per cent., compared with 10.9 per cent. at the end of September, and 10.9 per cent. a year ago.

In the **Felt** hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of October was 2.6, compared with 2.0 at the end of September, and 3.5 a year ago. In Warwickshire employment was fairly good; at Denton, Stockport and Bury short time was reported.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports ... (all kinds)	Dozens. 28,140	Dozens. 22,452	Dozens. 36,168	Dozens. + 5,688	Dozens. - 8,028
Exports:					
Felt	42,751	47,079	39,784	- 4,328	+ 2,967
Straw	36,928	34,970	35,503	+ 1,958	+ 1,425
Other Sorts	4,435	5,775	3,950	- 1,340	+ 475
Total	84,114	87,824	79,247	- 3,710	+ 4,867

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 186 Returns—180 from Employers, 2 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trades was, on the whole, fair; compared with a year ago there was a decline. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades in London, employment was fair, and not so good as a month ago and a year ago. In the shirt and collar and corset trades generally it was fairly good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-end, employing 1,895 workpeople in the week ended October 26th, showed an increase of 6.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.2 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers employing 1,118 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 8.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 7.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair.

Employment with milliners in the West-end showed a further improvement, and was better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,554 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed a decrease of 8.9 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 7.2 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment during the month was fair.

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

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was slack; firms employing 1,333 workpeople in the week ended October 26th showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,392 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended October 26th, showed an increase of 1.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 3.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fairly good.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 2,999 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended October 26th, showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 40 Returns—25 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate; rather worse than a month ago, but somewhat better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,719 had 4.9 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 4.5 per cent. in September, and 5.6 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, &c.—Employment with skinner was quiet at Birmingham, fair at Leeds, bad in London. With curriers it was fair on the whole; it was quiet at Birmingham, and bad at Walsall. Employment with dressers was bad generally. Employment with leather workers generally was fair at Manchester, quiet at Leeds, good at Bolton, Bury, and Wigan.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—With saddlers employment was good on the whole; it was fair at Walsall and Dublin, fairly good at Glasgow.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment was fair generally, but bad on bag work. With portmanteau and trunk makers it was fair in London, good at Manchester.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	cwts. 27,552	cwts. 30,382	cwts. 38,149	- 2,830	- 10,597
Do, wet	60,113	32,042	32,428	+ 28,071	+ 27,685
Total, hides, dry and wet	87,665	62,424	70,577	+ 25,241	+ 17,088
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	766,026	714,906	1,178,721	+ 51,120	- 412,695
Sheep skins, (value) £	356,180	255,259	174,169	+ 100,921	+ 182,011
Leather*	cwts. 110,436	cwts. 80,720	cwts. 113,890	+ 29,716	- 3,454
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value)	£ 60,538	£ 51,202	£ 55,173	+ £ 9,336	+ £ 5,365

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

PAPER, PRINTING, AND BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 403 Returns—130 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 254 from Trade Unions, and 19 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fair on the whole, and showed a seasonal improvement. It was about the same as a year ago.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. It was better than a year ago, and rather better than a month ago. Returns received from firms employing 21,659 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of October, 1907, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties	6,212	+ 0.4	+ 1.5
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland ...	2,221	+ 5.2	+ 2.7
Southern Counties	6,591	+ 0.4	+ 5.8
Scotland	5,770	+ 0.1	+ 0.9
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	20,794	+ 0.8	+ 2.9
Hand-made Paper	865	- 0.5	+ 0.3
Total	21,659	+ 0.7	+ 2.8

Trade Unions in the **machine-made paper** trade with 1,901 members had 1.6 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, compared with 1.9 per cent. in September, and 2.3 per cent. in October, 1906.

In the **hand-made paper** trade Trade Unions with 609 members had 6.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, compared with 6.0 per cent. a month ago and 5.3 per cent. a year ago.

The **Imports** of paper in October, 1907, amounted to £547,126, as compared with £503,268 in September, 1907, and £508,893 in October, 1906, and the **Exports** for the same periods amounted to £213,979, £188,307, and £181,890 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was moderate on the whole, better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 43,891 had 4.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 5.9 per cent. in September and 4.9 per cent. a year ago.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	20,264	6.0	8.2	5.9	- 2.2	+ 0.1
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,256	3.0	4.7	4.2	- 1.7	- 1.2
Lancs. and Cheshire ...	6,655	5.2	4.6	5.9	+ 0.6	- 0.7
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,381	2.7	3.8	2.8	- 1.1	- 0.1
West Midlands	2,480	4.6	5.0	3.7	- 0.4	+ 0.9
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,930	2.4	3.0	2.3	- 0.6	+ 0.1
Scotland	5,483	2.5	2.3	3.1	+ 0.2	- 0.6
Ireland	2,442	10.1	8.0	6.5	+ 2.1	+ 3.6
United Kingdom ...	43,891	4.9	5.9	4.9	- 1.0	-

London.—Employment was quiet generally, better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. At the end of the month 6.0 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 8.2 per cent. at the end of September, 1907, and 5.9 per cent. at the end of October, 1906.

Other Centres.—Employment was fairly good generally, and better than a month ago. At Edinburgh overtime was worked by letterpress printers in several offices. At Dublin employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. A decline in employment

was reported by letterpress printers at Plymouth and by lithographic printers at Leeds.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was fairly good, and better than a month ago, overtime being worked in London. In the provinces employment was not so good as a year ago.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed in Trade Unions in the *Bookbinding Trades*:-

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of Oct., 1907 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	3,610	3'0	4'4	3'3	- 1'4	- 0'3
Other Districts ...	3,380	4'0	4'9	2'7	- 0'9	+ 1'3
United Kingdom ...	6,990	3'5	4'6	3'0	- 1'1	+ 0'5

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,801 Returns—803 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 944 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 54 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in October was dull, and somewhat worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from 734 firms employing 47,398 workpeople at the end of October are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease of 4'6 per cent., and compared with a year ago a decrease of 5'8 per cent., in the total number of workpeople employed. In London the decrease amounted to 6'5 per cent. compared with September, and 11'5 per cent. compared with October, 1906. In the provinces the decrease was much smaller, amounting to 3'7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and 2'7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.
London	9,050	9,834	9,916	5,827	6,118	6,958
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,695	2,775	2,731	2,305	2,479	2,605
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	3,479	3,802	3,524	2,809	2,930	2,767
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,907	3,050	3,138	3,724	3,694	2,953
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	3,120	3,335	3,391	2,450	2,358	2,207
England and Wales ...	21,260	22,796	22,720	16,935	17,579	17,608
Scotland	2,599	2,764	3,033	1,381	1,350	1,681
Ireland	733	730	533	720	743	806
United Kingdom ...	24,592	26,290	26,288	19,088	19,672	20,095

District	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.
London	565	570	588	18,451	16,822	17,462
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	587	602	645	5,647	5,886	6,059
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	887	863	916	7,175	7,595	7,207
Midland & Eastern Counties	383	383	379	7,014	7,127	6,470
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	504	510	542	6,884	6,303	6,300
England and Wales ...	2,926	2,928	3,070	41,171	43,303	43,309
Scotland	729	739	776	4,711	4,883	5,492
Ireland	63	61	63	1,516	1,534	1,402
United Kingdom ...	3,718	3,728	3,999	47,398	49,660	50,292

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of October was 7'1, as compared with 5'9 a month ago and 7'6 a year ago; and for plumbers, for the same dates, 8'3, 8'0, and 8'0 respectively.

London.—Employment was dull generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, except with painters, who reported employment as fair and rather better than a year ago. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 10'6 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 7'8 per cent. a month ago and 9'0 per cent. in October, 1906. The percentages for plumbers were 14'9, 12'9 and 12'2 respectively.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was dull generally, and worse than a month ago. An

improvement was shown, however, by bricklayers on the Tees, and by plumbers at Bradford and at Hull.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Manchester and Liverpool employment was slack with carpenters, plumbers, and plasterers. Bricklayers and painters at Manchester reported it as moderate, and labourers as good. At Oldham employment was fairly good generally. At Bolton, Blackburn, and Ashton-under-Lyne it was fair with painters, moderate with plumbers, and slack with carpenters and joiners.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was dull generally, and worse than in September.

Southern and South Western Counties and Wales.—Employment continued slack generally, and was worse than a month ago. It was fair at Torquay, as also with bricklayers and masons at Cardiff, and with painters at Plymouth.

Scotland.—Employment was dull, and worse than in September. At Dundee, however, it was fair with masons, carpenters, and painters; and at Edinburgh bricklayers reported it as fair, and rather better than a month ago.

Ireland.—Employment remained dull generally.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 198 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 159 from Trade Unions, and 33 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was moderate. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,778 reported 5'2 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of October, 1907, as compared with 4'6 per cent. in the previous month, and 4'5 per cent. in October, 1906.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6'7 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of October, 1907, as compared with 5'9 per cent. a month ago, and 5'7 per cent. in October, 1906. With cabinet makers in London employment was bad. At Belfast, Liverpool and Leeds it was fair; at Manchester, Edinburgh and Glasgow it was bad. Employment with french-polishers and upholsterers was quiet.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in October, 1907, were valued at £41,994, as compared with £41,708 in September, 1907, and £55,059 in October, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £101,636, £84,988, and £96,837 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was moderate. It was slightly worse than a month ago, but rather better than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 5'3 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 5'0 per cent. in the previous month and 5'8 per cent. a year ago. Employment was dull in London, Newcastle and Glasgow; fair at Hull and Birmingham.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn	Loads. 86,918	Loads. 107,273	Loads. 85,613	Loads. - 20,355	Loads. + 1,305
" sawn	884,155	795,575	1,003,684	+ 88,580	- 119,529
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 20,112	£ 20,055	£ 20,584	+ £ 57	- £ 472

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was fair; but slightly worse than a month ago. It was good at Hull and

Edinburgh; fair at Liverpool, Birmingham and Manchester; quiet at Burton.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachmakers was moderate. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 5'4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of October, as compared with 4'2 per cent. a month ago, and 3'4 per cent. in October, 1906. Employment in London was better than a month ago; it was fair at Coventry; moderate at Liverpool; quiet at Belfast; and bad at Dublin.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was good on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 2'2 per cent. of their members unemployed, as compared with 3'9 per cent. a month ago, and 4'3 in October, 1906.

Other Trades.—Packing-case makers continued fairly well employed. Employment with basket-makers was fair generally; it was good at Oldham, and dull at Leicester.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in October, 1907, were valued at £31,027, as compared with £26,654 in September, 1907, and £32,371 in October, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £19,494, £19,849, and £15,680 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 95 Returns—56 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 26 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, and was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,623 workpeople in the week ended October 26th, and paying £10,425 in wages, showed a decrease of 0'3 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, but an increase of 3'2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. Increases in the amount of wages paid were shown by all departments, and by all districts except Lancashire.

Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 6'7 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 11'6* per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the increase in wages occurring in all the principal districts.

—	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Oct. 26th, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		A Month ago.	A Year ago.*
Branches.		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Glass Bottle ...	5,488	- 1'2	+ 11'2	6,901	+ 3'6	+ 17'7
Plate Glass ...	845	+ 0'8	- 2'3	974	+ 0'3	- 0'1
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles) ...	1,924	+ 1'7	+ 1'5	2,135	+ 4'0	+ 1'5
Other Branches ...	366	- 1'1	- 4'2	415	+ 0'5	+ 3'5
Total ...	8,623	- 0'3	+ 6'7	10,425	+ 3'2	+ 11'6
Districts.						
North of England	1,044	+ 12'5	+ 3'5	1,258	+ 18'7	+ 6'1
Yorkshire ...	4,358	- 2'9	+ 11'7	5,407	+ 2'4	+ 17'2
Lancashire ...	766	- 4'5	+ 1'5	839	- 6'4	+ 9'2
Worcester and Warwick	1,266	+ 0'7	- 1'7	1,518	+ 2'6	+ 1'0
Scotland ...	864	+ 1'4	+ 7'7	1,078	+ 1'6	+ 13'8
Other parts of United Kingdom	325	...	+ 0'3	325	+ 1'2	- 0'6
Total ...	8,623	- 0'3	+ 6'7	10,425	+ 3'2	+ 11'6

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol and Dublin, and in Scotland; fair at Barnsley, Leeds, and Wakefield; moderate in the North of England and in Lancashire; bad at Castleford and Mexborough. With medical glass bottle makers at Leeds it showed an improvement on a month ago. With flint glass makers employment continued fairly good; with cutters it continued moderate; in Wordsley and district, however, it was good. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham was

* The comparison with October, 1906, is affected to some extent by an advance in rates of wages in the glass bottle-making trade, which took effect in January-February, 1907.

fair. It continued good with sheet glass makers and flatteners at St. Helens. It was good with London glass blowers. Employment with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear was moderate, and short time was general.

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

Description.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with	
				A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:					
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 130,735	cwts. 74,315	cwts. 123,317	cwts. + 56,420	cwts. + 7,418
Plate	28,219	29,441	36,850	- 1,222	- 8,631
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	6,670	59,501	79,498	+ 15,505	- 4,492
Manufactures, other sorts...	968	505	2,613	+ 463	- 1,645
Bottles	123,993	97,972	114,219	gross + 25,931	gross + 9,684
Exports:					
Plate	12,248	9,869	12,738	+ 2,379	- 510
Flint	6,047	5,902	5,902	+ 623	+ 768
Manufactures, other sorts ...	41,488	42,660	41,105	- 1,172	+ 383
Bottles	79,205	72,660	65,070	gross + 6,545	gross + 14,135

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 31 Returns—9 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued good, on the whole, and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was bad, a considerable amount of short time being worked during the month.

Pottery Trade.—Employment was good in Staffordshire, at Bristol, and at Swadincote. It was fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne and in Devonshire; in Scotland it was moderate. It was also moderate with earthenware manufacturers in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district. Employment in the china furniture branch was good. With clay tobacco pipe makers it was very good at Manchester, good at Waterford, fair at Glasgow and moderate at Gateshead.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was slack at Peterborough, Market Harborough, Birmingham, Sheffield, and Stourbridge. It was also dull at Ipswich and Glasgow, in North Wales, and in Devonshire. At Nottingham employment was bad, and a considerable amount of short time was worked. A slight improvement was shown in Shropshire. It was moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and fair in South Staffordshire and at Bedford. At Oldham and in South Wales and Monmouthshire employment was reported as good.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in October, 1907, were valued at £88,434, as compared with £80,134 in September, 1907, and £88,939 in October, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £256,257, £201,391, and £224,745 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 185 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

SOME hindrance to outdoor work was caused in most districts by wet weather; but, generally speaking, full employment was found for both regular and extra labour. The supply of men for permanent situations was insufficient in some counties, but in others the number of men offering showed a tendency to increase compared with previous years.

Northern Counties.—The continued wet weather caused some delay to late harvest work in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland and Westmorland. In the Cockerthorpe district (Cumberland) a scarcity of day

labourers was reported, many having gone to the coal mines. The supply of men for permanent situations was fully adequate. In Lancashire the supply of casual labour was about equal to the demand. Outdoor work, especially potato-digging, was a good deal interfered with by bad weather. Late harvest work in Yorkshire was interrupted by the unsettled weather, but day labourers were well employed on the whole in threshing, thatching, sowing winter wheat and root gathering.

Midland Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Cheshire and Derbyshire. Potato lifting, thatching and autumn field work furnished employment in cases where wet weather interfered with late harvest clearing; similar conditions prevailed in Nottinghamshire. In all three counties a scarcity of day labourers was experienced in certain districts. Employment was generally regular in Leicestershire, Rutland, Staffordshire and Shropshire, but rain caused a certain amount of time to be lost. In the Tamworth Union (Staffordshire) the activity in the coal pits caused some scarcity of labour. In Worcestershire and Warwickshire a good deal of interruption to employment was caused by wet weather, and work was backward in some districts. The supply of day labourers was usually sufficient, but in the Evesham Union (Worcestershire) a scarcity of both permanent and casual men was reported. A correspondent in the Southam Union (Warwickshire) states that young farm labourers are more plentiful, and that there is an increasing disposition to make engagements "to live in." In Northamptonshire farm labourers were fully employed. According to a report from the Towcester Union the supply of men for permanent situations is better than in recent years. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. In both counties wet weather caused some interruption to outdoor work. Employment in Hertfordshire was not interfered with to any serious extent by the weather, and the supply of extra labour generally met requirements. In Bedfordshire farm work was somewhat in arrear, and farm labourers were generally well employed in threshing, manure carting, and root-pulling.

Eastern Counties.—Employment was generally regular in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire. A scarcity of horsekeepers, stockmen and boys is reported in the former county. Some loss of time through wet weather was experienced in Lincolnshire, but threshing, thatching and root raising caused employment to be good generally. Weather conditions in Norfolk and Suffolk were comparatively favourable, and employment was regular in threshing, root gathering, sowing, and other autumn occupations. The supply of day labourers generally equalled the demand. Employment was regular in most districts of Essex, and the supply of extra labour was generally sufficient. A demand for ploughmen and stockmen is reported from the Chelmsford Union.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—Wet weather rather hindered outdoor work in Kent and Surrey, but employment was fairly regular, and the supply of labour somewhat in excess of the demand. Similar conditions obtained generally in Sussex, Hampshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire. In Dorsetshire and Somersetshire bad weather caused interruption to the work of casual men, but permanent workpeople found full employment, and the supply of both was generally in excess of the demand. Cowmen and shepherds were scarce in the Sherborne Union (Dorsetshire). Threshing, thatching and ploughing were delayed by frequent wet days in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire; in the Stow-on-the-Wold Union (Gloucestershire) a good deal of corn was uncarried at the end of the month. Men for permanent situations were generally sufficient, but a scarcity of milkers was reported from the Dursley Union (Gloucestershire). Employment in Devonshire and Cornwall was somewhat irregular towards the end of October owing to wet weather. There was a fair demand for extra labour for threshing, hedge-trimming, and gathering and storing roots; but the supply was sufficient. Men for permanent situations were in request in most districts.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 140 Returns—116 from Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

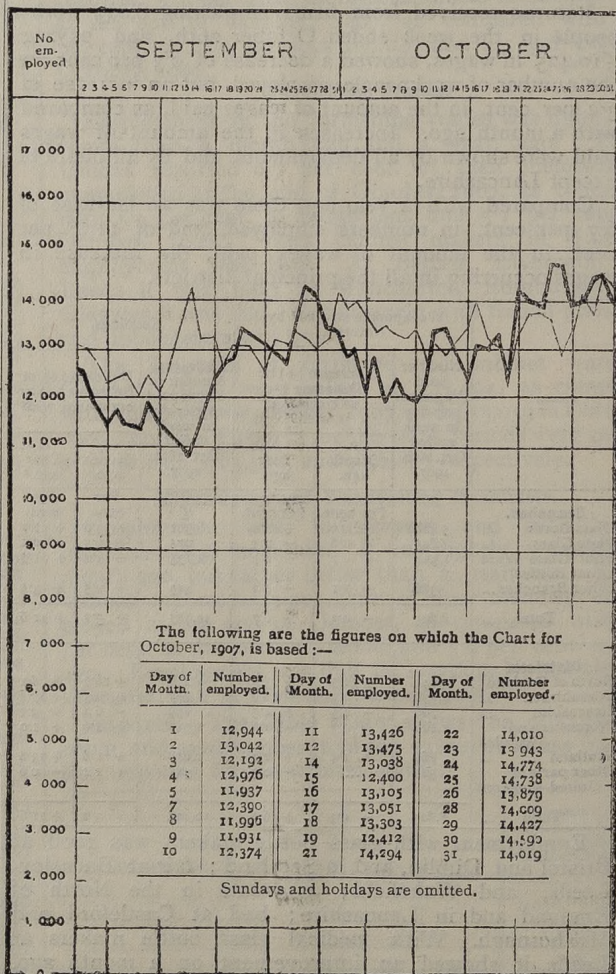
EMPLOYMENT was moderate in London; it was better than a month ago. It was fairly good on the whole at the other ports.

London.*—Employment was moderate; it was better than a month ago, but slightly below the level of a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended October 26th was 13,124, an increase of 5.7 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 2.2 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Oct. 5th	4,852	2,123	6,975	5,768	12,743
" " " 12th	4,590	2,013	6,603	5,595	12,198
" " " 19th	4,243	2,325	6,568	5,310	12,885
" " " 26th	4,737	2,720	7,457	6,816	14,273
Average for 4 weeks ended Oct. 26th, 1907	4,605	2,295	6,900	6,224	13,124
Average for Sept., 1907	3,951	2,500	6,451	5,980	12,431
Average for Oct., 1906	4,603	2,151†	6,754†	6,601†	13,415†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of September, 1907, and October, 1907. The corresponding curve for September, 1906, and October, 1906, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1907, and the thin curve to 1906.]



The daily numbers in October ranged from 11,931 on the 9th to 14,774 on the 24th. During the corresponding month of 1906 the numbers ranged from 12,338 on the 20th to 14,499 on the 31st.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was

* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

1,170 in October, 1907, as compared with 1,105 in the previous month, and 1,179 in October, 1906.

At Liverpool employment at the South Docks was moderate; at the North Docks it was bad, and rather worse than a month ago. Quay and railway carters reported employment as fair.

Other Docks.—Employment was fair generally on the Tyne and Wear; a decline was reported at South Shields; at Sunderland it was bad. Employment at Middlesbrough, though still good, was not so good as a month ago. It was moderate generally at the Humber ports with dock labourers, but overtime was worked by coal porters. Employment was good at Yarmouth and Lowestoft; fair at Southampton; dull generally at Plymouth; fairly good at Bristol; good at Newport, and fair at Swansea. At Manchester it was good. At Leith employment was fairly good on the whole. At Dundee it was fair, and better than a month ago; it was also fair at Glasgow and Aberdeen. At Belfast it was fairly good, and at Dublin fair.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN OCTOBER.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during October 42,325* seamen, of whom 4,501 (or 10.6 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. In eleven cases there were increases, and in six cases there were decreases, as compared with October, 1906. The largest increase was at Southampton, and the most marked decrease at Liverpool.

For the ten months ended October, 1907, the total number of seamen shipped was 413,980,* or 18,052 more than during the corresponding period of 1906, chiefly accounted for by large increases at Southampton, Liverpool and Cardiff. The Tyne Ports showed a considerable decrease.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	October,			Ten months ended October,		
	1906.	1907.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907.	1906.	1907.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	2,625	1,857	- 768	28,333	25,335	- 2,998
Sunderland	429	191	- 238	4,319	3,828	- 491
Middlesbrough	313	486	+ 173	2,870	4,170	+ 1,300
Hull	1,320	561	- 359	12,937	12,363	- 574
Grimsby	39	67	+ 28	1,303	1,223	- 80
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	693	739	+ 46	6,458	6,346	- 112
Newport, Mon.	1,050	1,052	+ 2	9,674	9,301	- 373
Cardiff	4,913	5,046	+ 133	48,434	50,927	+ 2,493
Swansea	359	466	+ 107	4,382	5,020	+ 638
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	16,427	15,421	- 1,006	148,075	153,800	+ 5,725
London	6,761	6,798	+ 37	61,257	61,633	+ 376
Southampton	2,848	4,546	+ 1,498	21,995	33,921	+ 11,926
SCOTLAND.						
Leith	251	295	+ 44	4,492	4,431	- 61
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	210	195	- 15	2,400	2,356	- 44
Glasgow	3,893	4,203	+ 310	34,995	36,701	+ 1,706
IRELAND.						
Dublin	35	70	+ 35	936	573	- 363
Belfast	133	132	- 1	2,188	2,052	- 136
Total	42,299	42,325	+ 26	395,928	413,980	+ 18,052

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 19 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in October, 1907, showed an increase in quantity but a decrease in value as compared with October, 1906.

Employment at the principal ports was good on the whole. At Yarmouth and Grimsby employment was

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

good generally, and better than a month ago with fish dock labourers and fish curers. At Lowestoft it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and good with curers. At Hull it was good with all classes, and better on the whole than in the previous month. At Aberdeen employment was good, and at Peterhead moderate. At Fraserburgh it was good with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and moderate with curers. At Macduff it was fair, and better than a month ago. Off the south-western coast of England fishing was much interrupted by stormy weather.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of the fish landed in October, 1907 and 1906 respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Oct., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1907.	Oct., 1906.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 2,235,648	Cwts. 1,860,517	£ 891,984	£ 987,090
Scotland	305,867	271,979	239,474	130,450
Ireland	48,777	39,856	19,567	18,597
Total	2,590,292	2,172,352	1,051,025	1,136,137
Shell Fish	—	—	40,929	49,523
Total Value	—	—	1,091,954	1,175,660

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in October, 1907, were valued at £464,449, as compared with £760,440 in September, 1907, and £587,359 in October, 1906.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) **Workmen's Compensation Acts.**

RIGHT UNDER ACT AND INDEPENDENTLY OF ACT: ACCEPTANCE OF COMPENSATION: EXERCISE OF OPTION.

When injury is caused to a workman by personal negligence or wilful act on the part of his employer, or of any person for whom he is responsible, nothing in the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897 (nor in the Act of 1906) affects the civil liability of the employer, but the workman has an option either to claim compensation under the Act or to take proceedings independently of the Act; but the employer is not liable to pay compensation under the Act, and also independently of the Act.

A workman employed by a builder was injured by an accident arising out of and in the course of his employment in November, 1906. From the date of the accident until May, 1907, the workman was regularly paid by his employer, week by week, half his average weekly earnings by way of compensation under the Act. He then, however, brought an action for damages at common law against the employer. The employer pleaded that the workman, by accepting the weekly compensation, had exercised his option, and could not then bring an action. The workman denied that he ever agreed to accept compensation under the Act. The judge held that the employer's defence was good, and dismissed the action. He further held that a workman was bound nowadays, not only to know something about his rights, but to take proper steps to ascertain what those rights were.—*Mackay v. Rosie, Court of Session, October 16th, 1907.*

ORDER MADE ON REVIEW: APPEAL: EXTENSION OF TIME FOR APPEALING.

A workman received an injury, entitling him to compensation, in January, 1904. Soon after the accident an agreement was made between him and his employer as to compensation, and was duly recorded. The compensation agreed was paid week by week for a considerable time, but in November, 1905, the County Court judge, on the application for a review by the employer, made an order terminating the agreement, and ending the weekly payments. In July, 1906, a further application came before the Court by the workman, requesting a further review and an increase of the weekly payments, on the ground that his injury had broken out afresh, and that he was again unable to work. The judge, however, refused to hear the evidence, or to make any award, on the ground that the matter had been finally ended by the order of November, 1905, and that there was nothing which could be reviewed. Appeals were brought against this decision, but the House of Lords decided that it was right. The facts of the case were reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, 1907. One of the Lords, in delivering judgment, referred to the practice which exists of making an order for a nominal payment, so as to keep alive the claim, when applications are made to review and end. When such an order is made the workman can apply to have the payments increased in case his incapacity for work recurs. It was, therefore, suggested that the workman might have appealed against the order of November, 1905, but it was held that, not having appealed against it, he was bound by it.

In these circumstances, an application was made to the Court of Appeal on behalf of the workman for an extension of time to enable him to appeal against the Order of November, 1905, the

time within which he was entitled to appeal against the order having long before elapsed.

The Court of Appeal, however, refused to grant the extension asked for, on the ground that a successful litigant, as was the employer in the proceedings which were carried to the House of Lords, has a vested interest in his order, of which he ought not to be deprived except in special circumstances, which did not exist in this case.—*Nicholson v. Piper, Court of Appeal, October 19th, 1907.*

(2) Employers' Liability Act.

DEFECT IN MACHINERY; DANGEROUS MACHINE: YOUNG AND INEXPERIENCED WORKMAN: DUTY TO WARN AND INSTRUCT.

When personal injury is caused to a workman by reason of any defect in the condition of the ways, works, machinery or plant used in the business of the employer, the workman is entitled, under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, to recover compensation from the employer, provided such defect arose from or had not been discovered or remedied owing to the negligence of the employer, or of some one in his service whose duty it was to see that the ways, works, machinery or plant were in proper condition.

A young man of 20, employed by a farmer, was put to work at a straw pressing machine. Whilst at this work his foot slipped and his leg was drawn into the machine and so badly crushed that it had to be amputated. He brought an action against his employer for damages under the Act, alleging that his injury was caused by reason of a defect in the condition of the machine. The alleged defect consisted in the fact that the machine was not fenced. At the trial the County Court judge found as a fact that the machine was a perfectly proper one as supplied, and had no defect, and that it was not dangerous if properly worked. He held further that there was a duty upon the defendant, there being no foreman, and the plaintiff being young and without experience, to warn the plaintiff of the dangers of the machine, and to instruct him how to work it properly; and that as no such instructions were given and the machine was dangerous, it was defective in that sense and within the meaning of the Act. Judgment was accordingly given for the plaintiff. The defendant appealed, and it was argued on his behalf that there was no evidence of any defect in the machine within the meaning of the Act.

The appeal was allowed, the High Court holding that upon the County Court judge finding that the machine was not defective in itself, he should have given judgment for the defendant; also, that the judge was right in deciding that it was the duty of the defendant to instruct the plaintiff in the proper working of the machine, and to warn him of the danger, and that to omit such duty was negligence on his part for which he was liable to be sued at common law.

On application being then made to the High Court to assess compensation due to the plaintiff under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Court decided that the County Court was the proper tribunal to assess such compensation.—*Greenwood v. Greenwood, King's Bench Division, October 25th, 1907.*

(3) Shop Hours Acts.

CLOSING ORDER: ONE DAY OF WEEK ONLY MENTIONED IN ORDER: POWERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

It is provided by the Shop Hours Act, 1904, that an order made by a local authority and confirmed by a Secretary of State, may fix the hours on the several days of the week at which, either throughout the area of the authority or within any specified part thereof, all shops, or shops of any specified class, are to be closed for serving customers. The hour fixed by such order shall not be earlier than 7 p.m. on any day of the week, except that on one specified day it may be an hour not earlier than 1 p.m. Where several businesses are carried on in the same shop, and some of the businesses are affected by an order and others not so affected, the shop may be kept open after the closing hour for the latter businesses only, subject to such conditions as are specified in the order. Such an order cannot be made unless two-thirds of the shops to be affected approve of the order in manner provided by the Act.

The corporation of a borough made an order providing that every shop within the borough wherein the business of a hairdresser or barber was carried on, should, so far as such shop was used for such business, be closed on Thursdays at 2 p.m.; and that where any other business was carried on in any shop as well as that of hairdresser, the shop might be kept open for such other business, provided a notice was conspicuously exhibited to the effect that the shop was not open for the business of hairdresser. This order was made with all due formalities, approved by two-thirds of the shops concerned, and confirmed by the Home Secretary.

One hairdresser then, on the relation of the Attorney-General, brought an action against the corporation claiming an injunction to restrain them from proceeding with the order or spending public money in enforcing it, and a declaration that the order was *ultra vires* the Act.

It was argued on the plaintiff's behalf that the corporation could not make an order referring to only one day of the week, as the Act provided that the hours might be fixed "on the several days of the week"; also that no provision was made for distinguishing different classes of hairdressers' businesses, and that the order was unreasonable. The judge held that there was nothing in connection with the order which the defendants could be restrained from doing; that the order was perfectly reasonable; that barbers and hairdressers were a sufficiently specific class; that it was not necessary to mention each day of the week in the order, as the omission to mention days implied that there was to be no restriction on those days; and that the objection to the order was purely technical, and the injunction should be refused.—*Attorney-General v. Mayor of Brighton, Chancery Division, October 31st, 1907.*

Merchant Shipping Acts.

REFUSAL TO SAIL WITH CONTRABAND OF WAR: UNLAWFUL IMPRISONMENT: RIGHT TO WAGES.

In the case of every British foreign-going ship, each seaman on the termination of his agreed term of service is entitled to be discharged in the manner provided in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in the presence of a superintendent. At his discharge he is entitled to receive his wages. A seaman is not entitled to any wages for any time during which he unlawfully refuses or neglects to work, nor for any period during which he is lawfully imprisoned for any offence committed by him. When his wages are not paid as provided, then, unless the delay is due to the act or default of the seaman, or to any reasonable dispute as to liability, or to any other cause not being the act or default of the owner or master, the seaman's wages continue to run and be payable until the time of the final settlement thereof.

During the war between Russia and Japan, at the beginning of 1905, certain seamen signed articles for "a voyage of not exceeding three years' duration to any ports or places within the limits of 75 deg. N. and 60 deg. S. latitude, commencing at Bremerhaven, proceeding thence to Hong Kong via Bristol Channel and/or any ports within the above limits trading in any rotation, and to end at such port in the United Kingdom or Continent of Europe (within home trade limits) as might be required by the master." They were shipped at the usual rates of wages for a peaceful voyage, and were not informed that the object of the voyage was to carry coal, which had been declared contraband of war, to a Japanese port. On the arrival of the ship at Hong Kong in March, 1905, the crew learned the true state of affairs, and thereupon refused to sail for the Japanese port. The seamen were accordingly charged before a magistrate with having combined together to disobey the lawful orders of the master, neglecting duty, and impeding the navigation of the ship. They were convicted and sent to prison, and the ship sailed without them. On the return of the ship in safety to Hong Kong ten weeks later, they were released, and with the exception of two men they rejoined the ship, and proceeded on her to South Wales, where the voyage terminated. Except in the case of the two men mentioned, who refused to re-join, the seamen were paid wages for the time up to the end of the voyage, with the exception of the period during which they were in prison.

The seamen then brought an action against the owners claiming to be entitled to wages for the whole period of the voyage, to damages for false imprisonment, and to the cost of maintenance up to the time of final settlement. It was decided that their imprisonment had been contrary to law; that they were within their rights in refusing to sail to the port of a belligerent with a contraband cargo; that they had not been lawfully discharged at the end of the voyage; and that they were entitled (with the exception of the two men who refused to re-join) to wages up to the time of the judgment, and to maintenance. The Court further held that damages could not be awarded for the imprisonment unless a competent Court held it to be malicious; and that as to the two men who had refused to re-join the ship, they were only entitled to wages whilst at Hong Kong, which sum had been paid into Court.—*The Queen Eleanor, Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division, October 17th, 1907.*

Friendly Societies Acts.

INSANE MEMBER OF SOCIETY: DISPUTE WITH SOCIETY: OTHER MEMBER ACTING FOR THE INSANE: LIABILITY FOR COSTS: POWER OF EXPULSION.

A father and son were members of the same lodge of a friendly society, the former having been a member for over thirty years, and never having been fined for the infringement of any rule. The son became mentally afflicted, and had to be sent to a public asylum. Under the rules of the society, when a member becomes insane the sick allowance is paid to his friends for his use, unless he is maintained in any institution at the public expense. The father, in order that his son should not become a pauper, paid the expenses of his maintenance at the asylum, and applied to the society for sick pay on behalf of his son. His application being refused, the matter in question came before the arbitrators of the lodge, who decided in favour of the son. Against this award the court of the lodge appealed to the District Arbitration Committee, who also decided in favour of the son. The court then appealed to the final tribunal of appeal of the society, and again the decision was the same. When payment was demanded the court refused to pay from the date of the son's insanity, maintaining that by the rules they were only obliged to pay from the date of the insanity being duly certified to them, and the certificate was dated some five weeks later than the actual insanity. This dispute as to the date from which the payments were to be made led to a further submission to the District Arbitration Committee, who made an award in favour of the lodge's view, and ordered the father to pay the costs of the proceedings. The father refused to pay, on the ground that he was merely acting on his son's behalf. He was thereupon suspended and subsequently expelled from the lodge because of this refusal, in pursuance of the rules of the society.

The father then brought an action against the society for an injunction to restrain them from expelling him. On his behalf it was contended that the society had no power to expel him for refusing to pay the costs, as the proceedings were the father's, and that the rule which purported to give them the power was *ultra vires*.

The judge held that the plaintiff was a party to the arbitration proceedings, and that as a member of the society he came within the rule as to expulsion, and the injunction was refused.—*Cott v. Woods, Chancery Division, October 22nd, 1907.*

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of bread on November 1st, 1907, have been received from the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom, and from other sources. These returns are summarised in the following Tables:—

District.	1st Nov., 1907.			1st Oct., 1907.			1st Nov., 1906.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5½	4½	5·0	6	5½	5·8	5	4	4·9
E. & N.E. ...	6	4½	5·1	6	4½	5·4	5	4	4·6
S.E. ...	6	5	5·7	6	5	5·9	5½	4	4·9
S.W. ...	6½	5½	6·0	6	5½	5·7	5½	4½	4·9
W. & W.C. ...	6	5	5·5	6	5½	5·8	5½	5	5·2
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6·2	6½	5	5·6	6	4½	5·0
Midlands ...	6½	5	5·7	6	5	5·5	5½	4	4·9
Eastern Counties ...	6½	5	5·7	6½	5	5·9	5½	4½	4·8
Southern Counties ...	7½	5	6·2	6½	5½	6·0	6	5	5·3
S. Western Counties and Wales	7	5	5·8	6	5	5·6	6	4½	5·0
Scotland ...	7	5	6·2	7	5	6·8	6	4½	5·2
Great Britain ...	7½	4½	5·8	7	4½	5·7	6	4	5·0

It will be seen that, compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices shows little change. In the North and North-West district of London, however, a decrease of '6d. occurred. As compared with a year ago, the mean of the prices shows an increase of '8d.

PRICE OF BREAD IN 29 LARGE TOWNS.

Place.	Predominant Price at Nov. 1st, 1907.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.
	d.	s.	d.	A Year ago.		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
London ...	5½	6	5	+ ½	+ ½ to 1	Oct. '07 - ½
Birmingham ...	5½ & 6	6	5	+ ½	+ ½ to 1	Oct. '07 + ½
Bolton ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Oct. '07 + ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Cardiff ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Derby ...	5	5	4	+ ½	+ ½	June '07 + ½
Gateshead ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ ½	Oct. '07 + ½
Huddersfield ...	5	5	4	+ ½	+ ½	Oct. '07 + ½
Hull ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Oct. '07 + ½
Ipswich ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Oct. '07 + ½
Leeds ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + 1
Leicester ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Liverpool ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Manchester ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Oct. '07 + ½
Middlesbrough ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Newcastle ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Oct. '07 + ½
Norwich ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Oct. '07 + ½
Nottingham ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Oldham ...	4½	4	3	+ ½	+ 1	June '07 - ½
Plymouth ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Portsmouth ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Potteries ...	5	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Wolverhampton ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Aberdeen ...	5½	5	4	+ ½	+ 1	Aug. '07 + ½
Dundee ...	7	6	5	+ ½	+ 1½	Oct. '07 + ½
Edinburgh ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Glasgow ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Belfast ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ 1	Sept. '07 + ½
Dublin ...	6	6	5	+ ½	+ ½	Oct. '07 + ½

It will be seen that, compared with a month ago, the predominant price of the 4 lb. loaf has risen ½d. in 9 of the 29 towns shown in the Table. In Birmingham, though the price of bread was raised ½d. per 4 lbs. all round, a change in the quality purchased reduced the rise in the predominant price to ¼d. In Dundee also the rise has altered the proportions of the several qualities sold, but the finer quality is still the more widely purchased. As compared with a year ago, each of the towns except Huddersfield and Oldham shows an increase. In Dundee the increase amounted to 1½d. per 4 lbs.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

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

Month.	British Wheat. Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price (England and Wales).	Imports. (Average Declared Value.)		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) per Mill for cash.
		Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.	
1906.	Per cwt. s. d. 6 1	Per cwt. s. d. 6 9½	Per cwt. s. d. 9 6½	Per cwt. s. d. 9 0
1907.	7 4	8 1½	10 3½	11 6
October ...	8 0	8 9½	11 1½	12 9½

The imports of wheat during September-October, 1907, amounted to 17,694,800 cwt., or 2,929,000 cwt. more than during the corresponding months of 1906. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-October, 1907, amounted to 2,649,200 cwt., or 4,100 cwt. more than in September-October, 1906.

NEW LABOUR CONTRACT LAW IN HOLLAND.*

THE conditions under which labour contracts are entered into and carried out in Holland are amended and supplemented by a law passed on July 13th last. A "labourer" within the meaning of the new Act is any person who binds himself to perform work during a certain time in the service of another for wages. Persons employed in the civil service, mercantile marine, and railway service, are excluded from the operation of this law.

The new Act increases the liability of the employer as regards sickness and disablement. In the case of sickness or accident sustained by a labourer living in the employer's house, the latter is bound to provide proper nursing and medical treatment as long as the service lasts, up to a period of six weeks. He is entitled to recover the expenses from the labourer; but, as regards the first four weeks, only in so far as the sickness or accident was caused by the labourer's design or immorality, or was in consequence of a bodily infirmity about which he wilfully gave false information when entering into the contract.

One of the articles of the new law authorises the district magistrate to annul labour contracts between employers and workmen who are both bound by a collective labour agreement, if such labour contract be contrary to the stipulations of the collective agreement.

Provision is made for a summary method of settlement by the district magistrate, at a small cost, of disputes respecting labour contracts or collective labour agreements. Where a judicial decision is requested concerning a labour agreement it will be issued gratis and free of stamp duty.

CO-OPERATION IN GERMANY.†

ON January 1st, 1907, there were 25,714 co-operative societies in existence in Germany, with a total membership of 3,860,143, the corresponding totals for a year ago being 24,652 and 3,658,437. The large majority of these were credit associations, with an aggregate membership of over two millions. In the following Table the societies are classified according to their object.

Class of Society.	No. of Societies.		Membership.	
	Jan. 1st, 1907.	Jan. 1st, 1906.	Jan. 1st, 1907.	Jan. 1st, 1906.
Credit Associations ...	15,602	15,108	2,113,653	2,018,821
Associations for Distribution (Stores) ...	2,006	1,922	1,037,613	977,715
Associations for Production ...	3,592	3,474	276,038	263,067
Supply Associations (for Purchase of Raw Materials) ...	2,943	2,931	101,134	150,083
Associations for Purchase of Instruments of Production ...	662	486	30,421	24,517
Associations for Purchase of Goods for Re-sale ...	129	88	5,405	3,995
Associations for Sale of Members' Products ...	363	325	41,380	36,799
Associations for Purchase of Raw Materials and Sale of Members' Products ...	146	142	6,835	6,390
Building Associations for Erection of Dwellings ...	767	714	139,588	129,944
Associations for Cattle Breeding ...	159	152	11,437	11,417
Other Associations ...	245	310	34,639	35,689
Total ...	25,714	24,652	3,860,143	3,658,437

* Based on a despatch from H. M. Minister at The Hague, † *Jahrbuch des Allgemeinen Verbandes der auf Selbsthilfe beruhenden deutschen Erwerbs- und Wirtschafts-Genossenschaften für 1906.* Berlin: J. Guttentag, 1907. ‡ The membership is not given in the case of 4 societies.

TRADE DISPUTES IN OCTOBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-one new disputes began in October, 1907, as compared with 29 in September, 1907, and 24 in October, 1906. By the 31 disputes, 3,889 workpeople were directly and 3,075 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before October and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 20,266 workpeople involved in trade disputes during October, 1907, compared with 10,833 in September, 1907, and 28,330 in October, 1906.

New Disputes in October, 1907.—In the following Table the new disputes in October are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining	9	1,684	2,502	4,186
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	6	564	20	584
Cotton Manufacture	5	371	404	775
Linen and Jute Manufacture	3	585	105	690
Clothing	4	439	44	483
Other Trades	4	246	...	246
Total, October, 1907	31	3,889	3,075	6,964
Total, September, 1907	29	8,495	797	9,292
Total, October, 1906	24	10,197	15,831	26,028

Causes.—Of the 31 new disputes, 8 arose on demands for increased wages, 3 on objections to reduction in wages, 9 on other wages questions, 6 on questions of Trade Union principle, 3 on questions of employment of particular classes or persons, and 2 from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 20 new disputes, directly affecting 2,547 persons, and 7 old disputes, directly affecting 428 persons. Of these 27 new and old disputes, 10, directly involving 1,098 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 10, directly involving 1,160 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 7, directly involving

717 persons, were compromised. In the case of 4 other disputes, directly involving 549 persons, work has been resumed pending negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in October of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 65,600 working days. In addition, 63,900 working days were lost during October owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in October of all disputes, new and old, was 129,500 working days, as compared with 72,100 in the previous month, and 414,300 in the corresponding month of 1906.

Summary for the First Ten Months of 1906 and 1907.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the ten months, January to October, 1906 and 1907 respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—October, 1906.			January—October, 1907.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	15	1,196	52,000	20	1,001	22,393
Mining and Quarrying	75	59,406	722,300	93	46,167	458,403
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	94	35,213	617,700	91	15,076	440,600
Textile	106	71,543	730,500	128	42,481	574,600
Clothing	34	7,037	86,500	45	7,810	112,100
Transport	13	1,201	8,000	24	7,288	88,800
Other Trades	47	4,375	40,400	65	4,859	81,600
Total	381	179,971	2,258,000	466	124,682	1,738,400

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1907.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Result.
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Coal Mining— Pony Drivers, Hewers, Surfacedmen, &c.	Castleford	176	1,724	7 Oct.	3	For alteration in hours of finishing work	Amicable settlement arrived at.
Jute Manufacture— Jute Spinners	Dundee	550	...	17 Oct.	1	Alleged inferior material	Work resumed on old conditions.
Boot and Shoe— Boot and Shoe Operatives	Bristol (near)	183	...	21 Oct.	...	Alleged refusal to employ Trade Union members.	No settlement reported.

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

HOME OFFICE ORDER.

Factory and Workshop Act: Piece workers: Particulars of Work and Wages: Brass trade.—It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that in every textile factory the occupier shall, for the purpose of enabling each worker who is paid by the piece to compute the wages payable to him, cause to be published in the prescribed manner particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work to be done, and also particulars of the work to which that rate is to be applied. When the Home Secretary is satisfied by the report of an inspector that these provisions are applicable to any class of non-textile factories or to any class of workshops, he may, if he thinks fit, by special order apply the provisions to any such class, subject to such modifications as may, in his opinion, be necessary in the circumstances of the case.

In pursuance of these powers, by Order* dated September 23rd, 1907, which came into force on November 1st, 1907, the Home Secretary has directed that the above provisions shall apply, subject to certain modifications, to factories and workshops in which the mixing, casting and manufacture of brass and of any articles or

parts of articles of brass, and the electro depositing of brass are carried on, and also to outworkers employed in those processes.

Particulars of the rate of wages applicable to the work to be done by any worker must either be handed to him in writing when the work is given out to him; or supplied to him in writing at the time of his employment, and on every subsequent occasion when the rates are altered; or, in the case of in-workers, exhibited in the factory or workshop on a placard in a position where it may be easily read by the workers.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1906.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTIFYING SURGEON UNDER SECTION 8.

The Secretary of State, under the powers conferred on him by Sub-section (5) of Section 8 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, has appointed Mr. William Stanger, F.R.C.S., 7, Bond Street, Wakefield, to have the powers and duties of a Certifying Surgeon under that section in respect of cases arising in mines within the district of the Certifying Surgeon at Wakefield.

* Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907, No. 792. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 2d.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in October.—The net effect of all the changes reported in October was an increase of £4,823 per week, as compared with an increase of £2,471 per week in September, 1907, and one of £1,158 per week in October, 1906. The number of workpeople affected was 68,765, of whom 68,242 received advances amounting to £4,882 per week, and 523 sustained decreases amounting to £59 per week. The total number affected by changes in the preceding month was 28,912, and in October, 1906, 96,508.

Two changes, affecting 2,550 workpeople, were settled by arbitration; four changes, affecting 42,550 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and fifteen changes, affecting 13,284 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 10,381 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; two of these changes, affecting 619 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Ten completed Months of 1907.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported, during the ten months ended October 31st, 1907, was 1,195,886, as compared with 919,525 for the corresponding period of 1906. The changes arranged gave 1,195,053 workpeople a net increase of £177,127 per week, and 833 workpeople a net decrease of £122 per week. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £177,005 per week, as compared with an increase of £43,037 per week in the corresponding period of 1906.

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

Groups of Trades.	January-October.			
	1906.		1907.	
	No.	£.	No.	£.
Building	3,087	- 162	9,865	+ 248
Coal Mining	314,488	+ 18,131	781,635	+ 151,625
Iron, &c., Mining	8,540	+ 643	15,540	+ 2,303
Quarrying	4,090	- 60	3,021	+ 59
Pig Iron Manufacture	16,427	+ 956	16,482	+ 1,745
Iron and Steel Manufacture	53,225	+ 3,866	52,584	+ 4,988
Engineering and Shipbuilding	117,483	+ 6,646	35,860	+ 1,902
Other Metal Trades	548	+ 36	733	+ 47
Textile Trades	391,128	+ 12,342	251,049	+ 11,514
Printing, &c., Trades	1,305	+ 162	8,198	+ 430
Glass, &c., Trades	760	+ 66	4,233	+ 348
Other Trades	2,579	+ 205	10,350	+ 1,379
Employees of Local Authorities	5,865	+ 205	5,412	+ 416
Total	919,525	+ 43,037	1,195,886	+ 177,005

Hours.

The changes in hours of labour reported during October, 1907, affected 7,000 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 7,700 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the ten months ended October 31st, 1907, was 19,886, the net decrease in their working hours being 28,659 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in October.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1907.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	

I.—RATES OF WAGES.

Building	Liverpool	1 Nov.	Bricklayers	1,300	...	Advance of 2d. per hour (9d. to 9d.).
			Carpenters and Joiners	2,500	...	
Building	Birkenhead	1 Nov.	Plumbers	450	...	Advance of 2d. per hour (8d. to 8d.).
			Painters	2,000	...	
Building	Birkenhead	1 Nov.	Bricklayers	220	...	Advance of 2d. per hour (9d. to 9d.).
			Carpenters and Joiners	750	...	
Coal Mining	Northumberland	7 & 14 Oct.	Underground Workers and Banksmen (except Deputies, Mechanics, Enginemen and Firemen)	38,000	...	Advance of 8½ per cent., making wages 47½ per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
			Other Surface Workers ... ..	...	...
Coal Mining	Northumberland	4 & 11 Nov.	Deputies	1,100	...	Advance of 7 per cent., making wages 38 per cent. above the standard of November, 1879.
			Mechanics	1,600	...	
Coal Mining	Cleveland and Durham	5 Oct.	Enginemen	700	...	Advance of 5d. per day (5s. 7d. to 7s. 2d.).
			Firemen	250	...	
Pig Iron Manufacture	West Cumberland	1 Oct.	Surface Workers	1,500	...	Advance of 5d. per day (5s. 7d. to 6s.).
			Blastfurnacemen	5,500	...	
Pig Iron Manufacture	North Staffordshire	Oct.	Enginemen	1,400	...	Advance of 5d. per day. Wages after change: Winding Enginemen, 6s. 9d.; Hauling and Pumping Enginemen, 6s. 2d.
			Blastfurnacemen	600	...	
Iron & Steel Manufacture	Great Britain and Wales	3 Nov.	Deputies	2,600	...	Advance of 7 per cent., making wages 38 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
			Mechanics	1,600	...	
Iron & Steel Manufacture	England and Wales	3 Nov.	Gas Produccermen and Chargehands	20	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 1 per cent., making wages 31½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
			Wheelers	630	...	
Clothing	Kingswood (Bristol)	30 Sept. and 19 Oct.	Deputies	2,500	...	Advance, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
			Boot and Shoe Operatives	2,500	...	

II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.

Building	Liverpool	1 Nov.	Bricklayers	1,300	...	Re-arrangement of winter working hours, resulting in an average decrease of about 1 hour per week. Winter hours after change: 44 for 6½ weeks, 47 for 1½ weeks, and 46½ for 4 weeks.
			Carpenters and Joiners	2,500	...	
Building	Birkenhead	1 Nov.	Plumbers	450	...	Re-arrangement of winter working hours, resulting in an average decrease of about 1 hour per week. Winter hours after change: 44 for 6½ weeks, 47 for 1½ weeks, and 46½ for 4 weeks.
			Painters	2,000	...	

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—It was reported early in November that advances have been arranged for miners in Durham of 6½ per cent., making wages 53½ per cent. above the standard of 1879, and in South Wales of 2½ per cent., making wages 60 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Pig Iron Trade.—Early in November it was arranged that the wages of blastfurnacemen in Scotland should be reduced by 2½ per cent.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c.; (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.
† The Winding Enginemen also had the basis rate increased by 6d. per day.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)
EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during October, 1907, was 279, an increase of 3 as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 3 as compared with October, 1906.

The mean number for October in the years 1902-1906 was 238, the maximum year being 1906 with 283 deaths, and the minimum year 1905, with 192 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in October, 1907, was 119, as compared with 129 in September, and 125 a year ago. At factories and workshops the total number was 106 in October, as compared with 93 in the previous month and 103 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 49, 50, and 46 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during October, 1907, was 111, as compared with 103 in September, 1907, and 73 in October, 1906. The mean for the five years 1902-1906 was 85, the highest number being 112 in 1903, and the lowest 59 in 1904.

During the ten months ended October, 1907, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 2,471, as compared with 2,357 in the corresponding period of 1906. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 1,155 in 1907 and 996 in 1906.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Oct., 1907, as compared with a	
	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	4	1	2	+ 3	+ 2
Engine Drivers...	4	3	1	+ 1	+ 2
Firemen ...	1	1	3	...	...
Guards (Passengers) ...	2	...	...	+ 2	+ 2
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	10	9	7	+ 1	+ 3
Porters ...	5	7	4	- 2	+ 1
Shunters ...	2	1	3	+ 1	- 1
Miscellaneous ...	20	28	23	- 8	- 5
Contractors' Servants ...	1	...	...	+ 1	+ 1
Total, Railway Service	49	80	46	- 1	+ 3
Mines					
Underground ...	105	108	105	- 3	...
Surface ...	10	11	13	- 1	- 3
Total, Mines	115	119	118	- 4	- 3
Quarries over 20 feet deep	4	10	7	- 6	- 3
Factories (including Workshops)					
Textile					
Cotton ...	9	4	5	+ 5	+ 4
Wool and Worsted ...	3	3	1	...	+ 2
Other Textiles ...	1	1	1	...	...
Non-Textile					
Extraction of Metals ...	2	1	2	+ 1	...
Founding and Conversion of Metals ...	15	13	8	+ 2	+ 7
Marine and Locomotive Engineering ...	1	1	3	...	- 2
Ship and Boat Building ...	5	8	10	- 3	- 5
Wood ...	4	3	4	+ 1	...
Chemicals ...	6	6	2	...	+ 4
Other Non-Textile Industries ...	29	23	36	+ 6	- 7
Total, Factories ...	75	63	72	+ 12	+ 3
Accidents reported under Factory Act, 1903-5					
Docks, Wharves and Quays ...	12	12	12	...	- 1
Warehouses ...	3	3	2	...	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applies	15	15	16	...	- 1
Laundries ...	1	...	...	+ 1	...
Total under Factory Act, 1903-5	31	30	31	+ 1	...
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	5	4	8	+ 1	- 3
Total, exclusive of Seamen	279	276	282	+ 3	- 3
Seamen					
On Trading Vessels					
Sailing ...	45	7	26	+ 38	+ 19
Steam ...	54	91	42	- 38	+ 12
On Fishing Vessels					
Sailing ...	4	1	1	+ 3	+ 3
Steam ...	8	3	4	+ 5	+ 4
Total, Seamen	111	103	73	+ 8	+ 38
Total, including Seamen	390	379	355	+ 11	+ 35

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during October was 91, there being 86 cases of lead poisoning and 5 of anthrax. There were also 3 deaths, 2 due to lead poisoning and 1 to anthrax. In addition to the above, 18 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the ten months ended October, 1907, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 523, as compared with 587 in the corresponding period of 1906. The number of deaths during the same period of 1907 was 36, as against 45 in 1906. In addition there were 140 cases of lead poisoning (including 32 deaths) among house painters and plumbers in the first ten months of 1907, as compared with 147 cases (including 29 deaths) in the first ten months of 1906.

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

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Oct., 1907.	Ten Months ended October, 1907.	Month of Oct., 1907.	Ten Months ended October, 1907.
	1907.	1906.	1907.	1906.
	Lead Poisoning.			
Smelting of Metals ...	1	17	29	2
Brass Works ...	3	7	11	1
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	1	4	5	...
Plumbing and Soldering ...	2	12	15	2
Printing ...	2	22	11	1
File Cutting ...	4	10	13	...
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	4	21	16	1
Hollow-ware	...	...	...	...
White Lead Works ...	9	56	90	5
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	1	6	5	...
China and Earthenware ...	21*	85	91	8
Litho-Transfer Works ...	2	8	4	...
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	1	4	4	...
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	1	2	4	...
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	8	16	25	1
Paint and Colour Works ...	3	27	32	...
Coach Making ...	10	61	70	1
Shipbuilding ...	1	18	23	1
Paint used in other Industries ...	8	39	30	1
Other Industries ...	3	39	51	2
Total in Factories and Workshops	86	455	529	2
House Painting and Plumbing ...	18	140	147	2
	Other Forms of Poisoning.			
Mercurial Poisoning				
Barometer and Thermometer Making	...	...	...	...
Printers' Processes ...	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...
Phosphorus Poisoning				
Lucifer Match Works ...	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...
Arsenic Poisoning				
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	...	...	...	...
Other Industries ...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	...	...	...	...
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	...	...	...	...
	Anthrax.			
Wool ...	1	21	19	3
Handling of Horsehair	2	17	7	4
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1	10	17	1
Other Industries ...	1	6	10	2
Total, Anthrax ...	5	54	53	10

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

* Of the 21 persons affected in the china and earthenware industry, 10 were females.
† Including 1 case in which infection was conveyed to an outside person by a hair worker.
‡ The person affected is a dock labourer.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for October.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

	Month ended Oct. 31st.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907, as compared with	
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	20,605,788	21,760,744	24,457,224	+ 2,696,480	+ 3,851,436
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	15,599,775	19,140,370	19,683,106	+ 542,736	+ 4,083,331
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	12,326,954	13,518,437	13,344,465	- 173,972	+ 1,017,511
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	159,494	217,511	177,321	- 40,190	+ 37,827
Total value of Imports	48,672,011	54,637,062	57,662,116	+ 3,025,054	+ 8,980,108

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

	Month ended Oct. 31st.			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in 1907, as compared with	
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	2,089,134	2,381,631	2,389,363	+ 7,732	+ 300,229
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured‡	3,288,063	4,094,781	5,274,009	+ 1,179,228	+ 1,985,946
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured§	23,506,925	26,293,137	30,063,346	+ 3,770,209	+ 6,556,421
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	483,434	464,782	592,802	+ 128,020	+ 109,368
Total value of Exports of British produce.	29,267,556	33,234,331	38,319,520	+ 5,085,189	+ 8,951,984

‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, hides and skins.
§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

The re-exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £6,235,810 in October, 1905; £7,141,882 in October, 1906; and £6,873,392 in October, 1907.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

The goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the five weeks ended November 2nd amounted to £5,939,848, an increase of £267,339 (or 4.5 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

During the 44 weeks ended November 2nd, 1907, the amount was £47,642,236, an increase of £1,703,332 (or 3.6 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

	5 weeks ended November 2nd, 1907.		44 weeks ended November 2nd, 1907.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906.
English Lines:				
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.	2,224,831	+ 113,839	17,974,884	+ 902,913
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury Lines, and Yorks. and N. Eastern	637,603	+ 16,920	5,991,717	+ 178,927
L. & S.W. and Gt. Western L. B. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	886,100	+ 60,600	6,977,400	+ 271,700
Scottish Lines:—Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	207,691	+ 3,910	1,676,776	- 14,452
Irish Lines: —Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	174,073	+ 6,487	1,293,231	+ 44,145
Total ...	5,939,848	+ 267,339	47,642,236	+ 1,970,671

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in October, 1907, in the 35 selected urban districts named below, corresponded to a rate of 211 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with September, 1907, the total number of paupers relieved increased by 4,356 (1.2 per cent.), and the rate per 10,000 by 2. The number of indoor paupers showed an increase of 5,105 (3.2 per cent.), and the outdoor paupers a decrease of 749 (0.4 per cent.). In 19 districts there were increases, in 13 there were decreases, while in the remaining 3 there was no change.

Compared with October, 1906, the rate per 10,000 shows a decrease of 4. The number of indoor paupers increased by 2,022 (1.2 per cent.), while the number of outdoor paupers decreased by 3,887 (1.8 per cent.). Decreases occurred in 24 districts, and increases in 11. The most marked decreases were shown in Leicester (47 per 10,000), North Staffordshire (21 per 10,000), and Leeds (17 per 10,000); and the most marked increases in the Galway district (25 per 10,000), and in the Cork, Waterford, and Limerick district (13 per 10,000).

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Oct., 1907.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	11,626	3,629	15,255	181	+ 8	- 5
North District ...	16,030	10,149	26,179	242	+ 9	+ 9
Central District ...	6,968	2,548	9,516	504	+ 15	- 11
East District ...	15,342	7,250	22,592	313	+ 6	+ 9
South District ...	25,989	18,666	44,655	387	+ 7	+ 5
Total, Metropolis ...	75,955	42,242	118,197	280	+ 7	+ 3
West Ham ...	4,944	11,787	15,831	223	+ 6	- 8
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	2,392	5,593	7,985	179	+ 1	+ 9
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,260	4,112	5,372	244	- 1	- 7
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,034	5,717	9,751	126	- 1	- 3
Wigan District ...	2,140	6,100	8,240	204	+ 1	- 5
Manchester District ...	9,638	8,043	17,681	184	- 1	- 6
Liverpool District ...	11,886	10,640	22,526	215	+ 3	+ 3
Bradford District ...	1,830	2,569	4,399	119	+ 1	- 14
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,175	3,995	5,170	141	- 2	- 4
Leeds District ...	2,729	5,151	7,880	161	- 1	- 17
Barnsley District ...	733	2,889	3,622	145	- 1	- 9
Sheffield District ...	3,038	3,441	6,479	144	- 1	- 5
Hull District ...	1,508	5,236	6,744	210	- 1	- 8
North Staffordshire ...	2,209	7,334	9,543	280	- 10	- 21
Nottingham District ...	2,076	5,907	7,983	190	- 3	- 10
Leicester District ...						

LABOUR BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

RETURNS were received relating to the work of 51 Labour Bureaux during October; of these Bureaux 29 were in London (including West Ham) and 22 in the provinces.

The total number of applications for work during the month was 16,090, of which 13,233 were in London, and 2,857 in the provinces. The number of situations offered by employers was 3,489, and the number of situations filled through the Bureaux was 3,098, or 19 per cent. of the applications received, and 89 per cent. of the situations offered.

follows: building trades (artisans and labourers) 114; wood-working trades, 56; metal and engineering trades, 49; other skilled trades, 40; "transport and general," 322; other trades, men and boys, 372; women and girls, 442. The figures for the non-affiliated Bureaux are as follows: building trades, 66; metal and engineering trades, 110; carters and stablemen, clerks and warehousemen, porters and messengers, 495; general labourers, 62; bill distributors, 255; employees of local authorities, 86; charwomen and domestic servants, 230; other occupations, 113. In addition, the Salvation Army authorities found work for 286 men.

The number of applicants registered at the 39 Bureaux for which figures for 1907 and 1906 can be given was 13,621 in October, 1907, as compared with 16,627 in October, 1906. Employers offered 2,896 situations during October, 1907, of which 2,652 were filled. In October, 1906, 3,056 situations were offered, and 2,637 filled. The number of workpeople on the Registers at the end of October, 1907, was 17,154, as compared with 20,117 in October, 1906.

TABLE SHOWING WORK DONE BY EACH BUREAU DURING OCTOBER, 1907.*

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

* The figures for the Central Employment Exchange and the 26 affiliated London Bureaux relate to the four weeks ended October 25th; the other figures relate to the calendar month.

† For Bureaux exclusively concerned with women, see next page.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN OCTOBER.

DURING October 1,021 fresh applications (551 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 8 Bureaux furnishing returns, and 969 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 278 persons, of whom 145 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 278 situations found for applicants, 203 were of a more or less permanent character, while 75 were temporary only.

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

Table with columns: Applications by Workpeople during (Oct. 1907, Oct. 1906), Situations offered by Employers during (Oct. 1907, Oct. 1906), Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers (Permanently, Temporarily) (Oct. 1907, Oct. 1906). Includes Summary by Bureaux and Summary by Occupations.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED DURING OCTOBER.

(Based on information supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.)

(1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in October was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 8; under the Friendly Societies Act, 51 (including 34 Branches); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 65.

Among the new Societies registered in October were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England.—3, viz., Association of Correctors of the Press, 33, Chancery Lane, W.C.; Actors Union, 49, Bedford Street, Strand, W.C.; Corn Porters Branch, No. 17, Labour Protection League, Three Compasses, Salisbury Street, Bermondsey, S.E. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—Nil.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England.—7, viz., Co-operative Agricultural Society: (1) Dovey Agricultural Soc., Ltd., Town Hall, Machynlleth. Working Men's Clubs: (3) Walker Social Club, Ltd., Westbourne Avenue, Walker; Durham County Alliance Working Men's Club and Inst., Ltd., 33, Claypath, Durham; Tinsley and Dist. Working Men's Club and Inst. Ltd., 53, Town Street, Tinsley, Sheffield. Miscellaneous: (3). Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—(1) Co-operative Agricultural Society: Belville Deel Bridge Co-operative Dairy Soc., Ltd., Belville, Co. Limerick.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—15, viz., Wirral Working Men's Conservative League Tontine Soc., Liscard; Mintern Street Wesleyan Sick and Provident Club, Hoxton, N.; St. John Sick Benefit Soc., Clerkenwell, E.C.; Loyal Wentworth Blackett Beaumont Friendly Soc. of Druids, Haydon Bridge; Chicheley Friendly Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Tramway Ion Sick and Dividend Friendly Soc., Highgate, N.; Mayland Credit Soc., Mayland; Colchester Mutual Loan Soc. No. 20, Colchester; Windmill f2 10s. Loan Soc., Nottingham; St. John's Permanent Money Soc., Birmingham; Benwell Working Men's Club and Inst., Newcastle-on-Tyne; Cannock Road, Hednesford, Working Men's Club and Inst., Hednesford; West Tarring Working Men's Club and Inst., Worthing; Whitwood Mere Working Men's Club and Inst., Castleford; Castleford and Whitwood Mere Volunteer Working Men's Miniature Rifle Club, Castleford. Scotland.—Nil. Ireland.—2, viz., Drumcondra House and Labour Tontine Soc., Drumcondra, Co. Dublin; Kilchrist Credit Soc., Kilchrist, Co. Galway.

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

Table with columns: Notices Received in Oct. of (Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up, Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up), Registry Canceled.

TRADE UNIONISM IN GERMANY IN 1906.

TRADE UNION organisations in Germany are, as a rule, affiliated to one of three groups, the Social Democratic Unions (Gewerkschaften), the Hirsch-Duncker Unions (Gewerksvereine), or the Christian Unions. In 1906 the aggregate mean membership of the Unions of the first group was 1,702,854, including 13,145 members in Social Democratic Unions not affiliated to the central body. The aggregate membership of the Hirsch-Duncker Unions was 118,508; that of Christian Unions 320,248, including 73,132 belonging to Unions not affiliated to the Central Federation; while all the other Unions had a total membership of 73,544. In 1906, therefore, the aggregate membership of German Trade Unions was nearly two and a quarter millions. This represents an increase of 22 per cent. as compared with the year 1905, or, in the case of the Federated Social Democratic Unions, an increase of 26 per cent. The total income of the Unions in 1906 was approximately £2,330,000, while their funds amounted to £1,577,000.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING OCTOBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Abstracts of Shipping Casualties which occurred on or near the Coasts, or in Rivers and Harbours of the United Kingdom, from July 1st, 1905, to June 30th, 1906. Board of Trade. [Cd. 3686; pp. xxx. + 156; price 4s. 6d.]

Tables showing the Progress of Merchant Shipping in the United Kingdom and the Principal Maritime Countries, 1906. Board of Trade. [H.C. 348; pp. 88; price 9d.]

Returns of the Capital, Traffic, Receipts, and Working Expenditure of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1906. Board of Trade. [Cd. 3705; pp. lii. + 98; price 1s. 3d.]

Railway Accidents. Return of Accidents on Electrically Equipped Railways in 1904, 1905, 1906 and the first eight months of 1907. House of Lords Return. [H.L. 213; pp. 2; price 1d.]

Mines and Quarries. General Report and Statistics for 1906. Part II.—Labour. Persons employed and accidents at mines and quarries in the United Kingdom. Enforcement of the Mines and Quarries Acts. [Cd. 3770; pp. 49-116; price 8d.] Part III.—Output. Output and value of the minerals raised in the United Kingdom, the amount and value of the metals produced, and the exports and imports of minerals. Home Office. [Cd. 3774; pp. 117-258; price 1s. 5d.]

Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies. Report for the year ending 31st December, 1906. Part A. Societies registered and dissolved; proceedings under Acts; abstract of schemes under the Workmen's Compensation Acts; friendly societies in the Colonies and Switzerland, &c. [H.C. 49; pp. 107; price 1s. 7d.]

Building Societies. Twelfth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Acts, with an abstract of the annual accounts and statements of Societies for 1906. Part I. Report. [H.C. 50; pp. 22; price 2d.]

Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1905-6. Supplement containing the Report of the Medical Officer. Contains memorandum by Dr. H. F. Parsons on epidemics of small-pox among colonies of navvies. [Cd. 3656; pp. xl. + 5fo; price 5s. 1d.]

Fiftieth Report of the Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools of Great Britain. Part II. General Report and Appendixes III. to XI. Present occupations of former inmates, number emigrated, &c. [Cd. 3759; pp. 194; price 10d.]

Trustee Savings Banks, 1906. Return. Number of depositors, amount of deposits, &c. Treasury. [H.C. 270; pp. 90; price 10d.] Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1906. Strength of the force, length of service, &c. Home Office. [Cd. 3771; pp. 80; price 8d.]

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department), September, 1907.

Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Ireland, for the year ended March 31st, 1907. Provisional Orders under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts; loans sanctioned under the Housing, Labourers, and other Acts; operations under the Unemployed Workmen Act, &c. [Cd. 3682: pp. (16) + xlvi. + 738: price 4s. 9d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1907. Abstracts showing the Acreage under Crops, and the Numbers of Live Stock in each County and Province, 1906-1907. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 3769: pp. 24: price 1½d.]

Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1906-07. Return of prices of crops, live stock and other Irish agricultural products. Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland. [Cd. 3775: pp. 95, with diagrams: price 1s. 2d.]

Congested Districts Board for Ireland. Sixteenth Report, for the year ending March 31st, 1907. [Cd. 3767: pp. 156: price 8d.]

Government Institutions (Ireland). A Return of the Government Institutions, Military, Police, Prisons, &c., in Ireland, giving particulars of the Supplies annually procured; whether or not the Contracts for the same are advertised in Ireland and are open to General Competition, and the addresses of the Officials who control these Contracts, [H.C. 280: pp. 14: price 2d.]

Seventy-fifth Report of the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, 1906-07. Contains statistics of loans for dwellings under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts. [Cd. 3693: pp. 128: price 1s.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Colonial Office Reports—Annual. No. 537. *British Central Africa Protectorate* Report for 1906-7. Progress of cotton cultivation, &c. [Cd. 3729-i.: pp. 70: price 3½d.]

No. 540. *Straits Settlements.* Report for 1906. Agricultural industry, savings banks, immigration, &c. [Cd. 3729-4: pp. 34: price 2½d.]

No. 543. *Bahamas.* Report for 1906. Agriculture, cotton cultivation, &c. [Cd. 3729-7: pp. 46: price 2½d.]

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

Canada. *The Labour Gazette,* September, 1907. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during August; Canadian legislation with regard to mechanics and wage earners' liens, &c.

Report of the Royal Commission on a Dispute respecting Hours of Employment between the Bell Telephone Company of Canada, Ltd., and Operators at Toronto. [Ottawa: Government Printing Bureau: pp. x. + 102.]

Reports of the Special Committee of the House of Commons on Bill respecting Industrial and Provident Societies. [Ottawa: E. S. Dawson, King's Printer: pp. xiii. + 204.]

Victoria. *Twenty-ninth Annual Report on Friendly Societies,* 1906. Valuations, numerical and financial summaries. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Acting Government Printer: pp. 55: price 2s. 3d.]

New South Wales. *The Industrial Arbitration Reports and Records.* Vol. VI. Part I, 1907. Reports of 14 cases. [Sydney: W. A. Gullick, Government Printer.]

Western Australia. *Statistical Register for 1906.* Part I. Population and Vital Statistics. [Perth: F. W. Simpson, Government Printer: pp. 73.]

New Zealand. *Journal of the Department of Labour,* September, 15th, 1907. Disputes and awards under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act, &c.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

State of New York. *Department of Labour Bulletin.* No. 34, September, 1907. Statistics of disputes in the second quarter of 1907; arbitration between newspaper publishers and compositors of New York City; Trade Unions in Europe and America, &c.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts. *Labour Bulletin,* September, 1907. Standard length of print cloth cuts: agreement made on August 27th, 1907, between the Cotton Manufacturers' Association and the Weavers' Progressive Association of Fall River. Massachusetts Trade Union Directory for 1907.

Recent British Legislation affecting Working Men. Forming Part II. of the Annual Report for 1907 of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labour. [Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Co., State Printers: pp. 200.]

Statistics of Women at Work. Based on unpublished information derived from the schedules of the Twelfth Census, 1900. Department of Commerce and Labour, Bureau of the Census. 1907. Washington: Government Printing Office: pp. 399.]

Quarterly Publications of the American Statistical Association. June, 1907. Contains—Physical Welfare of School Children; an examination of the home conditions of 1,400 New York school children found by school physicians to have physical defects.

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, September, 1907. Statistics of distributive co-operative societies in France on Jan. 1st, 1907. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: price 2d.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, October, 1907. Statistics of unemployment in German Trade Unions in third quarter of 1907. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: price 1d.]

Statistics of Sickness Insurance in Germany in 1905. Imperial Statistical Office. [Berlin, 1907: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht: pp. xxxix. + 81: price 2s. 6d.]

Factory and Mine Inspection in Germany. Reports for 1906. 4 Vols. [Berlin: R. v. Deckers Verlag.]

Austria.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, September, 1907. Austrian factory inspection in 1906. [Vienna: Hölder, K. K. Hof- und Universitäts-Buchhändler: price 2d.]

Commission on the Causes and Remedies of Lead Poisoning. Part 6. Evidence relating to colour works and painting and varnishing trades. Austrian Labour Department, 1907. [Vienna: A. Hölder: pp. xi. + 55.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department. September, 1907. State of employment and labour disputes in August. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Journal of the Italian Department of Credit and Thrift, July, 1907. Texts of new laws passed in July on labour of women and children, weekly rest, and accidents in sulphur works in Sicily. [Rome: Tipografica Nazionale di G. Bertero e C.: price 1s. 2d.]

Co-operation and Public Works in Italy. Ministry of Public Works, 1907. [Rome: Co-operativa Tipografica Manuzis, Via di Porta Salaria, 23-A: pp. 56.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, September 30th and October 15th, 1907. State of employment in September and labour disputes in August. [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt.]

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