

THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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LABOUR DEPARTMENT,
BOARD OF TRADE,
43, PARLIAMENT STREET, S.W.,
15th November 1893.

OWING to the pressure on our space, the present number of the LABOUR GAZETTE appears in a somewhat enlarged form, containing 28 pages instead of 24 as hitherto.

Public attention continues to be chiefly absorbed by the great dispute in the Coal Trade, which still remains unsettled, although the information given in the next column shows that at the time of going to press, arrangements have been made for the immediate resumption of negotiations. On page 154 the course of the dispute and of the attempts at settlement are traced from October 12th to November 14th, and some particulars are given with reference to the effect of the stoppage on other trades.

A table is also given showing the general changes of wages which have taken place in the principal mining districts between 1886 and 1893, *i.e.*, since the last census of miners' wages was taken up to the present time.

In view of the existing and apprehended scarcity of employment in parts of London, arrangements are being made to obtain full information from time to time on the state of employment in various London districts, during the winter months, and it is intended that in future numbers of the GAZETTE the Report on this subject shall appear in a somewhat extended form. Some beginning is made in this respect in the present number, and, in particular, an estimate of the volume and weekly fluctuations of dock employment is given, covering all the docks in the London district.

On page 162 is given a summary of the Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed, which has recently been issued by the Labour Department. The full Report can be obtained (price 1s. 11d.) through any bookseller.

A diagram on page 161 shows the monthly fluctuations of employment among members of the trade societies making returns to the Board of Trade from 1887 to 1893.

In many counties, especially in the North, where the system of long period engagements of agricultural labourers prevail, the autumn hirings take place in October or November. A short account of some of the hiring fairs which have already taken place is given on page 158, and arrangements have been made for a fuller report on the November hirings to appear in the next number of the GAZETTE.

THE COAL CRISIS.

(For the History of the Dispute see p. 154)

On Monday evening, November 13th, the following letter was addressed to the Secretaries of the Coal-owners' and the Miners' Federations:—

"10, DOWNING-STREET,
13th November, 1893.

"Sir,—The attention of Her Majesty's Government has been seriously called to the widespread and

disastrous effects produced by the long continuance of the unfortunate dispute in the Coal Trade, which has now entered on its sixteenth week. It is clear from information which has reached the Board of Trade that much misery and suffering are caused not only to the families of the men directly involved, but also to many thousands of others, not engaged in mining, whose employment has been adversely affected by the stoppage. The further prolongation of the dispute cannot fail to aggravate this suffering, especially in view of the approach of winter, when the greatly increased price of fuel is likely to cause distress amongst the poorer classes throughout the country.

"Moreover, the Government have little doubt that the effect of the stoppage on industry is rapidly extending and increasing, and that unless an early settlement is effected, lasting, if not permanent, injury may be done to the trade of the country. The Government have not up to the present considered that they could advantageously intervene in a dispute, the settlement of which would far more usefully be brought about by the action of those concerned in it than by the good offices of others. But having regard to the serious state of affairs referred to above, to the national importance of a speedy termination of the dispute, and to the fact that the Conference which took place on the 3rd and 4th November did not result in a settlement, Her Majesty's Government have felt it their duty to make an effort to bring about a resumption of negotiations between the employers and employed under conditions which they hope may lead to a satisfactory result.

"It appears to them that advantage might accrue from a further discussion between the parties of the present position of matters, under the chairmanship of a member of the Government who, it is hoped, will not be unacceptable to either side.

"Lord Rosebery has consented, at the request of his colleagues, to undertake the important duty which such a position involves.

"I have therefore to invite the [Miners' or Coal-owners' Federation to send representatives to a Conference to be held forthwith under his chairmanship. In discharging this duty it is not proposed that Lord Rosebery should assume the position of an arbitrator or umpire, or himself vote in the proceedings, but that he should confine his action to offering his good offices in order to assist the parties in arriving between themselves at a friendly settlement of the question in dispute.

"I am, your faithful servant,
"W. E. GLADSTONE."

The following replies were received from the two Federations on November 14th:—

From FEDERATED COALOWNERS.

"Sir,—I have submitted the letter which I have had the honour to receive from you to the Coalowners' Emergency Committee, and I am instructed to reply that the Committee accept on behalf of the Coalowners the invitation of Her Majesty's Government to a Joint Conference, such as is suggested in your letter.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"T. RATCLIFFE ELLIS."

From MINERS' FEDERATION. [TELEGRAM.]

"Miners' Federation Great Britain.—Conference decided attend joint meeting with Coalowners, on lines of invitation in your letter received by me this morning. Miners' representatives are prepared to meet as early as you can possibly convene meeting.

"ASHTON."

Lord Rosebery has fixed Friday, November 17th, at 11 a.m., at the Foreign Office for the Conference, and has asked each Federation to send 14 delegates.

STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN OCTOBER.

I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

In considering the state of employment for October, it is necessary to make considerable allowance for the disturbed state of many industries, arising from the short supply, and increased cost of fuel. Altogether, the outlook in many trades is hardly so dark as was feared during the earlier stages of the dispute in the Coal Trade, and signs are not wanting that, were it not for the continuance of this dispute, trade as a whole would have shown some slight improvement.

On the whole, and with the exception of the industries most closely affected by the coal dispute, the state of employment during the month may be described as stationary.

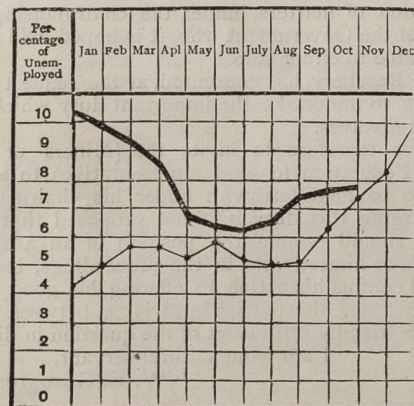
Of the 32 trade societies, with an aggregate membership of 337,017 making returns, 24,771 members, or 7.3 per cent., are reported as being in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of October, no alteration in the percentage for the month having taken place. For the 26 societies, however, which have made complete returns since May, the percentage of unemployed is 7.9, compared with 7.7 for September, and 7.3 for the 22 societies from which returns were received in October 1892.

As in previous numbers, a chart is inserted, which enables the percentages of unemployed shown in the monthly returns to be compared with those for last year.

PERCENTAGES OF UNEMPLOYED IN 1892 AND 1893 COMPARED.

NOTE.—The Chart shows the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1892, and of each month yet completed of 1893. Unions which began to make returns since May 1893 are not included in this chart.

The thick line applies to 1893, the thin line to 1892.



Shipbuilding continues depressed, but the Engineering and Metal Trades show some slight signs of improvement in certain districts.

The Building Trades show a decline, the percentage of unemployed having risen from 2.8 to 3.6, but for the time of year these trades are still well employed.

The Furnishing Trades, on the other hand, are depressed, the percentage of unemployed being 6.1.

In the Printing and Bookbinding Trades some small improvement is noticeable, though in no case is trade described as "good." The percentage of unemployed has fallen from 6.6 to 5.2, which for the season is still a somewhat high figure.

The Clothing Trades are still reported as quiet, though some improvement is apparent in the bespoke department. The Boot and Shoe Trade continues very depressed, with many men idle, and a greater number only partially employed.

The Textile Trades continue brisk, cotton spinners and weavers being fully employed; while in woollens the state of employment is reported to be better than for some time past. The Silk Trade has also improved during the month.

In districts other than those still affected by the coal dispute the Mining Industry is very brisk, there being considerable difficulty in many cases in keeping pace with the demand.

In most of the principal ports, including London, Liverpool, Hull, and Cardiff, the supply of seamen has been in excess of the demand, while in a few ports, e.g., Newcastle, North Shields, Middlesbrough and Dublin, the demand has been fair or good. The rates of wages for seamen show no important change.

In most districts the state of employment for dock and river-side labour is reported to have been fairly good during the month, while at Cardiff and the Tyne ports it is described as brisk.

Of the 32 societies making returns, seven describe trade as "good," one as "moderate," and 24 as "bad," no change in this respect having taken place during the month. From the monthly reports published by many societies and from materials specially furnished, the following additional particulars of the state of employment in the industries named are collected:—

Description of Trade by Branches of Societies making Returns.	October.		Per-centage of Members for Oct.	Per-centage of Members for Sept.
	Branches	Members		
Engineering and Shipbuilding—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	90	5,395	4	5
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	264	25,567	19	22
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	751	105,743	77	73
Total ...	1,105	136,705	100	100
Building Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	404	22,954	31	34
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	410	23,421	34	47
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	370	28,067	38	19
Total ...	1,184	74,442	100	100
Printing and Bookbinding Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	75	4,946	15	19
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	40	9,600	20	20
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	29	18,593	56	61
Total ...	144	33,139	100	100
Boot and Shoe Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	5	2,621	14	25
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	4	2,076	12	4
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	16	13,484	74	71
Total ...	25	18,181	100	100
Furnishing Trades—				
"Fair" to "very good" ...	15	2,710	23	7
"Moderate" or "quiet" ...	48	2,200	19	7
"Dull" to "very bad" ...	71	6,651	58	86
Total ...	134	11,561	100	100

The great dispute in the Coal Trade still continues unsettled, though its area has somewhat narrowed during the month. A full account is given of the dispute on another page.

Comparatively few fresh disputes have arisen during the month, and, with the exception of one in the Clyde Shipbuilding Trade on the question of overtime, those that have occurred were usually of short duration, and the numbers affected small. The actual number recorded is 42, compared with 54 in September and 59 in August. Of these 13 occurred in the Textile Trades, 9 in connection with Mining and Quarrying, 6 in the Shipbuilding Trades, a like number in the Building Trades, 3 each in the Metal and Clothing Trades, and the remaining 2 in connection with dock labour. Particulars obtained concerning 32 of these disputes show the number of persons affected to have been 9,511, of whom 7,808 were engaged in 17 disputes arising in connection with mining, shipbuilding and dock labour.

During the month, the principal changes in wages reported have been among coal miners. In Durham, a temporary increase of 5 per cent. has taken place, dating from the middle of October, and in Northumberland a like increase takes place from November 6th. The total number participating in the rise in the two counties is not less than 100,000. The house-coal miners in the Forest of Dean, numbering about 4,000, reverted to their old rate of wages on October 2nd, and obtained an extra 15 per cent. under the sliding scale a week later; while about 500 steam-coal miners in the same district received an advance of 15 per cent. from October 23rd. In Mid and East Lothian, the wages of 1,700 miners have advanced 10 per cent. from November 1st. The decreases in wages during the month are comparatively unimportant.

The number of bankruptcies gazetted during October was 442, as compared with 358 in October 1892. British emigrants from the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, last month, numbered 14,904, a decrease of 2,055 when compared with October last year.

The pauperism returns for the selected districts of the United Kingdom again show an increase in the number relieved as compared with those for the previous month, the number on one day in the second week of October being 317,057, or 217 per 10,000 of population, as compared with 310,559, or 212 per 10,000 in September. For the corresponding day in October 1892, the number relieved was 287,758, or 196 per 10,000 of population, showing an increase in October 1893 of 29,299, or 20 per 10,000. The effect of the coal dispute on pauperism can be clearly traced in the returns from the various districts. (See also p. 155.)

II.—LONDON.

(1) STATISTICS OF TRADE SOCIETIES.

Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Some slight indications of a revival are observable in these trades, 74 branches of 7 unions, with 12,951 members, returning 1,036 (or 8 per cent.) on unemployed benefit compared with 8.3 last month, and 9 per cent. for July and August. Of these branches 4, containing 356 members, report trade as "good," 11, containing 11,580 members, as "moderate," and 59, containing 11,015 members, as "bad."

Building Trades.—Nearly all branches of these trades continue well employed for the time of year, the only falling off to any appreciable extent being among the painters and decorators. In 125 branches of 4 societies connected with the Building Trades group, containing 8,467 members, 303 (or 3.6 per cent.) are returned as unemployed, compared with 2.3 per cent. last month. In 8 societies, 71 branches, with 5,104 members, describe trade as "good," 60 with 4,456 members, as "moderate," and 61 with 4,923 members, as "bad."

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Though some improvement has taken place in these trades during the month, their condition is still very depressed, and two of the largest societies have been compelled to extend their out-of-work benefit in consequence of the large number of members who have received all that they are entitled to for the current year under the rules. Returns from eight societies, with an aggregate membership of 14,856, show 854 (or 6.0 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 6.6 per cent. for September.

Furnishing Trades.—No improvement has taken place in the condition of these trades. Three societies with an aggregate membership of 2,260, in 18 branches, return 195 members (or 8.6 per cent.) as unemployed, while in every case trade is described as "bad."

(2) EMPLOYMENT IN VARIOUS LONDON DISTRICTS.

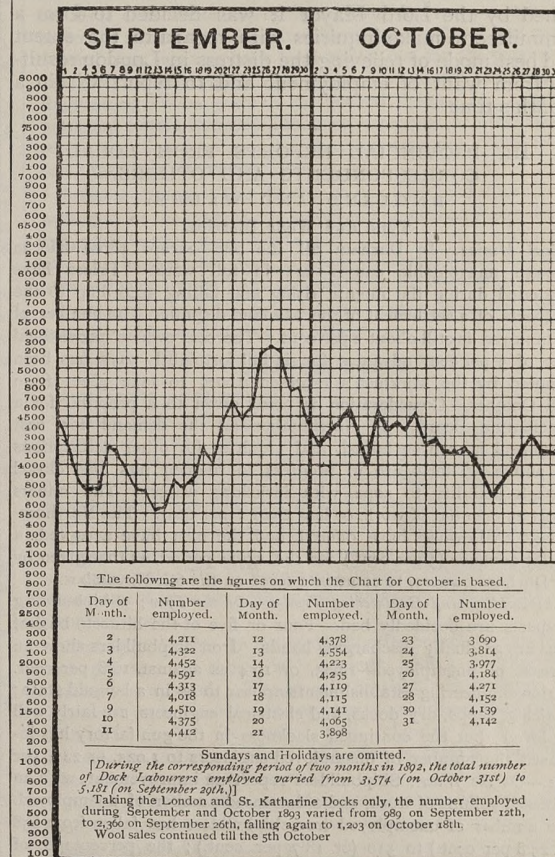
The state of employment for October has varied considerably in different districts of London, according to the character of the trades carried on, though in no case can it be described as brisk. In several districts of East London work is reported to be very scarce. In Bethnal Green the slackness of the Boot and Shoe and Cabinet Trades causes distress, and in Poplar and other riverside districts there has been want of work for some time past, especially among the more casually employed dock and waterside labourers. In the

northern districts (e.g., St. Pancras), the effect of the coal dispute on the employment of coal porters is acutely felt. In the Holborn district the Tailoring and Printing Trades are reported as exceptionally slack, and there is distress especially among the more unskilled labourers. In parts of South London the demand for labour has been quickened by the extensive building operations.

(3) DOCK EMPLOYMENT.

The following chart gives particulars, compiled on the same basis as in previous numbers of the GAZETTE, of the number of dock labourers employed day by day by the London and India Docks Joint Committee:—

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the month. The corresponding diagram for the previous month is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores and Coal Porters are not included, nor does the Chart extend to the labourers employed at the Millwall and Surrey Docks and at the Wharves.



The department is enabled, through the courtesy of the general manager of the Millwall and Surrey Docks, to make the above statistics of dock employment more complete by adding an estimate of the average number of labourers employed in those docks week by week, either directly or through contractors, based on the weekly amount of wages paid. The results for the whole of the docks in London and neighbourhood are as follows:—

Estimated average number of dock labourers employed directly or through contractors by the London and India Docks Joint Committee (excluding Tilbury), the Millwall, and the Surrey Dock Companies, for each week of October.

1st week in October 1893	...	6,847
2nd "	...	6,775
3rd "	...	6,666
4th "	...	6,504

Average for four weeks	...	6,698
Ditto for four weeks, October 1892	...	6,812

It is evident from the above figures that the volume of dock employment has been slightly less than in October, 1892, and has fallen off somewhat during the month.

(4) PAUPERISM.

The pauperism figures for London show a considerable increase over those for the corresponding period of last year, the total number relieved on a given day rising from 90,423 in October 1892 to 97,779 in October

1893. In West Ham the number has risen from 6,433 to 8,412. In the Metropolis the chief increase has taken place in parts of East, South and North London.

(5) THE RELIEF OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

Several vestries and Boards of Works, including Poplar Mile End, Shoreditch, Bermondsey, Hackney, and others, have opened temporary labour registers in which persons out of work may inscribe their names, and in several districts action is being taken by the local authorities, either independently or in concert with the Boards of Guardians, to provide work for the purpose of relieving the unemployed. The Mansion House Conference which carried out a scheme last winter for the assistance of a certain class of unemployed in a part of East London is considering what steps, if any, should be taken during the present winter.

On October 31st as the result of a conference convened by the Lord Mayor it was decided to form a committee to make inquiries with regard to the extent and best mode of relieving the distress in London resulting from want of employment and to report within a month's time.

III.—PROVINCIAL REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Tyne and Wear District.

Coal Mining.—In Durham all the pits—except those laid in through unavoidable causes—are in full work. Prices have fluctuated during the month, rising and falling according to the prospects of a settlement of the Midland dispute. The number of unemployed is still about 2 per cent. The coal-owners' provisional offer of 5 per cent. advance, for six full fortnightly pays, has been accepted by the workmen's representatives, to take effect from 16th October. Consideration is being given to a proposal for a Conciliation Board. In Northumberland the demand for best steam coal is well sustained, and inquiries for other descriptions are active. Efforts are in progress to re-open pits long closed through inability to cope with inrushing water. The miners report 25 men out of work, or less than 1 per cent. The Northumberland coal owners have offered, and the men have accepted, a similar advance (5 per cent.) for the same period, as that given by the Durham owners, to come into force on the 6th November.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—On the Tyne: Shipbuilding prospects are decidedly bad. Four or five of the hitherto busiest firms are gradually discharging hands. Iron shipbuilders show an increase of unemployed—1,085, or 19.4 as against 16.8 per cent. Marine engineering establishments appear to be in a languid state; repairing shops, dry docks, and electrical engineers, are fairly well employed; but the continued slackness in the gun factory has increased the number of unemployed engineers to 1,025, or 22.4 per cent.—On the Wear: Shipbuilders report an improvement, with an increased volume of work, and a decreased number of unemployed. The number of unemployed iron shipbuilders has fallen from 658 (or 25.8 per cent.) to 510 (or 18.7 per cent.); the percentage of engineers has risen from 10.8 to 13.1. The moulders, shipyard-painters, shipwrights, joiners and labourers report trade as bad, with large numbers out of employment on both rivers. The local iron and steel workers keep well employed, except where operations are interfered with through scarcity of water, owing to the unusually dry season; over 1,000 millmen and others have been thrown out of employment from this cause for several weeks.

Shipping and Waterside Labour.—The demand for coasting vessels to meet the exigencies of the increased coal trade still finds good employment for seagoing men, coal porters and quayside labourers; although it is said that the extra tonnage drafted into the trade prevents freights from being sufficiently remunerative to permit the advances lately sought.

Miscellaneous.—The fine open weather still favours building operations, which show no signs of slackness—the masons, bricklayers, joiners and plasterers being well employed, the latter especially so. Chemical, cement, copper, and lead factories, upon the whole, exhibit little change. Glass and bottle manufacturers in both counties are fairly well employed. Farm work is reported to be far advanced. The dry autumn season has been advantageous for sowing catch crops and drilling wheat. Much land has been ploughed and sown with tares.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Oldham, Bolton and District.

Cotton Trade.—Though the effect of the coal famine has not been so severe as was at one time anticipated, much irregular time has been the rule at many factories, owing to inability to obtain fresh supplies of fuel, or to the high prices demanded. Several mills have

been closed for a week or two, others for a number of days, but all have now resumed work. With these temporary exceptions the trade is fully employed, and is in a fairly prosperous condition. In the manufacturing section, business has been good and the prices satisfactory, the question of early delivery being deemed of more importance even than prices, and where immediate delivery could be guaranteed trade has been brisk. The yarn branch, as a matter of course, has felt the revival, but the increasing prices of cotton have compelled spinners to act with caution.

Iron and Engineering Works.—The large ironworks in the Bolton district, reported last month to be stopped owing to want of coal, have remained closed. The Engineering Trades have been somewhat busier, but are still far from brisk, the number of men seeking employment being still exceptionally heavy.

Miscellaneous.—The building trades are quiet, a dispute at Bolton in which 80 plumbers were affected, having been amicably settled after a stoppage of about a fortnight. Owing to the approach of colder weather the Clothing Trades are rather busier. Other industries are fairly well employed, allowance being made for the stoppage in the Coal Trade.—*J. T. Fielding.*

Burnley, Accrington and District.

Textile Trades.—The cotton weaving industry remains in a fairly healthy condition, although the improvement shown during the past few months has not been maintained during October. Owing to the scarcity of coal, several large works were closed during the greater part of the month, but the difficulty has now been overcome by the importation of large quantities from Scotland and elsewhere, and notwithstanding the enhanced price, manufacturers have been able to hold their own. Few disputes have arisen in the trade, and those have been of a trivial nature. A joint meeting of employers and operatives has been held to consider the question of the prices which should be paid for weaving plain cloth in check looms, with the circular revolving box, but no arrangement has been arrived at.

Coal Mining, Iron and Engineering Trades.—The miners in the Burnley, Harwood and Rishton districts still remain out against the proposed reduction in wages. At two of the large engineering firms work is not so brisk as during the past few months, a number of workmen being unemployed; at other firms in the Iron Trade work is reported as fairly moderate.

Miscellaneous.—The Painting and Decorating Trades are showing a falling-off as the season advances, although as yet few men are out of work. The same may be said of the Tailoring Trade. The Building Trade is still in a fair condition. The dispute in the trade in the Blackburn district continues. At one of the large calico printing works the hours of the labourers have been reduced one hour per week.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

Manchester and District.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The Engineers report trade as bad, although the percentage of unemployed is about the same as last quoted. The steam engine-makers' describe trade as moderate with a slight increase in the number of unemployed, which now reaches 4 per cent. of their membership in this district. The boiler-makers report trade as bad, with a considerable increase in the number of unemployed. The united machine workers also report trade as bad, but the number of unemployed has during the month slightly decreased. The brassfounders and finishers describe trade as moderate, with a small increase in the number of unemployed members. Nearly all these trades and industries refer to the coal dispute as the cause of the number of unemployed being largely increased. In Macclesfield the ironfounders and fitters are reported as being very brisk, the past month having been the busiest of the whole year.

Building Trades.—These trades throughout the district are reported as moderate, the carpenters and joiners showing a small increase in the number of unemployed. In the Macclesfield district these trades are not in a promising condition, but the painters have given six months' notice for an advance of wages to the extent of one penny per hour.

Miscellaneous.—There is a slight falling off in the Silk Trade, some of the mills being very slack in and about Macclesfield. Cotton operatives are working full time, and the textile workers as a whole in Manchester are fairly well employed. Shirt makers are busy, and fustian cutters slack. Dress dyers and finishers describe trade as moderate, but the number of unemployed has been reduced considerably during the month. The Printing and kindred Trades, including letterpress, lithography, and bookbinding, are described as bad, the number of unemployed in each case varying but very little from that of last month. The Coach-building Trade is reported as very quiet, and about the same as last month. Those employed at the railway works have begun to work short time.—*G. D. Kelley.*

Liverpool and District.

Shipping Industries.—There has been little, if any, improvement in the condition of dock labourers during October. There have been several disputes during the month, all of which, except one, have been settled. A slight decrease in the employment of seamen and firemen is noticeable through the withdrawal of two large passenger steamers. Rates of wages remain the same.

Canal Boatmen and Railway Servants.—There is a very great depression in the river and inland water carrying trade, especially among those employed on canals, owing to the stoppage of works in the salt district through the scarcity of fuel. In the port of Liverpool some few of the hands, displaced by the laying up of river barges, have been temporarily employed in discharging vessels laden with sea-borne coal. The railway servants displaced by the dislocation of the coal traffic have not, generally speaking, been permanently unemployed, but have been drafted to the various goods depots and carrying departments, the permanent staff being placed on half-time in order to share out the work. A considerable number of local passenger trains have also been suspended, diminishing the employment of drivers, stokers and guards. Many of the men in the mineral traffic department have been placed on half-time. A slight improvement has shown itself at the end of the month owing to the importation of coal by rail from other counties.

Chemical Industries.—The number of men unemployed has increased in Widnes and St. Helens partly owing to the scarcity of the salt supply from the salt districts, and great distress prevails.

Coal Mining.—No coal pits are reported as having re-started, except one in St. Helens, opened again at the old rates. The report from North Wales, however, shows a decided improvement, a great many pits in Flint and Mold, and one in Wrexham, having re-started at the old rates, pending a settlement.

Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.—Fully 12 per cent. of the engineers are on the out-of-work books. The boiler-makers and riveters show no change, and brass-finishers, slotters and metal planers in some firms are on three-quarter time. Ship-painting is very slack.

Building Trades.—No change is reported in these trades; the carpenters and joiners are fairly well employed, with the same rate of wages prevailing. In St. Helens the bricklayers have given six months' notice for an advance, and the carpenters and joiners have also given notice for an advance of 1d. per hour. Painters are reported as quiet.

Miscellaneous.—There is a slight improvement in the Printing Trade owing to the November elections. The Baking Trade remains unchanged. Warehousemen are very quiet, except in the fruit department, which shows a decided improvement. General labourers are in much the same position as in September.—*J. Sexton.*

Barrow-in-Furness District.

Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—The Shipbuilding Trade of this district is in a very bad condition, but few men being employed. Ship carpenters are in a like position, with 60 per cent. unemployed. In the Engineering Trades work is exceedingly scarce, and, as no fresh orders are coming in, the unemployed list is augmented week by week, at least 30 per cent. being out of work. The iron and steel workers have only been employed one week since last report, and it is feared that, unless fuel can be obtained at cheaper rates, a stoppage for an indefinite period will ensue. In the Pig Iron Trade little is doing, and, though less than half the furnaces are in blast, more is being produced than a market can be found for, a similar depression being felt all along the Cumberland coast. A large number of miners are consequently out of employment, one pit being closed till better times come round, while others have had to lay off hands through being flooded. At Workington, owing to the absence of orders and the scarcity and high prices of fuel, the steel workers are only employed on half-time, while other works in the district are closed altogether.

Shipping and Railways.—In shipping there has been but little doing, though a slight improvement has been experienced compared with last month. At Whitehaven, however, since the settlement of the colliers' dispute in that district, employment at the docks has been brisk, owing to the exportation of coal to the various ports along the coast, and to Ireland. Large quantities have also been forwarded by rail to various parts of the Kingdom, and although the railway traffic has thus been increased, the railway servants are still working only four days a week.

Building Trades.—After experiencing a busy season, these trades have suddenly collapsed. The carpenters and joiners have 30 per cent. unemployed, painters and plumbers being also rather quiet; while in some cases men who have been in the same employ for a number of years have been dismissed owing to slackness.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades are very dull, as also is the Tailoring Trade. Bakers and millers are fully employed.

The pulp and paper works are comparatively busy. The railway rolling stock works are closed, owing to absence of orders, while the jute works are unable to start in consequence of the high price of fuel. Since last report, the trade of the district has had a downward tendency, but with a settlement of the coal dispute, considerable improvement might be anticipated.—*J. D. Cowper.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton and District.

Shipbuilding Trade.—The prospects of the trade are not so bright as they were a month or two ago. One large firm has discharged between 200 and 300 men, and it is reported that when the ships now being built are finished the yard will be closed, and that several other yards on the Tees are similarly situated, so that at Stockton, Thornaby, and Middlesbrough the outlook for the future is very gloomy. At Hartlepool trade is better, the yards being fairly busy, but principally on old contracts.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The Iron and Steel Trades continue much the same; the works that are going are fairly well employed, but new orders are scarce and prices are tending downwards. At one large steel works employing between 600 and 700 men, wages, under the sliding scale in force, have been reduced one per cent. Several blast furnaces have been blown out for the purpose of re-lining, which will slightly reduce the demand for ironstone. The Engineering Trades share in the general dullness, for though some firms and certain branches are busy, especially at Hartlepool, the percentage of unemployed for the whole district continues high, being from 9 to 10 per cent.

Ironstone Mining.—The dispute at the Cleveland mines has been arranged for the present, the employers agreeing to give the men's proposals a trial until March 31st, 1894; the men, with a few exceptions, have started work, and any differences which may arise are to be adjusted by the Joint Committee in the usual way.

Building Trades.—These trades are quieter, and the number of unemployed is considerable.—*A. Main.*

Leeds and District.

Iron Trades.—Engineering continues in a very depressed state, and the proportion of members signing the book remains abnormally large. Ironfounding is even worse than last month, and out of 528 members of two branches 85 are reported as being "on donation." Steelworkers are exceptionally dull, and employment has been very irregular during the last couple of months.

Textile Trade.—Generally this trade is reported slack owing to the scarcity of coal, although a few establishments have been pretty well employed. The Willeyers and Fettle's Society report a slight improvement in work, with a less number on out-of-work benefit than last month.

Glass Bottle Trade.—In the medical bottle branch of this industry an improvement is shown on last month, with a considerable less number unemployed. The general Bottle Trade, however, is very depressed, and a considerable number of men have practically done nothing for the last six weeks. This, following on the prolonged strike at the commencement of the year, is causing some distress, especially among the labourers.

Building Trades.—Masons and bricklayers report trade as being good, but some bricklayers are unemployed owing to scarcity of bricks. The Builders' Labourers' Society also report a number of members out of work. Joiners are not so well employed.

Printing Trade.—Although owing to Municipal elections the trade improved at the end of the month, it has not been satisfactory, and 47 out of 650 were receiving out-of-work pay in one week.

Dyeing Trade.—Some establishments in this trade have only worked two days a week, and those whose business is mainly in black stuffs and Bradford goods are doing very little. Scarcity, and also the great expense of coal, is mainly accountable for this.

The Clothing Trades.—In the Ready-made Trade most of the firms are working short time, and men are being discharged every week. Bespoke tailoring has also been unusually slack during the month. The Boot and Shoe Trade has improved, and, all things considered, is fairly satisfactory.

Miscellaneous.—Cabinet-makers and brush-makers continue slack. Tanners, mill sawyers and wood turners only find partial employment.

A Heckmondwike correspondent reports that work is somewhat brisker there, boot and shoe operatives are working full time, and textile workers are rather better employed.—*O. Connellan.*

Bradford, Huddersfield and District.

Textile Trades.—The Woollen Trade in and around Huddersfield is in a better condition than it has been for some time past, for although manufacturers have still to pay high prices for coal, several mills have been working overtime, and one or two all night. This has been especially the case in the Colne Valley. In the

Worsted Coating Trade in Huddersfield, business, though not quite so good as in the Woollen Trade, is quite equal to last month. In and around Bradford little improvement has taken place, while in the Haworth district, which for some years has been moderately well employed, trade has slightly fallen off. At one large firm in the latter district some weavers have been unemployed for ten or twelve weeks. In Halifax, also, the Worsted Trade is very quiet. In the heavy woollen districts, trade in blankets, rugs, carpets, &c., is still quiet. The Silk Trade in and around Brighouse is reported to be considerably better than it has been, three of the largest mills working full time. The Cotton Trade of the district is moderate, fairly regular time, with few exceptions, being worked.

Miscellaneous.—Employment in the Building Trades remains much the same as last month, the fairly open and dry weather having enabled a considerable amount of work to be carried on. In the Engineering and kindred Trades work is only moderate, a large number of men still signing the vacant books. Letterpress printers, owing to the November elections, have been fairly well employed. Mineral train drivers are very busy, but the same cannot be said of other railway workers.—*A. Gee.*

Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).

Coal Mining.—The Yorkshire Miners' Association held one council meeting during October. Applications from different collieries for additional dattallers and other workmen to be allowed to work were refused. It was unanimously decided that all men at work should pay a levy of 1s. per day to support the men locked out; and it was further agreed that all the miners, whether members or not, should have an equal proportion of all moneys collected by levy or by public contribution. About 11,000 men have resumed work in Yorkshire at the old rate of wages, leaving about 73,000 men still locked out. More iron works and chemical works have been closed during the month. The distress is becoming more intense.—*J. Wadsworth.*

Sheffield and District.

Iron and Steel Trade.—These industries are almost paralysed. Work in the Armour Plate Trade is almost confined to one firm. The condition of the iron and steel founders continues bad, and in tyre, axle and spring departments work has in several cases entirely ceased. Very little is being done in the Siemens, Martin and Bessemer departments. In many cases crucible steel makers report the placing of orders by old customers abroad, where they are getting them supplied at prices much lower than those asked in Sheffield. The Wire Trade is still bad. Boiler and ship-plate works and rolling mills are either entirely standing or else running very short time.

Machine and Implement Trades.—The engineers are very depressed, the majority working alternate weeks, and an increasingly large number being entirely out of work. In the File, Edge Tool, Joiners' Tool, Spade and Shovel Trades, only the most pressing orders are executed, and as a rule the workmen are either entirely unemployed or have about two days' work a week. The working grinders complain that they are being charged the full rent of their troughs, although the wheelowners are only running four or five days per week and for shorter hours, and are therefore not consuming so much coal. The table blade forgers are seriously inconvenienced for want of coal. The Scissor Trade is quiet, and several of the forge-workers are being displaced through the manufacture of machine-forged scissors. Razor-makers are slack, and in the Spring Knife Trade only the best goods are in demand.

Building Trades.—There has been a better supply of coal for brickmaking, and the bricklayers are doing better than in September, and, as a whole, the condition of the Building Trades has improved.

Miscellaneous.—The Britannia Silver and Metal Trades have shown a decided improvement; the season has opened well, and there is a largely increased demand for silver goods. In response to the circular from the Local Government Board, a special Committee of the City Council are considering the construction of bathing ponds and the laying out of several recreation grounds.—*S. Utley.*

Hull and District.

Shipbuilding Trades.—The state of the Shipbuilding Industry is even worse than in preceding months, and a reduction of hands is taking place every week. The men in this district have to rely greatly on repair work, which is very slack, as owners of vessels, owing to the badness of trade, avoid doing any repairs not absolutely demanded by their insurances or special needs. The number of engineers, boiler-makers and shipwrights unemployed is estimated to be about 15 to 20 per cent.

Shipping Trades.—There has been a slight improvement during October, and a fair amount of employment for dock labourers. The timber season is drawing to a close, but if the importation of grain during the winter months is good, many of the men may find work

in discharging grain cargoes. The slight improvement shown is due to the importation of coal coastwise; the men who are accustomed to fill vessels with coal now have to discharge it. A great number of dock labourers are still unable to get work.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers, plasterers, masons and slaters are fairly well employed. Carpenters and joiners are not so busy as in September, the number of unemployed having gradually increased, and about 6½ per cent. being now out of work. Painters are suffering acutely from want of employment.

Fishing Trade.—The stronger winds have made the earnings of the men employed in the sailing vessels a little better. The trade on the whole is fairly good, and the colder weather is an advantage to the sale, curing, or storing of fish. The steam vessels, although still feeling the high price of coal, have, however, been able to continue running.

Seed Crushing Trade.—The seed crushing mills will probably be in full operation shortly, owing to the arrival of cargoes of new seed. Some are already arranging to run full time. The mills, when running, consume large quantities of coal, and may, therefore, be affected by the coal dispute, but if not, day and night shifts will probably be the rule during the winter months.—*W. G. Millington.*

Wolverhampton and District.

Engineering and Iron Trades.—Amongst the engineers and constructive machinists work is reported as fair with a few men out of work. Puddlers and mill rollers maintain their improved position. Makers of pig-iron are busy. Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining lime for blast furnaces. Steel workers are busily employed. The bridge and girder constructors, boiler makers, tank and gas-meter erectors report work as good.

Hardware Trades.—The Lock and Iron Safe Trades show no improvement. The galvanizers, japanners and enamellers are steadily employed. Wire fencing, iron hurdle, agricultural implement, and edge tool makers are not so busy. There is a slight improvement in the Brass and Copper Trades, especially in the gas fitting and chandelier departments. The ironplate and tinplate workers have still many men idle, and others only partially employed. The Tube Trade is only fair. The Nut and Bolt Trade remains depressed, and there is no improvement in the Chain Trade. In the Steel Toy Trade work is very scarce, and short time is being worked. At Dudley the strike in the Nail Trade continues, and the anchor smiths and anvil makers are slack. The gun-lock makers at Darlaston are on strike against a reduction of wages.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, carpenters and joiners report trade as fair, with a few men out of work occasionally, and the masons are steadily employed. The plumbers and plasterers are busy, and the painters and decorators fairly so. Owing to the scarcity of coal the builders' labourers have not been able to obtain employment as gas stokers, and there are therefore a few more out of work than usual at this time of year.

Miscellaneous.—The boot and shoe manufacturers make principally for mining centres, and, owing to the coal dispute, have received fewer orders, and are only giving partial employment. The Tailoring Trade is a little better, but short time is general. At Kidderminster the carpet weavers are a little busier. At Walsall the brown saddlers are very badly off. The Printing Trade is still very bad. In the Electrical Trades work is falling off and men are being discharged. Few dry cask coopers are working more than half time. The wheelwrights and smiths report trade as fair, the bakers and confectioners as moderate, the cabinet-makers as slack, and rope and twine spinners as fairly busy.—*W. F. Mee.*

Birmingham and District.

Metal Trades.—Brass-working is steady and the chandelier, gas and electric light fitting departments are fairly busy. Heavy chain making is brisk, but light chain making much depressed. The engineers, tool makers and machinists report trade as bad, with full employment at some places, but a larger number totally unemployed on the whole. Electro-plate and tinplate workers and metal rollers report an improvement, and among iron-plate workers the enamelled plate branch is very busy. Tube and lamp workers are well employed on the whole. The Nut and Bolt Trade has improved slightly, but the Screw Trade is not so busy. Pin and rivet makers, steel pen makers and wire workers are fairly well employed. Machine nail-making is still quiet and hand nail-making is much depressed. Silversmiths are better employed, and galvanizers are still fairly busy. The bedstead-makers report a decline, and cycle-making is almost at a standstill.

Miscellaneous Trades in Birmingham.—Flint glass makers are working short time as before; sheet glass makers are better employed, and all workers engaged on artistic decorative glass have full work. Jewellers are busier, and gun makers have more orders for common sporting guns for export. Leather-workers, button-makers and brush-

makers are fairly busy, and makers of perambulators and children's carts still find good employment. Printers have been busier on account of the Municipal elections. The Boot and Shoe Trade is suffering from the cessation of demand in the disturbed colliery districts. All branches of the Building Trade report work as dull.

Iron Trade in South Staffordshire.—There has been less disturbance in the Iron Trade than might have been expected. Some partial stoppages have been brought about through the increased cost of coal, but iron prices have continued almost stationary or have been advanced but very little, notwithstanding the dearth of fuel. The reason assigned is that many ironmasters have coal contracts running and are being supplied at the old rates. Moreover, some of the largest concerns possess their own collieries, but in some cases find it pays better to sell their coal and curtail their iron production. The demand for worked iron in the form of bars and angle bars, rods, sheets and strips, as used in many local industries, still goes on; but buyers will only order in small quantities. Australian trade continues to increase, and better trade is being done with India and the Colonies. Business with South America, which had shown an improvement, suddenly fell off about the middle of the month. Heavy ironwork, such as bridges, girders, has given regular employment during the month; the trade in vices and anvils has somewhat fallen off.—*W. J. Davis.*

Nottingham and District.

Lace Trade.—The trade continues extremely depressed. The leavers' branch is unusually quiet for the time of year, quite 16 per cent. being unemployed; the percentage receiving out-of-work pay is not so high, but this is due to the number of members who have received all that they are entitled to and are still out of work. The curtain branch is bad, and the men are only partially employed. In the plain net branch the men are only working 5 hours a day. In the warp lace branch 8 per cent. are receiving out-of-work pay. The curtain readers and correctors are getting slack, 20 per cent. receiving out-of-work pay, and many others working short time. The designers and draughtsmen are slack, and female workers are only working short time in the finishing departments. Only two firms are working full time.

Hosiery Trade.—The bulk of the operatives are only partially employed. The hand-frame branch shows a slight improvement. The circular branch continues depressed, although a few firms are busier. Griswold knitters are working full time. The other branches employing female labour are bad.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—Of the engineers 11 per cent. are unemployed; there is, however, a slight improvement in the trade: several firms recently on short time are now working full time. The moulders have 12 per cent. unemployed. The boiler-makers have been fairly busy, but a few are now on short time. Of the tool machinists 14 per cent. are out of work. The stove and grate branch is moderately employed. The brass workers are only on half or three-quarter time. The bobbin and carriage hands are very slack. Fitters on lace-machine building are fully employed; hosiery machinists only moderately.

Building Trades.—Bricklayers are fairly brisk, none being out of work; the plasterers are busy, but painters are very slack, 20 per cent. being unemployed; the labourers are fairly busy, the carpenters and joiners are moderately so, about 5 per cent. being out of work. The prospects for the trade are good.

Miscellaneous.—The cabinet-makers and French polishers are fully employed. The coach-builders are very slack. The wheelwrights and blacksmiths are fairly busy. The bleachers, trimmers, dyers and box-makers are very slack. The Surgical Bandage Trade is brisk. The letterpress printers are very slack, many being out of work, while the lithographic printers are busy, overtime being worked in some cases. The cigar makers, leather dyers and dressers are busy. The bespoke tailors are slack, but the tailoresses are busy. Owing to the partial resumption of work by the miners, railway servants are better employed at Colwich and Netherfield, and a large number of blast-furnace men have resumed work at Bulwell and Bestwood. Unskilled labourers find much difficulty in obtaining work.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

Derby and District.

Coal Mining.—A considerable number of the miners have resumed work where no reduction was demanded. There is a slight improvement in the supply of steam coal in the district, and orders have been placed at slightly reduced rates; supplies for railway locomotive purposes are better; the local gas company's stocks are being considerably reduced, and the price of gas has in some places been raised 3d. per 1,000 feet. Although a great quantity of house coal is being sent from the pits daily it is far from meeting the demand.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—In the Pig Iron Trade there is a slight improvement, and the Finished Iron Trade shows a decidedly

healthier tone. One large roller mill in Derby, closed in August for want of fuel, has been re-opened, although only half-time is worked there. The Midland Railway Company's works still only open four days a week. Engineering and machinery works are very dull, and many more men are unemployed; one firm suspends a number of the men for a week alternately. Iron and brass moulders and finishers are quiet, rivet makers are moderately employed. The Stove-grate Trade dispute is still pending.

Building Trades.—The dispute in the trade still continues, but one or two firms have conceded the advance asked. The carpenters and joiners are not at all brisk, the stone-masons are moderately employed, the painters and decorators are not so busy, the sawyers and wood-workers' machinists are fairly well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Boxmaking is dull, while brushmaking is fairly brisk. The elastic web and surgical bandage makers are only moderately well employed. The Tailoring and Silk Trades are declining, and the Lace Trade is very dull. The letterpress and lithographic printers are moderately busy. Electric lighting is utilising a considerable amount of surplus labour in excavating. There is a great lack of employment among unskilled labourers.—*C. White-Deacon.*

Leicester and Northampton District.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—In Leicester the Boot and Shoe Trade is very depressed, and notwithstanding that at a few factories a slight increase of output is reported, there are a much larger number of operatives absolutely without employment than at this time last year. The autumn season's trade has been a complete failure. In Northampton and Kettering most of the warehouses are only running short time, and there is a large surplus of unemployed labour in all departments of the trade. The manufacturers have issued a notice, in view of the "Indoor Workshops" Regulation coming into force on January 1st 1894, that on and after that date every manufacturer will exercise "his perfect right to readjust, at his discretion, any division of labour which may seem to him desirable, either in connection with machinery or without, and whether by the 'team' system, or day pay, or otherwise in any department of the factory." At Wellingborough and Rushden a slight improvement is reported in the men's department of this industry.

Hosiery, Yarn and Wool Trade.—Most of the hosiery firms report a falling-off, both in the receipt of new orders, and in the output in connection with old contracts. Workpeople up to this point have been steadily employed, but labour is now slightly in excess of the demand. In the plain hosiery branches, manufacturers are beginning to sample for the spring trade. A firmer tone has recently characterised transactions in the local wool market. The consumption of yarns, however, is under the average, and prices remain unremunerative. Spinners are only partially employed, and the output is limited. Wool and yarn dyers also report business as quiet.

Coal Mining.—The Leicestershire colliers resumed work on October 10th at the old rate of wages, since which time they have not been able to produce coal fast enough to keep pace with the demand. In the granite quarries the output continues large, and employment regular. The ironstone works are not kept in full going order, owing to the want of coal.

Engineering and Cycle Trades.—Trade is only moderately good in the engineering branches, and owing to the coal dispute much difficulty is experienced in obtaining iron and steel. Cycle makers are the reverse of busy, but makers of boot and shoe machinery continue to be well engaged in the completion of contracts for delivery early next year.

Miscellaneous.—In the Building Trades there are a number of bricklayers, carpenters, painters and labourers out of work. The workpeople engaged in the production of shoe elastic webs are only working about half time. Makers of elastic cords and braids are rather more fully employed. The Printing Trades have been busier during the month. Business is only moderate in the Wholesale and Retail Clothing Industry. In the agricultural districts the open weather has allowed out-door operations to be continued uninterruptedly, with the result that farm labourers have been fairly well employed.—*T. Smith.*

Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire District.

Building Trades.—The bricklayers, carpenters, joiners, plumbers and painters report trade as moderate, the masons as good, and the plasterers as declining. The Building Trade at Stroud is very good. The lath-renders report trade as good at Bristol, Cardiff and Newport, and as quiet at Bridgwater and Gloucester. The Brick and Tile Industry in Somerset has been largely affected by the coal dispute, goods being stored instead of being burnt ready for the market; men engaged in clay digging have only been working three or four days a week.

Clothing Trades.—The ready-made clothing firms are short of work; the Bespoke Trade has improved slightly. The Trowbridge Woollen Industry is still very depressed. The Cloth Trade at Stroud is good. The Bristol Boot and Shoe Trade is exceptionally bad, but the heavy nail branch at Kingswood is fairly good.

Mining (Somerset).—There is no change in the Bristol and Radstock districts, and the distress is very acute. The Camerton (Somerset) collieries have been working at the old rate of wages, and on October 6th the men received an advance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (*Forest of Dean*).—The miners in this district continue busy. The steam coal men in this district, about 500 in number, were not affected by the general dispute, and did not at first receive the 15 per cent. advance given to the house coal men; on October 20th, however, the advance was conceded to them also.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The shipwrights report no change. The boiler-makers and ironfounders have 25 per cent. unemployed. The Electrical Trades are busy. The engineers report a slight improvement, but other kindred trades report none.

Miscellaneous Trades.—At Gloucester the railway coach-makers are very busy in consequence of a large order which has been received, and the wagon and carriage-makers at Bristol report an improvement. The brush-makers are busier; the cabinet-makers and printers are very slack. Leather dressers, paper-bag and envelope makers are busy. Chocolate-makers and confectioners are fully employed. Sailors and firemen have been able to find work easily, but there is very little employment for dock labourers.—*J. Curle*.

Cardiff and District.

Shipping Industries.—Coal shipping has been fairly good throughout October, and during the early part of the month coal shipment was so unusually brisk at the port of Swansea that a number of men altogether outside the trade had to be called in to assist the regular hands. Ship repairing, especially among iron shipbuilders, was rather better than in September. The seamen and firemen obtained an advance in wages of 10s. a month in Cardiff, and 5s. a month in Newport.

Engineering and Metal Trades.—The Engineering Trade generally has been very dull—a few large firms working half time. The greatest sufferers are undoubtedly the labourers, amongst whom the number unemployed has considerably increased. The Tin and Steel Trades have both been very dull; preparations are, however, being made for re-starting certain works that have been closed for several months.

Building Trade.—The trade, which has for several months been very busy, has shown a decline in October, and there has not been such a demand for men as during previous months.—*T. Davies*.

South Wales Mining Districts.

Coal Trade.—The state of trade in this district during the month has been most satisfactory, and very few disputes have occurred. At a colliery near Pontypridd, the hauliers, from 60 to 70 in number, alleged that they were working twenty minutes daily more time than at other adjoining collieries, in consequence of which they gave forty-eight hours' notice to suspend operations. This action was taken without consulting the works committee, who formerly governed the action of all classes of workmen. Operations were however, carried on uninterruptedly by the colliers, timbermen and labourers agreeing to perform the hauliers' duties, with the result that the latter held a meeting during the day, and decided to resume work.

Tinplate Trade.—No further improvement has taken place in this trade, and some of the largest makers are not sanguine that the improvement which occurred last month will continue.—*W. Evans*.

SCOTLAND.

Edinburgh and District.

Mining.—The Coal Trade continues brisk. In West Lothian there has been no change in hours or wages. The Miners' Union is making considerable progress. The strike at Bathgate still continues. In Mid and East Lothian the decision of the arbiter against the claim of the miners to an advance of wages caused much dissatisfaction. It was resolved to withdraw from the Board of Conciliation and to work only four days per week with the view of enforcing an advance of 10 per cent. In consequence of this resolution one firm locked out 700 men, refusing to employ them unless they agreed to work 11 days per fortnight. A general strike followed on 31st October, 1,800 men coming out. The dispute only lasted one day, the advance of 10 per cent. being conceded. The lock-out mentioned above still continues. About 40 of the engine-keepers have been working on an advance of 3d. per shift during October. The Oil Industry is somewhat improved. One company has re-started some benches of retorts which have been idle all this year. A strike of 50 retort men for an advance of 1s. per week was unsuccessful.

Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.—The Iron Trades show little change, the returns from five branches of engineers and blacksmiths show 10.1 per cent. on the idle roll for the month, and of moulders 26.2 per cent. In the Shipbuilding Trades the boiler-makers return 25.8 per cent. idle, and the shipwrights 45.9 per cent.

Building Trades.—The Building Trades show a considerable falling off during the month. Masons and joiners report trade fair, the other branches are quiet.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—The improvement noted last month in the Letterpress Printing Trade has not been maintained, there being a weekly average of 4 per cent. out of work, as against 2.3 per cent. in September. Lithographic printers have 5.2 per cent. on the idle roll, and bookbinders 5.4 per cent. Typefounders have been working five days per week for the last three weeks, instead of four as previously.

Miscellaneous.—The Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades are quiet; the returns from two branches show 4 per cent. unemployed. The tinsmiths report 3 per cent. idle, and 16 per cent. on short time. The brass-finishers have 3.2 per cent. out of work. The coopers report trade better, there being 7.8 per cent. idle, as against 19.7 per cent. for September. The painters report trade bad, over 30 per cent. being out of work. The tailors, rubber workers, bakers and saddlers report trade quiet, the latter having 3.8 per cent. idle. Shoemakers and carpet weavers report an improvement in trade during the month. Sett-makers are busy. The Shipping Trade is still brisk, and dock labourers are fairly well employed. The excavation of the new docks at Leith has been begun, about 150 men being employed.—*J. Mallinson*.

Glasgow and West of Scotland.

Mining.—In Lanarkshire trade continues to be exceptionally good. The railway companies, in order to meet the demand for coals in England arising from the dispute in the Midlands, are running Sunday trains, which is very unusual. A preliminary meeting is to be held in Glasgow early in November for the purpose of making arrangements for a general conference of English, Welsh and Scottish Miners, to consider the question of adjusting the supply of coal to the demand. In Stirlingshire trade is very brisk, and there have been no disputes involving loss of work to the miners. The large exports from Ayrshire continue, and at all collieries it has been found difficult to keep pace with the demand. This difficulty has been felt to such an extent in the Annbank district that the managers intimated that unless 6 days a week are worked instead of 5 (the number the miners not long ago adopted and have since been working), the pits would be closed. The miners have stood by their policy, and a dispute involving the displacement of 600 of their number has ensued.

Shipbuilding.—In the Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Trades there has been considerable activity during the month, though the new work has been comparatively small. The work in hand and under contract is estimated at 181,000 tons, compared with 166,000 at the corresponding period last year. The dispute between the joiners and the shipwrights somewhat complicates matters, and it is hoped that a joint committee of these two bodies who are now sitting will find a solution of the vexed question as to the demarcation of work.

Iron and Steel Trades.—The steel smelters report that there is no material change, but that new orders are more difficult to get, and as furnaces go out of repair there is no disposition in many cases to relight them, owing to the enhanced price of coal resulting from the English demand. The millmen report but little change during the month, a good deal of idle time having arisen from the same cause. Blacksmiths, iron-moulders, engineers, iron-dressers, hammermen, general machinists, tool makers, pattern makers, tinplate workers, range, stove and ornamental fitters report little change during the month. Iron grinders are fairly well employed. Sewing machine makers have a number of men idle.

Building Trades.—Joiners, slaters, masons, paviors and plumbers report trade as good, their members being well employed. Bricklayers and plasterers are not quite so busy as last month.

Quarrying.—The sett-makers in all districts report trade as exceptionally good, no disputes having arisen. Out-door labourers are also well employed.

Miscellaneous.—Blast furnacemen report that matters are looking more hopeful, a few of the furnaces that were damped down having been put into blast again. Coach-makers, basket-makers, dyers, boot and shoe operatives and power-loom beamers report an improvement. The coopers, cabinet-makers, sawyers, warpers, tailors, printers, bakers and confectioners describe trade as dull.

The printers' warehousemen report that they have no idle members, and that they have reduced their working hours from 54 to 52½ per week, which reduction will also apply to all employed in the book-binding trade—male and female. Stereotypers describe the state of trade as very satisfactory. Dock labourers, seamen and firemen have been very well employed.—*A. J. Hunter*.

Dundee and District.

Jute and Linen Trades.—Slackness still prevails in these trades, and all the largest works continue to run short time—the hours varying from forty to fifty per week, while in addition a large amount of machinery is standing idle. A considerable percentage of the operatives are unemployed, but it is impossible to give absolute statistics owing to the absence of organisation amongst the workers. It is reported that a mill employing from 200 to 300 operatives is to be closed for an indefinite period.

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—It is reported that at least 50 per cent. of the shipwrights and ship carpenters are unemployed, with little or no prospect of improvement. Engineers, moulders, blacksmiths, and iron shipbuilders have all a large number unemployed, averaging from 10 to 15 per cent.

Building Trades.—Masons, joiners, plasterers and plumbers continue well employed, but painters are, as usual at this season, very slack.

Miscellaneous.—The Printing and kindred Trades are fairly busy. Tailors are but indifferently employed at present; but being almost solely a piece-work trade, although the men's earnings may be small, they can hardly be classed as unemployed.

Fife and Kinross Coal Trade.—This trade continues brisk, and it is reported that the output is inadequate to meet the demand. The arbiter has decided adversely to the miners in regard to their demands for an advance of 6d. per day, but communication with the employers on the subject is to be renewed.—*R. D. B. Ritchie*.

Aberdeen and District.

Shipbuilding and Metal Trades.—Shipbuilding continues very depressed, with no apparent prospect of an improvement, one of the principal yards still working short time. The iron shipbuilders have an average of 29.9 per cent. idle members. The shipwrights have had some jobs on old work, but these are now finished, and many of the men are again unemployed. The ironmoulders have an average of 18.2 per cent. idle, the engineers show no improvement, and the tinplate workers are also very slack.

Quarrying.—The Granite Trade on the whole is not very busy, though some firms have a fair amount of orders in hand. The sett-makers are well employed. A dispute that has taken place at one of the quarries between the sett-makers and their employers will, it is hoped, be settled by arbitration.

Building Trades.—An increase has taken place in the number of joiners idle, which, it is anticipated, will only be temporary. Plasterers and other branches of the Building Trades are busy, with the exception of painters.

Fishing.—The fishing at the port has been fair, but the fish, especially haddocks, have been small. The catch for trawl boats has been 28,202 cwt., the catch for line boats 6,428 cwt., the price realised for the former being £20,052, for the latter £3,320, or a total of £23,372.

Miscellaneous.—Letterpress printers are still slack, no improvement having taken place during the month. Rope and twine spinners are not as busy as usual at this season of the year. A dispute has taken place at a jute factory, but the matter was settled within two days. Dock labourers are exceptionally quiet, and there is a large increase in the number of general labourers out of employment.—*W. Johnston*.

IRELAND.

Dublin and District.

Building, Iron and Woodworking Trades.—Work has not been so good during the month in any of these branches. The stonecutters and bricklayers have been fairly employed, but a slackness has now set in. Dullness prevails amongst the carpenters, and this is increased by men from the country districts coming to Dublin to seek employment. Work is very scarce among the members of the two societies of house painters, but the plasterers are pretty busy. The Plumbing Industry is fair. The basket-makers and lath-splitters are still dull, as are also the coopers. Cabinet-making is about the same as last month, but an improvement has set in among the upholsterers. Coach-makers, painters, saddlers, &c., report trade as good, but there are still some members idle. Great depression prevails among the members of the Engineers' Society; work is also very scarce in the Boiler-making and Iron Shipbuilding Trades. The dispute with the boiler-makers referred to last month still continues.

Clothing and Food Industries.—Slackness still continues among the Tailoring and Shoemaking Trades. A meeting has been held by the latter calling for the enforcement of the Merchandise Marks Act. The sugar boilers, confectioners and bakers continue busy. The butchers' and purveyors' assistants are fairly employed, as also are the pork butchers.

Printing and Kindred Trades.—The letterpress printers are still dull, but a change is apparently setting in, and there is every prospect of better times; 274 men signed the "idle book" for the month. The lithographic printers are very slack, and the bookbinders and machine rulers are also very dull. The members of the Stereotypers' Society are fairly employed.

Miscellaneous.—The bottle-makers are busy, and it is expected that all the members will be employed very soon, as a factory which stopped last year will, it is reported, shortly be re-opened. Work has been good among the tram and railway men, but the depression has been severe among the unskilled labourers, and a large accession has been made to the unemployed. Owing to the coal strike, work has not been so good among the coal labourers; and employment is scarce among the seamen and firemen. The agitation continues for the enforcement of the Shop Hours Act, and among the tramway men for shorter hours and better conditions of labour.—*J. P. Nannetti*.

Belfast and District.

Of the 17,794 members of 44 societies sending in reports, 591, or 3.3 per cent. are unemployed. The details are as follows:—

Shipbuilding and Engineering Trades.—Out of 8,346 members in the different societies in these trades, 299, or 3.6 per cent., are unemployed. Reductions of 1s. a week, as arranged and agreed upon in July, have been made in the wages of the engineers, pattern-makers, brass and ironfounders, machine workers and shipwrights. The brassfounders report trade as improving, the ironfounders as declining, the joiners and cabinet-makers as fair, the engineers, machine workers, pattern-makers, shipwrights, blacksmiths' strikers and helpers, enginemen and cranemen and labourers as quiet, the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as slack, and the blacksmiths as bad.

Linen Trades.—Out of 3,134 men, members of unions, 110, or 3.5 per cent. are unemployed, as against 9 per cent. in September. The power-loom tenters and yarn-dressers report trade as very bad, the collar and apron cutters as dull, the flax-dressers as improving, the linen-lappers as quiet, the flax-roughers and hackle and gill-makers as fair, and the beetling enginemen as brisk. A number of the factories and mills are, however, only working three-quarter time.

Building Trades.—Out of 2,526 organised workmen, 84, or 3.3 per cent., are unemployed, an increase due solely to the increased number of unemployed among the painters.

Miscellaneous.—Reports from 15 miscellaneous trades show that of 3,788 members, 98, or 2.6 per cent., are unemployed. The bakers, bookbinders, boot and shoe operatives, tinplate workers and coopers report trade as fair; the butchers and locomotive engine-drivers as good; the carters, furniture-makers, coach-builders, typographical printers, railway servants, tailors and packing-case makers as quiet; and the lithographic printers as bad.—*R. Sheldon*.

Cork and District.

Building Trades.—During the month the employment of masons, plasterers and stonecutters has remained unchanged, but carpenters show a decline, the number of their members out of work being about 12 per cent. This is mainly due to the strike already reported, and the consequent importation of men. Painters are also very dull. Plumbers, gasfitters and tinsmiths report favourably. Limerick reports great dullness in all branches of those trades; while Waterford has a very fair report as to the employment of masons, plasterers, stonecutters, carpenters and kindred trades.

Engineering and Shipping Trades.—The Engineering Trade is very bad in Cork, but a slight improvement in Limerick and Waterford is reported. Shipwrights and shipjoiners report trade as bad, especially in Queenstown and Passage, but boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders have decidedly improved. Enginemen and firemen are also fairly well employed.

Fishing.—The Fishing Industry round the coast of Munster has been exceptionally good, and the greatest take on record is reported from Skibbereen during the past month.

Miscellaneous.—The Flax and Feather Industries are well maintained. Bootmakers, boot riveters, tanners, and leather workers report trade as very satisfactory, also cabinet-makers and general furnishers. Brush and bellows-makers report trade as fair, brewery workmen and carters as steady, quay labourers and coal porters as dull. The pork butchers at Waterford are described as in a flourishing condition.—*P. O'Shea*.

THE DISPUTE IN THE COAL TRADE.

THE reviews of the coal dispute which appeared in the July, August, September, and October numbers of the GAZETTE, traced the history of the dispute up to October 12th. The hopes entertained at the time when the last account was written that the conflict was likely soon to come to an end have, unfortunately, not been realised, and though its area has been slightly narrowed during the month by the resumption of work at certain collieries, the large majority of miners in the Federation districts are still idle.

On the 18th October the representatives of the Coalowners' Federation at Manchester agreed to the following resolutions:—

- (1) The coalowners, though willing to meet the men in endeavouring to find a reasonable method of bringing the present disastrous dispute to a close, regret that the proposal contained in the men's resolution cannot be accepted.*
- (2) That the coalowners again repeat and confirm the resolution passed at Derby—that the men may resume work at 15 per cent. reduction off the advances given.
- (3) The owners are further prepared to agree that this reduction shall not be taken by either side as a final settlement of the dispute, but as a means of removing the present deadlock; and they are quite willing to submit the whole question of the reduction or no reduction to a committee formed by an equal number of coalowners' representatives and workmen's representatives with an independent chairman.
- (4) That the Coalowners' Executive Committee is empowered to meet the men's committee to discuss the above resolutions whenever the latter is invested with power to deal with them.
- (5) That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to Mr. Ashton, secretary of the Miners' Federation, and also to the Press.

Some ambiguity attached to the third resolution quoted above, but this was removed on October 25th, when the coalowners offered to meet the miners' representatives to discuss the whole question without prejudice, and at the same time explained the third resolution passed at Manchester as meaning that the proposed 15 per cent. reduction should be returned to the men if the suggested Board of Conciliation decided in their favour. On October 30th the Executive Committee of the Miners' Federation accepted the invitation to a conference with the employers, and the conference took place at Westminster on November 3rd and 4th. The following were the proposals submitted to the conference by the coalowners and men respectively:—

(1) COALOWNERS:—

There shall be a meeting of an equal number of coalowners' and miners' representatives, with the general secretary of each body as *ex-officio* members, and three other persons appointed to act as conciliators, and at such meeting or such adjourned meetings as may be agreed upon, an endeavour shall be made to arrange terms of settlement. The gentlemen appointed to act as conciliators shall be agreed upon between the coalowners' and the miners' representatives within—days from this date, or, if not so agreed upon, some person in high official position shall be requested to nominate them, and they shall be appointed by the joint committee. The duty of the conciliators in the first instance shall be to consider and inquire into the causes of difference which may arise between the coalowners' representatives and the miners' representatives, and endeavour to bring about a settlement of such differences. If a settlement is not arrived at by arrangement or conciliation within—days from the first meeting of the joint committee and conciliators, any difference which shall remain unsettled shall be decided by a majority of the Conciliation Board, including the conciliators.

Pending the final settlement, work to be immediately resumed on the following terms:—

(a) The 15 per cent. off the advances now in dispute shall not be retained by the employers, or paid to the workmen, but shall be paid by each coalowner who is a party to this arrangement each week into a separate account at the bank to the joint credit of the conciliators, to abide the decision of the Conciliation Board.

(b) When the final settlement of the present dispute has been arrived at, the amount so paid into the bank, with any accretions, shall be distributed to the employers or the workmen in accordance with the terms of settlement.

The coalowners suggest the above as a means of settling the dispute, and as an arrangement whereby work might be resumed pending a settlement, so that each party may be in a position to have the full benefit of any arrangement which may be agreed or decided upon, as if it had been made on the day that work was

resumed; and the coalowners are quite prepared to consider the establishment of such a tribunal for a settlement not only of the present, but also of future difficulties.

(2) MINERS:—

- (1) That the men resume work at the old rate of wages until April 1st 1894.
- (2) That the minimum, or standard rate of wages, be 30 per cent. above the wages rate of January 1st 1888.
- (3) That a Board of Conciliation be formed to deal with wages questions in the future from the above-named date—that is, April 1st 1894.
- (4) That the Board, when formed, shall have power to determine the rate of wages on and from April 1st 1894.

(3) COALOWNERS' ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS:—

- (1) A Board of Conciliation, consisting of ten representatives of owners and ten representatives of miners from different districts of the Federation should be formed forthwith, to meet next Wednesday.
- (2) The Board should proceed first to choose a chairman umpire, to be independent of both sides, failing which at that meeting, such chairman umpire should be appointed by some person of high official position.
- (3) The Board should have powers to deal with the present difficulty, and to decide the rate of wages from the resumption of work, and to deal with the general wages question.
- (4) To settle the present difficulty, each party to be entitled to bring what evidence it pleases before the Board at two full days' sittings of the Board, and after that has been done the chairman umpire may be called upon by either side to give his decision as to the rate of wages from the above date, and his decision shall be binding on both parties.
- (5) That the pits shall re-start work immediately after the decision of the Board on the terms of the decision.

The conference broke up without effecting a settlement, and at a meeting of the miners' delegates, held after the conference, it was decided to submit the owners' proposals to the men in the various districts. On November 7th the Miners' Federation issued a circular to the men, stating that they could not recommend the acceptance of the owners' terms. The views of the men have been ascertained locally in such way as each district thinks fit, no general ballot being taken. In every district the owners' proposals have been rejected.

HISTORY OF THE DISPUTE IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

Lancashire and Yorkshire are now the two main centres of the dispute. At a meeting of the Lancashire and Cheshire Coalowners' Association at Manchester on October 19th it was resolved to continue the stoppage until the men were prepared to accept a reduction. About this time disturbances took place at St. Helens, arising out of the circulation of rumours that miners were working at some of the collieries.

From time to time throughout the month individual collieries in Lancashire and Yorkshire have resumed work at the old rates, and in a few cases in these counties and elsewhere the men have obtained a temporary advance owing to the high prices. The great majority, however, of the mines in both counties are still idle.

On November 11th the Council of the Yorkshire Miners' Association met at Barnsley and resolved to decline the owners' suggested terms of settlement. They further resolved:—

That all, as far as possible, work at the old rate of wages until April 1st 1894, and that a Board of Conciliation be formed to deal with the following questions:—

- (a) The 30 per cent. as minimum rate of wages.
- (b) Whether the difference in the suggested rate of wages, namely, 40 per cent. on the 1888 rate, shall be dealt with on the rates ruling prior to the stoppage, or from the time work is resumed, until April 1st 1894.

On November 13th a conference of the Lancashire and Cheshire Miners' Federation at Wigan, rejected the owners' proposals and passed a resolution in favour of a Conciliation Board.

In the Midlands there has been a partial resumption of work during the month in certain districts. The great majority of the miners in Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, North Staffordshire and Leicestershire have now resumed work at the old rates of wages, in some cases unconditionally, in others on the understanding that they will abide by the terms of any general settlement that may be arrived at hereafter. In Derbyshire some resummptions of work have taken place, but the bulk of the colliers are still out. In the Cannock Chase district the great majority of the pits are idle, the

owners having met on October 19th and confirmed the resolution to demand a 15 per cent. reduction. The miners represented on the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire Wages Board, who have remained working during the dispute, have been urging a fresh audit of the employers' books in view of the high prices of coal.

On November 9th the Leicestershire miners, who have resumed work at the old rates, issued notices for an increase of 30 per cent. on the standard rate of wages.

In two cases (one in Derbyshire and one in Lancashire) offers have been made during the month by coalowners to re-open their collieries at *time-rates* of wages. The Derbyshire Colliery offered 7s. a day for stallmen, and 5s. for loaders, the only deductions to be for coal, rent and club. The men refused the offer unless the company would open all their pits. The Lancashire Company offered 6s. a day for hewers, and 5s. for drawers, and subsequently increased the offer to 7s. for hewers, and 6s. for drawers. Pending the result of the conference in London the men declined the terms on the advice of their leaders, and the offer was afterwards formally withdrawn by the employers.

MINING DISTRICTS OUTSIDE THE FEDERATION AREA.

The continued stoppage has given a great temporary stimulus to the Mining Industry in the districts outside the Federation area.

In Northumberland full time has been worked throughout the county. In view of the high prices of coal the Union asked for an advance of wages. On October 28th the coalowners decided to meet the men's representatives on November 4th to consider the matter, and on that date agreed to an advance of 5 per cent. for three months.

In Durham, in reply to a request for an advance of 15 per cent. in miners' wages, the coalowners on October 12th offered a special advance of 5 per cent. for three months. The Durham Miners' Federation balloted the members on the question of accepting this offer or striking for the 15 per cent. The result was declared as follows:—For acceptance, 27,161; for strike, 19,345. On October 28th the coalowners decided also to grant the deputies an advance of 3d. per shift.

At the beginning of November the Cumberland miners asked for a fresh advance of 15 per cent. in wages, which was refused by the coalowners. The miners had received a 10 per cent. advance in the middle of August.

During the month several collieries in Flintshire which were still idle resumed work one by one at the old rate of wages. On November 9th a conference of North Wales miners at Wrexham rejected the employers' terms. The South Wales miners are still at work.

In the Forest of Dean, where a sliding scale has been adopted to regulate miners' wages, the men have been working at a 15 per cent. advance during the month owing to the increased price of coal. The steam coal miners in the district who did not go on strike have also received 15 per cent. advance.

In Somerset an offer has been made by a colliery company to resume work at 10 per cent. reduction, with advance to old rates after a fortnight on condition of the acceptance of a sliding scale. The offer has been refused.

In Scotland there has been an agitation throughout the month principally in the Lothians with regard to miners' wages. On October 12th the arbitrator accepted by both parties reported that no further advance of wages beyond the 10 per cent. conceded on August 23rd was justified. On the 16th the men again asked for a rise. The owners proposed fresh arbitration, which was rejected by the delegates of the men at a meeting at Dalkeith, where it was decided to work four days a week at all collieries which did not receive the 10 per cent. advance. On the 28th October the Lothian miners determined to strike on November 1st, unless a 10 per cent. rise was given. The advance was obtained at most of the collieries after a strike of one day's duration.

The Fifehire employers and miners agreed on October 13th to appoint an accountant to ascertain

from the owners' books whether the men were entitled to an advance of 6d. per day. The result, which was announced on November 2nd, was adverse to the men's demands, but the miners believing that present high prices justified a rise, made a further application for the 6d. a day, and at a meeting of representatives of owners and miners on the 8th a promise was made to place the application before the coalowners on the 14th.

EFFECTS ON OTHER TRADES.

The dislocation of trade caused by the stoppage has been very general. It has been, of course, most marked in industries in which coal is a large factor in the cost of production, as in the manufacture of pig-iron, which requires about two tons of coal for every ton of pig-iron produced, and less so when coal is used for motive power only, and in such small quantities that substitutes can be obtained. In some districts, e.g., South Staffordshire, where some of the largest iron manufacturers own collieries—it is said that they find it pays better to sell their coal and curtail their production of iron. There has been a very large falling off in the number of furnaces in blast since the outbreak of the dispute, the number having fallen from 90 to 43 in three months.* As regards the Textile Trades, it is reported that many cotton spinners and manufacturers having large orders in hand have been willing to pay the enhanced prices demanded for coal rather than stop their mills and factories altogether.

Reference may be made to the reports from the Local Correspondents as to the effects in their several districts. The effects are not all one way. In Northumberland and Durham, South Wales, Scotland, and other districts in which coal mining is going on, the workpeople are not only working at very high pressure at the mines to overtake the demand for coal, but other classes of workers, such as railway servants, seamen, and dock labourers, are all feeling the strain. The interdependence of trade is shown in the report from Liverpool, where it is stated that owing to the stoppage of works in the Salt District in Cheshire, there is great depression in the Canal Carrying Trade, while there is much distress in the Widnes and St. Helens District, owing to the scarcity both of coal and of salt which are necessary in some of the processes of the alkali manufacture carried on there.

In another column is also given a table showing which railways have had an increase and which have had a decrease in their receipts in October. The aggregate changes for the three months during which the dispute has gone on is of course greater.

The monthly trade accounts also show the effects of the dispute on certain industries, though so many other causes are at work that it is difficult to estimate the influence of a current dispute. The increase in the imports of petroleum is probably due to its increased consumption as a substitute for coal. The decrease in the quantity of coal exported is only 450,000 tons, the great export districts being unaffected by the dispute. The average quantity exported per month in the years 1892 and 1891 was as follows:—

					Tons.
1891	...	...	...	...	2,590,343
1892	...	...	...	...	2,538,135

In October 1893 the quantity exported was 2,443,763 tons.

The effect of the coal dispute on pauperism may be seen by the increase in pauperism during the past few months in two of the great mining centres affected.

No. of Paupers per 10,000 of population

		at	at
		April.	October.
Wigan	...	195	289
Barnsley	...	190	228

Meanwhile, in mining districts outside the area of the dispute, pauperism has either decreased or remained stationary.

Newcastle	...	194	174
Cardiff and Swansea	...	237	239
Stockton-on-Tees	...	408	353

These figures do not wholly relate to miners, but they have undoubtedly been influenced by the dispute.

* See p. 137 for extract from report of British Iron Trade Association.

* This refers to the resolution passed by the Miners' Federation Conference of October 12th. (See LABOUR GAZETTE, October, p. 129.)

NEW MINES AND MINES ABANDONED.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month information was received of the sinking or re-opening of 41 and the closing of 12 mines, compared with 38 and 5 respectively in September. Thirty-nine of the mines sunk or re-opened and 10 of the mines discontinued or abandoned are collieries. Of the new collieries, 8 are in South Wales, 8 in Lancashire, 6 each in Derbyshire and Staffordshire, and 3 each in Durham and Scotland.

COAL:—

NEW MINES.

Durham—Stanley Pit, near Crook; Tursdale Colliery (Harvey Seam), near Ferry Hill; Brownley Colliery (Hutton Seam), near Durham. (3)

Yorkshire—Underbank Mill (Thin Coal Seam), near Holmfirth; Wadsley Common, near Sheffield (Ganister). (2)

Lancashire—Higher Shore (Lower Foot Seam), Littleborough; Brerley Farm (Lower Foot Seam), Littleborough; Lane Foot (Lower Foot Seam), Littleborough; Belle Isle, Whitworth; Whitefield (Mountain Seam), Wardle; Rough Bank, New Hey; Holcombe Brook, Ramsbottom; Hathershaw (Cunning Green Seam), Oldham. (8)

Derbyshire—Shaw's Brickyard (Piper Seam), Ilkeston; Lightwood Colliery (Silkstone Seam), Marsh Lane, Chesterfield; Newhall Park (Nether Seam), near Burton-on-Trent; Mickley (Silkstone Seam), near Dronfield; Brampton (Tupton Seam), Chesterfield; Foxley Oaks (Deep Hard Seam), Whittington, near Chesterfield. (6)

Staffordshire—Bycars (Little Row Seam), Burslem; Florence (Ash Seam), Longton; Tividale (Thick Seam); Birch Coppice (Bass Seam); Landy Wood (Four-foot Seam). (5)

Gloucestershire—Speedwell, Forest of Dean.

Denbigh—Caello, Brymbo.

Monmouthshire—Gellydeg, Maesycwmmwr.

Glamorgan—Aber (No. 2 Rhondda Seam), Ogmore Vale; Cwmbach, Aberdare; Adare (No. 2 Rhondda Seam), Penygraig; Bettws Llantwit (Four-foot), Bridgend; Blaenelydach (No. 3 Rhondda Seam), Clydach Vale; Cambrian Navigation No. 2 Pit (Red Vein Seam), Clydach Vale; Tyr Hugh, Taff's Well, Cardiff; Ynys Afan, Port Talbot. (8)

Fife—Elgin Colliery (Swallowdrum Seam).

Stirlingshire—East Roughrigg Colliery (Splint and Coxrod Seams).

Linlithgowshire—Fauldhouse Colliery (Benhar or Virtuewell Seam).

COAL AND IRONSTONE—Staffordshire—White Barn (Bassey Mine and Peacock Seams), Newcastle.

Yorkshire—Waterfall Mine, near Guisboro'.

Staffordshire—Consall, Chedderton.

COAL:—

MINES ABANDONED.

Northumberland—Whinnetty, Haydon Bridge.

Lancashire—Clegg Mine, Low Crompton Pit, Rochdale; Meadowhead (Little Seam), Littleborough; Sheepbank (Little Seam), Littleborough.

Staffordshire—Mabb's Bank (New Mine Seam); Burrs (Three Pits).

Worcester—Parkhead Colliery No. 1 Pit (Thick Seam).

Glamorgan—Maesymarchog (Eighteen-foot Seam), Onllwyn, near Neath.

Stirlingshire—Drumclair (Splint Seam), No. 2 Pit.

Leitrim—Knockateane (Main Seam).

BARTTES—Shropshire—Bergam Mine, Minsterley.

LEAD ORE AND BARTTES—Shropshire—Tankerville Mine, Minsterley.

* Trial shaft.

† Re-opening an old shaft.

NORTHUMBERLAND MINING.

Table showing the percentage number of collieries working for the undermentioned number of days in the first and second quarters of the years 1891, 1892 and 1893.

Number of Days worked in a Quarter.	1891.		1892.		1893.	
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter
75 and up to 77*	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
70 and under 75	27	71	53	6	...	9
60 " " 70	67	27	37	86	18	50
50 " " 60	16	2	10	8	42	38
40 " " 50	...	...	...	...	36	3
30 " " 40	...	...	...	...	2	...
20 " " 30	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 " " 20	...	...	...	...	...	...
0 " " 10	...	...	...	...	...	...

* Seventy-seven days represent the recognised full time in a quarter with seven fortnightly pay days (i.e., eleven working days a fortnight).
NOTE.—The above table is substituted for that published in the August number of the GAZETTE, showing the number of days worked by certain Northumberland collieries. More recent information shows that some mines from which returns for certain weeks were not supplied were counted, in error, as not working for those weeks. The table given in the August number, showing the rates of hewer's wages, needs no correction.

CHANGES IN MINERS' WAGES SINCE OCTOBER 1886.

Table showing for the principal Mining Districts in England and Scotland the percentage increase (+) or decrease (—) in Miners' Wages in each year since October 1886. (The figures in large black type represent increases in wages, those in italics, decreases.)

Year	Federation Districts.			Non-Federation Districts.						
	Lancs. and Mid-lands.	Cumber-land.	Forest of Dean.	Northum-berland.	Durham.	South Wales.	South Staffs. and East Worcs.	South Scotland.	Pile and Kin ross.	
1886	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1887	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1888	+10	+10	+10	+5	...	+5	+10	+11	...	...
1889	+10	+10	+10	+17½	+21½	+17½	+20	+44½	+32½	...
1890	+20*	+20*	+20*	+21½	+5	+27½	+10	...	+11½	...
1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1892	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(June) 1893	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total in-crease	40	30½	40	15	16½	2½	40	6½	12½	...
Increase from com-mence-ment of dis-cu-ssed to 31st Oct.	...	10½	15	5	5	2½	...	53½	12½	...
Total in-crease since Oct. 1886.	40	40½	55	20	21½	5	40	60	25	...

* Obtained in three instalments: first, 10 per cent.; second, 5 per cent.; and third, 5 per cent.

† In July 1892, after a strike of several weeks, there was an alteration of the standard basis of 1892 by 7½ per cent. Wages were thus reduced by about 10 per cent., but remained 40 per cent. in advance of the (altered) standard.

‡ Measured from the standard as altered in 1892.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of October 342 accidents were reported, causing 77 deaths, and injuries to 291 miners. Of these, 306 miners were killed and injured in England and Wales, 61 in Scotland, and 1 in Ireland, as compared with 231 during September in England and Wales, 60 in Scotland, and 1 in Ireland.

Table showing the number of persons reported as killed or injured in or about mines, during the month of October 1893.

Cause of Accident.	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		Total.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
Underground:—								
Explosions of Fire	1	19	...	8	...	1	36	27
Falls of ground	29	108	7	21	...	1	36	135
Miscellaneous in shafts	10	7	...	1	...	...	15	8
Miscellaneous underground	14	81	9	16	...	...	16	97
Surface:—								
Miscellaneous	11	81	8	8	...	...	14	84
Totals	65	341	19	49	...	1	77	291

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE MINES ACTS.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

THE number of convictions under the Mines Acts in October was 26, as compared with 16 in the previous month. The penalties and costs imposed amounted to £61 6s. Five of the convictions were against owners or managers, and 21 against workmen.

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu-tions.	Con-victions.	Cases with-drawn.	Cases dis-mitted.	Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.
By Owners, Managers, &c.—					£ s. d.
Ventilation	3	3	...	...	25 0 0
Shafts and Manholes	2	2	...	...	10 0 0
By Workmen—					
Safety Lamps	5	5*	...	...	5 15 6
Shot-firing and Explosives	2	2	...	...	1 18 0
Lucifer Matches, &c.	7	7†	...	...	10 0 0
Miscellaneous	7	7	...	...	8 12 6
Totals	26‡	26	...	...	61 6 0

* In one of the cases a fine of £3, including costs, was imposed, with the alternative of 28 days' imprisonment. The defendant elected to take the latter.

† In one case a sentence of 2 months' imprisonment with hard labour was inflicted.

‡ In addition to the above a checkweighman was prosecuted under Section 13 (4) of the Coal Mines Act, and was ordered to pay the costs, amounting to £3 14s.

FOREIGN TRADE.

Imports.

The value of the imports last month was £35,356,469, as compared with £34,726,853 in October 1892, and £36,873,829 in October 1891.

During the 10 months ended 31st October 1893, there has been a decline in imports to the extent of £14,611,444, as compared with the same period in 1892, but it is to be remarked that nearly all of this decrease took place before the coal dispute broke out. The following table shows the value of the imports, and the increase or decrease in each of the first ten months of 1893, as compared with the corresponding months in 1892.

Statement showing for each of the first ten months in 1893 and 1892 the total value of Imports into the United Kingdom, also showing the increase or decrease in 1893 as compared with 1892.

Month.	1893.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£ 33,125,888	£ 38,485,244	...	5,359,356
February	29,738,748	34,877,931	...	5,139,183
March	34,089,413	36,793,104	...	2,703,781
April	32,125,359	34,920,272	...	2,794,913
May	36,836,951	35,035,738	1,801,213	...
June	31,868,792	32,777,479	...	908,687
Total for first six months	197,805,151	212,889,858	...	15,084,707
July	33,292,273	33,497,585	...	205,312
August	35,002,085	34,844,365	157,720	...
September	31,377,996	31,485,305	...	107,309
October	35,356,469	34,726,853	629,616	...
Total for ten months	332,527,182*	347,138,626*	...	14,611,444

* Owing to slight unpublished alterations in the Returns for the first nine months, this total is not an exact addition of the items in the columns.

British and Irish Exports.

In October the value of the British and Irish produce exported, showed a decrease when compared with October 1892 of £545,668, and of £2,986,321 when compared with October 1891; the values for the three periods being £18,179,792, £18,725,460, and £21,166,113 respectively.

During the 10 months ended 31st October 1893 there has been a decline of £5,632,835 in the value of British and Irish exports, as compared with the same period in 1892, but, as in the case of the imports, the decline took place mainly in the first six months of the year. These two facts taken together go to show that trade in the second half of 1893 has, so far, tended to improve, which is all the more remarkable as the coal dispute falls entirely into the second half of the year 1893.

Statement showing for each of the first ten months in 1893 and 1892 the total value of British and Irish goods exported from the United Kingdom, also showing the increase or decrease in 1893 as compared with 1892.

Month.	1893.	1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
January	£ 18,026,019	£ 19,146,704	...	1,120,685
February	17,093,309	19,328,753	...	2,235,444
March	19,432,904	19,665,382	...	232,478
April	16,617,977	17,865,876	...	1,247,899
May	17,822,460	17,783,969	38,491	...
June	18,785,271	18,070,318	714,953	...
Total for first six months	107,777,940	111,861,002	...	4,083,062*
July	19,651,374	19,463,597	187,777	...
August	19,530,178	20,051,330	...	521,152
September	18,434,129	19,104,859	...	670,730
October	18,179,792	18,725,460	...	545,668
Total for ten months	183,573,413	189,206,248	...	5,632,835*

Trade Union (Provident Funds) Act, 1893.—By this Act a duly registered trade union is entitled to exemption from income tax in respect of the interest and dividends of the trade union applicable and applied solely for the purpose of provident benefits. The exemption does not extend to any trade union by the rules of which the amount assured to any member exceeds the total sum of £200, or the amount of any annuity granted to any member exceeds the sum of £30 per annum. The exemption must be claimed and allowed in the same manner as is prescribed by law in the case of income applicable and applied to charitable purposes.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES OF THE MONTH.

Emigration.—The number of emigrants of British origin from the United Kingdom during last month was 14,904, as compared with 16,959 in October 1892, or a decrease of 2,055. Besides these 14,904 British emigrants, there were 4,107 foreigners and others whose nationality was not stated, making the total emigration 19,011, as compared with 21,249 in October 1892.

Taking the whole 10 months ended 31st October, there has been an increase in British emigrants of 5,989, and a decrease of 10,671 in the number of foreigners leaving the United Kingdom for places out of Europe.

Immigration.—The number of aliens recorded as arriving in the United Kingdom from the Continent during October was 5,028, as compared with 3,763 in 1892. Of this total (5,028) about half were stated to be on their way to America.

The total alien immigration in the 10 months ended 31st October was 105,719, and of this total no less than 75,902 were stated to be en route to America.

Cotton Statistics.—The number of bales of cotton imported in October was 166,593, and exported 43,289, as compared with 279,090 imported, and 35,735 exported in October 1892.

Fisheries.—The total quantity of fish (excluding shellfish) landed on the English and Welsh Coasts from the fishing grounds last month was 840,186 cwts., an increase of 186,248 cwts. when compared with the figures for October 1892.

Bankruptcies.—The number of bankrupts gazetted last month was 442, as compared with 358 in October 1892. Of these 442, 31 were publicans, hotel keepers, &c., 30 farmers, 29 grocers, 23 builders, 15 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, 14 drapers, haberdashers, &c., 13 butchers, and 12 bakers.

PRODUCTION OF PIG-IRON.

SUCH large quantities of coal are used in the production of pig-iron that it has been thought desirable to give some of the figures relating to it, as any diminution in the production of pig means a contraction in the demand for coal or, in the case of those iron manufacturers who are also colliery proprietors, large quantities of coal being thrown on the market with a consequent depression in prices. That there was a contraction in the production of pig-iron in 1892 is evident from the following table, in which also the quantities of coal used in the manufacture are given.

Year.	Tons of pig-iron produced.	Tons of coal used.
1891	7,406,064	15,373,711
1892	6,709,255	13,860,161

The production in the first half of the year 1892 fell off considerably, especially in Cleveland, owing to the Durham coal strike in that year. In the first half of 1893 the quantity of pig produced was 3,660,000 tons, which compares favourably with the specially low figure for the same period in 1892, but is somewhat under the figure for the first half of 1891, namely, 3,700,000 tons. Since the beginning of the coal dispute the production has fallen off considerably, owing to the scarcity of coal. On this head an extract may be given from the bulletin of the British Iron Trade Association which appears in the *Iron and Coal Trades Review*.

"The total number of furnaces in blast in each of the principal districts affected by the Midland strike now pending, at the 30th June and the 30th September, is shown in the following summary:—

District.	Number of furnaces in blast.	
	June 30th, 1893.	September 30th, 1893.
Derbyshire	27	11
Lancashire	22	15
Northamptonshire	9	3
Notts	4	0
North Staffordshire	14	10
Yorkshire—West Riding	14	4

Totals 90 ... 43
In view of these figures, it will of course be evident that the quantity of pig-iron produced in the second half of 1893 has, up to the present time, been considerably less than the output for the first half of the year, and it seems probable that the result of the year's operations may be the smallest production for twenty years past."

Joint Stock Companies.*—During the year 1892, 2,518 companies were registered in the United Kingdom with a nominal capital of 103 millions, a paid-up capital of nearly 17 millions, and an amount of 28½ millions considered as paid on vendors' and other shares. Of these companies 69 were registered in Ireland, and 157 in Scotland. The total number of all registered companies having a share capital is 17,555, or a little more than double the number in 1883-4, the total paid-up capital (including amounts considered as paid on vendors' shares) is over 1,013 millions as compared with 475 millions in 1883-4.

* Joint Stock Companies, 1893. (P. P.—158). Price 1s. 6d.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN OCTOBER.

The rainy weather at the end of September, followed by warmer temperature, has improved somewhat the agricultural outlook, but the state of employment for agricultural labourers is reported to be unsatisfactory in many districts. Evidence of slackness of employment is afforded by the account given below, of some of the autumn hirings which have already taken place, several of which show an excessive supply of labour compared with the demand, and a slight decline in wages compared with last autumn. It is stated in the *Mark Lane Express* that the Holland (Lincoln) County Council has purchased 140 acres for small holdings, and in the *County Council Times* that the Cambridgeshire County Council has purchased 31½ acres.

The Autumn Hiring Fairs.—In many parts of the country the system of hiring agricultural labourers for long periods is dying out, or has disappeared, as was pointed out in the *LABOUR GAZETTE* for July. In Yorkshire and the Northern counties, where the system is still prevalent, the Autumn hirings chiefly take place in November. The following notes, relating to some of the hirings which took place up to November 10th, are based on local newspaper reports, and the figures have no official authority. It is hoped in future to obtain fuller and more exact information:—

Yorkshire.—Pontefract, on November 2nd: Large supply of labourers and servants; wages slightly reduced in some cases. Wages—

First year boys ...	£6 per annum.
Second year boys ...	£9 10s. per annum.
Ploughmen ...	£12
Men ...	£18 to £20
Female servants ...	£18 to £20

Egton, November 7th: Large supply of labour.

Lower rates of wages—

Young boys ...	£5 to £7 10s. per annum.
Youths ...	£8 to £10
Men ...	£12 to £20
Girls ...	£5 to £8
Women ...	£8 to £15

Easingwold, November 10th: Not many engagements, and wages rather lower. Rates about as follows—

Young boys ...	£6 to £8 per annum.
Youths ...	£7 to £10
Men ...	£14 to £20
Girls ...	£6 to £9
Women ...	£10 to £16

Staffordshire.—Burton, October 2nd: Hirings not brisk. Ruling wages—

Boys (13 to 14) ...	£9 per annum.
" (17 to 18) ...	£14 to £17 per annum.
Girls (17 to 18) ...	£12 to £13
" (under 17) ...	£6 to £9

Warwickshire.—Stratford-on-Avon, October 12th: Very little hiring done. Southam, October 16th and 23rd: Hiring a little above average. Warwick, October 19th: Little or no hiring.

Gloucestershire.—Cirencester, October 9th: Large number of men out of work; little hiring done; wages slightly declined.

Wilts.—Marlborough, October 14th: Large supply of labour; little hiring. Highworth, October 11th: A little hiring; supply fully equal to demand. Old Swindon: Large supply of labour, not much demand; wages generally somewhat lowered.

Berks.—Abingdon, October 9th: Hiring declining, but not extinct; wages ruled about same as last year, viz., labourers, 9s. and 10s., carters and shepherds, &c., 12s. to 14s. per week, with usual extras. Faringdon, October 10th: Fair number hired by year. Hungerford, October 18th: Little hiring done. Newbury, October 12th: Large supply of men and boys; small demand; hiring system dying out; those hired chiefly lads at reduced wages.

Oxfordshire.—Henley: Large supply of agricultural servants of all grades; wages generally lower, and many not hired at all. Banbury, October 12th: Hiring declining; little if anything done.

Buckinghamshire.—Aylesbury, October 14th: Little hiring done; system declining. Buckingham, October 21st: No hiring.

Chesham.—September 28th: Little hiring, chiefly of lads; tendency to decline of wages.

Pembrokeshire.—Fishguard, October 9th: Wages lower than previous years. Mathry, October 10th and 11th: Wages had downward tendency; farmers said to be reducing their labour.

It is to be understood that in some of the above cases the small amount of hiring reported may result either from the decadence of the custom, or from the slackness of the labour market, or from a mixture of these causes.

Imports of Corn and Hay.—The total imports of corn into the United Kingdom during October 1893 and 1892 were as follows:—

	October 1893. Cwts.	October 1892. Cwts.
Wheat ...	6,398,936	5,077,232
Barley ...	5,834,690	5,456,278
Oats ...	744,555	482,445
Peas ...	1,906,137	1,952,089

The imports of hay during the month were 28,923 tons, as compared with 7,412 tons in October 1892. Of the amount imported last month 8,961 tons came from the United States. In September 1893, 35,948 tons were imported.

Prices of British Corn.—At the end of October 1893 the average prices of British corn per quarter were as follows:—Wheat, 27s. 6d.; barley, 29s. 6d.; oats, 18s. 2d.; compared with 27s. 6d. wheat, 28s. 4d. barley, and 17s. 11d. oats at the end of September. The price of British wheat on the average of the four weeks ending 28th October was 27s. 7½d. per quarter, compared with 28s. 3½d. in the corresponding period of 1892.

TRAFFIC RECEIPTS ON BRITISH RAILWAYS.

THE receipts of 23 of the principal railway companies in the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended October 29th were £5,339,859, compared with £5,820,757 in the corresponding period of 1892, a decrease of £480,898.

It will be seen from the following table that this great decrease due almost entirely to the falling off in minerals and goods railways in districts in which the collieries are idle, the North Eastern, the Scottish railways and the North Staffordshire having apparently benefited by the dispute.

Name of Railway Company	Increases or Decreases in Receipts from		Increases or Decreases in Total Receipts.
	Passengers.	Minerals and Goods.	
	Increases.		
Caledonian	£ 1,678	£ 17,225	£ 15,547
North British	1,196	10,695	9,499
North-Eastern	2,962	25,055	28,017
North Stafford	514	8,107	8,621
Total Increases... ..	602	61,082	61,684
Decreases.			
Great Eastern	£ 11,353	£ 37,598	£ 36,245
Great Northern	3,381	58,293	61,674
Great Western	14,540	16,750	31,290
Lancashire and Yorkshire	1,533	21,353	22,886
London, Brighton, and South Coast	13,498	15,681	12,183
London and North-Western... ..	14,163	79,209	93,372
Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire	2,554	65,934	68,488
Midland	2,637	195,074	197,711
Total Decreases... ..	33,957	489,892	523,849

* Decrease. † Increase.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD.

(Summary of Returns for Quarter ending 30th September, 1893, supplied by certain Workmen's Co-operative Societies.)

THE following table of average retail prices is prepared on exactly the same principle as those published in previous numbers of the *GAZETTE*. The prices are based on sales during the quarter ended 30th September, though in some cases the returns furnished do not cover the full period. Of the 88 returns used, 69 are quarterly, 1 for two months, 17 for one month, and 1 for one week. The table is based on records of actual transactions, the average prices being obtained by dividing the total sum realised by the total quantity of each article sold. It should be remembered that while the prices given represent the real average prices paid by members of co-operative societies for such qualities of each article as they are accustomed to purchase from the society, the qualities of various articles sold by different societies are not necessarily identical, while the result may be partially affected by the different practice of the societies in regard to the percentage returned to the members.

District.	No. of Societies furnishing Returns.	Flour per stone of 14 lbs.	Bread per 4 lbs.	Fresh Meat per lb.	Bacon per lb.	Sugar per lb.	Tea per lb.	Butter per lb.	Margarine per lb.	Cheese per lb.	Milk per quart.	Potatoes per stone of 14 lbs.	Jams and Marmalades per lb.	District.
ENGLAND & WALES.														
Northern Counties ...	10	s. d. 1 6½	d. 5½	d. 7½	d. 8½	d. 2½	s. d. 2 2½	s. d. 1 3½	d. 10½	d. 8½	d. ...	d. 7½	d. 6½	Northern Counties.
Lancashire & Cheshire ...	17	1 5½	4½	7½	8½	2½	2 0½	1 2½	8½	8	3	7½	4½	Lancashire & Cheshire.
Yorkshire ...	15	1 4	4½	8½	8½	2½	2 1½	1 2½	8½	7½	2½	7½	4½	Yorkshire.
Eastern Counties ...	2	1 4½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 10½	1 2½	8½	7½	...	8	4½	Eastern Counties.
Midland Counties ...	6	1 5½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 10½	1 2½	8½	7½	...	8	4½	Midland Counties.
Home Counties ...	11	1 7½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 6½	1 2½	7½	7½	...	8	4½	Home Counties.
South & South Western Counties ...	6	1 6½	4½	7½	9	2½	1 11½	1 3½	7	6½	...	8½	4½	South & South Western Counties.
SCOTLAND ...	19	1 7½	5	7½	10½	2½	2 1	1 3½	9½	8	3	6½	3½	SCOTLAND.
IRELAND ...	2	1 7½	5½	7	9	2½	2 2	1 2½	...	9	...	6	6½	IRELAND.
Average prices for the above Societies		1 5½	4½	7½	8½	2½	1 11½	1 2½	8½	7½	2½	7	4½	Average prices for the above Societies.
Quantities sold on which these prices are based		1116,655 stone of 14 lbs.	2409,424 4 lb. loaves	1915,236 lbs.	884,213 lbs.	7539,763 lbs.	444,308 lbs.	2349,353 lbs.	153,323 lbs.	702,775 lbs.	319,553 qts.	451,980 stone of 14 lbs.	452,898 lbs.	

LABOUR CASES IN OCTOBER.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Wakefield County Court, October 3rd.—Bricklayer claimed £273 for injuries sustained by falling 35 feet from a ladder which broke under him. Defence, contributory negligence. Verdict for plaintiff, £40.

Huddersfield County Court, October 5th.—Labourer claimed £12 12s. damages for injuries caused by breakage of a stretcher on which he stepped in descending some scaffolding. The defence was that the stretchers were not intended to bear any top weight. The judge held that a man who used anything for a purpose for which it was not constructed did so at his own risk. Verdict for defendants with costs.

Leeds County Court, October 6th.—Widow claimed £249 damages for loss of her husband, a riveter, killed by his head being caught between two girders during their removal. Negligence was alleged against another workman, but the judge held that this person was not one in charge or having superintendence. Judgment for defendants.

Dudley County Court, October 10th.—Blacksmith's striker was instructed to put some ashes on a pulley, upon which ran an endless wire rope which had become slack. Whilst the order was being carried out the pulley suddenly stopped, and as he was putting in the ashes it re-started, and all the fingers of his right hand were cut off. Slides and a jack were provided for tightening up the rope, the omission to use which was urged to be negligence on the part of defendants. Plaintiff claimed £150. Case dismissed with costs.

London, Brompton County Court, October 10th.—Excavator sued for damages for injuries caused by a "dolly," weighing about 9 lb., falling on his head whilst he was digging in a hole 30 feet deep. Defence that plaintiff knew there was no sheeting to protect him, and he therefore worked at his own risk. Verdict for plaintiff. Damages £30.

Newport County Court, October 12th.—A rigger repairing steamship in Barry Dry Dock was struck by propeller whilst assisting to lower it, and knocked into the dock, receiving severe injuries, for which he claimed £200 damages. Verdict (by agreement) for £60 and taxed costs.

Woolwich County Court, October 12th.—Carpenter claimed damages for injuries sustained in falling 20 feet from a roof. The fall was caused by a scaffold board being removed without his knowledge. Defence that it was necessary to remove the scaffold boards, and that plaintiff should have looked where he was stepping. Verdict for plaintiff for £150.

Manchester County Court, October 17th.—An apprentice who had assisted in fixing supports to windows was seriously injured in the head by the falling of a stretcher, and claimed, through his father, £265 damages. The defence was contributory negligence. The judge ruled that the apprentice was under the immediate orders of the journeyman workman with him, and that the foreman should have seen that the supports and stretchers were safely fixed. Judgment for father for £17 10s., and for the apprentice £112 10s., the latter sum to be paid into court for his benefit until he came of age.

Halifax County Court, October 17th.—Worst spinner claimed £62 8s. (3 years' wages at 8s. per week) for injuries received owing to alleged defective condition of Roving machine. Whilst pulling out some waste it suddenly started, and plaintiff's arm was severely crushed. Defence that it was impossible for machine to set itself in motion. Judgment for full amount with costs.

Bow County Court, October 18th.—Iron moulder sued for £100 damages for injuries to foot. Whilst engaged in filling a mould 5 feet 6 inches high with molten iron, one of the ladles upset, and the metal went on his foot. Verdict for plaintiff, damages £71 6s.

Leeds County Court, October 18th.—Factory girl claimed £62 8s. damages for injuries to her hand when cleaning the wheels of her machine. The machine was at rest when she began to do this, but afterwards was set in motion. The defence was that the cleaning was done at a prohibited time. Judgment for defendants without costs, the judge considering that overseer might have been more vigilant.

Workington County Court, October 19th.—Widow of ironworker claimed £260 compensation for loss of her husband, who was killed by fall of dislodged furnace lining. Jury assessed damages at £148, and judgment accordingly. Stay of execution granted.

Walsall County Court, October 19th.—Excavator claimed £312 for injuries sustained by falling into hole through alleged negligence of defendant's servants in badly fencing it. At the time plaintiff was engaged as a night watchman. Non-suited on the ground that a watchman is not a workman within the meaning of the Act.

Portsmouth County Court, October 26th.—Labourer claimed £60 under the Act for compensation for injuries. Judgment for plaintiff £30 and costs.

London, Queen's Bench, October 29th.—Labourer in employ of Lambeth Vestry, whilst assisting to unload granite had his hand jammed between the pin of the tailboard and wheel, owing, as alleged, to defendants' servant in charge of cart improperly moving it forward. Defence that driver was instructed to "go on." Verdict for plaintiff. Damages £20.

London, Queen's Bench, October 29th.—A workman had filled with coke a wagon, which was prevented from moving by a chock under a wheel on one side, and on the other side by a brake, in which there was no pin. The wagon consequently moved when the chock was taken away and the man was crushed between the wagon and the coke bench, receiving injuries from which he died. His representatives claimed, and the jury found, negligence by foreman in omitting to put pin in the brake. Verdict for plaintiffs for £200. Defendants appealed, contending that there was no negligence. Appeal dismissed.

London, Appeal, Queen's Bench, October 30th.—Workman in employ of railway company was engaged with others in raising sacks by a crane from a wagon, he being in the wagon. The chain of the crane suddenly jerked, striking plaintiff and inflicting injuries for which he claimed, alleging that either the machinery of the crane was defective, or that it was improperly worked; but he was non-suited. On appeal the Court held that there was evidence that the machinery was defective, and they accordingly sent the case down to be tried again.

(2) EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN ACT.

London, Guildhall, October 3rd.—Cutter claimed 22s. (a week's wages) in lieu of notice, stating that he left on a Monday at tea-time without permission, to visit his mother who was dangerously ill. Next morning he was discharged, and was tendered wages up to the previous evening. Judgment for complainant with costs.

London, Guildhall, October 6th.—Four compositors sued for a fortnight's wages in lieu of notice. A dispute arose between the men and their employers, and the men held a "chapel" which they considered they had a right to do, according to the custom of the trade, the value of the time lost being deducted from wages. On attending work next morning they were not allowed to resume, and accepted the wages paid them under protest. One of the complainants admitted that he had seen a notice to the effect that absence during business hours without sanction was not permitted. The Alderman held that complainants had left their work without reasonable excuse to the detriment of their employers' business. Summonses dismissed with costs.

Liverpool County Court, October 12th.—A test case, involving about 100 dock labourers, was heard against the Shipping Federation. Plaintiffs alleged that during the Hull strike they were engaged at Liverpool by the Federation on a contract for not less than two weeks, at 30s. per week. After working eight days they were discharged, and were tendered the sum of £2 10s. each; but they claimed the full £3, as per contract. The defence was that the men had agreed to return to Liverpool on payment of 10s. beyond the amount they had earned. Verdict for plaintiffs.

Guildhall, London, October 22nd.—Printer claimed £3 12s., a fortnight's wages, in lieu of notice, alleging that he was discharged in consequence of making arrangements to constitute a companionship. The defence was that plaintiff did not do his work. Summonses dismissed.

Tadmorden County Court, October 31st.—Plaintiff claimed £2 11s. bonus at 5 per cent., accruing on wages earned. He had been in employ of Co-operative Society about ten years, and had received his bonus regularly up to December 30th last. Between that date and the 14th June, when he left, he had earned £51, upon which he claimed 1s. in the £. The defence was that bonuses were declared half-yearly, and were not apportionable, but that had plaintiff worked to the end of the half year he would have been entitled to his bonus. Judgment for plaintiff, with leave to appeal.

Haslingden County Court, October 26th.—A loom-jobber claimed £1 16s. wages in lieu of notice. Defendants paid 6s. 10d. into court, and asserted that they were justified in dismissing plaintiff for disobedience. The judge held that plaintiff being engaged on piece-work, in the absence of rules, could be discharged at any time. Judgment for defendants with costs of one witness.

(3) TRADE UNION ACT.

Liverpool, October 20th.—Branch secretary of Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, charged with wilfully withholding branch funds, was ordered to pay costs and amount claimed by instalments.

London, Clerkenwell Police Court, October 24th.—Branch treasurer of Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, charged with wilfully withholding branch funds, was ordered to pay over amount claimed, with fine and costs, with alternative of six weeks' imprisonment.

At the same time and place a branch secretary of the same society, charged with wilfully withholding branch books, was ordered to give them up and pay costs, with alternative of one month's imprisonment.

Marylebone Police Court, October 26th.—Branch treasurer of Amalgamated Society of House Decorators, charged with wilfully misapplying branch funds, was ordered to give up amount claimed, and pay fine and costs, or suffer one month's imprisonment in default.

Olney Petty Sessions, October 27th.—Paper maker was charged with obtaining 12s. by false pretences from the National Union of Paper Mill Workers. He claimed an "out-of-work" benefit, alleging that owing to lack of coal he had been unemployed from 25th August to 11th September, and sent a certificate to this effect, purporting to be signed by the foreman of the mill. It was, however, ascertained that prisoner had worked 53 days for the week ending September 11th, and had forged the foreman's name to the certificate. Fined 40s. and £7 5s. 7d. costs.

(4) FRIENDLY SOCIETIES ACTS.

Lancaster Petty Sessions, October 19th.—The secretary of a lodge of the Ancient Noble Order of United Oddfellows, Bolton Unity, was summoned for neglecting to send to the Chief Registrar a report, abstract and return of the valuation of the society for the five years ending December 31st last. Defendant averred that he had sent a copy of the valuation to the Grand Lodge, who were responsible for neglecting to forward it to the Chief Registrar. Fined £1 and costs, £1 1s. being allowed for solicitor.

The Shield Row Mutual Benefit Society, and the Shield Row Sick Benefit Friendly Society were similarly charged, a fine of £1 being inflicted in each case.

(5) TRUCK ACTS.

London, Clerkenwell Court Court, October 20th.—Cabinet-maker claimed to recover amounts deducted from wages for steam power in contravention of the Truck Acts. Judgment for defendant. Leave given to plaintiff to appeal.

(6) MERCHANT SHIPPING ACTS.

October 11th.—A master was convicted at Bristol for allowing the centre of the disc on his vessel to be submerged, and fined £5 and £3 costs. M. S. Act 1876, s. 28.

October 13th.—A master was convicted at Newcastle-on-Tyne for allowing the centre of the disc on his vessel to be submerged in salt water, and fined £50 and £4 2s. costs. M. S. Act 1876, s. 28.

October 16th.—The master and owner of a sea fishing boat was convicted at Great Grimsby for taking a boy of the age of 14 years to sea without his being bound by indenture or agreement, and fined 8s. and £2 2s. costs.—M. S. (Fishing Boats) Act 1883, s. 8.

October 21st.—A boarding-house keeper was convicted at Liverpool on two charges of illegally supplying two men to a vessel, and fined 20s. and £6 7s. 2d. costs in the first case, and 20s. and £2 4s. 2d. costs in the second case. M. S. Act 1854, s. 147.

October 24th.—A master was convicted at Swansea for employing a person as mate without ascertaining that he possessed the necessary certificate and fined £15, to include £2 14s. costs. M. S. Act 1854, s. 136.

October 30th.—The master and owner of a ship was convicted at West Hartlepool for allowing the centre of the disc on a vessel to be submerged in salt water, and fined £1 and £1 4s. 6d. costs. M. S. Act 1876, s. 28.

October 31st.—The master of a ship was convicted at Sunderland (1) for unlawfully discharging a seaman other than in the presence of a shipping master, and fined £1 and 10s. costs; and (2) for making a false and fraudulent entry in the official log book. For the latter offence he was fined £1 and 12s. 6d. costs. M. S. Act 1854, s. 284.

LABOUR COMMISSION REPORTS.*

DURING the past month a number of additional reports on special subjects have been published by the Royal Commission on Labour, including a report on labour questions in Belgium. The report gives a description of the position and organisation of labour in that country, and will be useful to those desirous of instituting comparisons between the condition of British workmen and that of some of their Continental competitors.

The reports of Miss Orme, Miss Collet, Miss Abraham and Miss Irwin, the Assistant Commissioners appointed to inquire into the conditions of employment of women, have also been issued. The industries especially investigated include the Textile Industries in the United Kingdom, the Clothing Trades in London, Glasgow, Bristol, Manchester, Liverpool and other towns, the White Lead Industry in England and Scotland, the potteries in Staffordshire, and many miscellaneous trades. Reports are also given on the position of shop-assistants and of barmaids and waitresses in hotels, public-houses and restaurants. The work of investigation has been carried out on a most comprehensive scale, and a large mass of general and statistical information as to the majority of the female workers of the Kingdom is presented in the reports.

Two further volumes of reports on the agricultural labourer have been published. The first includes the reports of two Assistant Commissioners, Mr. H. Rutherford and the late Mr. G. R. Gillespie, on certain selected districts in upwards of twenty Scottish counties. The second volume contains the reports of Mr. R. McCrea on selected districts in fourteen Irish counties.

The first volume of the Index to the evidence given before the Mining, Transport and Textile Committees, issued in October, gives the names of all the witnesses examined, and in considerable detail the subjects dealt with by them when before the Commission.

* Foreign Reports, Vol. IV., Belgium (C.—7,063, VIII.), Price 6d.; The Employment of Women (C.—6,894, XXIII.), Price 2s. 10d.; The Agricultural Labourer, Vol. III., Scotland, Part I. (C.—6,894, XV.), Price 1s. 4d.; The Agricultural Labourer, Vol. IV., Ireland, Part I. (C.—6,894, XVIII.), Price 1s. 6d.; Index of Evidence taken before Groups A, B & C of Royal Commission on Labour, Vol. I., Subjects (C.—7,063, IV.), Price 1s. 3d.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL FOR NOVEMBER 1893.

Board of Trade Notices, State of the Skilled Labour Market, &c. Meeting of the International Statistical Institute at Chicago. The Comparability of Trade Statistics. Recent Prosecution under the Merchandise Marks Act. The Russian Cotton Manufacturing Industry. The Netherlands Government and the Sugar Industry. Weights and Measures in use in Turkey. Public Works and Private Enterprise in Bulgaria. Coal Production in Western Europe. Cotton Cultivation in Central Asia. Railway Construction in Colombia. Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations. Customs Tariff of the Bahamas. Extracts from Diplomatic and Consular Reports. Proceedings of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. Quarantine and Post Office Notices. Statistical Tables, and Lists of Diplomatic, Consular and Colonial Office Reports.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN OCTOBER.

THE following Table is based on information obtained from Local Correspondents, Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, and from Newspapers and other sources, with corrections and additions supplied by many of the principal Employers' Associations and Trades' Unions. The principal changes in wages recorded during October are advances to coal miners in districts outside the Miners' Federation. The Northumberland and Durham miners, numbering about 100,000, received an advance of 5 per cent. for twelve weeks from October 16th in Durham, and from November 6th in Northumberland. Wages of about 2,000 deputies in Durham increased 3d. per shift from October 31st. Forest of Dean house-coal miners reverted to their old rate of wages on October 2nd, and a week later obtained 15 per cent. advance under the new sliding scale; and steam-coal miners, who have worked through the dispute without any change in wages, advanced 15 per cent. from October 20th. The only other advance which need be specially noted is among dock labourers at Liverpool, where 1,000 timbermen's wages have been increased 1s. per day.

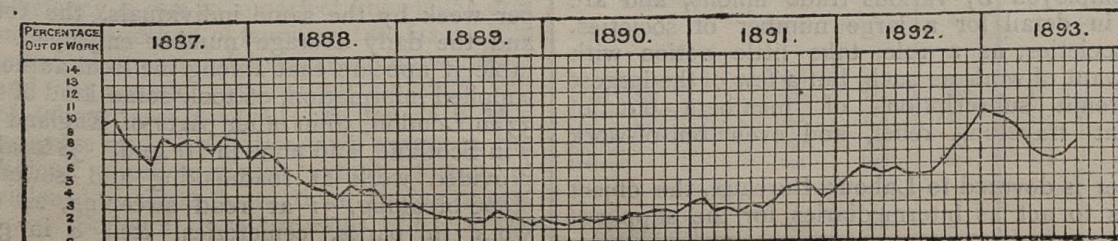
The principal occupations in which wages have been reduced are shipwrights and ironfounders at Belfast, and steel-workers at Middlesbrough. Temporary reductions in consequence of the high price of fuel have also been made at some of the textile factories in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

Employment.	Loc. ty.	Approximate number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Increase.	Employment.	Locality.	Approximate number of workpeople affected, so far as stated.	Particulars of Decrease.
INCREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.				DECREASES IN RATES OF WAGES.			
Building Trades.	Derby	20	3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.).	Metal Trades.	Stalybridge	One works	10 per cent. for three weeks.*
Bricklayers	Derby	20	3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.).	Iron Workers	Middlesbrough	600	Sliding scale. 1 per cent. from October 7th.
Mining.	Durham	80,000	5 per cent. from October 16th and 23rd, for six fortnightly pay days.	Steel Workers	Middlesbrough	600	Sliding scale. 1 per cent. from October 7th.
	Northumberland	20,000	5 per cent. for underground and 4 per cent. for surface workers, for six fortnights from Nov. 6th and 13th.	Engineering and Shipbuilding.	Belfast	360	1s. per week from first pay day in October (wages before change, 33s. to 38s., after, 32s. to 37s.).
	Camerton, Near Bath	200	7½ per cent. from October 6th.*	Ironfounders	Belfast	360	6d. per week from first pay day in October (34s. to 33s. 6d.).
Coal Miners	Forest of Dean	About 4,000	House Coal.—Sliding scale. 20 per cent. from October 2nd, and an extra 15 per cent. from October 9th.	Shipwrights	Ditto	700	6d. per week from first pay day in October (34s. to 33s. 6d.).
	Mid and East Lothian	500	Steam Coal.—Sliding scale. 15 per cent. from Oct. 20th.*	Textile Trades.	Netherton, Huddersfield	32	About 2s. per week from October 9th.
Deputies	Durham	2,000	10 per cent. from November 1st.	Worsted Weavers (Worsteds Coating)	Marsden	One factory	Slight reduction on two beamed goods.
Engine Keepers	Ayrshire	One employer	3d. per shift from October 31st, for six fortnights.	Cotton Weavers	West-houghton	Two mills	3d. per loom.*
Metal Trades.	Barrow-in-Furness	430	Sliding scale. 1 per cent. from October 1st for three months.	Employees in Cotton Spinning and Doubling Departments	Reddish	One firm	5 per cent.*
Blast Furnacemen	Cradley Heath	One firm	Increase to list price.	Cotton Operatives (all classes)	Pendlebury and Swinton Walkden	Two firms	1d. in the 1s.*
Chain Makers	Cradley Heath	One firm	Increase to list price.	Miscellaneous.	Middlewich	140	3d. per shift for men receiving over 4s. per day. From October 7th and 28th.
Dock Labour.	Liverpool	1,000	1s. per day.	Chemical Workers	Middlewich	140	3d. per shift for men receiving over 4s. per day. From October 7th and 28th.
Timbermen	Ditto	About 1,300	1s. per day among 13 men for flats with cargoes over 120 tons.				
Coal Heavers	Ditto	About 1,300	8d. per piece. About 10d. per week.				
Textile Trades.	Haslingden	40	Increase to list price for a certain class of goods.				
Cotton Weavers	Brierfield	One firm	2½d. per piece (about 5d. per week per loom).				
	Colne	One firm	1s. to 3s. per week.				
Willeyers	Dewsbury	20	1s. to 3s. per week.				
Clothing Trades.	Ashton-under-Lyne	30	8 per cent. from Nov. 4th.				
Clog Makers	Ashton-under-Lyne	30	8 per cent. from Nov. 4th.				
Miscellaneous.	London	28	2½ per cent.				
Cabinet Makers	Dundee	30	Standard wage now 7½d. per hour, with a minimum of 6½d. per hour.				
Shoeling Smiths	Belfast	60	Floormen, minimum wages increased from 20s. to 20s.; Firemen, from 26s. to 30s. Time worked over 57 hours to be paid for as overtime.				

* These men have been at work throughout the dispute at the old rate of wages.
† Work resumed on 10th October after short strike, when firm agreed to pay increased wages from September 5th.

CHANGES OF EMPLOYMENT 1887 TO 1893.

The following diagram shows at a glance the fluctuations of employment among the members of the Trade Unions which make monthly returns to the Labour Department from December 1886 to August 1893. The percentage of members in receipt of unemployed benefit at the end of each month is shown along the vertical line, and each division measured horizontally indicates one month.



AGENCIES AND METHODS FOR DEALING WITH THE UNEMPLOYED.*

THE inquiry conducted by the Labour Department into the various agencies and methods which have been recently adopted for dealing with the unemployed has now been completed, and the results have been presented to Parliament in the shape of a Report containing 438 pages. The following is a brief outline of the contents and conclusions of the Report.

Much of the confusion of ideas which exists as to the right method of dealing with the evils arising from want of employment, can be traced to the many different senses in which the term "unemployed" is used. These different meanings are discussed and analysed, and the various classes of "unemployed" grouped under four heads:—

(1) Those whose engagements being for short periods have terminated their last engagement on the conclusion of a job and have not yet entered on another.

(2) Those who belong to trades in which the volume of work fluctuates, and who, though they may obtain a full share during each year of the work afforded by their industry, are not at the given time able to get work at their trade.

(3) Those members of various trades who are economically superfluous, because there is not enough work in those trades to furnish a fair amount to all those who try to earn a livelihood at them.

(4) Those who cannot get work because they are below the standard of efficiency usual in their trades, or because their personal defects are such that no one will employ them.

Of course, the classes of persons corresponding to these four divisions overlap to some extent. The essence of the problem of want of employment consists in the fact that the relation between the demand and supply of any particular kind of labour in any particular place is continually fluctuating. The main sources of these fluctuations are enumerated, including seasonal changes, "cyclical" periods of trade depression and inflation, changes of fashions, shifting of seats of industry, transformation of manufacturing processes, and other causes leading to variations in the volume of employment. Following this classification of the meanings and causes of want of employment, we find corresponding classes of remedial agencies, some aiming (like trade societies) at tiding the efficient unemployed members of a trade over slack seasons, or helping them to find a fresh job; some (like labour colonies) at removing the unemployed, permanently or temporarily, from the competitive labour market; others (like municipal relief works) at the temporary assistance of those affected by seasonal slackness of industry; others at reclaiming and permanently benefiting some of those who have fallen below the standard of efficiency usual in their trades; others, again, at finding situations for those who (like ex-soldiers or certain classes of discharged prisoners) find special difficulty in obtaining them by their own efforts.

The report then describes in detail the work of trade societies as the most extensive agencies for dealing with want of work. It appears that during 1891, 202 societies, including 682,025 members, distributed a sum of £222,088 in the form of unemployed benefit. Of these societies 40, including 175,544 members, belong to the Engineering, Iron, and Shipbuilding Trades; 23, including 97,703 members, to the Building Trades; 41, including 94,881 members, to the Textile Trades; 13, including 65,998 members, to the Clothing Trades; 19, including 34,715 members, to the Printing Trades; 28, including 25,185 members, to the Furnishing and kindred Trades; 10, including 87,535 members, to the Mining and similar Trades.

Travelling benefit, assistance to members in obtaining work, and equalisation of work in slack times, are other methods employed by various trade unions, and are discussed in detail for a large number of societies. Friendly societies, as a rule, take little action with regard to want of work as such, but a few of the largest societies remit subscriptions of members out of work, grant travelling relief, and even out-of-work benefit.

A chapter is devoted to Labour Bureaux, the object of which is to act as intermediaries for the supply of

* Report on Agencies and Methods for dealing with the Unemployed. [C. 7182.] It can be obtained through any bookseller—Price 1s. 11d.

workpeople to employers, and to find situations for workpeople. The chief labour bureaux in the country are described, including those at Egham, Ipswich, Chelsea, Battersea, St. Pancras, Camberwell, Wolverhampton, and Salford. Specimens of the forms used are given, and an analysis is added of the occupations of persons registered, and of those placed in situations by the bureaux. Some of these bureaux are managed by local authorities (e.g., Chelsea and Salford), others (e.g., Ipswich and Egham) by voluntary agencies. Those appear to be most successful in which a selection of applicants is made before registration, as otherwise employers often hesitate to use the bureaux. For the same reason it appears undesirable to combine labour bureaux with relief agencies. The majority of those who at present resort to labour bureaux belong to the less organised trades.

Registries for women and girls are separately dealt with, the objects being slightly different. Here the principal difficulty is not to find employment, but to find suitable employment, and societies dealing with working girls out of work therefore pay special attention to protection and training. Some of the chief of these societies are described, besides private registries.

Another kind of employment agency, of which considerable use is made in this country by members of certain trades, is afforded by the advertising columns of the Press. To show what trades chiefly resort to this agency, an analysis is given of the employment advertisements appearing in a number of leading newspapers. Accounts are also given of seamen's registry offices, of the work of agencies for finding work for ex-soldiers, and of those which aid discharged prisoners. This concludes the section of the report dealing with agencies at work in this country whose primary object is to assist persons to find employment. In a later part of the volume this information is supplemented by an account of Labour Exchanges and Bureaux in France, and the Bureau of Industries in New Zealand.

The report passes next to organisations for the relief of distress. The rules applicable to the relief of able-bodied destitute persons under the Poor Law are briefly summarised, and the work and policy of the Charity Organisation Society with regard to the provision of work, assistance to find employment, the relief of ordinary "out-of-work" cases, and the relief of "exceptional distress" is described.

Of permanent institutions for providing work for the unemployed the Social Wing of the Salvation Army is the most widely known. Its operations, which are briefly summarised, so far as they relate to the assistance of the unemployed, have a threefold character; (1) a Labour Bureau; (2) the "elevator" workshops; (3) the Farm Colony. Details are given of previous occupations, length of stay, and other particulars with regard to the persons assisted. The operations of the Church Army Labour Homes in London are similarly analysed, and short notices are given of the Training Farm at Langley (chiefly for intending emigrants) and of the work of the Home Colonisation Society.

The Report then deals with temporary schemes for the relief of the unemployed. After a brief sketch of the course of events during the autumn of 1892, which led to the issue of the Local Government Board circular on the subject of the provision of work for the unemployed, an account is given in tabular form of the schemes adopted with this end in view by local authorities in London, the provinces, and Scotland during the winter 1892-3. Particulars are given of the class of work provided, its duration, the rate of pay, the hours of labour, the number of days worked per week by the same individuals, the total number and the daily average number employed. From this table it appears that among the local authorities which supplied information, 96 took some kind of action, viz., 33 in London, 56 in other parts of England and Wales, 7 in Scotland, and none in Ireland. 38 local authorities provided work at roadmaking and sewerage, 22 at stone-breaking, 31 at road sweeping, 24 on digging-work in parks, cemeteries, &c., 8 in getting and shifting ballast, sand, &c., 5 on sewage-work, &c., 6 in

PAUPERISM IN OCTOBER.

(Based on information supplied by the Local Government Boards in England and Ireland, of the Board of Supervision in Scotland, and of the Scotch Office.)

From the following table, and those published in previous numbers of the GAZETTE, it will be seen that pauperism has increased this month in all the London districts, more particularly in the East end. There has also been a considerable increase in West Ham, the proportion per 10,000 of population having risen from 210 in September to 230 in October. In the provinces, the principal increases have been in the mining districts of Wigan and Sheffield, though in most of the other districts there has been an increase as compared with the previous month. The figures for the Barnsley district, though above the average for that district, are less than in the previous month, having fallen from 237 per 10,000 in September, to 228 in October. The North Staffordshire district is the only one which shows any marked decrease, the rate per 10,000 being 244, as compared with 305 in September. The Scottish districts remain almost stationary, and there is no great increase in Ireland.

District	Population in 1891.	Paupers on one day in second week of October 1893.			Rate per 10,000 of Popula- tion.	Total No. of Paupers on corre- sponding date in 1892.
		In- door.	Out- door.	TOTAL.		
ENGLAND & WALES.†						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	740,735	9,939	2,016	11,955	161	17,151
North District ...	993,884	13,430	9,183	22,613	226	20,580
Central District ...	247,538	7,326	3,410	10,736	434	10,336
East District ...	705,114	12,762	4,643	17,405	247	15,839
South District ...	1,524,472	19,246	16,024	35,270	231	32,517
Total Metropolis ...	4,211,743	62,503	35,276	97,779	232	90,423
West Ham ...	365,134	1,643	6,769	8,412	230	6,433
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	330,005	1,498	4,249	5,747	174	5,365
Stockton & Tees District ...	182,909	1,098	5,364	6,462	353	4,488
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	689,210	2,938	7,894	10,832	157	9,292
Wigan District ...	350,206	1,267	8,845	10,112	289	7,644
Manchester District ...	799,024	7,588	6,228	13,816	173	13,007
Liverpool District ...	860,362	8,999	8,320	17,329	200	16,166
Bradford District ...	341,881	1,047	3,869	4,916	144	4,492
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	353,681	1,025	4,586	5,611	159	5,111
Leeds District ...	387,044	1,649	5,344	6,993	181	6,551
Barnsley District ...	187,233	749	3,519	4,268	228	3,557
Sheffield District ...	342,382	2,313	4,161	6,474	189	4,861
Hull District ...	213,689	1,105	4,781	5,886	275	5,278
North Staffordshire ...	307,803	1,682	5,817	7,499	244	6,713
Nottingham District ...	331,458	1,372	4,999	6,370	192	5,980
Leicester District ...	174,624	1,071	2,513	3,585	205	3,015
Wolverhampton District ...	522,966	3,152	14,008	17,160	328	16,281
Birmingham District ...	534,408	4,070	1,798	5,868	116	6,447
Bristol District ...	326,217	2,384	9,730	12,114	371	9,817
Cardiff & Swansea ...	288,122	1,561	5,320	6,881	239	6,456
Total "Other Districts" ...	7,493,364	46,478	111,345	157,823	211	139,446
SCOTLAND.†						
Glasgow District ...	772,917	3,215	12,241	15,456	200	14,792
Paisley & Greenock Distr.†	150,216	557	1,942	2,499	166	2,348
Dunfermline & Leith Distr.†	332,655	1,169	4,334	5,503	165	5,300
Dundee & Dunfermline ...	186,026	860	2,245	3,105	167	2,955
Aberdeen ...	123,327	376	1,759	2,135	173	2,096
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	78,476	234	895	1,129	144	1,119
Total for the above Scot- tish Districts ...	1,643,617	6,411	23,406	29,817	181	28,670
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	349,705	5,578	2,393	7,971	228	7,868
Belfast District ...	289,860	3,250	312	3,562	123	3,258
Cork, Waterford, & Limerick Districts	252,092	4,529	6,487	11,016	437	10,962
Galway District ...	38,719	347	330	677	175	698
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	930,376	13,704	9,522	23,226	250	22,736

* These figures represent the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas.

† Exclusive of Vagrants; of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses. Vagrants in the Metropolis numbered 1,101 on one day in October 1893, and 1,078 on the corresponding date in October 1892.

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

SUMMARY OF ABOVE TABLE FOR LAST THREE MONTHS. Comparative Table showing the number of Paupers per 10,000 of Population on one day in each of the months, August, September and October, in 1893 and 1892, respectively.

District	1893.			1892.		
	August.	September.	October.	August.	September.	October.
Metropolis ...	218	225	232	207	208	215
West Ham ...	208	210	230	174	171	176
Other Districts (England & Wales) ...	197	208	211	185	185	186
Scotland ...	180	180	181	173	173	174
Ireland ...	245	246	250	241	242	245
TOTAL (Selected Districts) ...	205	212	217	193	194	196

painting, and 11 in other kinds of work. Some authorities provided work of two or more of the above classes. The wages paid varied from 1s. a day to 6d. an hour. In some districts the men were employed continuously, in others for three days a week, in others for short periods in relays. In other respects the system of relief work varied in different districts. Detailed accounts are given of the working and results of some of the more important relief works, e.g., at Leeds and Glasgow, where the relief work was on a large scale, and at Liverpool, where it was conducted on a plan differing from that of other districts. The demolition of Millbank Prison by "unemployed" labour is also described. The special difficulties and dangers attendant on these methods of relieving distress are alluded to in a concluding summary, including the danger of dispensing with sufficient inquiry, relief work becoming chronic, and of attracting the shiftless class of incapable labourers rather than the efficient unemployed. The temporary relief scheme adopted last year in part of East London by the Mansion House Conference is next described in great detail, the records being in this case very complete. This account is followed by the results of an attempt to ascertain the permanent effects of the relief by tracing, after an interval of six months, some of those assisted. A section concludes with a short account of recent relief works in Ireland.

The next section contains a special Report on Labour Colonies on the Continent, supplied by Professor Mavor, who visited some of the colonies in Germany, Holland, Belgium, and France on behalf of the department. From this it appears that the main function of most of these Colonies is to diminish begging and vagabondage, and to provide work for discharged prisoners who form 76 per cent. of the inmates of the German Colonies. The ordinary workmen out of work will not mix with these classes, and the Colonies do not appear in any great degree to touch the effects of trade fluctuations. The Colonies are of three main types:—(1) Free Colonies admitting adult men only for shorter or longer periods (as in Germany and at La Chalmelle in France); (2) free Colonies for the permanent settlement of families (as in the Dutch "Free Colonies"); (3) penal Colonies (as in the Dutch "Beggar Colonies" and in Belgium). The account given of these Colonies is too long and detailed to be usefully summarised here. Succeeding sections, on certain foreign and Colonial labour bureaux, to which reference has already been made, are next dealt with, and accounts are added of some historical examples of the provision of relief by employment for wages, including the system of parish employment under the old Poor Law, the Paris "National Works" of 1848, and the Lancashire Relief Works organised during the Cotton Famine.

In a short concluding summary some of the main results of the inquiry are set forth, and the work and limitations of each kind of agency are passed in review. The whole problem is in an experimental stage, and in judging the work of any given agencies this must be taken into account, the time not being ripe for final judgments. The problem of remedying the results of want of work is essentially a difficult and complicated one, and all schemes professing to deal with it effectively on a large scale are, therefore, to be distrusted. "The central difficulty to be met is not so much the existence of an unemployed class as the economic deterioration of the casually and insufficiently employed; and this is an evil which must in the main be met—if met at all—by measures of prevention rather than of cure.....Here we open up questions lying outside the scope of this report. So far as inefficiency is due to imperfect knowledge of a trade, we touch the question of training; so far as it is a matter of personal or moral deterioration, questions of sanitation, and the general physical surroundings and conditions of labour are involved; so far as it is a matter of excessive trade oscillations, we verge on the wide and difficult question of the extent, if any, to which the violence of these fluctuations is due to preventable causes. Some of these questions will form the subject of future reports."

TRADE DISPUTES OF THE MONTH.

The fresh disputes occurring in October were comparatively few, and insignificant in point of numbers of persons affected. Of the 42 enumerated below, 11 were due to dissatisfaction with existing rates of wages, 9 to objection to proposed deductions or reductions in rates, 12 to internal disputes on questions of unionism, demarcation of work, or of dissatisfaction with action or personality of colleagues, and the remaining 10 to various causes.

In the Building and Clothing Trades 9 disputes occurred, none presenting any unusual features.

In the Metal Trades Group, comprising 3 disputes, a strike of tinplaters in South Wales had a somewhat unusual cause, the employer demanding compensation for having to send certain men to Liverpool to examine alleged damaged or blemished plates which had been consigned to that port for transmission.

Of the 9 disputes in Mining and Quarrying, 6 are distinctly traceable to the unrest in the Coal Trade which has prevailed since July.

In Shipbuilding 5 of the 6 disputes are due to disagreement among the workmen themselves, generally on the question of demarcation of work, which has always been a fertile source of contention in these trades.

In 4 of the 13 disputes in the Textile Trades, the operatives resisted proposed deductions from wages as compensation to the employers for their increased expenditure on fuel during the present coal scarcity, but in 3 of the cases the demand was withdrawn.

In 6 of the 12 disputes which commenced in previous months and terminated in October, the employes were wholly or partially successful, and in 6 were unsuccessful.

At the end of the month it was known that 23 disputes which had been reported previously were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1893.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Building Trades.							
Joiners	Cramond.	For weekly payment of wages	1	18	Oct. 10	Oct. 12	Demand conceded.
Plumbers	Bolton...	Dispute as to interpretation of a rule respecting the age of apprentices	Not stated	80	12	26	Settlement effected at a conference of representatives of employers and men.
Painters	London, S.W.	Against employment of a non-Unionist painter...	1	300	14	16	Man in question discharged.
Plasterers	Newcastle-on-Tyne	Against employment of an unskilled workman in cementing flooring	1	21	16	23	Man in question removed from the work.
Carpenters and Joiners, Packing Case Making	London, E. ...	Against employment of a non-Union workman upon specially skilled work at piecework rate	1	58	17	...	Man in question retained. Some men resumed work on previous terms, others replaced.
Masons	Nelson	Locked out by employer, the Union men having threatened to strike unless the non-Unionists joined the Society	1	...	18	Not stated	Work resumed on previous terms.
Clothing Trades.							
Tailors	London, W. ...	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	50	...	...	Still unsettled.
Boot Finishers and Machine Boys	Maybole...	Alleged payment at less than standard list of prices, and for compensation for enforced idleness	1	36	2	3	Demands conceded, and overtime to be reduced to a minimum.
Clog Makers	Ashton-under-Lyne	For advance in wages of 12 per cent.	20	30	9	4 Nov.	Compromised by an advance of 8 per cent.
Dock Labour.							
Dock Labourers ...	Liverpool ...	Refusal to work on vessels belonging to a firm where a non-Union foreman was employed	1	50	5	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Ditto	Objection to work under non-Union foremen, and for enforcement of an existing rule as to an extra 1s. per day for handling timber	1	1,000	17	Oct. 17	Demands conceded.
Metal Trades.							
Gun-lock Filers ...	Darlaston ...	Against reduction in wages	Not stated	100	16	...	Still unsettled.
Horse-Shoeing Smiths	Belfast	For a fixed minimum rate of wages, payment for all overtime, control of the number and wages of apprentices, and not to be required to work with non-Union men	15	60	16	28	Agreement fixing a minimum rate of wage, providing that non-Union men should be employed only when no Unionists were out of work, and that machine-made shoes should be worked when required. A month's notice to be given on either side of any alteration after 12 months' trial.
Mining and Quarrying.							
Tinplate Workers (Assorters)	Kidwelly (Glam.)	Against demand of employers for compensation for sending assorters to Liverpool to examine alleged defective plates	1	...	About 4 weeks.	...	Work resumed on agreement to submit the dispute to arbitration.
Coal Miners	Ebbw Vale ...	Refusal to work with men who were not members of the South Wales Association	1	...	6	6	Non-members consented to join Association.
Seit Makers	Nr. Aberdeen	Refusal to make causeway blocks at the price offered by employers	1	30	9	26	Work resumed pending reference to arbitration.
Coal Miners	Airdrie	Objection to coal being loaded on railway trucks for the English market	Not stated	...	9	...	No details of settlement.
Ditto	Nr. Musselburgh	Against deduction of 1d. per box for production of dirty coal	1	37	18	24	System of deductions withdrawn.
Ditto	Nr. Sunderland	Refusal to fill coal into trucks for Midland counties	1	500	20	20	Work resumed after discussion of the point involved.
Retort Men (Shale Oil Mining)	Philipstown, Linlithgow	For advance in wages of 1s. per week	1	50	21	...	Work resumed on previous terms.
Coal Miners	Nr. Dalkeith...	Objection of employers to the four days a week system, 11 days' work per fortnight being desired	1	700	25	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Mid and East Lothian	For advance in wages of 10 per cent.	Not stated	1,800	31	1 Nov.	Advance conceded.
Ditto	Forest of Dean	Refusal of employers to pay the 15 per cent. advance granted in the district	1	60	...	...	The advance of 15 per cent. to be granted to the coal getters only.
Shipbuilding.							
Shipjoiners	Belfast	Against employment of London cabinet-makers in fitting up saloon of a vessel	1	800	6	Oct. 17	Work resumed on previous terms, the employers declining to interfere with the cabinet-makers.
Ditto	River Clyde ...	Associated employers locked out their joiners in order to bring to an end a dispute in one establishment at Clydebank on the question of overtime payment	17	2,000	7	...	Still unsettled.
Platers' Helpers ...	Hebburn-on-Tyne	Against desire of plating squads to reduce by two the number of helpers to each squad	1	120 dir. 60 indir. 20	9	24	Agreement to dispense with one helper only in each squad.
Rivet Heaters	Dundee	For advance in wages of 4s. per week	1	20	16	18	Work resumed on previous terms.
Shipwrights	Wallsend-on-Tyne	Against alleged encroachment on their work by joiners	1	83 dir. 12 indir. 36	21	...	Still unsettled.
Riveters	Walker-on-Tyne	Dispute with platers on question of rivet holes being improperly punched	1	...	24	26	Platers agreed to turn over their plates, and leave the holes properly prepared for rivets.
Textile Trades.							
Cotton Weavers ...	Haslingden ...	Alleged payment at less than list prices ...	1	180	4	9	Agreement to pay up to the full list prices.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER 1893—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	No. of Firms or Establishments.	Approximate No. of Persons affected.	Date of Commencement.	Date of Termination.	Result.
Cotton Weavers ...	Bury	Refusal to accept reduction of 1d. in the 1s., owing to increased cost of fuel	1	...	Oct. 5	Oct. 9	Employer withdrew the demand.
Cotton Operatives ...	Hadfield ...	Refusal to accept reduction of 2½ per cent. owing to increased cost of fuel	1	...	10	...	Notice of proposed reduction withdrawn.
Woollen Weavers ...	Huddersfield	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	80	12	17	Proposed reduction withdrawn after a conference between Employers' and Operatives' Associations.
Cotton Spinners ...	Rawtenstall ...	Against dismissal of a man for alleged disobedience of orders	1	...	17	Not stated	Spinners resumed work without reinstatement of the operative in question.
Jute Workers	Aberdeen ...	Alleged bad material and difficulty in working	1	160	17	18	Work resumed on promise of improved material.
Cotton Weavers ...	Clayton-le-Moors	Alleged payment at less than list prices	1	100	18	19	Agreement to pay up to full list prices.
Woollen Operatives ...	Leeds	Against proposed reduction of 10 per cent. in consequence of increased price of fuel	1	130	27	27	Proposed reduction withdrawn.
Cotton Spinners and card room hands	Darwen	For payment by the Bolton list of prices instead of Oldham, on change of capabilities of certain mules	1	...	25	...	Still unsettled.
Cotton Weavers ...	Haslingden ...	Alleged bad material and under-payment ...	1	90	26	1 Nov.	Agreement to pay up to list prices.
Ditto	Rawtenstall ...	Against deductions by an official for bad work, alleged to be due to material	1	27	27 Oct.	...	Settled in favour of weavers by intervention of employer.
Ditto	Ditto	Dispute with cut locker	1	...	30	...	Still unsettled.
Cotton Spinners ...	Nr. Farnworth	Refusal to commence work after a stoppage on the terms required by employers, viz., a deduction of 2d. in the 1s. for increased price of fuel, but which deduction had been waived in the case of some operatives	1	200	23	...	No details of settlement.

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

Tailors	Stirling	For limitation of the number of apprentices, and abolition of certain forms of piecework	Not stated	30	1 May	Oct. 28	Work resumed on previous terms.
Pattern Makers ...	Whitehaven ...	For advance in wages of 2s. per week, the firm having worked short time for a long period	1	5	2 Aug.	Not stated	Two men resumed work on previous terms, the rest left the neighbourhood.
Joiners	Armley, Leeds	Refusal to pay overtime rate, arranged to come into force on 1st July	2	16	2 and 16 Aug.	Not stated	Replaced by non-Union men. Most of the strikers obtained employment elsewhere.
Ironstone Miners ...	Cleveland District	Objection to system of working, and mode of payment in connection with the "ratchet" ironstone getting machine	3	225	21 Aug.	10	Agreement that "no limit be placed on the number of men engaged on the ratchet machine, and that the getting and filling of the ironstone be paid for in one rate."
Coal Miners	Lochgelly, Fifeshire	The advance of 12½ per cent. conceded at the county settlement, not having been granted by employer	1	104	6 Sept.	26	Advance of nearly 6d. per day granted.
Engineers (Weighing Machine Works)	Glasgow	Dispute as to deduction for imperfect work on a repairing job, which men alleged to be impossible without renewal of parts	1	12	9 Sept.	Not stated	Men formed a co-operative concern, and the establishment in question was closed to Union men.
Warp Dressers	Bramley, Leeds	Against introduction of a new price list, involving a reduction in wages	1	10	15 Sept.	Not stated	Replaced by non-Unionists.
Boiler Makers	Leith	Against deductions from price list for overlapped butts	1	47	16 Sept.	18	Employer agreed to pay according to the price list.
Woollen Weavers ...	Netherton, Yorkshire	Against proposed reduction in wages	1	32	21 Sept.	6	Compromise effected, the amount of reduction being at present impossible to estimate.
Bleachers	Elton, Bury ...	For advance in wages	1	120	5 Aug.	Not stated	Advance granted, to be paid from date of resumption, and hours reduced from 60 to 56½ per week.
Cabinet Makers ...	London	For advance in wages of 12 per cent.	2	28	26 Aug.	7	Advance of 2½ per cent. granted.
Carpet Weavers ...	Leeds	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 and 20 per cent.	1	13	1 Aug.	30	Work resumed at the old prices.

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

The following disputes reported in last month's issue as occurring in September are still in progress:—Boot and shoe operatives, Derby; hosiery operatives, Barrow-on-Soar; boilermakers, Dublin; bakers, Liverpool.

The following which began before September were also in progress at the end of October:—Coal miners, Miners' Federation Districts (with exception of parts of Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Notts, South Derbyshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Bristol District, and North Wales, where work has been resumed at the old rate of wages); bakers, Navan and Drogheda; carpenters and tailors, Cork; bottle-makers, Scotland; potters, Rutherglen, Glasgow; stove-grate workers and building trade employes, Derby; coke burners, Tingley, Leeds; miners, Bathgate; building trade employes, Blackburn; nail-makers, Dudley; tailors, Perth; awl-blade makers, Bloxwich; bricklayers, Watford; tin-plate workers, Pontardawe; belting and hose-pipe weavers, Pendleton; joiners, Limerick.

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED AND DISSOLVED DURING OCTOBER 1893.

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

I.—THREE TRADE SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—
Northern United Enginemen's Assoc. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).
New Amalg. Society of Enginemen, Cranemen, Boilermakers and Firemen (Darlington).
Widnes Enginemen's and Firemen's Provident Society.

II.—TWO TRADE SOCIETIES DISSOLVED OR WHICH OTHERWISE CEASED TO EXIST:—
Glass Bottle Makers' Amalg. Trade Assoc. (Brierly Hill).
East London Unity of Hammermen (amalgamated with the London Unity).

III.—FIVE INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—
(a) Two Manufacturing Societies:—
Circle Co-op. Printers' Soc., Ltd. (London, E.).
Leeds and County Co-op. Newspaper Soc., Ltd.
(b) One Distributive Society:—
Charlestown Household Co-op. Soc., Ltd. (Manchester).
(c) Two Miscellaneous Societies:—
North-West. House and Land Soc., Ltd. (London, N.W.).
Wimbledon Liberal and Radical Club Soc., Ltd.

IV.—FRIENDLY SOCIETIES REGISTERED:—
(a) Fifteen New Societies:—
Ordinary Friendly Societies 8
Working Men's Clubs 5
Dividing Societies 2

(b) Thirty-nine New Branches of Existing Societies:—

I.O. Oddfellows, M.U.	9
I.O. Rechabites, S.A.	5
O. Sons of Temperance	5
N.A.I.U. Oddfellows	4
Various others	16

London Drivers and Conductors.—The Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis states that during 1892 licences were issued to 15,011 hackney-drivers, 6,517 stage-drivers, and 8,885 conductors, making a total of 30,413. The number issued to hackney-drivers is 308 below the average for the five years, 1888–1892; the number issued to stage-drivers is 320 above the average, and to conductors is 700 above the average. The number of original applicants for hackney-drivers' licences who were examined and passed during the year was 1,050 or 127 below the average for the last five years. Of the total number of licensed hackney-drivers, 90 per cent. were convicted of drunkenness, and 5 per cent. of the licensed conductors. Of the hackney-drivers 917 were over sixty years of age and under seventy; 151 were over seventy and under eighty, and 1 was over eighty. Of the stage-drivers 18 were over seventy, and ninety were over sixty. Of the conductors 2 were over seventy, and 9 were over sixty. The percentage of hackney-drivers over sixty was 7.1, of stage-drivers 1.7, and of conductors 0.1.

* Report of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for the year 1892–1893 (C.—7173). Price 4½d.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

United Kingdom.

VERY little of general interest has taken place during the past month. Two new productive societies have been registered, one for printing and the other for producing newspapers, and only one new distributive society has been registered.

Four new branch stores have been opened in England and two in Scotland.

France.

The seventh Congress of Delegates from French Co-operative Societies was held at Grenoble on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th October, when 80 delegates were present, representing nearly 100 societies. The Congress was convened by the Central Co-operative Committee of France, a body consisting of thirty members elected by ballot by the societies represented at the Congresses. The work of this committee consists mainly of propaganda and of watching and protecting the interests of co-operative societies. The societies represented pay a yearly subscription of 1d. per member per annum, with a maximum payment of 50 francs. The Central Committee represents 127 societies out of a total of over 1,000 in existence in France. A deputation representing the Co-operative Union of Great Britain was present. The president for the first day was M. Paul Doumer; for the second, M. Choussier; for the third, M. Delannoy; and for the fourth day, M. Felix Prat-Niau. The Congress passed a resolution supporting the Bill now before Parliament for consolidating and protecting co-operative societies. It was decided that only such distributive societies as recognise the consumer in the division of profits should be eligible for membership of the Union. A discussion took place as to the method of fixing the selling prices of goods, and it was eventually resolved by a large majority: "That the best method of fixing the price of goods sold by co-operative societies is to be guided by the prices of local tradesmen; but, as a means of propaganda, it is advisable to be slightly under these prices." Among other subjects discussed were: the mode of employing the profits of distributive societies; the best means of bringing about direct communication between these societies and the agricultural syndicates; the relations between productive and distributive societies; the education of co-operators; and the organisation of savings banks. The Congress will meet in 1894 at Lyons.

Germany.

In the July GAZETTE, an account was given of the various kinds of Co-operative Societies in Germany. A report recently issued by the General Union of German Industries and Economic Co-operative Associations, gives the following statistics for the year ending May 1893, which may be compared with the corresponding numbers for the two previous years:—

Societies.	Year ended 31st May.		
	1893.	1892.	1891.
Loan and Credit Societies ...	No. 4,791	No. 4,401	No. 3,910
Co-operative Societies in various branches of Industries ...	2,770*	2,840	2,664
Co-operative Supply Associations ...	1,283	1,122	984
Building Societies ...	77	55	50
Total number of Societies...	8,921	8,418	7,608

* The falling-off in the number for 1893 arises from the list having been cleared of a number of defunct Societies included in 1892.

SEAMEN'S WAGES.

THE committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider whether the arrangements for the transmission of seamen's wages now in force in the United Kingdom can be extended to the case of British seamen who may be discharged abroad within the limits of the home trade, and if so, to suggest a scheme for this purpose, have reported in favour of such extension. They recommend that the system should be tried abroad at one port only (Dunkirk) in the first instance, and that it should be extended gradually as circumstances may permit. Suggestions for starting and working the system are given, and the evidence given by the Chief Superintendent of the Mercantile Marine Offices in London, the Superintendents of the Mercantile Marine Offices at Liverpool, Victoria Docks and Poplar, H.M. Consuls General at Antwerp, Hamburg and Havre, and H.M. Consuls at Dunkirk and Rotterdam, Sir W. Willis, and Mr. J. H. Wilson, M.P., is appended to the report.

* Report of the Committee on the Transmission of Seamen's Wages, 1893 C.—7799. Price 8d.

SEAMEN.

I.—NUMBER OF SEAMEN SHIPPED IN OCTOBER.

(Based on information supplied by the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

The following table gives the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in October 1893 and 1892, respectively. The total number shipped at the selected ports last month was almost exactly the same as in October 1892. The supply of seamen at Sunderland, Hull, London, Liverpool, Cardiff and Glasgow was more than sufficient to meet the demand. The supply was slightly in excess of demand at Swansea and Leith; and there was no scarcity of men at Southampton. At Newcastle demand and supply were about equal, at North Shields employment was fair, and at South Shields the labour market was quiet. At Middlesbrough there were not many idle seamen, the demand being good, while at Dublin men were scarce.

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in October 1893.			Total in Oct. 1892.	Increase.	Decrease.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total.			
Tyne Ports ...	230	2,396	2,626	2,972	...	346
Sunderland ...	2	753	755	548	207	...
Middlesbrough ...	29	569	598	375	223	...
Hull ...	47	894	941	1,379	...	438
Grimsby ...	8	22	30	236	...	206
London ...	512	6,075	6,587	6,285	302	...
Southampton ...	11	1,279	1,290	1,452	...	162
Bristol ...	2	120	122	204	...	82
Newport, Mon. ...	23	887	910	725	185	...
*Cardiff ...	910	4,628	5,538	4,773	765	...
Swansea ...	184	577	761	493	268	...
Liverpool ...	399	9,896	10,295	10,998	...	703
Kirkcaldy ...	...	203	203	23	180	...
(Burntisland) ...	28	270	298	436	...	138
Leith ...	7	79	86	82	...	4
Grangemouth ...	170	2,487	2,657	2,737	...	280
Glasgow ...	17	54	71	22	49	...
Dublin ...	17	173	190	148	42	...
Total for the above Ports in Oct. 1893	2,598	31,162	33,760	...	...	130
Ditto, Oct. 1892	2,137	31,761	33,898	...	...	...

* Including Barry and Penarth.

II.—SEAMEN'S LIVES LOST.

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

The following table shows the number of masters, seamen, and other persons forming the crews of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, reported to the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen during the month of October 1893, and between January and October 1893, inclusive, as having lost their lives at sea, or in rivers or harbours, from the undermentioned causes.

(Deaths on yachts and on vessels employed exclusively in rivers and inland navigation are not included.)

Class of Vessels.	Sail or Steam.	Number of Deaths.*					
		By Wreck and Casualty.		By Accidents other than Wreck and Casualty.		Total.	
		Oct.	Jan. to Oct.	Oct.	Jan. to Oct.	Oct.	Jan. to Oct.
Vessels registered under Merchant Shipping Act:—	Trading	70	393	24	266	94	659
	Steam	9	366	43	323	52	689
	Sail	4	24	4	41	8	65
	Fishing	...	11	2	8	2	19
Vessels not so registered:—	Trading	...	19	...	2	...	21
	Steam	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Sail	...	43	...	17	...	60
	Fishing	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	...	74	479	28	326	102	805
Total	...	9	379	45	331	54	710
Total	...	83	858	73	657	156	1,515

* Exclusive of deaths from disease, homicide, suicide and unknown causes.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS IN OCTOBER.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

DURING the month of October, 165 prosecutions were instituted and 161 convictions obtained. Of these 161 convictions, 30 were for employing children under 14 without school certificate, or young persons under 16 without surgical certificate, the average penalty and costs inflicted being £2 1s. 1d. per case. For employing persons at illegal hours or for illegal periods, 51 convictions were obtained, with an average penalty and costs of £1 19s. 3d. For neglect of rules as to registers, abstracts, notices, &c., 54 convictions were secured with an average penalty and costs of 18s. 4d.

PARTICULARS OF OFFENCES.	No. of Prosecutions.	No. of Convictions.	Cases Withdrawn.	Cases Dismissed.	Total Amount of Penalties.	Total Amount of Costs.	Total Amount of Penalties & Costs.
Insanitary and Uncleanly Conditions.					£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Neglecting to lime wash ...	4	4	...	...	7 0 0	1 17 6	8 17 6
Danger from Machinery, &c.							
Neglecting to fence ...	16	15	1	...	36 7 0	7 4 6	43 11 6
Allowing children to clean machinery in motion, or to work between the fixed and traversing parts of a machine in motion ...	1	1	...	...	0 10 0	1 0 6	1 10 6
Employment of Classes of Persons forbidden by Law.							
Under 14 without school certificates or under 16 without surgical certificates ...	31	30	1	...	39 14 6	21 17 3	61 11 9
Illegal Hours or Times of Employment.							
Before or after the legal hour ...	19	19	...	...	31 3 0	12 5 6	43 8 6
At night ...	3	3	...	...	9 18 0	2 0 0	11 18 0
During meal times, or without proper interval for meals ...	13	13	...	...	9 2 0	16 3 0	25 5 0
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted (Children) Full time or otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. ...	14	14	...	...	13 3 6	5 7 6	17 11 0
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.							
Not keeping registers ...	15	14	1	...	9 7 0	5 18 0	15 5 0
" affixing or properly filling up notices and abstracts ...	35	34	1	...	13 18 6	13 19 0	27 17 6
" sending notices required by Act ...	6	6	...	...	3 1 0	3 7 6	6 8 6
Prosecution of Parents ...	3	3	...	...	0 14 6	1 5 6	2 0 0
Informations laid under Section 24 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891.							
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars ...	3	3	...	...	3 10 0	7 7 0	10 17 0
Totals for October 1893...	165	161	4	...	177 6 6	100 14 9	278 1 3
Totals for September 1893 ...	96	91	2	...	69 1 6	77 9 10	146 11 4

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

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

The number of railway servants recorded as killed during October was 31, as against 30 in September, while the number injured but not killed, rose from 173 in September to 201 in October. The number of injuries necessitating amputations was 7.

I.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured on the premises of the railway companies during the month of October 1893.

Class of Service.	Killed	Number of Persons injured, distinguishing Class of Accident.					
		Amputations.	Fractures.	Crushes.	Dislocations, Cuts, Sprains, Bruises, Burns, &c.	Unspecified and Miscellaneous Injuries.	Total of Injuries.
Brakemen and Goods Guards	...	1	1	3	19	13	37
Engine Drivers	2	1	5	3	6	23
Firemen	11	9	24
Guards (Passenger)	4	4	3	7
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	9	...	...	...	2	2
Porters	3	2	6	8	15	34
Shunters	4	2	2	7	9	27
Miscellaneous (including Contractors' Servants)	11	1	7	7	10	47
Total ...	31	7	21	32	62	79	201
Total for Year ended Dec. 31st 1892 ...	534	98	204	451	718	1,444	2,915

II.—Table showing the number of railway servants reported as killed or injured as above, in England, Scotland and Ireland respectively, distinguishing accidents in connection with public traffic from other accidents, in October 1893.

	England and Wales.		Scotland.		Ireland.		United Kingdom.	
	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured	Killed	Injured
From Accidents to Trains, Rolling Stock, Permanent Way, &c. ...	19	159	8	33	4	3	31	195
By Accidents from other causes* ...	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	6
Total ...	19	164	8	34	4	3	31	201
Total for year ended Dec. 31st 1892 ...	426	2,615	89	274	19	26	534	2,915

* Including Accidents from their own want of caution or misconduct.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.*

Reported to H.M. Chief Inspector by Certifying Surgeons during October 1893.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

The number of fatal accidents in factories and workshops reported in October was 31, as against 42 in September, while the number of accidents not resulting in death rose from 631 in September to 699 in October. All the 31 persons killed were males. Amputations were rendered necessary in 123 cases, as compared with 98 in September.

Nature or effect of Injury.	Adults (over 18).		Young Persons.		Children.		TOTAL.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Causing death ...	28	...	2	...	1	...	31	...
Amputation of right hand or arm ...	3	...	2	...	...	...	5	...
Amputation of left hand or arm ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Amputation of part of right hand ...	27	10	16	5	1	1	44	16
Amputation of part of left hand ...	28	2	14	5	1	1	43	8
Amputation of any part of leg or foot ...	3	...	2	...	...	...	5	...
Loss of sight of one or both eyes ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
Fracture of limbs or bones of trunk ...	18	...	14	1	...	...	32	1
Fracture of hand or foot ...	34	3	9	9	...	...	43	12
Injuries to head or face ...	35	6	13	2	1	...	49	8
Lacerations, contusions, or other injuries not enumerated above ...	199	36	147	37	5	5	351	78
Total ...	378	57	220	59	9	7	607	123
Total for 10 months ended 31st October 1893 ...	3575	584	1847	564	165	68	5587	1216

* The classes of accidents reported are those specified in the LABOUR GAZETTE for July, p. 66.

Scottish Fisheries.—During 1892 over 14,000 boats and vessels were employed in the capture of fish round the Scottish coasts, of which 99 per cent. were propelled by sails or oars, with a tonnage of 121,000 tons, or 96 per cent. of the total tonnage. The number of men and boys engaged in the capture of fish was 49,300, of whom 97 per cent. were employed on board sailing, net and line boats. The increase observable in recent years in the returns of fish landed is not so much due to the success of the net and line fishermen as to that of the trawlers, and while the former industry gives occupation only to men nurtured in fishing communities, the latter does not require so much knowledge of fishing.

* Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland for 1892-3. (C.—7,066.) Price 7d.

PROVISION FOR OLD AGE BY TRADE SOCIETIES.—(Continued.)

THE following statement has been prepared, in continuation of a similar table in the July and August LABOUR GAZETTE, to show the extent to which Trade Societies make provision for superannuation, the conditions under which such superannuation is granted, its amount, the numbers in receipt of it during last year, and other particulars. The Societies are grouped by trades, and the present number includes the Printing and Bookbinding Trades, in which it appears that, in 1892, eight Societies, numbering 30,265 members, made payments amounting in the aggregate to £4,907 to their aged members, who numbered 354 at the end of the year.

NAME OF TRADE SOCIETY.	Number of Members at end of 1892.	Date of Establishment of the Superannuation Benefit	Numb'r of Members receiving Superannuation Benefit at the close of 1892.	Superannuation paid during 1892.	Weekly Contributions to Union.			Qualifications and Conditions for Receipt of Superannuation Benefit.			Weekly Rate of Superannuation.
					Ordinary Members. (Maximum)*	Superannuated Members.	Minimum Age.	Conditions as regards incapacity.	Conditions as regards employment, income or number.		
Printing and Bookbinding Trades:—											
London Society of Compositors	9,798	1877	129	£ 1,678	s. d. 0 9	s. d. 0 1	55	<i>Partial</i> .—All members unable to earn 15s. per week through age or infirmity.	... ..	<i>Partial</i> .—20 years' members, 4s.; 25 years, 5s.
London Printing Machine Managers' Trade Society	1,570	1873	40	480	0 9½ average	Nil.	55	<i>Total</i> .—All members totally incapacitated from again following the trade, irrespective of age.	1.—All members unable to earn a living at the trade through natural infirmity. 2.—All members becoming blind, or meeting with accident whilst following the trade, if permanently disabled.	<i>Total</i> .—20 years' members, 5s.; 25 years, 6s.; 30 years, 7s.; 35 years, 8s. <i>1st Scale</i> —15 years' members, 5s. <i>2nd Scale</i> —4 years' members, 5s.	
Typographical Association	11,313	1880	128	2,095	0 5½	0 4	...	All members 60 years of age, except in cases of paralysis, blindness, or permanent incapacity, but then must have been members 30 years.	Superannuated members not permitted, either on their own behalf or for an employer, to work at the trade.	20 to 25 years' members, 6s.; 25 to 30 years, 7s.; 30 to 40 years, 8s.; 40 and upwards, 10s.	
Amalgamated Society of Lithographic Printers of Great Britain and Ireland	2,502	1890	12	161	0 8	Nil.	...	Members unable to obtain ordinary rate of wages through age and infirmity	No restriction as to means, or earning capacity in any other trade. Limited to 20.	20 years' members, 5s.; 30 years, 6s.	
London Society of Lithographic Printers	735	1888	15	287	1 0	0 4	55	Members unable to work through age or infirmity, or totally incapacitated, irrespective of age.	Superannuated members not to exceed 15	20 years' members, 6s.; 30 years, 8s.	
London Consolidated Society of Journeymen Bookbinders	1,260	...	10	84	0 8	Nil.	...	Members so disabled by age or infirmity, as to be incapable of earning subsistence	Pensioners elected by ballot, the number not to exceed 10	Four 25 years' members, 3s.; six 30 years', 3s. 6d.	
Vellum Account Book Binders' Trade Society	420	1863	4	62	0 6½	Nil.	...	Members unable to earn 20s. per week through age or infirmity, or not receiving that amount from any source	Annuitants not to exceed proportion of 1 to 80 members	15 years' members, 4s.; 20 years, 5s.; 25 years, 6s.	
Bookbinders' and Machine Rulers' Consolidated Union	2,667	1870	16	60	0 6	0 2	...	Members unable to obtain ordinary rate of wages through old age and infirmity	May not work at own trade, but can earn 15s. at any other. Number limited to 15.	25 years' members, 5s.; 30 years, 6s.	

* In this, and in the previous Tables, the contributions given are the full contributions of members entitled to all the benefits of the Unions. Some Unions have graduated scales of contributions, the members paying on the lower scales being excluded from certain benefits.

ERRATUM.—In the August number the amount of contribution by superannuated members of the Steam Engine Makers' Society was incorrectly stated, the payment should have appeared as 1s. per month.

IRISH MIGRATORY LABOUR.*

In June 1893 there were in Ireland 14,761 persons, or 3.1 per 1,000 of the population who had either left, or intended to leave, their homes to seek employment as agricultural labourers elsewhere; of these 3,033 had not left their homes at the time of the enumeration. Nearly six-sevenths of the entire number were natives of the Province of Connaught, and of these more than two-thirds came from the County of Mayo. The total number furnished by Ulster was 1,921, of whom 78.8 per cent. were natives of the County of Donegal. In Connaught the migratory labourers were 17.4 per 1,000 of the population, in Ulster 1.2, in Munster 0.2, and in Leinster 0.05. The proportion in Mayo was as high as 40.4 per 1,000, and it appears that no less than 17.0 per cent. of the adult male population of that county usually seek employment at a distance from their homes. In no other county in Ireland does the proportion reach 5 per cent. Of the whole number of migratory labourers 84.3 per cent. sought work in England, 13.0 per cent. in Scotland, and 2.7 per cent. in Ireland.

Public Health.—The Report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for 1891-92 gives a digest of the Vaccination Officers' Returns with regard to children whose births were registered in 1889; the percentages not finally accounted were 11.6 for the metropolis, and 9.6 for the provinces. Both these rates indicate a further increase in the amount of failure to comply with the law relating to vaccination. Details are given of local investigations made by inspectors of the Medical Department, involving fifty sanitary districts. These inquiries were in the main brought about by the occurrence of outbreaks of disease in the districts concerned; but in many instances the efficiency of the local sanitary administration was also involved, and in some cases it was this question which essentially governed the inquiry. Reports on auxiliary scientific investigations, given in an appendix, include papers on the pathology and etiology of diphtheria, on the conditions determining insusceptibility of the animal body to infection, and on other observations of importance in connection with public health.

* Agricultural Statistics, Ireland, 1893. Report and Tables relating to Migratory Agricultural Labourers. (C.—7188). Price 2½d.
† Report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board 1891-92. (C.—7050). Price 2s. 5d.

AGRICULTURE IN IRELAND, 1892.*

THE area under crops in 1892, compared with 1891, shows a net increase of nearly 65,000 acres, there being a decrease in the case of wheat, barley, bere and rye, beans and pease, potatoes, mangel-wurzel and beetroot, cabbage, vetches and rape, carrots and parsnips and flax, and an increase in the case of oats, turnips, clover, sainfoin and grasses under rotation, and of permanent pasture or grass not broken up in rotation. There was a decrease in the quantity of wheat produced as compared with 1891 of 15.3 per cent., in that of oats of 4.1, of barley 13.1, of rye 9.8, of potatoes 14.9, of turnips 6.4, and of flax 29.6. The number of holdings was 2,986 less than in the previous year, there being a decrease of 1,427 in the number not exceeding 1 acre, and of 1,997 in the number above 1 and not exceeding 50 acres, with an increase of 440 in the case of holdings above 50 and not exceeding 500 acres. The number of horses, mules, asses, cattle and sheep showed an increase in each case, that of pigs a decrease of 18.6 per cent., and that of goats a decrease of 1.1 per cent. The number of turkeys and of ordinary fowl showed an increase, while both ducks and geese showed a decrease.

The number of dairy factories was 175, an increase of 23 as compared with 1891, and the number of persons permanently employed therein amounted to 3,533, or nearly thrice the number returned in 1891. Of these dairy factories 89 were owned by individual proprietors, 45 were the property of joint stock companies, and 41 belonged to co-operative farmers: 132 were in Munster, 35 in Leinster, 5 in Ulster, and 3 in Connaught.

* Agricultural Statistics of Ireland for 1892-93. (C.—7187). Price 1s. 3d.

LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.

(Monthly Report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from official reports, answers from correspondents, and newspapers, mostly dated September and October last.)

Canada.—A report from Victoria, British Columbia, states that the supply in mercantile establishments and in all descriptions of labour is in excess of the demand, and is likely to remain so for some time to come, with the one exception of domestic servants. The Port of Quebec is now closed by ice for the winter, and passengers must go to Canada by Halifax.

New South Wales.—The Seamen's Union, which struck against the reduction of seamen's wages, has declared the strike off; the strike lasted nine weeks, during which time, however, the employers had no difficulty in procuring hands at the reduced wage. There are still many unemployed miners at Broken Hill. A strike has occurred at one or two of the southern collieries in consequence of a reduction in wages. Owing to the great depression in the Coal Trade the large colliery proprietors at Newcastle in the north intend to terminate their present agreement with the men at the end of the year, with the view of arranging a lower rate for hewing coal.

Victoria.—Many of the unemployed have been sent by the Government up country to prospect for gold, and have met with considerable success. The Milling Trade is said to be prosperous, and the mills both in the country and the city to be running full time. A conference has taken place between steamship owners and the marine engineers with the view of agreeing upon a reduced rate of wages for the latter, but no conclusion has been arrived at.

South Australia.—There has been a moderate improvement in the demand for labour, but there are a number of mechanics and station and farm hands waiting on the spot for employment. Notices of a reduction in wages have been made at the Moonta Copper Mines (134 miles N.W. of Adelaide) and in the Building Trades generally.

Queensland.—A report from Brisbane states: "There is no improvement in the Building Trades, and a great many men are out of work, or earning low wages. There is no demand for any class of male labour, nor for female domestic servants, shopwomen, &c."

Western Australia.—Distress is temporarily making itself felt at the newly-discovered gold fields of Coolgardie. This is caused by the large influx of miners, by the great scarcity of water and provisions, and by the summer heat which is now commencing.

New Zealand.—The following is a summary of the monthly report of the Department of Labour at Wellington, dated the 21st of August last:—At Auckland the Building Trade is fair; all other branches of trade are good in town and country, but work is delayed by the unprecedented wet weather. At Gisborne there are very few idle men about, bush-felling being general in the district. At Napier trade is dull, and the market for unskilled labour is overstocked. At Wellington the Building and Boot Trades are fairly good; flax milling is very dull; a great many unskilled hands are reported to be out of employment, but there is a scarcity of capable bushmen. At Christchurch the Building Trade is a little better than last month; the Engineering and Iron Trade and the Boot Trade are dull; the unskilled labour market has been considerably relieved, several local bodies having put works in hand, and 30 men having also been placed on Government works. At Dunedin the Building and Bootmaking Trades, and Soap and Candle Works are fairly busy; the Timber Trade is very busy; the Furnishing Trade is brisk, and the Engineering Trade is brisker than last month; a good many unskilled labourers are out of employment. At Invercargill the Building Trade is very good; the Engineering Trade and Ironworks are fairly busy, but a number of unskilled labourers are out of employment.

At Ashburton trade is dull, and labour of all kinds is in excess of demand. At Wanganui very few skilled men are out of employment, but unskilled labour is plentiful. At Masterton all work is stopped by the wet. At Palmerston North, very few residents are reported out of employment.

Cape Colony.—A good many mechanics have recently arrived from Australia, and the supply of hands is quite sufficient to meet all present demands.

LABOUR ABROAD.

The paragraphs in large type are summaries of reports received through the Foreign Office, from H.M. Diplomatic and Consular Offices abroad. The small print paragraphs have been compiled from information in the Foreign Press.

FRANCE.

The monthly return of strikes received from the Office du Travail through H.M. Commercial Attaché in Paris, shows that in September there were 26 fresh strikes, and 7 that had been in progress since August. Of the fresh strikes, 9 took place among miners and metalworkers, the only stoppage of importance being one of about 1,600 colliers at Vendin-le-Vieil in the Pas de Calais, who succeeded after a week's interval in obtaining the dismissal of an unpopular overseer. This is regarded as the first step in the general movement of the Pas de Calais and Nord colliers resulting in a stoppage of from 42,000 to 45,000 miners, and prolonged till the first week in November. [For further particulars see below.]

There were five strikes in the Textile Trades, affecting altogether 1,618 persons, the most important being one of 780 male and female weaving operatives at Hélicourt (Haute-Saône), who, after remaining out for 10 days, failed in obtaining their demands for shorter hours and higher wages.

The French Coal Strike.—Since the first week in September, when the number of men on strike in the Nord and Pas de Calais was about 45,000, a gradual resumption of work has been reported from day to day, although several resolutions have since been adopted by the delegates of the Pas de Calais Unions in favour of continuing the contest. During the second week of October a number of disturbances were reported from different quarters, and the military were employed to suppress disorder. On the 19th the number of strikers had fallen to about 38,500, and on the 23rd the Aniches miners resumed work. On that day, however, a resumption of the strike took place at the Dourges mines, owing, as alleged, to the dismissal of the Union delegates. Further dismissals followed throughout the Nord and Pas de Calais mining districts, in accordance with a resolution taken by the companies. At the same time, the Meurchin Mining Company notified its intention to withdraw the 20 per cent. advance accorded by arbitration in 1891.

On the 27th a number of the bakers of Henin Liétard threatened to cease supplying bread on credit if the strike were further prolonged. On the 30th the number of men still out was about 21,500. On that day the Paris Municipal Council voted a sum of £400 in aid of the miners' families.

The Government has been urged to bring the dispute to an end by means of arbitration. The Journal des Débats, however, states that a want of confidence in arbitration now prevails, due in part to the fact that the differences between the Lens miners and their employers were settled by this very means as recently as November 1891.

The number of men on strike on the 2nd November was said to be between 13,000 and 14,000, a steady diminution being in progress. On the 4th the delegates of the Pas de Calais miners adopted a resolution in favour of resuming work, the strike in the Department of Nord having ended on the previous day.

Night Shelters.—Three municipal night shelters are now open in Paris, one for women and two for men. Two are also in course of construction.—Journal des Débats.

GERMANY.

Miners.—Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, reporting under date of November 1st, states that at a number of meetings of miners at Dortmund during October, it was decided that, owing to want of funds, no assistance could be rendered to the pitmen on strike

in England. A meeting of miners held in the Zwickau district demanded that mining inspectors should be selected exclusively from among the pitmen.

Disputes.—A movement (reported in the September GAZETTE) in the Berlin Building Trades against working in houses with unglazed windows, resulted in a strike of 350 potters on October 21st. In the course of a week the number was reduced to 125, whom it will be difficult to place, as employers are said to be unwilling to come to terms. Other disputes reported from Berlin took place at a basket factory and at an artistic printing and publishing establishment. The former ended in favour of the workmen, and in the latter the employers have rejected the men's proposal to appeal to the intervention of the *Gewerbe Gericht*, or Trades Court.

In Dresden the fitters at a zither factory, and at Plauen (near Dresden) the turners at a door-handle factory, are on strike.

A number of porcelain painters, belonging to a firm in Mitterteich, Bavaria, struck on October 7th, owing to the dismissal of members of their union. At a Strassburg army accoutrement factory 46 workpeople are on strike demanding increased piece-work rates, 10-hours shifts, and weekly payments. Minor disputes have also taken place: in Osterfeld (Saxony) at a stove factory, and among furniture and woodworkers at Holzminden (Brunswick), and Hof (Bavaria).

Glove-making Industry.—Distress continues to prevail in the Glove Industry at Haynau, where a considerable number of factories have stopped; the unemployed are now receiving about £100 a week from their union, but the funds will soon be exhausted.

Labour Registry.—The magistrate at Frankfort has appointed a Commission to consider the question of establishing a Labour Registry in the town.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Trade Movements.—*Vienna.*—The position in the Vienna stone-cutters' dispute remains unchanged. Fresh difficulties have arisen in the Tanning Industry, 1,100 workers from 16 establishments having struck towards the end of October, alleging the failure of the employers to adhere to the terms of settlement recently concluded, involving, among other things, a 10-hours net working day, and £1 a week minimum wages. The demands of the fancy leather workers, referred to in last month's GAZETTE, have been partially conceded. A strike at a brass foundry against a 12 per cent. reduction of wages, at a lithographic works, against a reduction of 6s. 8d. a week in wages, and a strike of master fan makers for an increased price list, by which 250 journeymen are affected, were also reported during October. There is an agitation among the Vienna Tramway Companies' men for a net working day of 9½ hours with double pay for overtime (which is to be exceptional and not to exceed 4 hours a day), and a weekly holiday.

Provinces.—A strike of tinworkers is reported from Ödenburg in Hungary.

BELGIUM.

BRUSSELS DISTRICT.

Coal Dispute.—As stated in last month's GAZETTE, the Belgian Miners' Federation decided on the 10th October to bring the strike to an end. Mr. S. Leech, one of the secretaries of H.M. Legation at Brussels, reporting under date of October 27th, states that this step was taken in consequence of the exhaustion of the miners' funds, the rise in the price of coal, and the promise of an increase of wages on the resumption of work. It should, however, be stated that 3,000 men had already resumed work of their own accord, and that there appeared to be a disinclination among the miners to continue the movement. A slight recrudescence was noticeable on the 17th and 18th October, but this movement quickly subsided, and the dispute is now at an end.

GHENT DISTRICT.

Disputes.—Mr. Vice-Consul Hallett, reporting under date of November 1st, states that the women belonging

* Based on reports published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*.

to three match factories at Grammont went on strike on October 15th owing to the reduction of the rate for filling 1,000 match boxes from 75 to 55 centimes (7½d. to 5½d.). One of the companies gave in at once, and work was resumed, but the dispute still continues at the other two factories, where the number out is estimated at about 400. It is said that the most skilful workers cannot fill more than 2,000 boxes in a day of 12 hours, even when they have not to wait, which sometimes happens.

A partial strike has just declared itself in a Ghent weaving factory, the demand for a new price list having been refused by the employers. A few hands left work, but no further incidents have occurred, and weaving has not been interrupted.

HOLLAND.

The Unemployed.—Mr. W. C. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, reports under date of October 23rd, that a committee appointed by the burgomaster and aldermen of Amsterdam for inquiring into the best means of dealing with the unemployed during the ensuing winter has reported, stating that it has received 40 replies to a general circular addressed to the trades unions of the city. The conclusions of the committee may be summed up as follows:—

1. The committee is convinced that no trustworthy information as to the extent of the want of employment is obtainable through the trades unions, and recommends the creation of a permanent statistical bureau on a modest scale as likely to be useful. The duties of such a bureau should include the publishing of information relating to the flow of the population, and the pointing out to trades unions and private charitable institutions the best manner of collecting, classifying and forming practical conclusions about information as to the state of the working classes.

2. The answers received show that the trades unions are no better qualified than the committee itself for recommending to the municipality any method of overcoming the difficulties caused by want of employment.

3. If such municipal works as can be carried out during the winter be executed as far as possible during the winter months, the municipality can thereby co-operate in an improved division of labour over the whole year, and can give a good example in this respect to other employers.

4. In connection herewith the committee recommends inviting the inhabitants of the city to adopt the same principle in giving out orders, so that, for instance, smiths' work (replacing and repairing stoves, &c.) should not be confined to September and October; carpenters', masons' and painters' work almost exclusively to the summer months, and tailors' work to the commencement of the summer and winter seasons, as is the case at present.

5. The committee recommends that in all municipal contracts the contractor undertake to pay the current wages of the trade, and that a minimum wage of 5d. per hour for skilled labour, with a maximum working day of 10 hours in summer and 9 hours in winter be laid down.

6. It also recommends that such contracts contain stipulations whereby the preference given by contractors to unmarried labourers, for instance, by boarding and lodging the latter, may be prevented.

LUXEMBURG.

Employment Registry.—A correspondent has furnished the Labour Department with particulars relating to the employment registry, which has been in operation in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for two years.

Persons in need of workpeople or of work write the particulars on a slate provided for the purpose at the post office of the parish free of charge. These local applications are forwarded weekly to the Capital, where they are embodied in a list which is printed and posted gratuitously to every cabaret and inn throughout the Grand Duchy, so as to arrive on Sunday mornings.

The columns of the list furnish particulars of applications under the following headings:—

Applications for Work.	Offers of Work.
Name of Applicant.	Name of Employer.
Age.	Address.
Address.	Occupation.
Occupation, &c.	Number and description of work-people required.
Monthly wages (Fr.).	Wages (Fr.).

A copy of the list, dated 10th September last, shows that the largest proportion of applications for work are made by persons desiring domestic employment, while applications for journeymen, apprentices, &c., predominate among the offers of work.

Persons who have obtained employment are expected to at once notify the fact. The work is carried on by the existing machinery of the post office, at the cost of the State.

RUSSIA.

Industrial Development of Russia.—The following statistics, compiled in the Russian Department of Trade and Industry, show the number of factories and other industrial establishments in Russia, with the number of persons engaged therein in 1887 and 1890 respectively:—

	1887.	1890.	Increase per cent.
No. of factories and workshops ...	21,247	22,510	5.9
No. of small industrial establishments ...	54,468	64,000	10.2
No. of workpeople in large industries ...	783,756	852,726	12.0
Viz.:			
Men ...	572,368	611,886	6.9
Women ...	184,044	213,462	16.0
Boys ...	19,033	18,676	1.9
Girls ...	8,311	8,702	4.7
No. of workpeople in smaller industries ...	91,681	106,619	16.3

—*Deutscher Reichsanzeiger.*

Labour Congress in Finland.—Resolutions passed at a recent congress of Finnish Labour Union delegates are to be laid before the Provincial Diet, which meets at Helsingfors this month. The demands put forward include a legal 10-hours day, universal compulsory and gratuitous education, more favourable conditions in farm contracts, provision of the landless population with land, and participation of the workmen's unions in the work of factory inspection.—*Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt.*

Peasants' Land Bank.—This bank was established in May 1882 for the purpose of assisting the peasantry to acquire land. It is a State institution managed and controlled by Government officials connected with the State Bank, and under the Supervision of the Ministry of Finance. In 1892 it possessed 43 branches. There were 2,323 applications for loans to purchase land during the year, of which 1,343 were granted, the amount advanced being 4,555,000 roubles, or about £455,405, making with £207,660 deposited by the applicants, a sum of £663,125, with which land to the extent of about 400,000 acres was acquired by the peasantry.

The numbers of applications made and granted last year exceeded those of any other year since the foundation of the bank, but owing to the smallness of the sums asked for, the amount of money advanced was, with two exceptions, the lowest recorded.

Applications were most numerous from the Governments of Tchernigoff, Minsk, and Poltava.

The majority came from Communes and associations, while only 753, or 32½ per cent. came from private individuals. The bulk of the money advanced (£400,153) is repayable in 34½ years, the remainder in 24½ years.—*Viestnik Finansoff.*

SWITZERLAND.

Insurance Against Sickness.—A report from Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, dated October 28th 1893, based on notes by Herr Greulich, of the Swiss Labour Office, states that the commission of experts appointed to examine the draft of the Sickness Insurance Bill, have declared it impossible to accept it in its present form, excluding, as it does, two of the chief demands of the workmen: gratuitous treatment in sickness, and the management of the sickness fund by the workmen themselves. The Federal Committee of the Swiss Workmen's Union has therefore convened an extraordinary workmen's congress at

Zürich on November 6th, to discuss gratuitous treatment as a preliminary condition of a free organisation of the sick funds, and the proposed draft of a people's initiative on the subject.

The proposed initiative which the Swiss Workmen's Union itself intends to take in hand, provides for free medical assistance for all inhabitants of Switzerland in case of sickness, and the introduction of a tobacco monopoly in order to defray the expenses.

Disputes.—The coopers of Zürich recently struck for a maximum working day of 10 hours, 3s. 7d. a day minimum wage, and abolition of the obligation of boarding and lodging with their employers. After a fortnight's strike these demands were granted by the employers. The concession, however, is stated to have been only made in consequence of the great amount of work to be done at this season, and its permanence will, it is thought, depend on the strength of the organisation, which is still considered far from satisfactory. That of the brewers, too, is only in its infancy, and exertions, with some prospect of success, are being made by workmen of both trades to unite the two in one organisation; such exertions will be assisted by the increasing wholesale production in this trade.

In the whole watch-making district a tendency to reduce wages has prevailed since the crisis, and has led to rioting and to a series of strikes, as in the case of the workmen belonging to this trade in Locle, Grenchen, and Welschenrohr. Thanks to their organisation, they succeeded in the two places first mentioned in keeping up wages for the time, while at the last-named place negotiations are pending. News of threatened reductions of wages arrives from other parts of the watch-making district, so that a critical period appears to be approaching.

Prohibition of Factory Work on Holidays in Zürich.—A law has been promulgated forbidding factory work on New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter and Whit Mondays, Ascension Day, and on two days at Christmas.—*Sozialpolitisches Centralblatt.*

UNITED STATES.

CHICAGO DISTRICT.

The Unemployed.—Col. J. Hayes Sadler, H.M. Consul at Chicago, reporting under date of October 19th, states that, owing to the great rush of visitors to the Exhibition during the last month, the depressed condition of the labour market has not been so noticeable as it was two months ago, though the number of unemployed can scarcely be said to have appreciably decreased. The prevailing glut of labour which is likely to last throughout the winter has, in a slight measure, been temporarily alleviated by the Relief and Public Safety Committee in sending unskilled men to work on the drainage canal, and by employing them in cleaning the streets; but the difficulty in obtaining work remains almost insurmountable. A few foreign labourers have left the city and returned home, while a few British subjects have gone to Canada with a view to obtaining employment there.

It is stated to be the result of a census of the unemployed taken by the police of Chicago towards the end of September that out of 191,463* men employed at that time last year in the different trades which were canvassed, 79,364 are now idle, but many important trades are not included in the list. The greatest falling off is shown to have taken place in the brickyards, foundries, furniture shops, iron and steel works, lumber yards, and machine works. In the Brick and Stone Industries the number employed has declined nearly 75 per cent.; in architectural iron-work, foundries, &c., nearly 60 per cent.; and in several cases still more. The report, however, tends to encourage the hope of a return to better times. A few contracts in the Building Trade, which would not have been entertained at the rate of wages prevailing last year, have been made in consequence of the present cheap rates of labour.

* The basis on which these figures are compiled is not however stated.

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT.

Continued Trade Depression.—Capt. R. C. Clipperton, H. M. Consul at Philadelphia, reports under date of October 27th that that month has shown no appreciable revival of trade, although the prospects appear brighter in some industries.

In the Iron and Steel Trade the feeling is gloomy, and but little confidence is felt in regard to an early improvement in the demand for these products. Prices are very low; but, nevertheless, consumers buy nothing but what they cannot do without.

Most of the furnaces in the Valley and Pittsburg districts are well supplied with ore, and probably have sufficient to last far into the winter. Foreign ores and their freights are lower than they have been for years, but imports are very light on account of the slight demand.

Reductions in Wages.—The iron and steel manufacturers are starting their workmen at reduced wages, and attempting, though not very successfully, the employment of coloured men. The manufacturers having demanded a reduction of 10 per cent. in the wages of the sheet mill workers, the question was put to the vote of the lodges. When, however, the officials of the Workmen's Association discovered that the men were unwilling to accept the reduction, the votes were returned with the request that the men would re-consider them. The officials realise that during the present depression a reduction in wages has become a necessity, and that the terms offered should be accepted.

Some coal operators have been reducing wages, thus causing considerable excitement amongst those who had also signed the scale and had adhered to it. Those operators who have not reduced the price threaten that unless the miners compel the operators to pay the scale rate of 79 cents. until January 1st, they will after that date deal with the men individually, and never enter into another agreement. About 4,000 miners were concerned in the threatened reduction.

The Unemployed.—Notwithstanding the re-opening of a few mills, great distress prevails among the unemployed of the Textile Trades. In the textile manufacturing portions of Philadelphia, many families are on the verge of starvation, and organised relief on a large scale has become a necessity, while the outlook for the winter is gloomy in the extreme. Foreigners, chiefly Hungarians and Poles, are still leaving the country in large numbers; many of them have hitherto been employed in the mines. About 500 Poles and Slavs assembled in front of the City Hall at Pittsburg on October 4th, demanding "bread or work," and were dispersed by the police. During the present difficulty in obtaining work, there is an increasing tendency to employ native born citizens of the United States.

Glass Workers' Dispute.—The Window Glass Workers' Association, after a struggle of about four months, involving the idleness of 5,000 men, have secured a decided victory, as the immense Glass Manufacturers' Trust is practically broken up. The men would accept no compromise, demanding an unconditional acceptance of the scale. About one-third of the union factories are resuming. The manufacturers' meetings do not appear to be attended with satisfactory results, though there are rumours of a re-organisation of the Trust.

*Census of India, 1891.**—The Census Commissioner for India has published his General Report on the census of 1891. As in India the population of over 280 millions of people contains no more than about 6 in the 100 who can read and write, the 300 pages of the report are necessarily very largely devoted to pointing out and explaining the defects of the statistics. The handling of these statistics involves studies of the distribution, migration, occupation, ethnographic distribution, literacy, sex proportions, marriage customs and ages of the population in different parts of the Empire, and the report deals with all these subjects in turn. From the occupation tables it appears that 61.06 per cent. of the population are engaged or dependent on persons engaged in pastoral and agricultural occupations, 15.43 per cent. in the preparation and supply of material substances, 8.87 per cent. in earthwork and general labour, and the remainder in government, personal service, commerce and professions.

* General Report on the Census of India, 1891. (C.—7181). Price 2s. 7d.

THE CO-OPERATIVE OR GANG SYSTEM IN RUSSIA.*

THE French "Office du Travail" has published an account of those Russian "artels," or associations of workmen and other employés, whose services are utilised by the directors of railways, whether under State or private management. From very early times Russian workmen have been accustomed to form themselves into gangs for executing jobs together and sharing the profits; agricultural labourers, waiters, cooks and artisans, frequently organise bands and undertake work for employers or contractors. The shoemakers' and joiners' "artels" sometimes execute important Government contracts. Another form of association is for the mutual provision of lodging or board. The "artels" specially described in this report are those which undertake the loading, unloading, and guarding of merchandise in the docks, railway yards, &c., and those which supply companies and firms with cashiers, for whose honesty they make themselves responsible. These trade societies are called "artels of the Exchange," having in many cases been established in the neighbourhood of the Exchange at St. Petersburg and at Moscow. Each "artel" is directed by a president elected either half-yearly or annually by the members, except in some cases, where each member becomes president in his turn under penalty of a fine if he refuses the office. The president represents the association in all dealings with outsiders, discusses and determines the conditions of contract, distributes the work amongst the different members, supervises its execution, takes charge of the moneys earned, makes advances to members, and distributes the profits. He is responsible to the association as a whole, but has full authority over each member individually. The accounts of the society are kept by the secretary, the president being precluded from making any entries in the books. Admission to this class of "artel" is by ballot, and new members have to pay a considerable entrance fee, usually about £100, in some cases as much as £300, which may be paid in instalments of from £10 to £30. The members are paid according to rules fixed by the association, taking into account age, length of membership, skill, &c. Sick members receive full pay for one year. Discipline is preserved by recourse to fines, suspension, or expulsion, according to the gravity of the offence committed. The association is responsible for any damage or default by any member to the employer with whom the contract has been made.

The railway companies also, either directly or indirectly, employ "artels" of peasants who, unable to support themselves in their small holdings in the villages, form themselves into gangs for a period of six or seven months. About the middle of January the president of the gang goes to town to look out for work and to make the contract. If all goes well the members of the gang leave their village together, generally about Easter, and are conveyed to the town by special trains at reduced fares, returning when the contract has expired; contracts with carpenters terminate on October 8th, and with masons on November 22nd. The numbers in the gangs range from 20 to 200, generally all acquainted with each other. Being jointly responsible for the proper execution of the contract, the members exercise a mutual control over one another, which is said to have excellent results in the enforcement of sobriety and industry.

* Office du Travail, Notices et Comptes Rendus. Fascicule IV., 1893.

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