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EMPLOYMENT CHART.

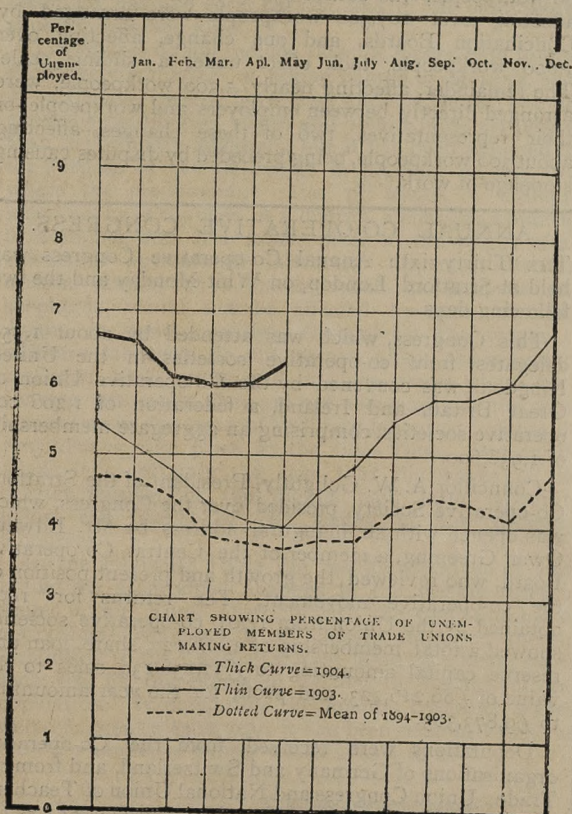


CHART SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF UNEMPLOYED MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.
 Thick Curve=1904.
 Thin Curve=1903.
 Dotted Curve=Mean of 1894-1903.

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MAY.

[Based on 4,026 returns, viz.: 2,617 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,321 from Trade Unions, and 88 from other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT generally shows little change as compared with a month ago. A slight improvement was perceptible in the cotton industry at the end of the month, while in the engineering and shipbuilding trades there has been a slight decline. As compared with a year ago employment continues to show a decline, and the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of May is considerably above the mean percentage for the corresponding period in the past ten years.

In the 271 Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of 571,384 making returns, 36,002 (or 6.3 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.0 per cent. in April, and 4.0 per cent. in May, 1903. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of May during the ten years 1894-1903 was 3.7.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry during May showed a slight falling off as compared with both a month and a year ago. At collieries employing 521,656 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5.09 days per week, as compared with 5.21 in May, 1903. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.2 per cent. greater than a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. At the 131 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 21st was 5.86, as compared with 5.78 in May, 1903. The number of workpeople employed was 2.5 per cent. less than a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry showed a slight improvement during May, but it continues worse than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 308 furnaces were in blast at the end of May at works employing about 21,800 workpeople, as compared with 303 in April, and 325 in May, 1903.

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Employment showed a slight decline as compared with a month and also with a year ago. At 195 works employing 73,650 workpeople, returns from the employers show that the total volume of employment in the week ending May 21st, indicated by the estimated aggregate number of shifts worked, was 2.3 per cent. less than in the corresponding week of the previous month, and 3.0 per cent. less than in the corresponding week of May, 1903.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in the tinplate industry is good, better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At the end of May 372 mills were working, as compared with 367 at the end of April, and 374 a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed in May, 1904, was 18,600.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally shows a slight decline on the previous month and is dull and worse than a year ago. It has been to some extent affected by holidays. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6.6 at the end of May, compared with 6.2 in April, and 3.8 in May, 1903.

Shipbuilding.—Employment in this industry continues bad. It is slightly worse than a month ago and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of May, 1904, was 13.1 as compared with 12.7 at the end of April, and 8.7 at the end of May, 1903.

Building Trades.—Employment continues dull. Compared with a month ago it shows little change on the whole, but it is worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among *Carpenters* and *Joiners* was 5.9 at the end of May, compared with 6.1 at the end of April, and 2.6 a year ago. The percentage for *Plumbers* was 9.2 at the end of May, 9.7 at the end of April, and 6.4 at the end of May, 1903.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment generally in these trades was dull, and about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of May was 5.3, as compared with 4.9 in April, and 2.8 per cent. in May, 1903.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment in May was slack. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month was 5.6, as compared with 4.5 in April, and 5.0 per cent. in May, 1903.

Employment in the *Papermaking* trade continued fair. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 3.0, against 3.1 in April, and 3.3 per cent. in May, 1903.

Employment in the *Glass* trade was moderate in the bottle-making branch, and slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the *Pottery* trades, and in the *Brick* and *Tile* trades it was slack.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in both *spinning* and *weaving* continued bad, but towards the end of the month there was an improvement in the weaving factories, and in spinning mills using American cotton. Notwithstanding the decline in price of American raw cotton, short time was still worked in the majority of the spinning mills where it was used.*

Employment in the *Woolen* trade has been fairly good on the whole, but not so good as a year ago. In the *Worsted* trade much slackness is reported in Bradford and Halifax, and employment generally is worse than a year ago.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago. In the *Jute* and *Flax* trades it is moderate, and slightly worse than a year ago.

Leather Trades.—Returns from these trades continue to show a slack state of employment with much short time. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of May was 9.5, as compared with 9.8 at the end of April, and 5.2 at the end of May, 1903.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment shows the usual seasonal decline. Returns from 649 firms, employing 75,541 workpeople, show a decrease of 4.4 per cent. in numbers employed at the end of the month, compared with a month ago, and of 6.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the *Tailoring* trade is moderate in London and fairly good in the provinces. In the ready-made branch employment is only moderate, and is worse than a year ago in most districts.

Employment in the silk and felt *Hat-making* trades continues dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of May was 2.9, as compared with 4.0 at the end of April and 2.6 a year ago.

Agricultural Labourers were well employed during May. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, and men for permanent situations were somewhat less difficult to obtain.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment during May was moderate on the whole, showing some improvement as compared with April, and little change as compared with May, 1903. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London during the four weeks ended May 28th was 13,096, an increase of 1.9 per cent. on the average for April, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. on the average for May, 1903. The average daily number employed in May during the seven years 1897-1903 was 14,390.

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during May, 1904, was 6,077, compared with 5,529 in April, 1904, and 16,888 in May, 1903.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 73,300 working days, as compared with 70,700 in the previous month, and 217,000 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Twenty-two disputes began in May, involving 4,443 workpeople, compared with 21 in April, 1904, and 27 in May, 1903.

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, affecting 2,383 workpeople. Of these disputes, four, involving 232 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eight, involving 872 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and seven, involving 1,279 persons, were

* On 14th June, however, a resolution was adopted by millowners to extend the working time by 7½ hours per week (viz., from 40 to 47½ hours). See pages 176-177.

compromised. In the case of five other disputes, terminating during the month, and involving 1,403 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during May affected about 113,900 workpeople, of whom nearly 500 received advances and over 113,400 sustained decreases. The net effect of all the changes was a decrease of about £2,800 per week. The changes of the previous month affected about 40,800 workpeople, the net result being a decrease of £1,000 per week. During May, 1903, the number affected was about 128,400, and the net result a decrease of about £2,200 per week.

The principal change reported was a decrease affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham. One change, affecting 80 workpeople, was settled by Arbitration, two changes affecting over 107,500 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change, affecting over 1,000 workpeople, took effect under a sliding scale. The remainder, affecting nearly 5,300 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople or their representatives, two of these changes, affecting about 300 workpeople, being preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work.

ANNUAL CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS.

THE Thirty-sixth Annual Co-operative Congress was held at Stratford, London, on Whit-Monday and the two following days.

This Congress, which was attended by about 1,550 delegates from co-operative societies in the United Kingdom, was convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, a federation of 1,206 co-operative societies, comprising an aggregate membership of 1,936,600.

Councillor A. W. Golightly, President of the Stratford Co-operative Society, presided over the Congress, which was opened with an inaugural address by Mr. Edward Owen Greening, a member of the Central Co-operative Board, who reviewed the growth and present position of the co-operative movement. The returns for 1903 obtained by the Union from 1,701 co-operative societies showed a total membership of 2,116,127, share, loan and reserve capital amounting to £37,158,239, sales to the value of £89,216,223, and profit for the year amounting to £9,873,385.

Deputations were received from the Co-operative organisations of Germany and Switzerland, and from the Trades Union Congress and National Union of Teachers.

Among the more important subjects discussed was the recent development of Agricultural Co-operative Associations of farmers for the supply of their agricultural requirements and joint sale of produce; the Congress adopting a resolution pledging it to assist this movement.

The United Board of the Co-operative Union was also instructed by the Congress to prepare and submit to the societies a scheme for the establishment of a Co-operative Land-owning Society with the object of buying land for the purpose of being rented in suitable plots to agricultural workers for cultivation by themselves and their families.

The United Board was also instructed to appoint a committee to obtain evidence on the question of co-operative farming with a view to solving the problem of profitable land culture.

A new system of collective life assurance was submitted by the Co-operative Insurance Society for discussion by the Congress.

A report to the Congress upon "Penny Banks" stated that 587 co-operative societies had established these banks in connection with their business, and that the total deposits in hand at the end of 1903 amounted to £995,818.

An Exhibition of Co-operative Productions was opened on the Saturday preceding the Congress by the Bishop of Stepney, and remained open to the public during the Congress.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1903.

England and Wales.—In 1903 the rates of wages paid to farm labourers continued to show an upward tendency. During the past two years, however, this tendency was much less marked than it was in the preceding five years (1897-1901).

Information as to the current rates of weekly cash wages in January and June, 1903, of ordinary agricultural labourers in most of the Rural Districts in England and Wales has been obtained, mainly from the Chairmen of Rural District Councils. By comparing these rates with those returned for the corresponding months of 1902, certain changes have been disclosed apart from the seasonal fall in the Autumn and rise in the Spring customary in many districts. The rates given are exclusive of piecework earnings, extra payments for hay and corn harvest, and of all extra allowances in cash and kind.

The figures do not include rates of wages paid to men exclusively employed in taking charge of animals, such as cattlemen, carters, horsemen, and shepherds, who are generally paid higher wages and obtain more perquisites than the ordinary labourers, but it has been assumed for the purpose of calculation, as in previous reports, that where the predominant rates of wages of ordinary labourers have changed in a district, a change amounting to a similar sum has taken place in the wages of all classes of agricultural labourers. In most districts certain classes of labourers, such as foremen and shepherds, would not be affected by such changes. Again, in some localities, changes in the wages of ordinary labourers do not always affect the wages of cattlemen and carters, and in some places where such changes are made, they are not necessarily of the same amount as in the case of ordinary labourers, neither do they always take place at the same time. But on the whole it is certainly the case that the wages of the greater number of the higher paid farm labourers follow the course of the wages of the ordinary labourers.

In the following Table the results are given of combining the ascertained changes in the weekly rates of wages in the Rural Districts with the total number of agricultural labourers of all classes employed therein (according to the Census returns), allowance being made each year for the estimated decline in the agricultural population. In computing the amount by which wages were changed in each year, it has been reckoned that the ratio of summer to winter weeks is as 3 to 2:—

Year.	Total Number of Labourers in Districts in which the predominant rates of wages		Computed amount of change in weekly cash wages of the Labourers in Districts affected.		Net Result Increase (+) Decrease (-)
	Increased.	Decreased.	Increases.	Decreases.	
1896	52,721	36,676	£ 1,858	£ 1,513	+ 345
1897	72,559	4,340	2,232	110	+ 2,122
1898	183,987	2,356	6,227	47	+ 6,180
1899	163,960	208	5,428	4	+ 5,434
1900	230,635	...	8,150	...	+ 8,150
1901	127,565	10,469	3,559	398	+ 3,161
1902	51,949	41,705	1,609	1,297	+ 312
1903	51,095	24,953	1,449	893	+ 556

The number of farm labourers in districts in which wages were reported to have changed in 1903 was 76,048, as compared with 93,654 in 1902. Of the 76,048 labourers in 1903, the wages in districts containing 51,095 were increased, and in the case of 24,953 wages were reduced.

The net increase in 1903 in the districts reported on amounted to a general rise of £556 per week in the wages of those affected, as against £312 per week in 1902. In 1901 the net increase was £3,161.

Taking the changes in various groups of counties in 1903, and arranging the figures according to the amount by which rates of wages were changed, we get the following Table. It will be seen from this Table, that of the districts in which decreases occurred, the Eastern and Midland group of counties shows the most marked

falling off in wages. In the Southern and Western counties, where complaints of the scarcity of farm labour have been most numerous in recent years, the number of labourers in districts where increases took place is much larger than those in districts where wages fell:—

District.	6d. and under per week.	Over 6d. and up to 1s. per week.	Over 1s. and up to 2s. per week.	Over 2s. per week.	Total.
Total number of Labourers in districts in which wages rose.					
Northern Counties ...	1,654	981	...	...	2,635
Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire ...	199	1,194	...	...	1,393
Eastern and Midland Counties ...	7,991	9,059	1,152	...	18,242
Southern and Western Counties ...	17,563	4,747	557	...	22,867
Wales ...	1,507	4,041	149	261	5,958
Total ...	28,914	20,062	1,858	261	51,095
Total number of Labourers in districts in which wages fell.					
Northern Counties ...	214	1,425	75	...	1,714
Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire ...	558	1,055	...	...	1,623
Eastern and Midland Counties ...	...	12,665	...	...	12,665
Southern and Western Counties ...	3,635	3,242	742	...	7,619
Wales ...	1,332	...	...	...	1,332
Total ...	5,739	18,397	817	...	24,953

Scotland.—Information as to rates of wages in Scotland was obtained by the Department from a correspondent, based on information obtained at hiring fairs and from a number of representative employers.

The reports show that the rates of wages paid to male farm servants in 1903 were, generally speaking, at about the same level as in 1902. At the spring hirings there was a slight upward tendency in wages. In the latter half of the year, owing to the bad harvest, farmers tried to secure reductions in wages, but only those farm servants who were seeking new situations had to face any serious movement for lower wages, and in the main rates remained unchanged.

Young lads and women servants continued to be scarce, and commanded relatively high wages.

Ireland.—Returns have been received from 74 correspondents in various counties in Ireland, showing the rates of wages most generally paid to the several classes of agricultural labourers in 1903, in comparison with the corresponding rates for 1902. The returns show that, speaking generally, wages remained stationary in 1903, but in several districts there was a slight upward tendency, stated to be due to the increased scarcity of labour. Some of the correspondents refer to emigration and the attractions of town employment as the chief causes of this scarcity.

DISPUTE IN THE LONDON CAB TRADE.

For some time past there has been a desire on the part of London cab-drivers for a re-adjustment of the prices for cab hire paid by them to the proprietors. The scale of prices was drawn up in 1894 by Mr. Asquith, M.P., at that time Home Secretary, at the termination of a dispute which lasted a month and affected about 7,000 drivers (see LABOUR GAZETTE, June, 1894, p. 174; July, p. 209).

On Sunday, May 29th, 1904, a mass meeting of cab-drivers passed a resolution declaring it impossible to maintain the existing prices. It was resolved that the men should, when they presented themselves at the yards on May 30th, decline to pay more than the following revised prices for first-class vehicles, pending a conference with the owners, viz.:—

Hansom cabs (two horses) ...	14s. a day.
Fourwheelers (two horses) ...	11s. a day.
Do. (one horse) ...	7s. a day.

The prices for cab hire vary according to the season of the year and under Mr. Asquith's award the rate for a hansom cab was fixed at 15s. a day from May 21st to June 3rd, and at 16s. a day for the six weeks from June 4th to July 15th. The average price throughout the year was 12s. 3d. a day, the rates awarded being 10s.

a day during 9 weeks of the year, 11s. a day during 13 weeks, 12s. for 14 weeks, 13s. for four weeks, 14s. for 3 weeks, 15s. for 3 weeks and 16s. for 6 weeks. For best street iron-tired four wheeled cabs with two horses per day the average for the year was 11s. a day, and for rubber-tired cabs of this class 1s. a day extra.

Owing to the refusal of their owners to concede the Union terms, a number of cabs were laid idle on May 30th and following days. It had been decided at the men's meeting on May 29th to admit the "privileged" drivers to the Union, and many of these drivers joined the movement. A number of proprietors conceded the Union terms, and the supply of available cabs was further augmented by those driven by non-unionists or by their owners.

The number of licences issued to hackney drivers in the Metropolitan district in 1903 was 13,470. The numbers of licences issued for hackney carriages, omnibuses and tramcars in 1894 and 1903, with the estimated population in those years, are shown in the following statement.

Year.	Hackney Carriages.		Omnibuses.	Tramcars.	Estimated Population of Metropolitan Police District
	Two wheels.	Four wheels.			
1894	7,268	3,629	2,520	1,072	6,010,235
1903	7,499	3,906	3,636	1,719	6,880,697
Increase	231	277	1,116	647	870,461

Thus in the nine years, 1894-1903, the number of hansom cabs increased by 3.18 per cent., and the number of four-wheelers by 7.63 per cent., while omnibuses increased in number by 44.29 per cent., and tramcars by 60.36 per cent. A considerable mileage of tube railway has also been constructed. In the same period the population increased by 14.48 per cent.

On May 31st the London Conciliation and Arbitration Board offered its services in connection with the dispute, but the offer was not accepted.

At a meeting of the London Cab Proprietors' Association on June 7th, a resolution was passed in the following terms: "That this meeting of cab proprietors agree to permit their cabs to resume work forthwith at 14s. per day, pending a conference."

LABOUR DISPUTES IN GERMANY IN 1903.

OFFICIAL statistics of strikes and lock-outs in the German Empire in 1903 have been published by the Imperial Statistical Office in a Report, which is the fifth issued since the commencement of the series in 1899. In the following Tables all the five Reports have been utilised so as to obtain comparative results; and it should be noted that the figures refer only to disputes terminated during the year, and do not include strikes and lock-outs in agriculture.

In the first Table the number of disputes terminated and the total number of workpeople affected in each of the years 1899-1903 are shown:—

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Number of Disputes	1,311	1,468	1,091	1,106	1,444
Total Number of Workpeople affected	116,486	141,121	68,191	70,695	135,522

It will be seen that much less freedom from industrial disturbance was experienced in the German Empire in 1903 than in the previous two years, the number of disputes and the number of workpeople affected in each of those years being considerably smaller than in 1903. The figures for 1903 approximate closely to those of 1900, which are the highest of the five years recorded.

The reports do not show the aggregate number of working days lost, but some indication of the extent to which each group of trades was affected during 1899-1903 may be gathered from the next Table:—

* Drivers of those cabs which are allowed to ply for hire within the railway stations in return for a special payment to the railway companies.
 † *Streiks und Aussperrungen im Jahre 1903.* (Statistik des Deutschen Reichs, Band 164). Berlin, 1904. Puttkammer und Mühlbrecht. Price 2 marks (2 shillings).

Groups of Trades.	Total Number of Workpeople affected in				
	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Building	47,461	40,014	22,319	37,026	52,129
Mining and Smelting	10,469	15,366	2,680	2,826	2,054
Metal Working, Engineering and Implements	14,416	14,159	8,806	7,019	39,239
Textiles	13,244	8,450	6,568	10,767	7,779
Clothing and Cleaning	5,758	8,387	6,726	2,689	9,915
Transport	2,047	9,842	573	799	2,643
Wood, &c., Trades	8,872	23,431	2,971	3,731	8,389
Stones and Earths Trades	6,978	6,268	10,622	2,918	4,276
Other Trades	7,841	14,874	7,426	3,011	9,098
Total	116,486	141,121	68,191	70,695	135,522

Thus in 1903, as in the other four years included in the Table, the building trades were responsible for the largest number of workpeople affected by disputes. Next in importance is the group of metal working, engineering and implements manufacture, in which the figures for 1903 show a remarkable increase on those of the previous four years. These two groups accounted for 67 per cent. of the total number of workpeople affected by disputes in 1903, as compared with 62 per cent. in 1902, 46 per cent. in 1901, 39 per cent. in 1900, and 53 per cent. in 1899. The figures for the mining and smelting group show a slight falling off as compared with 1902, but a very large decrease as compared with 1899 and 1900.

In the following Table the disputes are classified by cause or object. It should be noted, however, that no statistics are available as to the number of persons affected by each cause, and that where a dispute has more than one cause or object it is counted under each.

Cause or Object.	Number of Disputes in				
	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Wages—					
For increase	837	1,166	578	579	983
Against decrease	69	100	172	136	99
Other	308	264	232	246	414
Hours of Labour—					
For decrease	282	444	196	186	298
Other	83	29	34	30	50
Employment of Particular Classes or Persons	187	281	230	203	326
Working Arrangements	24	105	30	15	36
Other	355	494	270	253	434

As in this country, questions of remuneration have formed the principal causes of disputes during the whole of the five years 1899-1903. In 1903 a larger number of disputes arose out of demands for increase in wages than in the previous two years, while the number of strikes against reduction in wages decreased. Next in importance to wages disputes were those arising on questions of hours of labour, the majority of which were caused by demands for reductions in working hours.

The last Table shows to what extent the disputes of the five years 1899-1903 were settled in favour of the employers, or of the workpeople, or were compromised:—

Results.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
In favour of the workpeople	25.9	19.1	19.3	21.4	22.1
In favour of the employers	40.7	45.4	53.8	56.7	46.1
Compromised	33.4	35.5	26.9	21.9	31.8

It should be borne in mind that these percentages are based on the number of disputes and not on the number of workpeople directly affected by the disputes. From this Table, however, it appears that, while a majority of the disputes in 1903 were settled in favour of the employers, the proportion was not so great as in the preceding two years, this decrease being mainly accounted for by the higher figure for disputes which were compromised.

Of the disputes in 1903, 556 were settled by direct negotiation between the parties, as compared with 413 in 1902 and 392 in 1901; 338 disputes were settled by the intervention of trade organisations, or by mediation, as compared with 186 in 1902 and 170 in 1901; while 55 disputes were settled by Industrial Courts acting as Boards of Conciliation, as compared with 43 in 1902 and 32 in 1901.

FRANCO-ITALIAN LABOUR CONVENTION.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated May 13th, Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Paris, has forwarded the text of a Convention, signed on April 15th, between France and Italy, for the regulation of labour questions of joint interest to the two countries. The Convention is described as being the outcome of a desire on the part of the contracting Powers to promote international agreements intended to assure to the labourer reciprocal guarantees analogous to those which commercial treaties provide for the products of labour. The Convention includes an arrangement for effecting transfers of savings bank accounts between the two countries, and in other ways enabling French subjects in Italy and Italian subjects in France to continue in the enjoyment of any advantages accruing to them under the laws in force in their respective countries as regards savings banks.

The Italian Government undertakes to complete the organisation of a system of factory inspection, which shall offer guarantees for the observance of the Italian factory laws, analogous to those offered by the French system of factory inspection. The Italian Government further declares its intention to take into consideration the question of a gradual reduction of the hours of labour of women in industrial establishments in Italy.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION IN 1903.

THE Annual Return for 1903 relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom, which was recently issued, shows that the passenger movement outward and inward, both with European and non-European countries, was much greater in 1903 than in the two previous years, and that the largest increase took place in the outward movement. From the figures given in the return it appears that there was a net balance outward of 134,781 persons, resulting from a net efflux of about 149,000 natives, and a net influx of about 14,000 foreigners. From the latter, however, a deduction should be made on account of the large number of foreign sailors who, coming to the United Kingdom as passengers, are counted among the immigrants, but who leave as members of the crews of outgoing ships, and are therefore not recorded as part of the outward passenger movement. The net outward movement of British and Irish persons was greater than in any year since 1889.

Movement to and from Places out of Europe.

The following table shows for the years 1901-3 the number of inward and outward passengers, distinguishing those of British and Irish nationality from foreigners:—

Year.	Passengers Outward.		Passengers Inward.	
	British and Irish.	Foreigners.	British and Irish.	Foreigners.
1901	171,715	124,354	99,699	60,736
1902	205,662	174,291	104,115	62,159
1903	259,950	181,539	112,914	82,390

The movement in both directions in 1903 was the largest ever recorded, but the net outward movement, though larger than in most recent years, has been previously exceeded.

Of the outward passengers, 188,561 or 42 per cent. went to places within the British Empire, including 99,582 to British North America, and 62,824 to British South Africa. 260,455 or 58 per cent. of the outward passengers went to Foreign Countries, 251,941, or nearly 97 per cent. of these going to the United States. Of the British and Irish passengers outward, 130,952, or rather over 50 per cent. went to places within the British Empire (British North America 23 per cent., British South Africa 19 per cent., Australia and New Zealand 5 per cent.), and 48 per cent. to the United States.

Movement to and from European Countries.

The movement in both directions was greater in 1903 than in either of the two preceding years, but the net

* Statistical Tables relating to Emigration and Immigration from and into the United Kingdom in the year 1903, and Report to the Board of Trade thereon. [H.C. 145 of 1904. Eyre and Spottiswoode., Price 8d.]

balance inward (114,540) was about 23,000 below the figure for 1902. Deducting the net number of foreign emigrants from the United Kingdom (100,392), the net influx of foreigners into this country in 1903 amounted to about 14,000, or nearly 10,000 less than in 1902.

The total number of persons entered on the Alien lists for 1903 was 207,191. Of these, 124,591 were stated to be en route to other countries. Deducting these, as well as 13,432 seamen, 8,325 aliens ascertained by officers of the Customs to be en route to foreign countries, although not so entered on the Alien Lists, and also 1,414 who arrived at Southampton during the year and were also not entered on the Lists, but whose names were traced in the passenger lists of ships leaving Liverpool for the States, we obtain a remainder of 59,429 aliens, as compared with 54,488 in 1902, and 51,585 in 1901. Of the 69,168 alien immigrants other than seamen not described in the lists as en route for foreign countries, about 30,000 were Russians and Poles, 7,000 Italians, 7,500 Germans, 6,500 French. The Russians and Poles consist principally of Jews, and 23,780 (or 79 per cent.) of them arrived in London.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on June 1st, 1904.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 232 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 125 from Scotland, and give the highest, lowest, and mean of the prices per 4 lbs. of bread as returned in various districts:—

District.	Present Price. (1st June, 1904.)			Price last quarter. (1st Mar., 1904.)			Price a year ago. (1st June, 1903.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	6½	4½	5.71	7	4½	5.69	6½	4½	5.57
Lancs. & Cheshire	6½	4	5.23	6½	4	5.19	6	4	5.11
N. Mid. Counties...	5½	4	4.61	5½	4	4.63	5½	4	4.58
W. do. do. ...	5½	4½	5.00	5½	4½	5.02	5½	4	4.96
S. do. do. ...	5½	4	4.78	5½	4	4.78	5½	4	4.64
Eastern Counties...	6	5	5.43	6	5	5.36	5½	5	5.10
London ...	5½	5	5.41	5½	5	5.45	5½	5	5.18
S.E. Counties ...	6	5	5.82	6	5	5.84	6	5	5.38
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	5½	4½	5.06	6	4½	5.07	6	4½	4.96
England and Wales ...	6½	4	5.15	7	4	5.14	6½	4	5.03
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	6	5	5.82	6	5	5.80	6	4½	5.14
Eastern Counties*	6½	4	5.81	6½	4	5.48	6	4	5.11
Lanarkshire ...	6	5½	5.88	6	5½	5.61	5½	5	5.11
Other Southern Counties ...	6½	5½	5.88	6½	5½	5.90	6	5	5.81
Scotland ...	6½	4	5.63	6½	4	5.62	6	4	5.23
Great Britain ...	6½	4	5.31	7	4	5.31	6½	4	5.10

It will be seen that the mean of the prices at June 1st, 1904, charged by the Co-operative Societies making returns, remains the same as at 1st March, while showing a rise of rather less than ½d. per 4 lbs. as compared with the price a year ago. The most considerable changes as compared with a year ago are in Scotland, where a rise is shown in each of the four districts, the rise varying from ⅓d. to ½d. per 4 lbs. The rise in London as compared with a year ago is nearly ½d. per 4 lbs.

Returns from Local Correspondents.

The returns as to the price of bread, furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department, relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of June, and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of

* Kincardine, Kinross, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period. Other qualities of bread are sold at both higher and lower prices than those quoted in the Table below. The prices selected represent, so far as can be ascertained, the prevailing prices paid at the various places by workpeople for 4 lbs. of ordinary bread of average quality.

Place.	1903.						Present Price, 1st June, 1904.
	1st June.	1st July.	1st Aug.	1st Sept.	1st Oct.	1st Dec.*	
London ...	d. 4½ & 5	d. 4½ & 5	d. 4½ & 5	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 5½	d. 5 & 6
Birmingham ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 5½	5 & 6
Bolton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bristol ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derby ...	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5	4½ & 5
Gateshead ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Huddersfield ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hull ...	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4 to 5	4½ & 5
Ipewich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Leicester ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Liverpool ...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Manchester ...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Middlesbro' ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Norwich ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Nottingham ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Oldham ...	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Plymouth ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Potteries ...	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4½	4
Wolver'pton ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Aberdeen ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dundee ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½
Edinburgh ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Glasgow ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Belfast ...	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dublin ...	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½	5½

As compared with a month ago, the price of bread per 4 lbs. has declined ½d. in the Potteries and Wolverhampton. In London there has been some decline and more than half the shops visited were selling at 5d. per 4 lbs., the remainder selling at 4½d. and 5½d. in about equal proportions.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The Table below gives the mean *London Gazette* price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1903, to May, 1904:—

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.	
	Mean <i>London Gazette</i> Price.	Per cwt. s. d.	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.
			Average Declared Value.	Average Declared Value.
January ... 1903	5 10	6 8½	9 3	9 2½
February ...	5 11	6 11	9 2½	9 2½
March ...	5 10½	6 11½	9 2½	9 2½
April ...	6 0½	6 8½	9 2½	9 2½
May ...	6 5	6 9½	9 12	9 12
June ...	6 7½	6 9½	9 4½	9 4½
July ...	6 11½	6 8½	9 4½	9 4½
August ...	6 6	6 9½	9 6½	9 6½
September ...	6 2½	6 9½	9 7½	9 7½
October ...	6 2½	6 9½	9 9½	9 9½
November ...	6 2½	6 8½	9 8½	9 8½
December ...	6 2½	6 8½	9 8½	9 8½
January ... 1904	6 3½	6 9½	9 9½	9 9½
February ...	6 3½	6 10½	9 10½	9 10½
March ...	6 7	7 1	10 14	10 14
April ...	6 5½	6 11½	9 11	9 11
May ...	6 3½	6 10½	9 8½	9 8½

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the Colonies from September 1st, 1903, to May 31st 1904, amounted to 67,616,500 cwts. (15,777,183 quarters), compared with 59,809,133 cwts. (13,955,465 quarters) in the corresponding nine months of 1902-3. The imports of wheat-meal and flour in the nine months September-May of 1903-4 amounted to 16,276,998 cwts., compared with 14,640,842 cwts. from September 1st to May 31st, 1902-3.

* No change was recorded in any of the towns at 2nd November, 1903, or at 1st January, 1st February, 1st April, and 2nd May, 1904, except at Wolverhampton, where the price per 4 lbs. was reduced ½d. to 5d. at 2nd November, 1903, and at Dublin, where the price was reduced ½d. at 1st April, 1904.

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Building Trades at Reading.

Mr. G. R. Askwith, the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in connection with an application from the Conciliation Board for the Building Trades of Reading and neighbourhood (see GAZETTE for May, p. 131), issued his award on 18th May.

The questions submitted were whether the wages of plumbers and bricklayers should be increased from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, and whether labourers' wages should be—for members of the Union, 5½d. per hour, and for excavators and scaffolders 6d. per hour, as demanded by the employees and refused by the employers.

The arbitrator awarded that the wages of plumbers and bricklayers should not be increased from 8½d. to 9d. per hour, but remain unchanged at the rate settled by award in June, 1902*; that the wages of labourers should be 5½d. per hour, as arranged in May, 1901†; and that the wages for excavators and scaffolders employed in excavating and scaffolding solely should be 6d. per hour.

Steel Workers at Pontardawe.

The Board of Trade on 12th May received a joint application for the appointment of an arbitrator in connection with certain matters in dispute between Messrs. W. Gilbertson & Co., Ltd. and the bar-cutters in their employ, the latter, numbering about 10, being dissatisfied with the tonnage rate offered them for their work. The Board of Trade on 17th May appointed Mr. G. R. Askwith, barrister-at-law, to act as arbitrator.

The points submitted for the arbitrator's decision were (1) the tonnage rate to be paid for bar-cutting at the Pontardawe Steel, Tinplate, and Galvanizing Works, near Swansea; and (2) the Company's claim for damages consequent upon the men's refusal to work in accordance with an arrangement made on behalf of the men and the Company.

The operative clauses of the arbitrator's award, dated 10th June, are as follows:—

I award that the tonnage rate that should be paid for bar-cutting at the said works is eightpence halfpenny (8½d.) per ton all round, but this rate is not to include payment for the removal of iron which may be from time to time required to be made by the firm from one mill to another; And Whereas I find that a contract was made between the men and the firm and that the said contract was broken by the men and that heavy damages and loss resulted to the firm from the breach of the contract, I award that the full amount of the nominal sum claimed by W. Gilbertson & Co., Ltd., against the men in respect of the said breach, namely, the sum of Ten Pounds (£10) shall be paid by the men through their contractor to the said firm.

(Signed) G. R. ASKWITH.

Tinplate Trade.

Differences having arisen in connection with certain points in the award of Sir Kenelm Digby, K.C.B., K.C., the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (see GAZETTE for February, p. 38), Sir Kenelm Digby, at the request of both parties, visited Swansea on May 17th, to decide upon the points submitted to him, which were as follows:—

Doubles and Canadas.—The Employers read the Award that Doubles and Canadas have to be paid for as ordinary Tinplates, viz., on the basis of 14 x 10, 22½ sheets, Area 31,500 inches per box.

The men read the Award that the same rates are to be paid as existed in the arrangement made for the year ending June 30th, 1903.

Annealing.—The Employers read the Award as follows. That where black and white annealing is carried on in the same works, and only once annealing on some portion of the output of such works is performed that the rate for black annealing only is to be 6s. 6d. per 100 boxes.

The men contend that the Award does not provide for such a case.

* See GAZETTE for June, 1902, p. 156.
† See GAZETTE for June, 1901, p. 170.

Lapping.—The Employers contend that lapping includes the handling of the boxes as stated in evidence by Mr. Thomas.

The men contend that the handling of the boxes is not included in the Award as to lapping.

The arbitrator's decision was as follows:—

Canadas and Doubles.—That in my opinion the interpretation put upon the Award by the Employers, as stated in the question submitted, is correct. The award does not in my opinion bear the interpretation contended for by the men.

Annealing.—For the reasons given at the meeting, I am of opinion that the Award does not determine the rate of payment for black annealing when that operation only is performed.

Lapping.—I am of opinion that the rate fixed by the Award for "lapping" includes the taking the box from some place close at hand, placing the case inside the box, lapping down the edges and removing the box. The rate does not in my opinion include any other work such as fetching the box from some distance or removing it to some distance.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

RIGHT TO CLAIM COMPENSATION AND ALSO TO BRING ACTION: ABANDONMENT OF CLAIM: EXERCISE OF OPTION.

Where a workman is injured by an accident caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of his employer, or of any person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in the Act affects the civil liability of the employer, but in that case the workman may, at his option, either claim compensation under the Act, or take the same proceedings as were open to him before the commencement of the Act; but the employer is not liable to pay compensation both independently of and also under the Act, and is not liable to any proceedings independently of the Act, except in case of such personal negligence or wilful default.

A workman engaged in certain building operations was injured by accident on 8th September, 1903. On 30th September he served notice of injury on his employer, and made a request for arbitration under the Act. The employer filed an answer stating that the claimant was not entitled to compensation, as the building on which the accident happened was under 30 feet in height. The claimant then gave notice that he abandoned his claim under the Act, and the employer was awarded the costs incurred. The man afterwards, on 21st January, 1904, began an action in the County Court, claiming damages for his injuries under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880. At the hearing on 1st March the point was raised on behalf of the defendant that, as the plaintiff had claimed compensation under the Act, and requested arbitration, he had exercised his option under the Act, and was thereby debarred from bringing his action under the Employers' Liability Act. The County Court Judge decided the point in favour of the defendant, and gave him judgment. The plaintiff appealed to the High Court.

The High Court held that where the employer by his answer had pointed out to the plaintiff that he had mistaken his remedy, and the plaintiff had thereupon withdrawn his claim, it could not be said that the plaintiff had exercised his option within the meaning of the Act.

The County Court Judge was therefore wrong, and the plaintiff was entitled to bring his action under the Employers' Liability Act.—*Rouse v. Dixon, King's Bench Division, May 19th, 1904.*

EXERCISE OF OPTION BY INFANT.

In another case the question was raised how far a person under 21 years of age is bound by exercising his option. For the purposes of the Act the term "workman" includes "apprentice."

An apprentice of 17 years of age accidentally lost three fingers of his left hand, in the course of his employment, through a plane being negligently left unfenced. He elected to accept compensation under the Act, and accepted a weekly payment of 2s. 6d. for some weeks. He then brought an action at law for damages against his employers, alleging negligence against them. The facts of the case were fully reported in the LABOUR GAZETTE for September, 1903, at page 242. At the trial the Judge held that the plaintiff being at law an infant was incapable of exercising an option whether to claim compensation or to proceed by action; and judgment was given in the plaintiff's favour for £75 damages, less the small amount of compensation he had received before the action. The employers appealed.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Judge, holding that there was nothing in the Act to alter the ordinary law of the land that an infant cannot bind himself by an agreement not for his benefit. Here the Judge had rightly decided that the agreement made by the plaintiff was not for his benefit, and therefore the plaintiff in exercising the option had not bound himself and was entitled to sue.—*Stephens v. Dudbridge Ironworks Company (Ltd.), Court of Appeal, May 6th, 1904.*

AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION: "EARNINGS": ALLOWANCE FOR LODGING TO RAILWAY GUARD.

Where a workman is killed by accident under such circumstances that his dependants are entitled to compensation under the Act, the amount of compensation is a sum equal to his earnings in the employment of the same employer during the three years next preceding the injury.

A goods guard in the employment of a railway company was killed under circumstances which entitled his widow to such compensation. Besides his regular wages, and pay for overtime, the man was by the terms of his employment entitled to a certain allowance when obliged to lodge away from home between an outward and return journey, as he frequently had to do. If lodgings were provided by the company the allowance was 1s. in the country and 1s. 6d. in London. If he found his own lodgings the allowance was 2s. in the country and 2s. 6d. in London. No enquiry was made as to the expenses incurred by a guard; and if he took his own food with him, or lodged with a friend, he was, nevertheless, entitled to his lodging allowance. The widow's claim for compensation came before a County Court Judge; but the only dispute was whether, in computing the compensation, these lodging allowances should be taken into account as part of the "earnings" of the deceased during the three years before his death. The County Court Judge found, as a fact, that the amount of the allowance was about equal to the reasonable cost of board and lodging, or of board only if the Company's lodgings were used. He was of opinion that as the allowances were fixed payments, independent of what the guard might spend, to which he was as much entitled when occasion arose as to his regular wages, the allowances should be included in the earnings of the deceased. The award of compensation was therefore made on this footing. The Company appealed, but the Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the County Court Judge. On further appeal to the House of Lords, the judgment of the Court of Appeal was affirmed.—*Midland Railway Co. v. Sharpe, House of Lords, May 17th, 1904.*

MAXIMUM WEEKLY PAYMENT: REVIEW: VARIATION IN RATE OF WAGES.

When an injured workman is entitled to compensation under the Act, the maximum weekly payment which can be awarded to him is 50 per cent. of his average weekly earnings during the 12 months preceding the accident.

A hauler in the employment of a colliery company met with an accident in October, 1901, which totally incapacitated him from work till June, 1903. During the previous 12 months his average weekly earnings had amounted to 34s. and the company paid him by way of compensation 17s. a week. In June, 1903, the company found the man light work as a lamp man and paid him 29s. 5d. a week. They thereupon stopped the weekly payment of 17s. The injured man then took proceedings under the Act before the County Court Judge for an award of compensation. The wages of workmen in the colliery were regulated from time to time by a conciliation board according to variations in the price of coal; and at the time of the application to the County Court Judge the wages of haulers had fallen from 34s. at the time of the accident to 29s. 5d.; so that the man was being paid the same wages he would have been earning as a hauler if he had never been injured. On hearing the application, the Judge held that the maximum, which had been originally fixed as the average amount of the wages of a hauler at the time of the accident, was subject to variation according as the wages fluctuated from time to time; and he decided that, as the company were paying the man the same wages as they were paying to haulers who were doing the same work as he had been doing before the accident, the man was not entitled to any weekly payment. He declared, however, that, if the circumstances changed, the company would be liable under the Act. The workman appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that the maximum weekly payment fixed at the time of the accident was no subject to any alteration by reason of subsequent fluctuations in the rate of wages; and the case was sent back to the County Court Judge for reconsideration.—*James v. Ocean Coal Company, (Ltd.), Court of Appeal, May 3rd, 1903.*

(2) Employers' Liability Act.

WHO IS A WORKMAN: MAN EMPLOYED ON RIVER BARGE: SEAMAN.

Under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, the expression "workman" means a railway servant and any person to whom the Employers and Workmen Act, 1875, applies. By the last mentioned Act, "workman" does not include a domestic or menial servant, but means any other person who, being a labourer, servant in husbandry, journeyman, artificer, handicraftsman, miner, or otherwise engaged in manual labour, has entered into or works under a contract with an employer, whether the contract be a contract of service or a contract personally to execute any work or labour.

A man was employed upon a barge upon the Thames. She was a vessel of 38 tons, registered under the Merchant Shipping Act. Although the barge was quite fit to go to sea and engage in coasting trade, she had only been used on the Thames from the lower sea reaches upwards. The crew consisted only of the captain and the man in question. He was under the orders of the captain, and, whilst his main duty was to assist in the loading and unloading of the barge, he also assisted in navigating the barge. One day the captain was instructed to take the barge from the lower reaches to Brentford. He sailed her up to Woolwich, where she was taken in tow along with other barges by a tug. The barges were kept abreast by means of a breast rope supplied by the man's employer. The barges were towed to a place above bridges where the tug had to pick up another barge. During the manoeuvring to do this the

captain ordered the man to hold on to the breast rope. He did so, and owing to its defective condition the breast rope broke. He was then told by the captain to hold on by the tow rope, and in doing so he received injuries. The man then brought an action against his employer under the Employers' Liability Act, 1880, alleging that the defendant had supplied a defective rope and that the accident was due to that fact. In defence it was argued in the County Court that the plaintiff was not within the Act as he was a seaman, not a labourer. The Judge, however, decided that he was a labourer, not a seaman, and was a person included in the word "workman" in the Act; also, that the accident was occasioned by the defective rope and that the plaintiff was entitled to damages. The defendant appealed.

The High Court reversed the decision of the County Court, holding that the plaintiff was a seaman, and was employed upon a ship; he was employed in navigating the ship and was injured whilst so doing, therefore he was not entitled to succeed in his claim under the Employers' Liability Act.—*Corbett v. Pearce, King's Bench Division, reported May 2nd, 1904.*

(3) Trade Union Acts.

TRADE UNION OR FRIENDLY SOCIETY? SOCIETY ILLEGAL AT COMMON LAW: LIABILITY TO BE SUED ON AGREEMENT.

By the common law of England any association or agreement having for its object the restraint of trade is illegal. By the Trade Union Act, 1871, however, it is provided that the purposes of any trade union shall not, by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade, be deemed to be unlawful so as to render any member of such union liable to criminal prosecution for conspiracy or otherwise; also that the purposes of any trade union shall not, by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade, be unlawful so as to render void or voidable any agreement or trust. But it is further provided that nothing in the Act shall enable any court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the object of direct or indirect enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union to provide benefits to members, though such agreement is not therefore to be deemed unlawful.

The Amalgamated Society of Tailors and Tailoresses is a society registered under the Trade Union Acts. Its objects are—(1) the protection of the interests of the members, the improvement of the conditions of their employment, the regulation of the relations between employers and employed, and the emancipation of labour from the exploitation of capital; and also (2) the raising of funds for the support of distressed, sick, or superannuated members. One of the rules of the society provided for a superannuation allowance to any member who, having been for 25 consecutive years in the society, had attained 60 years of age.

A member, 82 years of age, had under the rule just mentioned become entitled to a superannuation allowance, and had been in receipt of it for some time; then, without his consent, the rule had by vote of the members been struck out, and the society refused to pay him any further allowance. He accordingly sued the trustees of his branch of the society for a number of weeks' allowances in arrears. The County Court Judge gave judgment in his favour, but the defendants appealed to the High Court. The High Court overruled the County Court Judge, and the plaintiff appealed to the Court of Appeal.

The Court of Appeal held that the rules of the society, which were rules of a friendly society, and the rules which were the rules of a trade union, were so inextricably mixed up that it was impossible to separate them; that the primary object of the society was trade protection by the ordinary means used by trade unions; that accordingly the society was one which at common law was illegal, and therefore the plaintiff could not succeed in his action. The decision of the High Court was therefore upheld.—*Cullen v. Elwin and others, Court of Appeal, May 6th, 1904.*

EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY.

A member of the Associated Shipwrights' Society, named Wheatley, in breach of the rules of the union, accepted employment under a non-union firm. Subsequently, on 14th December 1903, hearing that hands were wanted at a Dry Dock, he went to the dock and was taken on by Salton, the foreman. After about ten minutes Padon, an official of the union, went up and spoke to Salton. Salton then dismissed Wheatley. Wheatley then asked Padon why he had been dismissed, and Padon replied that the rules of the union showed that he was not allowed to work. Wheatley then brought an action in the County Court against Padon, Salton, and the union for damages for conspiracy to injure the plaintiff, and for an injunction. The Judge held that there was no case against the union, but decided in the plaintiff's favour as against Padon and Salton, with 12s. 6d. damages. These two defendants appealed to the High Court.

The High Court held that there was no evidence to justify the conclusion of the County Court Judge that the defendants had conspired. The only evidence was that Padon had made some communication to Salton, and had told the plaintiff that according to the rules he could not be allowed to work. The appeal was therefore allowed, and the judgment of the County Court overruled.—*Wheatley v. Padon and another, King's Bench Division, May 2nd, 1904.*

(4) Friendly Societies' Act.

DISPUTE BETWEEN MEMBER AND SOCIETY: RULES FOR SETTLEMENT: PROCEDURE: INTERFERENCE OF COURT.

It is provided by the Friendly Societies' Act, 1896, that every dispute between a member of a registered society and the society shall be decided in manner directed by the rules of the society, and the decision so given shall be binding and conclusive on all parties without appeal, and shall not be removable into any court of law or restrainable by injunction.

By the rules of a society disputes between a member and the society were to be decided by the arbitration committee of his branch, subject to the right to appeal from the decision of such committee to an appeal committee elected from branches of the society throughout the country. A member of this society had been on sick pay for some time previous to 2nd June, 1902. By the rules he was forbidden while receiving sick pay to be out of his house after 9.0 p.m. on any day. On 2nd June the visiting officers called after that hour and found he was out. The next day a doctor's certificate was left at the house of the secretary of the branch stating that the member was fit to resume work. This certificate was dated 31st May, but was in fact given on 3rd June. The arbitration committee of the branch held a meeting to enquire into the matter. At this meeting the member was charged with attempting to defraud the society, and with conduct calculated to bring disgrace on his order. He was then asked if he had any defence to make, and according to the officers present his answer was "No, I place myself in the committee's hands." Without further proceedings the arbitration committee expelled him from the society. The member then brought an action in the County Court against the trustees for an injunction against expelling him from the society and for damages for wrongful expulsion. It was contended on behalf of the defendants that the County Court Judge had no jurisdiction to hear the case. The Judge held that he was bound to hear the case, but adjourned the hearing to give the defendants the opportunity of applying for a writ of prohibition forbidding him to hear it. A judge of the High Court and the King's Bench Division successively refused to grant a prohibition. The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the defendants against the refusal of the King's Bench Division. The defendants then appealed to the House of Lords. The House of Lords agreed that a prohibition should not be granted, and dismissed the appeal. In giving judgment the Lord Chancellor said that the arbitration committee had acted too hastily. The charge arose in the course of investigation. Written notices should have been given to the plaintiff, and he should have been given time to consider his position. He should not have been expelled in so summary a way and in his absence; and the committee had no jurisdiction to deal with the charges against him when they did. There had therefore been an injustice which the Courts could not disregard.—*Andrews and others, Trustees of the Court Golden Grove of the Ancient Order of Foresters v. Mitchell, House of Lords, May 16th, 1904.*

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

There is a good demand for farm and dairy hands in all parts, which is likely to continue during the next three or four months. Returns published in the *Dominion Labour Gazette* for May show that the building trades were generally busy, though at Winnipeg the number of carpenters was excessive. Iron-moulders, electrical workers, bicycle makers, and the metal trades generally, printing, wood-working, and (except at Hamilton) clothing trades were also busy. But at Toronto the great fire, though it created a demand for men in the building trades, threw many in the metal, printing and clothing trades out of work. There was an over-supply of unskilled labour at Hamilton, Winnipeg, and Vancouver. Coal miners were well employed in Nova Scotia, and at Nanaimo in British Columbia, and asbestos miners in Quebec, but at Rosland, B. C., employment was irregular. An English Emigration Society states that the 500 artisans and labourers they have sent out this year to Montreal and Ontario found work within three or four days of arrival. But the Minister of the Interior telegraphed from Ottawa on May 31st "Only persons wishing to engage in farming or farm labour, for whom there are abundant openings, should go to Canada at present." At the large steel works at Sydney, Nova Scotia, some 1,800 struck for higher wages, and work was greatly interrupted in consequence. A report from New Brunswick states that there is no demand for more mechanics. There is a good opening along the South-West coast of Nova Scotia for men accustomed to deep-sea fishing, and farming in a small way. Female servants are wanted throughout Canada, both in towns and on farms.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—There is very little demand for more mechanics or miners, but the late splendid harvest has improved prospects generally, and more especially for farm labourers and station hands.

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

Victoria.—The local supply of labour is sufficient. The following have been fixed by the Special Wages Board as the minimum wages payable:—To persons bottling aerated waters, 38s. per week of 48 to 50 hours; to brass moulders and brass finishers, 48s. per week of 48 hours.

South Australia.—The wheat harvest this year was the largest since 1890, and the hay crop was the largest ever cut. The local supply of labour is sufficient.

Queensland.—There is a demand for farm labourers in the South, and for female servants in the North; but no demand for miners anywhere.

Western Australia.—The returns for the quarter ending March 31st last show as follows:—At Northam, Bunbury, and Bridgetown there is some demand in the building and other trades and for unskilled labour at Beverley and Northam, but elsewhere there is no demand. The demand for agricultural labourers is greater than the supply at Beverley, Northam, Meckering, Doodlakine, and Bridgetown. At Perth, printing, bootmaking, harness, saddle-making, and tailoring trades are slack; the building trade is steady. At Collie the output of coal shows a slight decrease, and all business, in consequence, is slack. At York during the harvest season just closed complaints were rife as to the inability of farm labourers so called. There should be good openings for really competent farm hands in this district. At Jarrahdale there is little demand for any but timber workers or mill hands. Good benchmen, or others with good knowledge of timber work, can get employment, but the demand would soon be met as vacancies are few. The demand for female domestic servants is greater than the supply at Perth, Fremantle, Coolgardie, Northam, Albany, and other places.

New Zealand.

At Auckland the building and clothing trades have been busy, coach building very busy, and the engineering and boot trades rather dull. At Wellington the building trades have been very busy, the clothing and boot trades fairly busy, and engineering trades slack. At Christchurch a few carpenters have been out of work, but bricklayers, stonemasons, plumbers, gasfitters, and especially plasterers have been well employed; moulding and range making, agricultural implement, tanning, fell-mongering, wool scouring trades and woollen mills have all been very busy. At Dunedin, building, engineering and clothing trades have been doing well. Competent men in country districts obtain work; flax mills have been busy.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—No one is allowed to land in the Colony unless he possesses £20 on arrival, and has secured employment or has a permit for entering the Transvaal or Orange River Colony. The assisted passages recently granted to male and female domestic servants are now suspended. There is no demand for more labour, and the building trades at Cape Town, East London, Port Elizabeth, and Kimberley are very depressed, and labour is more than sufficient. Emigrants other than female servants should not go to Cape Colony at the present time in search of work.

Natal.—Labour is plentiful in the building trades both in Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Emigrants without means or secured employment should not go to Natal now.

Transvaal.—No one may enter the Transvaal without a permit. The building trade is in a very depressed condition, and labour is very plentiful. There is no improvement in the demand for labour generally, and large numbers of men are leaving Johannesburg. Trade continues very slack, though the output of the mines is larger. The cost of living remains very high. Female servants and other women may obtain assisted passages by applying to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W.

Orange River Colony.—There is no demand for more labour. Female servants may obtain assisted passages by applying to the South African Colonisation Society, 47, Victoria Street, London, S.W.

LABOUR ABROAD.

FRANCE.

*Employment in April.**—The resumption of work in the building trades was almost complete. Employment in the metal trades continued to improve, especially in the automobile branch. Among the textile trades, the woollen industry alone continued actively employed, the cotton industry being even more depressed than in March, while, as regards the silk industry, a perceptible decline was experienced in the power-loom weaving establishments of the Lyons district, and considerable scarcity of employment continued to be felt in the small establishments in the Loire and Rhône districts. The garment making trades were in their busy season. The number of unemployed increased considerably amongst agricultural labourers, owing to various causes, e.g., the stoppage of work in the vineyards in certain Southern districts (owing to the fear of late frosts), the cessation of winter operations in the woods, and the completion of the spring sowings in the North of France. The slack season in the printing trades was retarded by the elections, and the leather tanning and dressing trades showed further improvement. Employment in the coarse pottery and glass trades continued satisfactory, but the china-ware trade appeared depressed.

Of the 155,326 members of 1,006 Trade Unions (not including miners' unions in the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments) which made reports as to the state of employment in April, 15,632, or 10.0 per cent., were unemployed on the 15th of the month, as compared with 10.9 per cent. in the previous month, and 9.0 per cent. in April, 1903.

The following statement shows the percentages reported by certain Trade Unions as unemployed in April, compared with the corresponding figures for the previous month, and for April, 1903.

Trade Union.	Percentage reported Unemployed at the end of		
	April, 1904.	March, 1904.	April, 1903.
Building Trades:—	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Carpenters and Joiners ...	11.6	12.0	8.0
Other Branches ...	11.7	17.3	10.0
Metal and Engineering Trades ...	6.9	7.2	6.0
Textile Trades ...	10.5	10.0	9.0
Clothing Trades (exclusive of Boot and Shoemaking)	7.1	7.5	2.0
Printing Trades:—			
Paris ...	4.3	2.6	6.0
Provinces ...	2.4	3.3	3.0
Leather and Fur Trades:—			
Tanning, Dressing, &c. ...	20.0	24.0	9.0
Boot and Shoemaking ...	14.0	10.0	9.0
Furniture and Upholstery Trades	13.0	8.0	12.0
Food Preparation Trades ...	16.5	16.0	10.0

*Coal Mining in April.**—The average number of days worked per week by miners employed underground in April was 5.84, as compared with 5.88 in March last, as well as in April, 1903. Taking surface and underground workers together, 79.0 per cent. worked full time (6 days and over per week), and 17.22 per cent. from 5 to 6 days, the percentages in the previous month being 24.5 and 74.45 respectively. The foregoing particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of coal-owners, and relate to over 148,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

*Labour Disputes in April.**—One hundred and thirty-five disputes were reported as having been begun in April, the number of participants in 127 of these being 36,435. The number of disputes reported in the previous month was 97, in 87 of which 45,267 workpeople took part, while in April, 1903, there were 32 disputes, in 31 of which 4,752 workpeople took part. Twenty of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 5 in mining and quarrying, 29 in the metal trades, 33 in the textile trades, 14 in the transport and warehousing trades, 2 in the printing and paper trades, 6 in the woodworking trades, 9 in the chemical, glass and pottery trades, 10 in the leather trades, and 7 in trades not included within any of these groups. One hundred and twelve new and old disputes were reported as having terminated in

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

April, 25 having ended in favour of the workpeople, 29 in favour of the employers, and 58 in a compromise.

Conciliation and Arbitration in April.—Twenty-nine cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in April, the initiative being taken in fourteen cases by the Justice of the Peace, in twelve cases by the workpeople, in one case by the employer, and in two cases by employers and workpeople jointly.

Committees of conciliation were formed in thirteen of the twenty-nine cases, and resulted directly in the settlement of seven disputes.

As regards the sixteen cases in which no committees of conciliation were formed, the employers declined or did not respond to the proffered mediation in eleven cases, neither party responded in one case, three disputes were settled by direct mediation of the Justice of the Peace, and one came to an end before any committee could be formed.

Strike of Ships' Officers.—Despatches, dated May 17th and 18th, from H.M. Consuls at Havre, Bordeaux, and Dunkirk, report the termination of the strikes of ships' officers, which were declared at those ports in sympathy with the strikes of ships' officers at Marseilles (see GAZETTE, p. 137).

Recent Strikes at various French Ports.—The following particulars are based on despatches of various dates from May 20th to June 10th, from Sir E. Monson, H.M. Ambassador at Paris; Mr. M. C. Gurney, H.M. Consul-General at Marseilles; and from Captain Gye and Mr. W. R. Hearn, H.M. Consuls at Brest and Havre respectively:—

A strike of dockers at Marseilles took place on May 20th, owing to the refusal of a firm of stevedores to reinstate certain discharged men, but the men agreed to submit the dispute to arbitration, and resumed work on May 21st. A strike of dockers also took place at Brest on May 21st, and was still in progress at the date of reporting.† On June 1st a number of coalheavers struck work at Havre on account of the use of automatic buckets for discharging coal from vessels. A strike occurred at Marseilles among the boilermakers and engineers for a working day of 9 hours all the year round. This demand was acceded to by the employers, and the strike terminated on May 27th. All the hands of the tile factories at l'Estaque—4,000 men and women—have struck to support the boatmen employed in the barges used by those factories. The boatmen demand increased pay, articles of agreement for sailing barges, and the abolition of the pooling of barges by the several companies. The employers have refused to accede to these demands, and the strike was still in progress at the date of reporting.

Nine Hours Day at Government Printing Works.—From April 10th last the hours of labour of the workpeople (about 1,350 in number) employed in the National Printing Works of the French Government have been reduced from ten to nine per day. In order to prevent any decline in the earnings of the workpeople as a result of this change, those on day wages are being paid the same amount for the nine hours as they were for the ten, whilst those on piece-wages have had their rates of pay increased by one-ninth.

GERMANY.

Employment in April.—According to the review of the state of employment prepared by the German Labour Department on the basis of reports obtained from various sources (including Employers' Associations, Chambers of Commerce, Public Labour Bureaux, and Sick and Invalidity Insurance Funds), the tendency of the labour market both in industry and agriculture, was on the whole favourable in April, and employment was better than a year ago, the Spring revival of business having been more marked than usual this year. In coal mining a slight decline took place, and in the Ruhr district led to a reduction in the number of shifts worked. In

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department).
† From newspaper reports it appears that the dockers at Brest were demanding 4s. a day for unloading vessels, and 4s. 6d. a day for colliers, instead of 3s. 2d. and 4s. per day respectively. The strike was still in progress at the date of going to press.
‡ Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department).

the metal trades, employment continued satisfactory, although blast furnaces in certain districts were somewhat short of orders. The state of the electrical industry also remained satisfactory, though on the whole, quieter than in recent months. Most branches of the textile trades were in full work, the chief exceptions being the Crefeld silk industry, and the buckskin and worsted weaving industries in München-Gladbach. A large proportion of the redundant labour from other industries was absorbed by the building trades in April, and the demand for labour was brisk in the majority of the minor skilled trades.

Labour Disputes in May.—The Berlin journal *Der Arbeitsmarkt* reports 52 disputes as having begun in May, as compared with 50 in April. Twenty-two of the new disputes occurred in the building trades, 1 in mining, 5 in the metal and engineering trades, 2 in the textile trades, 5 in the clothing trades, 7 in the wood-working trades, 2 in the stone and earths trades, 3 in the food preparation trades, 4 in the transport trade, and one among commercial employees.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Employment in April.—According to reports made to the Austrian Labour Department by public and private labour registries, the number of applications for employment per 100 situations offered was as follows:—

	Males	Females	Both Sexes
April, 1904 ...	188	107	149
March, 1904 ...	204	115	158
April, 1903 ...	228	99	175

Disputes in April.—Twenty-eight disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in April, exclusive of any disputes which may have occurred in the mining and smelting industries (for which the returns are quarterly). The number of workpeople who took part in 27 of these disputes was 5,106. Six of the disputes occurred in the building trades, 9 in the metal and engineering trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 1 in the book printing trade, 5 in the wood-working trades, 2 in the glass and pottery trades, and 3 in the leather trades. The results were reported in 18 cases, 2 disputes being decided in favour of the workpeople, 6 in favour of the employers, and 10 being compromised.

Dispute in Building Trades in Vienna.—Various newspapers report the outbreak of a dispute among masons and bricklayers in Vienna. The men demanded a minimum daily wage of 3s. 4d. (the average rate at present being 3s. per day), and on June 3rd it was reported that an arrangement had been made between the employers and men fixing the minimum day's wage at 3s. 2d. till August 1st, and after that at 3s. 4d. Upwards of 30,000 workpeople are said to have been thrown out of work in Vienna owing to this dispute.

SWITZERLAND.

Working Hours of Women and Children in Factories.—As regards the maximum duration of the working day, the Swiss Federal Factory Act makes no distinction between men, women, and children, the hours of labour being limited, for all classes of factory operatives, to 11 on ordinary week-days and to 10 on Saturdays. Statistics published by the Federal Department of Industry in 1902, showed that this weekly maximum of 65 hours was being worked by 41.7 per cent. of all factory operatives in Switzerland. From figures contained in the most recent report of the Federal Factory Inspector for the district comprising the cantons of Zurich, Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden, Nidwalden, Glarus, Zug, St. Gall and Grisonst, it appears that only 38.6 per cent. of adult males employed in factories in that district had to work the full 65 hours per week, whereas among the women operatives in general 65 per cent., among the married women 71.5 per cent., and among children and young persons 53.1 per cent. had to work the full 65 hours per week. The explanation is said to be that more than half the total female workpeople, and two-thirds of all young persons and children were employed in the textile industry, where the hours of labour are longer than in the metal and engineering trades.

* Information supplied through the courtesy of the Austrian Labour Department.
† Berichte der eidg. Fabrik- und Bergwerk-Inspektoren, 1902-3. Schweiz. Industriedepartement. Aarau: 1904.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—BUILDING TRADES; COAL MINING.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

BUILDING TRADES.

ACCORDING to returns furnished by 78 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 88,500 workpeople, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 194,700, employment continues dull. Compared with a month ago it shows little change on the whole, but it is worse than a year ago.

With bricklayers employment is reported as dull generally, but slightly better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. With masons it was fair in England and much the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago; in Scotland it was dull and showed no improvement compared with either a month or a year ago.

With carpenters and joiners employment was dull in England, and fair in Scotland. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union carpenters and joiners at the end of May was 5.9, compared with 6.1 at the end of April, and 2.6 in May, 1903. With plumbers employment was dull. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union plumbers at the end of May was 9.2, compared with 9.7 at the end of April, and 6.4 a year ago.

Employment with plasterers was dull generally. With painters in England it was, on the whole, moderate, and rather better than a month ago; in Scotland it was good and much the same as in April. With slaters and tilers it was dull in England and Ireland, but it was fairly good in Scotland.

The Table given below shows the proportion of unemployed carpenters and joiners and plumbers in the principal districts according to the returns of certain Trade Unions.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1904.*	Percentage of Members of Unions returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in Percentage for May, 1904, as compared with a	
		May, 1904.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
		CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.				
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	7,199	7.1	7.2	3.7	−0.1	+3.4
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough ...	5,939	9.1	10.8	3.8	−1.7	+5.3
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	10,350	6.1	6.4	2.4	−0.3	+3.7
Yorkshire ...	5,271	7.5	6.7	3.1	+0.8	+4.4
East Midlands ...	3,042	4.3	5.2	3.1	−0.9	+1.2
West Midlands ...	4,705	5.4	7.1	2.4	−2.0	+2.7
Eastern Counties ...	1,183	5.7	6.0	1.2	−0.3	+4.5
S. and S.W. Counties ...	5,895	3.6	3.5	1.2	+0.1	+2.4
Wales and Monmouth ...	1,709	3.8	4.3	3.7	−0.5	+0.3
Other Districts ...	608	5.4	4.8	1.0	+0.6	+4.4
SCOTLAND ...	5,323	5.5	2.7	2.4	+2.8	+3.1
IRELAND ...	5,174	4.5	4.5	1.3	—	+3.2
UNITED KINGDOM ...	56,413	5.9	6.1	2.6	−0.2	+3.3
PLUMBERS.						
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
London ...	1,123	9.3	7.9	8.6	+1.4	+0.7
Northern Counties and Middlesbrough ...	1,625	8.4	9.8	5.8	−1.4	+2.6
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	2,508	9.4	10.3	6.2	−0.9	+3.2
Yorkshire ...	1,245	9.8	9.3	6.1	+0.5	+3.7
East Midlands ...	890	9.7	13.0	5.5	−3.3	+4.2
West Midlands ...	515	8.3	9.8	7.2	−1.5	+1.1
Eastern Counties ...	114	7.0	6.4	0.8	+0.6	+6.2
S. and S.W. Counties ...	512	6.1	6.9	3.2	−0.8	+2.9
Wales and Monmouth ...	280	7.9	5.7	5.5	+2.2	+2.4
Other Districts ...	30	6.7	6.3	5.4	+0.4	+1.3
SCOTLAND ...	1,925	10.8	9.7	5.4	+1.1	+5.4
IRELAND ...	943	8.4	10.7	11.7	−2.3	−3.3
UNITED KINGDOM ...	11,210	9.2	9.7	6.4	−0.5	+2.8

A large number of the returns received from Employers' Associations, through the Trade Correspondent, report employment as dull or bad. In some districts an improvement is shown, as compared with a month ago, while in others there has been a falling off, and on the whole there has been little change.

London.—Employment in London continues slack, and was worse than in the previous month, or in May, 1903. Returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 72

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

employers show that in the last week of May they paid wages to 14,412 workpeople, as compared with 16,014 in April, and 15,905 in May, 1903.

Northern Counties, Lancashire, and Cheshire.—In the Tyne and Wear districts employment generally was dull and a large number of builders' labourers were unemployed. In the Middlesbrough, Stockton, and Hartlepool districts employment was affected by a dispute. In the Liverpool, Blackburn, Burnley and Bolton districts employment has slightly improved; in the Manchester and Wigan districts it was slack; in the Oldham district it was moderate with plasterers and bricklayers, and slack in other branches.

Yorkshire.—In Yorkshire employment shows little change as compared with a month ago, and is generally quiet or slack.

East Midland Counties.—Employment generally in this district was dull. The improvement noted last month with masons at Leicester, and with carpenters and joiners at Northampton, has not been maintained.

West Midland Counties.—In the Birmingham district employment was bad; at Walsall and Wolverhampton it was dull; in the Potteries it was quiet.

Eastern Counties.—In Norfolk and Cambridge employment continues slack, and a large number of builders' labourers are out of employment in all parts of the district, many being in receipt of poor law relief. In Suffolk and Essex employment was generally bad with plasterers, plumbers, painters, and masons; with bricklayers, however, it was good at Ipswich, and improved at Chelmsford; with carpenters it was fair at Colchester, and quiet at Ipswich and Chelmsford.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Devon and Cornwall employment on the whole was quiet; but at Exeter it was fair. In Somerset and Gloucestershire it was dull generally, but showed some improvement at Bristol with masons, bricklayers, and plasterers.

Wales and Monmouthshire.—In South Wales and Monmouthshire employment generally with carpenters and joiners and bricklayers was fair; with painters it was good; with masons, plasterers, and plumbers it was slack. In North Wales it was generally slack or dull.

Scotland.—Employment generally continues to be dull, except with painters, with whom on the whole it is good.

Ireland.—In Dublin employment continues slack, except with stone cutters and painters, with whom it is fair. At Belfast employment with painters has been good; with carpenters fair; with other branches moderate or dull. At Cork employment with masons has been good; with plasterers and painters fair; with stone cutters and plumbers dull; and with labourers moderate.

COAL MINING

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during May showed a slight falling off as compared with both a month and a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at collieries from which returns were received was about the same as a month ago, and 1.2 per cent. greater than in May, 1903.

Returns received relating to 1,308 pits, employing 521,656 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked per week by the collieries during the four weeks ended May 21st, was 5.09, as compared with 5.21 in May, 1903. The averages for these two months are not affected by holidays, but in comparing May with April allowance must be made for the Easter holidays in England and Wales, which lowered the average for April by about half a day per week. In the case of Scotland the time lost in this way was insignificant and the comparison is not therefore affected.

In the Table below the average time worked by the

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—COAL AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

pits in the various districts is shown for the three periods specified:—

District.	No. of workpeople employed in May, 1904, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1904, as compared with	
		May 21st, 1904.	Apr. 23rd, 1904.*	May 23rd, 1903.	A m'nth ago.*	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	41,879	5.40	5.11	5.38	+ .29	+ .02
Durham ...	98,641	5.35	5.08	5.47	+ .27	+ .12
Cumberland ...	6,635	5.71	5.19	5.37	+ .52	+ .34
Yorkshire ...	78,424	4.89	4.70	4.98	+ .19	+ .09
Lancashire and Cheshire...	50,438	4.79	4.68	4.96	+ .11	+ .17
Derbyshire ...	37,563	4.79	4.39	4.80	+ .40	+ .50
Nottingham and Leicester	26,402	4.02	4.01	4.52	+ .01	+ .50
Staffordshire ...	28,562	4.69	4.66	4.80	+ .03	+ .11
Salop, Worcester, and Warwick ...	10,116	4.75	4.68	5.28	+ .07	+ .53
Gloucester and Somerset...	9,241	4.86	5.16	5.04	+ .30	+ .18
North Wales...	11,634	5.07	4.94	5.52	+ .13	+ .45
South Wales and Mon. ...	82,515	5.86	5.16	5.84	+ .70	+ .02
ENGLAND & WALES ...	482,050	5.08	4.83	5.20	+ .21	+ .16
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	18,596	5.02	5.17	5.23	+ .15	+ .21
The Lothians ...	4,718	5.38	5.51	5.48	+ .13	+ .10
Fife ...	15,612	5.35	5.13	5.48	+ .22	+ .13
SCOTLAND ...	38,926	5.19	5.23	5.38	+ .01	+ .16
IRELAND.						
United Kingdom ...	821,655	5.09	4.86	5.21	+ .19	+ .16

As compared with a year ago, there were increases in four districts and decreases in twelve. In Cumberland the increase amounted to one-third of a day, while decreases of half a day or more occurred in three Midland districts.

Of the 521,656 workpeople included in the returns, 344,124 or 66.0 per cent. were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended May 21st, 1904, as compared with 74.2 per cent. in May, 1903.

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Northumberland steam coal and house coal pits worked on an average over 5 days per week. In Durham house, manufacturing, gas and coking coal pits each averaged over 5 days per week. In the Leeds district employment continues quiet. Pits in the Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham district worked an average of 4.61 days per week. With surface workers in this district employment is reported to be slack, and a large number of men are out of work.

In Lancashire employment generally continues moderate.

In Nottinghamshire employment continues moderate. In Leicestershire short time is being worked generally. At Tamworth employment is bad. In the Cannock Chase district an average of three days per week has been worked. In South Staffordshire and East Worcester-shire an average of four and a-half days per week was worked. In Shropshire employment continues fair.

In the Forest of Dean and Bristol district employment has declined. In the Radstock district it continues fair. In North Wales employment continues fair.

In South Wales steam coal pits generally have worked full time. At anthracite and house coal pits in West Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire there has been an improvement in the time worked, but a number of collieries are still on short time.

In Lanarkshire some short time is being worked. In Ayrshire employment has been bad; in Dumbartonshire and Stirlingshire, fair. In West Lothian employment was not so good as a month ago. In Mid and East Lothian there was a falling off at certain pits towards

* This column is affected by the Easter holidays in April.

the end of the month, but on the whole employment has been fairly good. Employment in Fifeshire improved during the month.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during May amounted to 4,223,808 tons, as compared with 3,931,880 tons in April, and 4,413,595 tons in May, 1903.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 74 firms employing over 18,000 workpeople, from 6 Employers' Associations, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in May continued good in iron and shale mines. It was fairly good in lead mines, and fair generally in tin and copper mines. It was fairly good in slate and limestone quarries, and with settmakers; and fair on the whole in granite quarries, and with china clay workers.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continued good. The average time worked shows an increase as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The comparison with a month ago, however, is affected by the Easter Holidays, which are included in that period. The number of workpeople employed was 2.5 per cent. less than a year ago. During the four weeks ended May 21st, the average number of days worked per week by the 131 mines and openworks covered by the returns received from employers was 5.86, as compared with 5.78 a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns received:—

Districts.	No. employed in May, 1904, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1904, as compared with	
		May 21st, 1904.	April 23rd, 1904.*	May 23rd, 1903.	A month ago.*	A year ago.
ENGLAND—						
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,576	5.95	5.75	5.93	+ 0.20	+ 0.02
Cleveland ...	7,055	5.96	5.75	5.89	+ 0.21	+ 0.07
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire ...	929	5.48	5.69	5.66	+ 0.21	+ 0.18
Northamptonshire	605	5.69	5.37	5.66	+ 0.32	+ 0.03
Staffordshire and Shropshire ...	1,036	5.36	5.05	4.47	+ 0.51	+ 1.09
Other places in England...	122	5.73	5.64	5.87	+ 0.09	+ 0.14
Total, England	14,323	5.88	5.67	5.77	+ 0.21	+ 0.11
SCOTLAND ...	1,049	5.57	5.56	5.85	+ 0.10	+ 0.28
IRELAND ...	120	5.95	5.87	5.94	+ 0.08	+ 0.01
Total and Averages	15,492	5.86	5.67	5.78	+ 0.19	+ 0.08

Of the 15,492 workpeople covered by the returns, 13,817, or 89.2 per cent., were employed in mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended May 21st, 1904, as compared with 81.4 per cent. a month ago, and 91.2 per cent. in May, 1903.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners continues good. Returns received relating to 24 mines show that in May 2,693 men were employed, as compared with 2,723 a month ago, and 2,662 in May, 1903. The average weekly number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended May 21st was 5.69, as compared with 5.57 days in April and 5.83 days in May, 1903.

Lead, Tin, and Copper Mining.—In lead ore mines in the Weardale district employment continued moderate, the miners working 5 days per week; in North Wales it continued good. Employment in the tin and copper mines in Devon and Cornwall continued fair generally, except in the Calstock district where it was slack.

* This column is affected by the Easter holidays in April.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment with slate quarrymen continued good in North Wales, and moderate in Argyllshire. It was also moderate in Devon and Cornwall.

Limestone.—Employment was good in the Upper Wear-dale district. It was fairly good at Stanhope (Durham), and in Cumberland, and at Westgate (Durham) full time was worked. It was slack in Derbyshire, and moderate in Devon and Cornwall. In North Wales it continued good.

Granite.—Employment with granite quarrymen was fairly good in Leicestershire; dull in Devon and Cornwall. It continued good in North Wales, and bad in Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire.

Other Stone.—Employment with stone quarrymen in the Gateshead district continued fairly good, and was good in the Blackburn and Burnley districts. In the Sheffield district quarrymen employed on street work were busy; at Barnsley employment was moderate, and at Normanton full time was worked. Employment with chert quarrymen in Derbyshire, and at the building and grindstone quarries in the Rowsley district, was fair. In the Clee Hill quarries and the sandstone quarries in North Wales it continued good. Employment with quarrymen was dull at Plymouth, and fair at Gunnislake. In Forfarshire it continued bad.

Settmaking.—Employment with settmakers in Leicestershire was fair generally. In the Clee Hill and North Wales districts it continued good. In Scotland it was fair at Airdrie and in the Edinburgh district, and good at Aberdeen. It was fair in the Belfast district.

China Clay.—Employment with china clay workers in the St. Austell and Lee Moor (Devon) districts was fair.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

RETURNS have been received from Employers, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment in this industry is slightly better than a month ago, but in England and Wales it remains considerably below the level of a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 112 ironmasters show that 308 furnaces were in blast at the end of May as compared with 303 in April, 5 furnaces in England having been re-lit during the month. In May, 1903, 325 furnaces were in blast. The number of workpeople employed at the works included in the returns is estimated at about 21,800.

The following Table shows by districts the furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns in the three periods specified:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1904, as compared with	
	May, 1904.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	77	77	82	...	- 5
Cumberland & Lancs.	34	31	41	+ 3	- 7
S. and S.W. Yorks...	13	13	16	...	- 3
Derby & Nottingham	38	38	38	...	...
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	25	24	26	+ 1	- 1
Stafford & Worcester	31	30	33	+ 1	- 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	13	13	16	...	- 3
Other districts ...	6	6	7	...	- 1
Returned from England & Wales	237	232	259	+ 5	- 22
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND ...					
SCOTLAND ...	71	71	66	...	+ 5
Total furnaces included in returns ...	308	303	325	+ 5	- 17

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT shows a slight decrease as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Returns furnished by employers and relating to 195 works show that 73,650 workpeople were employed in these works during the week ended May 21st—759 less than in the last week of the previous month, and 819 less than in the corresponding week of May, 1903. The total volume of employment, as indicated by the estimated aggregate number of shifts worked by all workpeople employed, shows a decrease of 2.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 3.0 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Number Employed.

The following Table shows the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1904, as compared with	
	May 21st, 1904.	Apr. 30th, 1904.	May 23rd, 1903.	A month ago.	A year ago.
England and Wales ...	61,597	62,331	62,710	- 734	- 1,113
Scotland ...	12,053	12,078	11,759	- 25	+ 294
Total ...	73,650	74,409	74,469	- 759	- 81

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

The Table below relates to the number of shifts worked at iron and steel works at which 90 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the preceding Table were employed. The average number of shifts worked per man in the week ended May 21st was 5.35, as compared with 5.39 in the previous month, and 5.42 in May, 1903.

Number of Shifts worked.	Percentage of workpeople who worked the shifts stated in the first column during the week ended		
	May 21st, 1904.	April 30th, 1904.	May 23rd, 1903.
Under 5 per week ...	15.1	14.1	11.8
5 per week ...	31.1	31.1	32.8
5½ per week ...	1.7	2.4	1.1
6 per week ...	50.9	51.1	53.6
Over 6 per week ...	1.2	1.3	0.7
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100.0

On the basis of the above Table the aggregate number of shifts worked by all workpeople covered by the returns may be approximately estimated at 393,960, as compared with 401,250 in the corresponding week of the previous month, and with 403,890 in the corresponding week of May, 1903.

The following reports relating to the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry have been furnished by Local Correspondents and others:—

Tyne and Wear District.—Employment was fair generally with steel smelters. Cogging, bar and steel mills in the Jarrow district averaged ten shifts per week. Employment was fairly good at finished iron and steel works, and with forge and hammermen.

Cleveland and Hartlepool District.—Employment was moderate at rail mills, fair at metal expansion works, moderate in other departments.

South Yorkshire District.—Employment in the iron and steel trade at Sheffield was slack generally and short time was worked. With railway tyre, axle and spring-makers employment was quiet. At Parkgate it was bad with iron-workers, and quiet with steelworkers. In iron works at Masbro' and Rotherham employment was fair; with steelworkers at Rotherham it was quiet. At Leeds employment continues bad, and only four days per week were worked.

Midlands.—In South Staffordshire steel smelters and iron workers were not so well employed as a month ago. In Shropshire steelworkers were fully employed. Employment in steel works at West Bromwich and Smethwick showed no improvement, and at ironworks

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

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—TINPLATE WORKS AND SHIPBUILDING.

employment had declined. At Ilkeston forges were working full time.

South Wales.—Employment with steel smelters and ironworkers was reported as slack generally.

Scotland.—Steel smelters report employment as good on the whole, but some short time is being worked. Ironworkers were fairly employed.

TINPLATE WORKS.

EMPLOYMENT in the tinplate industry is good, and better than a month ago, though not so good as a year ago.

At the end of May, 372 mills were working, as compared with 367 at the end of April, and 374 a year ago. At the 74 works open, 58 had all their mills in operation, while the remaining 16 works had 64 mills going out of a total of 97. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 372 mills was 18,600.

In the South Wales, Monmouthshire, and Gloucestershire district 362 mills were in operation at the end of May, as compared with 357 a month ago, and 370 in May, 1903.

The supply of and demand for labour continue to be fairly equal.

The following Table shows the number of mills at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,* at each of the three periods :—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.		
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.
Works giving full employment ...	58	308	...	308
Works giving partial employment ...	16	64	33	97
Total at end of May, 1904* ...	74	372	33	405
<i>Corresponding Total for Apr., 1904*</i> ...	75	367	42	409
<i>Corresponding Total for May, 1903†</i> ...	76	374	44	418

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

	Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets (Iron or Steel).			Black Plates for Tinning (Iron or Steel).		
	May, 1904.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	May, 1904.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.
To United States ...	Tons. 6,647	Tons. 5,495	Tons. 3,835	Tons. 14	Tons. —	Tons. 74
„ Other Countries ...	25,400	22,038	25,407	6,332	6,336	7,002
Total ...	32,047	27,534	29,242	6,346	6,336	7,076

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 6 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 6 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

The information thus obtained shows that the general state of employment continued bad, and was rather worse than a month ago. It was considerably worse than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 56,989 members had 7,487 (or 13·1 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 12·7 per cent. at the end of April, and 8·7 per cent. at the end of May, 1903.

The districts in which the percentage of unemployed was greatest were the Bristol Channel Ports, the Humber, East of Scotland and the Clyde, while it was lowest on the South Coast and at Belfast.

As compared with a month ago some improvement is shown on the Tyne and Clyde, and at Belfast. Nearly all the other districts show a decline which was greatest

* It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate.
† Revised figures.

at the Bristol Channel ports and on the Humber. As compared with a year ago, there is some improvement on the Tyne; in all other districts except Tees and Hartlepool there is a marked decline.

The percentages of unemployed Trade Union members in the various districts are shown in the following Table, with comparative figures for a month ago and a year ago :—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1904 included in the returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in Percentage for May, 1904, as compared with a	
		May, 1904.	Apr., 1904.	May, 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	8,607	10·6	12·8	12·8	– 2·2	– 2·2
Wear ...	4,487	14·5	12·4	11·7	+ 2·1	+ 2·8
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,068	14·4	11·7	11·6	+ 2·7	– 0·2
Humber ...	2,492	21·7	16·6	5·2	+ 5·1	+ 16·5
Thames and Medway ...	4,398	10·5	8·8	4·9	+ 1·7	+ 5·6
South Coast ...	4,026	6·5	4·1	3·0	+ 2·4	+ 3·5
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,707	23·8	19·8	11·1	+ 5·0	+ 12·7
Mersey ...	3,805	11·3	11·8	4·1	– 0·5	+ 7·2
Clyde ...	12,419	13·8	17·0	9·4	– 1·2	+ 6·4
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen ...	2,134	20·6	17·7	9·7	+ 2·9	+ 10·9
Belfast ...	3,089	7·9	9·3	4·2	– 1·4	+ 3·7
Other Districts ...	3,067	5·1	5·0	2·1	+ 0·1	+ 3·0
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	56,989	13·1	12·7	8·7	+ 0·4	+ 4·4

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts :—

Employment on the Tyne, though dull, is better than a month ago and a year ago. With shipwrights it is fair; with riveters, caulkers, and shipsmiths it is improving.

On the Wear employment generally is dull, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Frame benders are, however, busier, and with iron shipwrights employment is improving. With drillers and hole-cutters it is slack on repairs and good on new work.

In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment shows some falling off as compared with a month ago, and is about the same as a year ago. It is fair with shipwrights at Middlesbrough and Stockton, slack at Hartlepool.

On the Humber employment continues bad. It is worse than a month ago, and much worse than a year ago. Short time is reported. At Beverley employment continues fair.

On the Thames and Medway employment continues slack, and is much worse than a year ago. With shipwrights it is fair at Chatham. Iron shipbuilders report employment as fair at Chatham, good at Sheerness.

On the South Coast employment shows a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. It is good at Devonport. Shipwrights report employment as fair at Cowes and Gosport, and in some branches at Portsmouth, but discharges are taking place at the dockyard.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment generally is bad, and much worse than a month ago and a year ago. It is good with shipwrights at Pembroke Dock.

On the Mersey employment continues dull, and is much worse than a year ago.

On the Clyde employment shows some improvement as compared with a month ago. It is still, however, considerably worse than a year ago. Employment is fair at Dumbarton, and with shipwrights at Renfrew.

Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen.—Employment generally is bad, and has declined during the month. It is much worse than a year ago. Shipwrights report employment as fair at Aberdeen, and on repairs at Leith.

At Belfast employment shows a slight improvement compared with a month ago. It is worse than a year ago. Generally it is dull.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is good with shipwrights, but moderate with iron shipbuilders. It is fair at Ipswich, Dublin, and Cork; slack at Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—ENGINEERING.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 5 Employers' Associations, 2 large Companies, 25 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment shows a slight decline on the previous month, and has been to some extent affected by holidays. Generally it is dull and worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 140,667 members show that 9,330 (or 6·6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6·2 per cent. at the end of April, and 3·8 per cent. in May, 1903.

The percentage of unemployed is greatest in the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn district, Scotland and the West Riding towns coming next in order. The proportion was also below 5 per cent. in London, the South Wales and Bristol district, and the Birmingham, etc., district.

As compared with a month ago most districts show some decline in employment, but the changes either way are in no case great. Compared with a year ago every district shows a decline, the falling-off being greatest in Lancashire and the East of Scotland, and least on the North-East Coast, the South Coast, and in London.

The percentages for the various districts are shown in detail in the following Table :—

District.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1904, included in the returns.*	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in percentage unemployed for May, 1904, as compared with a	
		May, 1904.	Apr., 1904.	May, 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	14,271	5·2	4·5	5·0	+ 0·7	+ 0·2
Manchester and Liverpool District	17,675	7·1	7·0	3·0	+ 0·1	+ 4·1
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	11,397	11·3	11·0	4·4	+ 0·3	+ 6·9
West Riding Towns ...	11,803	8·9	8·0	5·9	+ 0·9	+ 3·0
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,414	6·3	7·4	2·8	– 1·1	+ 3·5
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	6,276	4·9	4·1	2·3	+ 0·8	+ 2·6
Nottingham, Derby, and Leicester District	3,993	5·8	5·9	2·9	– 0·1	+ 2·9
London and Neighbouring District	12,568	4·0	4·1	3·2	– 0·1	+ 0·7
South Coast ...	3,872	1·7	1·8	1·2	– 0·1	+ 0·5
South Wales and Bristol District	6,386	4·8	3·6	2·1	+ 1·2	+ 2·7
Glasgow and District ...	13,378	9·3	8·6	6·0	+ 0·7	+ 3·3
East of Scotland ...	3,019	10·9	10·7	6·1	+ 0·2	+ 4·8
Belfast and Dublin ...	3,469	6·5	6·8	2·6	– 0·3	+ 3·9
Other Districts ...	5,514	6·6	5·2	3·2	+ 1·4	+ 3·4
United Kingdom (Including certain Unions for which district figures are not available)	140,667	6·6	6·2	3·8	+ 0·4	+ 2·8

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts :—

North-East Coast.—Employment is rather worse than a month ago, and it is also slightly worse than a year ago. Generally it is moderate, but it is steady in marine shops on the Tyne, fairly good at Middlesbrough, and bad at Sunderland and Darlington. On repair work in the Shields district it has been fairly good. With pattern makers employment is dull at Middlesbrough. With ironfounders it is good generally, but bad at Hartlepool. In the boiler shops employment is fairly good on the Tyne and Wear, moderate in the Tees district. Engine-men and firemen are moderately well employed.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—On the whole employment shows little change on the previous month, but is considerably worse than a year ago. Generally it is very dull. Repair work for steamships has been moderate at Liverpool. Short time continues at Crewe. With ironfounders employment is bad, but is reported as improving at Salford and Wigan. Core makers at Manchester also report employment as improving. Brassfounders at Liverpool report employment as fair.

Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District.—Employment shows a slight decline, and is much worse than a year ago. Generally it is bad in the engine and textile machine trades. At Oldham much short

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

time is reported. At Bolton employment is very bad. It is moderate at Preston, Rochdale, Bury, and Heywood. Iron grinders and glazers report employment as moderate on the whole, and rather better than a month ago. With ironfounders employment is bad on the whole, but moderate at Bury and Preston, good at Burnley and Rochdale. Boilermakers are slack.

West Riding.—Employment generally is bad, rather worse than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. It is moderate at Bradford, Wakefield, and Cleckheaton. At Leeds it is quiet on the whole, but better on textile machinery work. With ironfounders employment is bad practically throughout the district. At Sheffield pattern makers report employment as fair, blacksmiths as moderate, all other sections as bad; short time is reported.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—Employment is better than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Generally it is bad at Hull, where short time is reported; good at Grimsby and Lincoln; moderate at Doncaster, Peterborough, and Grantham. With ironfounders it is bad at Hull and Grantham, good at Lincoln. Boiler makers report employment as improving at Doncaster, and as moderate elsewhere.

West Midlands.—Employment shows some decline, and is worse than a year ago. Generally it is quiet. With ironfounders it is fair on the whole, and with boiler-makers moderate. Electrical engineers at Birmingham are moderately employed. In the cycle industry employment is good at Redditch, and moderate at Coventry and Wolverhampton; in the motor section it is good.

East Midlands.—Employment shows little change on the preceding month, and is worse than a year ago. Generally it is quiet on the whole, bad at Nottingham, and fair at Leicester. With ironfounders it is moderate at Derby and Mansfield, and bad at Nottingham and Leicester. Employment is moderate with hosiery machine builders, and in the cycle trade. With shoe machinery makers it is not so brisk. With lace machine builders it is fairly good at Nottingham, but very slack at Long Eaton.

London and Neighbouring District.—A little improvement is reported in some branches, but employment generally continues quiet, and worse than a year ago. At Chatham and Sheerness it is fair. Ironfounders on the whole are moderately employed. With copper-smiths employment is fair. It is bad with electrical engineers, and with scientific and mathematical instrument makers.

South Coast.—The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members is only 1·7, a slightly higher proportion than a year ago. Employment generally is described as moderate. At Weymouth it is good.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment is worse than a month and a year ago. On the whole it is dull. With ironfounders it is fair. Engineers at Swindon are moderately employed, but boiler-makers are slack.

Glasgow and District.—Employment continues worse than a year ago. Generally it is bad at Glasgow and Paisley, moderate elsewhere. Brass finishers, and iron, steel and brass dressers report employment as fair, brass moulders as good, and copper-smiths as dull.

East of Scotland.—Employment generally continues dull and considerably worse than a year ago. At Dundee machine-making shops are well employed, but marine work continues slack. At Edinburgh and Leith pattern-makers report employment as improving, and blacksmiths as fair. At Falkirk employment is fair with moulders, but dull with pattern-makers.

Belfast and Dublin.—Employment continues considerably worse than a year ago. At Belfast it is dull generally, fair with brassfounders, and moderate with ironfounders. At Dublin it is bad.

Other Districts.—At Barrow employment is reported as moderate and worse than a year ago. In the Eastern Counties employment continues fair. It is moderate generally at Worcester, York, Lancaster, and Stoke, and bad at Stafford, Hanley, and Cork. Ironfounders report it as good at Worcester, but bad at Lancaster.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES; COTTON TRADE.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 20 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. Compared with a month ago employment shows no improvement, and it is not so good as it was a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedstead Making, etc.—Employment generally in the brass trade is bad, with some short time, and is worse than a month ago and a year ago. In Birmingham and Sheffield employment is reported moderate; in Exeter, good. In the Birmingham fire brasses and fender trade it is quiet. In the bedstead trade it is also quiet, but there is some improvement reported in the cheap goods class.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—Employment on nuts and bolts is reported as good in the Wolverhampton district, but as only moderate in Birmingham and Smethwick. In Birmingham machine-made rivet makers report employment as fair, cut and wire nail makers as moderate. At Wolverhampton employment is good on malleable nails and protectors.

Tubes.—Employment in this branch is reported as bad, with some short time; it is worse than a month or a year ago, with some short time. In Birmingham, however, cased and ordinary tube makers report employment as good. In South Wales employment has been fair, but not so brisk as a month ago.

Chains, Anchors, Anvils, Vices, etc.—At Cradley and district cable chain makers and strikers, and makers of block chain and dollyed and side-welded chains report employment as fair. At Gateshead chain makers are well employed, and at Winlton and in South Wales fairly so. With anchor smiths employment is reported as quiet at Cradley and on the North-East Coast; slack in South Wales. Anvil and vice makers at Dudley report employment as fair, better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. Spring makers and axle makers at West Bromwich report employment respectively as moderately good and good. Improvement is reported from Wednesbury among makers of railway springs and axles, in tyres and coach iron work; but iron and steel forgers, stampers and piercers are slack. At Walsall employment is bad with makers of bits, stirrups, case hame and cart gear.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Both at Wolverhampton and Willenhall employment is reported as bad in the lock and key trade with an increase in the amount of short time worked. Hollow-ware makers at Birmingham report employment as quiet but improving. Hollow-ware stampers, tanners, and turners at Wolverhampton as quiet; at Sheffield as slack. In the Wolverhampton district makers of plantation and brazil hoes, electric and motor castings, report employment as good; makers of iron fences and hurdles, and spade and fork finishers as fair; makers of vermin traps, builders' ironmongery, and spectacle frames as slack.

Files, Edge Tools, etc.—Birmingham file cutters and Wolverhampton filesmiths report employment as bad. In Sheffield employment in the file trade generally is quiet. In Warrington it is fair with file smiths. Edge tool makers are moderately employed at Birmingham; slack at Wolverhampton and Sheffield.

Cutlery, etc.—In Sheffield employment generally in these trades is slack, and worse than a month ago, the only branches reporting trade as good being sheep shear makers, benders, grinders, and finishers. Jobbing grinders, saw makers, pen and pocket blade forgers report employment as moderate. Most of the other branches are slack. In the Redditch needle trade employment is fair for the American and Colonial markets, quiet for the Home and Continental. The fishing-hook trade is quiet. Nottingham needle makers are very slack.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—Employment generally in this branch has fallen off, and in nearly all centres is slack, but in the Tyne and Wear districts heating engineers

and whitesmiths report employment as good. At Falkirk some improvement is reported, and the number on short time has considerably decreased.

Sheet Metal, etc.—In London sheet metal workers generally report employment as bad. In Birmingham tin-plate workers report it as moderate, iron-plate workers as good. It is fairly good with sheet metal workers on the Tyne and Wear, and good at Exeter; fair at Manchester, Edinburgh, and Glasgow, moderate at Leeds and Bristol, and bad elsewhere.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London silver-smiths report employment as fair, electro-platers as moderate, and small silver workers, as dull. Silver spoon and fork makers report it as quiet, finishers as fair. Goldsmiths and jewellers report employment as very bad, diamond workers as fair, and better than a month ago; gold beaters as fairly good. In Birmingham these trades are very quiet, as is the watch trade at Coventry. In Sheffield only the platers and gilders report employment as good.

Wirework.—Locally these trades show some signs of improvement. Wire drawers report employment as very good at Ambergate, fair and improving at Sheffield, and fair at Halifax, slightly improved at Birmingham, bad at Middlesbro' and Warrington. Wire weavers report it as fairly good at London, slightly better at Birmingham and Glasgow; wire workers as fairly good at Glasgow, quiet at London and Manchester.

Farriers.—With farriers employment generally is bad, but at Sheffield it is very good, and it is fair at Leicester, Newcastle, in Suffolk and Essex, and at Aberdeen, and Dublin.

COTTON TRADE.

INFORMATION as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department, and the Local Correspondents.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received, with regard to spinning and weaving factories usually employing about 119,000 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained shows that there was a slight improvement in the mills spinning American cotton, although as the agreement to work short time was generally adhered to, employment continued bad in May. On the other hand, mills spinning Egyptian cotton, which have been working full time for some time past, now show some decline in employment. Employment with weavers continued slack, but at the end of the month improvement is reported.

The average price of *middling American* cotton at Liverpool during May, was 7.44d. per lb., or about 7 per cent. less than in April, but still 24 per cent. more than in May, 1903. The price of "*good fair*" *Egyptian* cotton in May, was 7.91d. per lb., or 11 per cent. less than in April, and about 13 per cent. less than in May, 1903. The quantity of all kinds of American cotton forwarded from English ports to inland towns during the first five months of 1904, was 911,627 bales, or 369,434 bales less than in the same period in 1903. The corresponding figures for *Egyptian* cotton are 146,152 in 1904, and 155,391 in 1903.

In the *Spinning* branch short time (40 hours a week instead of 55½) was again the rule in mills using American cotton, or, as an equivalent, part of the spindles were kept standing when the mill was running full time. This was the case up to the end of May, since when there has been a tendency to break away from the agreement as to the 15½ hours short time, and at a mass meeting of members of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations held at Manchester on June 14th, the following recommendation was adopted:—

"The General Committee of the Federation, recognising the good results that have accrued from the action of the trade in working

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—COTTON TRADE.

short time for the past six months, recommends a continuance of short-time working at the rate of 47½ hours per week without equivalents, by stopping Saturdays and up to 8.30 a.m. on Mondays until the end of July, and in the meantime the Committee will carefully watch the condition of the trade with a view to recommending a return to 40 hours' working if thought necessary."

Of the 35,900 women and girls included in the returns for May from women correspondents, 10,900 were in the Bolton and Leigh district, in which *Egyptian* cotton is largely used; of these 61 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 72 per cent. during April, and 87 per cent. during May, 1903. Of the 25,000 included in the returns for the remaining districts, 36 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the month, compared with 33 per cent. of those covered by the returns during April, and 76 per cent. during May, 1903. If due allowance be made for the over-representation of Bolton in these returns, it appears that of the women and girls employed in all the districts covered by the returns, 42 per cent. were employed in spinning mills giving full employment, to be compared with the same percentage during April, and 79 per cent. a year ago.

In the *Weaving* branch employment continued bad, but at the end of the month showed some improvement. Of the 82,800 women and girls included in the returns from women correspondents, 48 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with the same percentage in April, and 70 per cent. a year ago.

The following Table summarises the returns from women correspondents as to the employment of women and girls, and also gives, for comparison, the corresponding figures for the previous month, and the revised figures for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working Full Time throughout the Month.*		Working Short Time during some part of the Month.	Closed during some part of the Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
Cotton Trade—Spinning—				
May, 1904	42	20	28	10
April, 1904	42	16	32	10
May, 1903	79†	7†	10†	4†
Cotton Trade—Weaving—				
May, 1904	48	19	21	12
April, 1904	48	21	24	7
May, 1903	70	18	8	

COTTON SPINNING.

Ashton District.—In Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden employment is reported as very slack. Short time was continued at most mills, and some of those running full time have had part of their spindles stopped.

Stockport and Manchester District.—Employment in the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley, and Compstall district is reported as bad, short time continuing the rule in mills using American cotton. In the Manchester, Pendlebury, and Patricroft district employment has been fair.

Glossop, Haadfield, and Hyde District.—Employment is reported as bad.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton, Lees, and Chadderton).—Employment continues bad, the short time arrangement being still carried out at about 90 per cent. of the mills in the district; in many cases the Whitsuntide holidays were extended.

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh, and Wigan).—In Bolton frequent slackness and stoppages of machinery in various branches during the month are reported, but Trade Union spinners and card room operatives report employment at the end of the month as fairly good. In Wigan short time continues general.

* Excluding usual holidays. † Revised Figures.

Bury, Heywood, and Rochdale District.—Employment in Bury is reported as improved, but during the month several mills have worked some short time or its equivalent; much card room machinery has been stopped because finer counts are being spun. In Rochdale and Heywood short time has prevailed in mills spinning American cotton; those using *Egyptian* cotton have run full time.

Preston District.—Three firms are working short time and one mill is closed, but employment generally is reported as improved.

COTTON WEAVING.

Preston District.—Employment continues bad with much short time and slackness and many wholly unemployed.

Blackburn, Darwen, and Accrington District.—Employment in Blackburn has improved, but is still only moderate. In Darwen there is a slight improvement, but a number of looms are standing for warps. In Accrington employment is fair and better than a month ago.

Burnley, Nelson, and Colne District.—In Burnley employment has improved, and is fair. In Nelson employment is fair. In Colne it is only moderate, short time and slackness being reported.

Other Districts.—In Bury considerable slackness is reported. In Chorley employment has improved and is fair. In Bolton much slackness is again reported, but employment is a little better than a month ago. In Oldham employment is reported as bad during the month.

PRICES OF RAW COTTON.

American Cotton.—During the month of May the average price of raw cotton "*middling American*" at Liverpool was 7.44d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 7.76d. and the lowest 6.90d. For the period from 1st to 11th June, the average price of "*middling American*" was 6.69d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "*good fair*" *Egyptian* during May averaged 7.91d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8.4d. and the lowest 7.1d. For the period from 1st to 11th June the average price of "*good fair*" *Egyptian* was 7.15d. per lb.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF RAW COTTON.

The following Table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported:—

	Month of May,			Five months ended May.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Imported	211,221	180,569	251,711	1,908,317	1,834,179	1,506,604
Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns	248,865	261,499	208,401	1,434,725	1,536,119	1,164,343
Exported	39,720	34,100	17,760	173,386	196,742	203,168

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

Description of Cotton.	Month of May.			Five Months ended May.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
American	201,101	215,186	169,166	1,173,501	1,281,061	911,627
Brazilian	16,750	13,715	4,217	63,116	63,042	40,135
East Indian	1,532	8,653	11,620	6,221	24,998	46,628
Egyptian	22,065	17,005	21,225	155,391	138,855	146,152
Miscellaneous	7,397	6,940	2,173	36,199	28,163	19,751
Total	248,865	261,499	208,401	1,434,725	1,536,119	1,164,343

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on 10th June was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be about 492,100 bales, compared with 529,110 bales at the corresponding date a year ago.

The following Table shows the quantities and average declared values of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods in May, 1904, and in the corresponding months

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—COTTON AND WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

of 1902 and 1903. The declared value of the cotton yarn and twist exported during May averaged 14.50d. per lb., as compared with 11.49d. per lb. in May, 1903, an increase of about .26 per cent. The corresponding value for April, 1904, was 14.18d. per lb. The increase per yard in the value of exported cotton piece goods amounted to nearly 10 per cent., the value being 2.76d. per yard in May, 1904, as compared with 2.51d. in May, 1903. The declared value in April, 1904, was 2.74d. per yard:—

	Quantities exported.			Average Value in Pence.		
	May, 1902.	May, 1903.	May, 1904.	May, 1902.	May, 1903.	May, 1904.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	per lb.	per lb.	per lb.
Cotton Yarn & Twist—						
Grey	9,896,500	10,330,800	9,450,400	10.78	11.35	14.62
Bleached and Dyed..	3,692,400	3,119,300	2,115,000	10.57	11.95	13.98
Total	13,588,900	13,450,100	11,565,400	10.72	11.49	14.50
Cotton Piece Goods—						
Grey or Unbleached	171,813,900	161,960,800	133,477,000	2.03	2.04	2.25
Bleached	112,220,200	107,018,400	112,920,500	2.43	2.50	2.58
Printed	75,957,700	78,919,500	80,149,400	2.56	2.70	2.87
Dyed or Manufactured, of Dyed Yarn	67,730,100	71,150,200	76,215,600	3.42	3.41	3.81
Total	427,721,900	419,048,900	402,762,500	2.45	2.51	2.76

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 252 firms employing 73,247 workpeople; from women correspondents with regard to factories in Yorkshire usually employing about 31,600 women and girls, and from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, and the Local Correspondents.

The number paid wages by the firms making returns at the end of May was 73,247, compared with 73,886 at the end of April, and 75,490 at the end of May, 1903, a decrease of 0.9 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. The decrease in each case is partly attributable to the Whitsuntide holidays during the last week of the month. In Scotland, where Whitsuntide is not a holiday, there was a slight net increase.

From the following Table it will be seen that compared with a month ago the percentage decline was greatest in the woollen trade in Yorkshire, and that there was a slight increase in that trade in Scotland. Compared with a year ago the percentage decline is greatest in the worsted trade in Bradford, and in the woollen trade in Scotland.

Trade and District.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) on		
	May, 1904.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	
Worsted—						
Bradford	23,373	23,571	24,551	- 0.8	- 4.8	
Other Yorkshire Districts	21,215	21,373	21,613	- 0.7	- 1.8	
Other Districts	1,700	1,730	1,739	- 1.7	- 2.2	
Total	46,288	46,674	47,903	- 0.8	- 3.4	
Woollen—						
Yorkshire	9,775	10,048	9,985	- 2.7	- 2.1	
Scotland	7,845	7,793	8,205	+ 0.7	+ 4.4	
Other Districts	2,679	2,682	2,691	- 0.1	- 0.4	
Total	20,299	20,523	20,881	- 1.1	- 2.8	
Woollen and Worsted (not separated)	6,660	6,689	6,706	- 0.4	- 0.7	
Total Woollen and Worsted	73,247	73,886	75,490	- 0.9	- 3.0	

In the next Table also the inclusion of Whitsuntide holidays affects the returns, especially in the Weaving branch, many weavers drawing no pay during the holiday week on account of their pieces being unfinished.

The improvement noted in Scotland took place mainly amongst the weavers. Compared with a year ago a general decline is apparent in all branches in both England and Scotland, not wholly due to the inclusion of holidays. The decline is especially noticeable in the *Sorting and Combing* branch in Yorkshire, in the *Spinning* branch in Scotland, and the *Weaving* branch in Yorkshire and Scotland.

District and Branch of Trade.	Number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at end of			Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (—) on		
	May, 1904.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	
Sorting and Combing—						
Yorkshire	6,781	6,929	7,259	- 2.1	- 6.6	
Scotland	393	391	406	+ 0.5	- 3.2	
Other Districts	226	221	219	+ 2.3	+ 3.2	
Total	7,400	7,541	7,884	- 1.9	- 6.1	
Spinning—						
Yorkshire	25,889	25,890	26,053	—	- 0.6	
Scotland	2,299	2,320	2,468	- 0.9	- 6.8	
Other Districts	1,461	1,480	1,474	- 1.3	- 0.9	
Total	29,649	29,690	29,995	- 0.1	- 1.2	
Weaving—						
Yorkshire	14,575	14,973	15,481	- 2.7	- 5.9	
Scotland	3,681	3,608	3,821	+ 2.0	- 3.7	
Other Districts	1,267	1,271	1,254	- 0.3	+ 1.0	
Total	19,523	19,852	20,556	- 1.7	- 5.0	
Other Departments—						
Yorkshire	9,317	9,423	9,325	- 1.1	- 0.1	
Scotland	3,298	3,828	3,973	- 0.8	- 4.4	
Other Districts	894	886	906	+ 0.9	- 1.3	
Total	14,009	14,137	14,204	- 0.9	- 1.4	
Unspecified—						
Yorkshire	2,666	2,666	2,851	—	- 6.5	
Scotland	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Districts	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	2,666	2,666	2,851	—	- 6.5	
TOTAL FOR ALL BRANCHES—						
Yorkshire	59,228	59,881	60,969	- 1.1	- 2.9	
Scotland	10,171	10,147	10,668	+ 0.2	+ 4.7	
Other Districts	3,848	3,858	3,853	- 0.3	- 0.1	
Total, Woollen and Worsted	73,247	73,886	75,490	- 0.9	- 3.0	

Of the 31,600 women and girls in the Yorkshire factories reported on by women correspondents, 61 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the month (exclusive of usual annual holidays), compared with 69 per cent. in April, and 81 per cent. in May, 1903; 26 per cent. were employed in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment; and 13 per cent. in factories running short time.

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

Bradford District.—The wool sorters report employment as bad, with many working short time and few working overtime. With wool combers employment is reported as improved, especially with women. In the other branches of the worsted trade employment is reported as very quiet. Of the 11,600 women and girls usually employed in the factories reported on by women correspondents, only 47 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month (excluding holidays), compared with 67 per cent. during April; 43 per cent. were in factories running full time, but giving only partial employment, and 10 per cent. were in factories working short time.

Keighley District.—Employment is reported as fairly good, and shows no decline compared with a year ago.

Halifax District.—Slackness and short time are again reported as prevalent, and employment is worse than a year ago.

Huddersfield District.—The improvement in the worsted trade has been maintained; one or two firms are working overtime. In the woollen trade, although some firms are quiet, others are working overtime, and one or two

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES; OTHER TEXTILES; TAILORING TRADE.

are running night shifts. Employment with women and girls has not been good.

Leeds and Wakefield District.—Employment in Leeds is reported as fairly steady; in Wakefield as quiet.

The Heavy Woollen District (Dewsbury, Batley, Ossett, etc.).—Employment generally is good and several firms report overtime.

Scotland.—Employment shows an improvement compared with a month ago, but is worse than a year ago. In Selkirk and Galashiels it continues fairly good, and is much the same as a year ago. In Hawick some of the mills continue to run short time, and many spinners and weavers are only partially employed.

Other Districts.—Employment is reported as good in all branches in the Trowbridge district. A further improvement is reported in Rochdale and Milnrow, and employment is fair. In Stockport employment is reported as moderate.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Jute and Flax Trades.

ACCORDING to information received from two Employers' Associations, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the jute and flax trades continues moderate, and in Ireland is worse than a year ago.

In Dundee employment is moderate, and shows little change compared with April. Information has been received with regard to jute and flax factories, employing about 9,000 men and boys and 21,000 women and girls. From this it appears that out of 39 spinning mills, 2 were closed during some part of the month, and 8 gave only partial employment. Out of 33 weaving factories all ran full time, but 4 gave only partial employment. Employment continues quiet in Forfar and Arbroath; in Brechin it is reported as fair.

In Ulster employment is again reported as fair in flax spinning mills. In Belfast the Trade Unions report it as bad with beetlers; as dull with power loom tenters and women workers; as moderate with flax dressers and flax roughers; as fair with power loom yarn dressers; and as good with hackle and gill makers and linen lappers.

At Barnsley the workpeople employed in the linen trade are moderately busy.

Hosiery Trade.

According to information received from the Correspondents of the Department, one Employers' Association, and one Trade Union, employment in the hosiery trade continues bad, and is worse than a year ago.

Leicester District.—Returns received through the Local Correspondent from hosiery manufacturers employing 11,788 workpeople in their factories at the end of May, show a decrease of 2.6 per cent. on the number employed a month ago, and of 4.8 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. The decline in both cases is largely attributable to the inclusion of Whitsuntide in this month's returns. Of the total number of operatives, 54 per cent. were employed by firms reporting short time in some departments during the month, compared with 48 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in April. In Leicester employment continues quiet, and is worse than a year ago. In Loughborough it is slack in all branches of the trade. In Hinckley it is slack, and much short time is being worked.

Nottingham and Derby District.—Employment generally is reported as bad, and worse than a month and a year ago. A slight improvement is reported at Heyworth and Carlton. Employment has declined at Mansfield and Sutton-in-Ashfield. It is reported as bad at Belper.

Scotland.—Hosiery workers in Selkirk are fully employed, and employment shows no change compared

with a month and a year ago. In Hawick some of the factories are still running short time.

Carpet Trade.

According to information received from employers through the Trade Correspondent of the Department, from one Trade Union, and from Local Correspondents, employment in the woollen carpet trade is quiet in England, fairly good in Scotland.

The number of workpeople employed by firms making returns at the end of May was 3,307, compared with 3,379 at the end of April, and 3,413 at the end of May, 1903, a decrease of 2.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

At Kidderminster the mills are running full time, but much slackness is reported. At Bridgnorth employment is quiet in all branches. In Midlothian employment with carpet weavers is reported as good, and shows little change compared with a month and a year ago. In the Glasgow district employment is reported as fairly good.

Lace Trade.

According to information received from the Trade Union and the Local Correspondent employment in the Nottingham lace trade is bad, and shows a further decline since April; it is worse than a year ago. It is reported as bad in the levers and curtain branches, as good in the plain net branch, and as bad in all the minor branches of the trade. It is bad at Beeston, and very quiet at Stapleford, Kimberley, and Bulwell.

Employment at Long Eaton is reported as bad. In Glasgow it is reported as good.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from three Employers' Associations, from three Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment with woollen and worsted dyers in the West Riding is reported as slack, with much short time, but as better than a month ago and a year ago. With cotton dyers generally employment is reported as better on the whole, but as still very slack in several districts. Employment is reported as good with calico printers at Manchester, fair at New Mills; as good with calico printers' engravers at Dinting; as slack with woollen block printers at Rossendale. Employment with hosiery dyers and trimmers is reported as bad in Leicestershire generally, but the Trade Union report it as improved in Leicester. It is moderate with dyers at Nottingham, and with hosiery trimmers at Bulwell and Basford, and is much worse than a year ago. In the Glasgow district, employment is reported as dull with calendermen and with calico printers; as bad with block printers. In Dundee it is reported as fair with finishers and dyers.

TAILORING TRADE.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions.

Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London has been only moderate, although better than a month ago. In the provinces employment has been fairly good. In the *ready-made* branch employment has been only moderate, and worse than a year ago in most districts.

Bespoke Branch.—Returns have been received from London firms employing 979 workpeople on their premises and 1,495 outworkers.* According to these returns employment with inworkers was good during the month in firms employing 26 per cent. of the total number, moderate in firms employing 53 per cent., and bad in firms employing 21 per cent. With outworkers* it was good with firms employing 35 per cent., moderate with firms employing 56 per cent., and bad with firms employing 9 per cent. Of 75 firms, 38 employing 485 indoor and 792 outdoor workers report employment as

*The numbers may include the same outworkers more than once, and do not include persons employed by outworkers.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—TAILORING, BOOT AND SHOE TRADES.

better than a month ago; 19 employing 356 indoor and 373 outdoor workers, as unchanged, and 19 employing 138 indoor and 330 outdoor workers as worse. Compared with a year ago, 17 firms employing 197 indoor and 380 outdoor workers report employment as improved, 25 employing 273 indoor and 488 outdoor workers as unchanged, and 34 employing 509 indoor and 627 outdoor as worse. The West-end branch of the Trade Union reports employment as fair, and better than a year ago. In Dublin and Belfast employment is reported as good; in Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Glasgow as fair.

Ready-made Branch.—In London employment generally was moderate, some firms being busier and some slacker than in the previous month. Compared with a year ago most firms report employment as worse. The Trade Union cutters report employment as bad, and much worse than a year ago.

In Leeds employment showed little improvement and was worse than a year ago. According to returns received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers, employing about 9,900 workpeople in their factories in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops, employment during May was good or fair in firms employing 22 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns, moderate in firms employing 31 per cent., and bad in firms employing 47 per cent. Compared with April, firms employing 42 per cent. report employment as improved, firms employing 8 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 50 per cent. as worse. Compared with a year ago, firms employing 15 per cent. report it as improved, firms employing 13 per cent. as unchanged, and firms employing 72 per cent. as worse. The Trade Union operatives report employment as bad. In Manchester employment is reported as fair amongst the Jewish Trade Union workers; with factory workers it has been only moderate; compared with a year ago employment has been decidedly worse. In Bristol employment has continued bad although slightly better than in April; compared with a year ago it is much worse. Employment has been fair at Norwich and Colchester. In Glasgow employment has been fairly good.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(For Leather Trades see page 183.)

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 649 firms employing 75,541 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Trade Unions and by Local Correspondents.

As the Whitsuntide holidays fell in May this year and in June last year, the usual seasonal slackness made itself felt earlier this year.

The number (75,541) employed by all firms making returns at the end of May shows a decrease of 4.4 per cent. on the number (78,990) employed by those firms at the end of April, and of 6.2 per cent. on the number (80,566) employed a year ago. Of the total number of operatives, 74 per cent. were employed by firms working full time in all departments throughout May (except during Whitsun holidays), compared with 70 per cent. of those for whom returns were received for April (except during Easter holidays).

The numbers employed alone, however, do not show the full fluctuation in the volume of employment. Accordingly 514 firms employing 61,994 workpeople have been good enough to supply returns of the aggregate amount of wages paid on the last four pay days in May, in addition to particulars of the numbers employed.

The following Table shows the number employed and wages paid in the principal districts, together with the increase or decrease in each compared with a month and a year ago:—

District.	No. of firms making returns of both no. employed and of wages paid.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
		No. employed at end of May, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate amount of wages paid on last four pay days in May, 1904.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with			
			A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
ENGLAND & WALES.			Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.		
London	51	3,669	- 2.6	+ 1.3	17,938	- 4.7	- 3.3		
Leicester	77	12,250	- 10.2	- 1.2	47,427	- 9.5	- 21.9		
Leicester Country District	31	3,002	- 6.1	+ 8.2	9,444	- 13.2	- 5.9		
Northampton	58	7,983	- 5.5	- 6.9	28,911	- 6.6	- 16.9		
Kettering	24	2,802	- 4.6	- 10.0	10,297	- 4.0	- 21.6		
Northampton Country District	84	8,549	- 1.2	- 7.7	26,009	- 12.5	- 24.3		
Stafford and District	16	2,438	- 0.9	- 1.1	7,888	- 3.2	- 11.8		
Norwich and District	27	4,044	- 3.1	- 0.8	12,550	- 1.4	- 7.1		
Bristol	18	2,111	- 9.7	- 12.2	7,058	- 7.8	- 19.8		
Kingswood	25	2,740	+ 2.6	+ 4.5	9,181	- 4.4	- 12.6		
Leeds and District	38	3,357	- 1.0	- 8.8	10,342	+ 6.6	- 22.5		
Manchester and District	10	1,704	- 3.8	+ 5.9	6,836	+ 12.8	+ 13.9		
Birmingham and District	7	909	- 4.1	- 6.4	2,768	- 5.4	- 19.2		
Other parts of England and Wales	22	1,754	- 1.7	+ 1.6	4,814	- 13.1	- 16.8		
Total, England and Wales	488	57,322	- 5.0	- 6.0	201,463	- 6.2	- 16.7		
SCOTLAND	24	4,360	- 1.3	- 4.2	16,677	+ 5.0	- 4.2		
IRELAND	2	312	- 1.0	+ 7.6	903	+ 0.1	- 4.1		
Total UNITED KINGDOM	514	61,994	- 4.6	- 5.9	219,043	- 5.4	- 15.8		

Compared with a month ago, twelve districts show a decrease from £199,117 to £184,285 in the amount of wages paid by 440 firms making returns, and four show an increase from £32,550 to £34,758 in the amount paid by 74 firms making returns, giving a net decrease of £12,624, or 5.4 per cent. The percentage decrease was greatest in Leicester country district (13.2 per cent.), Northampton country district (12.5), Leicester (9.5), Bristol (7.8), and Northampton (6.6). The four districts showing an increase were Leeds, Manchester, Scotland, and Ireland.

The net result was a decrease of 4.6 per cent. in the number employed by 514 firms at the end of the month compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 5.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month compared with a month ago.

Compared with a year ago, fifteen out of sixteen districts show a decrease in wages paid, the total number employed at the end of the month being 5.9 per cent. less than at the end of May, 1903, and the amount of wages paid during the month being 15.8 per cent. less than during May, 1903.

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Until Whitsuntide employment was better than in April. The operatives' Trade Union report it as quiet, but better at the end of May than a month ago or a year ago. The hand-sewn boot and shoe makers' Trade Union report it as fair, and as better at the end of the month than a month ago, and much the same as a year ago.

Leicester and District.—Employment is reported as quiet in both town and country districts.

Northampton, Kettering and District.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as fair, and improved at Northampton; as quiet at Kettering and bad at Rushden. Employment is very slack with army bootmakers throughout the district. The Trade Union clickers and pressmen report employment as very quiet.

Stafford and District.—Employment continues good with all branches, and a considerable number of operatives have worked overtime.

Eastern Counties.—Employment is reported as good generally at Norwich, and fair at Ipswich and Colchester; it is said to be slightly slacker on men's dress shoes, and slack with hand finishers.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Employment generally is reported as very slack at Bristol with the makers of ladies' boots and shoes. It is much better with those engaged on men's and boys' boots at Kingswood.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—BOOT AND SHOE TRADE; HAT TRADE; OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

Leeds and District.—The returns from employers show an improvement of 6.6 per cent. in the wages paid during May compared with a month ago, when a considerable decrease (15.9 per cent.) was apparent. Compared with a year ago there is a decrease of 8.8 per cent. in the number employed at the end of the month, and of 22.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid during the month. The Trade Union operatives report employment as bad throughout the district.

Other Districts in England.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as fair at Liverpool and Nottingham, as very quiet at Newcastle, and as bad at Birmingham.

Scotland.—The Trade Union lasters and finishers report employment as bad at Glasgow, Maybole, Kilmarnock and Dundee, as quiet at Edinburgh, and as fair at Aberdeen. The returns from employers show an increase in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, but a decrease compared with a year ago.

Imports and Exports.—The following Table gives the quantities and the values of the boots and shoes imported and exported during the undermentioned periods:—

		Month of May			Five months ended May		
		1902.	1903.	1904.	1902.	1903.	1904.
		Imports	Dozen pairs... 21,002	22,020	19,512	124,983	108,030	99,635
Value £ ...	85,385	94,911	90,588	437,036	438,430	372,707	
Re-Exports	Dozen pairs... 1,644	1,298	1,251	7,609	9,546	9,293	
Value £ ...	3,810	3,734	4,030	20,880	24,968	23,508	
Exports (British and Irish)	Dozen pairs... 51,766	55,903	45,724	279,767	388,518	249,176	
Value £ ...	122,596	135,180	110,808	683,542	813,024	578,434	

It will be noticed that while both the net imports (imports less re-exports) and the exports of British made boots in the five months of 1904 show a decline, the fall is more marked in the case of the latter.

HAT TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from three Employers' Associations, and from two Trade Unions. Employment continues dull and shows little change, compared with a month or a year ago. Trade Unions with 5,347 members have 155 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 4.0 per cent. at the end of April, and 2.6 per cent. a year ago.

With silk hatters, employment in London is reported as dull for the season and 1½ hours a day short time has been worked. In Denton employment is reported as better on the whole. In Edinburgh employment is reported as good; in Glasgow as bad. The Trade Union silk hatters have 7.6 per cent. of their members unemployed, compared with 8.2 per cent. a month ago, and 6.1 per cent a year ago.

With felt hatters, employment at Denton is reported as quiet, but better than a month ago and much the same as a year ago. At Stockport it is moderate, and better than a year ago. At Hyde and Failsworth it is reported as better than a month ago and worse than a year ago, being quiet at Hyde and moderate at Failsworth. At Bury and Bredbury it is bad, and worse than a year ago. In Warwickshire employment is reported as better than a month ago and worse than a year ago. The Trade Union felt hatters have 2.2 per cent. unemployed, compared with 3.3 per cent. at the end of April and 1.9 per cent. a year ago.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from Employers, Local Correspondents, and Trade Unions, and from three Employment Bureaux in London.

Employment in the dressmaking trades continues fair, but shows a decline compared with a year ago; in the shirt and collar trade it is worse than a month ago and a year ago, but is still fair; in the corset trade it continues fair but is much worse than a year ago.

Dress, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—In London returns from retail firms, chiefly in the West-end district, employing 1,833 dressmakers at the end of May, show a decrease of 1.7 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 6.8 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment generally is reported as fair. Court dressmakers employing 1,765 workpeople at the end of May show an increase of 2.0 per cent. compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 5.3 per cent. compared with a year ago; employment is fair on the whole. In the wholesale mantle and costume trades employment has been fair, and better than a month ago or a year ago with most firms making returns; but in higher class work it is reported as worse. With mantle makers in retail firms it is only moderate, and worse than a month or a year ago. Manufacturers of blouses, aprons, and underclothing report employment as bad and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In retail firms the number of milliners employed has increased compared with a month ago and a year ago, and employment continues fairly good; in the wholesale branch it shows a decline.

Returns from three Employment Bureaux show a decline in the demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a month ago, but an increase compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment in the mantle trade has been fairly good up to Whitsuntide. In the costume and skirt trade, some slackness is reported; firms employing 1,817 workpeople at the end of May show a decrease of 5.0 per cent. on the number employed at the end of April, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade is fair, and better than a month ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland, and Ireland, employing 8,546 workpeople in their factories at the end of May show practically no change in the number employed at the end of May compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago. Firms employing 58 per cent. of the total number report employment as good or fair, and firms employing 42 per cent. as quiet or bad, to be compared with 74 per cent. and 26 per cent. respectively at the end of April.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 4,093 workpeople in their factories at the end of May, show a decrease of 2.1 per cent. on the number employed at the end of April, and of 9.8 per cent. on the number employed a year ago. Firms employing 72 per cent. of the total number included in the returns report employment as good or fair, and firms employing 28 per cent. as quiet or bad, the same percentage as a month ago.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES.

RETURNS have been furnished by 20 Employers' Associations, by 29 Employers, by Trade Unions with nearly 55,000 members, and by Local Correspondents.

PRINTING AND BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment is generally slack. In letterpress printing it has again declined, Trade Unions with 38,798 members having 5.4 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, as compared with 4.0 per cent. in April, and 5.0 per cent. in May, 1903. In lithographic printing little change is shown, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of the month being 4.9, against 4.5 a month ago, and 4.6 a year ago. With bookbinders employment remains bad, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of May being 7.5, against 7.4 a month ago, and 5.3 a year ago.

In the following Table are shown the percentages unemployed in certain Trade Unions in the Printing and

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

Bookbinding Trades in the principal districts, compared with those for a month and a year ago:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of May, 1904 included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		May, 1904.	April, 1904.	May, 1903.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	22,800	5.7	4.1	5.0	+ 1.6	+ 0.7
Northern Counties ...	1,463	5.1	4.5	4.0	+ 0.6	+ 1.1
Lancs. and Cheshire...	6,726	7.7	7.1	7.3	+ 0.6	+ 0.4
Yorkshire	4,210	5.5	4.2	4.1	+ 1.3	+ 1.4
East Midlands	2,097	4.3	3.9	4.6	+ 0.4	- 0.3
West Midlands	2,487	6.6	5.0	4.5	+ 1.6	+ 2.1
Eastern Counties ...	379	1.8	2.5	1.6	- 0.7	+ 0.2
S. & S. W. Counties...	2,636	2.8	3.2	2.6	- 0.4	+ 0.2
Wales and Mon.	799	2.8	2.2	6.5	+ 0.6	- 3.7
Scotland	6,152	4.0	3.0	3.7	+ 1.0	+ 0.3
Ireland	2,601	8.7	8.2	8.7	+ 0.5	...
United Kingdom ...	52,250	5.6	4.5	5.0	+ 1.1	+ 0.6

The following is a summary of the reports received from all sources as regards the principal districts:—

London.—Trade Unions of letterpress printers with 16,998 members had 4.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 2.8 per cent. a month ago and 4.6 per cent. a year ago. Employment with lithographic printers has also declined, the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members being 6.7 at the end of May, against 5.6 in April and 6.1 a year ago. With bookbinders employment remains bad, and worse than a year ago. Of 3,773 Trade Union members, 9.3 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 9.2 per cent. in April, and 6.1 per cent. in May, 1903.

Northern Counties.—Employment is quiet at Newcastle and Durham; moderate at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool; fairly good at Carlisle, Sunderland, and Darlington.

Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cheshire.—Employment is slack generally.

East Midland Counties.—Employment is reported as slack at Nottingham; good at Northampton and Lincoln. At Leicester it is declining with letterpress printers; good with lithographic printers and bookbinders.

West Midland Counties.—Employment is quiet generally, except with lithographic printers, who are fairly well employed.

Eastern, Southern, and South-Western Counties, and Wales.—Employment remains fairly good, except with letterpress printers at Bristol, Bath, Aylesbury, and Watford, with whom it is dull.

Scotland.—At Edinburgh employment is reported as fair on the whole, but as bad in some offices; at Glasgow and Aberdeen, employment is reported as quiet; at Dundee as good.

Ireland.—Employment in Dublin, Belfast, and other centres continues dull generally.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades remains fair. Branches of Trade Unions with 2,392 members had 3.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.1 per cent. at the end of April, and 3.3 per cent. a year ago. Returns received from 26 employers in Scotland show that 4,122 workpeople were employed by them at the end of May, as compared with 4,118 at the end of April, and 4,067 at the end of May, 1903.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 4 Employers' Associations, from 36 Trade Unions with 33,454 members, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally was dull during May, and about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the furnishing and woodworking trades at the end of May was 5.3, as compared with 4.9 per cent. in April, and 2.8 per cent. in May, 1903.

Millsawyers and Woodworking Machinists.

Employment generally with millsawyers and wood-working machinists was quiet. Reports show that it was bad at Plymouth, Gloucester, and Hull; dull at Bristol, Edinburgh, and Dublin; slack in Suffolk and Essex, and at Norwich and Dundee; quiet at Birmingham, Leicester, Grantham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Glasgow, and Belfast; fair in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and at Aberdeen; improving at Nottingham; fairly good in the Tyne and Wear district; and good at Cork.

Furnishing Trades.

In the furnishing trades employment was quiet, and about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Sixteen Trade Unions, with a membership of 13,061, show 9.4 (or 6.9 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 6.4 per cent. at the end of April, and 1.7 per cent. a year ago. According to the reports received, employment with cabinet makers was slack in London and at Hull, Sheffield, Rotherham, Accrington, Manchester, and Birmingham; quiet in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and at Nottingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Glasgow and Belfast; fair at Burnley, Edinburgh, Dundee, and Dublin; moderate in Suffolk and Essex, and at Leicester, Barnsley, and Haslingden; and improving in the Tyne district, and at Aberdeen. With upholsterers employment was dull at Liverpool; slack at Leicester; fair at Nottingham, in South Wales, and at Edinburgh and Dublin; and good in the Tyne district, and at Barnsley, Manchester, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Belfast. With French polishers it was bad in London and Edinburgh; dull at Liverpool and Glasgow; slack at Leicester; fair at Nottingham and Manchester; and improving at Belfast.

Coopers.

With coopers employment was bad, with much short time. Trade Unions with a membership of 5,177 report 29.1 (or 5.6 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 4.0 per cent. at the end of April, and 6.2 per cent. a year ago. Reports show that employment was bad at Birmingham, Manchester, and Liverpool; dull at Bristol, Burton-on-Trent, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Belfast; fair at Nottingham, Hull, and Greenock; moderate at Cork; good in the Tyne district, in the Fraserburgh and Peterhead districts, and at Dublin.

Coachbuilding.

In the coachbuilding industry employment was moderate, and about the same as a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions of coachmakers, wheelwrights, smiths, &c., with a membership of 7,895, report 22.4 (or 2.8 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 3.0 per cent. at the end of April, and 2.5 per cent. a year ago.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment generally with brush-makers was fair, and about the same as a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions, with a membership of 1,773, report 8.3 (or 4.0 per cent.) as unemployed at the end of May, as compared with 4.2 per cent. at the end of April, and 1.4 per cent. a year ago. It is reported as quiet at Belfast; fair at Glasgow; moderate at Leeds; and good at Plymouth, Bristol, Hull, and Dublin.

Other Trades.—In London employment was bad with pianoforte and American organ makers, packing-case makers, and stick makers and mounters; slack with gilders and lath-renders; fair with organ builders; and slightly better with basket makers. Packing-case makers, stick makers and mounters, and basket makers report some short time. Lath-renders report employment as fair at Hull, bad in the Tyne district, and dull at Edinburgh and Glasgow; basket makers, as slightly improved at Leicester, fair at Bristol and Nottingham, and quiet at Glasgow; and packing-case makers, as bad at Birmingham, moderate at Nottingham and Belfast, and fair at Glasgow. Employment with wood-turners and gilders at Glasgow was good; with bobbin and shuttle makers at Dundee it was fair; and with organ builders at Sheffield it was good.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—GLASS, &c., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

INFORMATION has been received from 11 Employers' Associations, 11 Trade Unions (in the Glass Trade) with 5,059 members, Local Correspondents, and one firm of employers.

Employment in the Glass trade was moderate in the bottle-making branch, and slack on the whole in the flint-glass branch. In the Pottery trades, and in the Brick and Tile trades it was slack.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass-bottle makers is reported as bad at Seaham Harbour, and at Glasgow, Alloa, and Portobello; slack at Leeds, and in the Wear district; quiet but improving in the Mexboro' district; fair at Dublin; moderate at St. Helens and Barnsley; and fairly good at Wakefield. Makers of medicine bottles at Rotherham were moderately employed. Flint glass makers report employment as bad at Gateshead and Edinburgh; fair at Birmingham and Stourbridge; and slack at Glasgow. Flint glass cutters report it as bad at Wordsley, Glasgow, and Edinburgh; and dull at Birmingham. Employment with flint glass workers at Barnsley was moderate. With sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens it continued good; with pressed glass workers at Gateshead and Glasgow it was slack; and with plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham it was fair.

Pottery Trades.—In Staffordshire employment was slack with hollowware and sanitary pressers, with much short time. It was bad with china and earthenware decorators; slack with printers and transferers, ovenmen and kilnmen, cratemakers and packers; and fair with encaustic and other decorated tile workers. Employment with china potters at Longton showed some improvement. With potters at Newcastle-on-Tyne it continued bad. It was fair at Barnstaple, and moderate at Bovey and Kingskerswell.

In Scotland employment was moderate, with some short time, but better than a month ago. It was dull with tobacco-pipe makers at Glasgow, and good with tobacco-pipe finishers.

Brickmaking.—Reports show that employment continued bad in the Birmingham, West Bromwich, and Glasgow districts. It was also bad at Nottingham, with much short time. Employment was slack at Cambridge, and in North Wales; quiet at Plymouth; fair in the Tees and Hartlepool district; moderate at Calstock; and good at Exeter, and in Suffolk and Essex. Brick and tile workers at Normanton were busy.

LEATHER TRADES.

(For Boot and Shoe Trades see p. 180.)

RETURNS have been received from 3 Employers' Associations, 22 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. These returns show little change in the state of employment, which remains generally bad, with a considerable amount of short time. The percentage of Trade Union members reported as unemployed at the end of May was 9.5, as compared with 9.8 at the end of April, and 5.2 at the end of May, 1903.

Skimmers, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, etc.—In these branches there is no indication of general improvement, indeed employment is reported as rather worse than a month and a year ago, with much short time. In the Northampton district a slight improvement is reported by curriers, at Bermondsey by grounders, and at Leeds by grounders and skimmers. In Suffolk and Essex employment is fair with tanners, moderate with dressers and curriers. At Bristol and Dundee employment is fair, but in the Bolton, Bury and Wigan districts employment has become somewhat less regular.

Saddle and Harness Makers, etc.—These branches show little change. There are some indications of improvement locally, but short time is still general. In London there is no improvement on the month, and the state of employment is much the same as a year ago. At Walsall the gig saddlers report a slight improvement, but have still 30 per cent. on short time; bridle cutters

here also report a slight improvement. From Edinburgh some improvement is reported, and work is fair at Aberdeen and Dublin, but is slack elsewhere. Horse collar makers report employment as fair and improving at London and Leeds, fair at Birmingham and Manchester, and dull elsewhere.

Miscellaneous Leather Workers.—In London pocket-book and leather case makers, and portmanteau makers report employment as bad, short time being general. In Manchester employment with portmanteau makers is fair, and better than a month ago.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

INFORMATION as to the condition of employment in Agriculture in England was received from 203 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports show that the weather during May was generally very favourable, and employment was generally regular. There was some demand for day labourers, and most men of this class were well employed, except on one or two wet days towards the end of the month. Men for permanent situations were scarce in many districts, but several correspondents state that the supply of such men is improving.

Northern Counties.—Correspondents in Durham, Cumberland, and Westmorland state that agricultural employment was generally regular during May. The supply of day labourers was rather in excess of the demand. Regularity of employment is reported in Lancashire. Day labourers in North Lancashire were in request to push on with farm work, and to take the places of permanent men who were having their Whitsuntide holidays and changing situations. In Yorkshire agricultural labourers are said to have been in full work, except just at the end of the month, when there was some interruption through rain. The supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand in most districts, but men to work with horses were in request in some localities.

Midland Counties.—Reports from Cheshire and Derbyshire show that employment was regular in May. The supply of odd men was about equal to the demand. In Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire farm labourers were well employed in hoeing weeds, planting potatoes, and other work. Men for permanent situations were in demand in most districts. Employment was fairly regular in Staffordshire and Shropshire, the land in some parts requiring extra working after the preceding wet year. Day labourers were rather scarce in the early part of May, but became more plentiful later, partly owing to the arrival of Irish migratory labourers. Men for permanent situations were scarce, particularly men for tending stock. Farm labourers were, for the most part, in full work during May in Worcestershire and Warwickshire, although there was some little interruption through wet weather. Day labourers were in some demand for hoeing, &c., and the supply was generally sufficient. Men for permanent situations were also in demand.

Employment in Northamptonshire was regular, except towards the end of the month. It is stated that while the fine weather lasted every available man was required for hoeing and shearing. The supply of extra labour is stated to have been sufficient, but men for permanent situations were difficult to obtain in some districts. Owing to the fine weather, farm labourers in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire were fully employed during the month. Day labourers were in demand, but the supply was generally sufficient, and somewhat more plentiful than a year ago. Employment in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire was regular, the weather, although latterly showery, having been favourable. Day labourers found a good deal of work in weeding and hoeing. Men for permanent situations were in some demand.

Eastern Counties.—In Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire farm labourers were in full employment

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—AGRICULTURAL AND DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

during May. Day labourers were in some demand for hoeing. The supply of labour is said to have been rather more plentiful than a year ago. Regularity of employment is reported from *Lincolnshire*. The supply of day labourers for potato-planting and weeding was, in some districts, insufficient. Waggoners are said to be rather more plentiful, but require high wages. A correspondent in the Lincoln Union states that at the May-day hirings for single men and youths, the latter were in demand, and obtained increased wages, boys able to plough getting from £15 to £18 a year. In *Norfolk* employment was plentiful in sowing turnips and swedes, weeding corn, &c. The supply of extra labour was quite equal to the demand in most parts of the county. In some districts, however, particularly those near the coast, some shortage is reported, owing to building or railway works in progress. Farm labourers in *Suffolk* and *Essex* were busily employed during May, especially at hoeing and weeding. Day labourers were in some demand, but the supply was generally sufficient. Men for permanent situations are scarce in some districts, especially teamsmen and shepherds.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—According to reports from *Kent*, farm labourers were fully employed in May, except on one or two wet days. There was a fair supply of extra men in most districts. Some correspondents mention a scarcity of teamsmen and cattlemen. In *Survey* and *Sussex* some men lost a little time towards the end of May through wet weather, but, generally speaking, employment was regular. There was a fair demand for day labourers. Cowmen and carters are said to be difficult to obtain, but a correspondent in the Cuckfield Union states, however, that men for permanent situations are rather easier to get than a year ago. Farm labourers in *Hampshire* and *Berkshire* were generally in full employment. There was, however, some little loss of time through showery weather in the last week of May. Extra labour was not in much demand. The supply of men for permanent situations is said to be improving somewhat, though still insufficient in some districts. Agricultural employment was regular in *Wiltshire* and *Dorsetshire*. The supply of day labourers was generally equal to the demand, but in certain districts men for hoeing were scarce. In *Somersetshire* casual or day labourers were, for the most part, in full employment; the supply of this class of labour was generally sufficient, but men for permanent situations are said to be still difficult to obtain. Correspondents in *Herefordshire* and *Gloucestershire* state that a few men were in irregular work at the end of the month through wet weather. The supply of day labourers for potato and manure carting, &c., was sufficient in most districts, and is stated to have been more plentiful than a year ago. Men for permanent situations are said to be somewhat less scarce, but cowmen and milkers are still difficult to get. According to reports from *Devonshire* and *Cornwall*, the weather was favourable, and employment generally regular. Day labourers found ample employment. An improvement is reported in the supply of men for permanent situations.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

RETURNS as to the employment of this class of labour in the Port of London have been received from the dock companies, the owners of the principal wharves, the Shipping Federation, and from Trade Unions. Information respecting other principal ports has been supplied by Superintendents of Mercantile Marine, by Trade Unions, and by Local Correspondents of the Department.

Employment during May was moderate on the whole, showing some improvement as compared with April, and little change as compared with May, 1903.

London.

The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks

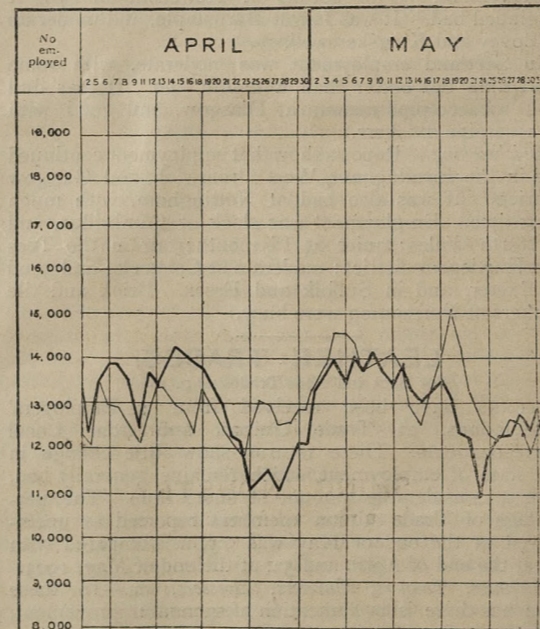
ended May 28th was 13,096, an increase of 1.9 per cent. on the average for April, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. on the average for May, 1903. The average daily number employed in May during the seven years, 1897-1903, was 14,390.

(1) *Weekly Averages.*—The following Table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each of the four weeks ended May 28th:—

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended May 7th	5,571	2,500	8,071	5,671	13,742
" " " 14th	5,570	2,338	7,908	5,663	13,571
" " " 21st	4,727	2,128	6,855	5,727	12,582
" " " 28th	4,892	1,943	6,835	5,532	12,367
Average for 4 weeks ended May 28th, 1904	5,203	2,240	7,443	5,653	13,096
Average for Apr., 1904	4,642	2,412	7,054	5,800	12,854
Average for May, 1903	5,716	2,188	7,904	5,426	13,330

(2) *Daily Fluctuations.*—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the Chart below. The numbers in May ranged from 14,137 on the 9th to 10,962 on the 21st. During May, 1903, the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed ranged from 15,021 on the 20th to 11,912 on the 30th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 115 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of April and May, 1904. The corresponding curve for April and May, 1903, is also given for comparison. [The thick curve applies to 1904, and the thin curve to 1903.]



The following are the figures on which the Chart for May, 1904, is based:—

Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.	Day of Month.	Number employed.
2	13,359	12	13,843	21	10,662
3	13,814	13	13,308	24	11,968
4	13,967	14	13,050	25	12,202
5	13,531	16	13,289	26	12,305
6	14,083	17	13,535	27	12,500
7	13,689	18	13,133	28	12,469
9	14,137	19	12,363	30	11,920
10	13,648	20	12,215	31	11,502
11	13,455				

Sundays and holidays are omitted.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; FISHING; SEAMEN.

Employment was fair with workers in mid-stream, lightermen, stevedores, lumpers, and deal porters. With coal porters, corn porters and winchmen it was moderate. With fruit porters in Thames-street it remained fair, the average daily number employed being 292, as compared with 289 in April, and 302 a year ago.

Of the 3,411 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London during May, 1904, 73 per cent. were, on the average, employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour, as compared with 76 per cent. in the previous month, and 63 per cent. in May, 1904.

Other Ports.

North-East Coast.—On the Tyne and Wear coal porters and shippers report employment as slightly below the average. With trimmers and teamers it has been moderate. With dock and quayside labourers it has been quiet on the Wear; moderate on the North side of the Tyne; bad on the South side. On the Tees riverside labourers report employment as moderate; dock labourers as fair at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool.

Hull, Goole, and Grimsby.—The timber and coal trade workers at Hull report employment as fair; the dock labourers at Hull and Goole report it as slack. At Grimsby the casual dock labourers and timber trade workers report it as fair; the dock shed labourers as moderate.

Norfolk and Suffolk.—Dock labourers and riverside workers are fairly well employed at Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Lynn, Ipswich, Parkeston. At Harwich employment is moderate.

Southampton and Plymouth.—Employment is reported as fair.

Bristol Channel Ports.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago.

Liverpool and Manchester.—Employment with dock labourers remains dull at South Docks; at the North Docks it is rather better. With timber, cotton, and warehouse porters, and quay and railway carters employment remains dull, but is better than a month ago. Mersey flatmen report employment as moderate; Manchester dock labourers as slack.

The Clyde.—Employment at Glasgow is reported as moderate.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment remains fairly good at Leith, moderate at Aberdeen, and slack at Dundee.

Irish Ports.—Employment at Dublin was better than a month ago. At Belfast it remained dull; at Cork it was fairly good.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and from Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England; from the Fishery Board for Scotland; from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland; and from Local Correspondents.

The fish landed during May shows a slight increase in quantity and a decrease in value, as compared with a year ago.

The following Table gives the quantity and value of fish landed in May 1904, and May 1903, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	May, 1904.	May, 1903.	May, 1904.	May, 1903.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 874,130	Cwts. 879,552	£ 486,736	£ 493,627
Scotland	366,520	420,682	144,053	163,726
Ireland	220,596	147,918	58,766	61,914
Total	1,455,346	1,448,152	683,605	719,297
Shell Fish			39,367	39,772
Total Value			722,972	759,069

From the Tyne and Wear it is reported that good supplies of white fish were landed by the trawl and line

boats, and that the herring boats landed moderate supplies.

At Hull trawl fisherman and curing-house workers report employment as moderate, and fish dock labourers as bad. Employment at Grimsby was good with line fishermen and curing-house workers, and slack with trawl fishermen and fish dock labourers. At Lowestoft it was bad in all branches. At Yarmouth it was good among fishermen, and bad in the other branches.

Off the South-western coast fishing was light generally in the early part of the month, but improved during the month, and good hauls, especially of mackerel, were made. Fish packers and carters were moderately employed during the early part of the month, and busy during the latter part.

At Cardiff, Milford, and Cardigan good catches were landed during the month.

Employment at Aberdeen was good in all branches. At Fraserburgh it was fair among fishermen, good with fish dock labourers, and bad with persons employed in fish-curing. Employment at Peterhead and Macduff was moderate in all branches. At Arbroath and Montrose fishing was irregular during the early part of the month, but improved towards the end.

Off the South-West coast of Ireland the deep sea fishing has been good during the month.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MAY.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the Foreign Trade is entered and cleared) show that, during May, 38,012 seamen were shipped on foreign-going vessels, an increase of 263 on the number shipped during May, 1903.

The supply of seamen is stated to have been in excess of, or equal to the demand at the ports included in the returns.

During the five months of 1904, 174,318* seamen were shipped, of whom 27,284 (or 15.7 per cent.) were foreigners. During the corresponding period of 1903, 167,741* seamen were shipped, of whom 26,878 (or 16.0 per cent.) were foreigners.

Lascars who are engaged in Asia are not included in these figures.

Table showing the number* of persons shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in May, 1904 and 1903 respectively, together with the number† shipped in the five months ended May in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Persons shipped in May, 1904.*		Total in May, 1904.*	Total in May, 1903.*	Total number* shipped in five months ended May, 1904.	1903.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.				
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports	65	2,831	2,896	3,631	13,720	13,149
Sunderland ... ..	...	648	648	866	2,455	1,760
Middlesbrough ... ..	...	260	279	192	1,097	956
Hull	28	889	917	984	5,015	5,003
Grimsby ... ..	...	103	103	132	243	477
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol	32	706	738	651	3,096	3,070
Newport, Mon.	31	745	776	800	3,720	3,586
Cardiff	154	4,315	4,469	5,157	22,777	22,248
Swansea	122	403	525	519	1,891	2,461
Other Ports.						
Liverpool	158	14,004	14,162	13,657	61,669	57,787
London	166	6,335	6,501	6,504	30,279	30,484
Southampton	17	2,220	2,237	1,689	10,949	10,140
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil, & Grangemouth	21	534	555	487	2,646	2,366
Glasgow	20	3,069	3,089	2,829	13,106	12,445
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	...	3	3	71	391	530
Belfast	28	86	114	229	1,204	1,211
Total, May, 1904	861	37,151	38,012	...	174,318	...
 Ditto, May, 1903	825	36,944	...	37,149	...	167,741

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

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE number of cases of lead, mercurial, phosphorus, and arsenic poisoning, and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act, during May was 45, and the number of deaths 2.

During the five months ended May the number of cases was 258, as compared with 268 in the corresponding period of 1903. The number of deaths was 10, or 8 less than in 1903, the decrease being mainly accounted for by a very noticeable decline in the number of deaths from anthrax.

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

Disease and Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	5 months ended May,		5 months ended May,	
	1904.	1903.	1904.	1903.
Lead Poisoning—				
Smelting of Metals	5	11	—	1
Brass Works	—	2	—	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping	—	4	—	—
Plumbing and Soldering	1	10	7	1
Printing	—	7	5	—
File Cutting	1	12	14	2
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	—	7	4	—
Hollow-ware	—	—	—	—
White Lead Works	7	34	47	1
Red and Yellow Lead Works	1	7	3	—
China and Earthenware*	9	53	37	1
Litho-transfer Works	—	2	1	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	—	1	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	—	—	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	3	7	12	—
Paint and Colour Works	3	9	11	—
Coach Making	5	19	31	1
Shipbuilding	2	21	8	—
Paint used in other Industries	1	10	19	1
Other Industries	3	17	10	—
Total Lead Poisoning†	41	229	232	1
Mercurial Poisoning—				
Barometer and Thermometer making	—	1	2	—
Furriers' processes	—	1	2	—
Other Industries	—	2	—	—
Total Mercurial Poisoning	—	2	5	—
Phosphorus Poisoning	1	1	—	1
Arsenic Poisoning—				
Paints, Colours and Extraction of	—	2	3	—
Artenic	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	1	2	—	—
Total Arsenic Poisoning	1	4	3	—
Anthrax—				
Wool Sorting	—	2	4	—
Wool Combing	—	3	12	—
Handling of Horsehair	1	6	1	—
Handling and Sorting of Hides and	—	5	6	—
Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1	6	5	—
Other Industries	—	—	—	—
Total Anthrax	2	22	28	1
Grand Total	45	288	268	2

BRITISH AND FOREIGN MINING STATISTICS.

ACCORDING to a Home Office return recently issued, the total number of persons engaged in mining and quarrying throughout the world exceeds 4,500,000, and of this number about one-fifth are employed in the United Kingdom, and one-third in the British Empire. More than half the total number are employed in coal mining, Great Britain employing over 750,000, and the United States and Germany over 500,000 each. The total world's output of coal during 1902 exceeded 800,000,000 metric tons,§ the value of which was over £270,000,000. The United States of America contributed to the total output 273,600,000 metric tons, Great Britain 230,739,000 metric tons, and Germany 150,600,000 metric tons. In the case of gold the British Empire afforded over 50 per cent. of the total supply, and the United States of America contributed about 27 per cent.

* Of the 9 cases in the china and earthenware industry in May, 1904, 6 affected females.
 † House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 15 cases of lead poisoning (including 3 deaths) were reported during May, among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported during the five months ended May, 1904, was 69 (including 14 deaths), and for the corresponding period of 1903, 63 (including 15 deaths).
 ‡ Cd. 2084 of 1904 (Eyre & Spottiswoode. Price 1s. 8d.).
 § A metric ton contains 2,204 lbs., as compared with a British ton of 2,240 lbs.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

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

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during May, 1904, was 195, or 19 less than in April, and 33 less than in May, 1903. The mean number for May in the years 1900 to 1903, was 233, the maximum year in this period being 1901, with 281 deaths, and the minimum year 1899, with 199 deaths.

The number of fatal accidents to Seamen in May, 1904, was 53, or less than in any May of the years 1899-1903, in which period the number varied from 64 to 256, the mean for the five years being 153.

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz., Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, and Laundries, the number of workpeople reported as killed was 232, compared with 273 in May, 1903. During the five months ended May, 1904, the number of persons in this group of industries reported as killed was 1,428, as compared with 1,647 in the corresponding period of 1903. The approximate number of workpeople employed in these industries according to the latest returns was about 5,800,000.

SUMMARY.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (—) in May, 1904, as compared with	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
	May, 1904.	Apr., 1904.	May, 1903.		
Railway Service—					
Brakemen and Goods Guards	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Engine Drivers	1	1	1	—	—
Firemen	1	3	3	— 2	— 2
Guards (Passenger)	—	—	3	—	— 3
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers)	6	12	9	— 6	— 3
Porters	3	3	2	—	+ 1
Shunters	3	3	2	—	+ 1
Miscellaneous	9	10	17	— 1	— 8
Contractors' Servants	2	—	2	+ 2	—
Total Railway Service	27	33	40	— 6	— 13
Mines—					
Underground	69	69	82	—	— 13
Surface	8	14	14	— 6	— 0
Total Mines	77	83	96	— 6	— 19
Quarries over 20 feet deep	5	6	10	— 1	— 5
Factories—					
Textile—					
Cotton	1	1	2	—	— 1
Wool and Worsted	6	3	3	+ 3	+ 3
Other Textiles	1	3	2	— 2	— 1
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals	4	7	5	— 3	— 1
Founding and Conversion of Metals	7	17	10	— 10	— 3
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	4	6	2	— 2	+ 2
Ship and Boat Building	9	3	5	+ 6	+ 4
Wood	4	1	2	+ 3	+ 2
Chemicals, &c.	—	1	—	— 1	—
Other Non-Textile Industries	31	22	34	+ 9	— 3
Total Factories	67	64	65	+ 3	+ 2
Workshops ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6—					
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	9	9	10	—	— 1
Warehouses	1	1	2	—	— 1
Buildings to which Act applies	5	11	3	— 6	+ 2
Laundries	—	—	—	—	—
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-6	15	21	15	— 6	—
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	4	7	2	— 3	+ 2
Total, exclusive of Seamen	195	214	228	— 19	— 33
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing	14	17	12	— 3	+ 2
Steam	35	32	46	+ 3	— 11
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing	5	2	2	+ 3	+ 3
Steam	4	1	4	+ 3	—
Total Seamen	58	52	64	+ 6	— 6
Total, including Seamen	253	266	292	— 13	— 39

TRADE DISPUTES IN MAY.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-two new disputes began in May, 1904, compared with 21 in April and 27 in May, 1903. By the 22 disputes 3,983 workpeople were directly and 460 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before May, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 6,077 workpeople involved in trade disputes during May, 1904, compared with 5,529 in April, 1904, and 16,888 in May, 1903.

New Disputes in May, 1904.—In the following Table the new disputes in May are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Building	4	1,245	100	1,345
Coal Mining	4	530	—	530
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	7	1,436	31	1,467
Textile	5	689	329	1,018
Other	2	83	—	83
Total, May, 1904	22	3,983	460	4,443
Total, April, 1904	21	3,062	980	3,972
Total, May, 1903	27	9,622	1,414	11,037

Causes.—Of the twenty-two new disputes, three arose on demands for increased wages, three on objections to reductions, four on other wages questions, three on questions of hours of labour, three on questions as to the employment of particular classes or persons, five on details of working arrangements, and one on trade unionism.

Results.—Definite results were reported in May in the case of twelve new disputes, affecting 1,981 workpeople, and seven old disputes, affecting 402 workpeople.

Of these nineteen new and old disputes, four, involving 232 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; eight, involving 872 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and seven involving 1,279 persons, were compromised.

In the case of five other disputes terminating during the month, and involving 1,403 persons, certain points are still under consideration.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupation.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began.	Duration of Dispute in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Bricklayers, Plasterers and Labourers	Tees District	675	—	2 May	—	Against proposed reduction in wages	No settlement reported.
Masons	Sheffield	200	—	21 May	—	Against proposed alterations of rules affecting apprentices, and against reduction of ½d. per hour in fixers' wages	No settlement reported.
Masons, Bricklayers, Carpenters & Joiners, Plasterers & Labourers	Malvern	300	—	2 May	14	Against proposed reduction in winter working hours, and for an advance in wages of ½d. per hour	Modified reduction in working hours agreed to; rates of wages unaltered.
Masons, Bricklayers, Labourers	Cork	70	100	2 May	—	For advance in wages from 34s. 6d. to 36s. per week	No settlement reported.
Jute Spinning Operatives	Dundee	280	329	6 May	6	Dissatisfaction with change in working conditions	Work resumed on employer's terms.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
 † In making up the totals for the several months of 1904 the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
 ‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments where the dispute occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railway companies of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended June 4th amounted to £7,387,045, a decrease of £29,830 (or 0.4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,587,629, an increase of £1,004, due almost entirely to an increase of £19,400 in the Great Western Railway receipts, which was partly balanced by a decline of £14,750 on the Scottish lines. The receipts from goods and mineral traffic amounted to £3,799,416 in the four weeks. Of this amount £2,442,479 was received by the Northern lines of

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in May of disputes that commenced or were settled in that month was 52,900 working days. In addition, 20,400 working days were lost in May, owing to disputes that began before that month, and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus the total duration in May of all disputes, new and old, was 73,300 working days, which compares with 70,700 in the previous month, and 217,000 in the corresponding month of 1903.

Summary for the First Five Months of 1903 and 1904.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the five months January-May, 1903 and 1904, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January to May,					
	1903.			1904.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	23	2,205	50,400	21	2,468	38,700
Mining and Quarrying	49	20,014	717,100	28	9,898	177,100
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	23	6,928	232,300	28	4,609	76,700
Textile	26	4,375	31,600	16	2,952	52,700
Clothing	13	1,720	55,500	5	112	1,600
Transport	5	667	2,500	3	850	20,900
Other Trades	10	953	30,900	19	1,598	37,000
Total	149	36,862	1,120,300	120	22,467	404,600

Thus, so far in 1904 the amount of time lost owing to industrial disturbance is very little more than one-third of what it was in the corresponding five months of 1903—a year which was much below the average as regards trade disputes.

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

England, showing a decrease of £58,014 on the corresponding four weeks in 1903. The Southern and Western lines and those in Scotland and Ireland together received £1,356,937, an increase of £27,180. The total receipts (£3,799,416) of the 20 railway companies were thus £30,834 less than a year ago.

Bankruptcies.—The bankruptcies gazetted during May numbered 363, being 7 less than in May, 1903. During the five months ended May 31st, 1904, the number of bankruptcies gazetted was 1,917, as against 1,762 in the first five months of 1903. The 1,917 bankruptcies in 1904 include 136 builders, 62 bakers, 41 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, as compared with 149, 60 and 54 respectively in the five months ended May 31st, 1903.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

WAGES. Changes Reported in May.—The net effect of all the changes in wages reported in May was a decrease of £2,846 per week, as compared with a decrease of £1,003 in April, and a decrease of £2,188 in May, 1903.

The principal change reported was a decrease affecting 107,500 coal miners in Durham.

One change affecting 80 workpeople was settled by arbitration, two changes affecting 107,520 workpeople were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and one change affecting 1,055 workpeople took effect under a sliding scale.

Summary for the first Five Months of 1904.—For the five months, January—May, 1904, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have had their wages changed was 274,096, as compared with 236,863 in the corresponding period of 1903.

at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes reported was a decrease of £12,880 per week, compared with a decrease of £3,891 per week in the corresponding period of 1903.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by changes during the five months, January—May, 1903 and 1904, respectively, and the net results of the changes on their weekly wages were as follows:—

Table with columns: Groups of Trades, January—May, 1903, 1904. Rows include Building, Coal Mining, Iron Mining, Quarrying, Pig Iron Manufacture, Iron and Steel Manufacture, Engineering and Shipbuilding, Textile Trades, Glass Trades, Other Trades, Employees of Local Authorities.

HOURS.

The changes in hours of labour reported during May, affected 1,302 workpeople, whose aggregate working time in a full week was reduced by 319 hours.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change.

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY, 1904.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes Stonemasons, Labourers, Excavators, and Scaffolders.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes Coal Mining, Mechanics, Firemen, Coal Hewers, Iron Miners, Settmakers.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes Steel Workers, Millwrights, Labourers, Warehousemen, Loaders, Minegetters, Enginemen, Cranemen.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes Ship Smiths, Smiths' Strikers, Foundry Workers, Fitters, Turners.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change.

I.—CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY, 1904—(continued).

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes Silk Dressers, Pressmen, Saddlers, Labourers (Gas Department).

II.—CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY, 1904.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which Change takes effect in 1904, Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change. Includes Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Brick and Stone Layers, Steel Smelters, Compositors (Hand).

* The Arbitrator's award, dated May 12th, 1904, states that the award is held to have come into force from July 9th, 1903.

REPORT OF CHIEF REGISTRAR OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

THE Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1903* has recently been issued, containing reports by the Chief and Assistant Registrars of the work done during the year in their respective offices, excepting so far as relates to building societies, as to which a separate report is required by the Building Societies Act, 1894.

The following is a summary of registered provident societies at the end of 1902: Building societies had 595,451 members, and funds amounting to £63,907,087. Friendly Societies had 13,344,494 members, and funds £44,848,575. Included in these two totals are ordinary friendly societies with 2,994,480 members and funds £15,371,573; societies having branches, membership 2,614,322, funds £21,074,981; collecting friendly societies, membership 7,007,397, funds £6,551,287; benevolent societies, membership 24,871, funds £314,792; working men's clubs, membership 212,786, funds £286,000; medical societies, membership 318,228, funds £63,385; specially authorised societies, membership 76,071, funds £550,779; specially authorised loan societies, membership 92,794, funds £628,093; cattle insurance societies, members 2,054,835 members, and funds amounting to £43,328,078.

The registered trade unions had 1,604,812 members, and their total funds amounted to £5,016,408. The workmen's compensation schemes covered 122,441 members, with funds amounting to £172,408. The friends of labour loan societies had 32,684 members, and funds £254,426. The grand totals for registered provident societies were thus: members 17,754,717, funds £157,526,982.

The totals for Certified and Post Office Savings Banks were: depositors 10,857,186, deposits (including investments) £222,677,941. In the Post Office Savings Bank there were 9,133,161 depositors with £158,890,705 in the aggregate; in Trustee Savings Banks 1,670,394 depositors with £59,010,592; the remaining 53,631 depositors with £4,776,644 deposits were accounted for by 17 Railway Savings Banks.

EMIGRATION AND ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during May was 37,672 as compared with 54,273 in May, 1903. During the five months ended May, 1904, the number of passengers was 150,150, being 36,026 (or 19 per cent.) less than in the corresponding period of 1903.

British and Irish.—Of the 37,672 passengers in May, 23,739 were of British or Irish origin, a decrease of 5,340 compared with a year ago. For the five months ended May, 1904, the number

was 93,106, as compared with 103,627 in the corresponding period of 1903, a decrease of 10,521, which is mainly accounted for by a decrease of 10,029 in the number of passengers to British South Africa.

The following Table gives the number of British and Irish passengers in the different periods:—

Table with columns: Destination (Country in which passengers contracted to land), May, 1904, May, 1903, Five months ended May, 1904, May, 1903. Includes British Empire, Foreign Countries, Grand Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 37,672 passengers in May, viz., 13,933, were foreigners, or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 11,261 less than in May, 1903. For the five months ended May, 1904, the number of such passengers was 57,044, of whom 41,631 were bound for the United States, 10,197 for British North America, and 2,213 for British South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During May, 18,465 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these, 10,712 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, a decrease of 8,690 as compared with May, 1903. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 6,568 (exclusive of seamen), or 296 less than a year ago. For the five months ended May, 1904, the number of aliens stated to be en route to America or elsewhere was 38,983, and the number not so stated, 24,076 (exclusive of seamen), compared with 63,958 and 25,956 respectively in 1903.

The figures for May, 1904 and 1903, and also for the five months ended May, 1904 and 1903, are as follows:—

Table with columns: Destination, May, 1904, May, 1903, Total for five months ended May, 1904, May, 1903. Includes Aliens not stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries, Seamen, Aliens stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to other countries, Gross Total.

* Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year ending 31st December, 03: Part A, P.P. 55, 1904. Price 1s. 3d.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Summary for May.

The trade returns for May, 1904, show an increase in the value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1903, of the Imports into the United Kingdom, and of the Exports of British produce, but a decrease in the value of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in May, 1904, was £44,780,098, an increase of £2,864,992, or 6·8 per cent., as compared with those in May, 1903, whilst the total Exports amounted to £29,917,775, showing a total decrease of £352,804. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £5,063, or 0·2 per cent., as compared with May, 1903, whilst there is a decrease of £357,867, or 6·0 per cent., in the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following Table shows the value of the Imports for May, 1904, as compared with the corresponding months of 1903 and 1902, according to the different categories of merchandise:—

	Month of May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink and Tobacco.	£18,726,452	£18,032,106	£18,372,102	+ £339,996	– £354,350
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	£13,079,795	£12,419,129	£14,561,334	+ 2,142,205	+ 1,481,539
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	£11,294,382	£11,224,732	£11,680,507	+ 455,775	+ 386,125
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	£253,076	£239,139	£166,155	– 72,984	– 86,921
Total value of Imports	£43,353,705	£41,915,106	£44,780,098	+ 2,864,992	+ 1,428,393

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of May, 1904, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1903 and 1902, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

	Month of May.			Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in 1904 as compared with	
	1902.	1903.	1904.	1903.	1902.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco.	£1,099,306	£1,119,456	£1,133,021	+ £13,565	+ £33,715
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured.	£2,916,827	£3,345,675	£3,106,928	– 238,747	+ 190,101
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured.	£18,456,718	£19,508,204	£19,725,648	+ 217,444	+ 1,268,930
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post).	£359,123	£353,691	£366,492	+ 12,801	+ 7,369
Total value of Exports of British produce	£22,831,974	£24,327,026	£24,332,089	+ 5,063	+ 1,500,115

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month of May, 1904, amounted to 3,507,585 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 4,117,267 tons, as against 3,196,048 tons entered, and 4,300,068 tons cleared in the month of May, 1903. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during May, 1904, amounted to 2,712,908 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,669,968 tons, as against 2,717,858 tons entered, and 2,689,991 tons cleared in May, 1903.

* The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight; or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.
† The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on board the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

(Data supplied by the Local Government Boards in England, Scotland, and Ireland.) The number of paupers relieved in 35 selected Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in May was 366,895 (viz., 159,084 indoor and 207,811 outdoor paupers), corresponding to a rate of 214 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1904.

Compared with April the number of persons relieved has decreased by 6,746, and the rate per 10,000 by 4. The decline is more marked in the case of indoor than outdoor paupers. Decreases are shown in twenty-eight districts, the rate of decrease being most marked in Galway (15 per 10,000), West Ham (14 per 10,000), Central London, and Cork, Waterford, and Limerick (11 each). Slight increases are shown in six districts, while in one district no change is indicated.

Compared with May, 1903, the number of persons relieved has increased by 17,655. The number of indoor paupers shows an increase of 8,611 (or 5·7 per cent.), and outdoor paupers of 9,044 (or 4·5 per cent.). The pauperism rate has increased by 8 per 10,000 of population. Increases are shown in twenty-seven districts, the rate of increase being greatest in Leicester district (32 per 10,000), North Staffordshire (30), Bolton, Oldham, &c. (23), East London (22). In four districts the rate has slightly decreased, and in the four remaining districts no change is indicated.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1904.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Increase (+) or Decrease (–) in rate per 10,000 of Population as compared with	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		A month ago.	A year ago.
	ENGLAND & WALES.*					
Metropolis.						
West District	11,008	3,230	14,238	173	– 8	...
North District	15,353	8,507	23,860	223	– 6	+ 10
Central District	6,900	2,840	9,740	469	– 11	+ 2
East District	14,512	6,172	20,684	288	– 3	+ 22
South District	23,723	18,629	42,352	233	– 4	+ 1
Total Metropolis	71,496	39,378	110,874	210	– 5	+ 6
West Ham	3,904	9,701	13,605	211	– 14	+ 16
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District	1,954	4,854	6,818	161	– 3	+ 12
Stockton & Tees District	1,197	3,899	5,096	239	– 6	...
Bolton, Oldham, &c.	4,104	9,150	13,254	175	– 6	+ 23
Wigan District	2,039	6,559	8,598	218	+ 2	+ 10
Manchester District	9,540	9,030	18,579	200	– 3	+ 13
Liverpool District	11,508	8,991	20,499	120	– 2	+ 12
Bradford District	1,626	2,751	4,377	120	– 5	+ 4
Halifax & Huddersfield	1,291	3,840	5,131	178	– 1	+ 8
Leeds District	2,289	6,059	8,348	187	– 5	...
Barnsley District	715	3,010	3,725	161	+ 3	+ 8
Sheffield District	3,072	3,852	6,924	161	+ 2	+ 10
Hull District	1,513	5,158	6,671	249	– 4	...
North Staffordshire	2,254	7,809	10,063	272	...	+ 30
Nottingham District	1,980	5,548	7,528	187	+ 1	+ 16
Leicester District	1,282	3,966	5,248	236	– 1	+ 32
Wolverhampton District	3,554	12,911	16,465	288	– 1	– 3
Birmingham District	4,882	3,623	8,505	148	– 5	+ 11
Bristol District	2,795	6,782	9,577	250	– 5	+ 2
Cardiff & Swansea	1,841	7,825	9,666	264	– 2	+ 4
Total "Other Districts"	59,445	115,617	175,062	198	– 3	+ 10
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District	4,865	17,601	22,466	235	– 4	+ 11
Paisley & Greenock District	654	2,540	3,194	184	– 8	+ 10
Edinburgh & Leith District	1,694	5,489	7,183	181	– 4	– 1
Dundee & Dunfermline	1,078	2,818	3,896	197	– 1	+ 3
Aberdeen	655	2,964	3,619	223	+ 1	+ 12
Coatbridge & Airdrie	328	1,364	1,692	181	+ 1	+ 4
Total for the above Scottish Districts	9,274	32,776	42,050	212	– 4	+ 7
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District	6,865	5,002	11,867	305	– 2	– 2
Belfast District	3,441	249	3,690	94	– 2	+ 2
Cork, Waterford & Limerick District	4,262	4,788	9,050	368	– 11	– 17
Galway District	397	300	697	195	– 15	+ 4
Total for the above Irish Districts	14,965	10,339	25,304	238	– 5	– 5
Total for above 35 Districts in May, 1904	159,084	207,811	366,895	214	– 4	+ 8

* Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses.
† Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

At eleven Bureaux which furnished returns for May, 1904 and 1903, 2,630 fresh applications for work were registered during May, 1904, as compared with 2,470 a year ago. During May these Bureaux found work for 990 persons, of whom 780 were engaged by private employers. During May, 1903, work was found for 951 persons, of whom 755 were engaged by private employers. The number of persons remaining on the registers at the end of the month was 2,222, as compared with 2,792 a year ago.

Returns were also received from two other Bureaux not in operation a year ago. At the thirteen Bureaux included in the Table below 2,828 fresh applications for work were registered, and work was found for 1,049 persons. The work procured for 285 of these persons was stated to be of a more or less permanent character, while, in the case of 764, temporary employment only was found. Of the 1,049 persons, 837 were engaged by private employers, 12 by Local Authorities, and 200 by the Salvation Army. At the end of April, the total number of persons remaining on the registers was 2,455, viz., 2,067 men and boys, and 388 women and girls.

Weekly returns which have been received from the Fulham Municipal Labour Bureau show that, during the five weeks ended June 4th, 193 fresh applications for work were registered and 60 persons found work through the agency of the Bureau.

(I.) Work done in May.

Name of Labour Bureau.	No. of Fresh Applications by Workpeople during		No. of Situations offered by Employers during		No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureau during	
	May, 1904.	May, 1903.	May, 1904.	May, 1903.	May, 1904.	May, 1903.
London.						
Battersea (Lavender Hill, S.W.)	94	130	22	32	22	32
Salvation Army (Whitechapel Rd. E.)	1,001	787	275	267	472	416
St. Pancras (Crowndale Rd., N.W.)	205	227	82	86	50	73
Southwark (Borough Road, S.E.)	37	190	4	1	2	1
Hammersmith (St. Church Lane, W.)	32	62	10	18	10	15
Finsbury (Rosebery Avenue, E.C.)	204	104	70	21	57	75
Westminster (Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, S.W.)	174	195	121	88	93	52
Provincial.						
Ipswich (Fore Street)	39	46	32	56	18	23
Plymouth (Basket Street)	146	200	88	114	82	112
Liverpool (Dale Street)	216	142	6	7	2	1
Glasgow (158, George Street)	482	387	631	707	182	211
Total of 11 Bureaux	2,630	2,470	1,341	1,397	990	951
London.						
Kensington* (Lancaster Road, W.)	179	...	42	...	47	...
Provincial.						
Southampton* (23, High Street)	19	...	12	...	12	...
Total of 13 Bureaux	2,828	...	1,395	...	1,049	...

(II.) Employment found for Workpeople during May.

Capacity in which employed.	No. permanently engaged.	No. temporarily engaged.	Total.
Engaged by Private Employers.			
Men.—			
Building Trades	30	45	75
Carmen, Stabblers, Horsemen, &c.	14	14	28
Porters and Messengers	37	74	111
Bill Distributors	...	266	266
General Labourers	13	...	13
Other Occupations	28	16	44
Lads and Boys	58	21	79
Women and Girls.—			
Domestic Servants	72	23	95
Charwomen, daily work, &c.	7	64	71
Other Occupations	23	32	55
Total engaged by Private Employers	282	555	837
Engaged by Local Authorities.			
Men, Lads and Boys	2	9	11
Women and Girls	1	...	1
Engaged by Salvation Army.			
Men	1	200	200
Women and Girls	...	...	...
Grand Total of 13 Bureaux	285	764	1,049

* Bureau not in operation in May, 1903.
† Revised figure.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May 659 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 726 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 227 persons, of whom 131 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 227 situations found for applicants, 137 were of a more or less permanent character, while 90 were temporary only.

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants rose from 434 to 480, and the number of servants applying fell from 373 to 364; the number permanently engaged rose from 69 to 90. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., fell from 143 to 131, and the number requiring such situations fell from 60 to 43; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 38, compared with 47 in April.

The Returns for the Manchester, Liverpool, and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following Table, which shows the work done by the Bureaux during May compared with a month ago and a year ago:—

WORK DONE IN MAY.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.		No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.		No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.	
	Permanently.	Temporarily.	Permanently.	Temporarily.	Permanently.	Temporarily.
Summary by Bureaux.						
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton-street, W.C. Society for Promoting Training and Employment	59	60	12	10	10	10
22, Berners-street, W.	45	39	8	35	8	35
Y.W.C.A.— 26, George-street (1)	438	415	73	23	73	23
Hanover-square, W. (2)	143	69	17	17	17	17
Other Bureaux	41	76	27	5	27	5
Total of 7 Bureaux	726	659	137	90	137	90
Irish Central Bureau*, Dublin	27	24	3	1	3	1
Summary by Occupations.						
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc.	14	42	3	3	3	3
Shop Assistants	1	7	...	...	...	...
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc.	131	43	19	19	19	19
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists	38	53	4	23	4	23
Apprentices and Learners	18	6	4	...	4	...
Domestic Servants	480	364	90	41	90	41
Miscellaneous	44	144	17	4	17	4
Total Number in May, 1904	726	659	137	90	137	90
Total Number in April, 1904	715	745	187	60	187	60
Total Number in May, 1903	731	616	126	86	126	86

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MAY.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Railway Accidents. General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Railway Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1903. [Cd. 2085; pp. 86; price 8d.]
Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties for year ending December 31st, 1903, together with Reports of Board of Trade Officers upon certain Accidents which were inquired into. Part 2—Reports on Accidents. [Cd. 2067; pp. 135; price 1s. 3d.]
Emigrants' Information Office Handbooks, 1904. New Zealand, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, Canada, Cape Colony, Orange River Colony, Natal (price 1d. each); East Africa Protectorate (price 6d.); Professional Handbook (price 3d.); General Handbook (price 3d.).
Emigration and Immigration. Statistical Tables relating to 1903. [H.C. 145; pp. 77; price 8d.] See Notice on p. 165.
Poor Law Medical Relief (Scotland). Volume II. Minutes of Evidence taken before the Departmental Committee appointed by the Local Government Board for Scotland. With Appendices and Index to Evidence. [Cd. 2022; pp. 323; price 2s. 7d.]
Poor Relief. Returns—Boards of Guardians (Persons in receipt of Relief). In continuation of H.C. 36, of 1891, showing numbers of persons of each sex over 60 years of age who were in receipt of indoor and outdoor relief on September 1st, 1903; lunatics, vagrants, &c. [H.C. 113; pp. v. + 238; price 2s.]
* In operation since November, 1903.

Quarterly Return of Marriages, Births, and Deaths (Ireland). First Quarter of 1904. Gives also average prices in Dublin of Bread, Oatmeal, Potatoes and Beef during each week of the Quarter; also average price of Coal. [No. 161: pp. 94: price 1s.]

Friendly Societies. Reports of the Chief Registrar for year ending December 31st, 1903—Part A. [H.C. 55: pp. 157: price 1s. 3d.] See notice on p. 189.

Mines and Quarries. Part IV.—Colonial and Foreign Statistics for 1902. Number of persons employed, output of certain minerals, accidents and death rates in Mines, Quarries, and other Mineral Workings in the United Kingdom, British Colonies and Dependencies, and in Foreign Countries. [Cd. 2084: pp. 200: price 1s. 8d.] See notice on p. 186.

Labourers' Cottages (Ireland). Return showing the number of cottages applied for in every Poor Law Union under the latest completed Scheme, the number of applications for extra half acres, &c. [H.C. 148: p. 9: price 1s. 4d.]

Fishery Board for Scotland. 22nd Annual Report, 1903. Part I. Gives number of persons employed in the fishing industry, and the price of fresh herrings in each week of the herring season. [Cd. 2,068: pp. lxxii. + 259: price 1s. 10d.]

Metropolitan Police. Accounts showing the sums received and expended for the purposes of the Metropolitan Police and Police Pensions Funds, April 1st, 1903, to March 31st, 1904. Gives numbers and rates of pay of the Force at January 1st, 1904. [H.C. 146, pp. 23: price 2s. 1d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Chinese Labour. Convention between the United Kingdom and China respecting the employment of Chinese Labour in British Colonies and Protectorates. Convention signed at London, May 13th, 1904. [Cd. 1956: pp. 5: price 1d.]

Transvaal. Correspondence relating to Conditions of Native Labour employed in Transvaal Mines. [Cd. 2025: pp. iv. + 154: price 1s. 3d.]

(All the above-mentioned Reports may be obtained direct from Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, E.C., or ordered through any bookseller.)

Natal.

Information relating to Courts of Arbitration and Boards of Conciliation in the United Kingdom, and in certain British Colonies and Foreign Countries. (Pietermaritzburg: Davis & Sons, Government Printers: pp. 44.)

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Ohio. Twenty-seventh Annual Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of the State of Ohio, 1903. Contains recent labour laws of the State, including Employer's Liability Act, 1902; Compulsory Education—Children employed under 14 years of age, &c. Also statistics of manufactures, number employed, wages and hours of labour in 6,680 establishments in 1902; reports on free public employment offices during ten months ended October, 1903. [Columbus, Ohio: F. J. Heer, State Printer: pp. 725.]

Michigan. Twenty-first Annual Report of the Michigan Bureau of Labour, 1903, with Eleventh Annual Report on State Factory Inspection. Statistics of manufactures and mines, arbitration and mediation; factory statistics, showing numbers employed, average daily wages, etc. [Lansing, Mich., Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., State Printers: pp. 230 + 359.]

Indiana. Third Biennial Report of the Indiana Labour Commission, 1901-2. Report of the Commission appointed to investigate labour disputes in the State, to act as mediators, or to arrange for arbitration. [Indianapolis, Wm. B. Burford, State Printer: pp. 126.]

Maine. Seventeenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial and Labour Statistics for the State of Maine, 1903. Special returns for the cotton and woollen industries showing numbers employed, average weekly wages paid, &c.; tabulation of other industries showing numbers employed, total wages paid, &c.; trade union statistics; factory inspection. [Augusta, Me., Kennebec Journal Print: pp. 222.]

Illinois. Seventh Annual Report of the Illinois State Board of Arbitration, July, 1901, to July, 1902. [Springfield, Ill., Phillips Bros., State Printers: pp. 275.]

Illinois. Twelfth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour Statistics of Illinois, 1902. Statistics of manufactures in 1900 and 1901, showing numbers employed, wages earned, &c.; trade union statistics covering 1897 and 1901; strikes and lock-outs 1881-1900. [Springfield, Ill., Phillips Bros., State Printers: pp. viii. + 606.]

Pennsylvania. Thirtieth Annual Report of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics, 1902. Statistics of manufactures 1896 to 1902, showing numbers employed, wages earned, and market value of product; statistics of the coal industry. [Harrisburg, Pa., W. S. Ray, State Printer: pp. 446.]

Germany.

Annual Report of Industrial Inspectors, 1902 (Imperial Department of the Interior): 3 vols., and summary and index vol.: Berlin, 1903. (A volume was formerly issued annually, giving extracts from the reports of the Industrial Inspectors of each State; the reports are now given in full.)

Strikes and Lock-outs in Germany in 1903 (Imperial Statistical Office): Berlin: Puttkammer and Mühlbrecht, 1904. (pp. xcvi. + 203: price 2s.) See notice on page 164.

Statistics as to the Causes of Invalidity, 1896-1899 (Imperial Insurance Department): Berlin: A. Asher & Co., 1904. (pp. xxiv. + 23, and diagrams)

Report upon Hours of Labour in the Transport Trades in the Summer of 1902 (Imperial Statistical Office): Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag, 1904. (pp. cxii. + 173, price 7s.)

Austria-Hungary.

Report of Proceedings at Inquiry into Conditions in the Bootmaking Trade; Examination of Witnesses. (Imperial Office for Labour Statistics): Vienna: Alfred Hölder, 1904. (pp. xxiv. + 1295 and supplement)

Overtime in Factories in 1903. (Imperial Office for Labour Statistics): Vienna: K. K. Hof-und Staatsdruckerei, 1904. (pp. 33, price 5d.)

Report on the Work of the Imperial Office for Labour Statistics in 1903: Vienna: K. K. Hof-und Staatsdruckerei, 1904. (pp. 27.)

Holland.

Strikes and Lock-outs in Holland in 1903. Supplement to the monthly journal of the Central Statistical Bureau. (Central Statistical Bureau): The Hague: Gebr. Belinfante, 1904. (pp. 43.)

Switzerland.

Reports of Federal Factory and Mine Inspectors for 1902 & 1903 (Department of Industry): Aarau: H. R. Sauerländer and Co., 1904. (pp. 288.)

NOTE.—In addition to the above-mentioned publications, copies have been received of the official journals issued by the Labour Departments of Canada, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium, and the United States of America.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in May, was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 17; under the Friendly Societies Act, 44 (including 29 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 1; in all, 63.

Among the new societies registered in May, were the following:—

Trade Unions.—*England and Wales.*—1, viz., Cardiff and District Dairymen's Assoc., Marchioness of Bute Hotel, Frederick Street, Cardiff. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—*England and Wales.*—*Co-operative Societies, mainly for Distribution.*—2, viz., Walmsgate Co-op. Soc., Ltd., The Stores, Walmsgate, Louth; Afan Valley Modern Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Tymaen Street, Lower Cwmavon, Port Talbot. *Co-operative Societies, mainly for Production.*—1, viz., Long Eaton Free Press Soc., Ltd., 6, Beaconsfield Street, Long Eaton, Derbyshire. *Miscellaneous Societies.*—Working Men's Clubs, 3; others, 3. *Scotland.*—*Co-operative Society, mainly for Distribution.*—1, viz., Lerwick Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 4, Carlton Place, Lerwick, Orkney. *Miscellaneous.*—1, viz., Broxburn Public House Soc., Ltd., Bridge Place, Broxburn, Linlithgow. *Ireland.*—*Co-operative Society mainly for production.*—1, viz., Glens of Antrim Co-op. Flax Soc., Ltd., Cushendall, co. Antrim. *Co-operative Agricultural Societies.*—5, viz., Kinsale Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Kinsale, co. Cork; Coolmona Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Donoughmore; Ballina Agric. and Industrial Soc., Ltd., Ballina, co. Mayo; Brigids Hill Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Knockbridge, co. Cavan; Lough Cullen Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Gaulstown.

Friendly Societies.—*England and Wales.*—13, viz., Abe Hart Provident Club, Woolwich; Walmer Castle Mutual Loan and Investment Soc., Plumstead, S.E.; City of Salisbury Permanent Money Soc., Salisbury; Far Forest and Dist. Credit Soc., Bromwich, Worc.; Watford Liberal Working Men's Club and Inst., Watford; Christ Church, Crouch End Social Club and Inst., N.; South Ossett Working Men's Club and Inst., Ossett, Yorks; Skiddaw Humane Friendly Soc., Keswick; Lydney Tinplate Workmen's Fund, Glos.; Carisbrooke P.S.A. Benefit Tontine Soc., Liverpool; Mansfield Dist. Manchester Unity Widows and Orphans Inst., Mansfield; Rose Tavern Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Llettyshenkin Colliery Friendly Soc., Aberdare. *Scotland.*—1, viz., City of Edinburgh Permanent Money Soc., Edinburgh. *Ireland.*—1, viz., Ballinfull Agric. Credit Soc., Sligo.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind up," or as having registration cancelled in May, was as follows:—Under the Trade Union Acts, 2; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 5; under the Friendly Societies Acts, 64 (including 48 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 17; in all 88.

NOTE.—In the above statement a Co-operative Society is entered under the heading (distribution, production, &c.), which appears from the information in the possession of the Board of Trade to represent its principal object.

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