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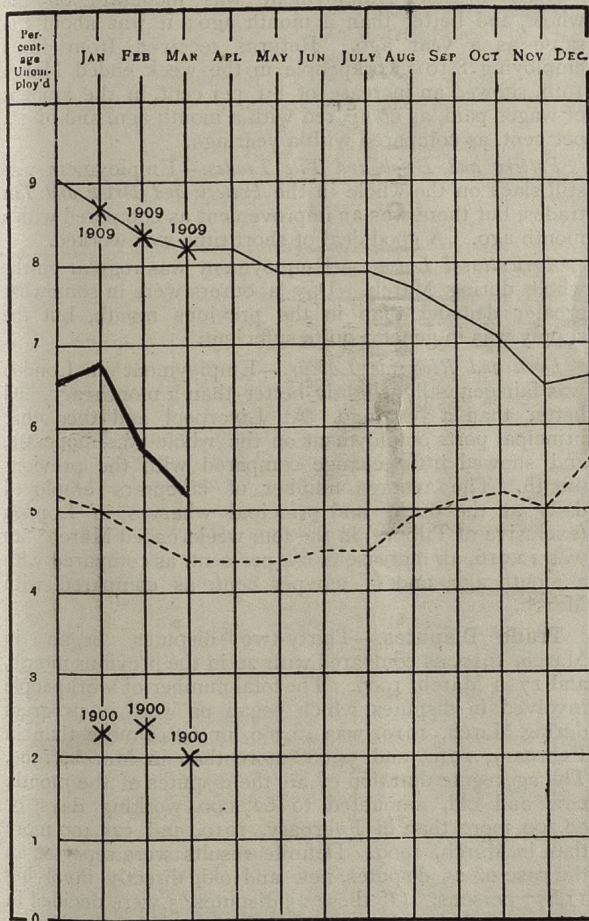
PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

— Thick Curve = 1910. — Thin Curve = 1909.
— Dotted Curve = Mean of 1900-1909.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the years 1900-1909 with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For March, 1910, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 701,766 members in the following trades:—

Building	58,323	Paper, Printing & Book-binding	59,562
Coal Mining	145,882	Woodworking and Furnishing	34,319
Engineering	169,336	Miscellaneous	18,590
Shipbuilding	57,282		
Other Metal Trades	41,076		
Textiles	117,396		
		Total	701,766

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN MARCH.

[In addition to the 2,905 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,755 were received from employers relating to 1,100,708 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,660 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in March continued to improve. The engineering, shipbuilding and textile trades showed increased activity; and there was a seasonal improvement in the building, woodworking and tailoring trades.

As compared with a year ago, employment in all the principal industries, except cotton, showed a considerable improvement.

In the 416 trade unions with a net membership of 701,766 making returns, 36,543 (or 5·2 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of March, 1910, compared with 5·7 per cent. at the end of February, 1910, and 8·2 per cent. at the end of March, 1909.

Coal Mining.—Employment during March continued good, and was better than a year ago. The average number of days worked by the pits during the four weeks ended March 19th, 1910, was 5·49, as compared with 5·54 in February, and 5·29 a year ago.

Iron Mining.—Employment was good, and better on the whole than a month ago, owing to a marked improvement in the Cleveland district; employment also showed some improvement compared with a year ago. During the four weeks ended March 19th, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5·90, as compared with 5·77 a month ago, and 5·82 a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment during March continued moderate. It was better than a year ago. Returns received relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing 22,600 workpeople showed 303 furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1910, as compared with 305 in February, 1910, and 287 in March, 1909.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment again showed an improvement on a month ago, and was much better than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended March 19th, 1910, at the works from which Returns were received showed an increase of 1·3 per cent. on a month ago, and of 11·0 per cent. on a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment continued very good, and was much better than a year ago. The number of tinplate and steel sheet mills working at the end of March was 479, as compared with 475 in February and 445 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment continued to improve and was much better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 169,336, reported 7·1 per cent.

unemployed at the end of March as compared with 7.3 per cent. a month ago and 12.6 per cent. a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment during March continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago. Branches of Trade Unions with 57,282 members reported 13.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 14.6 per cent. a month ago, and 22.2 per cent. a year ago.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the spinning branch continued bad. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton. In the weaving branch employment was also bad, and much waiting for warps was reported. In both branches there was some improvement on a month ago, but a considerable decline on a year ago. Returns from firms employing 123,836 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 8.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Woollen Trade.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 29,308 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 2.0 per cent. in the wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 14.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 47,600 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 9.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Linen Trade.—Employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 48,412 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 10.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,776 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 7.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment continued fair and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 7,869 workpeople in the week ended March 19th, showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and of 4.6 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was good and better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 19,622 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago, and of 12.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment during March was fairly good, and was better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,328 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase in the amount of wages paid of 1.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 13.0 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the bespoke branch in London showed a marked seasonal improvement, and was much better than a year ago. In the provinces it was moderate. In the ready-made branch it was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Hat Trade.—Employment in the silk hat trade was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago. In the felt hat trade it was good, and showed little change compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 65,018 workpeople in the week ended March 19th, showed an increase of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago and of 8.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment continued fair on the whole, and was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with 3,178 members reported 4.9 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 4.7 per cent. a month ago and 7.1 per cent. a year ago.

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

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was moderate with printers and slack with bookbinders. It was slightly better on the whole than a month ago, but worse than a year ago. Trade Unions in the printing trades with a membership of 50,666 reported 5.0 per cent. unemployed at the end of March as compared with 5.4 in February, and 4.6 a year ago. In the bookbinding trades the corresponding percentages were 7.1, 5.9, and 7.8.

Building Trades.—Employment, though still slack generally, was better than both a month ago and a year ago. The percentage unemployed among trade union carpenters and plumbers was 8.9 at the end of March, as compared with 10.6 in February and 13.3 a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment during March was on the whole quiet, except with coach-builders and brushmakers, with whom it was good. It showed an improvement compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 34,319 reported 5.3 per cent. of their membership unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 7.2 per cent. a month ago and 7.0 per cent. a year ago.

Glass Trades.—Employment was moderate on the whole, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 8,101 workpeople in the week ended March 19th, showed an increase of 8.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago, and of 1.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was still slack on the whole in the Pottery and Brick and Tile trades, but there was an improvement as compared with a month ago. A good deal of short time was worked.

Agricultural Labour.—Employment was regular on the whole during March. Day labourers were in somewhat greater demand than in the previous month, but the supply was in general quite sufficient.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment in London was fair generally, slightly better than a month ago, and better than a year ago. At Liverpool and the other principal ports employment on the whole was moderate, and showed little change compared with the previous month. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in London (exclusive of Tilbury) in the four weeks ended March 26th was 12,916, an increase of 0.4 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 2.9 per cent. as compared with March, 1909.

Trade Disputes.—Thirty-two disputes began in March, 1910, as compared with 20 in the previous month, and 17 in March, 1909. The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during March, 1910, was 42,366, or 6,848 more than in February, 1910, and 34,688 more than in March, 1909. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 627,000 working days, or 88,200 more than in February, 1910, and 525,400 more than in March, 1909. Definite results were reported in the case of 25 disputes, new and old, directly involving 11,877 persons. Of these 25 disputes, 5 were decided in favour of the workpeople, 8 in favour of the employers, and 12 were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes taking effect in March affected 211,700 workpeople, of whom 207,700 received increases and 4,000 sustained decreases. Amongst those whose wages were increased were 190,000 coal miners in South Wales, 3,000 ironworkers in the West of Scotland and 7,000 woolcombers, &c. at Bradford. The number whose wages were reduced included 3,400 iron puddlers and millmen in the North of England. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net increase of over £5,000 per week.

RECENT PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Coal Miners, South Wales.

On January 1st, 1910, the Secretary of the workmen's side of the Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of Monmouthshire and South Wales gave formal notice to terminate, on March 31st, an agreement for the regulation of wages, which had been arrived at in 1905. A clause in this agreement provided that, on the expiration of the notice to terminate the agreement, all contracts of service between the respective owners and their workmen should cease, and negotiations for a new agreement were therefore entered into. A number of proposals were made by the owners' and workmen's representatives, the principal points at issue being those relating to:—

- (a) The minimum wage and the equivalent selling-price;
- (b) The payment of a fixed wage to workmen employed in "abnormal places";
- (c) The working of the 60 additional hours provided by Sec. 3 of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908;
- (d) The payment for small coal; and
- (e) The payment of a bonus turn to men working night shifts.

The negotiations were continued at meetings of the Conciliation Board during January and February, but no settlement was reached. Further meetings of the Conciliation Board were held on March 18th and 19th, representatives of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain being present. No settlement was arrived at, and on the conclusion of the latter meeting it was announced that no arrangements had been made for any further meeting of the Conciliation Board.

In view of the serious consequences which would ensue unless further steps were taken to arrive at a settlement, the President of the Board of Trade, through Mr. G. R. Askwith and Mr. Mitchell, who visited Cardiff on March 23rd and interviewed both parties, invited representatives of the Coalowners' Association and of the South Wales Miners' Federation to meet him in London to discuss the situation. The invitation was accepted, and representatives of the two parties, on March 24th, had separate meetings with Mr. Buxton, who was accompanied by Sir H. Llewellyn Smith, Mr. G. R. Askwith, and Mr. I. H. Mitchell, of the Board of Trade. As the outcome of these interviews, a further meeting of the Conciliation Board was arranged to be held at Cardiff on March 26th, and at this meeting the owners' representatives made certain modified proposals which, after consideration by the workmen's representatives and by a meeting of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, were submitted to a ballot of the men and were accepted by 97,273 votes to 34,963. The following is the text of the agreement which was subsequently signed by representatives of the owners and workmen on April 8th:—

1.—That a Board of Conciliation shall be established to determine the general rate of wages to be paid to the Workmen and to deal with disputes at the various Collieries of the Owners subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned.

2.—The title of the Board shall be "The Board of Conciliation for the Coal Trade of Monmouthshire and South Wales" hereinafter called "The Board."

3.—The Board shall consist of 24 duly authorised Owners' Representatives and 24 duly authorised Representatives of the Workmen employed at the Collieries of the Owners and when dealing with questions relating to general advances or general reductions in the rates of wages also of a Chairman from outside who shall not be financially interested in any Coal Mine in the United Kingdom and who shall have a casting vote only.

4.—The first Chairman of the Board from outside as aforesaid shall be Viscount St. Aldwyn who is hereinafter called "the Chairman." The Representatives on the Board of the Owners and Workmen respectively shall be appointed and notice of such appointment given to the Secretaries on or before the 30th day of April instant. There shall be elected from the Members of the Board two Presidents one elected by the Owners' Representatives and the other by the Representatives of the Workmen. Whenever a vacancy on the Board occurs from any cause (except in the office of Chairman) such vacancy shall be filled by the body which appointed the Member whose seat has become vacant, but during such vacancy the Board may transact the business of the Board. Intimation of such appointment shall be at once sent to the

Secretaries. When and so often as the Office of Chairman becomes vacant the Board shall endeavour to elect a Chairman and should they fail to agree will ask the Lord Chief Justice of England for the time being or in case of his refusal the Speaker of the House of Commons to nominate one.

5.—The parties to this Agreement pledge their respective constituents to make every effort possible to avoid difficulties or disputes at the Collieries and in case of any unavoidable difference the Owners or their Officials together with their workmen or their Agent or Agents shall endeavour to settle all matters at the Collieries and only in case of failing to effect a settlement shall a written appeal setting forth clearly the facts of the dispute and the contention of the parties making the claim be made to the Board by either or both of the parties concerned in the dispute to consider the same and no notice to terminate contracts shall be given by either Owners or their Workmen before the particular question in dispute shall have been considered by the Board and it shall have failed to arrive at an Agreement. The Board shall have power to refer such questions to a Committee consisting of one or more Owners' Representatives and an equal number of Workmen's Representatives all of whom shall be members of the Board to consider and if so directed with power to settle and in all cases to report to the Board either a settlement or a failure to agree within three calendar months from the date of the reference to such Committee and should the Board then fail to arrive at an agreement within one month or any extended period that may be agreed upon by the Board either party may give notice to terminate contracts. Any notices wrongfully given to terminate contracts on any question shall be withdrawn before the Board or any Committee thereof shall consider such question. Both parties hereby respectively undertake to make every effort possible to secure the loyal observance by the Owners and Workmen respectively of any award made by representatives of the Board on any questions which may have been referred to them by the Board.

6.—Rules of procedure for the conduct of the business of the Board are set forth at the end hereof and the same shall be deemed to be incorporated with and to form part of this Agreement.

7.—The Mineral to be gotten is clean large coal only as hereinafter described. The cutting prices to be paid to the collier shall be the several standard prices prevailing and paid at the Collieries of the Owners respectively. Such standard cutting price shall be paid upon the weight of the large coal to be ascertained in manner hereinafter appearing and includes all services in respect of the small coal necessarily produced in filling the large coal in conveying it from the working places to the screen at the surface and in the process of screening that price being equal to the value of all the services involved in getting such large coal and small coal and being more than the value of the services rendered in respect of the large coal only. The respective weights of such large coal and small coal for the purpose of paying the Collier shall be ascertained as follows:—

After each tram of coal is brought to the weighing machine it shall be weighed and the tare of the tram shall be deducted from the gross weight. The coal shall then be tipped over the screen in use at the Colliery to separate the small coal passing through the screen from the large coal passing over it. The small coal which shall pass through the screen shall be weighed and that weight shall be deducted from the gross weight of the coal in the tram in order to ascertain the weights of such large screened coal and small coal respectively and the cutting price paid to the Collier upon the weight of the large screened coal as aforesaid shall during the continuance of this Agreement be deemed to be the value of the services rendered in respect of both the large screened coal and small coal the weights of which respectively shall be ascertained as aforesaid.

8. It is distinctly understood that Clause 7 in this Agreement is not intended to change the system of weighing and screening the coal as it at present exists but the Owners shall be at liberty to adopt such improved methods of screening and cleaning as they may consider necessary provided that any methods so adopted shall not in any way prejudicially affect the wages of the Workmen.

9.—Clause 7 shall not apply to or alter or in any way interfere with any agreements now existing or hereafter to be made for payment for through and through coal or where small coal is now separately paid for.

10.—The Board shall at the meetings held under Rule 6 of the said Rules of Procedure determine the general rate of wages to be paid for the three months commencing on the first day of the month following the dates of such meetings but should neither party desire to vary the rate of wages the then prevailing rate of wages shall continue until the same shall be varied in accordance with the said Rules of Procedure.

(A) All standard rates and prices shall be the Standards known as the Standards of December 1879 and 1877 respectively.

(B) The wages payable to the workmen shall until the same is advanced or reduced be 50 per cent. above the several rates actually paid at the respective Collieries under the Standard of December 1879.

(C) During the continuance of this Agreement the rate of wages shall subject to sub-section (b) hereof not be less than 35 per cent. above nor more than 60 per cent. above the December 1879 Standard of wages paid at the respective Collieries. The minimum of 35 per cent. above the December 1879 Standard of wages shall subject to sub-section (b) hereof be paid when the average nett selling price of large coal is at or below 12s. 5d. per ton f.o.b. When the nett selling price of large coal reaches 14s. and does not exceed 14s. 9d. per ton f.o.b., the rate of wages shall subject to sub-section (b) hereof be 50 per cent. above the rates paid under the Standard of December 1879 and

when the nett selling price exceeds 14s. 9d. per ton f.o.b. the workmen shall be entitled to claim advances in the general rate of wages in excess of the 50 per cent. and up to the said maximum of 60 per cent. but in cases of claims to advances above 50 per cent. 50 per cent. shall be taken to be the equivalent of 14s. 9d. per ton f.o.b. and in the case of claims to reductions 50 per cent. shall be taken to be the equivalent of 14s. per ton f.o.b. The average nett selling prices shall be taken as for large Colliery screened coal delivered f.o.b. at Cardiff, Barry, Newport, Swansea, Port Talbot and Llanelly.

(D) At Collieries where the Standard or basis upon which wages are now regulated is the rate of wages paid in the year 1877 the percentage payable thereat shall be 15 per cent. less than at the Collieries where the 1879 Standard prevails and in cases where workmen have hitherto been paid nett rates of wages or fixed or other percentages whether upon the 1877, 1879 standards or any other existing Standards they shall continue to be paid such nett rates fixed or other percentages only.

11.—At the Collieries under this Agreement all wages due to the Workmen shall be paid once in each fortnight provided that at those Collieries where wages are now paid weekly such practice shall continue in force.

12.—The hours of labour of Workmen employed below ground at the said Collieries respectively shall be such as are authorised by the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908, except that such Workmen shall not be under any obligation to work the extended hours mentioned in Section 3 (1) of the said Act and that notwithstanding the limitation of hours to be worked under the said Act no alteration shall be made in the Standard rates and prices hitherto paid to such Workmen during the continuance of this Agreement.

13.—Where payment of six turns for five worked by night has hitherto been paid the same shall continue. As under the said Act no overtime can be worked other than in cases of emergency as defined in Section 1 (sub-section 2) payment for overtime will cease. In cases of dispute as to whether any overtime or extra turns paid previous to the coming into operation of the said Act were in part paid for work done in the Workmen's ordinary hours of work the same shall be referred to a joint Committee of the Conciliation Board with power to settle and if the decision is in favour of the workman it shall date back to the time the dispute is placed on the Agenda. In cases of failure to settle either side may determine the Contracts of the Workmen affected by a month's notice to be given on the first day of the following month.

14.—The Owners will not press for double shift in the face, but shall be given an effective afternoon shift of such number of Workmen as are required by the Owners for clearance purposes, repairing double shift in headings and places that require to be pressed on for opening the Collieries. Where six shifts for five are now paid at night the Owners shall pay six shifts for five in the afternoon shift and where six shifts are paid for six shifts worked at night the Owners shall only be required to pay six shifts for six in the afternoon.

15.—An overlapping shift shall be worked where required by the Owners, such shift shall not start earlier than 6 a.m. and not later than 9 a.m. On Saturdays this shift shall start and finish at the same time as the first shift. The two sides of the Board shall unite in procuring an Amendment of the Eight Hours Act making this early starting on Saturday legal.

16.—That where Sunday night shifts are worked they shall be 8 hours shifts, only one shift to be paid.

17.—The mealtime for underground daywagmen (day and night) shall be 20 minutes which shall be so arranged as not to interfere with the haulage and general working of the Colliery and in the case of all Workmen connected with the winding whether employed upon the surface or below ground the mealtime shall be 20 minutes and shall be so arranged as to secure the continuous winding of coal without interruption during the shift.

18.—Workmen on the surface engaged in handling the coal shall work half an hour per day beyond the coal winding time either starting fifteen minutes before coal winding and working fifteen minutes afterwards or at the option of the Owners working the half hour after winding, it being agreed that the hours of working of such Workmen shall be 8½ hours per day. The only workmen intended to come under the operation of this clause are those who handle the trams between the cage and the tippers the screenmen slag pickers and wagonmen. Banksmen are excluded.

19.—Where serious but non-fatal accidents occur an agreed number of men (but not more than 20) to be selected by the Management may accompany the injured Workman out of the pit.

20.—No stoppage for funerals shall take place except by Arrangement with the Management.

21.—The Workmen shall be entitled to 12 General Holidays in each year which shall include all Bank Holidays and Federation Demonstration Holidays the dates to be agreed upon by the Board and the Workmen's Representatives agree that in arranging such holidays they will issue instructions to the Workmen requesting them to resume work immediately after such holidays have terminated and will use every effort to see that such instructions are complied with. At any Collieries where "Mabon's Day" now exists, the custom of keeping such a holiday shall be forthwith abolished.

22.—The prices to be charged to Workmen entitled to house coal for their own domestic purposes shall be the same prices as are fixed to be paid by the award of Sir David Dale, Bart., of the 17th day of July, 1903.

23.—During the continuance of this Agreement all notices to terminate individual contracts on the part of the Owners as well as on the part of the Workmen shall be given on the first day of any

calendar month and shall terminate upon the last day of the same month provided that if the first day of any calendar month fall on a Sunday the notice shall be given on the previous Saturday.

24.—Subject as aforesaid the Owners and Workmen at the respective Collieries shall be bound to observe and fulfil and shall be subject to all customs provisions and conditions existing in December 1899 at the Collieries respectively and no variation shall be made therein by the Owners or Workmen except by mutual arrangement at the Collieries respectively or by a decision of the Board after a reference thereto in accordance with the provisions of Clause 5 of any proposal for a variation.

25.—Subject to the provisions of Clause 10 (c) hereof nothing in this Agreement or in the Rules of Procedure is to preclude either party bringing any matter before the Board or Independent Chairman which they consider as factors bearing upon the General Wage Question but any evidence brought forward as to the selling price of large coal shall be confined to the price of large coal delivered f.o.b. at the shipping ports named in Clause 10 (c) hereof in the three calendar months immediately preceding the first day of the month prior to the month in which the meeting is held to consider any proposal to vary the General Wage Rate.

26.—This Agreement shall continue in force from the 1st April 1910 until the 31st March 1915 and thenceforth until either party gives to the other three calendar months' notice terminating the same, such notice to be given to the Secretary of such other party in writing or left at his usual or last known address. Upon the termination of this Agreement all contracts of service between the Owners respectively and their Workmen respectively shall cease.

27.—A copy of this Agreement shall be placed in a Contract Book at each Colliery which shall be signed by or on behalf of the Owners of such Colliery and also by each Workman employed thereat as one of the terms of the engagement between the Owners and the said Workmen.

Coalminers, Northumberland.

In October, 1909, a joint committee of representatives of the Northumberland Coal Owners' Association and of the Northumberland Miners' Association was formed to consider the conditions that should be adopted in connection with the working of the mines under the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1908, which came into force in Northumberland on January 1st, 1910; and on December 31st, 1909, an Agreement (which had previously been submitted to a vote of the lodges) was signed on behalf of the two Associations.

Dissatisfaction with arrangements which the owners proposed to make in accordance with the terms of this Agreement led to a cessation of work at a number of collieries, affecting directly and indirectly about 30,000 workpeople at various times during the course of the dispute. A meeting between the owners' and workmen's representatives was held on January 15th for the purpose of discussing the difficulty, and it was agreed that further meetings between the workmen and the management at individual collieries should take place with a view of endeavouring to arrive at a settlement.

By the end of January work had been resumed at a number of the collieries, but 14 collieries remained idle, over 11,000 workpeople being involved, the principal cause of difficulty being the proposal to introduce the three-shift system in the place of the two-shift system which had hitherto been in operation.

Early in February a ballot of the members of the association was taken on the following question: "Are you in favour of tendering 14 days' notice and, if necessary, of striking, to terminate the present County Agreement under the Eight Hours Act?" The result of the ballot showed a small majority in favour of terminating the Agreement, but the two-thirds majority necessary, under the Rules of the Association, for the authorisation of a strike was not obtained.

The Miners' Executive, on February 15th, declared the strike terminated and called upon the men to resume work. Meetings of the men on strike were held in protest against the action of the Executive, and a deputation from the men attended meetings of the Executive on February 22nd and 26th, at the latter of which delegates from the Miners' Federation of Great Britain were present and advised the men to resume work and to observe the agreement which had been entered into by their Association.

Early in March a resolution of the Miners' Council endorsing the action of the Executive in requesting the men on strike to resume work was submitted to a vote of the lodges, the result showing a majority against ordering the men to return to work.

In consequence of the resulting deadlock, the Board of Trade, on March 15th, invited the members of the

Miners' Executive and representatives from each of the districts where work had not been resumed to attend at the Board of Trade offices for the purpose of considering the difficulty. The meeting, at which representatives of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain were also present, was held on March 22nd, under the chairmanship of Mr. G. R. Askwith, C.B., K.C., and after a full discussion of the position a small committee was elected to confer further with the Board of Trade. After communicating with the Owners' Association, Mr. Askwith presided at a further meeting of the men's representatives at the Board of Trade on April 8th, at which it was decided that the committee elected at the meeting on March 22nd, accompanied by Mr. Mitchell, of the Board of Trade, should visit the pits where the strike was still in progress, and report the proceedings at the conferences at the Board of Trade, and the advice given by Mr. Askwith that work should be resumed. It was also decided that, after the meetings at the pits, a ballot should be taken of the men on strike upon the question of resuming work. The result of the ballot was declared on April 15th, and showed the following result:—in favour of resuming work, 2,732; against, 2,468; majority in favour of resuming work, 264. The Executive subsequently passed a resolution to the effect that, as the ballot showed a substantial vote in favour of resuming work at a majority of the pits on strike, they advised those collieries to make arrangements as early as possible to get the pits to work; they regretted that at some of the pits there was a majority against resuming work, but they strongly advised those places to fall in with the majority which had voted in favour.

Firemen at Tin Plate Works, S. Wales.

The Board of Trade have appointed the Rt. Hon. Sir David Harrel, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., I.S.O., to act as umpire in cases arising out of claims made on behalf of the firemen employed at two tin plate works at Morrision for a shift of 8-hours in lieu of the existing shift of 12-hours.

Building Trades.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the arbitrator appointed in connection with differences that had arisen between the Wigan and District Building Trades Employers' Association and the Operative Carpenters' and Joiners' Societies, issued his award on March 21st, deciding that there should be no change in the hourly rate of wages, and that there should be a slight increase in the hours of labour.

Mr. Hudson's awards as arbitrator between the master painters and operative painters of Ashton-under-Lyne and of Swinton and Pendlebury were also issued on March 21st. The operatives at Ashton-under-Lyne had given notice for an increase in wages of 1d. per hour, and the employers had given counter-notice for a reduction; the arbitrator awarded that wages should remain unaltered. The award in the Swinton and Pendlebury case sets forth a revised code of working rules bringing the rules for this district into agreement with those for Eccles. Under the revised rules the operatives receive an advance in wages of ½d. per hour.

Quarrymen Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. A. A. Hudson, the conciliator appointed to act in the dispute affecting quarrymen employed at quarries in the Newcastle district, met representatives of the parties at Newcastle on March 15th and 16th, and, having ascertained that both parties were unwilling to submit the matter to arbitration, agreed, at their request, to hear evidence concerning the dispute and to express an opinion thereon. Mr. Hudson's opinion, forwarded to the parties on March 22nd, was to the effect that the owners were and are fully justified in proposing the reduction in wages.

Shipwrights and Joiners, Belfast.

Alderman T. Smith, J.P., the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in connection with a question as to the demarcation of work between joiners and shipwrights at Belfast, issued his award on March 17th. The arbitrator was called upon to determine the definition of

a ventilator within the meaning of certain clauses in the demarcation lists of the joiners and shipwrights, respectively.

Boot and Shoe Trade.

Ald. T. Smith, J.P., the umpire appointed by the Board of Trade to decide certain questions upon which the arbitrators to the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Boot and Shoe trade of Glasgow had been unable to agree, decided on April 5th, that the area of jurisdiction of the Board is the municipal area of the city of Glasgow, and that, by the custom and practice of the Board since its formation in 1899, the area from which members of the Board may be drawn has been extended beyond the area of jurisdiction.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1908.

In the Report* on Trade Unions in the United Kingdom issued by the Board of Trade in May, 1909, the statistics of membership, funds, &c., were brought up to the end of 1907. In the present article the figures are continued for 1908.

Membership of all Trade Unions.

At the end of 1908 the number of registered and unregistered Trade Unions known by the Department to be in existence was 1,165, with a total membership of 2,378,248. This membership shows a decrease of 1·4 per cent. compared with 1907, but an increase of 12·3 per cent. compared with 1906, and a much higher rate of increase compared with any previous year.

In the following Table the total membership of all trade unions at the end of each of the years 1899-1908 is shown by groups of trades:—

Year.	Building.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering and Ship-building.	Textile.	Railway Service.	Other Trades.	Total all Unions.
1899 ...	250,008	445,726	335,746	246,463	75,883	496,173	1,849,999
1900 ...	253,432	524,174	342,070	246,906	80,641	510,267	1,957,489
1901 ...	248,987	530,994	338,468	245,466	76,207	528,997	1,969,119
1902 ...	245,161	532,115	337,064	248,788	74,727	517,804	1,955,659
1903 ...	238,161	529,056	337,133	246,236	74,895	508,134	1,933,615
1904 ...	225,169	501,790	334,837	249,047	76,999	510,312	1,898,154
1905 ...	205,199	496,851	340,389	268,842	82,605	529,464	1,923,350
1906 ...	196,512	571,374	361,645	305,400	102,085	580,067	2,117,083
1907 ...	193,210	703,555	377,007	357,201	138,887	641,996	2,411,856
1908 ...	177,553	717,998	365,942	362,213	118,713	635,829	2,378,248

The membership of the building trades Unions shows a decline for the eighth year in succession, but in the mining and textile groups the membership at the end of 1908 was the highest on record, and in the other main groups of trades it was higher than in any previous year excepting 1907. Unions of general labourers declined by 14,000 in 1908, while the remaining occupations included under the head of "other trades" showed a net increase of 8,000 in Trade Union membership.

The number of female members of Trade Unions rose from 202,556 at the end of 1907 to 205,732 at the end of 1908. Most of the female trade unionists are engaged in the Lancashire cotton industry.

Accounts of 100 Principal Trade Unions.

The following summary shows the membership, income, expenditure and accumulated funds of 100 principal Trade Unions for each of the years 1899-1908. These 100 Unions include over 60 per cent. of the total membership of all the 1,165 Unions:—

Year.	Membership at end of year.	Income.		Expenditure.		Funds at end of Year.	
		Amount.	Per Member.	Amount.	Per Member.	Amount.	Per Member.
	No.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1899 ...	1,169,972	1,835,398	31 4½	1,252,011	21 4½	3,240,187	55 4½
1900 ...	1,213,287	1,947,957	32 1½	1,456,716	24 0½	3,731,428	61 6
1901 ...	1,220,257	2,043,951	33 6	1,641,081	26 10½	4,134,298	67 0½
1902 ...	1,218,466	2,086,819	34 3	1,800,234	29 6½	4,420,883	72 6½
1903 ...	1,205,949	2,100,996	34 10½	1,917,105	31 9½	4,684,774	76 4½
1904 ...	1,199,571	2,115,992	35 3½	2,054,999	34 3	4,665,857	77 9½
1905 ...	1,213,789	2,211,733	36 5½	2,064,535	34 0½	4,813,055	79 3½
1906 ...	1,298,226	2,344,157	36 1½	1,958,676	30 2	5,198,536	80 1
1907 ...	1,457,856	2,493,282	34 2½	2,054,157	28 2½	5,637,661	77 4
1908 ...	1,432,649	2,733,715	38 2	3,201,183	44 8½	5,170,193	72 2

* Cd. 4651 Wyman & Sons, Ltd. 113d.

† Based upon the total membership of the 100 Unions at the end of each year.

The total income and expenditure of the 100 Unions in 1908 were the highest recorded. The income showed an increase of £240,000, or 10 per cent., compared with 1907, while the expenditure increased by no less a sum than £1,150,000, or 56 per cent. The greater part of this increase in total expenditure was due to largely increased expenditure on unemployed and dispute benefits by Trade Unions in the engineering, shipbuilding and metal trades and by Unions of cotton spinners and cardroom operatives. The total funds showed a decrease compared with 1907 of £470,000, which is rather less than the amount of increase in 1907 as compared with 1906. The funds per member at the end of 1908 were lower than in any of the years 1902-07, though higher than in 1899-1901.

During the ten years 1899-1908 £19,400,000 has been spent by the 100 principal unions. Of this amount £2,100,000 (or 10·8 per cent. of the total) has been spent on dispute pay, £4,800,000 (or 24·7 per cent.) on unemployed benefit, and £8,300,000 (or 42·7 per cent.) on other benefits (principally sick and accident, superannuation and funeral benefits), the remaining £4,200,000 (or 21·8 per cent.) having been absorbed by working expenses and miscellaneous expenditure.

The following Table gives an analysis of the expenditure for each of the years 1899-1908:—

Year.	Dispute Benefit.		Unemployed Benefit.		Other Benefits.		Working and Miscellaneous Expenses.	
	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Percentage of Total Expenditure.
1899	£119,979	9·6	£184,564	14·8	£620,508	49·5	£326,960	26·1
1900	153,516	10·6	261,295	17·9	679,556	46·6	362,349	24·9
1901	210,001	12·8	325,264	19·8	720,119	43·9	385,697	23·5
1902	218,691	12·1	429,524	23·9	748,850	41·6	403,169	22·4
1903	171,962	9·0	516,258	26·9	791,166	41·3	437,719	22·8
1904	124,285	6·1	654,993	31·9	849,236	41·3	425,495	20·7
1905	216,758	10·2	522,967	25·4	902,511	43·7	428,299	20·7
1906	152,053	7·8	424,030	21·6	923,005	47·1	459,588	23·5
1907	133,363	6·5	465,668	22·7	975,297	47·4	479,829	23·4
1908	608,609	19·0	1,001,951	31·3	1,065,220	33·3	525,403	16·4
Average for 10 years	210,322	10·8	478,651	24·7	827,547	42·7	423,451	21·8

It will be seen that the proportion of the total expenditure incurred on disputes was much higher in 1908 than in any other year in the Table, while the proportion of expenditure on unemployment in 1908 was only slightly exceeded in 1904 (the year of minimum expenditure on disputes). The total expenditure upon not only dispute pay and unemployed pay, but also upon sick and accident, superannuation, funeral and other benefits, was higher in 1908 than in any other year.

The expenditure incurred by the 100 Unions upon dispute benefit during each of the years 1899-1908 is shown in the following Table by groups of trades:—

Year.	Building.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	Textile.	Other Trades.	Total—100 Principal Unions.
1899	£57,808	£18,330	£13,266	£5,919	£24,656	£119,979
1900	69,385	11,669	27,390	12,012	33,060	153,516
1901	84,855	67,460	25,193	8,787	23,706	210,001
1902	35,422	128,542	16,575	11,029	27,123	218,691
1903	43,425	60,554	17,299	14,264	36,420	171,962
1904	24,411	46,512	19,062	14,248	20,052	124,285
1905	57,479	73,539	41,083	12,742	25,915	216,758
1906	7,030	61,864	53,587	8,360	21,212	152,053
1907	6,594	33,586	46,793	17,902	28,488	133,363
1908	60,684	42,869	268,983	203,045	33,028	608,609

In the metal and textile groups the expenditure on disputes in 1908 was exceedingly high. In the textile trades the expenditure in 1908 was the highest recorded since the statistics were first compiled in a comparative form (1892). The expenditure on this benefit per member of the 100 Unions in 1908 was 8s. 6d. During the previous nine years it was never higher than 3s. 7d., the minimum (1s. 10d.) being reached in 1907.

The next Table shows the expenditure incurred by the 100 Trade Unions upon unemployed benefit during the years 1899-1908:—

Year.	Building.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	Textile.	Printing, Paper, &c.	Other Trades.	Total—100 Principal Unions.
1899	£24,277	£10,409	£80,512	£26,457	£28,310	£14,599	£184,564
1900	46,353	4,540	94,227	60,782	35,410	19,983	261,295
1901	67,100	18,475	132,932	43,999	36,469	39,125	325,264
1902	73,804	19,387	203,965	55,748	37,493	429,524	429,524
1903	80,774	18,468	224,950	113,745	38,690	39,631	516,258
1904	137,381	48,403	303,749	71,024	40,897	53,539	654,993
1905	142,987	35,564	227,747	24,428	43,937	48,304	522,967
1906	125,560	30,585	157,137	24,049	41,387	45,312	424,030
1907	115,951	14,263	199,421	49,594	39,132	47,307	465,668
1908	164,416	57,714	493,714	157,717	51,357	77,033	1,001,951

In each of the groups of trades included in the Table the total expenditure on unemployed benefit was higher in 1908 than in any year during the period 1899-1907. The expenditure per member of the 100 Unions was 14s., compared with 6s. 4½d. in 1907, 10s. 11d. in 1904, and 3s. 1½d. in 1899.

In 1908 the expenditure per member of the 100 Unions on sick and accident benefits was 6s. 5½d. (an increase of 6½d. compared with the previous year); the expenditure on superannuation benefit was 4s. 11½d. (an increase of 5½d.), on funeral benefit 1s. 5½d. (an increase of ½d.), and on other benefits and grants 1s. 11½d. (an increase of 5d.).

Federations of Trade Unions and Trades Councils.

The number of Federations of Trade Unions in existence at the end of 1908 was 109, with a membership of 3,131,563, an increase of 292,198 compared with 1907. This is the gross membership, in which many Trade Union members are counted more than once owing to Unions being affiliated to more than one Federation. The principal individual Federations were the General Federation of Trade Unions, the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, and the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades of the United Kingdom. The membership of these three Federations in 1908 was 705,630, 590,235, and 309,857 respectively, as compared with 601,195, 458,300, and 318,439 in 1907.

At the end of 1908 the number of Trades Councils in existence was 256. Their affiliated membership was 1,010,060, an increase of 24,000 compared with the previous year.

RAILWAY CONCILIATION BOARDS.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY.

DIFFERENCES as to wages and hours of labour having arisen between the Caledonian Railway Company and certain of their employees upon which neither the Sectional nor Central Conciliation Boards established in connection with that railway in accordance with the agreement of November, 1907, could agree, the matters in dispute were referred to Sheriff-Principal J. A. Fleming, who issued the following award:—

Goods and Mineral Yardsmen, Shunters and Brakesmen.

- That twelve hours from signing on to signing off, inclusive of all time allowed for meals, shall continue to be the standard day for all men in this section, excepting yardsmen and shunters working in busy yards, whose standard day shall be eight hours.
- That it shall be left to the company to determine which yards shall be classed as busy yards.
- That no man shall receive less than a day's pay when called on duty.
- That no man shall be called out for duty until the expiry of nine hours from the time when he last went off duty, except in cases of emergency, such as fog, snow or accident, to be determined by a responsible officer of the company.
- That each day shall stand by itself, and that overtime shall be paid for all time worked over the standard day at rate and one-quarter.
- That all Sunday duty between midnight on Saturday and midnight on Sunday shall be paid at rate and one-half, and that turns of duty which commence and finish between the said hours shall be regarded as distinct from the ordinary week's work.
- That any man called out for special Sunday duty, in the case of a brakesman or yardsmen, for a period not exceeding five hours, or, in the case of a shunter, for a period not exceeding four hours, shall be paid half-a-day's pay, and in either case for a longer period a full day's pay, in every case at rate and one-half.
- That all men in this section serving temporarily in a superior position shall be paid the wages attaching to such position, but that such extra payment shall not be made until after one period of at least six consecutive days, or two periods, within the

preceding 12 months, of at least three consecutive days each, of employment in such superior position. That the present arrangement as regards men acting temporarily as inspectors or sub-inspectors shall continue.

9. That the pay of brakesmen shall remain as at present, with this alteration, that brakesmen in charge of trains other than long road trains, after 12 years' service in any grade in the superintendent's department shall receive if in the southern division 30s. per week, or in the northern division 29s. per week.

Locomotive Drivers and Firemen, Carriage and Wagon Examiners and Greasers.

- That twelve hours "from signing on" to signing off duty, inclusive of all time allowed for meals, shall continue to be the standard day for all drivers and firemen, excepting those in busy yards, whose standard day shall be eight hours.
- That it shall be left to the company to determine which yards shall be classed as busy yards.
- That no man shall receive less than a day's pay when called on duty, unless when on arrival at the engine shed it is found that his train is booked off and he is not allowed to start work, in which case he shall receive three hours' pay.
- That no man shall be called out for duty until the expiry of nine hours from the time when he last went off duty, except in cases of emergency, such as fog, snow, or accident, to be determined by a responsible officer of the company.
- That each day shall stand by itself, and that overtime be paid for all time worked over the standard day at rate and one-quarter.
- That all Sunday duty between midnight on Saturday and midnight on Sunday shall be paid at rate and one-half, and that turns of duty which commence and finish between the said hours be regarded as distinct from the ordinary week's work.
- That any man called out for special Sunday duty for a period not exceeding five hours shall be paid half-a-day's pay, and for a longer period a full day's pay, in each case at rate and one-half.

Generally.

1. That as regards the claims set forth in the programmes for the men and the agenda papers for the company which have not been dealt with above, the practice of the company in respect of these matters in force at the date hereof shall remain in force during the currency of this award, but that the company shall have power at any time and from time to time during said currency, and at its own discretion, to vary said practice, provided that such variation does not lengthen the hours of labour or lessen the rates of wages of any grade in the said sections.

2. That this award shall come into operation on April 1st, 1910, and, as agreed to by the parties, shall continue in operation until December 31st, 1913.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN 1909.

THE total number of deaths from fatal accidents reported in 1909 was 4,062, a decrease of 164 on 1908, and of 191 on the mean for the five years 1905-1909. There was a decrease in every group of occupations except mining, which showed an increase of 156 on the 1908 figures in the number killed underground.

Industry.	Total Number of Deaths from Industrial Accidents in					Mean for the 5 years 1905-9.
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	
Shipping:—						
Deaths by Wreck	810	459	653	625	585	622
Other Causes	715	741	730	658	567	682
Total	1,525	1,200	1,383	1,283	1,152	1,304
Mines:—						
Underground	1,076	1,036	1,130	1,194	1,350	1,157
Surface	129	142	149	151	137	142
Total	1,205	1,178	1,279	1,345	1,487	1,299
Quarries (over 20 ft. deep)	99	97	89	92	84	92
Railway Service:—						
Companies' Servants	410	469	498	413	357	431
Contractors' Servants	18	14	11	19	9	14
Factories and Workshops:—						
Textile Trades (except Printing, Dyeing and Bleaching)	84	68	95	82	64	79
Metal Trades	175	167	198	148	152	168
Engineering, Shipbuilding, Machinery, &c.	253	259	244	236	200	238
Other Non-Textile Trades (including Laundries)	268	310	315	301	284	296
Total Factories and Workshops	780	804	852	767	700	781
Works under Sections 104-5 of Factory Act, 1901 (Docks, Warehouses, Buildings, &c.)	283	312	327	275	246	289
Under Notice of Accidents Act	54	44	57	32	27	43
Total	4,383	4,118	4,476	4,226	4,062	4,258

Of the 1,487 deaths from accidents to miners in 1909, 137 occurred on the surface, and of the remainder 614

were due to falls of ground, 228 to men being run over and crushed by trams and tubs, 227 to explosions of firedamp, and 90 to shaft accidents. The number of deaths in 1909 was higher than in any of the years 1904-8, and exceeded the mean number for 1905-1909 by 188.

The number of fatal accidents to railway servants (excluding contractors' servants) was 357 in 1909, a decrease of 56 on 1908 and of 74 on the mean for 1905-1909. Of the accidents in 1909, 328 were "accidents connected with the movement of railway vehicles." The greatest number of accidents in any one occupation was, as usual, among permanent way men, the deaths among these men (excluding labourers) numbering 83.

The number of contractors' servants killed during 1909 was 9, as compared with 19 in 1908.

Of the 700 factory and workshop operatives killed by accidents in 1909, 11 were women, 61 were young persons, and 628 were men; the total number was 67 less than in 1908 and 81 less than the mean number in the five years 1905-1909. There were 64 fatal accidents in the textile industries as compared with 82 in 1908; in the metal group 152 as compared with 148; and in shipbuilding 78 as compared with 116 in 1908.

The 246 fatal accidents reported under Sections 104-5 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, included 117 at docks, wharves and quays as compared with 131 in 1908; and 98 in connection with the construction and repair of buildings as compared with 114 in 1908.

In comparing the figures of the several trades it is important to bear in mind the proportion which the number of fatal accidents bears to the total number of workpeople engaged in the several industries. Accordingly, the results have been reduced as far as possible to a ratio showing the mean annual death rate, for the five years 1905-1909, from accidents per 10,000 employed in each group of trades, and are given in the following Table:—

	Mean annual death rate from accidents per 10,000 employed.
Seamen	50·1
Miners	13·5
Quarrymen	10·3
Railway Servants	7·1
Non-Textile Factory and Workshop Operatives	2·3
Textile Factory Operatives	0·8
For all occupations enumerated above	6·3

It must be understood that these ratios are only approximately correct, as accurate figures respecting the numbers employed are not available for each of the years covered. The industries included in this Table employed over 6,000,000 workpeople.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN 1909.

DURING the year 1909 the total number of cases of lead poisoning was 553, a decrease of 93 as compared with 1908, and of 48 on the average for the five years 1905-1909. The percentage of deaths to cases was 5·4 in 1909 as compared with 5·0 in 1908. In addition to the above cases, which were all contracted in factories or workshops, 241 cases, including 47 deaths, affecting house painters and plumbers were reported in 1909, as compared with 239 cases, including 44 deaths, in 1908.

Of the 553 cases of lead poisoning 95 occurred in the coachmaking industry, 66 in metal smelting, and 58 at china and earthenware works. Of the total number 63 (including 30 at china and earthenware works) occurred among females and 489 among males, the remaining case being that of a male child; the mortality rate of the females was 3·2 per cent., and of the males 5·7 per cent.

The cases of other forms of poisoning (mercurial, phosphorus and arsenical) numbered 16 in 1909, as compared with 34 in the previous year. The mean of the period 1905-1909 was 18. No deaths were reported during 1909. The number of cases of arsenic poisoning dropped from 23 in 1908 to 4 in 1909.

The number of cases of anthrax in 1909 was 56, an increase of 9 as compared with 1908. The mean for the five years, 1905-1909, was 57. The number of deaths was 12 during 1909 and 7 during 1908.

The following statistics are extracted from the Annual Reports of the Chief Inspector of Factories, with the exception of the particulars for 1909 which have been compiled from the preliminary Table issued by the Home Office. The number of cases shown for any one year is the same as the number of persons attacked, second notifications of persons already included in a return within the preceding twelve months not being regarded as fresh cases. Such cases numbered 23 in 1909.

Industry.	Cases.					Deaths.				
	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Lead Poisoning.										
Smelting of Metals ...	24	38	28	70	66	1	1	2	2	5
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	9	7	6	14	9	—	—	—	—	2
Printing ...	19	16	26	30	21	4	2	3	2	1
File Cutting ...	12	15	10	9	8	—	—	—	—	2
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron	14	18	25	10	21	1	1	—	—	—
Hollow-ware	90	108	71	79	32	1	7	—	—	3
White Lead Works ...	10	6	7	12	10	—	—	—	—	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works	84	107	103	117	58	3	4	9	12	5
China and Earthenware ...	5	5	10	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Litho Transfer Works ...	3	4	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	2
Glass Cutting and Polishing	2	4	6	7	3	—	—	—	—	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates ...	27	26	21	25	27	1	—	—	—	2
Electrical Accumulator Works	57	37	25	25	39	1	—	—	—	2
Paints and Colours ...	56	85	70	70	95	3	7	3	3	6
Coachmaking ...	32	26	22	15	27	2	1	—	—	—
Shipbuilding ...	49	37	49	47	42	2	3	2	1	—
Paints used in Other Industries	99	93	85	111	90	4	6	5	5	2
Other Industries ...										
Total, Lead Poisoning*	592	632	578	646	553	23	33	26	32	30
House Painting and Plumbing†	163	181	174	239	241	28	36	39	44	47

Industry.	Cases.					Deaths.				
	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Other Forms of Poisoning.										
Mercurial Poisoning—										
Barometer and Thermometer Making	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Furriers' Processes	3	—	5	5	4	—	—	—	—	—
Other Industries	4	3	2	3	4	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	4	7	10	9	—	—	—	—	—
Phosphorus Poisoning—										
Lucifer Match Works	3	—	1	1	3	1	—	1	—	—
Arsenic Poisoning—										
Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic	—	2	4	16	4	—	—	—	—	1
Other Industries	1	3	5	7	—	—	—	—	2	—
Total	1	5	9	23	4	—	—	—	2	1
Total, Other Forms of Poisoning	12	9	17	34	16	1	—	3	1	—

Industry.	Cases.					Deaths.				
	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Anthrax.										
Wool ...	34	24	23	18	28	12	8	3	3	3
Handling of Horsehair ...	7	10	17	10	8	1	4	4	—	2
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins, Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.	17	19	12	13	18	4	7	2	1	6
Other Industries	1	14	6	6	2	1	3	2	3	1
Total, Anthrax	59	67	58	47	56	18	22	11	7	12

PUBLIC LABOUR REGISTRIES IN SWEDEN: OPERATIONS IN 1909.

A DISPATCH from H.M. Minister at Stockholm, dated February 7th last, gives some particulars regarding the work of public labour registries in Sweden during 1909. For the purposes of the present article these have been supplemented by the Swedish official report on the subject published in *Meddelanden från K. Kommerskollegii Afdelning för Arbetsstatistik*, No. 1 of 1910.

At the beginning of 1909 the number of municipal registries in activity was ten, viz., at Stockholm, Norrköping, Karlskrona, Malmö, Lund, Hälsingborg, Gothenburg, Karlstad, Gäfle and Sundsvall, all of these being supported entirely by the municipal authorities. Besides these there existed three county registries, supported by the county authorities of Kristianstad, Östergötland and Upsala, the first two of which had a central office in the county town, and branches in smaller places, while Upsala had a central office only. During the year another municipal registry was opened at Örebro, and three more counties established registries. At the close of the year the total number of municipal registries in operation was eleven, while those in the

* Reportable under the Factory and Workshop Act.
† Not compulsorily reportable under the Factory and Workshop Act.

counties, including both central registries and branches, numbered 28. It is stated that 31 further registries will be opened in the county districts during 1910, supported either by the county government authorities alone or in combination with the municipalities or with agricultural societies. The total number of central municipal registries will then amount to about 30, and the number of branch registries to about 40.

The activity of the labour registries since 1906, when work was first started on a large scale, is shown by the following Table:—

Year.	Number of Central Registries.	Applications for Employment.	Offers of Employment.	Situations Filled.
1906	9	51,333	51,251	31,148
1907	10	68,424	64,432	56,623
1908	15	98,044	67,135	39,762
1909	17	126,261	84,548	52,044

It is stated that the object of the great activity shown in establishing labour registries in the county districts is to encourage agricultural employment and to prevent emigration. In this connection it is noticeable that, of the total of 84,548 situations offered during 1909, 18,114 or 21·4 per cent. of the whole, were for agricultural workers, including women (milkmaids, cooks, &c.), who are said to be most in request and most difficult to find. Further, of the 52,044 situations filled, 10,753, or 20·7 per cent., were for persons engaged in agricultural labour.

COMPULSORY OLD-AGE AND INFIRMITY INSURANCE IN FRANCE: NEW LAW.

By a law dated April 5th, 1910, and published in the *Journal Officiel* of the following day, a general scheme of compulsory insurance against old-age and infirmity has been enacted for France. In its essential features this scheme may be said to have been modelled on the scheme which has been in operation in Germany since 1889. The obligation to be insured applies to the whole population, rural as well as urban, receiving less than £120 a year in salary or wages, a population officially computed at 10,500,000.*

The funds out of which the pensions are to be paid will be derived from (a) regular contributions made by those insured, (b) regular contributions of equal amount to be made by the employers of such persons, and (c) grants from the State in the form of a yearly addition to the annuities purchased with the contributions aforesaid.

Responsibility for the payment of the contributions due from a person required by the law to be insured rests with the employer, who will deduct the amount from the salary or wages due on each pay-day. As under the German scheme, the payment of the contribution will, in general, take the form of affixing adhesive stamps to the card made out in the name of the insured person, and the value of the stamp or stamps to be affixed on each pay-day must include the contribution of the employer as well as that of the employee. Thus there will have to be affixed in the course of a year stamps of the value of 14s. 4d. for a man, 9s. 7d. for a woman, and 7s. 2d. for a minor (under 18 years of age).

To the annuity purchased by an insured person through the payment of the full annual contributions for thirty years the State will add the sum of £2 8s. per annum. If the contributions have been paid for less than 30, but more than 15 years, the share of the pension contributed by the State is to be computed at the rate of 1s. 2d. for each full year's subscription.

During the period of transition (i.e., while pensions have to be paid to people who attain the age of 65 years without having been able to subscribe for the full period of 30 years), those aged at least 35 at the date of the law coming into force are to become entitled to the full State grant of £2 8s. per annum if they have been within its scope as regards character of employment and amount of wages for at least three years previous to the date of the law becoming operative. With regard to persons aged

* This figure was cited by M. Doumer, Rapporteur of the Budget Commission during the final debate in the Chamber of Deputies. (*Journal Officiel*, 31st March, p. 1787).

between 45 and 65 at the time when the law comes into force, provision is made whereby the State grant of £2 8s. per annum is to be increased by 1s. 9d. for every year of age over 45. Thus, if a person aged, say, from 53 to 54, when the law becomes operative, begins paying subscriptions, the amount of the State grant standing to his credit, and payable as part of his pension when he shall have attained 65, will be £3 2s. In like manner, a person aged between 64 and 65 will be entitled to a State grant of £4 per annum in addition, in each case, to the amount of pension accruing in respect of the capital value of the subscriptions paid.

While pensions are normally payable at the age of 65, an insured person may, at the age of 55, anticipate his pension, but in such a case the State grant is to be proportionately reduced. Persons insured during the period of transition may also anticipate their pensions provided they have been within the scope of the law for five years previous to the claim of anticipation, and provided further, that they have annually, during the same period, contributed sums equal to the amount of the obligatory subscriptions.

If an insured person, as a result of accident or infirmity, becomes permanently incapacitated, he may, irrespective of his age, claim to anticipate his pension. In such cases the State grant will be increased by an amount to be determined later by regulations issued in pursuance of the present law. The amount of the grant must not, however, exceed £2 8s. per annum, nor may the total annual pension exceed £14 8s. In the event of an insured person dying, after having paid at least three-fifths of the subscriptions which would entitle him to a pension, fixed allowances will be paid for short periods to the widow and surviving children under 16.

The assurance of pensions to persons coming under the present law may be undertaken by the various Friendly Societies and Pension Funds, including those established by employers for the granting of pensions to their workpeople, as also by those pension funds which are attached to Trade Unions.

The constitution and working of each society or fund undertaking such business must be approved by decree, its books are to be audited by the Ministry of Finance, and its funds may be invested only in such securities as are prescribed by the present law. Such societies, including benefit societies and savings banks, may receive in advance the contributions of their members, if the latter so desire, on making due record of the amounts received on the cards of the persons making such payments, the contributions of the employers being indicated by means of stamps to an equivalent amount. Persons who are already members of benefit or thrift societies which grant pensions, and those who, under existing laws, are paying contributions for the acquisition of a cheap house or a piece of land, may continue to apply to such purposes the amount of their obligatory contributions due under the present law, while retaining the benefit of their employers' contributions and that of the State grant.

Benefit societies and trade unions which grant sick benefit and old age pensions are to receive from the State an annual grant, in respect of each member, of 1s. 2d. (7½d. for minors) which shall be applied in reducing, by a corresponding amount, the sick benefit contributions of members insured; but this grant will be made only in respect of members whose annual sick contribution is at least 4s. 9½d. (2s. 4½d. for minors).

In the case of employers and workpeople belonging to a common fund for the assurance of pensions to the latter, the decree authorizing such fund may exempt the members from payment of the legal contributions if the pensions to be granted by such fund be not less than those to be obtained under the present law, and within the same period. In any case, the members will be exempted from the use of adhesive stamps for the record of payments.

The law also comprises a scheme of optional insurance, under which certain classes of persons, who are not salary or wage earners in the ordinary sense, e.g., small landowners and farmers, and small employers, may, if they desire, subscribe for a pension at 65 either for themselves

or for working members of their families. The scheme of voluntary pension insurance is also extended to the wives and widows of wage-earners compulsorily insured, as also to persons earning more than £120, but not more than £200 per annum.

With regard to the scale of the pensions assured under the obligatory provisions of the present law, it was stated by the Minister of Labour, in the course of the final debate in the Chamber of Deputies,* that a person aged 12 at the date of the law coming into force, will, at the age of 65, be entitled to a pension (including the State grant) at the rate of £16 11s. per annum; a person aged 20 at the same date will be entitled to a pension of £13 4s., while those aged 30, 40 or 50 will, at the age of 65, receive pensions of £9 11s., £6 8s., and £4 15s. respectively.

The law is to come into operation within a period to be fixed by the Budget of 1911, which will assign funds necessary for its administration.

EARNINGS AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN THE BUILDING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

THE Board of Trade have recently published the third volume† of the report of the enquiry into the earnings and hours of labour of workpeople in the United Kingdom. The first and second volumes (see *LABOUR GAZETTE* for April, 1909, pp. 111-113, and September, 1909, pp. 291, 292) related respectively to the textile trades and the clothing trades; the present volume deals with the building and woodworking trades.

The total number of workpeople employed in the United Kingdom in the trades included in this volume is about 1,250,000, and of these about one million belong to the different branches of the building trades. In the course of the Enquiry, returns covering over 180,000 workpeople, or about 14 per cent. of the estimated total number employed, were received from employers. This proportion is less than was obtained in the textile and clothing trades owing to the fact that in the building trades, in which the number of employers is very great, schedules were sent only to a limited number in each town or district; but the returns received were furnished by both large and small employers, and are regarded as sufficient to serve as a basis for an accurate statement of average earnings, owing to the widespread prevalence in these trades of standard time rates of wages for the principal classes of workpeople.

The two previous Reports were largely concerned with the wages and hours of labour of women and girls, but the trades with which the present volume deals afford occupation almost exclusively for males. Women and girls are employed to a limited extent in connection with wood box making and bobbin making, and a small though increasing number are employed in the cabinet making trade as upholsteresses, sewers, and french polishers; but otherwise there is practically no female labour in these trades. The *Building Trades* give employment to about a million workpeople, and form one of the most important groups of industries affording occupation for males. They include a large proportion of skilled workmen, many of whom have served an apprenticeship of from three to seven years. The great bulk of the labour employed on the *Construction of Harbours, Docks, Roads, Sewers, &c.*, is of the excavator or navy class. This is highly mobile labour, following contractors' work from district to district as large operations of this kind are successively begun and completed. In addition to contractors' work proper, excavators are largely employed in the building trade in preparing sites and digging out foundations. The *Saw Milling, Machine Joinery and Wood Box and Packing Case Trades* (in which section have also been included the bobbin factories of Yorkshire and Lancashire) are very largely machine industries. Saw milling, though carried on in most large towns, is to some extent concentrated in timber importing and shipbuilding centres. In the *Cabinet Making and Allied Trades* the factory system of work is also growing, but highly-skilled manual labour is

* *Journal Officiel* of March 31st, 1910, p. 1799.

† Report of an Enquiry by the Board of Trade into the Earnings and Hours of Labour of Workpeople of the United Kingdom. III. Building and Woodworking Trades. Cd. 5086. Price 1s. 10d. Wyman & Sons, Ltd.

employed in many branches. These trades employ considerable numbers of workpeople in centres such as London and Manchester, though they are to a certain extent carried on in all districts.

Of the 180,471 workpeople in the above trades, regarding whom returns were received, over 95 per cent. were time workers. In the building trades practically all the workpeople are paid by time. In a large number of towns standard time rates of wages, mutually agreed upon between representatives of employers and workpeople, are recognised both for skilled men and for the chief classes of labourers, and in the building trades especially these rates of wages are generally paid.

The particulars obtained as to earnings were as follows:—(1) A return showing the number of workpeople employed and the total amount of wages paid in the last pay-week, or other ordinary week, in each month of 1906, together with the total wages bill for the year; and (2) a return showing the individual earnings of all workpeople employed in one week of 1906, the week for which particulars were asked in the case of the building trades and the construction of harbours, &c., being an ordinary week in the summer, and in the case of saw milling, machine joinery, &c., and cabinet making, &c., the last pay-week of September.

Weekly Earnings in 1906.

The following Table shows the average earnings of men who worked full time (exclusive of overtime) in each of the different trades in the selected week of 1906, together with the percentage numbers of men whose earnings fell within certain specified limits. The bulk of the men in the 20s.-30s. group are comparatively unskilled, and the proportion of such men is considerably greater in the construction of harbours, &c., than in the building trades.

Limits of Earnings.	Percentage Numbers of Men working Full Time whose earnings in an Ordinary Week of 1906 fell within the limits shown in column 1.				
	Building.	Construction of Harbours, &c.	Saw Milling, &c.	Cabinet Making, &c.	All Industries
Under 20s. ...	4'0	1'0	14'3	4'7	5'7
20s. and under 30s. ...	33'1	60'3	50'7	31'2	27'1
30s. " " 40s. ...	45'1	21'2	25'9	45'2	40'8
40s. " " 50s. ...	15'2	8'5	7'3	14'4	13'4
50s. " " 60s. ...	1'6	3'3	1'2	2'9	1'8
60s. and above ...	1'0	5'7	0'6	1'6	1'2
Average earnings ...	s. d. 33 0	s. d. 31 10	s. d. 27 4	s. d. 33 0	s. d. 32 0

In comparing the averages for the different trades it is important to remember that while in saw milling, &c., and in cabinet making, &c., as in other factory and workshop industries, a man may be fully employed throughout the year, in the building trades and the construction of harbours, &c., which are to a large extent carried on in the open, full employment throughout the year is rarely possible owing to climatic conditions—thus, during heavy rain or a period of frost, work in certain branches of these trades must be suspended.

Much time is also lost by workpeople in the same trades on account of the number of engagements for short periods, and the consequent difficulty of securing continuous employment; and, further, during the winter months shorter working hours prevail, the reduction of hours in winter being equal to a loss of nearly two summer weeks in the building trades and a little less in the construction of harbours, &c.

Industry.	Average Earnings of Workpeople who worked Full Time in an Ordinary Week of 1906.				
	Men.	Lads and Boys.	Women.	Girls.	All Workpeople.
Building ...	s. d. 33 0	s. d. 9 7	—	—	28 1
Construction of Harbours, &c. ...	31 10	13 6	—	—	30 11
Saw Milling, &c. ...	27 4	9 8	12 5	8 4	22 4
Cabinet Making, &c. ...	33 0	8 7	13 1	6 2	24 5
All the above Industries	32 0	9 6	12 11	6 10	26 7

From the Tables in the Report showing the average earnings in certain areas of the United Kingdom

it appears that London wages are well above the general level for the rest of the United Kingdom, that the next highest paid district on the whole is the Northern Counties and Cleveland, and that the lowest paid district is Ireland.

Annual Earnings in 1906.

The Report gives the total amount of wages paid in the year 1906 by the firms making returns, and the number employed in one week of each month of the year, but it is pointed out that caution is required in using these data to calculate the average earnings per head in the year 1906. In trades, such as cotton manufacturing, in which the individuals comprising an establishment are more or less permanently employed throughout the year, such a calculation would indeed afford a close approximation to the actual average earnings of the individuals employed. In the building trades, however, the casual nature of much of the employment results in a constant shifting of workpeople from one employer to another, and it may well be that in the returns received from individual employers the workpeople employed in the first three months of the year were a totally different set from those employed at the end of the year. The same workman may also appear in more than one return, in which case he would be counted more than once in the number of persons employed, while, on the other hand, some workmen might be entirely unemployed in one or more of the weeks under review, in which case they would not figure in any return. Again, at different periods of the year the numbers of the different classes of workpeople employed vary greatly.

For the reasons given above the average annual earnings per head shown below, as calculated from the total wages bills returned and the average weekly number employed in the twelve specified weeks, can only be regarded as approximate, more especially in the cases of the building trades and the construction of harbours, docks, &c.

Industry.	Average Annual Earnings in 1906 (nearest 10s.)
Building ...	£ s. 68 0
Construction of Harbours, &c. ...	64 10
Saw Milling, Machine Joinery, &c. ...	55 10
Cabinet Making, &c. ...	62 0

An alternative method of estimating average annual earnings is to take as a basis the ascertained average earnings for all workers (*i.e.*, those who worked full time and those who worked less or more than full time) in the week for which details have been given, and to multiply that figure by the number of weeks in the year, making a proportionate deduction for the shorter working week in winter, where necessary, and for holidays. This deduction in the case of the building trades, for example, would amount to 3'4 weeks (1'9 weeks for the shorter working week in winter, and 1'5 weeks for holidays) leaving 48'6 weeks as the net number of ordinary working weeks in the year. This method of calculation gives the following result:—

Industry.	Average Earnings of all Workpeople in an Ordinary Week of 1906.	Net Working Time.	Average Annual Earnings in 1906.*
Building ...	s. d. 28 6	Weeks. 48'6	£ s. 69 10
Construction of Harbours, &c. ...	26 5	48'7	64 10
Saw Milling, Machine Joinery, &c. ...	22 7	50'3	56 10
Cabinet Making, &c. ...	25	50'2	63 10

The two estimates differ but slightly in every case, but it is not possible from the data available to determine how closely they approximate to the averages which would be arrived at if the individual earnings throughout the year were known.

Changes in Average Wages, 1886-1906.

It was not found possible to compare the results of the present Enquiry as to earnings with those obtained in connection with the Enquiry in 1886 owing to the somewhat scanty material available for the earlier year. In the case of the building trades, however, an almost equally valuable comparison can be made of the rates of

* Calculated to the nearest 10s.

wages paid for a long series of years. The result of the comparison is to show that during the period 1884-1888 wages were practically stationary, that in 1889 an upward movement began which culminated in the year 1900, since when the general level of wages in these trades has remained unchanged. The advance in the period 1889 to 1900 amounted to about 18 per cent.

Hours of Labour and Holidays.

As already noted, the hours of labour constituting a full week in the building trades and the construction of harbours, &c., are longer in summer than in winter, while in saw milling, &c., and cabinet making, &c., they are in general uniform throughout the year. The average hours in the building trades were 52'9 for a summer week and 45'9 for 14'3 winter weeks; in the construction of harbours, &c., the hours were 55'8 in summer and 50'3 for 15'9 winter weeks. In saw milling, &c., and cabinet making, &c., the weekly hours averaged 54'4 and 53'1 respectively.

The number of holidays allowed per annum averaged 9 days in the building trades, and rather more than 10 days in each of the other groups.

CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

(Based upon Returns made direct to the Department by the Societies concerned, and upon Returns made to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and to the Agricultural Organisation Societies of England and Ireland.)

Co-OPERATIVE Production and Distribution in the United Kingdom as applied to agriculture, which until recent years had been confined mainly to Ireland, has recently made considerable progress in Great Britain, and statistics of the agricultural co-operative societies are dealt with separately from the industrial societies dealt with in the last issue of the LABOUR GAZETTE. The Societies now dealt with below are those registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, and the Friendly Societies Acts.

Productive and Distributive Societies.

While in the main the industrial co-operative societies are carried on and managed by the members as a means of improving their position as consumers, in the case of agricultural co-operative societies the main object is usually to enable the members more efficiently and profitably to carry on their daily occupation as individual farmers and producers. For this purpose the societies formed are of two kinds, which may conveniently be classed as "Productive" and "Distributive" Societies.

The "productive" societies take the form mainly of creameries or dairies which purchase from the members the milk or cream produced by them as individual farmers. This is manufactured by the societies into butter, cheese, &c., by paid employees, and sold in the open markets, the operations of the societies being carried on under the supervision of committees elected by the members. In a few cases these societies have also undertaken the supply of members' requirements, to avoid the formation of a separate "distributive" society.

The "distributive" societies are usually formed for the collective purchase and distribution of the seeds, manures, implements, &c., required by the members, and for the sale in the markets of the cattle, eggs, poultry, and other products of the industry of the members in their capacity of individual farmers. The profits, as stated in the rules of both types of societies, are distributed among the members *pro rata* upon the value of the goods purchased from and sold to the society, but in practice are frequently added to the reserve fund.

In addition to these two groups of societies formed specially for agricultural purposes, there were, in 1908, 69 industrial societies (2 wholesale and 67 retail distributive societies) which carried on farming and dairying departments mainly as a means of producing milk, butter, vegetables, &c., for the use of their members, the goods so produced being transferred to the distributive departments of the societies, and the profits, if any, being merged into the profits of the other departments and distributed in the general dividend to purchasers.

The returns relating to these three groups of societies, obtained by the Labour Department for the year 1908, showed that there were then at work in the United Kingdom 600 co-operative societies formed specially for agricultural production and distribution, with an aggregate membership of 79,468, a total share capital of £201,367; loan capital amounting to £199,817; reserve and insurance funds amounting to £145,119, and sales during the year amounting to £3,222,043 upon which, including interest on shares, a total profit of £33,958 was shown.

These societies employed 2,267 persons, and paid in salaries and wages during the year a total of £93,639.

Of these 600 societies, 298 were "productive" societies, employing 1,659 persons, and paying in salaries and wages during the year £65,460; their total sales amounting to £1,929,540 and their profit to £27,878; while 302 were "distributive" societies, employing 608 persons and paying salaries and wages amounting to £28,179; their total sales amounted to £1,292,503 and their profit to £6,080.

The farming and dairying departments of the 69 industrial societies and of one agricultural distributive society employed 884 persons, paid in salaries and wages during the year £46,877, and produced goods to the value of £494,889. The profit or loss on these departments was not shown.

	Distribution.		Production.		Total.
	Agricultural Trading, Egg and Poultry, and Bee Keepers' Societies of all kinds.	Special Farming and Dairying Societies.	Farming and Dairying Departments of Wholesale and Retail Distributive Societies.*	Agricultural Distribution and Production by Societies of all classes.	
1898 ...	£ 296,125	£ 486,317	£ 228,514	£ 1,010,956	
1899 ...	333,825	645,158	307,548	1,286,531	
1900 ...	380,535	811,302	397,366	1,589,203	
1901 ...	385,619	892,249	427,676	1,705,544	
1902 ...	440,786	1,039,431	478,534	1,958,751	
1903 ...	498,315	1,137,565	427,594	2,063,474	
1904 ...	532,913	1,132,087	401,383	2,066,383	
1905 ...	589,641	1,337,487	402,839	2,329,967	
1906 ...	811,000	1,683,238	473,258	2,968,596	
1907 ...	1,136,502	1,813,602	477,379	3,427,483	
1908 ...	1,292,503	1,929,540	494,889	3,716,932	
Increase of 1908 over 1898	996,378	1,443,223	266,375	2,705,976	
Percentage Increase	336'5	296'8	116'6	267'7	

The marked increase in the past three years is largely due to the development of co-operative agricultural distributive societies in England and Wales, resulting from the activities of the Agricultural Organisation Society assisted by the Board of Agriculture.

Cattle Insurance Societies.

In addition to the co-operative societies engaged in production and distribution there were in 1908 57 societies formed specially for the mutual insurance of the cattle, pigs, &c., belonging to their members.

These societies are registered under the Friendly Societies Acts without share capital, and consist mainly of small holders in agricultural districts of England and Wales.† The societies are distinguished from ordinary friendly societies in that the amounts of the insurances are not limited by the Act. In practice, however, the insurances are for small amounts only.

	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Number of Societies making returns	53	53	58	56	57
Total Membership ...	3,505	3,457	3,718	3,780	3,872
Receipts during Year:—					
Contributions ...	£ 1,369	£ 1,457	£ 1,758	£ 1,665	£ 1,641
Other Receipts ...	377	331	561	454	476
Total Receipts ...	1,746	1,788	2,319	2,119	2,117
Expenditure during Year:—					
Benefits to Members ...	1,375	1,242	1,760	1,539	2,088
Working Expenses ...	204	250	520	421	364
Total Expenditure ...	1,579	1,492	2,280	1,960	2,452
Total Funds at end of Year ...	7,210	7,491	7,899	8,091	7,868

* Including the productive department of one agricultural distributive society. † There were no societies of this class at work in Scotland or Ireland.

PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS TO WORK-PEOPLE: INTERNATIONAL PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

THE Italian Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Commerce, by a decree dated December 1st, 1909, has instituted various international prize competitions for the purpose of encouraging the invention of new methods and appliances for the prevention of industrial accidents and for the protection of the health of workpeople. The prizes offered for competition are as follows: £400 for a paper on the "earthing of currents" in industrial electrical installations; two prizes of £160 each for certain safety apparatus to be attached to driving pulleys; £80 for an appliance to protect workpeople engaged in the cold-working of metals at rolling mills; and, finally, £400 for a paper on preventive measures for eliminating the danger of anthrax infection to workpeople in tanneries. The papers must be written either in Italian or French.

A translation of the decree, giving details as to these competitions, together with the dates on which each will be closed, is being prepared, and copies will shortly be obtainable on application being made to the Labour Department of the Board of Trade (Gwydyr House, Whitehall, S.W.).

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

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

Canada.

The following regulations are important to emigrants to Canada:—

(A) Made on March 19th, 1910.

1. If an immigrant, male or female, other than a member of a family provided for under the next following regulation, intending to enter Canada, arrives at the border or at any place of landing in Canada between the first day of March and the thirtieth day of October, both days inclusive, he or she shall, as a condition of permission to enter Canada, have in his or her possession at the time of arrival, money, belonging absolutely to such immigrant, to the amount of at least 25.00 dols. in addition to a ticket or such sum of money as will purchase a ticket or transport for such immigrant to his or her destination in Canada.

2. If an immigrant so intending to enter Canada is the head of a family and is accompanied by his or her family or any member or members thereof the foregoing regulations shall not apply to such family or the members thereof, but the said immigrant head of family shall have in his or her possession, in addition to the said sum of money and means of transport hereinbefore required, a further sum of money, belonging absolutely to such immigrant, equivalent to 25.00 dols. for each member of the said family of the age of eighteen years or upwards, and 12.50 dols. for each member of the said family of the age of five years or upwards and under the age of eighteen years, and in addition tickets or a sum of money equivalent to the cost of transport for all the said members of the family to their place of destination in Canada.

3. Every such immigrant arriving at the border or at any place of landing in Canada between the first day of November and the last day of February, both inclusive, shall be subject to the foregoing regulations, with the substitution of 50.00 dols for 25.00 dols. and 25.00 dols. for 12.50 dols., wherever the said sums of 25.00 dols. and 12.50 dols. are mentioned in the said regulations.

4. Provided, however, that the immigration agent may, notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, exempt any immigrant from the operation of the foregoing regulations if it is shown to his satisfaction that—

(a) The immigrant, if a male, is going to assured employment at farm work, and has the means of reaching the place of such employment; or

(b) That the immigrant, if a female, is going to assured employment at domestic service, and has the means of reaching the place of such employment; or

(c) That the immigrant is one of the following descriptions, and is going to reside with a relative of one of the following descriptions, who is able and willing to support such immigrant, and has the means of reaching the place of residence of such relative:—

(i.) Wife going to husband. (ii.) Child going to parent. (iii.) Brother or sister going to brother. (iv.) Minor going to married or independent sister. (v.) Parent going to son or daughter.

(b) All emigrants sent out to Canada by British charitable societies or by public funds must obtain certificates from the Canadian Emigration authorities, Charing Cross, London, S.W., that they are suitable settlers for Canada.

(c) Special attention is drawn to the fact that whenever an immigrant has within two years of his or her landing

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

in Canada become a public charge, or an inmate of a penitentiary, gaol, prison, or hospital or other charitable institution, he or she may, after investigation of the facts, be sent back to the United Kingdom, together with all those dependent on him or her.

Unemployment in Canada during last winter was less extensive than in several years past, and little or no distress was reported from any of the large centres. Manufacturing continued very active, with a demand for additional help in several branches and localities, especially among employers of female labour, as in the biscuit and knitting factories at Woodstock (Ontario). The season for emigration to Canada has begun, and there is a good demand for farmers, for farm labourers, for strong men for railway construction in the Western Provinces at two dollars a day, and for female servants. No settlement has yet been reached in the strike of the Brussels Carpet Weavers at Guelph (Ontario). With regard to the disputes at the large coal mines in Nova Scotia, the strike at Springhill still continues, without sign of settlement. The Company are importing over 1,000 miners from Europe, and are raising a small quantity of coal, but their efforts are handicapped by inability to secure certified miners. There are no indications of a settlement of the strike. The Glace Bay district is also affected by the strike. British miners, therefore, taking engagements in Nova Scotia are warned of the existence of this strike. Industrial conditions, apart from this, are steadily improving. Emigrants are again cautioned against paying premiums to agents in this country, or to farmers in Canada, for instruction in farming there.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales.—Considerable numbers of farm labourers have received assisted passages to New South Wales during the past year, but the demand is still unsatisfied, and competent men of this class—including a limited number of married men with families—have no difficulty in getting good places. Female servants also are much wanted. The demand for mechanics is not so large, but there are openings for skilled men who have a little money to support themselves until they obtain employment.

Victoria.—There is a good demand for skilled hands in factories, especially for females in clothing factories. In country districts farm and fruit hands are wanted, and female servants in all parts. It is stated that the new irrigation blocks recently offered for sale to small settlers by the Victorian Government have been largely taken up.

South Australia.—In many industries, such as the coachbuilding trade, there is a scarcity of competent mechanics, and in country districts farmers say that they have considerable difficulty in procuring labourers. There is no demand for more miners.

Queensland.—There is a good demand for ploughmen and general farm labourers, especially dairy hands, for boys and youths on dairy farms, for bush carpenters, for married couples without family or with working boys or girls, and for good stockmen. Female general servants are wanted in most parts. There is a fair demand for mechanics, such as country blacksmiths and wheelwrights, and in the south for tailors and tailoresses. There is no demand for miners, except for a few skilled coal miners.

Western Australia.—In Western Australia farm labourers and female servants are wanted, and cheap passages are granted to suitable persons of these classes. The deposit of £5 hitherto required has, moreover, just been withdrawn in the case of fully-qualified domestic servants between 18 and 30 years of age, and such persons can obtain assisted passages at £5 each. Application must be made to the Agent-General at 15, Victoria Street, London, S.W. There is little demand for mechanics: 160 acres of land are given to suitable settlers.

New Zealand.

Reduced passages to New Zealand are offered to female domestic servants who will have £2 on landing, and for this class of emigrant there is a good demand. The last report of the Department of Labour shows as

follows:—Harvesting and shearing are over for the season, but in several districts there is a good demand for competent farm hands, and dairymen; the cycle and motor, coachbuilding, meat freezing, woodworking, building, engineering, leather and clothing trades were fairly active everywhere, but the local supply of hands seems to have been sufficient, and some carpenters and painters have been out of work; brushmakers have been wanted at Christchurch; the flax mills have been busy, but it is very hard for inexperienced hands to find employment there; there was little demand for more unskilled labourers.

South Africa.

The general improvement in the state of the Labour Market in Cape Colony continues, but there is still an ample supply of mechanics there. In the Transvaal there has been during the last year a satisfactory increase in the number of white workmen employed, and considerable success has been obtained in the recently introduced system of indentured apprenticeships. The award in connection with the Pretoria masons' strike has been given, and the hours are to remain at 48 a week instead of being reduced to 44. In Natal and the Orange River Colony the supply of male labour is quite sufficient. Female servants are in some demand throughout South Africa, and the South African Colonisation Society, 23, Army and Navy Mansions (No. 2), 115, Victoria Street, London, S.W., is prepared to assist suitable applicants.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment to each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot properly be used with those on p. 109 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337 of 1904, and pp. 521-4 of Cd. 4032 of 1908.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in February.—In the building and allied trades unemployment was very prevalent in February, particularly at Paris, owing to the floods. In the metal trades there was, on the whole, no change as compared with January. In the textile trades employment continued very fair, except in the cotton branch, which was stated to be depressed owing to the high price of raw material. In silk manufacture employment was plentiful in the power-loom weaving sheds at Lyons, but was irregular in the smaller workshops of the Croix-Rousse quarter, and in the weaving centres of the Loire and Haute-Loire. Tailors and dressmakers were still in their slack season in most districts. A very slight decline was reported in the printing trades. A high proportion of unemployment was reported among coopers. The situation in the pottery trade at Limoges was not altogether satisfactory. The amount of unemployment among vineyard workers in the South of France increased somewhat owing to the wet weather, but did not reach the level recorded for February in previous years. Forestry work came to an end, and woodmen thrown out of employment were unable to obtain agricultural work owing to the rains. Gardeners at Paris continued well employed.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed on a given date in February were received by the French Labour Department from 1,103 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 273,016. Excluding returns from the miners' unions of the Pas-de-Calais department, 14.0 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 7.5 per cent. in the previous month, and 13.9 per cent. in February, 1909.

Labour Disputes in February.—Fifty-five disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in February, as compared with 76 in the preceding month, and with 76 also in February, 1909. In 51 of the new disputes 5,818 workpeople took part, as compared with 7,785 who took part in 71 of the January disputes, and 4,876 who took part in 62 of the disputes of February,

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

1909. The groups of trades in which the greatest number of disputes occurred were textile (18), building (14), transport (5), and metal (4). Of 50 new and old disputes which were reported to have terminated, 5 ended in favour of the workpeople, and 20 in favour of the employers, while 25 were compromised.

GERMANY.

Employment in February.—The following is a summary of the state of the labour market in February, as described in the *Reichsarbeitsblatt* (the journal of the German Labour Department) for March:—

The state of the labour market in February, though lacking uniformity was, on the whole, favourable. While in some of the larger industries there was a lull, a number of seasonal trades showed the usual revival.

Coal Mining.—There was a further decline in the demand for coal in the Ruhr district, while the demand in the Saar and Upper Silesian districts continued very weak. There were also complaints as to the state of the lignite industry chiefly owing to the mild weather having lessened the need for house coal.

Metal Trades.—The change in these trades as compared with January was very slight: on the whole it amounted to a slight improvement. In the establishments of the Steel Works Federation, employment continued at about the same level as in January.

Textile Trades.—The high price of raw materials continued to affect these trades adversely, employment being quite inadequate in cotton spinning. The mild weather gave some impetus to the manufacture of cloth.

Building Trades.—Employment was better than usual for the period of the year, owing to favourable weather conditions; no general revival can be said to have taken place, however, and some reports even speak of a setback.

Clothing Trades.—The clothing trades, being favoured by the weather and by the early date on which Easter fell, were satisfactorily employed.

BELGIUM.*

Employment in February.—According to returns made to the Belgian Labour Department 2.9 per cent. of the 49,075 members of trade unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of February, as compared with 2.8 per cent. in the previous month and 4.8 per cent. in February, 1909.†

Labour Disputes in February.—Seven strikes affecting 646 workpeople (450 directly and 196 indirectly) were reported to have begun in February, while 4 others which had commenced before February, and in which 196 persons were directly affected were also in progress. Of 9 strikes which were reported to have terminated, 6, involving 324 strikers, ended in favour of the employers, and 1, involving about 90 strikers, in favour of the workpeople, while 2, involving 166 strikers, were compromised.

NORWAY.‡

Employment in February.—The following Table shows the percentage of members reported unemployed at the end of February in trade unions making returns to the Norwegian Central Statistical Office, comparative figures relating to the same unions for the previous month and for February, 1909, being added:—

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed†		
	Feb. 28th, 1910.	Jan. 31st, 1910.	Feb. 28th, 1909.	Feb. 28th, 1910.	Jan. 31st, 1910.	Feb. 28th, 1909.
Bricklayers and Masons ...	348	348	342	48.9	51.7	73.1
Carpenters and Joiners ...	912	903	819	12.2	12.4	13.4
Painters ...	400	400	425	25.3	37.3	19.1
Metal Workers ...	5,510	5,431	5,280	3.3	3.1	4.4
Boot and Shoe Makers ...	571	551	570	5.8	7.3	3.7
Printers ...	1,430	1,424	1,368	2.9	2.2	2.0
Wood Pulp & Paper Makers ...	142	138	140	6.3	6.5	10.1
Sawyers and Planers ...	359	370	446	9.2	10.8	10.1
Bakers ...	300	280	250	10.3	10.7	13.6
Total ...	9,972	9,845	9,640	7.1	7.7	8.3

* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department).
† These figures are not comparable with the unemployment percentage for the United Kingdom given on p. 109. See also note under "Labour Abroad."
‡ This is apparently a revised figure, the percentage quoted a year ago in the Belgian source being 6.4.
§ *Arbeidsmarkedet* (Journal of the Norwegian Central Statistical Office).

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN MARCH.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 510 Returns—445 from Employers, 47 from Trade Unions, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry during March continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,329 pits employing 660,681 workpeople showed that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended March 19th, 1910, was 5'49, as compared with 5'54 in February, and 5'29 a year ago.

Of the 660,681 workpeople covered by the Returns, 565,254 (or 85'6 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended March 19th, 1910, while 415,836 (62'9 per cent. of the whole) were employed at pits working 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in March was in South Wales and Mon. (5'75 days), and the lowest in Fifeshire (4'87 days).

The following Table shows the average number of days worked per week by the pits during the four weeks ended March 19th, 1910, together with the figures for similar periods in February, 1910, and March, 1909:—

Districts.	No. of Work-people employed in Mar., 1910.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in 4 weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
		Mar. 19th, 1910.	Feb. 19th, 1910.	Mar. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland ...	35,757	5'32	5'27	5'27	+ 0'05	+ 0'05
Durham ...	120,006	5'42	5'46	5'23	- 0'04	+ 0'19
Cumberland ...	7,255	5'62	5'60	5'55	+ 0'02	+ 0'07
South Yorkshire ...	74,133	5'67	5'79	5'37	- 0'12	+ 0'30
West Yorkshire ...	25,703	5'53	5'67	5'04	- 0'14	+ 0'49
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	60,382	5'30	5'44	5'11	- 0'14	+ 0'19
Derbyshire ...	45,320	5'45	5'64	5'26	- 0'19	+ 0'19
Nottingham and Leicester ...	34,072	5'08	5'12	4'82	- 0'04	+ 0'26
Staffordshire ...	30,931	5'57	5'63	5'44	- 0'06	+ 0'13
Warwick, Worcester and Salop ...	8,575	5'53	5'63	5'65	- 0'10	- 0'12
Gloucester and Somerset ...	8,309	5'60	5'64	5'40	- 0'04	+ 0'20
North Wales ...	10,899	5'66	5'93	5'11	- 0'27	+ 0'55
South Wales and Mon. ...	140,997	5'75	5'73	5'69	+ 0'02	+ 0'06
ENGLAND AND WALES	602,339	5'53	5'58	5'35	- 0'05	+ 0'18
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	26,037	5'25	5'31	4'90	- 0'06	+ 0'35
The Lothians ...	4,626	5'37	5'31	4'92	+ 0'06	+ 0'45
Fife ...	2,707	4'87	4'99	4'50	- 0'12	+ 0'37
SCOTLAND	57,739	5'08	5'15	4'72	- 0'07	+ 0'36
IRELAND	603	5'09	5'41	4'79	- 0'32	+ 0'30
United Kingdom	660,681	5'49	5'54	5'29	- 0'05	+ 0'20

Compared with February, employment, on the whole, showed little general change, though in most districts there was some decline, the most marked being in North Wales, Ireland, and in Derbyshire.

Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in every district, except Salop, Worcester and Warwick. The improvement was most marked in Yorkshire, North Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Nottingham and Leicester, Gloucestershire and Somerset, Lancashire and Cheshire, and Derbyshire.

The following Table shows the number employed and the average number of days worked per week by the pits, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople are engaged.

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

† Collieries at which here were stoppages owing to disputes are excluded.

‡ Revised figures.

Description of Coal.	No. of Work-people employed in Mar., 1910.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in the Four weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
		Mar. 19th, 1910.	Feb. 19th, 1910.	Mar. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Anthracite ...	8,077	5'64	5'73	5'79	- 0'09	- 0'15
Coking ...	35,048	5'60	5'47	5'21	+ 0'13	+ 0'39
Gas ...	41,085	5'36	5'37	5'18	- 0'01	+ 0'18
House ...	81,274	5'22	5'39	5'25	- 0'17	- 0'03
Steam ...	261,690	5'61	5'58	5'39	+ 0'03	+ 0'22
Mixed ...	233,567	5'44	5'59	5'20	- 0'15	+ 0'24
All Descriptions	660,681	5'49	5'54	5'29	- 0'05	+ 0'20

Compared with a month ago there was an improvement at pits producing coking and steam coal, and a slight decline at anthracite coal pits. Compared with a year ago there was an improvement at pits producing coking gas and steam coal.

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in March, 1910, amounted to 5,176,871 tons, or 824,522 tons more than in February, 1910, but 256,359 tons less than in March, 1909.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING, AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 77 Returns—59 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

IN iron mines employment was good and better on the whole than a month ago, owing to a marked improvement in the Cleveland district; employment also showed some improvement on a year ago. In shale mines employment continued fair, and was not so good as a year ago.

Employment continued moderate in tin mines, and fair in lead mines. It was fair on the whole in quarries, and better than in the previous month.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended March 19th, the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5'90, as compared with 5'77 in February, and 5'82 in March, 1909.

The Returns are summarised below:—

Districts.	Work-people employed in Mar., 1910.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
		Mar. 19th, 1910.	Feb. 19th, 1910.	Mar. 27th, 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Cleveland ...	8,055	5'99	5'67	5'90	+ 0'32	+ 0'09
Cumberland and Lancashire ...	4,930	5'83	5'95	5'78	- 0'12	+ 0'05
Scotland ...	1,000	5'79	5'80	5'77	- 0'01	+ 0'02
Other Districts ...	2,586	5'77	5'76	5'67	+ 0'01	+ 0'10
All Districts	16,571	5'90	5'77	5'82	+ 0'13	+ 0'08

Of the total number of workpeople covered by the Returns 96'0 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended March 19th, as compared with 80'3 per cent. a month ago, and 92'5 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns were received 3,177 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended March 19th, as compared with 3,204 in February, 1910, and 3,408 in March, 1909. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended March 19th was 5'69, as compared with 5'64 a month ago and 5'77 a year ago.

Tin Mining.—Employment continued moderate on the whole in Cornwall; it was still bad in the Calstock district, though slightly better than a month ago.

Lead Mining.—Employment was good in Weardale, and fairly good in North Wales.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment continued slack in North Wales, but was slightly better than in the previous month; some short time was worked in the Festiniog district. Employment continued good at Delabole (Cornwall). At Ballachulish (Argyll) it was fair.

Granite.—Employment continued good in Leicestershire, and was fair in Aberdeenshire. In Cornwall it was moderate, at Princetown fair.

Limestone.—Employment generally showed an improvement on the previous month. It was good in North Wales, Cumberland, and at Buxton, and fairly good in South Durham. It was moderate in the Somerset blue lias quarries. In the Plymouth district it was quiet.

Other Stone.—Employment was good, and better than a month ago in chert quarries at Bakewell, in the Clee Hill road material quarries, and in the North Wales sandstone quarries. It was fair in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries, and moderate in Bath stone quarries. In the Sheffield district employment was moderate; at Barnsley and Rotherham fairly good; and at Normanton slack. Employment continued moderate in grindstone and building stone quarries in the Rowsley district. It was bad in Forfarshire, but better than in the previous month. Employment in freestone quarries in the Gateshead district was adversely affected by the continuance of a dispute.

Sett-making.—Employment was generally good, and rather better than in the previous month.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell district, and moderate on Lee Moor.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 117 Returns—110 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March continued moderate. It was better than a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters showed that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of March, 1910, was 303, as compared with 305 in February, 1910, and 287 in March, 1909. Two furnaces were relit during the month (one in Flintshire and one in Staffordshire) and four were either damped down or blown out (one each in Lancashire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and the Cleveland district).

The number of workpeople employed at the works covered by the Returns was 22,600; an increase of 2'7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar. 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	82	83	78	- 1	+ 4
Cumberland & Lancs. S. and S.W. Yorks. Derby & Nottingham	31	32	25	- 1	+ 6
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	12	12	11	...	+ 1
Stafford & Worcester	32	33	30	- 1	+ 2
S. Wales & Monmouth	26	26	25	...	+ 1
Other districts	34	34	34	...	...
England & Wales ...	234	236	218	- 2	+ 16
Scotland ...	69	69	69	...	...
Total	303	305	287	- 2	+ 16

The Imports of iron ore in March, 1910, amounted to 686,134 tons, or 126,958 tons more than in February, 1910, and 199,848 tons more than in March, 1909.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in March, 1910, amounted to 90,328 tons or 16,472 tons more than in February, 1910, and 8,264 tons more than in March, 1909.

TINPLATE AND STEEL SHEET WORKS.

(Based on 59 Returns—55 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

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

At the works covered by the Returns, 421 tinplate mills were working at the end of both March and February, 1910, as compared with 398 at the end of March, 1909. The number of sheet mills working at the same dates was 58, 54 and 47 respectively. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal. The works to which these figures relate are principally in South Wales and Monmouthshire, and employ about 23,950 workpeople.

	Number of Works open.		Number of Mills in operation.	
	At end of Mar., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	At end of Mar., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Tinplate Works	76	...	421	...
Steel Sheet Works	10	+ 2	58	+ 4
Total	86	+ 2	479	+ 4

	Exports.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Month ago.
Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.				
To United States ...	6,411	4,563	3,918	+ 1,848
British East Indies ...	4,028	4,013	4,870	+ 15
Germany ...	3,479	2,628	2,186	+ 851
France ...	1,599	946	1,670	+ 653
Netherlands ...	3,635	3,345	2,624	+ 290
Other Countries ...	19,034	19,309	20,405	- 275
Total	38,186	34,804	35,673	+ 3,382

	Black Plates for Tinning.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Month ago.
Total	4,136	4,192	5,167	- 56

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 201 Returns 190 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1 from a Trade Union, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works again showed an improvement on a month ago, and was much better than a year ago.

The volume of employment during the week ended March 19th, 1910 (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked), showed an increase of 1'3 per cent. on a month ago, and of 11'0 per cent. on a year ago. The total number of shifts worked during the week was about 504,000.

	Number of Workpeople employed.		Average Number of Shifts worked per man.	
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.
Departments.				
IRON:				
Puddling Forges ...	9,485	+ 24	5'02	+ 0'12
Rolling Mills ...	3,944	+ 19	4'88	+ 0'04
Forging ...	396	- 28	4'74	- 0'41
Founding ...	1,802	+ 100	5'78	+ 0'03
Other Departments	610	- 17	5'67	...
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,840	- 25	5'37	- 0'05
Total, Iron	18,077	+ 73	5'12	+ 0'06
STEEL:				
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces	8,794	+ 106	5'85	- 0'03
Crucible Furnaces	540	- 2	5'57	+ 0'13
Bessemer Converters	1,824	+ 35	5'20	+ 0'06
Rolling Mills	14,860	- 4	5'45	+ 0'05
Forging and Pressing	2,983	+ 85	5'60	+ 0'15
Founding	7,649	+ 19	5'87	+ 0'01
Other Departments	7,271	+ 113	5'80	+ 0'02
Mechanics, Labourers	7,681	+ 80	5'94	...
Total, Steel	51,602	+ 432	5'70	+ 0'02
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):				
Rolling Mills	10,749	+ 107	5'17	+ 0'01
Forging and Pressing	667	- 1	5'18	- 0'18
Founding	744	+ 20	5'88	...
Other Departments	3,284	+ 16	5'92	+ 0'03
Mechanics, Labourers	5,894	+ 21	5'78	+ 0'04
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished)	21,338	+ 163	5'48	+ 0'02
Grand Total	91,017	+ 668	5'53	+ 0'03
Districts.				
Northumberland & Durham	10,367	+ 36	5'36	- 0'01
Cleveland	8,310	+ 34	5'62	...
Sheffield and Rotherham	16,588	+ 243	5'65	+ 0'05
Leeds, Bradford, and other Yorkshire Towns	4,139	- 23	5'31	- 0'15
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches.	8,098	+ 45	5'44	+ 0'07
Staffordshire	10,212	- 45	5'41	+ 0'02
Other Midland Counties	4,912	+ 35	5'34	...
Wales and Monmouth	10,648	+ 168	5'65	+ 0'04
Total, England and Wales	73,283	+ 493	5'54	+ 0'02
Scotland	17,734	+ 175	5'52	+ 0'08
Total	91,017	+ 668	5'53	+ 0'03

As compared with a month ago there were noticeable increases in the number of workpeople employed in the Sheffield and Rotherham, Wales and Monmouth districts, and in Scotland; in the other districts there was not much change. In the iron trade the department chiefly affected by an increase, was founding, while the largest increases in the steel trade took place in open hearth melting furnaces, and in the forging and pressing departments. There was not much difference on the whole in the average number of shifts worked in March, as compared with the previous month; most departments showed small increases, but a marked decline was shown at iron forges.

As compared with a year ago there were increases in the number employed in every district except Leeds, Bradford, &c., in which the number was practically the same; the largest increases were in Sheffield and Rotherham, Cumberland, Lancashire, and Cheshire, Wales and Monmouth, and in Scotland. All departments of the steel trades, and iron rolling mills, were affected by the improvement. There was a decrease at puddling forges, where, however, there was a considerable increase in the number of shifts worked. The average number of shifts worked showed an increase of 0.17 of a shift. This improvement was most marked in Northumberland and Durham, other Midland counties, and in Scotland. In departments the greatest improvement was at puddling forges, iron and steel rolling mills, and crucible furnaces; while there was a decline of 0.70 of a shift at iron forges.

The **Imports** of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during March, 1910, amounted to 118,004 tons, or 20,926 tons more than in February, 1910, and 22,028 tons more than in March, 1909.

The **Exports** of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron and tinned plates, and black plates for tinning) during March, 1910, amounted to 243,818 tons, or 29,531 tons more than in February, 1910, and 6,765 tons more than in March, 1909.

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 353 Returns—6 from Employer's Associations, 333 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

Employment during March continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,282 members reported 13.2 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 14.6 a month ago, and 22.2 a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Mar., 1910.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
		Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth	9,127	19.7	19.8	30.3	- 0.1	- 10.6
Wear	4,713	22.2	26.1	38.8	- 3.9	- 16.6
Tees and Hartlepool	4,580	12.4	19.2	27.9	- 6.8	- 15.5
Humber	2,596	13.0	13.4	16.8	- 0.4	- 3.8
Thames and Medway	4,279	8.1	9.7	11.5	- 1.6	- 3.4
South Coast	4,710	2.4	3.4	4.4	- 1.0	- 2.0
Bristol Channel Ports	2,751	20.8	15.7	15.4	+ 5.1	+ 5.4
Mersey	4,119	19.3	15.0	24.6	+ 4.3	- 5.3
Clyde	12,044	9.7	11.6	26.2	- 1.9	- 16.5
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen	2,189	16.7	24.4	24.1	- 7.7	- 7.4
Belfast	3,133	7.8	11.3	17.2	- 3.5	- 9.4
Other Districts	3,941	7.3	9.8	8.8	- 2.5	- 1.5
United Kingdom	57,282	13.2	14.6	22.2	- 1.4	- 9.0

As compared with a month ago the most marked decreases in the percentage unemployed were in the Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen, and the Tees and Hartlepool districts. In the Tyne and Blyth and Humber districts there was but little change. The Bristol Channel and Mersey districts showed increases of 5.1 per cent. and 4.3 per cent. in the number unemployed. As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in every district except the Bristol Channel, where the percentage unemployed showed an increase of 5.4 per cent. The improvement was greatest on the Wear, Clyde and Tees.

Employment on the Tyne, though still slack, showed some improvement at Wallsend, Hebburn, and North and

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

South Shields, and was fair with shipwrights at Jarrow and Howdon. With platers, caulkers and riveters at Elswick employment continued slack, and short time was worked. Employment was still bad on the Wear, but better than a month ago. It was considerably better than a year ago. In the Tees and Hartlepool district employment though still slack showed a marked improvement on a month ago, and was much better than a year ago. Employment on repairs was fair at Hartlepool and Middlesbrough.

On the Humber employment continued slack with shipbuilders, but was fair with shipwrights and better than a month ago.

Employment in the Thames and Medway district continued to improve; with shipwrights it was fairly good on the whole. On the South Coast employment was good generally and better than a month ago and a year ago. At the Bristol Channel Ports employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Employment was bad on the Mersey, and worse than a month ago. It was, however, better than a year ago. Employment at Barrow was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

On the Clyde employment was better than a month ago and much better than a year ago. It was fairly good, on the whole, with shipwrights. Employment continued bad on the East Coast of Scotland, but was better than a month ago and a year ago. With shipwrights at Aberdeen and Leith it was fair.

Employment at Belfast showed an improvement on a month ago, and was much better than a year ago. With platers employment was good. At Dublin, employment with shipwrights was good.

TONNAGE UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

According to Lloyd's return there was at the end of March, 1910, an increase in the tonnage of merchant vessels under construction in the United Kingdom of 144,262 tons gross (or 15.8 per cent.) as compared with the end of December, 1909, and of 145,364 tons gross (or 15.9 per cent.) as compared with the end of March, 1909. The war vessels under construction showed an increase of 30,475 tons displacement as compared with December, 1909, and of 55,920 tons displacement as compared with March, 1909.

District.	Merchant Vessels.			War Vessels.		
	End of Mar., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on		End of Mar., 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on	
		Dec., '09.	Mar., '09.		Dec., '09.	Mar., '09.
	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons gross.	Tons displacement.	Tons displacement.	Tons displacement.
Clyde	341,366	+ 34,912	+ 34,635	85,773	+ 38,822	+ 62,662
Belfast	233,360	+ 65,150	+ 25,230	—	—	—
Tyne	182,918	+ 35,089	+ 58,853	82,522	+ 22,397	+ 27,158
Wear	117,050	+ 11,525	+ 30,263	—	—	—
Hartlepool and Whitby	54,930	- 20	+ 22,835	—	—	—
Middlesbrough and Stockton	62,549	- 1,136	+ 20,090	—	—	—
Barrow, Maryport and Workington	2,885	+ 5	+ 1,615	33,060	- 12,170	- 14,420
Other Districts	64,578	- 1,263	+ 5,533	11,600	- 244	+ 4,110
Royal Dockyards	—	—	—	99,730	- 18,330	- 23,590
Total	1,057,636	+ 144,262	+ 145,364	303,685	+ 30,475	+ 55,920

Merchant Vessels.—Compared with the end of December, 1909, there were increases in the four principal districts; the Belfast district showed an increase of 65,000 tons, and the Clyde and Tyne an increase of about 35,000 tons each. The Middlesbrough and Stockton district showed a decrease. As compared with March, 1909, there were marked increases in every district except Belfast and Barrow. The increase on the Tyne amounted to nearly 60,000 tons.

War Vessels.—Compared with December, 1909, there were large increases on the Clyde and Tyne; in the Barrow district there was a decrease of over 12,000 tons, and in the Royal Dockyards there was a decrease of over 18,000 tons. Compared with March, 1909, the Clyde and Tyne also showed large increases, and at Barrow and in the Royal Dockyards there were marked decreases.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,034 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 982 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 45 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March continued to improve, and was much better than a year ago.

Returns from Trade Unions with a total membership of 169,336 showed that the percentage unemployed at the end of March was 7.1, as compared with 7.3 a month ago and 12.6 a year ago. Compared with a month ago, most of the districts show a decrease in the percentage unemployed, but an increase is shown in Lancashire and three smaller districts. Compared with a year ago, there was a decrease in the percentage unemployed in every district, the greatest decreases being in Scotland and the North-East Coast, which returned very high percentages of unemployed a year ago.

District.	No. of Members* of Unions at end of Mar., 1910.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in percentage for Mar., 1910, on a	
		Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1909.	Mar., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast	15,023	11.0	11.9	19.9	- 0.9	- 8.9
Manchester and Liverpool District	18,969	8.0	7.0	11.9	+ 1.0	- 3.9
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District	13,264	13.2	12.6	15.9	+ 0.6	- 2.7
West Riding Towns	12,202	8.7	9.1	15.0	- 0.4	- 6.3
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,966	6.5	5.9	11.5	+ 0.6	- 5.0
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District	7,211	3.3	3.5	7.2	- 0.2	- 3.9
Notts, Derby, and Leicester District	4,326	5.7	6.1	9.1	- 0.4	- 3.4
London and Neighbouring District	11,748	3.2	3.7	6.8	- 0.5	- 3.6
South Coast	4,481	3.9	3.6	4.8	+ 0.3	- 0.9
South Wales and Bristol District	6,476	5.8	5.1	7.3	+ 0.7	- 1.5
Glasgow and District	15,140	7.5	8.3	21.7	- 0.8	- 14.2
East of Scotland	3,727	12.4	14.7	26.3	- 2.3	- 13.9
Belfast and Dublin	3,572	6.6	8.4	14.2	- 1.8	- 7.6
Other Districts	5,713	5.7	6.7	10.4	- 1.0	- 4.7
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available)	169,336	7.1	7.3	12.6	- 0.2	- 5.5

On the North-East Coast employment was better than a month ago and much better than a year ago, though the general percentage of unemployed was still high. In railway shops short time was reported. With ironfounders, brassfounders, patternmakers, and machine workers, employment was fair generally. It remained moderate with wagon builders at Darlington.

At Manchester employment was slack and rather worse than a month ago, though much better than a year ago. At Liverpool it was fair generally. At Crewe it was slack. In the Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn district employment continued bad generally, with much short time, though at Oldham it was reported as good on the whole with electrical workers, and fair with brassfounders, patternmakers, and spindle and flyer makers. Employment at Barrow was fair.

In the West Riding Towns, employment was still slack on the whole. At Sheffield, it was moderate with ironfounders and patternmakers, and fair with machine workers. At Bradford, it was fair generally, except with ironfounders. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district, employment was fair generally, though bad with ironfounders at Hull, and with engineers at Grimsby. At Lincoln and Grantham, a considerable amount of overtime was reported.

In the Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District employment was good, especially in the motor industry, where a great deal of overtime was worked. In Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Leicestershire employment was fair generally. Bobbin and carriage makers at Nottingham, with whom employment was still good, reported a decline as compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the Eastern Counties employment was fair.

Employment was fair in London, the Royal Dockyards (except Pembroke), and Southampton. It was slack with engineers at Plymouth and Brighton. It was moderate generally at Bristol, Swindon, and Swansea, but slack at Cardiff and with engineers at Newport.

* Exclusive of superannuated Members.

Employment in the Glasgow district was fairly good, and much better than a year ago. With patternmakers overtime was pretty general, but with ironfounders employment was still slack. On the East Coast of Scotland employment was still slack, though better than a month ago, and much better than a year ago. Patternmakers were fairly well employed.

At Belfast and Dublin employment was fair, except with brassfounders, with whom it was slack.

The **Imports** of machinery in March, 1910, amounted to £441,522, or £126,383 more than in February, 1910, but £26,774 less than in March, 1909.

The **Exports** of machinery in March, 1910, amounted to £2,349,167, or £429,352 more than in February, 1910, but £49,617 less than in March, 1909.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 95 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 63 from Trade Unions, and 28 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was fair and about the same as a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Trade Unions with a total membership of 22,890 reported 3.5 per cent. unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 3.7 per cent. a month ago and 5.1 per cent. a year ago.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, &c.—Employment remained fair with brassworkers at Birmingham and in Lancashire, and with bedstead workers at Birmingham.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, &c.—Employment was fair and better than a month ago in Darlaston and district; it remained fair at Halesowen and Blackheath (Staff.) At Birmingham it was good and better than a month ago with shoe rivet and wire nail makers, fair with cut nail makers, and improving with machine-made rivet makers, with whom it was only moderate a month ago.

Wire.—Employment continued fairly good on the whole. It was good at Ambergate and Middlesbrough, and fair at Warrington and Glasgow.

Locks, Keys, and General Hardware.—Employment remained fair with hollow-ware makers at West Bromwich. It continued bad with lock makers at Wolverhampton and Willenhall.

Stoves, Grates, &c.—Employment remained quiet on the whole. It was good at Falkirk, with some overtime, and better than a year ago.

Cutlery, Tools, &c.—At Sheffield employment was good with sheep shear workers, fair with edge tool grinders, table blade forgers, saw makers, grinders and handlers, file forgers and cutters, razor forgers and hafters, and plate spoon and fork filers, moderate with tool makers, table blade grinders, pen and pocket blade forgers and grinders, file hardeners and razor grinders, and slack with other branches. It continued fair with edge-tool makers at Birmingham. At Redditch it was fairly good in the needle trade, and quiet, but better than a month ago, in the fish-hook trade.

Tubes.—On the whole employment was fair. It was fairly good at Birmingham, especially in the brass and copper tube trade.

Chains, Anchors, and Springs.—At Cradley Heath employment with chain makers was fair on the whole, and fairly good with block chain makers; it was moderate with anchor smiths. The anvil and vice trade was fair at Dudley, but slack in the district generally. Employment continued bad with railway spring fitters at Sheffield.

Sheet Metal Workers.—With braziers and sheet metal workers employment continued bad on the whole, with short time. It was fair with tin-plate makers-up at Oldham, moderate at Birmingham, and dull at Glasgow. Employment in the iron-plate trade continued fairly good in the Lye district, and was fair and better than a month ago at Dudley, Bilston, and Wolverhampton.

Gold, Silver, and Britannia Metal.—In London, employment was fair and better than a year ago, though not so good as a month ago, with goldsmiths and jewellers; it

continued good, and was better than a year ago, with silver workers and electro-plate operatives. At Sheffield it continued good with silver platers and gilders, and moderate with silversmiths; it was moderate with silver and electro-plate finishers, with whom it was bad a month ago. At Birmingham it was quiet in the jewellery trade, and with silversmiths and electro-platers; with Britannia metal workers it was fair. It remained moderate in the Coventry watch trade.

Farmers.—Employment on the whole was quiet. It was reported as good in the Eastern Counties and at Dundee, fair at Nottingham and Dublin, and bad at Glasgow.

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

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—	£	£	£	£	£
Cutlery	13,893	13,196	9,853	+ 697	+ 4,040
Hardware	89,992	76,152	89,894	+ 13,840	+ 98
Exports:—					
Cutlery	57,982	46,837	46,098	+ 11,145	+ 11,884
Hardware	196,248	178,042	172,284	+ 18,206	+ 23,964
Implements and Tools...	178,607	159,152	154,671	+ 19,455	+ 23,936

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 478 Returns—400 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 68 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the spinning branch during March continued bad. Organised short time to the extent of 15½ hours weekly was worked in mills spinning American cotton,* and this short time working will continue up till the end of April; short time was also reported in the Egyptian section. In the weaving branch employment was also bad, and much waiting for warps was reported. In both branches there was an improvement on a month ago, but a considerable decline on a year ago. Returns from firms employing 123,836 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago there was a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Description.	Workpeople.		Earnings.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.			£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Preparing	14,193	+ 0.3	11,200	+ 2.5	- 9.3	- 9.3
Spinning	25,212	+ 0.8	21,230	+ 2.8	- 6.7	- 6.7
Weaving	57,374	+ 0.7	46,927	+ 3.6	- 9.7	- 9.7
Other	10,460	- 0.1	11,592	+ 0.8	- 1.9	- 1.9
Departments not specified	16,597	+ 0.6	15,674	+ 3.4	- 10.2	- 10.2
Total	123,836	+ 0.6	106,623	+ 3.0	- 8.4	- 8.4
Districts.						
Ashton District	7,271	+ 1.5	6,533	+ 4.1	- 5.6	- 5.6
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	5,802	+ 0.1	4,596	+ 2.5	- 2.0	- 2.0
Oldham District	12,632	+ 1.1	12,162	+ 7.3	- 5.6	- 5.6
Bolton and Leigh	13,727	- 0.3	11,609	- 4.3	- 11.8	- 11.8
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	9,883	+ 1.0	8,585	+ 12.5	- 6.6	- 6.6
Manchester	9,120	- 0.2	6,115	+ 2.7	- 18.7	- 18.7
Preston and Chorley	14,053	+ 1.0	10,978	+ 0.9	- 10.1	- 10.1
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	16,218	+ 1.9	13,451	+ 0.4	- 17.4	- 17.4
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	16,711	+ 0.1	17,152	+ 2.8	- 4.6	- 4.6
Other Lancashire Towns..	4,544	- 0.6	3,791	+ 2.2	- 11.0	- 11.0
Yorkshire Towns	6,255	+ 0.4	5,554	+ 1.7	+ 2.0	+ 2.0
Other Districts	7,620	- 0.1	6,097	+ 8.9	+ 5.2	+ 5.2
Total	123,836	+ 0.6	106,623	+ 3.0	- 8.4	- 8.4

As compared with a month ago, there was but little change in the numbers employed in any of the departments; the wages paid, however, showed a general increase, amounting to 3.6 per cent. in the weaving

* It is estimated that about 85,000 workpeople were directly affected, and of these about 40,000 are included in the returns received.

department and to 2.5 and 2.8 per cent. in the preparing and spinning departments respectively. As compared with a year ago, there was a decline of 3.1 per cent. in the numbers employed in the preparing department, and of 2.0 per cent. in the spinning department; the wages paid showed a decrease of 9.7 per cent. in the weaving department, and of 9.3 per cent. and 6.7 per cent. respectively in the preparing and spinning departments.

As compared with a month ago most of the districts showed a slight increase in the number employed; the wages paid showed increases in every district except Bolton, where there was a decline of 4.3 per cent. The greatest increases were 12.5 per cent. in the Bury district and 7.3 per cent. in the Oldham district. As compared with a year ago the number employed in the Bolton District decreased by 7.3 per cent.; in the Stockport and Burnley districts there were slight increases. The wages paid showed a decrease in every district of Lancashire; this decrease was most marked in the Manchester district (18.7 per cent.) and in the Blackburn district (17.4 per cent.).

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of March, 1910, the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 8.09d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 8.22d. and the lowest, 7.93d. per lb. The average price for February, 1910, was 8d. per lb., and for March, 1909, 5.04d. per lb. For the period from April 1st to 11th, 1910, the average price of "middling American" was 7.95d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on April 8th, 1910, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 850,070 bales, as compared with 1,334,070 bales on April 9th, 1909.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during March, 1910, averaged 15.39d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 15.69d., and the lowest 15.125d. per lb. The average price for February, 1910, was 14.20d. per lb., and for March, 1909, 7.59d. per lb. For the period from April 1st to 11th, 1910, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 15.51d. per lb.

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

Description of Cotton.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
American	Bales. 223,708	Bales. 209,884	Bales. 280,059	+ 13,824	- 56,351
Brazilian	4,491	8,693	1,908	- 4,202	+ 2,583
East Indian	17,582	13,577	9,585	+ 3,995	+ 7,997
Egyptian	24,803	25,809	31,344	- 1,006	- 6,541
Miscellaneous	6,270	8,665	4,137	- 2,395	+ 2,133
Total	276,854	266,728	327,033	+ 10,126	- 50,179

Exports.

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

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.
Grey	14,026	13,382	16,631	+ 644	- 2,605
Bleached and Dyed ...	2,329	2,323	2,948	+ 6	- 619
Total	16,355	15,705	19,579	+ 650	- 3,224
Cotton—					
Thread for Sewing ...	2,198	2,475	2,435	- 277	- 237
Cotton Piece Goods—	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.	1,000 yds.
Grey or Unbleached ...	150,136	142,246	197,247	+ 7,890	- 47,111
Bleached	129,935	133,078	140,394	- 3,143	- 10,459
Printed	102,278	98,923	75,975	+ 3,355	+ 26,303
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	93,470	95,278	79,251	- 1,808	+ 14,219
Total	475,819	469,525	492,867	+ 6,294	- 17,048

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 405 Returns—372 received from Employers and Employers' Associations, 24 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good, and better than a month ago. It was much better than a year ago.

Woollen Trade.

Returns from firms employing 29,308 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 6.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 14.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.			£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting	812	+ 1.6	796	+ 4.5	+ 13.6	+ 13.6
Spinning	6,090	+ 0.6	5,677	+ 3.1	+ 16.5	+ 16.5
Weaving	12,269	+ 0.6	11,212	+ 2.1	+ 14.6	+ 14.6
Other Departments	8,168	+ 0.8	8,682	+ 1.3	+ 14.4	+ 14.4
Unspecified	2,029	+ 2.0	1,878	+ 2.0	+ 13.8	+ 13.8
Total	29,308	+ 0.8	28,245	+ 2.0	+ 14.8	+ 14.8
Districts.						
Huddersfield District ...	5,425	+ 0.7	5,938	+ 1.4	+ 14.4	+ 14.4
Leeds District	2,633	+ 0.6	2,386	+ 1.3	+ 23.5	+ 23.5
Dewsbury & Batley District	4,960	+ 1.7	5,144	+ 5.1	+ 19.5	+ 19.5
Other Parts of West Riding.	2,283	+ 0.6	2,312	+ 1.3	+ 8.3	+ 8.3
Total, West Riding ...	15,301	+ 1.0	15,780	+ 2.5	+ 16.4	+ 16.4
Scotland	7,542	+ 0.8	7,159	+ 2.0	+ 15.2	+ 15.2
Other Districts	6,465	+ 0.3	5,306	+ 0.8	+ 10.1	+ 10.1
Total Woollen	29,308	+ 0.8	28,245	+ 2.0	+ 14.8	+ 14.8

In the Huddersfield district employment continued good, both overtime and nightwork being reported; it was better than a month ago, and considerably better than a year ago. In the Leeds district and in the Dewsbury and Batley district employment was good, and much better than a year ago. In Scotland generally employment was good, and better than a year ago.

Worsted Trade.

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

Returns from firms employing 47,600 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 5.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 9.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople.		Earnings.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Departments.			£	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
Wool Sorting & Combing ...	5,471	+ 0.7	5,497	- 1.2	+ 5.6	+ 5.6
Spinning	24,283	- 0.4	13,608	+ 0.6	+ 5.6	+ 5.6
Weaving	10,827	+ 1.8	9,917	+ 2.0	+ 17.4	+ 17.4
Other Departments	5,262	+ 0.5	5,708	+ 1.2	+ 8.0	+ 8.0
Unspecified	1,757	- 1.4	1,347	+ 1.3	+ 5.3	+ 5.3
Total	47,600	+ 0.3	36,077	+ 0.8	+ 9.0	+ 9.0
Districts.						
Bradford District	22,675	+ 0.2	17,069	+ 0.1	+ 9.5	+ 9.5
Keighley District	7,494	+ 1.4	6,030	+ 2.5	+ 12.1	+ 12.1
Halifax District	5,428	- 0.8	3,564	- 0.1	+ 3.5	+ 3.5
Huddersfield District ...	5,701	+ 0.7	5,317	+ 1.8	+ 10.5	+ 10.5
Other Parts of West Riding	3,329	- 0.4	2,106	+ 0.6	+ 3.5	+ 3.5
Total West Riding ...	44,627	+ 0.3	34,086	+ 0.8	+ 9.0	+ 9.0
Other Districts	2,973	+ 0.3	1,991	+ 1.5	+ 8.1	+ 8.1
Total Worsted	47,600	+ 0.3	36,077	+ 0.8	+ 9.0	+ 9.0

In the Bradford, Keighley, and Halifax districts employment continued good and was better than a year ago; in the Bradford district employment with wool combers was interrupted by a dispute; in all three districts a deficiency of labour was reported. In Huddersfield employment was good generally, and showed an improvement compared with a year ago, in all branches of the trade.

Prices of Raw Material.

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

Average Prices:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
			Month ago.	Year ago.
Lincoln Hoggings	10½	10½	9	
40's Crossbred tops	15½	15½	12½	
60's Super Botany tops ...	28½	27½	26	
Course of Prices:				9
Lincoln Hoggings	10½, 10½	10½	12, 12½	
40's Crossbred tops	15½, 15	15½	25, 27	
60's Super Botany tops ...	27½, 28½	27½, 27½		

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports and Exports of Raw Wool (SHEEP OR LAMBS).					
Imports ... 1,000 lbs.	114,799	109,303	91,319	+ 5,496	+ 23,480
Re-Exports	4,098	3,356	4,100	+ 742	- 2
British and Irish Manufactures Exported.					
Wool ... 1,000 lbs.	30,117	57,939	37,981	- 27,822	+ 7,864
Yarn:					
Woollen	311	324	170	- 13	+ 141
Worsted	5,358	5,411	4,666	- 53	+ 692
Alpaca and Mohair ..	1,408	1,971	1,333	- 263	+ 75
Total, Yarn	7,077	7,406	6,169	- 329	+ 908
Piece Goods:					
Woollen ... 1,000 yds.	6,359	7,870	4,904	- 1,511	+ 1,455
Worsted	8,482	9,587	6,410	- 1,105	+ 2,072
Total Piece Goods ...	14,841	17,457	11,314	- 2,616	+ 3,527

LINEN TRADE.

(Based on 111 Returns—103 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 48,412 workpeople in the week ended March 19th, showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 4.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 10.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

In the Belfast district employment was good generally, and much better than a year ago. In Fifehire employment was good, and better than a month ago and a year ago; operatives were reported to be fully employed.

Description.	Workpeople.		Earnings.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.	Inc.				

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 41 Returns—36 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 18,776 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed no change in the number employed, and an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there were increases of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed, and 7.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Dundee, Forfar and Brechin employment was good, at Arbroath it was slack. Of the 18,776 workpeople covered by the returns, 16,213 (or 86 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	
Preparing ...	4,321	- 1.1	+ 1.5	2,934	- 0.1	+ 6.7		
Spinning ...	5,305	+ 0.1	+ 2.7	3,330	...	+ 4.9		
Weaving ...	6,238	+ 0.0	+ 7.7	4,795	+ 0.5	+ 11.4		
Other ...	2,019	+ 2.6	+ 4.6	2,083	+ 0.7	+ 7.4		
Not specified ...	893	- 0.2	+ 0.2	679	+ 0.9	+ 2.4		
Total ...	18,776	+ 0.0	+ 4.1	13,821	+ 0.3	+ 7.7		

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

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... tons	32,928	39,331	28,871	- 6,403	+ 4,057
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 lbs	43,132	51,903	51,828	- 8,771	- 8,696
Jute Piece Goods 100 yds	139,910	140,455	162,444	- 9,545	- 31,534

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 99 Returns—87 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 7 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

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

Returns from firms employing 7,869 workpeople in the week ended March 19th, showed an increase of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Branches.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	
Lavers ...	2,394	+ 3.3	+ 1.8	2,957	+ 2.2	+ 7.7		
Curtain ...	2,980	- 1.1	+ 2.3	2,930	- 1.5	+ 2.0		
Plain Net ...	1,665	- 0.7	- 2.2	1,391	+ 1.8	+ 2.0		
Others ...	830	- 1.2	+ 4.1	601	- 1.0	+ 9.0		
Total ...	7,869	+ 0.3	+ 1.4	7,879	+ 0.5	+ 4.6		
Districts.								
Nottingham City ...	1,641	- 2.5	+ 4.3	1,639	- 2.4	+ 6.6		
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,534	+ 1.1	- 0.5	1,986	+ 2.8	+ 4.2		
Other English districts	2,543	+ 2.7	...	2,252	+ 2.2	+ 6.8		
Scotland ...	2,151	- 1.0	+ 2.2	2,002	- 1.2	+ 1.2		
Total ...	7,869	+ 0.3	+ 1.4	7,879	+ 0.5	+ 4.6		

At Nottingham employment continued bad in the levers branch with much short time; it was good in the curtain and plain net branches, and better than a year ago. In the Long Eaton district there was an improvement on both a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland employment in the curtain branch continued good, and was better than a year ago.

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

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Cotton Lace ...	£ 249,214	£ 233,665	£ 290,688	+ 15,549	- 41,474
Silk Lace ...	11,141	13,904	25,995	- 2,763	- 14,854
Exports:					
Cotton Lace ...	£ 375,078	£ 360,476	£ 387,258	+ 14,602	- 12,180
Silk Lace ...	13,263	7,588	14,773	+ 5,675	- 1,510

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 114 Returns—104 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 7 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good, and better than a month ago; it was much better than a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 19,622 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed and of 1.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 9.0 per cent. in the number employed and of 12.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

District.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	
Leicester ...	9,524	+ 0.9	+ 10.7	7,882	+ 1.1	+ 13.2		
Leicester Country District	2,434	+ 1.3	+ 5.9	2,044	+ 2.6	+ 16.1		
Notts and Derbyshire	4,355	+ 0.2	+ 9.5	3,380	+ 2.4	+ 11.0		
Scotland	2,549	+ 0.3	+ 9.8	1,834	+ 1.4	+ 11.1		
Other Districts	760	- 4.6	- 4.5	472	- 3.5	- 3.1		
Total, United Kingdom	19,622	+ 0.5	+ 9.0	15,612	+ 1.5	+ 12.3		

At Leicester employment continued good, and was considerably better than a year ago; at Loughborough operatives were busy in all branches except on cashmere goods; at Hinckley all were fully employed. With power frame workers in Nottingham and Derbyshire employment was good, and better than a year ago; with hand frame workers in the country districts it was fair, and better than a year ago. In Scotland employment continued good, and was much better than a year ago.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	£ 50,649	£ 45,572	£ 43,892	+ 5,077	+ 6,757
" Cotton ...	157,057	150,606	128,398	+ 6,451	+ 28,659
Exports:					
Hosiery, Woollen ...	£ 144,640	£ 143,166	£ 121,615	+ 1,474	+ 23,025
" Cotton ...	47,064	48,963	37,459	- 1,899	+ 9,605

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 65 Returns—58 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during March was fairly good, and was better than a month ago and much better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,328 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 0.9 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 1.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 7.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 13.0 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Employment at Macclesfield was good with throwsters and spinners, hand-loom weavers working in factories, and power-loom weavers; it continued bad with "outside" hand-loom weavers. At Leek employment was fair with throwsters and spinners, and bad with trimming weavers. At Congleton it was generally

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 524 Returns—467 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 47 from Trade Unions, and 10 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 65,018 workpeople in the week ended March 19th showed an increase of 1.0 per cent. in the number employed, and of 2.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 4.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 8.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was good and better than a month ago and a year ago; several firms reported overtime, and a shortage of women workers. At Northampton employment showed an improvement and was much better than a year ago; at Kettering it was fair and better than a month ago and a year ago; with army bootmakers in Northamptonshire it was good. At Bristol employment showed a further improvement compared with a month ago but was still worse than a year ago. In the heavy boot trade at Kingswood much short time was reported, and a general excess of labour; at Leeds there was some short time but employment was better than a year ago. In Scotland employment showed little change compared with a month ago and was slightly better than a year ago.

moderate; some short time was worked by throwsters and spinners at both Congleton and Leek. Employment was good and better than a month ago in the Bradford district. It was fairly good in the Eastern Counties and at Dublin.

Branches.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	
Throwing ...	1,018	- 2.4	+ 9.0	496	+ 0.8	+ 22.5		
Spinning ...	2,651	+ 0.7	+ 4.0	2,044	+ 1.3	+ 7.2		
Weaving ...	3,174	+ 2.3	+ 12.2	2,188	+ 2.2	+ 20.9		
Other ...	1,485	+ 0.8	+ 5.9	1,047	+ 2.3	+ 5.7		
Total ...	8,328	+ 0.9	+ 7.9	5,775	+ 1.8	+ 13.0		
Districts.								
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	2,768	+ 0.6	+ 6.4	2,213	+ 1.6	+ 10.1		
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	870	+ 2.1	+ 0.7	676	+ 5.5	+ 10.8		
Eastern Counties	2,698	+ 0.6	+ 11.8	1,595	+ 0.5	+ 11.5		
Other Districts, including Scotland and Leek	1,992	+ 1.3	+ 8.6	1,291	+ 1.9	+ 21.7		
Total ...	8,328	+ 0.9	+ 7.9	5,775	+ 1.8	+ 13.0		

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... lbs	71,804	59,411	91,194	+ 12,393	- 19,390
Thrown Silk ... lbs	47,587	36,648	51,141	+ 10,939	- 3,554
Spun Silk Yarn ... lbs	45,094	29,568	30,427	+ 15,526	+ 14,667
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	8,169,621	6,620,744	7,937,778	+ 1,548,877	+ 231,843
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... lbs	2,880	3,924	6,645	- 1,004	- 3,745
Spun Silk Yarn ... lbs	137,006	130,747	78,654	+ 6,259	+ 58,352
Silk Broad-Stuffs yds	435,569	361,294	454,268	+ 74,275	- 18,699

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

(Based on 37 Returns—17 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 9 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

Carpet Trade.

EMPLOYMENT during March was better than in the previous month, and much better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 5,434 workpeople, and paying £4,760 in wages in the week ended March 19th, showed an increase of 1.4 per cent. in the number employed and of 4.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed increased by 8.2 per cent., and the amount of wages paid by 13.5 per cent.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching and Finishing.

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

Cotton Dyers.—Employment on the whole was bad and worse than a year ago: much short time was reported, employment being affected by the high price of cotton and dislocation of trade during the Easter holidays.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers continued good, and was better than a year ago. With calico printers' engravers in Derbyshire it was good. In Scotland it was fairly good with calico printers and good with engravers and block printers.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as fair at Leek, and good at Macclesfield, where a considerable amount of overtime was worked.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—At Leicester employment showed an improvement and was fairly good, at Hinckley and Loughborough it was good. At Nottingham employment with dyers was good, at Basford it was moderate with bleachers and fair with hosiery trimmers; on the whole employment in Nottinghamshire was better than a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment was good, and much better than a year ago. In Dundee it continued fair with bleachfield workers and calender workers.

District.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.		Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a Month ago.	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	
ENGLAND & WALES.								
London ...	2,666	+ 2.1	+ 6.0	3,025	+ 5.1	+ 7.8		
Leicester ...	13,122	+ 1.0	+ 2.4	14,964	+ 3.4	+ 8.8		
Leicester Country District	3,192	+ 1.3	+ 1.2	3,171	+ 3.8	+ 5.3		
Northampton	10,525	+ 1.1	+ 5.2	10,402	+ 2.0	+ 9.6		
Northampton Country District	8,676	+ 1.6	+ 5.8	8,454	+ 2.2	+ 9.7		
Kettering ...	3,911	+ 1.9	+ 7.9	4,038	+ 3.1	+ 10.1		
Stafford & District	2,820	+ 1.0	+ 3.1	2,646	+ 1.8	+ 13.5		
Norwich & District	3,677	+ 1.0	+ 12.6	3,230	+ 2.5	+ 15.5		
Bristol & District	1,780	+ 0.8	- 5.5	1,565	+ 8.2	- 1.6		
Kingswood ...	1,805	+ 0.2	+ 1.5	1,493	- 1.6	+ 2.4		
Leeds & District	2,070	- 1.3	- 2.2	1,813	- 1.6	+ 5.8		
Manchester & District	2,823	- 0.1	+ 2.3	2,693	+ 3.9	+ 8.5		
Birmingham & District	808	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	672	+ 0.1	+ 2.4		
Other parts of England and Wales	2,977	+ 1.5	+ 11.1	2,579	+ 2.9	+ 14.0		
ENGLAND & WALES ...	60,852	+ 1.1	+ 4.3	60,751	+ 2.8	+ 9.0		
SCOTLAND ...	3,839	+ 0.7	+ 0.8	3,632	- 0.3	+ 2.6		
IRELAND ...	327	- 3.3	- 0.3	222	- 8.3	+ 6.3		
UNITED KINGDOM ...	65,018	+ 1.0	+ 4.1	64,605	+ 2.5	+ 8.6		

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

Imports (less Re-exports)	Mar., 1
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Other Trades.—Employment with packing-case makers was on the whole fair, about the same as a month ago, and better than a year ago. With general wheelwrights and smiths it was moderate; it was, however, good at Lincoln. It was fair with basket makers in London, and at Leicester it showed an improvement. With skip and basket makers at Oldham it continued bad.

The **Imports** of brushes and brooms in March, 1910, were valued at £39,272, as compared with £34,368 in February, 1910, and £33,361 in March, 1909; and the **Exports** for the same months at £16,518, £16,400, and £15,760 respectively.

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 2,299 Returns—778 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 1,466 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 55 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in March, though still slack generally, was better than a month ago and a year ago. With painters it was good.

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of March was 8.8 as compared with 11.3 a month ago and 13.5 a year ago; and for plumbers at the same dates the percentages were 10.2, 8.5 and 13.7 respectively. These percentages were always exceeded in the Northern Counties, where many of the Trade Union members are engaged in ship-building. In Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire, on the other hand, the percentages unemployed were always below the average for the kingdom. In Ireland and Wales and Monmouth the percentage unemployed was higher in March than a year ago, but all other districts showed an improvement.

Returns received from Trade Unions of bricklayers, plasterers, slaters and labourers show that employment, though slack, was better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from unions of stonemasons show little general change. Returns from unions of painters show that employment was good, much better than a month ago, and better than a year ago.

For London the Trade Union Returns show that 7.1 per cent. of carpenters and joiners were unemployed at the end of March, as compared with 8.9 a month ago and 11.3 a year ago. The corresponding percentages for plumbers were 12.3, 11.4, and 15.0 respectively.

Returns received from 715 firms employing 42,216 workpeople at the end of March show that there was an increase in the total number employed of 5.9 per cent. compared with a month ago and of 4.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Compared with a month ago every district showed an increase, while compared with a year ago only two districts showed a decrease. In London the increase amounted to 11.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and 7.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District.	Skilled Tradesmen.				Labourers.			
	No. paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		No. paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	7,857	+ 909	+ 564	5,423	+ 475	+ 369		
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,330	+ 200	+ 114	2,050	+ 179	+ 270		
Lancashire and Cheshire	3,471	+ 62	- 293	3,306	...	- 34		
Midland & Eastern Counties	2,451	+ 151	+ 121	1,821	+ 7	- 159		
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	3,102	+ 103	+ 236	1,837	- 21	+ 217		
England and Wales	19,211	+ 1,425	+ 742	14,437	+ 640	+ 663		
Scotland	2,719	+ 170	+ 142	1,537	+ 90	+ 160		
Ireland	474	+ 2	+ 94	570	+ 7	- 28		
United Kingdom	22,404	+ 1,597	+ 978	16,544	+ 737	+ 795		

District.	Lads and Boys.				Total.			
	No. paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		No. paid on last pay-day in Mar., 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	433	- 1	- 14	13,713	+ 1,383	+ 919		
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	516	+ 9	- 6	4,896	+ 388	+ 378		
Lancashire and Cheshire	934	- 8	- 12	7,711	+ 54	- 339		
Midland & Eastern Counties	309	+ 6	- 14	4,581	+ 164	- 52		
S. & S.W. Counties & Wales	399	- 7	- 45	5,338	+ 75	+ 408		
England and Wales	2,591	- 1	- 91	36,239	+ 2,064	+ 1,314		
Scotland	610	+ 15	- 55	4,866	+ 275	+ 247		
Ireland	67	-	+ 1	1,111	+ 9	+ 67		
United Kingdom	3,268	+ 14	- 145	42,216	+ 2,348	+ 1,628		

Employment remained slack in most of the large centres, except with painters, who were well employed. It was fair with bricklayers at Hull, Rotherham and Middlesbrough, with carpenters at Bradford, and with plasterers at Hull. At Oldham employment was reported as worse than a year ago. It was fair with bricklayers and plumbers at Blackburn and Widnes, with bricklayers at Northwich and Altrincham, with carpenters at Blackpool and Southport, and with carpenters and plumbers at Stockport. With painters at Bolton in was slack.

Employment was fair with bricklayers, masons and carpenters at Nottingham, with bricklayers at Walsall, Hereford, Leamington, Nuneaton, Luton and Cromer, and with carpenters at Ipswich, Colchester, Northampton, Oxford, the Potteries, Stafford, Rugby, Shrewsbury and Hereford. With masons at Oxford it was good. It declined with carpenters at Leicester and bricklayers at Rugby.

Employment was fair with bricklayers at Chatham, Maidstone, Plymouth, Exeter, Taunton and Cheltenham, with masons at Bristol, Swansea and Cardiff, with painters at Maidstone, Gravesend, Cheltenham and Llanelli, and with plasterers at Newport.

Employment was fair with carpenters at Ayr, Kilmarnock, Troon and Dumfries, and with plumbers at Paisley and Aberdeen. It declined with plasterers at Glasgow and with masons at Aberdeen.

Employment was fair with masons at Belfast, Dublin, and Cork, and with plasterers at Dublin.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 90 Returns—57 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 20 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate on the whole, and better than a month ago; it was about the same as a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,101 workpeople in the week ended March 19th, showed an increase of 2.6 per cent. on the number employed, and of 8.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. As compared with a year ago, the number employed showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent., and the amount of wages paid an increase of 1.4 per cent.

Branches.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Glass Bottle	5,320	+ 3.4	- 2.3	6,750	+ 9.9	- 1.3		
Plate Glass	690	...	- 2.3	873	+ 3.2	+ 1.6		
Flint Glass Ware (not bottles)	1,746	+ 0.1	+ 4.5	1,950	+ 3.2	+ 10.7		
Other Branches	345	+ 9.5	+ 3.3	410	+ 13.9	+ 6.2		
Total	8,101	+ 2.6	- 0.6	9,983	+ 8.1	+ 1.4		

Districts.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a		Week ended Mar. 19th, 1910.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North of England	1,062	+ 1.2	- 6.8	1,166	+ 2.6	- 7.5		
Yorkshire	3,908	+ 4.2	- 4.8	5,046	+ 12.0	- 3.3		
Lancashire	888	+ 3.4	+ 25.1	1,010	+ 9.3	+ 34.3		
Worcestershire and Warwickshire	1,136	+ 0.4	+ 1.2	1,438	+ 4.1	+ 4.3		
Scotland	771	+ 1.0	+ 2.8	991	+ 3.7	+ 8.9		
Other parts of the United Kingdom	336	- 0.6	+ 2.1	332	- 0.3	+ 2.8		
Total	8,101	+ 2.6	- 0.6	9,983	+ 8.1	+ 1.4		

Employment with glass bottle makers in Yorkshire continued bad generally, with a good deal of short time, but at Wakefield it was fair. It was moderate with glass bottle makers in the North of England, and better than a month ago; at Seaham Harbour it was still dull, but improving. In Lancashire the improvement shown in the previous month was maintained: employment was fair at Bristol, moderate at Portobello, and dull at Glasgow and Dublin. Employment with flint glass makers was good at Birmingham, Wordsley and Stourbridge. With flint glass cutters it was fair generally, and rather better than a month ago. It continued moderate with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. With pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear it continued bad, much short time being worked. Employment continued good, and was better than a month ago, with

plate glass bevellers and silverers at Birmingham. It was fairly good, and better than a month ago and a year ago, with glass blowers in London.

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

Description.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) on a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Window and German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	cwts. 114,219	cwts. 86,834	cwts. 95,151	cwts. + 27,385	cwts. + 19,068
Plate	21,166	20,566	29,413	+ 600	- 8,247
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	64,291	51,491	61,148	+ 12,890	+ 3,143
Manufactures, other sorts	235	73	160	+ 162	+ 75
Bottles	138,295	101,866	138,311	+ 36,429	- 16
Exports:					
Plate	cwts. 16,889	cwts. 17,348	cwts. 14,606	- 459	+ 2,283
Flint	5,926	6,083	6,379	- 157	- 453
Manufactures, other sorts	37,039	37,400	32,477	- 361	+ 4,562
Bottles	63,580	58,386	57,254	+ 5,194	+ 6,326

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 27 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was still slack on the whole in the Pottery and Brick and Tile trades but there was an improvement as compared with a month ago. A good deal of short time was worked.

Pottery Trade.—In Staffordshire employment, though still slack, was better than a month ago and a year ago; most of the firms were working five days a week. Employment was fair in Devonshire and on the whole better than a month ago. At Bristol it was fair with earthenware and stone potters; at Bridgwater it was good. In the china trade at Worcester and Coalport it was slack, and worse than a month ago. In the earthenware trade in the South Yorkshire and River Aire district it was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. It was moderate in Scotland and better than a month ago and a year ago, but there was still a good deal of short time. Employment with tobacco pipe makers at Glasgow continued dull and much short time was worked.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was rather better than a month ago in the Peterborough district; it was good at Market Harborough. It continued bad at Nottingham, and some short time was reported. Employment continued fair in Shropshire and at Oldham and Stourbridge, and moderate in the Hartlepool district. It was bad in South Staffordshire. It was moderate on the whole in Devonshire, and also at Bristol, while at Bridgwater it was good. It was, on the whole, better than a month ago in the Eastern Counties, and continued good in Bedfordshire. It was quiet in North Wales, with some short time, but in some special departments it was good.

The **Imports** of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in March, 1910, were valued at £79,426 as compared with £54,134 in February, 1910, and £73,366 in March, 1909; and the **Exports** for the same months at £217,117, £190,362, and £187,848 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 207 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

AGRICULTURAL labourers were regularly employed on the whole during March. Owing to the backward state of farm work there was a somewhat greater demand for day labourers than in the previous month, but the supply was in general quite sufficient.

Northern Counties.—Regularity of employment was general, except with a few day labourers in Yorkshire, who lost time through wet weather. The supply of such men was quite sufficient, and in some districts there was a surplus. At the March hirings in Northumberland men were said to be more plentiful, and wages showed a downward tendency.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents report that employment was regular, except in the case of some day labourers who lost time through rain. There was a good demand for such men in several counties; the supply was usually adequate, but some shortage was reported from the Cannock (Staffs.), Hardingstone (Northants.), and Buntingford (Herts.), Unions.

Eastern Counties.—In Norfolk and Suffolk a few day labourers lost time at the beginning of March through wet weather, and some men in Essex were prevented from obtaining employment in the latter part of the month through the land being unfit to work upon. The supply of such men was in general sufficient, but a shortage was reported from some districts of Lincolnshire.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Except in Kent and Sussex, where there was some hindrance on account of wet weather, employment was regular in this group of counties. The supply of day labourers was generally sufficient, though some scarcity was reported in the Droxford (Hants.) Union. A correspondent in the Wantage (Berks.) Union mentions a scarcity of men for tending cattle and milking, and a scarcity of men for permanent situations was also reported in Gloucestershire.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 17 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 8 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics of England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 6 from Local Correspondents.)

The fish landed in March, 1910, showed an increase in both quantity and value as compared with March, 1909.

Employment at the principal ports was fair. At Grimsby employment was good, and better than both a month ago and a year ago. At Yarmouth it was fair with fishermen and fish dock labourers, and bad with fish curers. It was about the same as a year ago. At Lowestoft employment was bad with all classes. Employment at Hull was moderate with fishermen, fair with fish dock labourers, and good with fish curers. At Aberdeen it was good generally, and better than a month ago. At Fraserburgh it was on the whole bad, and worse than both a month ago and a year ago. Employment at Peterhead was fair with fishermen, good with fish dock labourers, and moderate with fish curers. At Macduff employment was moderate. Off the South-Western Coast of England fishing operations were fairly successful, especially towards the end of the month.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of the fish landed in March, 1910 and 1909:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Mar., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Mar., 1910.	Mar., 1909.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 854,652	Cwts. 805,429	£ 612,936	£ 539,327
Scotland	401,595	293,285	170,077	126,901
Ireland	29,113	21,997	14,456	12,481
Total	1,285,360	1,120,711	797,469	678,709
Shell Fish	285	—	25,302	23,682
Total Value	—	—	822,771	702,391

The **Exports** of herrings, cured and salted, in March, 1910, were valued at £58,467, as compared with £70,528 in February, 1910, and £54,014 in March, 1909.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 137 Returns—116 from Employers, 6 from Trade Unions, and 15 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London was fair generally, slightly better than a month ago, and better than a year ago. At Liverpool and the other principal ports employment on the whole was moderate, and showed little change compared with the previous month.

London.*—Employment in London was fair generally, and rather better than in February, principally on account of the wool sales and deliveries. There was also an improvement as compared with a year ago. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the four weeks ended March 26th

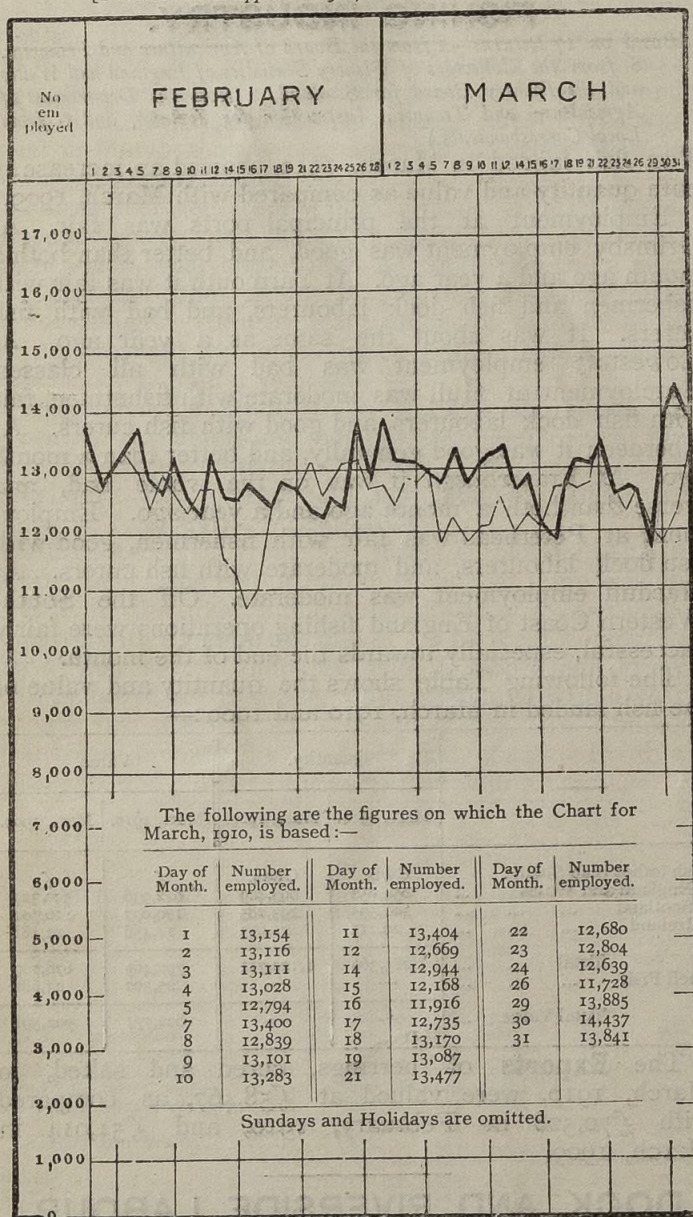
* Exclusive of Tilbury.

was 12,916, an increase of 0.4 per cent., as compared with a month ago, and of 2.9 per cent., as compared with March, 1909. The daily numbers employed during March, 1910, ranged from 11,728 on the 26th, to 14,437 on the 30th. During March, 1909, the numbers ranged from 11,858 on the 6th, to 13,450 on the 22nd.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 110 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	In Docks*		Total.		
	By the Port of London Authority or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.			
Week ended Mar. 5th	4,234	2,788	7,022	6,152	13,174
" " 12th	4,858	2,346	7,204	5,912	13,116
" " 19th	4,433	2,245	6,678	5,992	12,670
" " 26th	4,329	2,601	6,921	5,745	12,666
Average for 4 weeks ended Mar. 26th, 1910	4,467	2,490	6,957	5,959	12,916
Average for Feb., 1910	4,149	2,487	6,636	6,223	12,859
" " Mar., 1909	4,161	2,477	6,638	5,909	12,547

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed at all the Docks, and at 110 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of February and March, 1910. The corresponding curve for February and March, 1909, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1910, and the thin curve to 1909.]



The mean daily number employed at *Tilbury Dock* was 1,154 in March, 1910, as compared with 1,357 a month ago, and 1,023 in March, 1909.

At *Liverpool* employment with dock labourers was dull; with quay and railway carters it was fair.

Other Ports.—Employment with dock and quayside labourers on the Tyne and Wear was moderate and worse than a month ago; with coal trimmers and teamers it was fair but was still affected by colliery disputes. Employment was moderate generally at Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, and better than a month ago and a year ago. It was moderate at Hull, dull at Grimsby, and fair at

* Exclusive of Tilbury.

Goole. Employment was good at Parkeston, and moderate at Yarmouth and Lowestoft. It was moderate on the whole at Plymouth, bad and worse than a month ago at Bristol, and fair at Newport and Swansea. It continued bad at Manchester. Employment was still moderate at Glasgow, but fair and better than a month ago at Leith. At Dundee employment showed a decline on a month ago, when it was reported as good. An improvement on a month ago was reported at Dublin; at Belfast employment was dull.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN MARCH.

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

RETURNS received from certain selected parts (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade was entered and cleared) show that during March 38,959* seamen, of whom 3,482 (or 8.9 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. As compared with March, 1909, there was a net increase of 367. The most marked increases were at Liverpool and Glasgow, and the greatest decreases at Cardiff and Southampton.

During the three months ended March, 1910, the total number of seamen shipped was 105,761, a decrease of 2,548 as compared with the corresponding period of 1909. There were large decreases at Cardiff and Southampton; the most marked increases were at London and Glasgow. Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	March,			Three months ended March,		
	1909.	1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1910.	1909.	1910.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1910.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	2,206	1,776	- 430	6,195	4,884	- 1,311
Sunderland ...	492	292	- 200	1,376	974	- 402
Middlesbrough ...	312	314	+ 2	832	1,202	+ 370
Hull ...	919	1,156	+ 237	3,151	3,498	+ 347
Grimsby ...	16	25	+ 9	73	102	+ 29
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	438	602	+ 164	1,367	1,717	+ 350
Newport, Mon. ...	850	877	+ 27	2,966	2,540	- 426
Cardiff ...	4,798	3,669	- 1,129	13,490	11,984	- 1,506
Swansea ...	341	315	- 26	1,030	1,098	+ 62
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	13,719	15,198	+ 1,479	38,193	37,981	- 212
London ...	6,417	6,550	+ 133	17,571	18,946	+ 1,375
Southampton ...	4,636	3,705	- 931	12,305	9,588	- 2,717
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	363	401	+ 38	1,205	1,144	- 61
Kirkcaldy, Methil, and Grangemouth ...	215	217	+ 2	457	622	+ 165
Glasgow ...	2,695	3,745	+ 1,050	7,427	8,860	+ 1,433
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	70	66	- 4	220	236	+ 16
Belfast ...	125	51	- 74	439	385	- 54
Total ...	38,592	38,959	+ 367	108,309	105,761	- 2,548

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

DISEASE OF THE HEART: DEATH BY STRAIN: WHAT IS AN ACCIDENT?

Compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906, is only payable where personal injury is caused by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment.

A workman in the employment of a ship-building company was tightening a nut with a spanner in the ordinary course of his employment when he suddenly fell down dead. It was discovered at the post-mortem examination that he was suffering from a large aneurism of the aorta, and that a rupture of the aneurism was the cause of death. The widow took proceedings to obtain compensation, but the company contended that the man had died from disease and not from accident, and that the claimant was therefore not entitled to an award. The County Court judge decided on the evidence that the death was caused by rupture, and that the rupture was caused by a strain arising out of the ordinary work of the man operating upon a condition of body which was such as to render the strain fatal. He held that in these circumstances there had been an accident within the meaning of the Act, and made an

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

award in favour of the claimant. The employers appealed, but the Court of Appeal upheld the decision. The employers appealed further.

The House of Lords held that in order that employers should be liable to compensation the injury must be caused by an "accident," and the accident must arise out of the employment. An accident is "an unlooked for mishap or an untoward event which is not expected or designed." There must be some relation of cause and effect between employment and accident. If the employment is one of the contributing causes, without which the accident would not have happened, and if the accident is one of the contributing causes without which the injury would not have followed, compensation is payable. If death was caused by the disease alone so that the man would have died when he did in any event whether he had been following his employment or not, compensation would not be payable. But if he died from the disease and the employment taken together compensation would be payable. Here the strain contributed to the death, and the death was due to accident within the meaning of the Act, therefore compensation was payable. The appeal was therefore dismissed.—*Glover, Clayton & Co. v. Hughes, House of Lords, March 14th, 1910.*

ACCIDENT OR DISEASE? EVIDENCE: ADMISSIBILITY OF STATEMENT OF DECEASED.

A porter employed by a railway company was carrying a side of beef from a train to a market stall when the beef slipped and, according to the man's story, caused him to strain his lung. He went into hospital, and died a few days afterwards. The post-mortem examination showed that his lungs were diseased and that his heart was also diseased, and that there was a vertical tear in the substance of the lung. Death was due to heart failure, accelerated by inflammation of the lung and pleurisy while suffering from laceration of the lung. The widow of the man claimed compensation, but the railway company resisted the claim on the ground that there had been no accident. At the hearing the judge admitted as evidence statements made by the deceased man to the widow as to how he had hurt his lung. Apart from such statements there was no evidence whatever of any accident or of the cause of the injuries to the lung. The County Court judge made an award in the favour of the widow. The company appealed.

The Court of Appeal held that as the burden of proof was on the widow to show that there had been an accident, and that as the judge was wrong in admitting evidence as to the account given by the deceased man of the cause of his injury, and as there was no other evidence of accident, the widow was not entitled to compensation. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Gilbey v. Great Western Railway Co. (Reported), March 5th, 1910.*

HUSBAND AND SONS KILLED IN SAME ACCIDENT: DEPENDENCY OF WIFE ON MORE THAN ONE.

Where compensation is payable in respect of the death of a workman, and the workman leaves any dependants wholly dependent upon his earnings the maximum compensation is a sum equal to the earnings of the workman during the three years next preceding the accident provided that it cannot be more than £300 or less than £150.

A man and his two sons, all of whom were miners in the same colliery, were killed in the same accident. The three men each earned over £2 a week on an average. The man had six other children, and the three wage earning members of the family regularly paid the whole of their wages to the mother, who maintained the household out of this common fund. The widow claimed compensation for herself and the surviving children in respect of the death of the three deceased. The employers admitted full liability in respect of the death of the husband, but denied that the widow and children were in law dependent upon the earnings of the two sons as well as of the husband. Proceedings for an award of compensation were taken in the County Court, and the Judge adopted the contention of the employers, awarding compensation only in respect of the death of the husband. This decision was upheld on appeal by the Court of Appeal. The widow then appealed to the House of Lords.

On behalf of the employers it was argued that the dependants were in no circumstances entitled to more than the maximum sum provided in respect of one workman's death; and also that as the widow was, in the eye of the law, wholly dependent upon her husband, she could not also be partly dependent upon her sons. The House of Lords held that if a workman is killed in an accident his dependants may claim compensation from the employers. If two workmen are killed they may claim twice, and so on according to the number of workmen killed. The employers are only liable up to £300 in respect of each of the deaths, but may have to pay that sum in respect of each. In this case the widow and the surviving children were in fact dependent upon the three deceased, and therefore compensation was payable in respect of the death of each of the three. Hence the courts below were wrong. The appeal was therefore allowed.—*Hodgson v. West Stanley Colliery Co., House of Lords, March 3rd, 1910.*

(2) Friendly Societies Act.

CONVERSION OF FRIENDLY SOCIETY INTO COMPANY: EXTENSION OF BUSINESS: NEW COMPANY REGISTERED: CONCLUSIVE NATURE OF CERTIFICATE.

By the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, a registered society may by special resolution determine to convert itself into a company. If a copy of such resolution has been registered at the Central Office a copy of that resolution under the seal of the Central Office has the same effect as a memorandum of association duly signed and attested under the Companies Acts. A friendly society which contracts with any person for the insurance of an annuity exceeding

£50 per annum or of a gross sum of £200 cannot be registered under the Friendly Societies Act.

A friendly society was established in 1861, duly registered under the Friendly Societies Acts, and its rules certified by the Registrar. In 1908 a special resolution of the society was passed to convert the society into a company limited by guarantee, the objects stated in the memorandum of association being to take over the business and assets of the society, to carry on the business of life insurance in all its branches, together with accident, employers' liability, fire, marine and various other kinds of insurance business. The society's registry as a friendly society was duly cancelled and the new company was duly registered in pursuance of the Companies Acts. The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies issued a sealed copy of the resolution for conversion, and a certificate of incorporation was given by the Registrar of Companies.

A member of the society, who held two policies from the society and had regularly paid the weekly premiums, brought an action for an injunction to restrain the company from undertaking assurance risks other than those allowed by the Friendly Societies Acts and the Assurance Companies Act, 1909. The judge held that the certificate of incorporation given by the Registrar of Companies was conclusive under the Companies Consolidation Act, 1908, that the company was authorized to be registered, and was duly registered; and that the plaintiff, as a member of such company, was not entitled to object to the company carrying on such business as it was formed to carry on. The injunction was therefore refused.—*McGlade v. Royal London Mutual Insurance Society, Limited. Chancery Division, March 11th, 1910.*

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE COAL AND IRON TRADES.

THE results of the latest ascertainment of the selling prices of coal and iron in various districts are given in the Table below:—

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) of last Audit on	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Coal.				
Northumberland:— (Average of all classes of coal at pit's mouth).	Dec., 1909-Feb., 1910	s. d. 7 7'57	s. d. + 0 4'56	s. d. + 0 4'76
Pig Iron.				
Cleveland ...	1910. Jan.-Mar.	50 6'13	+ 1 0'68	+ 1 7'26
Cumberland ...	Jan.-Mar.	65 1'180	+ 4 0'650	+ 8 10'01
Manufactured Iron.				
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles).	Jan.-Feb.	127 4'13	- 0 7'91	- 4 3'19
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, strips, &c.).		123 10'31	- 0 10'08	- 1 6'57
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods).	118 1'68	+ 0 8'18	- 1 5'11	

Coal Mining.—In connection with the ascertained selling price of Northumberland coal, it was decided at a meeting of the Northumberland Conciliation Board on April 2nd, that the wages of underground workers and "banksmen" should be advanced by 1½ per cent., and those of other surface workers by 1 per cent., making their wages 31½ per cent. and 25 per cent. respectively, above the standard of 1879.

Pig Iron.—As a result of the ascertainment of the selling price of pig iron, the wages of blastfurnacemen were advanced by 1½ per cent. in the Cleveland District and by 6½ per cent. in West Cumberland.

Manufactured Iron.—In the North of England the wages of puddlers were reduced by 3d. per ton and those of millmen by 2½ per cent.; in the West of Scotland they were advanced by similar amounts; whilst in the Midlands they remained unchanged, as the result of the ascertainment of the selling prices of the specified classes of manufactured iron in those districts.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

RETURNS showing the predominant prices of 4 lb. of bread on April 1st, 1910, have been received from 140 of the principal Master Bakers' Associations in the United Kingdom and 30 from other sources. The returns are summarised in the following Table, in which the highest predominant rates and the lowest predominant rates are shown, together with the mean of all the predominant rates in each district:—

District.	1st April, 1910.			1st Mar., 1910.			1st April, 1909.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	6	5½	5.7	6	5½	5.7	6	5½	5.9
E. & N.E. ...	6	5½	5.7	6	5	5.6	6	5½	5.9
S.E. ...	5½	5	5.5	5½	5	5.5	6	5	5.6
S.W. ...	6	5	5.7	6	5	5.6	6	5½	5.9
W. & W.C. ...	6	5	5.9	6	5½	5.9	6½	5½	6.0
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6.1	7	5½	6.2	7	5½	6.0
Midlands ...	6	5	5.7	6	5	5.7	6	5	5.7
Eastern Counties ...	6	5	5.7	6	5	5.7	6	5½	5.7
Southern Counties ...	6½	5	6.0	6½	5	6.0	7	5½	6.2
S. Western Counties and Wales	6½	5½	5.9	6½	5½	5.9	6	5	5.8
Scotland ...	7	5½	6.4	7	5½	6.4	6½	5½	6.1
Great Britain ...	7	5	5.9	7	5	5.9	7	5	5.9

The mean of the predominant prices shows no change as compared with either a month ago or a year ago.

In the next Table the predominant price is shown for 27 of the principal towns.

Place.	Predominant Price per 4 lb. on April 1st, 1910.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Last Change.	
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	Date.	Am't per 4 lb.
London ...	d. 5½ & 6	d.	d.	Oct. '09	- ½
Birmingham ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Dec. '09	+ ½
Bolton ...	6	...	...	Sept. '09	- ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Feb. '10	- ½
Cardiff ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Oct. '09	- ½
Derby ...	5½	...	...	Oct. '09	- ½
Hull ...	6	...	...	Sept. '09	- ½
Ipswich ...	6	...	...	Sept. '09	- ½
Leeds ...	7	...	+ 1	Apl. '09	+ 1
Leicester ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '09	- ½
Liverpool ...	6	...	+ ½	Apl. '09	+ ½
Manchester ...	5½	...	...	Feb. '10	- ½
Middlesbrough ...	5½ & 6	...	...	Nov. '09	- ½
Norwich ...	5	...	- ½	Nov. '09	- ½
Nottingham ...	6	...	...	Mar. '09	+ ½
Oldham ...	5½	...	...	Oct. '09	- ½
Plymouth ...	6½	...	+ ½	Apl. '09	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6	...	...	Feb. '10	- ½
Potteries ...	5½	...	...	Feb. '10	+ ½
Southampton ...	5 & 6	...	- ½	Oct & Nov '09	- ½
Wolverhampton ...	5½	...	...	Sept. '09	- ½
Aberdeen ...	6	...	+ ½	Jan. '10	- ½
Dundee ...	5½	...	- ½	Oct. '09	- ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	...	Oct. '09	- ½
Glasgow ...	6½	...	+ ½	Apl. '09	+ ½
Belfast ...	6½	...	+ ½	Apl. '09	+ ½
Dublin ...	6½	...	+ ½	June '09	+ ½

As compared with a month ago no change occurred in any of the towns shown in the Table. As compared with a year ago the price is higher by ½d. per 4 lb. in six of the towns, and by 1d. in one (Leeds). In Norwich the price is ½d. per 4 lb. lower than on April 1st, 1909. In London and Southampton the predominant prices are now 5½d. and 6d. per 4 lb., and 5d. and 6d. per 4 lb. respectively; a year ago they were 6d., and 5½d. and 6d. respectively. The predominant price in Dundee is now 5½d.: on the 1st April, 1909, it was 5½d. and 6½d. per 4 lb.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat during September, 1909-March, 1910, amounted to 56,177,580 cwts., or 5,454,395 cwts. more than in the corresponding months of 1908-9. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September, 1909-March, 1910, amounted to 7,469,589 cwts., or 62,346 cwts. more than in September, 1908-March, 1909.

Month.	British Wheat		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households ex Mill for cash.)
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt. s. d.	(Average Declared Value.)	Per cwt. s. d.	
1909.					
March ...	8 3	8 10½	10 9½	12 2½	
1910.					
February ...	7 8	9 1½	11 6½	11 11	
March ...	7 7	9 0½	11 6	11 8½	

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during March, 1910, was 45, consisting of 38 cases of lead poisoning, 1 of arsenic poisoning, and 6 of anthrax. Five deaths were reported in March, 3 due to lead poisoning and 2 to anthrax. In addition, 14 cases of lead poisoning (2 of which were fatal) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During January-March, 1910, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 122, as compared with 143 in the corresponding period of 1909. The number of deaths was 14 in 1910 and 11 in 1909. In addition there were 42 cases of lead poisoning (including 8 deaths) among house painters and plumbers during the first three months of 1910, as compared with 56 cases (including 11 deaths) in the corresponding period of 1909.

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

Industry.	CASES.				DEATHS.				
	Month of Mar., 1910.	Three Months ended Mar., 1910.		Month of Mar., 1910.	Three Months ended Mar., 1910.		Month of Mar., 1910.	Three Months ended Mar., 1910.	
		1910.	1909.		1910.	1909.			
Lead Poisoning.									
Smelting of Metals ...	2	8	17	1	2	1			
Brass Works ...	1	1	2	—	—	—			
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	—	1	2	—	—	—			
Plumbing and Soldering ...	1	2	10	—	—	—			
Printing ...	2	7	8	1	2	—			
File Cutting ...	—	1	1	—	—	—			
Tinning ...	1	4	4	—	—	—			
White Lead Works ...	2	6	6	—	—	—			
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	1	2	3	—	—	—			
China and Earthenware* ...	4	12	12	1	1	—			
Litho-Transfer Works ...	—	—	3	—	—	—			
Glass Cutting and Polishing ...	—	—	3	—	—	—			
Vitreous Enamelling ...	1	3	1	—	—	—			
Electrical Accumulator Works ...	4	10	4	—	—	—			
Paint and Colour Works ...	3	5	6	—	1	1			
Coachmaking ...	7	18	16	—	1	2			
Shipbuilding ...	1	2	4	—	—	—			
Paint used in other industries ...	4	12	9	—	1	—			
Other Industries ...	5	11	19	—	—	1			
Total in Factories and Workshops	38	105	126	3	11	8			
House Painting and Plumbing ...	14	42	56	2	8	11			
Other Forms of Poisoning.									
Mercurial Poisoning—									
Barometer and Thermometer Making	—	—	1	—	—	—			
Furriers' Processes ...	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Other Industries ...	—	2	1	—	—	—			
Total ...	—	2	2	—	—	—			
Phosphorus Poisoning—									
Lucifer Match Works ...	—	—	2	—	—	—			
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Total ...	—	—	2	—	—	—			
Arsenic Poisoning—									
Paints, Colours, and Extraction of Arsenic	1	3	1	—	—	—			
Other Industries ...	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Total ...	1	3	1	—	—	—			
Total, "Other Forms of Poisoning"	1	5	5	—	—	—			
Anthrax.									
Wool ...	5	7	7	1	1	—			
Handling of Horsehair ...	—	—	1	—	—	—			
Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.)	1	4	2	1	1	1			
Other Industries ...	—	—	2	—	—	—			
Total Anthrax	6	12	12	2	3	3			

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

* The 5 persons affected in the China and Earthenware Industry were males.
† Including 2 dock labourers.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MARCH.

(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 March, 1910, was 212, a decrease of 19 as compared with February, and an increase of 7 as compared with a year ago. The mean number for March in the years 1905-1909 was 256, the maximum year being 1908, with 293 deaths, and the minimum year 1909, with 205 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in March, 1910, was 97, as compared with 107 in February, and 100 a year ago. The total number of fatal accidents reported under the Factory and Workshops Act during March, 1910, was 79, as compared with 75 in the previous month, and 72 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 34, 48, and 32 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during March, 1910, was 65, a decrease of 6 on the previous month and of 50 on the figure for March, 1909.

During the three months ended March, 1910, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 701, as compared with 825 in 1909. The total number of seamen killed in the same period was 224 in 1910 and 293 in 1909.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in Mar., 1910, on a	
	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Total, Railway Service	34	48	32	- 14	+ 2
Mines—					
Underground ...	74	85	81	- 11	- 7
Surface ...	16	15	11	+ 1	+ 5
Total, Mines	90	100	92	- 10	- 2
Quarries over 20 feet deep	7	7	8	—	- 1
Factories and Workshops—					
Textile—					
Cotton ...	1	3	3	- 2	- 2
Wool and Worsted ...	—	2	—	+ 1	+ 2
Other Textiles ...	2	1	—	—	—
Non-Textile—					
Extraction of Metals ...	5	3	3	+ 2	+ 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	6	8	8	- 2	- 2
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	3	2	—	+ 1
Ship and Boat Building ...	7	11	8	- 4	- 1
Wood ...	5	1	4	+ 4	+ 1
Chemicals ...	5	7	1	- 2	+ 4
Laundries ...	—	—	1	—	- 1
Other Non-Textile Industries	25	21	27	+ 4	- 2
Total, Factories & Workshops	59	60	57	- 1	+ 2
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5—					
Docks, Wharves and Quays	13	6	6	+ 7	+ 7
Warehouses ...	—	2	2	- 2	- 2
Buildings to which Act applies	7	7	7	—	—
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 104-5	20	15	15	+ 5	+ 5
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	2	1	1	+ 1	+ 1
Total, exclusive of Seamen	212	231	205	- 19	+ 7
Seamen—					
On Trading Vessels—					
Sailing ...	13	26	29	- 13	- 16
Steam ...	39	39	79	—	- 40
On Fishing Vessels—					
Sailing ...	5	2	2	+ 3	+ 3
Steam ...	8	4	5	+ 4	+ 3
Total, Seamen	65	71	115	- 6	- 50
Total, including Seamen	277	302	320	- 25	- 43

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for the three months ended March, 1910.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE.

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

	Three months ended March,			Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in three months ended March, 1910, as compared with	
	1908.	1909.	1910.	1909.	1908.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	60,688,918	57,594,456	62,277,909	+ 4,683,453	+ 1,588,991
II.—Raw Materials & Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	62,705,538	62,378,879	63,638,880	+ 1,260,001	+ 933,342
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	36,893,978	35,360,490	38,604,185	+ 3,243,695	+ 1,710,207
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcels Post)	593,065	622,477	661,420	+ 39,003	+ 68,355
Total value of Imports	160,881,499	155,956,242	165,182,394	+ 9,226,152	+ 4,300,895

TRADE DISPUTES IN MARCH.*

Number and Magnitude.—Thirty-two disputes began in March, 1910, as compared with 20 in February, 1910, and 17 in March, 1909. By the 32 disputes 13,904 workpeople were directly, and 4,372 indirectly involved; and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople involved in old disputes which began before March, and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 42,366 workpeople involved in trade disputes in March, 1910, as compared with 35,518 in February, 1910, and 7,678 in March, 1909.

New Disputes in March, 1910.—In the following Table the new disputes in March are summarised by trades affected:—

Groups of Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople involved.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Mining	12	3,804	974	4,778
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	9	1,043	2,074	3,117
Textile	8	8,157	1,324	9,481
Other	3	900	—	900
Total, March, 1910	32	13,904	4,372	18,276
Total, February, 1910	20	5,603	1,411	6,914
Total, March, 1909	17	2,914	591	3,505

Causes.—Of the 32 new disputes, 6 arose on demands for increased wages, 4 on objections to reductions in wages, 14 on other wage questions, 1 on a question of hours of labour, 4 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, and 3 from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 21 new disputes, directly involving 11,473 persons, and 4 old disputes, directly involving 404 persons. Of these 25 new and old disputes, 5, directly involving 568 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople: 8, directly involving 1,573 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 12, directly involving 9,736 persons, were compromised. In the case of 2 other disputes terminated during the month, work was resumed pending further negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in March of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 95,400 working days. In addition 531,600 working days were lost during March owing to disputes which began before that month, and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus, the total duration in March of all disputes, new and old, was 627,000 working days, as compared with 538,800 in the previous month, and 101,600 in the corresponding month of 1909.

Summary for the First Three Months of 1909 and 1910.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople involved, and the aggregate duration in working days, for the three months, January, February and March, 1909 and 1910, respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	Jan.-Mar., 1909.			Jan.-Mar., 1910.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople involved.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	3	57	600	1	19	200
Mining and Quarrying	25	15,032	248,000	35	121,179	2,222,500
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	14	3,124	92,200	16	4,417	40,500
Textile	14	1,621	80,300	13	10,857	88,100
Clothing	5	418	2,900	9	857	8,300
Transport	4	371	1,300	3	324	600
Other Trades	11	614	20,900	4	399	14,700
Total	76	21,237	386,200	81	138,052	2,372,900

The large increase in the workpeople involved in, and the aggregate duration of, disputes in 1910 is mainly due to the stoppages at coal mines in Northumberland and Durham.

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

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople involved.		Date when Dispute began in 1910.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result.‡
		Directly.	Indirectly.				
Coal Mining— Coal Miners	Llanelly ...	349	...	1909. 1 Sept.	151	Dispute as to price list for a new seam	Price list agreed upon.
Coal Miners, Surface Mechanics and Labourers	Wrexham ...	1,022	102	24 Mar.	4	Dispute as to payment for hard and difficult places	Work resumed pending further negotiations.
Iron and Steel Manufacture— Sheet Steel Workers	Flint	200	120	2 Mar.	...	Refusal to accept proposed new wages schedule	No settlement reported.
Sheet Mill Workers and Other Workpeople	Stalybridge ...	286	397	9 Mar.	...	For an eight hours day and bonus system	No settlement reported.
Millmen, Galvanizers, Engine-men, &c.	Pontardulais (near)	143	155	26 Mar.	...	For a scale for testing weights of iron	No settlement reported.
Engineering— Mechanics	Chelmsford ...	270	186	21 Mar.	1½	Misunderstanding as to proposed bonus system	Misunderstanding removed.
Textile Trades— Cotton Weavers, Cardroom Operatives, Spinners, &c.	Stockport (near)	233	253	10 Mar.	23	Dispute as to price to be paid on introduction of new loom	Amicable settlement effected.
Woolcombers, Carders, and Wash-house Hands	Bradford ...	7,000	...	2 Mar.	9	Workpeople at one firm struck because of dispute as to amount of work to be performed; workers at other firms ceased work in sympathy, and demanded increase in wages and improvement in other working conditions	Advances granted of 1s. per week to those getting 15s. per week and over, and 6d. to those under 15s., with further advances of 1s. and 6d. respectively in August; other working conditions mutually arranged.
Alpaca and Mohair Spinners, and Other Workpeople	Bradford ...	500	1,000	24 Mar.	6½	For advance in wages	Advances granted of 6d. per week to full timers and 3d. to half timers.
Boot and Shoe Trade— Boot and Shoe Operatives	Kingswood ...	350	...	11 Mar.	8	Against reduction in wages	Work resumed pending consideration by Conciliation Board.
Fuel Manufacture— Patent Fuel Workers	Swansea ...	300	...	17 Mar.	3	Against dismissal of six men	Work resumed without the six men.

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

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.

Wages.

Changes taking effect in March.—The net result of all the changes taking effect in March, 1910, was an increase of £5,038 per week, as compared with an increase of £98 per week in February, 1910, and a decrease of £42,843 per week in March, 1909. The number of workpeople affected was 211,708, of whom 207,689 received advances amounting to £5,188 per week, and 4,019 sustained decreases, amounting to £150 per week. The total number affected in the preceding month was 4,173, and in March, 1909, 838,853.

One change, affecting 190,000 workpeople, was arranged by a Conciliation Board; and seven changes, affecting 8,689 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 13,019 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; three of these changes, affecting 7,358 workpeople, being preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the first three months of 1910.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose rates of wages were changed, so far as reported, during the three months ended March 31st, 1910, was 375,093, as compared with 1,056,810 in the corresponding period of 1909. The changes arranged gave 238,939 workpeople a net increase of £5,997 per week, and 132,245 workpeople a net decrease of £8,323 per week, whilst the remaining 3,909 workpeople had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level as at the beginning of the year. The net effect of all the changes was thus a decrease of £2,326 per week, as compared with one of £49,306 per week in the corresponding period of 1909.

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

Groups of Trades.	January-March.			
	1909.		1910.	
	No.	£	No.	£
Building	1,068	— 40	780	+ 32
Coal Mining	836,750	— 38,773	315,259	— 3,421
Iron, &c., Mining	7,500	— 89	8,594	+ 162
Quarrying	1,744	— 19	2,024	+ 37
Pig Iron Manufacture	14,075	— 277	11,202	+ 132
Iron and Steel Manufacture	11,255	— 580	20,669	+ 103
Engineering and Shipbuilding	25,680	— 1,341	...	...
Other Metal Trades	2,607	— 218	...	...
Textile Trades	154,622	— 8,063	14,984	+ 775
Clothing Trades	250	+ 22	111	+ 10
Printing, &c., Trades	701	+ 35	85	+ 6
Glass, &c., Trades ... ..	...	...	9	+ 1
Other Trades	542	+ 36	1,276	+ 43
Employees of Local Authorities	12	+ 1	...	...
Total	1,056,810	— 49,306	375,093	— 2,326

Hours.

The only change in hours of labour reported as taking effect in March, 1910, affected 70 workpeople, whose aggregate working time was reduced by 118 hours per week. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour during the three months ended March 31st, 1910, was 3,843; the net decrease in their working hours being 4,994 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages and Hours in March.

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

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN MARCH.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change took effect in 1910.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
I.—RATES OF WAGES.						
Building ...	Burnley ...	1 Mar.	Plumbers*	70	...	Increase of ½d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.).
Coal Mining ...	South Wales ...	1 Mar.	Miners, &c.	190,000	...	Increase of 2½ per cent., making wages 50 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Iron & Steel Manufacture	Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland	28 Mar.	Iron Puddlers	750	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (8s. 6d. to 8s. 3d.).
	Eston	6 Mar.	Iron and Steel Millmen	2,650	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
	Steel Workers ... ..	...	1,280	...	Increase, under sliding scale, of 5½ per cent., making wages 17½ per cent. above the standard.	
Iron & Steel Manufacture	South Yorks. (3 firms)	28 Mar.	Iron Puddlers	79	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton.
	Barrow-in-Furness	7 Mar.	Iron and Steel Millmen	247	...	Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
Textile ...	West of Scotland	28 Mar.	Iron Puddlers	3,000	...	Increase, under sliding scale, of 3d. per ton (8s. 3d. to 8s. 6d.).
	West Riding ...	1st pay Mar.	Iron Millmen	4,465	...	Increase, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent.
Textile ...	Bradford ...	11 Mar.	Dyers, &c.	7,000	...	Increase of 10 per cent.
Textile ...	Bradford ...	11 Mar.	Woolcombers, &c.	7,000	...	Increase of 1s. per week to those receiving 15s. and over, and of 6d. to those receiving under 15s.
II.—HOURS OF LABOUR.						
Building ...	Burnley ...	1 Mar.	Plumbers†	70	...	Decrease of 2½ hours per week during summer months (51½ to 49).

NOTE.—Full particulars will appear in the May GAZETTE of the following important changes which have been arranged to take effect in April.
Coal Mining.—Increase of 1½ per cent. in the wages of miners in Northumberland.
Pig Iron.—Increases in the wages of blastfurnacemen, of 6½ per cent. in West Cumberland, 1½ per cent. in Cleveland and Durham, ½ per cent. in North Staffs., and ¼ per cent. in South Wales and Mon.
Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Increase of ½ per cent. in the wages of iron and steel workers and mechanics in South Wales and Mon.
* See also under Changes in Hours of Labour. † See also under Changes in Rates of Wages.

WAGES BOARDS IN QUEENSLAND, 1908-9.

The provisions of the Wages Boards Act came into force on September 1st, 1908: Boards were constituted for 19 trades at Brisbane during the year ending June 30th, 1909, amongst others for the Boot, Carting, Carpentry and Joinery, Printing, Meat, and Clothing Trades, and for Shop Assistants and Tramway Employees, and 10 of these Boards issued determinations which, on the whole, were well observed. It is stated that, perhaps, the largest number of breaches

were committed in connection with the meat industry, but investigation following complaints generally resulted in a satisfactory settlement between employer and employee, in most cases the breach appearing to be due to ignorance of the law. In a few cases in this industry arrears of wages due, amounting to as much as £15 in one instance, were paid by the employer, without either the employee or the Department of Labour having recourse to prosecutions, and during the year no prosecutions were instituted under the Act.

BOARD OF TRADE LABOUR EXCHANGES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

THE Tables given below show the work of the Board of Trade Labour Exchanges during February and March, analysed by trades and districts. The period covered by the February Tables is 24 working days, and that covered by the March Tables, allowing for the Easter holidays, is 25 working days. The total number of Exchanges included in the return is 93, the bulk of which were opened in the beginning of February or soon after. A few, however, including all those in Ireland, only commenced operations in March.

The "workpeople's applications remaining on the register" at any date are the applications of those who have registered or renewed their registration within the week preceding that date, and have not had their registration cancelled on obtaining employment either through the Exchange or by their own efforts. The total number on the register was 112,424 at the end of February and 90,627 at the end of March, the difference being almost wholly accounted for by a decrease among the men. The number of women on the register has remained almost stationary. The numbers given above represent individual persons, except in so far as there may have been duplicate registration in London and other places where more than one Exchange is easy of access to the same person.

The total number of applications received during February was 216,813 (men 179,062, boys 14,479, women 18,961, girls 4,311). The corresponding number for March was 126,119 (men 95,242, boys 9,822, women 17,246, girls 3,809). Here again the number of women has remained almost stationary, showing that women are using the Exchanges relatively more than in the beginning. The numbers given above do not include renewals, but do include re-applications by persons whose applications had lapsed or been cancelled. For this reason and also on account of the possibility of duplicate registration mentioned above the numbers cannot be taken as in any way representing separate individuals. Large numbers of applicants are known by the return of their registration cards to have obtained employment otherwise than through the Exchanges.

While the number of applications has, as is stated above, fallen off very considerably between February and March, the number of vacancies filled has risen from 12,628 in February to 20,395 in March. The proportion of the vacancies filled to the number of vacancies notified has also risen from 60 per cent. in February to 69 per cent. in March. This proportion for the different classes in March is: men, 75; boys, 67; women, 53; girls, 56.

Of the applicants on the register at the end of March the largest percentages are yielded by the following occupations:—Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, 18.1; General Labourers, 16.4; Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances, 14.8; Building and Works of Construction, 10.9.

Of the vacancies filled during the same month the largest percentages are yielded by the same groups of trades in different order:—Building and Works of Construction, 17.7; Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances, 13.5; Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages, 12.9; General Labourers, 10.9.

This contrast represents both the relatively greater difficulty of placing general labourers and the effects of the seasonal revival in the building trades. The classes of vacancies which it has proved hardest to fill are those for men engaged in boot and shoe manufacture, and for women and girls in the textile and clothing trades.

Table showing by Trades the Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled during February and March, 1910*, and the number of Applications by Workpeople remaining on the Register at the end of each month.

[SUBJECT TO REVISION.]

Trades.	VACANCIES NOTIFIED.					VACANCIES FILLED.					WORKPEOPLE'S APPLICATIONS remaining on Register at end of month.				
	Men.	Boys.	Women	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Boys.	Women	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Boys.	Women	Girls.	Total.
I.—February.															
Building and Works of Construction	1,993	75	...	...	2,068	1,618	47	...	...	1,665	14,253	240	...	...	14,493
Mining and Quarrying	288	21	...	...	309	160	17	...	...	177	647	89	...	...	736
Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances	2,537	231	163	58	2,989	1,688	160	...	...	1,848	15,838	798	179	60	16,815
Textiles	550	52	773	148	1,523	232	45	178	37	492	2,288	141	594	104	3,097
Dress	621	103	1,373	339	2,436	295	44	220	87	646	1,912	112	484	110	2,618
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	1,112	1,091	42	116	2,361	842	811	21	106	1,780	16,742	2,059	67	153	19,021
Agriculture	306	26	2	4	338	155	22	1	2	180	1,526	137	7	2	1,672
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	286	49	138	79	552	197	28	84	18	327	1,395	111	236	45	1,789
Wood, Furniture, Fittings and Decorations	517	61	93	23	694	288	34	26	9	357	2,587	79	95	12	2,773
Chemicals, Oil, Grease, Soap, Resin, &c.	75	21	13	15	124	38	11	7	2	58	301	9	20	9	339
Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass	107	12	98	4	221	78	11	29	1	119	623	8	56	2	689
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	460	118	390	120	1,088	268	64	213	50	595	4,437	246	769	92	5,544
Skins, Leather, Hair and Feathers	118	15	55	16	204	51	10	8	6	75	428	58	32	7	523
Precious Metals, Jewels, Watches, Instruments and Games	123	33	15	9	180	55	20	3	4	82	806	41	24	16	887
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply and Sanitary Service	88	19	...	17	124	54	15	1	6	76	577	49	13	...	639
Commercial	904	175	199	50	1,328	436	137	83	33	689	3,027	719	531	360	4,637
Domestic (Outdoor)	125	40	991	188	1,344	74	26	718	101	919	1,625	116	5,129	409	7,279
Other, General and Undefined—															
(a) General Labourers	1,544	24	...	...	1,568	1,365	18	...	...	1,383	20,477	357	...	...	20,834
(b) Others	402	261	745	334	1,742	286	195	381	207	1,069	4,775	1,400	1,130	674	7,979
Total	12,156	2,427	5,090	1,520	21,193	8,180	1,715	2,053	680	12,628	94,234	6,769	9,366	2,055	112,424
II.—March.															
Building and Works of Construction	4,178	174	...	...	4,352	3,496	106	...	...	3,602	9,745	164	...	...	9,909
Mining and Quarrying	241	119	...	...	360	106	46	...	...	152	451	97	...	...	548
Metals, Machines, Implements and Conveyances	3,154	338	113	60	3,665	2,442	225	60	30	2,757	12,607	605	129	36	13,377
Textiles	614	116	703	199	1,632	376	63	289	109	837	1,578	142	626	91	2,437
Dress	1,074	160	1,411	438	3,083	436	77	369	141	1,023	1,476	78	438	80	2,072
Conveyance of Men, Goods and Messages	1,755	1,479	24	186	3,444	1,443	1,041	17	136	2,637	14,480	1,758	74	90	16,022
Agriculture	574	35	12	3	624	376	25	6	1	408	1,167	72	9	...	1,248
Paper, Prints, Books and Stationery	303	93	204	58	658	210	46	131	21	408	1,347	95	204	34	1,751
Wood, Furniture, Fittings and Decorations	914	93	120	17	1,144	604	53	65	7	729	2,119	116	62	8	2,435
Chemicals, Oil, Grease, Soap, Resin, &c.	49	23	49	31	152	30	15	20	11	82	286	8	28	11	333
Bricks, Cement, Pottery and Glass	122	17	195	11	345	68	8	50	3	129	490	12	88	3	593
Food, Tobacco, Drink and Lodging	691	180	407	145	1,423	469	116	272	83	940	3,868	209	911	75	5,063
Skins, Leather, Hair and Feathers	155	21	41	9	226	72	17	18	7	114	370	20	27	20	437
Precious Metals, Jewels, Watches, Instruments and Games	159	25	9	8	201	94	17	7	6	124	716	49	14	14	793
Gas, Water and Electricity supply and Sanitary Service	134	16	...	...	150	100	16	...	...	116	541	30	...	...	571
Commercial	937	260	218	80	1,495	611	175	119	61	966	3,104	559	504	329	4,556
Domestic (Outdoor)	179	48	1,688	256	2,171	112	34	1,271	162	1,579	1,669	107	5,383	492	7,651
Other, General and Undefined—															
(a) General Labourers	2,394	71	...	...	2,465	2,165	57	...	...	2,222	14,591	317	...	...	14,908
(b) Others	812	329	577	396	2,114	654	260	365	291	1,570	3,534	1,007	767	506	5,814
Total	18,439	3,597	5,771	1,897	29,704	13,864	2,397	3,065	1,069	20,395	74,199	5,375	9,264	1,789	90,627

* NOTE.—The figures for the month of March include those for the 1st April.

Table showing by Districts the Vacancies Notified and Vacancies Filled during February and March,* 1910, and the number of Applications by Workpeople remaining on the Register at the end of each month.

[SUBJECT TO REVISION.]

Districts.	VACANCIES NOTIFIED.					VACANCIES FILLED.					WORKPEOPLE'S APPLICATIONS remaining on Register at end of month.				
	Men.	Boys.	Women	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Boys.	Women	Girls.	Total.	Men.	Boys.	Women	Girls.	Total.
I.—February.															
London—West...	481	176	211	103	971	354	139	83	42	608	4,437	172	472	62	5,143
North ...	711	317	517	199	1,744	447	252	192	124	1,015	7,484	483	970	139	9,076
East ...	597	243	502	199	1,451	372	171	177	54	774	4,443	549	382	137	5,511
South ...	1,002	274	502	174	1,952	798	203	318	100	1,419	12,202	1,101	1,495	339	15,137
Birmingham—Corporation Street...	490	130	281	99	1,000	201	82	94	52	429	4,116	225	375	71	4,787
Bradford—6, Eastbrook Lane ...	235	27	176	28	466	149	17	6	...	172	1,076	13	61	...	1,150
Bristol—18/20, Victoria Street ...	146	21	25	4	196	97	14	7	...	120	1,741	112	66	...	1,945
Cardiff—86/87, Bridge Street ...	217	...	...	...	217	154	...	...	...	154	707	(not opened)	...	...	707
Coventry—Duplex Works, Lower Ford Street	259	26	48	13	346	191	19	20	7	237	410	3	30	2	445
Derby—Victoria Buildings, London Road ...	156	14	17	6	193	92	9	11	...	112	578	7	50	...	635
Halifax—Portland Street ...	90	13	46	...	149	61	5	...	...	77	574	14	32	...	561
Huddersfield—John William Street ...	252	38	92	73	455	121	15	11	...	147	514	21	11	...	585
Hull—Humber Street ...	113	27	7	9	156	65	12	4	...	85	949	21	11	...	985
Leeds—3/5, Water Lane ...	325	37	250	47	659	187	24	35	19	265	3,348	242	368	53	4,011
Leicester—Albion Street ...	217	71	143	95	526	126	18	26	2	172	1,045	6	51	2	1,104
Liverpool—Fraser Street ...	285	35	17	14	351	143	11	10	6	170	2,175	220	342	40	2,777
Manchester—54, Lever Street ...	595	156	225	56	1,032	374	125	110	22	631	3,988	107	212	19	4,326
Middlesbrough—Oddfellows' Hall, Bridge St...	57	6	15	2	80	47	5	12	...	64	1,213	112	83	17	1,445
Newcastle-on-Tyne—Old Royal Infirmary ...	84	20	30	13	147	41	16	14	6	77	2,621	261	300	106	3,288
Northampton—30/32, Mare Fair ...	225	47	58	17	347	105	23	5	2	135	674	17	18	2	711
Norwich—Prince of Wales Road ...	949	311	492	27	1,779	65	11	11	4	91	949	57	61	30	1,097
Nottingham—George Street ...	297	64	232	100	693	183	34	86	46	349	1,263	58	110	21	1,452
Oldham—21/7, Cross Street ...	100	6	72	13	191	94	6	32	9	141	1,341	42	282	9	1,674
Plymouth—15 & 16, Manor Street ...	201	14	36	15	266	119	4	4	7	134	679	43	51	8	781
Portsmouth—Victoria Chambers, Commercial Road	112	8	6	...	126	81	5	1	...	87	925	17	35	2	979
Rochdale—132, Drake Street ...	219														

PAUPERISM IN MARCH.

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

THE number of paupers relieved on one day in March, 1910, in the 35 urban districts mentioned below, corresponded to a rate of 230 per 10,000 of the estimated population.

Compared with February, 1910, the total number of paupers relieved decreased by 9,242 (2·2 per cent.) and the rate per 10,000 by 5. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 3,456 (1·8 per cent.) and the number of outdoor paupers by 5,786 (2·5 per cent.). There were decreases in 29 districts, the most marked being in the Stockton and Tees district (27 per 10,000). In two districts there were slight increases, and in four there was no change.

Compared with March, 1909, there was a decrease of 10 in the rate per 10,000. The number of indoor paupers decreased by 3,019 (1·6 per cent.), and the number of outdoor paupers by 10,700 (4·4 per cent.). In 22 districts there were decreases, the greatest being in the Stockton and Tees district (184 per 10,000); in 12 districts there were increases, and in the Sheffield district there was no change.

Selected Urban Districts.	Paupers on one day in second week of Mar., 1910.			Rate per 10,000 of Estimated Population.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in rate per 10,000 of Population on a	
	In-door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.		Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES.*						
Metropolis.						
West District ...	12,379	3,399	15,778	183	- 5	- 6
North District ...	17,318	10,305	27,623	252	- 11	- 8
Central District ...	7,034	2,360	9,394	526	- 5	- 8
East District ...	16,476	8,035	24,511	338	- 7	- 13
South District ...	28,300	19,840	48,140	247	- 4	- 26
Total, Metropolis ...	81,507	43,939	125,446	261	- 6	- 16
West Ham ...	5,236	11,941	17,177	222	- 7	- 27
Other Districts.						
Newcastle District ...	3,210	6,150	9,360	200	...	+ 7
Stockton & Tees District ...	1,697	6,189	7,886	348	- 27	- 184
Bolton, Oldham, &c. ...	4,969	7,391	12,360	157	- 4	+ 9
Wigan District ...	2,441	6,253	8,694	210	- 3	+ 3
Manchester District ...	12,343	11,870	24,213	244	- 16	- 12
Liverpool District ...	14,651	11,975	26,626	246	+ 1	- 4
Bradford District ...	2,190	2,511	4,701	125	- 3	- 6
Halifax & Huddersfield ...	1,323	4,165	5,488	149	- 5	- 12
Leeds District ...	3,473	5,742	9,215	181	- 4	+ 4
Barnsley District ...	886	3,105	3,991	152	- 1	+ 2
Sheffield District ...	3,709	3,898	7,607	162	- 5	...
Hull District ...	1,907	5,979	7,886	269	- 13	+ 1
North Staffordshire ...	2,580	7,489	10,069	255	- 4	- 32
Nottingham District ...	2,408	6,018	8,426	193	- 3	- 4
Leicester District ...	1,716	4,261	5,977	244	- 15	- 37
Wolverhampton District ...	4,245	12,512	16,757	245	- 8	+ 1
Birmingham District ...	5,856	5,192	11,048	183	- 1	- 2
Bristol District ...	3,285	6,405	9,690	237	- 2	+ 2
Cardiff & Swansea ...	2,578	8,380	10,958	272	...	+ 5
Total, "Other Districts" ...	75,467	125,485	200,952	213	- 6	- 8
SCOTLAND.*						
Glasgow District ...	6,450	18,809	25,259	243	- 1	- 8
Paisley & Greenock District ...	1,012	3,036	4,048	220	...	+ 10
Edinburgh & Leith District ...	1,873	5,847	7,720	181	- 1	- 3
Dundee and Dunfermline ...	1,011	2,877	3,888	191	+ 1	+ 3
Aberdeen ...	763	3,366	4,129	229	...	- 4
Coatbridge & Airdrie ...	456	1,863	2,319	231	- 4	+ 14
Total for the above Scottish Districts ...	11,565	35,798	47,363	222	- 1	- 3
IRELAND.†						
Dublin District ...	7,183	6,112	13,295	327	- 3	- 2
Belfast District ...	4,075	1,258	5,333	122	- 2	- 4
Cork, Waterford and Limerick District ...	4,517	5,359	9,876	407	- 2	- 1
Galway District ...	347	337	684	199	- 5	- 4
Total for the above Irish Districts ...	16,122	13,066	29,188	260	- 3	- 4
Total for above 35 Districts in March, 1910 ...	189,897	230,229	420,126	230	- 5	- 10

* 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.

DISTRESS COMMITTEES IN MARCH.

THE Table given below summarises the information received from the various Distress Committees as to their operations in March, 1910.

Distress Committees.	Net No. of Applicants on Registers at end of Mar., 1910.	No. given Employment-relief.	Aggregate duration of Employment-relief.	Total Amount of Wages paid.
London Central Unemployed Body	33,419*	3,854	Days. 55,838	£ 10,657
Outer London:				
Barking ...	646	199	978	218
Croydon ...	1,163	378	1,965	378
East Ham ...	974	643	4,368	889
Edmonton ...	893	217	3,581	715
Leyton ...	1,317	219	2,679	469
Tottenham ...	1,719	479	1,739	304
Walthamstow ...	1,023	460	1,504	326
West Ham ...	1,228	498	5,888	903
Willesden ...	1,326	92	2,319	585
Other Towns (3) ...	568	109	521	116
Total, Outer London ...	10,857	3,294	25,542	4,903
Provincial Towns in England and Wales:				
Northern Counties:				
Gateshead ...	510	129	657	113
Hartlepool ...	552	71	314	66
Middlesbrough ...	410	65	87	16
Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	96	55	505	95
South Shields ...	923	207	1,617	265
Stockton ...	215	...	...	125
Sunderland ...	864	125	678	...
Tynemouth ...	240	84	740	147
West Hartlepool ...	439	159	577	103
Total, Northern Counties:	4,249	895	5,175	930
Lancashire and Cheshire:				
Birkenhead ...	324	...	...	...
Blackburn ...	350	20	250	50
Bolton ...	1,191	42	371	58
Bootle ...	601	34	425	88
Liverpool ...	797	253	4,406	553
Manchester ...	...	88	941	167
Stockport ...	334	91	819	171
Wallasey ...	557	203	1,218	213
Other Towns (11) ...	1,491	215	2,512	404
Total, Lancashire and Cheshire:	5,645	946	10,942	1,704
Yorkshire:				
Bradford ...	1,280	128	1,741	290
Halifax ...	607	344	1,018	185
Hull ...	2,443	1,040	2,334	467
Leeds ...	1,546	425	2,629	493
Scarborough ...	391	78	1,697	367
Sheffield ...	...	556	6,842	1,337
York ...	540	119	1,397	238
Other Towns (2) ...	149	...	...	...
Total, Yorkshire:	6,956	2,690	17,658	3,377
Midlands:				
Aston Manor ...	382	...	...	...
Birmingham ...	510	79	1,330	222
Derby ...	...	66	404	61
Dudley ...	876	853	2,376	317
Leicester ...	896	348	3,012	539
Wolverhampton ...	313	324	1,760	264
Other Towns (8) ...	980	411	3,897	545
Total, Midlands:	3,957	2,079	12,691	1,948
Rest of England and Wales:				
Brighton ...	1,337	422	3,357	481
Bristol ...	1,942	602	6,700	1,388
Cardiff ...	992	113	678	112
Devonport ...	311	39	672	112
Gillingham ...	342	...	...	...
Great Yarmouth ...	758	486	5,273	791
Grimsby ...	419	...	...	...
Hastings ...	615	178	763	141
Norwich ...	1,403	485	7,690	648
Plymouth ...	1,020	268	1,608	230
Portsmouth ...	1,970	335	2,934	522
Swansea ...	1,107	224	3,639	700
Other Towns (7) ...	1,002	405	5,979	977
Total, Rest of England and Wales:	13,218	3,557	39,293	6,102
Total, Provincial Towns...	34,025	10,167	85,759	14,061
Total, England and Wales	78,301	17,315	167,139	29,621
Scotland:				
Aberdeen ...	487	535	3,848	512
Dundee ...	645	117	2,451	437
Edinburgh ...	1,066	928	13,047	1,724
Glasgow ...	792	701	8,704	1,002
Other Towns (9) ...	390	212	3,307	462
Total, Scotland ...	3,380	2,493	31,357	4,137
Ireland:				
Belfast ...	2,030	151	2,718	303
Drogheda ...	60	52	1,190	135
Dublin ...	3,626	880	10,560	1,082
Total, Ireland ...	5,716	1,083	14,468	1,520
Total, United Kingdom	87,397†	20,891	212,964	38,278

* Number on registers of 29 London Committees on day of closure (March 12). † In addition, 74 men were employed on piece-work. ‡ No employment-relief was provided by the Distress Committee, but the Municipality found work for some of the men. § Some not registered under Act. ¶ Register closed to new applicants. ** Since the opening of the Board of Trade Labour Exchange no record has been kept of the number of individuals unemployed. †† Includes number on registers of London Committees on day of closure (March 12).

The registers of the London Committees were closed for ordinary purposes (i.e. except for women, emigration cases, and special "colony" cases), as from March 12th. Provincial Committees at Birmingham, Handsworth, Hastings, Heywood, Sheffield, Walthamstow, Kilmarnock and Pollokshaws also closed their registers to new applicants during the month.

The average number of days employment-relief provided was 10·2 per man employed; and the wages paid amounted to about 33s. 9d. per man, or 3s. 3½d. per day.

The following Table affords a comparison between the work done by Distress Committees in March, 1910, February, 1910, and March, 1909:—

London—	No. of Distress Committees in operation.			No. of applicants given Employment-relief.		
	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.
County ...	29	29	29	3,854	4,644	4,355
Outer ...	12	12	12	3,294	3,397	4,490
Other Places in England and Wales	70	72	81	10,167	10,176	22,846
Scotland ...	13	13	13	2,493	3,256	4,827
Ireland ...	3	3	3	1,083	1,049	1,439
United Kingdom ...	127	129	138	20,891	22,522	37,957

London—	Aggregate Duration of Employment-relief.			Total Amount of Wages Paid.		
	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Mar., 1910.	Feb., 1910.	Mar., 1909.
County ...	Days. 55,838	Days. 67,977	Days. 64,451	£ 10,657	£ 13,344	£ 12,303
Outer ...	25,542	27,367	31,806	4,903	4,962	6,011
Other Places in England and Wales	85,759	80,290	175,485	14,061	12,733	29,212
Scotland ...	31,357	37,296	63,906	4,137	4,344	7,812
Ireland ...	14,468	15,150	27,486	1,520	1,432	2,657
United Kingdom ...	212,964	228,080	363,134	35,278	36,815	57,995

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MARCH, 1910.

DURING March 867 fresh applications (488 from domestic servants, &c.) for work were registered by 11 Bureaux* furnishing returns, and 853 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 263 persons, of whom 138 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and mothers' helps). Of the 263 situations found for applicants, 213 were of a more or less permanent character, while 50 were temporary only.

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

Bureau.	Applications by Work-people during		Situations offered by Employers during		Number of Workpeople engaged by Employers.			
	Mar., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Mar., 1910.	Mar., 1909.	Perma- nently.	Tempo- rarily.	Mar., 1910.	Mar., 1909.
Summary by Bureaux.*								
Central Bureau— 9, Southampton Street, High Holborn	101	124	91	82	25	38	8	
Dublin— 30, Molesworth Street ...	40	66	21	61	8	10	...	1
Other Bureaux (Liverpool, Manchester, Watford, Birmingham, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow)	186	189	168	158	63	34	27	23
Y.W.C.A.— 26, George Street, (1), Hanover Sq., W. (2).	418	441	412	510	75	71	14	31
Co-operating agencies:— London ...	32	...	45	...	10	...	6	...
Provinces ...	89	...	127	...	21	...	5	...
Total of 11 Bureaux* ...	867	940	853	948	213	206	50	76

Occupation.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

Appointment of Certifying Surgeons during March, 1910.

District.	Certifying Surgeon.	Place and time for examination of young persons and children from factories and workshops in which less than five are employed.
Biggar	W. M. Lindsay, Main Street, Biggar, Lanarkshire	Wednesdays, 9-9.30 a.m. or 3-4 p.m.
Burntisland	G. Wight, Buccleuch Villa, Burntisland	Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m. and 7-8 p.m.
Lichfield	L. S. Tomkys, Westgate Cottage, Lichfield	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.
Markfield	H. G. L. Haynes, Markfield, Leicester	Weekdays, 9-10 a.m.
Nigg	T. A. Skene, Seaview House, Cove, N.B.	(1) Residence, 9-10 a.m. on Wednesdays. (2) 68, Victoria Road, Torry, 12-1 p.m. on Wednesdays
Rostrevor	M. J. McCartan, Windermere, Rostrevor, co. Down	Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m.

NOTE.—Except where otherwise stated the place of examination is at residence.

Passengers to and from Places out of Europe.—27,778 passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, and 9,617 arrived from places out of Europe in February, 1910; the corresponding figures for February, 1909, were 23,924 and 9,969 respectively. There was an outward balance to British North America of 5,613 in February, 1910, as compared with 2,975 in February, 1909. The outward balance to the United States was 8,390 in February, 1910, as compared with 6,873 in February, 1909.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING MARCH.

UNITED KINGDOM.

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

Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress. Appendix Vol. VII. Minutes of Evidence (111th to 122nd days). England, South Western, Western and Eastern Counties; Parish of Poplar Borough; National Conference of Friendly Societies. [Cd. 5035: pp. xv. + 537: price 4s. 7d.]

Appendix Vol. VIIa. Index to Minutes of Evidence (Vol. VII.) [Cd. 5036: pp. 120: price 1s.]

Appendix Vol. XVIII. Report on the Condition of the Children who are in Receipt of the Various Forms of Poor Law Relief in England and Wales. By Misses Ethel Williams, Mary Longman and Maria Phillips. [Cd. 5037: pp. vii. + 285: price 2s. 4d.]

Factory and Workshop Acts, 1901 and 1907, and Notice of Accidents Act, 1906. Preliminary Tables (subject to correction) of Cases of Industrial Poisoning, Fatal and Non-Fatal Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences in Factories, Workshops, &c., during the year 1909. Home Office. [Cd. 5048: pp. 7: price 1d.]

Correspondence respecting the Application to British Subjects of the Benefits of the Swedish Law in regard to Workmen's Compensation for Accidents. Miscellaneous. No. 1 (1910). Foreign Office. [Cd. 5023: pp. 12: price 2d.]

Trustee Savings Banks. Report of Proceedings of the Inspection Committee for Year ended November 20th, 1909. Number of banks and depositors, amount of deposits, invested funds, &c. Treasury. [H.C. 15: pp. 17: price 2½d.]

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Annual Report of Proceedings under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts for the Year 1908. Number of salmon fishermen employed, 1894-1908. [Cd. 5039: pp. xix. + 52: price 3½d.]

Agricultural Statistics, 1909. Vol. XLIV. Part I. Acreage and Live Stock Returns of Great Britain, with Summaries for the United Kingdom. [Cd. 5064: pp. 91: price 5d.]

Mining Royalties (Scotland). Return, dated November 25th, 1909: (1) Output of Coal, Shale and Iron Ore in 1908; (2) Rent and Wayleaves therefor. [H.C. 57: pp. 1: price ½d.]

General Annual Report of the British Army for the year ending September 30th, 1909. With the Annual Report of Recruiting. Trades of men offering for enlistment, showing for each the number of inspections and rejections. Number for whom employment was found on leaving Army. [Cd. 5016: pp. v. + 121: price 6d.]

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. The Labour Gazette, February, 1910. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during January; special investigation into wholesale prices, 1890-1909—results relating to animals and meats; retail prices of staple articles of consumption in Canada, January 1910, &c.

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, February, 1910. Condition of trade and employment as at January 31st, persons assisted to employment during January, accidents in factories and accidents reported under the Scaffolding Inspection Act, &c.

Awards, Agreements and Decisions under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act. Vol. X. Part 8. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 79.]

New Zealand Official Year Book, 1909. [Wellington: John Mackay, Government Printer: pp. 890.]

Victoria. Twenty-third Annual Report on Trade Unions. Report of the Government Statist for the year 1908, with an Appendix. [Melbourne: J. Kemp, Government Printer: pp. 5.]

Determinations of Wages Boards. Pottery Trade Board, dated November 10th, 1909, cancelling all previous Determinations. Ironmoulders' Board, dated November 29th, 1909, cancelling all previous determinations. Hairdressers' Board, dated December 13th, 1909. Glassworkers' Board, dated October 28th, 1909. Rubber Trade Board, dated November 20th, 1909. Organ Board, dated December 9th, 1909.

Commonwealth of Australia. Regulations under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1904-1909. [J. Kemp, Government Printer: pp. 10.]

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United States.

Massachusetts. Labour Bulletin, No. 71, February, 1910. Quarterly Report on the State of Employment in the Organized Industries, December 31st., 1909.

Annual Report of the Commissioner-General of Immigration for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1909. [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 244.]

California. Report on the Labour Laws and Labour Conditions of Foreign Countries in relation to Strikes and Lock-Outs. By Harris Weinstock, Special Labour Commissioner. [Sacramento: W. W. Shannon, State Printer: pp. 157.]

Idaho. Eleventh Annual Report of the Mining Industry of Idaho for the year 1909. Inspection, accidents, mineral production, &c. [pp. 139.]

Pennsylvania. Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs, 1908. Part III. Industrial Statistics. [Harrisburg: C. E. Aughunbaugh, State Printer: pp. 315.]

Annual Report of the Commissioner of Corporations to the Secretary of Commerce and Labour for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1909. [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 8.]

General.

Journal of the International Labour Office, No. 2, 1910. Laws, &c., regulating labour. [Jena: Verlag von Gustav Fischer.]

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, February, 1910. Employment and labour disputes in January; unemployment in 1909; health and safety of workpeople in 1908; state subventions to unemployment funds in first half of 1909; the Paris floods and unemployment; labour registries at Paris since passing of law of March 14th, 1904. [Paris: Berger-Levrault & Cie: price 2d.]

Germany.

Monthly Journal of the Statistical Office of Chemnitz for 1909. [Chemnitz: pp. 120+supplements.]

Statistical Yearbook of Prussia, 1909. Occupations and industrial undertakings (census of 1907); labour disputes; co-operation; wages of miners; savings banks; prices of articles of food, &c.; crops; Statistical Office of Prussia. [Berlin: Verlag des Königlichen Statistischen Landesamts: pp. xii. + 376: price 1s.]

Wages and Cost of Living of Clock and Watch Factory Workers in the Baden Black Forest District. 1905. [Carlsruhe; Verlag der G. Braunschen Hofbuchdruckerei: pp. viii. + 208.]

Sickness and Mortality Statistics of the Leipzig and District Sick Insurance Fund. Effect of sex, age and occupation. (4 vols.) German Labour Department. 1910. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: pp. vi. + 212 + charts; 247: vii. + 303: vi. + 278.]

Monthly Statistical Journal of Mannheim, 1909. (Annual Summary. Statistics of sickness insurance; savings banks; labour registries; prices of articles of food, &c. Municipal Statistical Office. [Mannheim: pp. 24.]

Industrial Code of the German Empire. Eighth edition. 1910. [Tübingen: Verlag von J. C. B. Mohr: pp. xvi. + 684.]

Wiesbaden. (1) Statistical Yearbook, 1908. Factories and workpeople; workpeople's insurance; labour registry; savings banks; prices of articles of food. (2) Wages of Municipal Workpeople on May 1st, 1909. (3) Occupied Houses, &c., according to Census of October 15th, 1907. Municipal Statistical Office. [Wiesbaden: Verlag von J. F. Bergmann: pp. 46, 23 and 18: prices 1s. 7d., 1s., and 9½d.]

Journal of the German Labour Department, March 1910. Employment in February; labour registries in 1908; wages of Prussian miners in 1909. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: price 1d.]

Wages and Labour Conditions of Painters, Varnishers, &c., in Germany in May, 1909. Federation of Painters, Varnishers, &c. [Hamburg: Verlag von A. Tobler: pp. 163: price 2s.]

Statistical Yearbook of Saxony, 1909. Occupations, industrial establishments; agricultural undertakings; prices of articles of food; savings banks; labour registries; labour disputes; trade unions; co-operation; earnings of workpeople employed by War Office, &c. Statistical Office of Saxony. [Dresden: C. Heinrich: pp. 320: price 1s.]

Austria-Hungary.

Report of the Workpeople's Insurance Institute for Lower Austria, 1908. [Vienna: Im Selbstverlag der Anstalt: pp. 60.]

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, January, 1910. Texts of Shop Hours Act, and law relating to contract of service of clerks, &c., labour disputes in December and fourth quarter of 1909 and in whole of 1909 (preliminary). February, 1910. Collective labour agreements in first and second quarters of 1906; labour disputes in January; labour registries in January. [Vienna: A. Hölder: price 2d. each.]

Statistical Journal of Hungary, January, 1910. Crops in 1910, extract from first report of the Hungarian Workpeople's Accident and Sickness Funds. [Vienna: A. Hölder.]

Trade and Industry of Hungary in 1908. Budapest Chamber of Commerce, 1910. [Budapest: pp. vi. + 302.]

Proceedings of the 26th Sitting of the Council for Labour, November 8th, 1909. [Austrian Labour Department.]

Journal of Trade and Industry. No. 3, 1910. Shop Hours Act of January 14th, 1910, and law relating to contract of service of clerks, &c. Austrian Labour Department.

Italy. Reports of Parliamentary Inquiry as to Condition of Peasants in the Southern Provinces of Italy and in Sicily. Nine parts. [Rome, 1907-9.]

Journal of the Italian Labour Department, February, 1910. Labour disputes in 1909 and in January, 1910; prices of articles of food, &c., in 1909, and in January, 1910. [Rome: Fratelli Treves: price 3d.]

Emigration and Settlements of Italians in Foreign Countries. Reports of Italian diplomatic agents and consuls. Volume III. America. Part III.—Italian Emigration Department, 1909. [Rome, Libreria Bocca: pp. 475: price 1s. 7½d.]

Journal of the Italian Emigration Department, Nos. 19 and 20, 1909, and No. 1, 1910. The last contains text of Mexican law of December 22nd, 1908, and Guatemala law of April 30th, 1909, on immigration. Italian Emigration Department. [Rome: Libreria Bocca: price 3d. each.]

Belgium. Co-operative Yearbook of Belgium, 1910. The Co-operative Office (of Federation of Co-operative Societies). [Antwerp: pp. 136: price 9½d.]

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, February 28th, 1910. Labour disputes in January, Roumanian Law of January 1st, 1910, on right of association of state employees and workpeople. March 15th, 1910.—Employment in February, labour disputes in 1909. [Brussels: F. van Buggenhoudt; price 1d. each.]

Holland. Wages and Hours on State Works in Holland in 1908. Dutch Central Statistical Office, 1910. [The Hague. Gebroeders Belinfante: pp. xxviii + 70: price 1s. 3d.]

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, February, 1910. Employment in January; labour registries in January; labour disputes in January; price of bread. [The Hague: Gebroeders Belinfante: price 2d.]

Report on Dock Labour in Rotterdam, Dordrecht, Amsterdam, Zaandam, Velsen & Westzaan, January 1st, 1910. Dutch Labour Department. [The Hague: pp. viii + 54.]

Switzerland. Movement of Population in Switzerland in 1908. Federal Statistical Department, 1910. [Berne: A. Francke: pp. 36: price 1s. 7½d.]

Luxembourg. Report on Labour Registries in Luxembourg in 1909. [Luxembourg: pp. 9.]

Denmark. Statistics of Denmark. Fourth Series. (1) Volume XXX: Production Statistics (industrial census of 1906). (2) Volume XXXIII: Contains account of home industries in Copenhagen. Danish Statistical Office, 1910. [Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel: Nordisk Forlag.]

Norway. Journal of the Norwegian Labour Department, 1st and 2nd parts, 1909. Contains statistics of unemployment in 1908 and January—June, 1909. [Christiania.]

Sweden. Agricultural Statistics, 1908, and Summary for 1909. The volume for 1908 contains wages of agricultural workers. [Stockholm.]

Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 2, 1910. Unemployment census of January 31st, 1910; collective labour agreements in 1908; labour registries in January; prices of articles of food, &c., in December, 1909. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt & Söner: price 2d.]

Collective Labour Agreements in Sweden. Part I. Swedish Labour Department, 1910. [Stockholm: pp. 399: price 1s. 8d.]

Spain. Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, February, 1910. Factory inspection and labour disputes in 1908; labour disputes in January; cost of living, April to September, 1909, in provinces and capitals. [Madrid: D. V. Suarez, Libreria, Calle de Preciados, 48: price 2½d.]

Portugal. Journal of the Portuguese Labour Department, Nos. 28, 32, 34 and 35, 1909. (Lisbon.)

Bulgaria. Agricultural Statistics, 1906 and 1907. Statistical Department of Bulgaria, 1909 and 1910. [Sofia: pp. 74 each: price 1s. 2½d. each.]

Journal of the Bulgarian Statistical Department, January, 1910. Prices of articles of food, &c., and wages of labourers and bricklayers and masons. [Sofia: price 2½d.]

CONSULAR REPORTS.

(The Consular Reports may be obtained from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., direct or through any bookseller.)

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 4401. Trade and Commerce of Florence, 1908. Prices of provisions, savings banks, municipal Labour [Chamber, strikes, &c. [Cd. 4962-13: pp. 46: price 4½d.]

Consular Reports. Annual Series. No. 4402. Financial Condition of Denmark with a survey of the Estimates for 1909-10 and 1910-11. Social expenditure, old age pensions, unemployment associations, sick clubs, &c. [Cd. 4962-14: pp. 40: price 2½d.]

No. 4405. Shipping and Navigation of the Port of Antwerp, 1909. Insurance of Belgian seamen, transmission of seamen's wages, &c. [Cd. 4962-17: pp. 32: price 2½d.]

No. 4406. Trade and Commerce of Venice, 1908-9. Statistics of industries, cost of living in Venetia, the housing problem, &c. [Cd. 4962-18: pp. 36: price 2½d.]

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

LIST OF NEW CONTRACTS, MARCH, 1910.

ADMIRALTY, CONTRACT AND PURCHASE DEPARTMENT.

- ART LINEN AND LINING—
Rylands & Sons, Ltd., Heapey Bleach Works, near Chorley.
W. Ewart & Son, Ltd., 9, Bedford Street, Belfast.
- BOOTS, SEA—Adams Bros., Raunds.
- BUOYS, MOORING—Fraser & Fraser, Ltd., Millwall.
- CAST IRON ARTICLES—
Cannon Iron Foundries, Ltd., Deepfields, near Bilston, Staffs.
T. & C. Clark & Co., Ltd., Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton.
W. Midwinter, James Foundry, Cumberland Street, Birmingham.
- COAL SACK AND BAG CLOTH—
Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.
Boase Spinning Co., Ltd., Dundee.
Cox Bros., Ltd., Dundee.
Jameson & Co., Ltd., Canning Street Works, Hull.
T. L. Miller & Co., Dundee.
Stephens Bros. & Martin, Bristol.
- COPPER ARTICLES (STOVE PIPING, CANS, MEASURES, &c.)—
H. Braithwaite & Co., Ltd., Swinegate, Leeds.
Bulpiitt & Sons, 153, Camden Street, Birmingham.
Burt Bros., Edward Street, Parade, Birmingham.
Griffiths & Browett, Ltd., Bradford Street, Birmingham.
J. Hudson & Co., 246, Barr Street, Hockley, Birmingham.
Lawden & Poole, Hope Works, Newtown Row, Birmingham.
Murray, McVinnie & Co., Ltd., Mavisbank Quay, Glasgow.
J. Stone & Co., Ltd., Deptford, London, S.E.
- FILES—
Howell & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.
Hobson, Houghton & Co., Ltd., Don Steel Works, Sheffield.
S. Osborn & Co., Ltd., Clyde Steel Works, Sheffield.
H. Rossell & Co., Ltd., Waverley Works, Sheffield.
- FIREHEARTH—Moorwood, Sons & Co., Ltd., Sheffield.
- FLANNELETTE—S. Sunderland & Co., Nelson, Lancs.
- GLASS TUBES, PLAIN—John Moncrieff, Ltd., North British Glass Works, Perth.
- GROMETS—Bodill, Parker & Co., Ltd., 35, Great Hampton Row, Birmingham.
- GYMNASTIC GEAR—
F. H. Ayres, Ltd., 111, Aldersgate Street, E.C.
F. Bryan, 195 and 197, Long Lane, Bor', S.E.
G. G. Bussey & Co., Ltd., Peckham, S.E.
East & Son, Berkhamsted, Herts.
T. M. Gardiner, Burford Works, Hoddesdon, Herts.
Spencer, Heath & George, Ltd., 52, Goswell Road, E.C.
- JERSEYS, BLUE WORSTED—J. & R. Morley, Wood Street, E.C.
- LAMP COTTON—
Adams & Co., Ltd., Chatham Mills, Manchester.
G. Haynes & Co., Hampstead Cotton Mills, Stockport.
Morgan, Crossley & Co., Ltd., Miles Plating, Manchester.
J. Shawcross and Co., Store Street Mill, Manchester.
- OIL, MINERAL SPERM—Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., 22, Billiter Street, E.C.
- POWDER, CLEANSING—
J. Riley & Sons, Hapton, Accrington.
United Alkali Co., Ltd., Widnes.
- RIVETS, COOPERS' & NAILS—
Clyde Nail Co., Ltd., Newton, Lanarkshire.
Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds, Ltd., 16, Broad Street, Birmingham.
Harrison & Cook, Princip Street, Birmingham.
H. Shaw & Sons, Birchall Street, Birmingham.
D. Willetts, Ltd., Reliance Works, Cradley Heath, Staffs.
- SOAP, SOFT—Palmer & Co., Ltd., Victoria Works, Stratford, E.
- SOLDER—
J. & W. Farmiloe, Ltd., Rochester Row, Westminster, S.W.
C. Carr, Ltd., Smethwick, Birmingham.
R. Jones & Co., Ltd., Stone Yard, Deritend, Birmingham.
- SPONGE CLOTHS—Wild & Co., Moss Mill, Heywood, Lancs.
- TARGETS—J. T. Crampton, Albion Shipyard, Portsmouth.
- TERRY TOWELLING—
J. Smith, Hargreaves & Co., Ltd., Spring Mills, Heywood.
Stott & Smith, 4, Minshull Street, Manchester.
- VALVES, GUN METAL—
J. Blakeborough & Sons, Brighouse
J. Broadfoot & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.
Smiths Dock Co., Ltd., South Shields.
Mechan & Sons, Ltd., Glasgow.
- WEDGES, BEECH—
Bartlett, Son & Boord, Bideford.
Bowerman & Sons, Bridgwater.
Brown & Creese, Steam Saw Mills, Arundel.
G. Bulbeck & Co., Slindon, Arundel.
C. R. Claridge, The Basin, Exeter.

East & Son, Berkhamsted, Herts.
 J. D. Foster, Emsworth, Hants.
 G. Randle & Son, Docks, Bridgwater.
WIRE (Brass, Copper, Lead, Iron & Steel)—
 T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakmoor, Staffs.
 W. N. Brunton & Son, Musselburgh, N.B.
 King's Norton Metal Co., Ltd., King's Norton, near Birmingham.
 Latch & Batchelor, Ltd., Hay Mills, near Birmingham.
 Locke, Lancaster & W. W. & R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd., 308,
 West Ferry Road, Millwall.
 Rylands Bros., Ltd., Warrington.
 D. F. Taylor & Co., Ltd., New Hall Works, Birmingham.
 J. Wilkinson & Sons, Adderley Road, Saltley, Birmingham.
WIRE WORK—
 George Baker, Cecil Street Wire Works, Birmingham.
 A. A. James, Ltd., St. George's Works, West Bromwich.
 George F. James, Vane Street, Wolverhampton.
 O. L. James, Dudley Road Wire Works, Wolverhampton.
 R. Johnson, Clapham & Morris, Ltd., 24, Lever Street, Man-
 chester.
 J. Nichols & Son, Ltd., Cheapside, Birmingham.
 The Patent Process Wire Weaving Co., 81, Dale Street, Bridgeton,
 Glasgow.
 F. W. Potter & Co., Phipp Street, Gt. Eastern Street, London, E.C.
 Wm. Riddell & Co., 636, Springfield Road, Bridgeton, Glasgow.
ZINC ANGLES, NAILS, SHEETS, SHEATHING, AND SLABS—
 W. Barns & Son, Globe Works, Holloway, London, N.
 Locke, Lancaster, and W. W. and R. Johnson & Sons, Ltd.,
 94, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.
 London Zinc Mills, Ltd., Wenlock Road, London, N.

ADMIRALTY: WORKS DEPARTMENT.

SAND for H.M. Dockyard, Devonport—S. Roach, 87, Union Street,
 Plymouth.
STEELWORK for H.M. Dockyard, Hong Kong—Dorman Long &
 Co., Ltd., Middlesbrough.
TIMBER for H.M. Dockyard, Devonport—R. & R. Bayly, Sutton
 Road, Plymouth.
WALLPAPERS for H.M. Naval Establishments at Home—Essex &
 Co., Ltd., 114-116, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.
WOOD BLOCKS for H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth—Driver & Co.,
 St. Mary Mills, Southampton.
WORKS SERVICE—
 Erection of Government Testing House and Workshop at
 Sheffield—Thos. Lowe & Sons, Curzon Street, Burton-on-
 Trent.

WAR OFFICE.

ACCOUTREMENTS, WEB—
 T. Briggs (London), Ltd., 2 and 4, Southgate Road, N.
 Hepburn, Gale & Ross, Ltd., Grange Mills, Bermondsey, S.E.
 Mills Equipment Co., Ltd., Fountayne Road, Broad Lane,
 Tottenham.
 M. Wright & Sons, Ltd., Quorn Mills, near Loughborough.
BLANKETS, SADDLE—
 E. O. Dodgson & Co., Ltd., Hunslet Mills, Leeds.
 D. Lee & Sons, Earlsheaton, Dewsbury.
 T. Lee & Sons, Bank Top Mills, near Dewsbury.
CANVAS—
 Cox Bros., Ltd., Camperdown Works, Dundee.
 D. Smith & Sons, Alyth, N.B.
CASES, PACKING (Running Contract)—R. Paton, Espedair Packing
 Case Works, Paisley.
CORDAGE (Running Contract)—
 J. T. Davis, Ltd., Coborn Road, Bow, E.
 Dixon & Corbitt & R. S. Newall & Co., Ltd., Teams Ropeworks,
 Gateshead.
 Frost Bros., Ltd., 342, Commercial Road, E.
 J. & E. Wright, Ltd., Universe Works, Millwall, E.
DESKS AND SEATS (Running Contract)—G. E. Hawes & Sons,
 Duke Street and Oak Street, Norwich.
DUCK—
 Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd., Dundee.
 D. & R. Duke, Brechin, N.B.
 Leadbetter Bros. & Co., Cupar, Fife.
 Richards, Ltd., Broadford Works, Aberdeen.
FITTINGS, CONDUIT—
 Barton & Sons, Ltd., Beehive Works, Walsall.
 Credenda Conduits Co., Chester Street, Aston, Birmingham.
 General Electric Co., Ltd., Witton, near Birmingham.
 Nettlefold & Sons, Ltd., Willenhall.
 Profecta Seamless Steel Tube & Conduit Co., Ltd., Plume Street,
 Aston, Birmingham.
KETTLES, CAMP—
 Bulpitt & Sons, 153-161, Camden Street, Birmingham.
 Orme, Evans & Co., Ltd., Brickkiln Street, Wolverhampton.
LEATHER—
 Adams Bros., Raunds.
 R. Coggins & Sons, Ltd., Raunds.
 W. Nichols & Son, Kettering.
 Pocock Bros., 235, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.
 W. Walker & Sons, Ltd., Rose Hill Tannery, Bolton.
 Western Tanning Co., Bedminster, Bristol.
MACHINE, REFRIGERATING (REPAIR OF)—J. & E. Hall, Ltd.,
 Dartford Ironworks, Kent.
MESS-TINS—
 Matthew J. Hart & Sons, 36, Great Barr Street, Birmingham.
 Haynes Bros., Gervase Street, Old Kent Road, S.E.
MOTORS—Lancashire Dynamo & Motor Co., Ltd., Trafford Park,
 Manchester.

MOTOR GENERATORS AND SWITCHGEAR—Electric Construction
 Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.
OIL, MACHINERY (Running Contract)—Ragosine & Co., Ltd.,
 Albion Wharf, Bow, E.
PEGS, PICKETING—
 East & Son, Berkhamsted.
 J. Watt Torrance & Co., Muirhouse Saw Mills, Glasgow.
TENTS—
 T. Briggs (London), Ltd., 2 and 4, Southgate Road, N.
 T. Dobbin & Co., 23, Emmett Street, Poplar, E.
 C. Groom, Ltd., Ramornie Wharf, Dod Street, Limehouse, E.
 Sly, Dibble & Co., Ltd., 209/213, Cable Street, E.
 J. Smith & Co., 290 Cable Street, E.
WEB—
 R. Bird & Co., Crewkerne.
 A. Hart & Son, Viney Bridge Mills, Crewkerne.
WORKS SERVICES—
 Additional Accommodation, Wellington Barracks, London—
 Jas. Smith & Sons, Ltd., South Norwood, S.E.
 Alterations, &c., of Medical Officers' and Quartermasters
 Quarters, Millbank—C. P. Roberts & Co., 138, St. Paul's
 Road, Highbury, N.
 Erection of Annexes, Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow—Johnson &
 Co., 97, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E.
 Erection of Mortuary, &c., Arbor Hill Hospital, Dublin—
 McRoberts & Armstrong, Lower Windsor, Belfast.
 Erection of Two Half-Co. Barrack Blocks, &c., Ashton-under-
 Lyne—Jas. Ridyrd, Railway Saw Mills, Ashton-under-Lyne.
 Foundation Work for Barrack Block, New Cavalry Barracks,
 Redford—Henderson & Duncan, Harmony Villa, Morningside,
 Edinburgh.
 Improvements to Sewage Farm, Curragh—L. A. Dibdin, 2,
 Edinburgh Mansions, Howick Place, Victoria Street, S.W.
 Installation of Heating and Hot Water Supply, Arbor Hill
 Hospital, Dublin—Ashwell & Nesbit, Ltd., 12, Great James
 Street, W.C.
 Repairs and Maintenance of War Department Buildings (one
 year)—
 Lichfield—E. J. Chattle, Rotten Row, Lichfield.
 Salisbury Plain (Wn. Sect.)—E. & A. Springis, Winstanley
 Road, Stamshaw, Portsmouth.
 Sheffield—G. Pickard, 100, Langsett Avenue, Hillsbro',
 Sheffield.
 Sanitary Annexes, Dover Castle—W. H. Grigg, Salisbury House,
 Beaconsfield Avenue, Dover.

INDIA OFFICE, STORE DEPARTMENT.

BELTING—S. E. Norris & Co., St. Paul's Leather Works,
 Shadwell, E.
BLOCKS, MANGANESE—Siemens Bros. & Co., Woolwich.
BRAKE GEAR—Vacuum Brake Co., 32, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
BRIDGEWORK—
 Tee Side Engraving Co., Middlesbrough.
 Horsehay Co., Horsehay, Salop.
BUCKRAM—McGregor & Co., 23, Castle Street, Falcon Square, E.C.
BUFFERS—Birmingham Railway Carriage Co., Smethwick
 Birmingham.
CAMBRIC—
 E. Spinner & Co., 11, Albert Square, Manchester.
 F. Steiner & Co., 9, Bunhill Row, E.C.
CANVAS—
 Baxter Bros. & Co., Dundee.
 A. Lowson, Ltd., Baltic Works, Arbroath.
 A. Stockwell & Co., 4, Chatham Street, Manchester.
 Port Glasgow and Newark Sailcloth Co., Greenock Road, Port
 Glasgow.
 Corsar & Sons, Arbroath.
CLOTH—J. Law & Sons, Greetland, Halifax.
COACHSCREWS—Bayliss, Jones, & Bayliss, Victoria Works,
 Wolverhampton.
COTTON WASTE—Greenfield Mill Co., Greenfield, Oldham.
COUPLINGS—Stableford & Co., Coalville, Leicester.
CRANES—
 C. A. Musker & Co., Tuebrook, Liverpool.
 W. Abell, Ltd., Brook Street Ironworks, Derby.
 Babcock & Wilcox, Renfrew.
CROSSINGS, &c.—T. Summerson & Sons, Albert Hill Foundry,
 Darlington.
FIREBRICKS—J. G. Lowood & Co., Deepcar, near Sheffield.
FISHBOLTS—Guest, Keen, & Nettlefolds, London Works, near
 Birmingham.
FISHPLATES—
 Barrow Hem. Steel Co., Barrow-in-Furness.
 Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Middlesbrough.
FLANNELETTE—Schofield, Preston & Co., Manor Mill, Nelson.
FRAME SAW—A. Ransome & Co., Stanley Works, Newark-on-Trent.
GLYCERINE—J. Crosfield & Sons, Warrington.
HOSE, INDIA RUBBER—Warne & Co., Tottenham, N.
INSULATORS—Bullers, Ltd., Cheston Road, Birmingham.
LOCOMOTIVES—Kitson & Co., Airedale Foundry, Leeds.
LORRIES—J. & E. Hall, Dartford, Kent.
MACHINES—
 A. Herbert, Ltd., Coventry.
 T. Robinson & Son., Railway Works, Rochdale.
MACHINES, PRINTING—Payne & Sons, Atlas Works, Otley.
OIL—C. Price & Co., Belvidere, Kent.
PAPER—
 Joynson & Son, St. Mary Cray, Kent.
 J. Allen & Sons, Ivybridge, Devon.
PLATES, BEARING—North Eastern Steel Co., Middlesbrough.

PUMPING PLANT—J. Simpson & Co., Grosvenor Road, S.W.
RAILS—
 Barrow Hematite Steel Co., Barrow-in-Furness.
 Bolckow, Vaughan & Co., Middlesbrough.
SHEETS, INDIA RUBBER—C. Macintosh & Co., Cambridge Street,
 Manchester.
SODA, NITRATE—F. W. Berk & Co., Abbey Mills, Stratford, E.
STEEL STRIP—
 Jonas & Colver, Continental Steel Works, Sheffield.
 Effingham Steel Works, Washford Road, Attercliffe, Sheffield.
 S. Fox & Co., Deepcar, near Sheffield.
 Sanderson Bros. & Newbould, Sheffield.
STEEL, FLAT, &c.—Lanarkshire Steel Co., Motherwell.
STEEL PLATES—D. Colville & Sons, Dalzell Iron Works,
 Motherwell.
STEEL, ROUND, &c.—H. Bessemer & Co., Bolton Steel Works,
 Bolton.
STEEL SHEETS—J. Lysaght, Ltd., St. Vincent's Ironworks,
 Bristol.
STALKS—Bullers, Ltd., Cheston Road, Birmingham.
TUBES, BRASS—Broughton Copper Co., Manchester.
WIRE—
 Shropshire Iron Co., Hadley, Salop.
 Rylands Bros., Church Street, Warrington.
 Whitecross Co., Warrington.
 British Insulated, &c., Co., Prescott, Lancs.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

CABLE, INDIA RUBBER AND COTTON CORE—Western Electric Co.,
 North Woolwich, E.
CABLE, PAPER CORE—
 Johnson & Phillips, Ltd., Charlton, Kent.
 Western Electric Co., North Woolwich, E.
 British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancashire.
CABLE, SUBMARINE—India Rubber, Gutta Percha & Telegraph
 Works Co., Ltd., Silvertown, E.
COILS, LOADING—Western Electric Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.
CORDS, FLEXIBLE—British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd.,
 Helsby.
DUCTS, EARTHENWARE—Stanley Bros., Ltd., Nuneaton.
PAPER, TELEGRAPH—
 Colley's Patents, Ltd., 12, Marine Street, Bermondsey, S.E.
 Waterlow & Sons, Ltd., Paul Street, Finsbury, E.C.
PIPES, CAST IRON—Bailey, Pegg & Co., Ltd., Brierley Hill, Staffs.
TELEPHONES—British L. M. Ericsson Manufacturing Co., Ltd.,
 Beeston, Nottingham.
TUBES, AIR TIRE—W. & A. Bates, Ltd., Leicester.
WIRE, BRONZE—F. Smith & Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester.
WIRE, COPPER—
 British Insulated & Helsby Cables, Ltd., Prescott, Lancashire.
 T. Bolton & Sons, Ltd., Oakmoor.
 Elliott's Metal Co., Ltd., Selly Oak Works, Birmingham.
 R. Johnson & Nephew, Ltd., Bradford Iron Works, Manchester.
 Shropshire Iron Co., Ltd., Hadley, Wellington, Salop.
 F. Smith & Co., Ltd., Salford, Manchester.
 Wilkes Sgns & Mapplebeck, Liverpool Street, Birmingham.
MOTOR MAIL SERVICE—
 Between Warrington and Burnley—Messrs. Blake & Co.,
 Beaumont Street, Liverpool.
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 Tillings, Ltd., Winchester House, Peckham, S.E.
CONTRACT FOR MAIL CART SERVICES AT MANCHESTER—Messrs.
 Richmond & Sons, Manchester.
LAY AND JOINT LINES OF CAST IRON PIPES AND EARTHENWARE
 DUCTS in the Avenue Exchange Area, London—J. Mowlem &
 Co., Ltd., Grosvenor Wharf, Westminster, S.W.
ELECTRIC LIFTS (four) at the Head Post Office, Newcastle-on-Tyne
 —A. & P. Steven, 181, St. James Road, Glasgow.
LOCAL TELEPHONE EXCHANGE EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION at the
 Post Office premises in Dalrymple Street, Kirkintilloch—
 Western Electric Co., Ltd., North Woolwich, E.

STATIONERY OFFICE.

CARDBOARDS AND CARDS of various descriptions—Spicer Bros.,
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PAPER of various descriptions—
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 J. Baldwin & Son, Ltd., King's Norton.
 Brown, Stewart & Co., Ltd., Dalmarnock Mills, Glasgow.
 H. Bruce & Sons, Kinleith Mill, Currie.
 A. Cowan & Sons, Ltd., Valleyfield Mills, Penicuik.
 R. Craig & Sons, Ltd., Moffat and Caldercruix Mills, Airdrie.
 J. R. Crompton & Bros., Ltd., Elton Mills, Bury.
 C. Davidson & Sons, Ltd., Bucksburn, Aberdeen.
 P. Dixon & Son, Ltd., Spring Grove Paper Mills, Oughtibridge,
 near Sheffield.
 Golden Valley Paper Mills, Bitton, near Bristol.
 Hele Paper Co., Ltd., Hele Mill, Cullompton.
 Hyde Paper Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Broomstair Mills, Denton.
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 J. W. Marshall & Co., Springfield Mills, Bolton.
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 Cooper, Dennison & Walkden, Ltd., Verney Road, S.E.
 R. Daws, 7-8, Dyers' Buildings, E.C.
 G. J. Dille, Potton, Beds.

G. Gibbs & Son, Mitcham Common.
 G. W. Russell & Sons, Hitchin.
 A. Stent & Sons, Havant.
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 "Handbook of Physical Training"—R. E. King & Co., Ltd.,
 106-110, Tabernacle Street, E.C.
 Binding 7,500 "Course of Ammunition for Boys, 1909"; binding
 4,000 "Stokers' Manual, 1907"—Dickens & Cooper, Ltd.,
 6, New Court, Farringdon Street, E.C.
 Binding, &c., 30,000 "Army Book 153 B"; 2,500 "Army
 Book 122 B"; 4,500 books "S 548A"; Printing, Binding, &c.,
 10,000 "Army Book 57"; 4,000 books "S 323"; 1,400 books
 "S 322"; Supplying 1,100 Portfolios; 500 Portfolios "S 567";
 900 Waterproof Covers; 500 Cases—Waterlow & Sons, Ltd.,
 Finsbury, E.C.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 7,000 "Army Book 69"; 3,000 "Army
 Book 30"; 600 Attendance Books; 600 "Army Book 228";
 4,700 books "S 71A"; Supplying 4,000 books "S 247"; 5,000
 Portfolios; 2,000 Brown Millboards—McCorquodale & Co.,
 Ltd., Wolverton, Bucks.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 6,000 "Army Book 193"; 1,000 "Army
 Book 121"; 30,000 "Army Book 129"—Willmott & Sons,
 Ltd., 52-56, Bartholomew Close, E.C.
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 Notes"—Fenner, Appleton & Co., Ltd., 77, St. John Street,
 E.C.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 4,000 "Army Book 97"; 2,000 books
 "S 325"—J. Dickinson & Co., Ltd., Apsley Mill, Hemel
 Hempstead.
 Printing, Binding, &c., 1,200 "Army Book 207A"; 1,200
 "Army Book 208A"; 2,500 books "S 242"; 6,000 books
 "S 353E"—J. Rissen, 20, Tudor Street, E.C.
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 1910"—Browne & Nolan, Ltd., Denzille Street and Nassau
 Street, Dublin.
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 Stevens & Son, Botolph Street, Norwich.
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 and Orders—J. Truscott & Son, Ltd., Suffolk Lane, E.C.
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 Tarrant & Co., Ltd., 110, Camberwell Road, S.E.
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 F. R. Hipperson, Northumberland Street, Norwich.
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 Percy W. Cox, Gatto Lane, Handsworth, Birmingham.
 E. J. Jenkins, Watton Saw Mills, Brecon.
 William Davies, 27, Parcmann Street, Carmarthen.
 Wm. Lewis & Co., Commercial Road, Hereford.

* These Contracts were placed in February, but were received too late for
 insertion in the March issue of LABOUR GAZETTE.

C. M. Moxham & Co., Swansea.
 Robert W. Moon, 1, Cork Square, Newport, Mon.
 King & Scarborough, 240, Kingsland Road, London.
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 J. T. C. Brown & Son, Bodmin.
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 Barden & Head, Maidstone.
 Avery Bros., Staple Gardens, High Street, Winchester.
 W. Marshall & Co., 256, Old Street, London.
 C. Slade, Dorchester.
 G. Graden & Son, North Road, Durham.
 J. Moore, 341, Holderness Road, Hull.
 J. Walker, Wesley Road, Armley, Leeds.
 G. Duxbury, 73, Church Gate, Leicester.
 S. Buy, 224, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 T. Willoughby, Old Grammar School, Northallerton.
 George Crook, 65, Henry Street, Wakefield.
 J. W. Baird, Higher Town, Knutsford.
 J. Owen & Sons, Stanley Road, Liverpool.
 J. Hayes, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.
 C. J. Nevitt, Ltd., Bailey Street, Stafford.
 Jonas & Butler, Haydn Road, Nottingham.
 Carter Bros., 150, Castleton Road, Preston.
 Edward Musgrave, 15, Court Street, Carlisle.
 Wm. A. Roberts, High Street, Carnarvon.
 Henry Ash, Northgate Street, Devizes.
 C. Mishin & Sons, St. Albans.
 Francis Newberry, 292, King's Road, Reading.
 J. H. Kingerlee & Son, Oxford.
 S. G. Crow, 22, Deangate, Northampton.
 Lansdown & Son, Melville Street, Lincoln.
 Wm. Grayston, 22 and 24, Argyll Street, Ipswich.
 Johnson & Hawkes, New Street, Chelmsford.
 J. Corby & Son, 27, Tavistock Street, Bedford.
 Webster & Cannon, Aylesbury.

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 Joseph Blain, Blackfriars Street, Carlisle.
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 W. Davies, 27, Parcmaen Street, Carmarthen.
 Wm. Lewis & Co., Commercial Road, Hereford.
 C. M. Moxham & Co., Swansea.
 Robert W. Moon, 1, Cork Square, Newport, Mon.
 W. Whiteway & Co., Greenwich Wharf, East Greenwich, S.E.
 Geo. F. Smith & Sons, Milverton, Leamington.
 Joseph Wood & Sons (Worcester), Ltd., Worcester.
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 W. Webb & Co., Chatham.
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 F. T. Gentry, Broad Street, Canterbury.
 Barden & Head, Maidstone.
 Avery Bros., Staple Gardens, High Street, Winchester.
 E. W. Jenkins, 49, Upper Street, James Street, Newport, I.W.
 C. Slade, Dorchester.
 G. Graden & Son, North Road, Durham.
 J. T. Levitt, 84, Holderness Road, Hull.
 J. Walker, Wesley Road, Armley, Leeds.
 G. Duxbury, 73, Church Gate, Leicester.
 S. Buy, 224, Westgate Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
 T. Willoughby, Old Grammar School, Northallerton.
 G. Crook, 65, Henry Street, Wakefield.
 Wiggins & Co., Hammersmith, W.
 J. W. Baird, Higher Town, Knutsford.
 Walker & Slater, Uttoxeter Old Road, Derby.
 Joseph Hayes, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.
 G. Newton, Railway Wharf, Stafford.
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 W. Maule & Co., Huntingdon Street, Nottingham.
 Carter Bros., 150, Castleton Road, Preston.
 Osman Cooban, Bedford Road, Walton, Liverpool.
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 Francis Roberts, Cae Athraw, Carnarvon.
 H. Ash, Northgate Street, Devizes.
 C. Miskin & Sons, St. Albans.
 J. Milsom & Sons, Portland Wharf, Reading.
 J. H. Kingerlee & Son, Oxford.
 S. G. Crow, 22, Deangate, Northampton.
 Lansdown & Son, Melville Street, Lincoln.
 Wm. Grayston, 22 & 24, Argyll Street, Ipswich.
 Johnson & Hawkes, New Street, Chelmsford.
 J. Corby & Son, 27, Tavistock Street, Bedford.
 Webster & Cannon, Aylesbury.

SUPPLY OF PAINTERS', PLUMBERS' AND GLAZIERS' MATERIALS*—
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* These Contracts were placed in February, but were received too late for insertion in the March issue of LABOUR GAZETTE.

Pryke & Palmer, 40, Upper Thames Street, London, E.C.
 T. & W. Farmiloe, Ltd., Rochester Row, Westminster, S.W.
 John Williams & Sons (Cardiff), Ltd., Queen Street, Cardiff.

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