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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

### I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

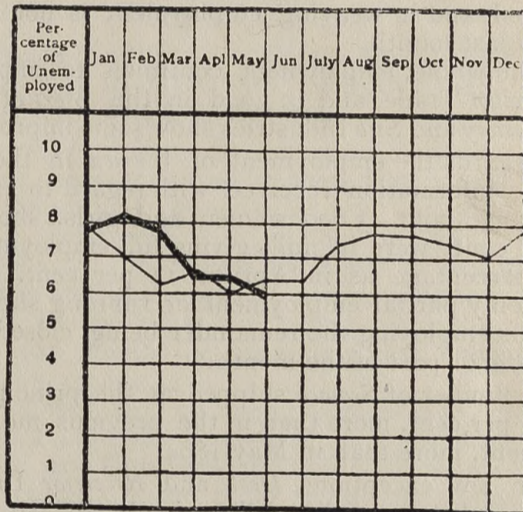
Most of the industries for which returns have been received have shown a steady improvement in employment in May as compared with April, with the result that the percentage of unemployed in all the unions making returns has fallen from 6.5 to 6.0.

In the 85 trade unions, with an aggregate membership of 387,411, making returns, 23,351 (or 6.0 per cent.) are reported as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 6.5 per cent. in April, and 6.3 per cent. in the 51 unions making returns for May 1894.

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

Chart showing the percentage of unemployed members of the trade unions making returns at the close of each month of 1894 and of each completed month of 1895.

*The thick line applies to 1895, the thin line to 1894.*



The proportions of unemployed in the 85 unions making returns may be classified as follows:—

	Unions.	Members.
Under 3 per cent. ... ..	31	96,733
3 and under 5 per cent. ... ..	22	49,587
5 and under 7 per cent. ... ..	13	139,693
7 and under 10 per cent. ... ..	7	20,455
10 per cent. and upwards ... ..	12	80,943
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>387,411</b>

**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—The average number of days per week worked during May by the 1,053 pits, employing 241,494 persons, from which returns have been received, was 4.57, compared with 4.46 in April, and 4.71 in May 1894. The proportion of unemployed miners in the North of England has fallen from 5.6 per cent. in April to 5.2 in May.

**Iron Mining.**—At 88 iron mines, employing 11,871 workpeople, the average weekly number of days worked during the month was 5.74, as against 5.39 in April.

In the *Pig Iron* Industry the number of furnaces in blast at the end of May covered by the returns remained the same (*viz.*, 293) as at the end of April, compared with 308 in May 1894. The number employed was slightly less than last month.

Returns from 183 employers show that the number

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EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

(d) PIG IRON INDUSTRY IN MAY.

THE number of furnaces in blast at the end of May as returned by 108 ironmasters, who own about 88 per cent. of all of the blast furnaces in the United Kingdom, was 293, the same number as last month, as against 308 in May 1894, a decrease of 15. Compared with this time last year the largest proportionate decline was in South and South-West Yorkshire, amounting to 4 out of 11. There was a decrease of 4 in Cumberland and Lancashire, of 6 in the Midlands, and 4 in Cleveland. In Scotland there were 3 more furnaces reported in blast at the end of last month than in May 1894, while the number in Lincolnshire remained unaltered.

At the 293 furnaces, 19,567 persons were employed, or 174 less than last year. In England and Wales the decrease amounted to 489 persons, while the returns for Scotland show an increase of 315 in the number employed.

As compared with April 1895, there is no difference in the total number of furnaces in blast. Taking individual districts, however, it appears that two furnaces were re-lit in Cumberland and Lancashire, and one each in Monmouthshire and Ayrshire. Two were blown out in the Midlands, one in Monmouthshire, and one blown out or damped down in the Cleveland district. The number of workpeople in all districts has decreased by 82.

The following table summarises the returns received: Comparison of the number of furnaces in blast at end of May 1895 with the number in blast at end of May 1894, and at end of April 1895, so far as included in the returns made to the Department:—

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	May 1895.	May 1894.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1895.	May 1895.	April 1895.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May 1895.
ENGLAND & WALES—						
Cleveland ... ..	89	93	-4	89	90	-1
Cumberland & Lancs.	36	40	-4	36	34	+2
S. and S.W. Yorks...	7	11	-4	7	7	...
Lincolnshire ... ..	14	14	...	14	14	...
Midlands ... ..	67	73	-6	67	69	-2
Glamorgan and Mon.	17	18	-1	17	17	...
Other districts ... ..	6	5	+1	6	6	...
<b>Total England and Wales...</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>-1</b>
SCOTLAND ... ..	57	54	+3	57	56	+1
<b>Total furnaces included in returns ...</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>...</b>

The monthly circular issued by the Cleveland Ironmasters' Association gives the following particulars respecting the Pig Iron Industry in Cleveland:—

**Production.**—During May 250,422 tons of pig iron were produced, as compared with 243,807 in April and 256,675 tons in May 1894.

**Stocks.**—There is still a large increase in the stocks of pig iron when compared with last year, though a reduction is noted on the figures for April last, the amounts being: for May 31st, 300,998 tons; April 30th, 301,885 tons; and May 31st 1894, 154,488 tons.

**Shipments.**—The total shipments (foreign and coastwise) from Middlesbrough during May amounted to 97,402 tons, being 8,136 tons less than in the previous month, though 10,932 more than in May 1894.

The quantity of pig iron shipped from all ports to foreign countries and British possessions during May was 90,524 tons, as compared with 71,425 tons in May 1894 and 94,903 tons in May 1893.

(e) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MAY.

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of returns from 120 correspondents, referring to 160 parishes, and from one Agricultural Labourers' Union, reports as follows:—Although farm work was well forward at the end of April, generally speaking employment was satisfactory throughout the month of May, and compares very favourably with the corresponding period of 1894, particularly in the Eastern

Counties. Changes in wages in an upward direction are reported in districts in the counties of Warwickshire, Oxfordshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Lincolnshire and Kent.

ENGLAND.

**Northern Counties.**—Satisfactory reports as regards the state of employment in May come from the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmoreland, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Durham, and from Yorkshire from parishes in the unions of Easingwold, Great Ouseburn, Malton, and Knaresborough. In Cheshire employment is said to have been generally regular in the Nantwich Union, but in the parish of Banbury work is stated to have been irregular, owing partly to the dry weather and the forward state of farm work, and partly to the curtailment of expenses by farmers owing to agricultural depression.

**Midland Counties.**—In Shropshire employment is reported to have been regular in the parishes of Cheswardine, Childs Ercall, Hinstock, and Stoke-upon-Tern in the Market Drayton Union, and also in the Bridgnorth Union; and in Leicestershire, in the Union of Melton Mowbray; in the parishes of Kilby, Weston, and Newton Harcourt, in the Blaby and Billesdon Unions; and at Beeby, in the Barrow-on-Soar Union. No able-bodied men are reported to be out of work at Wollaton or Newstead, in the Basford Union of Nottinghamshire, at Epperstone in the Southwell Union, or in the Oakham Union of Rutland. In Warwickshire favourable reports come from the Alcester Union. In the parish of Grafton weekly wages rose from 9s. to 10s. in May, but wages in this parish were lower by 1s. to 2s. than in neighbouring ones. There has been a considerable amount of employment given at hoeing corn by piece-work. A favourable report comes from Eye Green, in the Peterborough Union of Northamptonshire; from the following parishes in the Kettering Union, namely, Brigstock, Geddington, Grafton Underwood, Little Oakley, Newton, Warkton and Weekley, and from the following parishes in the Brixworth Union, Harleston, Brampton, Brington, and Holdenby. In Huntingdonshire it is reported that work is plentiful in the following parishes in the St. Neot's Union, namely, Great Staughton, Little Staughton, Graffham, Kimbolton, Diddington, West and East Perry. In the Thame Union of Oxfordshire, in the parishes of Thame, Waterperry and Ascott, and at Stadhampton, in the Abingdon Union, no able-bodied men willing to work are out of employment. In the parishes of Ascott and Stadhampton daymen's wages changed from 10s. a week to 11s. on May 17th. The cash wages of cartmen and carters are 12s. to 15s.

**Eastern Counties.**—In Suffolk employment was generally regular during May. Satisfactory reports come from the following Unions:—Plomesgate, Thingoe, Mildenhall, Blything, and Samford. These reports are also confirmed by the Eastern Counties Federation. In the Blything Union the men who had been receiving 9s. a week in April were raised to 10s. in May. The current rate of weekly wages of ordinary labourers in the Union is now 10s., and in the county 10s. and 11s., but a good deal of piece-work is given in some localities. In Norfolk regular work is reported and in the following Unions:—Swaifham, Mitford, Loddon and Clavering and Depwade. The current rate of weekly wages of ordinary labourers in the county is 10s., though piece-work, at which more can be earned, is frequently given. A rise to 11s. is reported in parts of the Walsingham Union and the Loddon and Clavering Unions. In the latter union the rise has been ascertained to have taken place on nine farms, affecting 83 men. In Essex satisfactory reports come from the Maldon and Colchester Unions. A few men are reported to have been in irregular work in the latter district. In the Braintree and Halstead Unions about three per cent. are reported to have been in irregular work in the towns of Braintree and Halstead, but in the country parishes employment was regular. In the following parishes those who were receiving 9s. were raised to 10s., namely, Tilbury, Ovington, Toppefield, and Finchingley. A good deal of hoeing is being done by piece-work in the county.

In Lincolnshire employment was regular in the Unions of Sleaford, Horncastle, and Brigg. In the latter Union there has been a considerable demand for labour to weed. In the Louth Union some single wagoners, who stood out for high wages at the hirings and failed to get hired, have been in irregular work. In the Sleaford Union all the men who were receiving 2s. a day were raised to 2s. 3d., but the majority had been raised in April. Wages in the county are now generally 2s. 3d. a day, and in some of the northern parts 2s. 6d. In Cambridgeshire employment is reported to have been regular in the Unions of Wisbech, Ely, Linton, North Witchford, Caxton, Royston and Peterborough.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

**Home Counties.**—In Kent, in the Hollingbourne Union, no men are reported out of work in the following parishes:—Leeds, Harrietsham, Bicknor, Wormshill, Hucking and Stockbury, but at Chart Sutton and some of the neighbouring villages a good many men are reported to be in irregular work, the majority being strangers. It is estimated that about 10 per cent. of the resident labourers are in irregular employment. In the Milton Union at Newington and Hartlip work is reported as regular. Weekly wages changed on May 1st in the Hollingbourne Union from 2s. 2d. a day to 2s. 6d., and in the parishes of Hollingbourne, Bicknor and Hucking from 2s. 6d. to 3s. In the Milton Union they changed on April 6th from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 4d., and at Hartlip and Newington from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. on May 12th, and from 2s. 6d. to 3s. on May 30th. In many cases piece-work is now being given at hop-tying and gooseberry-picking, at which 18s. to 20s. a week is being earned. In the Buckingham Union at Addington and Adstock, very few were in irregular work during May, any surplus labour being employed on the extension of the Metropolitan Railway. In the Newport Pagnell Union at Church End, Great Linford, Bradwell, Abbey, and Stantonbury, work is reported regular. At Clifton Reynes labour is said to be scarce. At Shendley and the neighbouring villages in the Winslow Union work is said to be regular for all the labourers.

At Fawley, in the Wantage Union of Berkshire, employment is regular. Satisfactory reports come from the Buntingford and Hemel Hempstead Unions of Hertfordshire.

**Western Counties.**—In Wiltshire work is reported to be regular in the Pewsey Union in the parishes of Manningford Bohun, Manningford Bruce, Manningford Abbots, Charlton and North Newton; in the Wilton Union at Burcombe and neighbourhood, and at Roundway in the Devizes Union. Satisfactory reports come from Compton Valence and Herringstone in the Dorchester Union, and from Shapwick in the Wimborne Union. In Gloucestershire, no able-bodied men willing to work are reported in irregular employment at Cirencester. Building operations in the town, and the militia training, has absorbed any surplus labour. At Hawkesbury, in the Chipping Sodbury Union, six or seven per cent. are stated to have been in irregular work during May. At Toddington and the surrounding parishes, in the Winchcombe Union, work is said to be plentiful, and also at Westbury-on-Trym, in the Barton Regis Union. Regular work is also reported in Herefordshire in the Leominster Union, in the parishes of Bodenham, Hope-under-Dinmore, Stoke Prior, Ford, and the townships of Newton and Wharston. Satisfactory reports come from the Langport Union of Somerset. At Somerton the new waterworks scheme, just commenced, is said to be likely to employ all surplus labour for the next nine months. In the Wells Union no men are said to be in irregular work in the parishes of Wookey, Westbury, Meare, North Wootton, West Pennard, Butleigh, Chewton Mendip and Dinder, and at Pilton in the Shepton Mallet Union. In the Crediton Union of Devonshire work is reported to be plentiful in the neighbourhood of Shobrooke and Wembworthy. Regular agricultural labour is said to be well employed in the Redruth Union of Cornwall.

HIRINGS IN MAY.

At the following hirings, which took place in May in Shropshire and Lincolnshire, there was said to be a very slight downward tendency in the rates of wages obtained, compared with those paid at the corresponding period in 1894. In Nottingham they are about the same.

Shropshire. (Yearly).

(Board and lodging is provided in addition to the cash wage.)

	1st Wagoner.		2nd Wagoner.		Cowman.		Lad.
	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	
Bridgnorth ... ..	13	14	9	11	13	14	4 to 6
Bishop's Castle ...	15	16	11	12	15	16	5 to 8
Cleobury Mortimer ...	12	15	9	11	12	14	7 to 9
Church Stretton ...	14	15	11	12	14	15	5 to 7
Ludlow ... ..	14	16	11	12	14	15	5 to 7
Much Wenlock ... ..	13	14	9	11	13	14	4 to 6

NOTE.—The hired men are usually young men from 18 to 25 years.

Nottinghamshire. (Yearly).

(Board and lodging is provided in addition to the cash wage.)

	1st Wagoner.		2nd Wagoner.		Lad.
	£	s.	£	s.	
Nottingham ... ..	18	10	16	...	5 to 8
Newark ... ..	...	...	...	...	...

NOTE.—The above are young un married men. Married wagoners get from 18s. to 20s. a week, cottage free, and coal carted. Ordinary labourers get 15s. to 16s. a week.

Lincolnshire. (Yearly.)

(Board and lodging is provided, and beer in harvest, in addition to the cash wage, or else an allowance of 9s. a week is given for board and lodging in the foreman's house.)

	Head Wagoner.		2nd Wagoner.		3rd Wagoner.		Lad.
	£	s.	£	s.	£	s.	
Boston ... ..	18	20	12	15	10	12	8 to 10
Grantham ... ..	20	22	15	10	8	8	...
Spalding ... ..	17	20	10	14	9	10	7 to 8
Gainsborough ... ..	17	22	12	15	10	12	10 to 12 (able to plough)
Horncastle ... ..	16	18	12	14	8	10	5 to 7
Sleaford ... ..	18	20	13	16	10	12	6 to 10

NOTE.—Cash wages of ordinary labourers in the county are now 2s. 3d. a day, and in some cases 2s. 6d. Shepherds and stockmen generally get between 14s. and 20s. a week, with free houses and other perquisites.

The accounts of the hirings in May in the North of England and in Scotland are held over until next month.

(f) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MAY.

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

THE number of seamen shipped during May as the crews of foreign-going vessels from the principal ports of the United Kingdom was 36,487, or 2,939 more than in May 1894, when the total was 33,548. The ports returning the largest increases were the Tyne Ports, Cardiff, Southampton and Swansea, while decreased shipments were reported from Liverpool, London, Bristol, Dublin, and Belfast.

The supply of seamen and firemen at the ports included in the table below is generally reported as plentiful, though at Leith and Dublin men for sailing vessels are reported to be scarce.

The rates of wages of seamen and firemen remained unaltered in May at all ports, with a few trifling exceptions, full details of which will be found in the table of "Changes in Wages," on page 191.

Table showing the number of men, &c., shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels at some of the principal ports of the United Kingdom in May 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in May 1895.			Total in May 1894.	In-crease in 1895.	De-crease in 1895.
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in May 1895.			
ENGLAND.						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ... ..	216	3,743	3,959	3,072	887	...
Sunderland ... ..	49	820	869	809	60	...
Middlesbrough ...	42	732	774	573	201	...
Hull ... ..	34	1,237	1,271	1,120	151	...
Grimsby ... ..	17	149	166	86	80	...
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ... ..	...	155	155	315	...	160
Newport, Mon. ...	154	1,215	1,369	1,059	319	...
Cardiff ... ..	1,139	5,321	6,460	5,738	722	...
Swansea ... ..	342	366	708	477	231	...
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ... ..	540	9,367	9,907	10,183	...	276
London ... ..	766	4,811	5,577	5,740	...	163
Southampton ...	11	1,855	1,866	1,333	533	...
SCOTLAND.						
Leith, Kirkcaldy and Grangemouth	115	586	701	610	91	...
Glasgow ... ..	140	2,292	2,432	2,308	124	...
IRELAND.						
Dublin ... ..	5	15	20	70	...	50
Belfast ... ..	...	43	43	124	...	81
<b>Total May 1895 ...</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>32,917</b>	<b>36,487</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>2,939</b>	<b>...</b>
<b> Ditto, May 1894 ...</b>	<b>2,897</b>	<b>30,657</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>33,548</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>...</b>

(g) DOCK LABOUR IN LONDON IN MAY.

EMPLOYMENT for dock labourers in London was rather better in May than in the previous month, but it fell off somewhat during the third and fourth weeks of the month.

From the returns furnished to the Department it is estimated that the average daily number of dock labourers employed in all the docks in London and at 96 of the principal wharves was 13,884 in the four weeks ended 25th May, as compared with 13,804 in the four previous weeks. The estimated maximum number employed on any one day in May was 14,509 on the 8th, and the minimum 12,939 on the 24th.

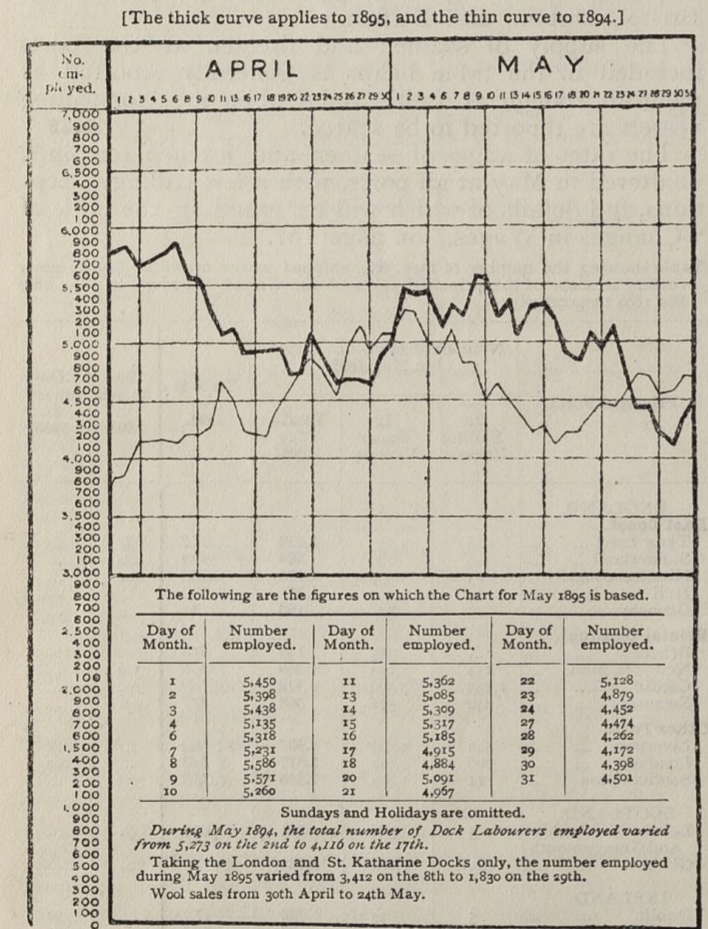
EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SPECIAL INDUSTRIES (continued).

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

Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.	
1st week of May ...	7,521	1,393	8,914	13,915
2nd " " ...	7,640	1,373	9,013	14,135
3rd " " ...	7,249	1,623	8,872	13,694
4th " " ...	7,410	1,288	8,698	13,772
Average for 4 weeks ending May 25th ...	7,457	1,425	8,882	13,884
Average for 4 weeks ending April 27th ...	7,302	1,414	8,716	13,804

(2) The daily fluctuation in the number of labourers employed by the London and India Docks Joint Committee during April and May is clearly shown on the following chart. The numbers ranged during May from 5,586 on the 8th, to 4,172 on the 29th.

Chart showing the total number of Dock Labourers employed by the Joint Committee at the London, St. Katharine, East and West India, Victoria and Albert Docks, and the Town Warehouses, for each day during the months of April and May 1895. The corresponding curve for April and May 1894 is also given for comparison. Dock Labourers employed by Shipowners direct, Stevedores, and Coal Porters are not included.



The returns furnished do not give the comparative figures for May 1894 of wharf labourers and men employed by shipowners, &c., but for the labour employed by the dock companies in May 1895 and 1894 the figures are as follows:—

Period.	Labourers employed by Dock Companies directly or through Contractors.			
	1895.	1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
1st week of May ...	7,521	7,658	—	137
2nd " " ...	7,640	6,929	711	—
3rd " " ...	7,249	6,747	502	—
4th " " ...	7,410	7,317	93	—
Average for 4 weeks ...	7,457	7,175	282	—

On the North side the busiest wharves are reported to have been those above the London Dock. Most of the wharves on the South side have been rather slack. Lightermen have been fairly employed.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN THE TEXTILE TRADES IN MAY.

JUDGED by the returns received from women correspondents, the state of employment for women in the Textile Trades generally remains practically unchanged compared with the previous month, a slight falling off in the Cotton Trade being balanced by an improvement in the Woollen and Worsted Industry.

Information has been received with regard to the employment of women and girls in 222 cotton, woollen, worsted, and silk mills. In the case of 153 mills the numbers employed are known approximately. If the same average number be assumed to be employed in the remaining 69 mills as in those for the same trade for which numbers are known, the information may be summarised as follows:—

State of Employment.	Number of Mills.	Approximate estimate of Women and Girls employed.		
		Number.	Percentage.	Percentage for April.
Full time ...	187	37,670	84	84
Part time, but partial employment ...	24	5,790	13	12
Short time ...	4	482	1	—
Closed for repairs ...	1	1,105	2	2
" on account of bad trade ...	6	—	—	—
Total ...	222	45,047	100	100

**Cotton Trade.**—According to this estimate, the number of women and girls usually employed in the cotton mills reported on was 35,374. Of these 81 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 82 per cent. in April), 16 per cent. in mills running full time but giving partial employment; while mills employing 3 per cent. of the number were closed during the whole or part of the month.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is estimated at 8,923. Of these 92 per cent. were employed in mills working full time (compared with 89 per cent. in April); 3 per cent. in mills running full time, but giving partial employment; and 5 per cent. in mills running short time.

**Silk Trade.**—The number of women and girls employed in the silk mills reported on is estimated at 750. All were employed in mills working full time.

III.—DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.\*

LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—In the chief important industries employment has continued to improve during the month. Returns received relating to 348 branches of 76 trade unions in the London district, with a membership of 63,253, show 2,721 (or 4.3 per cent.) unemployed at the end of May, compared with 4.8 per cent. for April.

The **Engineering, Metal,** and **Shipbuilding** Trades are somewhat busier than in April. Reports from 103 branches of 23 unions show that out of a membership of 19,385, 1,113 (or 5.7 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 6.2 per cent. in April, and 6.9 per cent. in May 1894.

Nearly all branches of the **Building** Trades continue well employed. Returns from 180 branches of 7 unions paying unemployed benefit, and having a membership of 12,805, show that 271 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 3.2 per cent. in April, and 4.5 per cent. in May 1894. The bricklayers, painters, and stone-carvers, with an aggregate membership in the

\* When it is stated in these reports that "the carpenters," "the plumbers," &c. make certain reports, reference is usually made to the Unions connected with these trades, unless it is otherwise specified.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LONDON AND NORTHERN COUNTIES.

London district of 8,562, describe employment as good; the carpenters and joiners, masons, plasterers, plumbers, and sawyers, with a membership of 17,549, as fair.

Employment in the **Furnishing** and **Wood-working** Trades continues good. Reports from 37 branches of 18 unions, with an aggregate membership of 6,896, show that 113 (or 1.6 per cent.) were unemployed, against 1.8 per cent. last month, and 3.3 per cent. in May 1894.

The letterpress and lithographic branches of the **Printing** Trade have both improved to some extent during the month, but the bookbinding branches have continued to decline. Returns from 15 unions, with an aggregate membership of 19,091, show that 853 (or 4.5 per cent.) were unemployed, against 4.6 per cent. last month, and 6.0 per cent. in May 1894.

**Clothing Trades.**—The Wholesale Clothing Trade has continued busy. The West-end Tailoring Trade has been exceptionally busy throughout the month. The East-end Bespoke Trade has been brisk, with some signs of a slight falling off towards the end of the month. Considerable improvement has taken place in the Hat Trade. The fur skin-dressers are moderately employed; the furrers are slack.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—In the machine branch work has been plentiful throughout the month. In the high-class bespoke branch employment has continued exceptionally good, and workmen are still in demand.

Employment in the **Leather** Trades has improved. Returns from four unions with an aggregate membership of 1,093, show that 34 (or 3.1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 3.9 per cent. in April.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Labourers at the docks and wharves were rather better employed in May than in April, though there was a slight falling off in the second fortnight of the month. The average daily number of dock labourers employed at the docks and at 96 of the principal wharves was 13,884, compared with 13,864 in April. The wharves show a slight falling off in employment, but those on the North side above London Dock have been busy. Further details are given on page 166. Lightermen have been fairly well employed. Seamen shipped in foreign-going vessels during the month numbered 5,577, a decrease of 20 as compared with the previous month, and of 163 as compared with May 1894.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment with glass-makers and glass-blowers, though still bad, has slightly improved; glass bevellers and silverers are fairly busy; the Silver Trades, as a rule, are well employed; the scientific instrument-makers are working short time; the furrers and coach-makers are improving; the cooperers are fairly busy; the box-makers show a decline; the brush-makers describe employment as good, except the bone branch, which is slack; the horsehair and fibre-workers are busy in all branches, and in fibre-dressing there is a demand for men; the bass-dressers and mat-makers are not so well employed, the latter working short time; all branches of the Tobacco Trade continue slack.

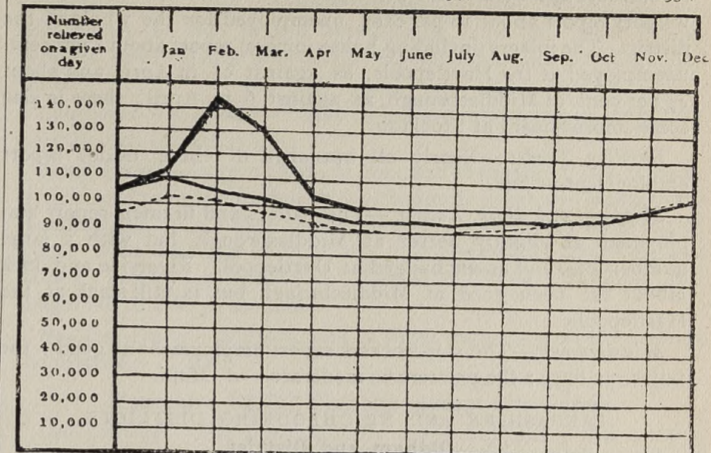
**Disputes and Trade Movements.**—Three fresh disputes have been reported during the month—due respectively to the alleged refusal of a few builders' labourers to work with a non-unionist; the objection of nine loaders in the employ of a South London Vestry to the reintroduction of piece-work (settled in favour of the men); and an effort on the part of some electrical workers at Ponder's End to abolish piece-work, in which 400 men, women, and boys are affected (still unsettled).

**Labour Bureaux.**—During May the five labour bureaux furnishing returns registered 3,107 fresh applications from workpeople, and 515 from employers. Work was found through the bureaux during the month for 1,200 persons (viz., 757 temporary and 443 permanent work), of which number 189 were engaged by local authorities.

**Pauperism.**—The number of persons relieved in London on the last day of the second week of May was 99,693, or 237 per 10,000 of population, as compared with 105,115, or 250 per 10,000 in April, a decrease of 13 in the rate per 10,000. The most noticeable decreases were in the North and Central districts, viz., 20 per 10,000 in each case. The figures, however, show an increase as compared with May 1894, when the number relieved was 95,146. The largest increase is in the South district (19 per 10,000). The rate of pauperism per 10,000 of population in West Ham was 242 in May, 283 in April, and 249 in May 1894.

The following chart shows the seasonal variations in the volume of pauperism in London at the middle of each month for the years 1893, 1894, and 1895:—

[The thick curve represents 1895; the thin curve 1894; and the dotted curve 1893.]



The number of vagrants relieved in London on the last day of the second week of May was 1,247.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.—Durham.**—Several gas coal collieries have worked practically full time. At one or two pits the men have received full pay for the first time this year. Other pits have averaged from five to nine days per fortnight. The number of unemployed union pitmen is 3,590, or 6.1 per cent., as against 6.3 per cent. in April. **Northumberland.**—The demand for steam coal has improved, 12 or 14 of the best pits working full time. Second-class collieries have worked from five to eight days per fortnight. The total number of union miners in receipt of stoppage pay is 685, or 3.4 per cent., as against 3.3 per cent. in April.

**Iron Mining and Quarrying.**—Ironstone miners are fairly busy. Limestone quarrying is very quiet. Stone quarries are busy.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.—On the Tyne.**—In several yards employment is fairly good. Ship repairing continues busy. Marine engine building is improving. In the Ordnance Works overtime is being worked. The percentage of unemployed engineers, boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders is 12.3 out of a membership of 10,126, as against 16.4 in April. **On the Wear.**—Shipbuilding shows a slight improvement, but several yards are still slack. Engine-building continues quiet. Of the 4,082 members of the Boiler-making, Shipbuilding, and Engineering Trades, 16.5 per cent. are unemployed, as against 16.9 in April. The shipwrights have 13 per cent., the joiners 2 per cent., the moulders 15 per cent., and the pattern-makers 7.9 per cent. unemployed. The steel plate mills are working full time, and the argle mills 5 days.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—The coal porters report employment as bad on the Tyne, with nearly 7 per cent. idle. Employment on the Wear continues good. Quay-side labourers have been moderately employed. Wherry-men are slack, too only averaging two or three days per week.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good throughout the district.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers have 10 per cent. of their members unemployed. The bookbinders and paper-makers are well employed.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Durham Coke Trade has improved, with a little over 1 per cent. idle, as against 3 per cent. in April. The Chemical Trade continues depressed. Cement and white lead factories are slack. The Weardale Lead Industry is slack. The glass-makers, with 7.5 per cent. unemployed, and the bottle-makers report employment as improved.—*J. Ratcliffe.*

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The finished Iron Trade continues dull, but the decline in prices has not been sufficient to affect wages under the sliding scale. At the blast furnaces and the foundries and bridge works no change is reported. There is an improvement in some departments of the Steel Trade.

**Engineering.**—Employment is better at Middlesbrough, the percentage of unemployed having gone down from 11 to 7.3, but at Stockton and Hartlepool employment is worse, the proportion unemployed having increased from 4.4 and 6.4 per cent. to 8.1 and 9.4 per cent. respectively. The moulders, smiths, strikers, and pattern-makers report no improvement.

**Shipbuilding.**—There has been no improvement at Thornaby and the Hartlepoons. The yard at Stockton continues steady, but at

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE.

Middlesbrough work at the principal yard is slacker. The shipwrights report about 10 per cent. unemployed for the whole of the district. The joiners (including house joiners) report about 4 per cent. unemployed at the Hartlepoons, as against 9½ in April, and about 4½ per cent. at Middlesbrough, as against 6 in April; there is also some improvement at Stockton.

**Building Trades.**—Nearly all branches of these trades report employment as fair.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors and firemen report employment as slightly better at Middlesbrough, but with a large number idle, and as unchanged at Hartlepool. Riverside and dock labour has been good at Middlesbrough, but is still slack at the Hartlepoons.

**Miscellaneous.**—The salt-workers report employment as good; the tailors as busy; the printers as moderate.—*A. Main.*

## LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

**Oldham and District.**

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in cotton spinning is difficult to obtain. Those in work are fully employed. Of the 20,668 spinners and card-room operatives in Oldham, Stalybridge, Stockport, Ashton-under-Lyne, Mossley and Rochdale making returns, 1,405, or 6.8 per cent., are receiving unemployed benefit, in addition to a considerable number idle, who have exhausted their benefit. Weavers, winders, reelers, and ring-frame tenters are well employed. There is no improvement in the Twining Trade. Several woollen mills in Stockport, formerly on short time, are now working full time.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers report employment as slack, with 4.2 per cent. out of work. In the machine shops employment is moderate, and is improving in Stalybridge district. The iron-founders report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Out of 705 members of these trades, only 3 are reported as receiving unemployed benefit.—*T. Ashton.*

**Bolton and District.**

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment in the spinning branch in Bolton is moderate. One mill still remains idle, and four others are on short time. The weavers continue fully employed. In Bury 8.4 per cent. of the spinners are on the out-of-work fund; weaving has improved. In Chorley there is a decline.

**Engineering and Iron Trade.**—In Bolton engineering has improved. Boiler-making and iron machine-making are active; steel smelting and the allied trades remain depressed. In Wigan the steel smelters and rollers report no change; but nearly all iron-rolling mills are now on full time. In Bury engineering has improved.

**Coal Mining.**—In the Bolton district 300 men have stopped work through a dispute, and about 200 more are unemployed. In the Wigan district over 2,000 men are out of work owing to disputes.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good in Bolton and Wigan, improved in Bury, and quiet in Chorley.—*R. Tootill.*

**Burnley, Accrington, and District.**

**Cotton Trade.**—Employment in the weaving industry has declined, a number of looms standing for warps, especially in the Haslingden district. There is little change in the Shoddy or Hardwaste Trade, few weavers being unemployed. The Sateen Trade is slightly better. The Coloured Goods Trade continues to improve, few looms being stopped. In the Spinning Trade the mills continue to work full time, yet in the Burnley district 33 (or 8.2 per cent.) of the members are returned as unemployed. In Accrington, 15 (or 3.6 per cent.) are on out-of-work benefit. In Blackburn, 21 (or 2 per cent.) are on out-of-work benefit, in addition to a number who are receiving temporary stoppage pay through slack trade, whilst in Preston over 40 of the members have exhausted their out-of-work benefit. In the remaining districts few men are out of work.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Turners, millwrights, and engine-fitters report work as steady, with few unemployed; machine-makers continue in full work; in some departments overtime is still worked. Tinplate workers are also busy.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in these trades is good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The Calico Printing and Dyeing Trades continue to be regularly employed. The tailors are busy, but cabinet-makers are quiet. The letterpress printing trade continues good. Except for a dispute at Cliviger, coal miners are practically in full work.—*W. H. Wilkinson.*

**Manchester and District.**

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The Engineering Trade has improved, with fewer unemployed. The boiler-makers report employment as moderate; the brass-founders and finishers as improving.

At Warrington the wire-drawers and wire-weavers are fully employed, and a slight improvement is shown throughout amongst iron-workers.

**Textile Trades.**—Cotton spinning is moderate at Manchester, Stockport and Warrington. At Macclesfield the cotton operatives report employment as good, all mills running full time. The dressers, dyers and finishers also report employment as good. The improvement in the Silk Trade continues; silk hand-loom weavers are fairly busy, but power-loom weavers show no change. Silk dyers and finishers are fully employed, but dressers are slack.

**Clothing Trades.**—The Tailoring Trade, both in the bespoke and wholesale branches, is good. Ready-made mantle-makers, and waterproof garment-makers are dull; felt hatters are well employed; cap-makers are busy. Umbrella making, although improved, is far from good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as bad, with nearly 5 per cent. out of work. The lithographers show a little improvement. The bookbinders report unfavourably.

**Miscellaneous.**—The dressers, dyers and finishers report employment as good, all working full time; the coach-makers as good, few being idle. In Warrington the file-smiths, flint-glass cutters, cabinet-makers, bakers and coopers are fairly well employed. The Macclesfield fustian-cutters are on full work. In Northwich little change is shown, employment being bad at the salt-works, a number of men being on short time.—*G. D. Kelley.*

**Barrow-in-Furness District.**

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—The Iron Trade is not brisk, although all are fully employed. The steel-workers are slack. At Workington there is an improvement, but trade generally for that district is quiet.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Marine engineering has been fairly busy, but is now declining. All other branches of engineering are slack. Shipbuilding is dull, a number of men have been discharged, but with few exceptions they have left the district. The dispute among the drillers has a depressing effect on the work now in hand.

**Coal Mining.**—Coal miners in the Cumberland district have been well employed.

**Building Trades.**—All branches of these trades are fully employed.

**Shipping and Railways.**—Shipping at the Barrow Docks is inactive. At Whitehaven, Workington and district shipping has been fairly busy, but mainly in the coasting trade. Railway traffic is dull.—*J. D. Cowper.*

**Liverpool and District.**

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—There has been a slight improvement in the Timber Trade, but quay porters in Liverpool and district are only moderately employed. Coalheavers show no change. The inland water carrying trade is quiet. The river flatmen are moderately employed.

**Shipbuilding, Engineering, and Metal Trades.**—Employment in the Shipbuilding Trade shows no steady improvement, and the Engineering Trade shows no change. Pattern-makers are fairly well employed. Moulders are reported as fairly well employed; whitesmiths and brass finishers show no change.

**Building Trades.**—These trades are fairly busy throughout the district.

**Glass and Chemical Trades.**—These trades show no improvement, the report from Widnes district being bad.

**Mining.**—This industry is much disturbed, particularly in St. Helens, where several notices have been issued to the miners of a reduction of rates, and several pits are reported to have been closed in consequence.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the railway goods department and on cross city traffic is reported as fair. The Printing Trade is quiet. Tobacco workers are fairly well employed.—*J. Sexton.*

A report from Winsford states that the Salt Trade has improved, few men being unemployed. Employment in other kindred trades is fair. The chemical workers at Middlewich are slightly busier, though still slack.

## YORKSHIRE.

**Hull and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades.**—The largest firm in the district has discharged a considerable number of men. The firms building the smaller class of vessels are well employed. Employment generally in these trades is moderate. The boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders report employment as bad; the shipwrights as slack, with about 13 per cent. unemployed. The iron-founders,

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—YORKSHIRE AND MIDLANDS.

with 4.4 per cent. unemployed, the brass-finishers and founders, the smiths and strikers, with 3.6 per cent. unemployed, and the engineers, with 7.1 per cent. unemployed, report trade as moderate; the iron and steel dressers as fair. The sail-makers report employment as bad, with a large percentage unemployed. The shipbuilding and engineers' labourers report large percentages entirely unemployed, or only partially employed.

**Building Trades.**—Most branches of these trades are well employed, but unfavourable reports come from the plumbers and mill-sawyers.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors report employment as good at first, but moderate at the end of the month; the coal-tippers, trimmers and heavers as moderate, with more unemployed.

**Railway Works.**—Employment in the railway goods department in Hull is reported as moderate at first, and bad at the end of May. Several are entirely unemployed and a number working five days per week. At the plant works at Doncaster the men are working five days per week.

**Fishing Industry.**—Fish has been rather scarce; the markets have been good and the vessels have made fair earnings. The number of unemployed fishermen shows no change. Employment in refitting vessels for sea and on the fish pontoons has not been good.

**Seed Crushing, Oil, and Paint Works.**—Most of the seed-crushing mills are either stopped or running short time, and in consequence many engine-men are unemployed, although on the whole employment among them is fair. The Paint and Colour Trades are fairly busy.

**Printing Trades.**—The letterpress printers, with 4.1 per cent. unemployed, and the lithographic printers report employment as moderate.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the Tailoring, Tanning and Belt-making Industries is reported as good; as moderate in the Cabinet-making and Furnishing Trades, and bad with the brush-makers, and the twine spinners and dressers. In Selby employment generally is good.—*W. G. Millington.*

**Leeds and District.**

**Metal Trades.**—Most engineering departments in Leeds continue steadily employed. Printing-machine making has been brisker, and at Otley full employment is general after months of short time. At Wakefield some foundries are on short time, and employing fewer men. At Leeds and Stanningley iron-founders are busier, and at Bramley and Rodley continue well employed. Boiler-makers and pattern-makers have been better employed. Whitesmiths and stove-grate workers are slack.

**Building Trades.**—The joiners' dispute has adversely affected some of these trades. The number of builders' labourers unemployed has been increased by the discharge of Corporation gas-workers. Apart from these causes employment is good.

**Clothing Trades.**—The Boot and Shoe Industry has been brisk, and overtime general. The Ready-made Clothing Trade has been much busier, full employment being general, and the majority of factories working overtime. Bespoke tailoring is busy.

**Textile Trades.**—In Leeds employment in the blanket department is improving; flax spinners are busier, and the linen trade is fully employed. The willeys and fettlers have more unemployed. At Yeadon these trades are slack, and a mill employing about 200 has been stopped. Employment is moderate at Wakefield, but good at Morley. The Dyeing Trade continues good.

**Leather Trades.**—Employment in the Tanning Trade has improved. In Leeds, carriers are working overtime. At Otley all branches are fully employed.

**Mining.**—In the Leeds district miners have not been so well employed. Those working on ironstone have been best employed. At Morley and Wakefield about three days a week is the average; at the latter place, one pit has worked only seven days, and another pit nine, during May.

**Printing Trades.**—Employment in the Letterpress Printing Trade is moderate; in the Lithographic Trade fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Considerable improvement is reported in the Glass-bottle Trade, but there are still an unusual number out of work. The coach-makers report employment as good; the cabinet-makers as moderate; the coopers and cardboard box-makers as fair.—*O. Connellan.*

**Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.**

**Worst Trade.**—Employment in Bradford continues to improve. Very few men are out of work. The trade shows no decline in Keighley, Halifax, Huddersfield, and the Worth Valley, and weavers are in demand.

**Woollen Trade.**—The trade in and around Huddersfield maintains its position. In some instances overtime has been worked, but this may partly be due to the approaching holidays. The Heavy Woollen Trade is also improving, and some mills are working night shifts.

**Cotton and Silk Trades.**—These trades are improving, in the cotton warp branch especially.

**Metal Trades.**—Improvement is reported throughout the district. Nine branches of the engineers in Bradford, Keighley, Halifax and Huddersfield, with a membership of 2,127, have 8.5 per cent. out of work. Two branches of moulders in Huddersfield and Keighley have 2.3 per cent. unemployed. The Wire Trade in Halifax and Broughside district is moderate.

**Building Trades.**—Employment in these trades is good throughout the district.—*A. Gee.*

**Yorkshire Mining Districts (except Cleveland).**

**Coal Mining.**—The pits generally are working 2, 3, and 4 days, those working 5 and 6 days per week being the exception. There are still over 500 men out of work through the closing of collieries on account of bad trade, &c. The dispute affecting 1,200 men and boys at three collieries at Barnsley, which began on April 17th, terminated on May 21st.—*J. Wadsworth.*

**Sheffield and District.**

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment in the Iron Trade, on the whole, has slightly improved. The armour plate-makers continue well employed. Siemens' steel-smelters are moderately busy. The Bessemer department is still slack, but makers of best tool steel are better employed. Shot and shell-makers are quiet. The steel and iron-founders report improvement in steel castings, but no change in iron castings, 7 per cent. being still unemployed. The engineers report employment as bad, with 7 per cent. unemployed, as against 6 per cent. in April; the boiler-makers as bad, with 15 per cent. unemployed; the railway spring fitters as bad, with 5 per cent. unemployed; the axle and tyre and stove-grate makers as moderate. At Renishaw the blast furnaces are working as usual; moulders are slack. At Rotherham the Iron Trade is slack, but the Steel Trade is fair.

**Cutlery and Tools.**—There is a slight improvement in best qualities in several branches, but on the whole employment in the Cutlery Trade is dull. The joiners' and engineers' tool-makers are fairly well employed; the edge-tool grinders also report employment as moderate, with 6 per cent. unemployed. The Wool Shear Trade is slightly better. There is a fair amount of work on garden tools and agricultural implements. The Saw Trade is quiet. Handle and scale-cutters are worse, about one-half being on short time. In files there is an improvement.

**Other Metal Trades.**—The Silver Trade is quiet, the finishers reporting about 4 per cent. unemployed. Stampers are rather better employed. The brass-workers are moderately busy.

**Building Trades.**—These trades are fairly busy throughout the district.—*S. Uttley.*

## ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

**Derbyshire District.**

**Coal Mining.**—Pits are being worked from one to four days in Alfreton, and two to three days on soft coal in Ilkeston district. Mining is also bad in the Chesterfield district.

**Quarrying.**—Stone quarrying is fairly good in all districts and employment regular.

**Iron Trades.**—Blast-furnacemen continue dull, with a high percentage of unemployed. The iron-founders report employment as bad at Derby, with nearly 20 per cent. unemployed. In Chesterfield, Codnor, and Butterley employment is moderate. The Malleable Iron Trade is fairly good.

**Engineering and kindred Trades.**—Engineering in Derby, Burton-on-Trent, Ilkeston, and Long Eaton is reported as bad; in Chesterfield, Glossop, New Mills, and Ripley as moderate; the locomotive works are running five days per week. Out of 1,188 members in these districts, 50 (or 4.2 per cent.) are reported as unemployed. Bridge, girder, and boiler yards are somewhat dull, and the boiler-makers have 6 per cent. out of work.

**Other Metal Trades.**—The stove-grate workers in Derby and Belper district are quiet. In Long Eaton lace machine builders report employment as fair. Cycle works continue busy; brass-moulders and finishers report employment as good.

**Textile Trades.**—The Lace Trade in Derby and in Borrowash is improving. In Long Eaton the majority are on short time. The

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND COUNTIES.

Cotton Trade in Glossop, Borrowash, Lea and Holloway is reported as good.

*Clothing Trades.*—The Tailoring Trade is good, both in the ready-made and bespoke departments. Boot and shoe operatives and dress and mantle-makers are busy.

*Building Trades.*—Out of 13 branches of these trades in Derby and neighbourhood, with 869 members, 4 report employment as dull, 4 as moderate, and 5 as good. 33 per cent. of the members are reported as unemployed.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Three branches, with 321 members, report employment as fairly good, with 32 per cent. idle.

*Miscellaneous.*—The elastic-web weavers report employment as slack; the surgical bandage-makers as fair; the brush-makers, paper-stainers and colour-mixers, paper and pulp-makers as moderate. The railway carriage and wagon-builders in Derby are very slack, only four days a week being worked; the coach-builders in private shops are well employed. The dyers and bleachers in Belper district are busier.—*C. White-Deacon.*

**Nottingham and District.**

*Lace Trade.*—A further depression is reported in the levers branch, with more unemployed; the curtain branch is moderate; and in the plain net branch employment continues fairly brisk. The warp lace branch is slack. The reports from the surrounding districts are unfavourable.

*Other Textile Trades.*—There is a slight improvement in the machine-made branch of the Hosiery Trade, with fewer unemployed. Employment in the hand-made branch is moderate, a few working on silk goods making full time. The rib-top branch is moderate in Nottingham and Carlton. At Sutton-in-Ashfield employment is quiet in machine goods, and bad in the hand frame branch. The silk throwsters, cotton doublers and spinners are quiet, short time being the rule.

*Coal Mining.*—There is no change to report in colliery employment, the average time worked being still about three days per week.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers report employment as quiet, with 59 per cent. unemployed; the steam engine-makers and machine builders as moderate; the cycle-makers as fully employed; the iron-dressers as improved, with 3 per cent. unemployed; the iron-founders as still bad, with nearly 15 per cent. out of work; the tool machinists as quiet; the boiler-makers as improving, with none out of work; the carriage-straighteners as quiet. At Colwick the locomotive engine works are on short time.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers report trade as moderate, with few unemployed; the bookbinders as fairly good, with none out of work; the lithographic printers and lithographic artists as still moderate.

*Railway Works.*—A slight improvement is reported in Mansfield and Worksop districts. At Toton and Colwick trade is rather quiet in mineral and heavy goods. Men are fully employed at Newark and Retford. Outside employment continues good.

*Miscellaneous.*—The coach-makers report employment as good, none being idle; the boot and shoe riveters as fair; the dyers at Nottingham and Basford as rather slack. Brick-makers are fairly well employed, a few being on short time.—*W. L. Hardstaff.*

**Leicester and Northampton Districts.**

*Boot and Shoe Industry.*—Great activity has prevailed in this industry throughout these districts. A large proportion of the operatives have been working overtime, and it has been difficult to obtain sufficient labour.

*Other Clothing Trades.*—The workpeople engaged in the Wholesale and Bespoke Tailoring Trade have been busy up to Whitsuntide. Mantle-makers, dressmakers, and milliners have also been working overtime for some weeks. Silk and felt hatters are busy, especially in the finishing branch.

*Hosiery, Yarn, and Wool-Spinning Trades.*—In the Hosiery Trade labour is more fully employed all round. In the yarn and wool-spinning departments the operatives are in full work. Wool-sorters report but little change from last month. Hosiery dyers and trimmers are busier.

*Elastic Web Trade.*—A further improvement is reported, and the workpeople engaged in the production of cords, braids, narrow and fancy goods are more regularly employed. There is also more work for makers of shoe webbings.

*Engineering, Iron, and Cycle Trades.*—The general engineering firms report an improvement, the percentage of men wholly unemployed and on short time having decreased. Electrical engineers, machine

builders, and men making shoe machinery are all busy. Employment is improving with moulders, founders and smiths. It is slack with lamp-makers, winders, pattern-makers and engine-builders. The Cycle Trade is still busy, skilled workmen being in demand.

*Coal Mining and Quarrying.*—The Coal Trade remains depressed; some of the colliers are only working about two days per week, and several are wholly unemployed. Employment has been less regular amongst quarrymen.

*Printing and Bookbinding Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as slack; lithographic printers are still busy, but bookbinders report a slight decline. The three branches making reports have 44 per cent. unemployed.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is generally good in this district, but at Leicester operations have been hindered by the dispute among the carpenters, stonemasons, labourers, and plumbers. Painters and decorators continue to work overtime.

*Furnishing Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and other operatives in the Furnishing Trades are generally busy.

*Railways.*—Employment is good in the passenger traffic, but rather slack in the mineral department.

*Miscellaneous.*—Work is plentiful with tramway coach-builders and painters, sawyers, basket-makers, box and packing-case makers, ironstone-workers, and railway-navvies; moderate with general coach and railway-wagon builders, blacksmiths, brush-makers, bakers, saddlers and farriers; improving with cigar-makers, tramway employees, confectioners, and general carters; and slack with gas and general out-door labourers.—*T. Smith.*

**Potteries District.**

*Pottery Trades.*—At most of the factories full time is being worked. The hollow-ware pressers and printers and transferrers, flat pressers, women painters and gilders, ovenmen, packers, and crate-makers all report better employment, with only a few out of work. The Brick and Tile Trades are good. All yards are now in full swing, and extra hands have been put on.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—These trades have improved, and the men are working as many turns per week as the weather will allow.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers of North Staffordshire have 7 per cent. unemployed. At Stoke Railway Works the men are still on short time. At Crewe all departments are on short time. The steam engine-makers report 3 per cent. out of work; the engineers barely 2 per cent.; and the machine-workers have no unemployed. At Stafford trade is good, with no unemployed; a night turn has been started at one works.

*Coal Mining.*—The demand for coal for manufacturing purposes is improving. At Cheadle the miners are working about four days per week, but in the Potteries the average is between three and four days, and there are several unemployed. The colliery enginemakers and stokers are fairly well employed.

*Textile Trades.*—At Leek the improvement in the Silk Trade is maintained, about 2 per cent. being out of work. At Congleton the silk trimming weavers report no change; the dressers are busy in some firms, slack in others; the fustian-cutters are busy. At Cheadle and Tean the tape mills are running about four days per week.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors throughout the district report trade as good, with no unemployed. At Stafford shoe-makers are busy, overtime being worked at most of the factories. At Stone employment has improved considerably, full time being worked at most places, with no unemployed.

*Building Trades.*—Throughout the district these trades are busy.

*Printing and Kindred Trades.*—In the Potteries letterpress printers report no change. At Stafford employment is good; lithographic artists and printers are busy. The bookbinders report trade as moderate, with no unemployed.

*Railways.*—Railway servants at Stoke are moderately busy, with no unemployed. At Crewe no change is reported, and at Stafford a slight improvement is manifest.—*I. S. Harvey.*

**Wolverhampton and District.**

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—There is no improvement amongst puddlers, but mill-rollers are fairly well employed in this district. In South Shropshire a decided improvement is reported.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—The engineers and constructive machinists report employment as fair; the iron door and safe-makers as slack; the iron-founders as moderate in Wolverhampton. The improvement continues amongst the tool-makers and machinists, and all branches of the Cycle Trade are busy. The

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (continued).—MIDLAND, EASTERN AND S.W. COUNTIES.

boiler and tank-makers and bridge and girder-constructors are fully occupied. The Electrical Trades keep well employed in all branches. Anchor smiths are slack. At the railway shed in Wolverhampton most of the men are only working 4½ days per week.

*Hardware Trades.*—Unfavourable reports come from vice and anvil, wrought nail, nut and bolt, spring-trap and lock-makers, hinge and hollow-ware casters, chain-workers, wire-drawers, enamelled sign-makers, and tube-workers. Favourable reports from malleable nail-casters, copper-wire rollers, galvanisers, and makers of builders' ironmongery. Improvement is reported among edge-tool makers, iron and tinplate workers, and steel-toy makers.

*Textile Trades.*—Wool spinners in Kidderminster are well employed on yarns other than those used in the Carpet Trade. Weavers are generally slack; some firms are slightly better. In Bridgnorth, carpet weaving has been slack, but has now slightly improved.

*Clothing Trades.*—The Tailoring Trade has been busy in the ready-made and bespoke branches. Boot and shoemakers are all fully employed.

*Coal Mining.*—In the Cannock Chase district coal mining is slack, half-time being general. About 140 men have been unemployed owing to the closing of a colliery. In the Black Country district shorter time is being worked. In South Shropshire, colliers are fairly well employed on steam, but slack on house coal.

*Building Trades.*—All branches are busy in Wolverhampton, Dudley, Walsall, West Bromwich, and Shrewsbury.

*Miscellaneous.*—Printers are somewhat slack. Oil, colour, and varnish-makers, and rope and twine spinners, are working full time. The Chemical Trades at West Bromwich are giving full employment. The Flint Glass Trade at Stourbridge is dull, but has slightly improved at Brierley Hill, though the glass-bottle makers there are still on half time.—*W. F. Me.*

**Birmingham and District.**

*Engineering Trades.*—The engineers are working full time, but have 9 per cent. unemployed. The pattern-makers report employment as quiet, with about 7 per cent. unemployed.

*Brass and Copper Workers.*—Reports from the brass-workers show improvement, and the copper-workers are better employed. The Coin and Medal Trades are fully occupied, and good die-sinkers are in demand.

*Jewellers, Silversmiths, and Electro-platers.*—Cheap jewellery-makers are a little busier. The Electro-plate Trade has improved; several firms are working overtime, but some are still on short time; about 2 per cent. are unemployed. The spoon and fork-workers are slack, and have 4 per cent. out of work.

*Other Metal Workers.*—Bedstead-workers are now busy in all branches. Wire-drawers are slack. Metal rollers are a little busier. The Cycle Trade, and all its subsidiary industries, are now in full swing. The iron-plate workers are still depressed.

*Building Trades.*—Most operatives are busy, and in some parts of the district there is a scarcity of bricklayers. The stonemasons report employment as fairly good, with 4 per cent. idle.

*Furniture and Wood-working Trades.*—The cabinet-makers report employment as fair, with less than 2 per cent. unemployed. Packing-case workers are improving, but 6 per cent. are unemployed. Bamboo furniture-workers are busy.

*Other trades in Birmingham.*—The flint-glass makers report employment as improved, but with 16 per cent. unemployed; the glass-bevellers and silverers as good; the coach-makers as busy, a majority working overtime. Steel-pen workers in several branches are on short time. Brushmaking has slightly improved. The printers report employment as slack, with short time at several firms, and about 8 per cent. unemployed. The Gun Trade has improved and ammunition work is good. Harness and saddlery work is busier.

*Trades in South Staffordshire.*—Iron-working has slightly improved. The accountant's certificate to the Iron and Steel Wages Board for the last two months shows a decline in selling prices, but not sufficient to affect wages. The vice and anvil workers are slack, with some on short time, and 16 per cent. unemployed. The locksmiths report trade as much depressed, all being on short time. More than half the cable and crane chain-makers are working short time. Nail-workers and small pin and rivet-makers are depressed. The Walsall Trades are bad; carriers are the best employed, but most leather-workers are on short time.—*W. J. Davis.*

**ENGLAND: EASTERN COUNTIES.****Norfolk and neighbouring District.**

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—Out of 9 branches of societies in this group, 8 report employment as fair and 1 as good. The ship-

wrights at Lowestoft are all employed; at Yarmouth several have left the town, but those remaining are all in work.

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

*Clothing Trades.*—The Boot and Shoe Trade, at Norwich, is busy, overtime being worked. The clothing factories are giving full employment. The tailors are busy.

*Building Trades.*—Out of 20 branches of societies in Norwich, Cromer, Lynn, Dereham, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft, 4 report employment as dull, 10 as fair, and 6 as good.

*Printing Trades.*—At Norwich, Fakenham, Beccles, and Bungay, employment is slack.

*Fishing Trade.*—At Lowestoft the Fishing Trade is not so good as in April; at Yarmouth the boats are doing fairly well.

*Dock and Riverside Labour.*—At Lynn, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft employment is fair.—*G. Cleverley.*

**Suffolk, Essex, and District.**

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers report trade as declining at Ipswich, with no unemployed; as good at Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, and Chelmsford, overtime being worked in some instances; as improving at Leiston and Wickham Market. The moulders report employment as fair; the boiler-makers as moderate.

*Clothing Trades.*—At Ipswich the Boot and Shoe Trade is quiet; at Colchester good. In the Tailoring Trade employment is good at Ipswich and Colchester, both in the ready-made and bespoke branches. The stay and corset-makers at Ipswich and Sudbury report favourably.

*Mat and Silk Trades.*—The mat-makers at Sudbury, Lavenham, Hadleigh, and Long Melford report employment as good; at Glensford as moderate. The Silk Weaving Trade continues good at Sudbury.

*Building Trades.*—All branches of these trades throughout the district make favourable reports.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—At Ipswich these industries are dull.

*Miscellaneous.*—The letterpress printers at Ipswich and Colchester report no improvement. At the Ipswich paper mills employment is slack. The cigar-makers are now on full time. In general labour there is a perceptible improvement.—*R. W. Mather.*

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

*Building Trades.*—Four societies in Bristol and Bridgwater, with 1,468 members, report only 13, or less than 1 per cent., as on unemployed benefit.

*Clothing Trades.*—Ready-made garment makers are busy, and overtime has been worked. The bespoke tailors report employment as fairly good. A continuous improvement is reported in the Glove Industry at Yeovil. In Bristol all branches of the Boot and Shoe Industry report employment as fair. In the Kingswood district work is more plentiful.

*Mining.*—Employment has fallen off at the house coal pits. In the Radstock district the average time worked has not exceeded four days per week. In the Forest of Dean the house and steam coal miners report employment as bad.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers and smiths reports employment as steady; the pattern-makers as busy; the boiler-makers and iron shipbuilders as improved, with 10 per cent. unemployed, against 14 per cent. at the end of April; the iron and brass-founders as moderate, the former with 57 per cent., the latter with 1 per cent. idle.

*Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.*—The cabinet-makers report employment as quiet; the shop and bar-fitters as moderate; the mattress and bedding-workers as busy; the brush-makers as good. The wagon and coach-builders and wheelwrights report employment as steady; the mill-sawyers and wood-cutting machinists as fair; the packing-case makers as good; the coopers as slack.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The four branches of these trades making returns report 32 members as unemployed, or 63 per cent., as against 24 per cent. of the membership at the end of April.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment continues fair with weavers at Trowbridge and vicinity, especially in the heavy woollen and covert coating lines. At Wellington employment is slack, the weavers and spinners working three-quarter time. The Westford mills continue busy in all departments.

*Dock Labour.*—Employment at the Docks has been quiet, except with the corn porters, who have been fairly busy.

*Miscellaneous.*—The carriers report employment as good; the tobacco and chocolate-workers as steady; the paint and colour-workers as brisk. Employment for general labourers has slightly improved.—*J. Curle.*

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—S.W. COUNTIES (contd.) WALES AND SCOTLAND.

**Plymouth and South Western District.**

*Mining, Quarrying and Clay Industries.*—The Metal Mining Industry of Cornwall continues depressed, and several more miners have left the district to go abroad. The quarrymen and clay workers are reported as still fairly busy.

*Engineering and Ship-repairing.*—The Engineering and kindred Trades continue to improve, a small percentage being unemployed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors and tailoresses have been fairly busy, overtime being worked at some of the factories in the ready-made department. In the Boot and Shoe Industry the factory operatives have been fairly busy at Plymouth, and moderately so at Crediton.

*Building Trades.*—In the Plymouth district these trades are fairly well employed. A slight improvement is apparent at Exeter and in the chief centres of Cornwall, but not at Torquay.

*Dock Labour and Shipping.*—The imports for the month have been small, and dock labourers have been but moderately employed. Seamen also show no improvement.

*Miscellaneous.*—The bakers and letterpress printers report employment as slack, with a large number unemployed; the wheelwrights, coachbuilders, saddlers and harness-makers as good. Excavators and general labourers are better employed, but are still in excess of the demand. Gas-workers are not busy.—*J. Welland.*

## WALES.

**South Wales District.**

*Coal Mining.*—The average output is fairly good, but throughout the Monmouthshire and South Wales coal-fields numbers are out of work, and the average time made by colliers has been less than four and a half days a week.

*Dock Labour.*—Dock labour generally has been fairly good.

*Ship Repairing and Engineering.*—Nearly every branch reports employment as bad. The engineers have 6½ per cent. unemployed at Cardiff, 10¼ at Barry, 9½ at Newport, and 20 per cent. at Swansea. The boiler-makers have a number out of work. The ship-joiners at Cardiff have had a busy month, but a large number of the shipwrights are unemployed. The general labourers have been slack. The engineering works in many of the tinplate centres and at some of the colliery districts are fairly busy.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—There is a slight improvement in the Steel Trade. Works which had been closed for some time were re-started during the month, but a number of mills are still closed, and some of the large works in this district are on short time.

*Tinplate Trade.*—This industry is still very unsettled. A number of works which have been idle for a considerable time have re-started during May, but at reductions of wages, which, with other concessions by the men, give results from 10 to 22½ per cent. below the standard of 1874. In many works the "36-Box Rule" is not in force.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in these trades has been fairly good throughout the district.

*Miscellaneous.*—Chemical works are steady. The Copper Smelting Industry is dull. Patent fuel works show more activity. The wagon-builders report employment as moderate; the printers as dull.—*T. Davies.*

A further report from *South Wales* states that the Accountants' report for the two months ending 30th April resulted in another reduction of 1¼ per cent. to the colliery workmen of this coal field. Four steam coal collieries, employing about 1,800 men and boys, are closed, owing to disputes. A large number of tinplate-workers are unemployed.

## SCOTLAND.

**Edinburgh and District.**

*Coal Mining.*—In West Lothian, the miners have been working from eight to ten days per fortnight. In Mid and East Lothian, the great majority of the miners have been working five days per week.

*Mineral Oil Trades.*—The Mineral Oil Industry continues good, and employment on the whole steady among all sections of the workers. At 21 shale mines in Mid and West Lothian, the number of men employed was 2,782, compared with 2,483 in May 1894; 70 per cent. of the mines worked full time.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The range, stove, and ornamental fitters report employment as good, the horseshoers, blacksmiths, pattern-makers, tinsmiths, and gas-meter makers as fair, the brass-founders as improved; the iron-moulders in both the Falkirk and Edinburgh districts as unchanged. The engineers report an increase in the number idle towards the end of the month. Returns from 13 branches show 8·7 per cent. unemployed.

*Shipbuilding Trades.*—In Leith the boiler-makers report employment as good, with 4 per cent. idle; in Kirkcaldy as fair, and in Inverkeithing as bad. The shipwrights in Leith report employment as good in repair work and dull in new work, with 2·6 per cent. out of work. Ship-joiners are fairly busy.

*Textile Trades.*—The Hosiery Trade in Hawick is good in the machine-made, and slack in the hand-made departments. In Selkirk it is fairly steady. The Woollen Industry continues to improve in Hawick, although there is considerable irregularity of employment among the weavers; it is busy in Selkirk and Galashiels. The Linen Industry in Dunfermline shows a slight decline. The rope-workers in Leith are on short time. In Midlothian the carpet weavers report employment as quiet.

*Building Trades.*—The painters, masons, bricklayers and glaziers report employment as good, the plumbers, joiners and lath-splitters as fair.

*Wood-working and Furnishing Trades.*—Returns from nine branches of unions show employment to be fairly good, with 1·6 per cent. idle.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The Shipping Industry is fairly brisk. The sailors and firemen report their members as fully employed. The coal porters and dock labourers report employment as good.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—The lithographic printers, lithographic artists, and stereotypers report employment as good; the press and machine-men as dull; the compositors as still declining; the book-binders and the typefounders as unchanged, the latter working only five days per week. Returns from seven branches of unions show 2·8 per cent. unemployed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment with the tailors, shoemakers, saddlers, sett-makers, and glass-cutters is reported as good; with the basket-makers, gilders, and indiarubber-workers as fair; with the glass-makers and bakers as quiet. The curriers report employment as not so good. General labourers are busy.—*J. Mallinson.*

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

*Coal Mining.*—The Coal Trade has been in an unsettled state. The demand for house coal has been small; furnace coals have been in good request, but the shipments of steam coal have been much below those of the corresponding period of 1894.

*Shipbuilding.*—The shipwrights report employment as good. The ship-joiners are fully employed. In Greenock and Port Glasgow work is fair, with few idle men. In Dumbarton employment is good in all branches, although hindered by the dispute with the helpers.

*Iron and Steel Trades.*—The blast-furnacemen report employment as still good; the millmen as fair, with more men employed, but several still idle; the steel smelters as slightly better.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers report employment as better in the Glasgow district than it has been for two years; as improving in Kilmarnock; dull in Paisley; good in Dumbarton, and fair in Greenock. The improvement amongst the blacksmiths and iron-moulders has been fully maintained; employment is good in Kilmarnock; dull in Paisley. The tinplate-workers report employment as still unsatisfactory; the brass-moulders as declining, with 2 per cent. more idle than in April; the range, stove, and ornamental fitters as better in all branches, the range and stove fitters being exceptionally busy; the iron-dressers as better; the general tool-makers and machinists as fair in all departments, with about 3 per cent. idle; the hammermen as good; the wire weavers as dull.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is good in all branches throughout the district.

*Wood-working Trades.*—The cabinet-makers report employment as good; the saw millers as moderate, with 2 per cent. idle; the coach-makers as fair, with 1 per cent. idle; the wood carvers as slightly improved; the wood turners as steady.

*Textile Trades.*—Weavers on coloured work are busy, and looms are standing for want of weavers; on white work weavers are doing well; silk-weaving is fairly prosperous. The dyers report no improvement; the power-loom beamers are still dull. The carpet weavers in Paisley are fully employed. The warpers have averaged 40 hours per week, with about 3 per cent. idle. The lace-workers are fully employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors are busy. The clothiers' operatives report employment as fair all round, with none idle; the tailoresses as still good. The shirt-makers and boot and shoe operatives are busy.

*Shipping and Dock Labour.*—The sailors and firemen report a decided improvement. Dock labourers have been slack.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—The bookbinders report no improvement, 6 per cent. being still idle. The lithographic printers report

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS.—SCOTLAND (contd.) AND IRELAND.

employment as bad, with 3 per cent. idle; the letterpress printers as improved, with less than 6 per cent. idle; the electrotypers as dull.

*Miscellaneous.*—Sail-makers have been busy, but report a decline. The cork-cutters report employment as good; the carters as improved. The railway servants are reported as busy, the labourers as fairly well employed.—*A. J. Hunter.*

**Dundee and District.**

*Textile Trades.*—The Linen Industry remains quiet. Employment in the Jute Trade continues good, and all firms are working full time. Bleachfield workers are busy.

*Coal Mining.*—Employment has not improved. Only at a few collieries is a full week's work being obtained. Two hundred men have been thrown out of work by the accident at Kinnedar.

*Engineering and Shipbuilding.*—One or two engineering firms are exceptionally busy and working overtime, but the engineers still return fully 8 per cent. as unemployed. The blacksmiths report employment as fairly good, with 5 per cent. idle; the iron-moulders as fair, but with 20 per cent. unemployed. The boiler-makers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as fair, with an increased number idle. The shipwrights return fully 10 per cent. as unemployed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors are in full employment. In the Boot and Shoe Trade work has been fairly steady.

*Building Trades.*—Employment in these trades is still good.

*Fishing Industry.*—The haddock fishing has been generally good, and fair prices have been obtained. The net salmon fishing on the Tay and Earn has not been very successful.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers report employment as good, with about 2 per cent. unemployed; the lithographers and bookbinders as fair.—*P. Reid.*

**Aberdeen and District.**

*Quarrying.*—The quarrymen report employment as good. In monumental yards employment is normal. The granite polishers have 5 per cent. idle. The sett-makers are busy, with no unemployed.

*Building Trades.*—All branches report employment as good, with none idle.

*Fishing.*—In May the trawl boats landed 25,565 cwts., realising £14,516; and line boats, 36,027 cwts., realising £12,130, the total being 61,592 cwts., realising £26,646; a large increase in quantity landed, but only a slight increase in value realised, as compared with April.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders report employment as improved, with 13·7 per cent. idle; the shipwrights as moderate, with 9 per cent. idle; the pattern-makers, tinplate workers and blacksmiths, with none idle, and the iron-moulders, with 4·5 per cent. idle, as good; the engineers as moderate.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The letterpress printers, with 8 per cent. idle, and the lithographic printers, with 7 per cent., report employment as moderate; the bookbinders as good; the paper-makers as fair.

*Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.*—The cabinet-makers, wood-carvers, and upholsterers report employment as good; the wood-turners as fair.

*Miscellaneous.*—The tailors report employment as good; the flax, cotton, and jute workers as fair; the carpet weavers as moderate; the comb-makers and cork-cutters as bad. Dock and general labourers have been moderately employed.—*W. Johnston.*

## IRELAND.

**Dublin and District.**

*General.*—Of the 16,350 members of 59 societies making returns, 1,422, or 8·7 per cent., are unemployed. Seventeen societies return employment as good, 24 as fair, 3 as moderate, 7 as bad, 3 as dull, and 5 as quiet.

*Building Trades.*—Employment has been good in these trades throughout the district.

*Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.*—The cabinet-makers are still dull, but employment with the upholsterers is fair. The coach-builders and coopers report employment as good, but the Saddlery Industry is dull. The cart and wagon builders are fairly employed.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Employment is quiet with the boiler-makers and iron-founders, fair with the smiths, dull with the engineers.

*Clothing Trades.*—The Tailoring Trade has improved, but employment among the boot and shoemakers has been dull. The dressmakers are still busy.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Letterpress printing has been depressed. During the month 266 compositors signed the unemployed

list, of whom 171 claimed out-of-work allowance. The Lithographic Trade is still dull, but the binders, paper-rulers, paper-cutters, book-folders, despatch assistants, and stereotypers report employment as moderate.

*Miscellaneous.*—The bottle-makers are still fairly employed on the whole. The basket-makers, brush-makers, and cork-cutters report trade as bad, but the organ-builders, paviors, millers and engine-drivers as fair. Employment among the labourers on both sides of the quays has been more general.—*J. P. Nannetti.*

**Belfast and District.**

*General.*—The increase in the total number of unemployed is mainly due to the number of wood-workers discharged from the shipyards. In almost all other branches the number of unemployed has been considerably reduced. The returns received from 57 societies with a membership of 18,415 show 991, or 5·4 per cent., to be unemployed, as against 845, or 4·5 per cent. of the membership in April.

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Of the 8,153 members employed in these trades who are included in the returns, 657, or 8·1 per cent., are unemployed, as against 439, or 5·4 per cent. of the membership in April. The iron-founders, engineers, iron-turners, cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers, and carpenters and joiners report employment as bad; the blacksmiths and shipwrights as dull; the blacksmiths' helpers and strikers as irregular; the brass-founders, general labourers, and platers' helpers as improving; the boiler-makers, iron ship-builders, enginemen, and cramenen as fair; the pattern-makers as steady; the machine-workers as good.

*Linen Trades.*—Of the 4,125 members of trade societies in these industries, 171, or 4·1 per cent., are reported to be unemployed, as against 194, or 4·8 per cent. of the membership in April. The power-loom yarn-dressers, and spindle and flyer-makers report employment as dull; the hackle and gill-makers and power-loom tenters as improving; the flax-dressers as moderate; the flax-roughers, beetling enginemen, yarn-bundlers and dryers, bobbin-turners and female workers as fair; and the linen-lappers as good.

*Clothing Trades.*—Of the 696 members of societies engaged in these trades, 7, or 1 per cent., are out of work. The boot and shoe operatives report trade as moderate, and the tailors as good.

*Building Trades.*—Out of the 2,527 members of unions employed in these trades, 60, or 2·4 per cent., are stated to be unemployed, as against 75, or 3·0 per cent. of the membership in April. The mill-sawyers, machinists, and plumbers report employment as dull; the carpenters and joiners and plasterers as fair, and the paviors, bricklayers, hodsmen, and painters as good.

*Furnishing and Wood-working Trades.*—In this group of seven unions, with 494 members, 19, or 3·8 per cent., are unemployed, as against 18, or 3·5 per cent. of the membership at the end of April. The brush-makers report employment as bad; the coopers, French polishers, and cabinet-makers as fair or improving; and the coach-builders, upholsterers, and packing-case makers as good.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—The four societies forming this group, with a membership of 793, state that 40, or 5 per cent., are unemployed, as against 41, or 5·2 per cent. of the membership in April. The letterpress printers report employment as dull; the bookbinders and machine-rulers as fair; the lithographic printers and artists as good.

*Miscellaneous.*—In this group of 18 societies, with a membership of 1,627, 60, or 3·7 per cent., are unemployed, as against 71, or 3·5 per cent. of the membership in April. The carters, railway-servants, and sail-makers report employment as fair; the locomotive engine-drivers and bakers as good.—*R. Sheldon.*

**Cork and District.**

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—The boiler-makers and iron ship-builders in Cork and Passage West report employment as good, and in Limerick as fair. The shipwrights, shipjoiners, riggers, and block and pump-makers report employment as bad. All branches of engineering in Cork, Limerick, and Waterford continue depressed.

*Building and Wood-working Trades.*—All branches of these trades have been busy throughout the district.

*Clothing Trades.*—The tailors in Cork, Limerick, and Waterford report employment as good; the boot and shoe operatives as fair; the flax, tweed, and feather operatives as steady; drapers' assistants as busy.

*Fishing.*—Mackerel fishing round the south and west coast has greatly improved, and also salmon fishing on the Lee, Blackwater, and Shannon.

*Miscellaneous.*—The letterpress printers in Limerick, Cork, and Waterford report employment as good; the Corporation and harbour employees as fair.—*P. O'Shea.*

STATE RESTRICTION OF HOURS OF LABOUR ABROAD.\*

THE information contained in the following summary, with regard to the State restriction of hours of labour in factories and workshops in certain foreign countries, was recently compiled by the Department from various sources, at the request of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations and forwarded to that Federation. Since then a formal return dealing with similar subjects has been ordered by the House of Commons. While, therefore, it is thought desirable to publish the following information, which has already been made public in the way described, it must be regarded as of a preliminary character, and not in any way in substitution for the information to be contained in the Return.

The countries here dealt with are the following:—France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Russia, and the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maine, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

It should be noted that in Germany and Switzerland certain powers are given to the various States and Cantonal Governments to extend the provisions of the Acts. Only the Imperial and Federal Acts, however, are referred to in the following summary.

(a) **Earliest Age of Admission to Factories.**—The limit is lowest in Italy, viz., 9 years. In Belgium, Holland, Russia, and the States of New Jersey and Maine, the limit is 12 (14 for girls in New Jersey). In Massachusetts and Connecticut, and in France and Germany, it is 13. This is only permitted in Germany, provided the children have fulfilled the legal requirements as to school attendance, which vary in different States. In France, children of 12 are admitted to factories if provided with the "certificate of primary studies," but between the ages of 12 and 13 they may only be employed in certain branches of the Textile Trades, glass-making, except at a crucible, paper-making, and machine-care and net-making. In Austria, Switzerland, and New York State, the age is 14, and in Rhode Island and New Hampshire, 10.

(b) **Legal Working Day.**

1. **Adult Males.**—Three of the above-named countries limit the working day of adult males employed in factories: France to 12 hours, and Austria and Switzerland to 11 hours (10 hours on Saturdays, and the eves of holidays in the latter country). Eight or 10-hour limits are, it is true, laid down in some of the United States, but these limits may be exceeded by agreement.

2. **Women.**—In Austria and Switzerland the restrictions on the hours of labour of women and children are the same as in the case of men.† France, in common with Holland and Germany, has fixed the hours of women at 11. Germany affords them additional protection in limiting their employment on Saturdays and the eves of holidays to 10 hours, and (as in Switzerland) extending the mid-day interval for those having house-keeping to do. In Italy and Russia women are not protected; while in Belgium and in those of the United States here dealt with, women under 21 only, are protected, their employment being subject to the same restrictions as the employment of children.‡

3. **Children.**—In the United States referred to, a limit of 10 hours is fixed for children,‡ except in Connecticut, where they are limited to 8 hours. France and Germany have also fixed a 10 hours limit for persons under 16, children under 14 being in the latter country limited to 6 hours. In Italy, children under 12, and in Russia, children under 15, are limited to 8 hours, a 6 hours limit being imposed in the latter country if no interval is allowed. There is also a provision in Italy, that when the working day extends

\* Based on the text of Factory Laws, so far as in the possession of the Department; supplemented by the accounts of factory legislation as published in the Reports of the Royal Commission on Labour for the various countries, the Report on the International Labour Conference at Berlin (C.—6042) and the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Conditions of School Attendance and Child Labour (311).

† There is, however, a provision in Switzerland for the extension of the mid-day interval in the case of women who have housekeeping to do.

‡ With a maximum of 58 hours a week in Massachusetts.

§ In Connecticut, however, while women's hours are restricted to 10, those of children must not exceed 8.

to more than 6 hours, one hour must be set apart for meals. The regulations are least stringent in Belgium, where children under 16 (and women under 21) may be employed for 12 hours. A lower limit, however, may be fixed by Royal Decree in particular trades, and this has been done for a number of industries. For instance, in the Textiles, the protected classes may only work 11½ hours, further shortened to 11¼ in the Woollen Industry.

(c) **Overtime.**—In most of the countries under consideration the law provides for the working of overtime within certain limits. These limits appear to be very wide in Austria, where the legal 11 hours day may be prolonged to 14 hours by overtime. In addition, it is possible, in certain industries, to obtain a permit for a period of three years, by which the working day may be regularly extended to 12 hours. In Germany not more than 80 hours overtime may be worked by a protected person during the year, nor more than two hours a day for a fortnight at a stretch. In Holland, overtime amounting to 2 hours a day is permitted in exceptional cases, but only for a limited number of days, or on alternate days. The Belgian law contains no provision as to overtime. In France, overtime for women and girls over 18 is limited to 60 days at a time, and the actual day's work may not exceed 12 hours. In those of the United States here dealt with, women and children may be employed on overtime with a view to shorten the work on Saturday, but not more than 60 hours may be worked in any week.

(d) **Night Work.**—The definition of night work varies in different countries. In Belgium, France, and Russia\* its limits are 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.; in Austria, 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.; in Germany it begins and ends half-an-hour later; in Holland it lasts from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.; in Switzerland from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. in winter, and to 5 a.m. in summer.

In Germany, all night work is forbidden for women and girls; in Austria, for women and young persons; in Belgium, for children under 16, and for women under 21; in France, for women, girls under 21, and persons of either sex under 18; in Holland, for women and persons of either sex under 16; in Italy, for children under 12, while for children between 12 and 15 it must not exceed 6 hours. In Switzerland it is only permitted to males over 14 years of age, and then, only subject to certain conditions. In Russia night work is prohibited for children under 15, and, in textile factories, for women and young persons from 15 to 17, except in case of necessity, or when working with their husbands or parents.

(e) **Sunday Work.**—The laws of Austria, Switzerland, and Germany provide for a holiday on Sundays. In Austria, Sunday work may be authorised in exceptional cases by special decree of the Minister of Commerce, while the granting of exemption to manufacturers supplying public wants, lies with district authorities, subject to the consent of the communes and trade guilds† concerned. In Germany the Federal Council has power to make exceptions in the case of works not allowing of suspension or delay, and of trades subject to pressure at certain seasons. Such exemptions were recently allowed for a large number of trades. (See GAZETTE of February, page 53.) In Switzerland Sunday work is restricted to industries requiring continuous work, and only adult males are permitted to engage in it. In Russia the prohibition of Sunday work only applies to children under 15 years of age. Even these may be employed in factories where adult workmen are employed, if work cannot be carried on without their assistance. In Holland, Sunday work is forbidden for women and persons of either sex under the age of 16. A Law of 1815 enjoining the observance of Sundays and other generally recognised Christian festivals is said to have become practically inoperative. The Belgian Law fixes a working week of six days, without reference to Sundays, for young persons under 16, and for women from 16 to 21 years of age. In France a similar provision applies to persons of either sex under 18, and to women of any age, whose employment is prohibited on all holidays recognised by Law.

\* In certain establishments, where 18 hours are worked, the night is reckoned as from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

† For an account of the guilds see GAZETTE for December 1894, page 381.

IRREGULARITY OF EMPLOYMENT.

IN connection with the inquiry now being made by the Department with regard to irregularity of employment in various groups of industries, an attempt has been made to trace the fluctuations of employment in certain important trades both from month to month throughout the year, and from year to year over a given period, so far as is shown by variations in the proportion of unemployed members of trade unions making returns to the Department. So much use is made in each number of the LABOUR GAZETTE of these percentages of unemployed, that it is unnecessary to explain here specially the method by which they are obtained.

It should be stated that the membership of the trade unions included in the returns is distributed as follows among various groups of industries: Engineering, Shipbuilding and Metal group, 46 per cent.; Building and Furnishing group, 21 per cent.; Mining, 19 per cent.; Printing, &c., 10 per cent.; Textile, 3 per cent.; other Miscellaneous, 1 per cent.

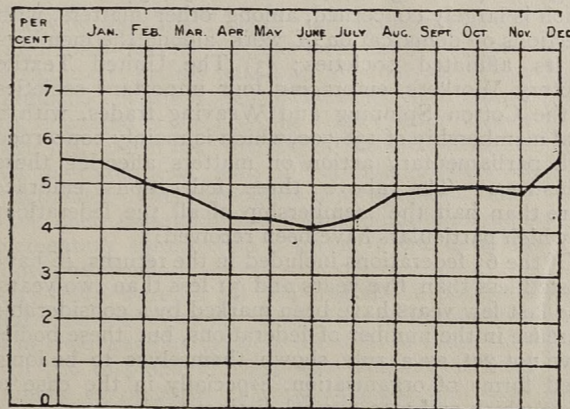
(1.)—Seasonal Fluctuations.

The following table shows the mean percentage of unemployed members of trade unions in certain groups of trades, so far as returned to the Department, at the end of each month of the year. The mean is calculated over a period of seven years—1887 to 1893:—

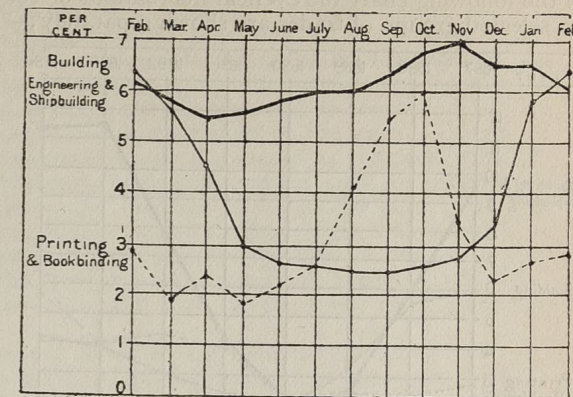
Month.	Mean percentage of Unemployed Union Members in			
	All Unions making returns.	Building Trades.	Engineering Ship-building, &c.	Printing and kindred Trades.
January ... ..	5.4	5.8	6.6	2.7
February .. .. .	5.0	6.4	6.1	2.8
March ... .. .	4.8	5.6	5.8	1.9
April ... .. .	4.3	4.6	5.5	2.4
May ... .. .	4.3	3.0	5.6	1.8
June ... .. .	4.1	2.7	5.8	2.2
July ... .. .	4.3	2.6	6.0	2.7
August ... .. .	4.8	2.5	6.0	4.1
September ... ..	4.06	2.5	6.3	5.5
October ... .. .	5.0	2.6	6.8	6.0
November ... .. .	4.8	2.8	7.0	3.5
December ... .. .	5.5	3.4	6.6	2.3

The following two charts show, in graphic form, the seasonal fluctuations in employment indicated by the above figures, the curves representing the mean percentages returned as unemployed at the end of each month, for the above period of years.

The first chart refers to all the unions making returns:—



This chart does not exhibit a very considerable seasonal fluctuation, the slack seasons of some industries coinciding with the busy seasons of others. On the whole, the best months for employment are seen to be May, June, and July. Much more marked oscillations are shown by individual trades, as is seen from the following chart, which represents graphically the fluctuations of the Building, Engineering and Shipbuilding, and Printing Trades groups separately:—



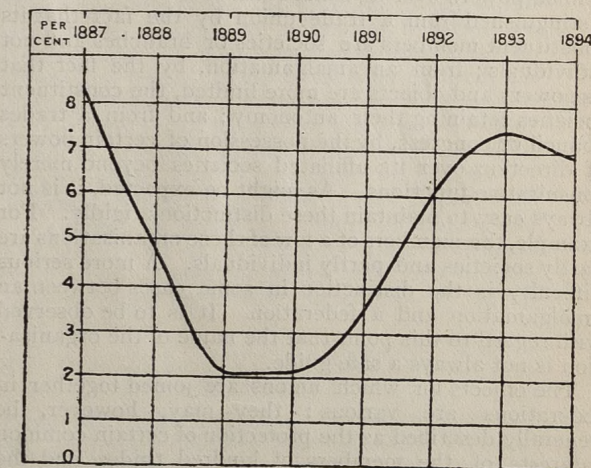
It will be seen that the greatest seasonal fluctuation is shown by the Building Trades. The mean difference in the percentages of unemployed between the best and worst month of the year in this group of trades is nearly 4, while in the Engineering and Shipbuilding group it is only 1½. The Printing Trades show an irregular seasonal oscillation, the worst months being at the end of summer and the beginning of autumn.

(2.)—Cyclical Fluctuations.

The following table shows the mean percentage of unemployed in unions connected with various groups of trades for each year over a period of eight years—1887 to 1894. Since the figure for each year represents the mean of the percentages at the end of each month of that year, all seasonal fluctuations within each year are eliminated, and the figures indicate the "cyclical" fluctuations of employment over the period of years.

Year.	Mean percentage of Unemployed Union Members in			
	All Unions making returns.	Building Trades.	Engineering Ship-building, &c.	Printing and kindred Trades.
1887	8.2	5.9	9.44	2.85
1888	4.9	5.48	5.96	2.41
1889	2.1	3.26	2.27	2.45
1890	2.1	2.15	2.2	2.22
1891	3.5	2.45	4.12	3.98
1892	0.3	3.0	7.7	4.3
1893	7.5	3.8	11.4	4.05
1894	6.9	4.1	11.26	5.7

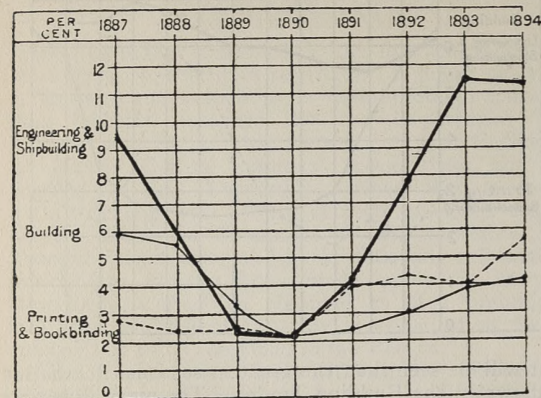
The following charts show in graphic form the "cyclical" fluctuations in employment from 1887 to 1894. The first chart refers to all the unions making returns:—



This chart exhibits a very well-marked oscillation, the best years being 1889 and 1890, and the worst year 1893, after which matters slightly improved. The mean proportion of unemployed during the best years was slightly over 2 per cent.



In the following chart the cyclical fluctuations of the three selected groups of trades are shown separately:—



The most striking point about this chart is the wide range of fluctuation in the Engineering and Shipbuilding group. The difference between the best and worst years of the cycle in the mean percentage of unemployed members of unions in this group of trades is no less than 9, compared with only 3½ in the Building Trades group. Another interesting point brought out by the chart is the close approximation between the percentages of unemployed in all three groups of trades in good years, and the very wide divergence in bad years. There would appear to be a nearly constant "minimum" of unemployed members, even in good years, amounting to about 2 per cent. In years of depression, however, the percentage of unemployed in the Engineering and Shipbuilding group is far higher than that in the other groups of trades represented. This being so, and seeing that the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades are represented in more than their due proportion in the returns made to the Department, it is clear that in years of depression the variations in the percentage of unemployed based on these returns tend somewhat to exaggerate the movements of the Labour Market as a whole.

#### FEDERATIONS OF TRADE SOCIETIES.

WITH a view to complete the information in the possession of the Department with regard to various forms of industrial organisations, an inquiry has been made with regard to federations of trade unions, of which some of the results are summarised below.

For the purpose of the inquiry a federation is defined as an association of separate trade societies or branches of societies connected with kindred trades, for certain limited and specific purposes with limited and defined powers over its constituent societies. It is thus distinguished from a trade union by the fact that its constituent members are societies or branches and not individuals; from an amalgamation, by the fact that its powers and objects are more limited, the constituent societies retaining their autonomy; and from a trades council or congress, by the possession of certain powers of direction over its affiliated societies beyond merely consultative functions. As might be expected, it is not always easy to maintain these distinctions rigidly. For example, the members of a few of these organisations are partly societies and partly individuals. A more serious difficulty is the distinction in some cases between an amalgamation and a federation. It is to be observed with regard to this point that the name of the organisation is not always a safe guide.

The objects for which unions are joined together in federations are various; they may, however, be generally described as the protection of certain common interests of the members of kindred trades and the adjustment of the mutual relations of those trades.

Among the objects stated in the rules of the federations which are in the possession of the Department are:—the maintenance and improvement of the conditions of labour as regards wages, hours, rules, &c., recognised by each of the affiliated societies; the

support of members of any affiliated society in a dispute, either by contributions or by the withdrawal from work of all members of the federation; arbitration and conciliation in trade disputes; the watching and promotion of legislation; and the enforcement of statutory regulations affecting labour.

Information has been received with regard to 63 federations, to which are affiliated 628 unions or branches of unions, with an aggregate membership of 851,966. The federations are distributed as follows among groups of trades:—

Trades	No. of Federations.	Societies or Branches affiliated.	
		Number.	Membership.
Building Trades	29	274	76,339
Furnishing and Wood-working Trades	3	58	7,999
Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding	4	72	165,429
Mining and Quarrying	12	93	386,890
Textile Trades	10	95	173,108
Printing and Kindred Trades	3	23	25,201
Seafaring, Dock Labour, and Transport	2	13	17,300
Total	63	628	851,966

With regard to the above table it is to be observed that the total membership of unions affiliated to the federations does not represent the same number of separate individuals, since some unions or branches of unions are affiliated to more than one federation, e.g., the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners and other societies of the same group of trades, belong as a whole to the "Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades of the United Kingdom," while many of their local branches belong to the various district "Building Trades' Federations." Again, in the case of mining, the principal federation (viz., the Miners' Federation of Great Britain) contains several local federations, e.g., in the Midlands, Scotland and Lancashire, among its constituent organisations, and their membership is consequently counted twice.

It will be seen that the group of trades in which federations are most numerous (though not most extensive) is that of the Building Trades. Of the 29 federations in these trades of which information has been received, 26, with 72,401 members, are district federations of the local branches of the chief unions in the Building Trades, for the purpose of joint consultation and action, and the others are federations of unions connected with particular branches of the trade in different districts.

The most extensive federations are:—(1) The Miners' Federation of Great Britain (with 13 affiliated associations and 185,126 members), which exercises a controlling influence on the policy of its constituent societies with regard to general wages questions, and also takes parliamentary action; (2) The Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades of the United Kingdom (with 15 societies and 151,034 members), which is largely concerned, among other matters, with questions of demarcation of work among the members of its affiliated societies; (3) The United Textile Factory Workers, embracing four important societies in the Cotton Spinning and Weaving trades, with a total membership of 138,700, which is mainly concerned with parliamentary action on matters affecting these industries. The above three federations embrace more than half the membership of all the federations of which particulars have been received.

Of the 63 federations included in the returns, 46 have existed less than five years and 31 less than two years. The last few years have been marked by a considerable increase in the number of federations, but these bodies have not yet, as a rule, shown themselves to be long-lived forms of organisation, especially in the case of those which embrace several distinct trades.

**The Unemployed.\***—The second report from the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment contains abstracts of returns received through the Local Government Board, from local authorities in England and Wales, in reply to a circular inquiry as to the extent of distress prevailing. The volume also contains special reports from Local Government Board Inspectors as to the extent of destitution amongst able-bodied men in their districts, and as to exceptional measures taken by the Guardians with a view to affording relief in such cases.

\* Second Report from the Select Committee on Distress from Want of Employment, with an Appendix. P.P. 253. [Price 4s. 0½d.]

#### CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR IN 1894.

##### Preliminary Figures.

THE following is a brief preliminary summary of the general tendency of wages in 1894, so far as can be inferred from the reports already received by the Department, and published in the LABOUR GAZETTE. The figures are subject to revision.

The number of changes of wages hitherto reported as occurring in 1894 is 589, viz., 411 increases and 178 decreases. The total number of individuals affected by the changes for which full particulars have been received was 592,000, of whom 160,000 gained a net rise and 432,000 sustained a net fall.

Though no detailed computation has yet been made of the effect on weekly wages of the changes in 1894, it may safely be said that the total effect was a decrease. In this respect the year 1894 differs from 1893, in which, the effect of the decline was for the time more than counterbalanced by temporary increases in miners' wages, due to the stoppage in the Midlands. In 1894, on the other hand, there was a very widespread fall in miners' wages, affecting over 380,000 persons.

The aggregate number of persons (not necessarily separate individuals) involved in all the wages changes in 1894, so far as reported, was 1,070,000, of whom increases accounted for 281,000 and decreases for 789,000. A very considerable part of this aggregate number is accounted for by the Welsh miners, whose rates of wages changed no less than six times during the year, and who consequently figure six times in the total.

The greater part of the fall took place in the latter part of the year. Thus up to the end of March the increases recorded affected 215,000 persons (not separate individuals), and the decreases only 10,000. In the months April to June inclusive the increases affected only 37,000 and the decreases 187,000. In the period July-September the increases affected 15,000 and the decreases 458,000, while in the last three months of the year the increases affected 14,000 and the decreases 134,000.

The net effect of the changes of hours reported for 1894 has been a decrease, as in the case of 1893. Reports have been already received of 215 reductions of hours of labour in 1894, affecting 70,000 individuals, of whom about 42,000 were Government employees.

It should be stated that the trades and occupations covered by the returns embrace most branches of productive industry except agricultural labourers and seamen.

#### LABOUR DISPUTES, AND CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION IN 1893.\*

THE Report by the Chief Labour Correspondent on the Strikes and Lock-outs of 1893 has been issued. A preliminary summary, mainly based on an analysis of the figures published in the LABOUR GAZETTE from month to month, appeared in the LABOUR GAZETTE for March 1894 (page 76), and in the Abstract of Labour Statistics presented to Parliament with the Annual Report of the Department. The particulars thus obtained, however, have been enlarged, and a considerable amount of supplementary information is given in the detailed report now published.

In 1893 there were in all 782 distinct disputes, as compared with 700 in 1892. But whereas the number affected in 1892 was but 371,799, the total of those concerned in the disputes in 1893 was 636,386. Of the total number of disputes in 1893, 19.9 per cent. took place in the mining group of industries, but the number of persons affected in those industries formed nearly 80 per cent. of all the persons engaged in the whole of the disputes of the year.

The proportion of disputes arising out of questions of wages was 60.7 per cent. in 1893, as against 58.8 per cent. in the previous year. But the proportion of persons engaged in the wages disputes in 1893 was 89 per cent.

\* Report of the Chief Labour Correspondent on the Strikes and Lock-outs of 1893. (C.—7,566.) Price 2s. 4d.

of the persons engaged in all the disputes of the year, as against 66 per cent. in 1892.

In classifying disputes according to the success or otherwise of the workpeople, it is to be understood that by success is meant solely the attainment of the immediate demands put forward, and no conclusion can be drawn as to the ultimate effect on the trade. Of the persons engaged in wages disputes, 65.4 per cent. were successful in 1893, as against 17.8 per cent. of persons engaged in wages disputes in 1892, and only 11 per cent. were wholly unsuccessful. This heavy preponderance of success in wages disputes is due to the result of the great dispute in the Coal Trade, in which a reduction of wages was, for the time, successfully resisted.

The general effect of the summary dealing with success or failure in all the disputes of the year is to show that the workpeople were successful in 38 per cent. of these disputes affecting 62.1 per cent. of all the persons concerned in the disputes of the year, as against 20.6 per cent. of the persons affected by all disputes in 1892. The disputes in which the workpeople were partially successful affected 24.9 per cent. of the total persons, and those in which they were unsuccessful 12.3 per cent.

The aggregate number of working days lost owing to disputes was 31,205,062, compared with 17,248,376 in 1892. The average time lost per individual affected was 49.7 days, as compared with 49.1 days in 1892, 26.3 in 1891, and 19.5 in 1890.

The great majority of the disputes of the year were settled by conciliatory means, and in four very important cases the conciliation was brought about by the intervention of mediators. These four cases affected over 300,000 workers. Twenty disputes were referred to arbitration, but these only involved 6,311 persons.

The report for 1893 goes more fully into the subject of the settlement of trade disputes by conciliation and arbitration than has hitherto been customary. Of the total 50 boards dealt with in the report (excluding those reporting that no work was done during the year), 11 are district or local boards connected with the local chambers of commerce, and generally also with the local trades councils, and are not confined to particular industries. The remainder are boards connected with particular trades, including, amongst others, 13 connected with the Boot and Shoe Trade, 9 with the Iron and Steel and other Metal Trades, and 5 with Mining. The District Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration dealt, during the year, with 18 cases, 12 of which were disposed of by mediation and conciliation and 6 by arbitration.

In an appendix to the Report is given a summary of the proceedings and work of these boards during 1893. Some account is also given of the cases of informal, or personal arbitration or mediation, which have been reported as occurring during the year, and of the action of certain trades councils in mediating between the parties in disputes. Finally, some selections from the rules of local or trade boards have been printed, the rules of those boards being chosen for the purpose, which do not appear to have been already printed or summarised in previous Board of Trade Reports, or in the Reports of the Royal Commission on Labour.

The information usually included in this Report with regard to changes in wages and hours of labour, and to rates of wages and hours of labour fixed in different districts by trade unions, is omitted from this volume, those subjects being dealt with separately in reports now in the press.

#### THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS AT HUDDERSFIELD.

THE Twenty-seventh Annual Co-operative Congress was held at Huddersfield on Whit-Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and was attended by a large number of delegates.

The Congress is convened by the Co-operative Union of Great Britain and Ireland, which is a federation of 972 co-operative societies, comprising a total membership of 1,084,112 shareholders, or 58 per cent. of

the total number of existing co-operative societies, and over 80 per cent. of the total membership of such societies.

The Presidents for the three days respectively were Mr. George Thomson, Councilor T. Bland, J.P., and Mr. James Broadbent, all of Huddersfield. Deputations were received from the Trades Union Congress, the French co-operative organisations, and other associations.

The attendance during the whole of the Congress was the largest yet attained, and the most noticeable characteristic of the Congress was the evident desire on all sides to put an end to the long-standing conflict as to the methods upon which co-operative production shall be extended.

On the first day, after the president's address and the reception of deputations, a discussion took place on "Co-operation and Agriculture," upon which the following resolution was adopted:—

That this Congress, believing that the principles of co-operation are capable of being applied with beneficial results to agricultural industry, requests the United Board to consider the question and prepare some plan of agricultural co-operation, to be discussed by societies generally; such plan to deal with the question of the ownership or rental of land, the conditions of employment and remuneration of the labourer, the desirability of co-operative agriculture being conducted by bodies of workers, or by societies specially formed for the purpose, or by distributive societies either singly or in combination with others.

The discussions during the remainder of the Congress were based mainly upon matters arising in the annual report of the Central Board of the Union. Among these was the subject of credit trading by stores, a practice stated in the report to have been found on inquiry to prevail widely. A resolution was adopted by the Congress instructing the United Board to urge all the societies to discontinue credit.

With regard to production and profit-sharing, the following resolutions were adopted:—

(1) "That this Congress being in sympathy with the suggestion made in the presidential address in favour of conciliation between the two wings of co-operators in regard to profit-sharing, hereby authorises the United Board to call together representatives of these two wings, to meet with them, with the view to agreeing upon some common action to attain this end."

(2) "That this Congress is of opinion that the time has come for special action to further develop the productive side of our movement, and recommends the formation of a fund to assist industrial partnership amongst the workers under the guidance of the Central Board, and that that Board be requested to take immediate steps to formulate a scheme to carry out the above object."

Upon the report of the Parliamentary Committee of the Union two resolutions were adopted with regard to factory and workshop legislation and the imposition of "co-operative conditions and limitations in connection with all bills which have for their object the promotion of company monopolies."

Upon a proposal for the formation of an International Alliance of Co-operators, it was resolved to appoint a committee to make inquiry into the matter.

A large portion of Wednesday was devoted to a revision of the rules of the union; the proposals relating to the qualification for delegates were deferred until next year, the chief alterations adopted being changes in the procedure of Congress.

An exhibition of goods produced by 71 co-operative societies was opened on Saturday, June 1st, and remained open until the close of the Congress.

#### SITUATION IN LONDON BUILDING TRADES.

The difficulty caused in the London Building Trades by the termination of the working agreement entered into in 1892 by employers and employed has not yet reached a solution. The proposal of the employers to refer the points in dispute to arbitration (see GAZETTE, May 1895, p. 145) has been submitted to a ballot of the trade unions concerned, and has been declined, the result of the voting being communicated by the various societies interested to the Employers' Association in substantially the following terms:—

"Having submitted your resolution of arbitration of April 25th to our members, they have by an overwhelming majority refused to accept your offer of arbitration, and see no reason to depart from the decision forwarded to your Association on April 18th. We therefore, desire to know if your Association is willing to re-sign the 1892 agreement?"

No answer to these communications, except a formal acknowledgment, has, up to the present, been sent.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MINERS.

THE Sixth International Congress of Miners was held in Paris, on June 3rd, and four following days. The Congress consisted of 52 delegates, 34 of whom were British, 8 Belgian, 5 French, and 5 German. The total number of miners stated to be represented was 969,000. Of these about 590,000 were British, 167,000 German, 132,000 French, and 80,000 Belgian. Of the British delegates, 24 represented the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, with 474,000 members, 8 the National Union of Miners, with 96,000, and 2 the South Wales miners, with 20,000.

Representation at the present Congress could only be by delegates who are themselves miners, or who are secretaries of miners' associations. Voting was by numbers represented. The following were among the more important propositions discussed by the Congress:

**Over-production.**—On behalf of the Belgian and French delegates it was proposed:—

"That over-production is the chief cause of the miserable condition of miners, that it is contrary both to their interests and those of the employers, and that an international agreement should limit production to the necessities of consumption; that such an understanding is possible only between miners, and that an international output committee should watch over the system."

The following amendment was moved by British delegates:—

"That while the Congress recognises the importance of regulating the over-production of coal, there are, at the same time, difficulties in the way of such a scheme, and that the question should be referred to the International Committee, with instructions to form a plan whereby the idea might be carried out; the particulars of such plan to be printed in each language, and sent to each nationality prior to the next Congress."

The British and German delegates voted unanimously in favour of the amendment, which was, therefore, carried by 757,000 to 212,000 votes.

**A Legal Eight Hours' Day.**—On this subject, three propositions were put forward:—

(a) [by France]: "That all persons working in or about mines shall secure, by legal enactment, a working day that shall not exceed eight hours."

(b) [by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain]: "That all persons working underground shall secure, by legal enactment, a working day that shall not exceed eight hours from bank to bank."

(c) [by the Miners' National Union]: "That the eight hours' day should be obtained by trade union action, and that no legislation should be sought for on the subject."

The proposition of the British Federation was put to the vote first, as against the negation of the National Union, and there voted for it delegates representing 776,000 miners. When the French proposition was put to the meeting, it also was supported by the same number of votes.

**Employers' Liability.**—It was moved by the French delegation:—

"That efforts be made to secure a law to place responsibility upon employers in all cases of accident, except where it can be proved that the person committed suicide."

On the British side it was moved as an amendment:—  
"That employers of labour be made responsible for compensation to all persons injured while following their work in and about mines."

It afterwards appeared that words exempting employers from liability in cases of "contributory negligence" had been omitted from the amendment as printed, and leave to insert them was refused. Four of the British delegates, therefore, voted against the British amendment, nine voted for it, and the rest abstained. The French and Belgian delegates voted

unanimously for the British proposal as printed, and four of the German delegates did the same. Thus it was declared carried, the French resolution being also put to the vote and carried.

Resolutions were also unanimously agreed to, on the motion of the French delegates, in favour of workmen inspectors of mines being placed in an independent position, and with regard to sanitation in mines.

A resolution proposing to make the Congress biennial instead of annual was withdrawn, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Brussels, or at London if it was found that decrees of expulsion rendered it impossible for certain foreign delegates to attend in the former town.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS: REPORT FOR 1894.

THE Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1894\* opens with remarks by the Chief Inspector bearing upon the progress made during the year, and particularly the working of the latest special additions to the regulations under the Factory and Workshop Acts, including the special rules now in operation in regard to the earthenware industry. The volume contains reports by the female inspectors, who are not attached to any particular district, but "visit wherever their inspections may be considered by the Chief Inspector to be desirable, and are always ready to receive and attend to any complaints received from or relating to the employment of women in any part of the United Kingdom"; in these reports attention is directed to the injurious effects of overtime work, to the employment of women as shop assistants after a full day's work in a workshop, to "evasion of the law by sending work home at the end of the legal day," to "complaints of deductions and after-charges for machinery, materials used in the manufacture, light, power, and other matters," and of excessive fines, to the want of ventilation in and overcrowding of workshops, to the insufficient heating in factories and workshops, to the want of proper sanitary accommodation, and to other subjects. There is an account by Mr. Lakeman of the work done in the Metropolis with the aid of the assistant inspectors under his superintendence; this deals largely with different branches of the clothing trades, in which "many employers are assisted by out-workers who are really workshop occupiers, whilst the out-workers are nearly all domestic." The workshops in these industries are stated to "demand close and frequent inspection at all times of the day." Mr. Lakeman describes the various methods adopted in order to avoid detection in breaches of the law, and sets forth the reports of his assistants in relation to the condition of out-workers in their districts; he also deals with the results of the inspection of bakehouses which has been carried out by his staff.

The volume further contains reports of H.M. Inspectors upon dangerous and unhealthy processes in chemical works, lucifer match factories, paint works, white lead works, china and earthenware industries and enamelled metal works; and reports by Dr. Arlidge on the effects of naphtha upon persons employed in india-rubber factories; by Mr. Osborn in relation to the working of the special rules now in force with regard to flax mills and linen factories; on the flax industry in Ireland by Mr. Woodgate; and on the operation of the Particulars Clause of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, by Mr. Birtwistle; also reports from inspectors dealing with accidents and the fencing of dangerous machinery, and with the action of local sanitary authorities in relation to the inspection of workshops and the provision of fire-escapes.

Details are given in regard to out-workers, to overtime, to the education and employment of children, and to the ventilation of workrooms. The "miscellaneous observations" treat of the state of trade in the various districts, the eight hours' movement, and proceedings before magistrates. The appendices contain, among

\* Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, for the year 1894. (C.—7,745 of 1895.) Price 5s. 3d.

other matters, a return of prosecutions under the factory laws in the year ending October 31st 1894, together with a summary showing the total number of prosecutions to have been 2,219, number of convictions 2,104, total amount of penalties £2,255 7s. 6d., and costs £1,397 18s. 1d. (also one prosecution for employing a child in a place of public entertainment beyond the hour allowed by license, followed by a fine of 1s., with 9s. costs), and a statistical table of accidents reported during the same period by certifying factory surgeons relating to a total of 9,749 cases, of which 448 were fatal.

#### RECENT CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION CASES.

##### Carpenters and Joiners' Dispute at Leicester.

THE working agreement existing between the operative carpenters and joiners of Leicester and the Employers' Association being terminable on the 31st March last, was not at once renewed on account of certain notices of change given on behalf of the operatives and counter notices on the part of the Master Builders' Association. The principal alterations proposed in the local bye-laws were: 1. An advance in the rate of wages from 8d. to 8½d. per hour. 2. The abolition of the piece-work system. 3. The deletion of the rule requiring that union men shall work in harmony with non-union men. There were also a few minor matters in dispute. The employers were willing to concede the advance of wages demanded, but declined to give way on the other principal points. The operatives, therefore, came out on strike on April 1st to the number of 400, but about 100 remained at work under non-associated employers at the advanced rate of wages. The stoppage continued throughout April and May, the negotiations entered into from time to time between the parties leading to no definite result.

On May 30th both parties requested the Board of Trade to appoint a mediator to preside at a joint conference for the purpose of putting an end to the dispute. Accordingly, the Board of Trade appointed Sir William Markby, to act as chairman of the proposed meeting, which was held at the Town Hall, Leicester, on Thursday, June 6th, at three o'clock. The conference lasted until nine o'clock, when terms of settlement were signed by both sides.

The following is the form in which the rules in dispute were ultimately agreed to:—

Rule 7, Clause 1, paragraph 2:—

Where one at least and not more than three journeymen are employed, a second apprentice may be engaged when the first apprentice has entered upon the last two years of his term.

Clause 2:—

Each employer shall have power to conduct his business in any way he may think advantageous in the matter of using machinery and in all details of management, not infringing the individual liberty of the workman.

Rule 8, Clause 3. (New sub-section):—

In case of any dispute arising under Clause 2, Rule 7, the matter shall be referred to the Council constituted as above with a mediator, and no action shall be taken on either side to discharge or withdraw men in reference to any dispute under Clause 2 of Rule 7 until the point or points in dispute have been discussed by the Council. In case the Council should fail to settle all or any of the points in dispute, no men shall be discharged or withdrawn in reference to the matters still unsettled until after the expiration of a fortnight from the last meeting of the Council at which these matters were considered.

The questions of the employment of non-society men and of piece-work were omitted from the working rules, and dealt with in the following separate memorandum:—

Memorandum of Agreement made between the undersigned representatives of the Leicester Master Builders' Association and of the Operative Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Leicester District, 6th day of June 1895.

1. That the Operative Society of Carpenters and Joiners shall not interfere with the employment of non-society men or with the arrangements of masters as to piece-work for six months from this date, and then only under the provisions of Clause 3 of Rule 8.

2. The employers shall re-instate all their old employees as far as possible before any new men are taken on.

##### Interpretation of Terms of Settlement in Boot and Shoe Trade.

THE Joint Committee appointed in accordance with Section 3 (a) of the Terms of Settlement of the Boot and Shoe Trade Dispute, to lay down the lines on

which piece-work statements for machine workers shall be prepared, having disagreed as to the interpretation of the word "process" in Section (1) of the Terms of Settlement, the matter was referred to Sir Courtenay Boyle for interpretation in accordance with Section 10. After an interview with the parties on May 22nd, Sir Courtenay Boyle gave his award as follows:—

## AWARD.

I am asked to determine the meaning of the word "Process" in the following part of Paragraph 1 of the recent settlement: "It being understood that the whole of the operatives working on any 'process' shall be put on one or the other system, which shall not be changed oftener than once in six months. Heeling and sewing to be regarded as separate processes."

Now, I am not asked to determine whether any particular part of manufacture is or is not a "process," but to interpret generally the word "process," and I can only do so by the light of representations made to me by each side at an interview which I arranged for the special purpose of ascertaining the views of both.

Employers, on the one hand, contended that the word "process" was applicable to each of many operations conducted in the same department. For instance, a list was put into my hand which showed 31 different operations in the department of "Finishing" in one manufactory, and it was contended that each of these is a "process" within the meaning of the paragraph in question. The list included such operations as heel-paring, trimming, heel-scouring, heel-inking, heel-burnishing, seat-wheeling, edge-inking, waist-scouring, and top-ironing.

On the other hand, the representatives of the workmen contended that the word "process" was identical with the word "Department."

The employers supported their view by the argument that "Department" had been deliberately altered into "process" in the negotiations which led up to the signing of the settlement.

The workmen supported theirs, among other arguments, by pointing out that it was considered necessary in the settlement to lay down that heeling and sewing were separate processes.

Having carefully considered the arguments on each side and the objects for which the paragraph in question was introduced into the terms of settlement, I have come to the conclusion that the word "process" cannot be considered as applying to each of the many operations referred to by the employers as being conducted in the same department. Nor is it necessarily identical with "Department." It is possible that there may be more than one "process" in the same department. As a matter of fact, heeling and sewing were expressly recognised in the settlement as separate processes. But the word "process" must be held to have a wide meaning and to apply to a material part of manufacture and not a minute sub-division.

Any specific proposal to recognise a particular group of operations as a separate "process" would be a proposal affecting the conditions of work within the meaning of Paragraph 5 of the Settlement.

24th May 1895. (Signed) COURTENAY BOYLE.

At the same time Sir Courtenay Boyle decided that the notices given to Boards of Arbitration before the dispute for a rise of wages for clickers and pressmen are good notices within the terms of settlement, and can be dealt with at once by the Boards.

## The Northumberland Coal Trade Conciliation Board.

The recent awards of this Board having conceded reductions of wages, dissatisfaction has been caused among the miners, and propositions have been put forward for the abolition of the Board. At the recent delegate meeting of the Northumberland Miners' Association the question was put to the vote with the following result:—

For abolition...	18
Against ...	35

Majority against abolition ... 17

It was, however, resolved that a ballot of the county should be taken, in order to arrive at a definite decision. This has now been done, with the result that the proposal to terminate the Conciliation Board has been carried by 202 votes by lodges as against 119.

## Arbitration in the Coal Trade.

A STRIKE of 384 men at a colliery at Washington, which began on April 29th, terminated on May 6th, both sides agreeing to submit the matters in dispute to arbitration. The men requested that the system of "laying out" tubs should be abolished, or, failing that, that the fines should be reduced. Two arbitrators were appointed by the owners and the men respectively, Mr. T. Lambert, of Gateshead, acting as umpire. The award, issued on June 6th, reduced 3d. fines to 2d., and 6d. fines to 5d. All other customs and practices of the colliery are to be continued.

## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

**Canada.**—A report from Montreal states that the demand for mechanics of all kinds, and for common labourers, is dull, but that there is a good demand for competent agricultural labourers, and for female servants in towns and on farms; there is a similar demand near Niagara Falls in Ontario. A correspondent at Toronto, in Ontario, states that he has never during the last 30 years known such a scarcity of employment as there has been during the past year. At Winnipeg, in Manitoba, prospects are fair for plumbers, plasterers, and tailors; but are poor for carpenters and masons, printers, and general labourers.

**New South Wales.**—According to a report of the Government Labour Bureau for the year ending February last, the Building Trade had been, and still was, very much depressed, and large numbers of architects and other professional men, of coal-miners, compositors, clerks, accountants, and especially of general labourers, had registered themselves as unemployed. More than half of the persons assisted by the Bureau were sent up country to search for gold, and did fairly well. The rates of wages during the year showed a reduction all round, the wages of slaughtermen, for instance, having fallen 15 per cent.

The superintendent of the Bureau has since stated that there are from 8,000 to 10,000 persons unemployed in Sydney and the suburbs, that others in search of employment are coming in from country districts, and that a severe winter for the unemployed is to be expected.

A Bill to enforce arbitration in disputes between workmen and their employers has passed the Lower House; no power is conferred on the arbitrators to enforce their decrees. The report of the Royal Commission on the Civil Service, which was issued in April, states that the Service is largely overmanned and overpaid, and recommends considerable reductions. Under the new Land Bill, homestead selections are to be offered as an experiment to settlers on conditions of residence during at least seven months in the year, and on payment of a small rent in perpetuity. The disputes at the Newcastle collieries seem now to be settled, as the miners have resolved "that all strikes should be declared off, and that the men be allowed to negotiate for the best terms possible with the proprietors."

**Victoria.**—The latest returns of Victorian manufactories generally show considerable decreases in the number of men and women employed; but in a few industries, such as butter and cheese factories, the numbers have risen. The total population of Melbourne and suburbs has declined from 491,000 in 1891 to 439,000 in 1894. The harvest returns for 1894-5, which have just been published, show, as compared with those of 1893-4, a large decrease in the yield of wheat, but increases in the yields of oats, potatoes, hay, and especially barley. The export trade in butter in 1894-5 was much larger than in 1893-4, but the export of cheese is still very small. The production of butter and cheese offers considerable openings to farmers. In a recent contract for the supply of boots, the Government required the contractor to pay such wages as would enable his men to earn about £2 a week.

**South Australia.**—A correspondent at Mintaro, 82 miles north of Adelaide, writes:—"Dairying is becoming very general all through this district, either a butter factory or a creamery being started in almost every township. This is proving of great advantage to the small landowners." Throughout the colony there has been a moderate demand lately for ploughmen, general farm youths and ploughboys, but there is an ample local supply.

**New Zealand.**—In several towns, as Wellington, Westport, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill, the Building and Engineering Trades during March were dull; but in country places, like Tauranga, Woodville,

\* And in Paraguay.

Wanganui, &c., they were fairly busy. Men in the Boot Trade were doing fairly well at Auckland and in some smaller places, such as Greymouth, Timaru, and Oamaru; and coach-builders were busy at Wanganui and New Plymouth, but in the large centres of population all trades were for the most part dull. There had been a fair amount of work for unskilled labour in country districts, but with the completion of shearing and harvesting men were returning to the towns, with the natural result that at Wellington and Christchurch many were out of work. With a view to helping the unemployed and to promoting land settlement, the Government is initiating in both Islands a large scheme for road-making and the erection of saw mills, to be worked upon co-operative lines as far as possible.

**Natal.**—A report from Pietermaritzburg states that work is very dull in the Building and other trades.

**Paraguay.**—In previous numbers of the LABOUR GAZETTE mention has been made of the "New Australia" colony started in Paraguay on Socialist lines. A very full and interesting Report on its position, past and present, by Mr. Peel, Second Secretary to the Buenos Ayres Legation, has now been published [Misc. Series, No. 358]. The number of the colonists at the original settlement has, owing to various secessions, dwindled down to about 230 in all. A new board of management has been elected, who are working on more practical lines. At the same time the absence of capital, the distance from the railway, the want of roads and a navigable river, are formidable obstacles to progress. Still, the colony possesses "350,000 acres of the very finest land in Paraguay, with pasturage to keep at least 70,000 cattle." "Buying cattle for purposes of fattening should yield a profit of at least 20 to 30 per cent." Moreover, the climate is excellent. The general conclusion is that "progress must necessarily be slow until there is command of sufficient capital to open up communication by rail and river."

## LABOUR ABROAD.

## FRANCE.\*

*Labour Disputes in May.*—Besides 8 remaining unsettled since April, 52 fresh disputes occurred in May, compared with 57 in April and 32 in May 1894. The fresh disputes are classified as follows: 22 in the Textile Trades, 5 each in the Building and Wood-working Trades, 4 each in Leather and Metal-working, 3 each among navvies and workers in Transport Trades, 2 each in the Mining, Food Preparing and kindred Trades, and 2 unclassified disputes. Full particulars are stated for 48 disputes, involving 5,047 persons, the largest number involved in any one case being 500. This number was reached in Champagnac (Department Cantal) by the miners, and in Grenoble by skin dressers, the cause in each case being a demand for increased wages. The demand was successful in the former case, while a compromise was effected in the latter. Of 45 disputes terminated during the month, 9 ended favourably, and 18 unfavourably for the workers; 15 were compromised; and the results of 3 had not been ascertained by the Office du Travail.

*Conciliation and Arbitration.*—Fifteen cases of recourse to the Conciliation and Arbitration Law were recorded in May. The initiative was taken by the *juges de paix* in 9, and by the workpeople in 5 cases, while joint steps for conciliation were taken in 1 case. Proceedings failed to take place in 4 cases owing to the rejection of mediation by one or the other party, and in 1 case owing to an arrangement being arrived at. Of the 10 cases in which proceedings took place, 4 ended in a settlement, 4 failed to do so, and the results of 2 have not been reported.

*Successful Action of a Non-unionist against a Trade Union.*—Damages amounting to £80 were allowed by the Court at Lyons on May 15th to a copper turner, who claimed compensation from the Tapmakers' Union, on the ground that, owing to their action, he had been unable to obtain work since July 26th, 1893. A witness

\* From information supplied by the Office du Travail.

stated that he would have engaged the plaintiff had he not feared difficulties with the union, which, on a former occasion, had boycotted his works for refusing to dismiss an overseer to whom they objected.

## GERMANY.

The following is based on information supplied by Mr. T. R. Mulvany, H.M. Consul at Düsseldorf, and Mr. Strachey, H.M. Minister at Dresden, under dates of June 4th and 7th respectively:—

*Labour Disputes.*—The fresh disputes reported during May numbered 32, and those continued from previous months, 9. The fresh disputes consisted of 10 in the Building, 5 each in the Textile and Leather-working, 4 in the Clothing, 3 in the Wood-working, and 2 in the Metal-working Trades, the remaining 3 being strikes of miners, brewery-workers, and oil mill-workers respectively. Most of these were confined to single establishments, but some of the strikes in the Building Trade, and a strike of shoemakers on piece-work at Nordhausen were general. The bricklayers of Leipsic, to the number of about 1,200, struck for 5½d. an hour, being an advance of 7 pfennigs† on the minimum prevailing rate of wages in the trade. They also demanded a 10-hours day. Some of the employers yielded, but the Associated Employers of the Bricklayers' Guild offered a minimum wage of 40 pfennigs (5d.) with a maximum of 45 pfennigs (5½d.), which was refused, notwithstanding the employers' threat of a general lock-out. In Dresden, several works are affected by strikes, due to a general movement of the masons and carpenters for a 10-hours day, and 4½d. an hour. The slaters of Mainz and Dortmund are out. The former want 30 per cent. increase of wages and the abolition of piece-work and overtime, and the latter demand a 10-hours day with minimum wages of 5½d. an hour, 2½d. an hour extra for overtime, and double wages for Sunday work. The strike of shoemakers in Nordhausen is due to the introduction of new factory rules. Terms have been agreed on for the settlement of the penknife-finishers' strike in Solingen, referred to in previous reports. Pending the preparation of a joint price list, that of the manufacturers is to be accepted, the matter to be dealt with by a joint board of conciliation in case the new list be not complete within a fortnight. The strike of button-makers in Schmölln has also been compromised, but many of the workers have lost their employment. Fifteen disputes were reported during the month as terminated, 7 ending in favour of the workers, 1 partly so, 4 unfavourably, 2 were compromised, and the result of 1 is not known.

## SWITZERLAND.

The matter on which the following is based has been supplied by Herr Greulich, the workmen's secretary, and transmitted by Mr. Angst, H.M. Consul at Zürich, on May 25th:—

*Labour Disputes.*—The great watchmakers' strike in the Jura, referred to in previous reports, has been settled, after several unsuccessful attempts of the Cantonal Government to mediate. Both sides made concessions, but the loss which the workmen have sustained is considerable, as, owing to the dull state of the trade, many of them were not re-engaged on the resumption of work on May 15th. In one factory a 10 to 12 per cent. reduction of wages was announced. It is stated that, partly owing to foreign competition, the prospects of those engaged in the Watchmaking Industry in Switzerland are not good.

In Bâle the masons, to the number of 2,000 to 2,500, struck, demanding 4s. a day for masons proper. By the mediation of the Cantonal Government, a compromise was effected, according to which the daily wages were increased by about 5d. The interesting feature of this strike was, that nearly all those engaged in it were Italians, who, as is well known, come in considerable numbers to the North in spring. A strike of slaters in Geneva ended, after a few days, in favour of the workmen.

\* Supplemented by information published in the *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger*.  
† The mark = 1s., = 100 pfennigs.

**Other Wage Movements.**—Encouraged, perhaps, by the success of their colleagues at Bâle, the masons and hodmen of Berne have also demanded higher wages. Another important demand of theirs is prohibition of the sale of alcoholic drinks at places where building is going on. It is said that hitherto this traffic has been carried on by foremen and overseers, and the men allege that a certain compulsion to drink existed. As at Bâle, most of the men engaged in this movement are Italians. A peaceful settlement is anticipated, without recourse to a strike. The carpenters and building joiners of Berne have obtained increased wages without striking. For the former, a minimum wage of 4½d. an hour, or 3s. 9d. a day, was fixed. A movement in which the slaters of Berne are engaged will, it is thought, result in increased wages and reduced hours for the men. A whole series of other minor wage movements have been peacefully settled, some advantages being gained by the workmen.

**Labour Congresses.**—The Congress of the Swiss Trades Unions' League and that of the Swiss Metal Workers' Federation were fixed to meet at Lucerne, and that of the Printers' League at Bâle, at Whitsuntide.

**BELGIUM.**

**Labour Disputes.**—Accounts appeared in *Le Peuple* during May of 13 fresh disputes (including one lock-out) and of 4 prolonged since previous months. The fresh disputes consisted of 3 in the Mining and Quarrying Industries (2 being among colliers), of 2 each in the Building, Metal-working and Wood-working Industries, and of one each among match-makers, glass-workers, navvies, and confectionery makers. None of the fresh disputes were of serious extent. The strikes in the Spinning Industry in Hodimont, Verviers, and Renaix, reported on in previous numbers of the GAZETTE, continued throughout the month. A resumption of work in several factories at increased rates, was reported on May 11th to have taken place in several establishments in Verviers, but other establishments appear to have been affected by fresh strikes towards the end of that month. The results of 3 disputes only have been reported, two having ended favourably, and one unfavourably for the workers.

**SWEDEN.**

**Dock Labourers' Strike.**—The *Deutscher Reichsanzeiger* reports all work in the Stockholm docks as suspended in consequence of a general strike of the dock labourers, which began on May 13th. The men demanded a day of 10 hours, increase of pay from 4d. to 5½d. per hour, and 6½d. an hour for overtime.

**AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.**

**Labour Disputes.**—The fresh disputes reported during May numbered 25, and those prolonged since previous months, 13. Five of the fresh disputes were in the Building Trades, 4 each in the Clothing and Metal-working Trades, 3 each in the Textile and Wood-working Trades, and 2 each in the Glass and Leather-working Trades. The remaining 2 were among bakers and bone-button turners. Ten of the strikes in progress during the month appear to have been general. Buda-Pesth being the scene of 4, viz.: among gas and water fitters, leather-dressers, tanners, and stone-cutters, while the rest were among shoemakers in Pilsen and Bregenz, bakers in Tarnopol, pearl-button turners in Vienna, building operatives in Bozen, and joiners in Troppau. The demands of the gas and water-fitters of Buda-Pesth included a 9-hours day without reduction of wages, those of the stone-cutters an 8-hours day, those of the bakers at Tarnopol an 11-hours day and 13s. 4d. a week, and those of the joiners of Troppau and building operatives of Bozen, a 10-hours day. The demand of the latter was granted on the day on which they went out. Seven out of 10 strikes reported as terminated during the month resulted favourably and 1 unfavourably for the workers, while 2 were partially successful.

**Contraventions of Accident Insurance Law.**—Between April 21st and May 15th, 10 employers in the district of the Vienna Workers' Accident Insurance office were convicted of making false statements of wages, for the purpose of lowering the amount of their assessment for accident insurance. The sums mis-stated amounted in the aggregate to £29,111, entailing a loss to the insurance office of £460.—*Arbeiter Zeitung*.

**ITALY.**

**Labour Disputes.**—Accounts of the following disputes have been published in the *Arbeiter Zeitung* of Vienna:—At Melegnano, near Milan, 900 silk weavers struck on May 17th for reduced hours and

\* Based on information published in Austrian workmen's papers.

increased wages. A meeting of the operatives, convened by the Secretary of the Milan Chamber of Labour, and presided over by the Mayor of Melegnano, is said to have been dispersed by the police. A strike of 1,700 flax and hemp spinners and weavers at an establishment in Milan, for 10 per cent. increase of wages, was begun on May 9th. A strike of several hundred silk spinners (women) in Lecco, who demanded a working day of 12 instead of 13 hours, is said to have succeeded, no reduction in wages being made. In Monza, 500 masons and 300 stone-cutters struck on May 4th and 18th respectively. The masons demanded 27 centesimi (2½d.) per hour, and accepted 26. The stone-cutters, who demanded a 10 instead of an 11 hours day, resumed work on obtaining an increase of wages.

**Chamber of Labour at Bologna—2nd Annual Report.**—The Report of this Chamber for the year ended 31st March 1895 shows the total membership of the affiliated trades to have been 7,992 at that date. Of these 6,262 were organised in separate trade associations, the rest consisting of groups of mixed trades. Permanent work was found during the year for 254 persons, there being, in addition, 14,803 cases in which a day's work was provided. These included 7,940 days of work given up by bakers and pastemakers (macaroni, &c.) to unemployed colleagues under the "turn" system referred to in last month's GAZETTE (page 149).

**RUSSIA.**

**The Labour Market.**—The cheapness of grain, owing to the abundance of last year's crop combined with a wet autumn, which prolonged milling operations well into the winter, caused a firm tone to prevail in the agricultural labour market when field labours were started this year, and delayed the commencement of the usual migratory movements of workpeople. Some change, however, has taken place since the beginning of May, when migration began, a decline in the rate of wages being particularly observable in the central Volga region, through which large contingents usually pass on their way to the Southern Steppes. The use of agricultural machinery, too, is said to be causing wages to fall. Particularly low rates are being paid in many parts of the south-western region, the highest daily wage obtainable in some parts being 7½d., without board. High prices for the hire of men with horses are being paid in the Governments of Berdiansk, Volhynia, and Bessarabia, owing to the dearth of fodder. In Berdiansk, the hire of a man with two horses costs 9s. 4d. a day. Little or no progress has yet been made in the northern parts of Russia with field labour.

The migration of workers for agricultural labour is, on the whole, more restricted this year, many workers being attracted by the higher wages paid by the numerous new railway enterprises which are being started. Two thousand workmen, besides several hundred with their horses, passed through Yaroslavl in April to engage in the construction of the Vologda-Archangel Railway, and further contingents are expected to follow. Migration of workers to the Siberian Railway is confined to the Eastern Governments. Lumbering, Coal Mining (Kharkov and Yekaterinoslav), and the Caspian Fishing Industry are also mentioned as occupying many migrating workers. In the Tsarytsin Fish Market, about 2,000 workers have found work since the 12th of May. Those working separately get 1s. 3d. a day. In contract work performed by *artels*, men earn 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d., and women 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. a day.—(*Vjestnik Financov*, May 12th and June 2nd.)

**UNITED STATES.**

**PHILADELPHIA CONSULAR DISTRICT.**

The following is based on information supplied by Capt. R. C. Clipperton, H.M. Consul at Philadelphia, under date of May 28th:—

**Labour Disputes.**—On the 2nd of May a strike was organised in the Tailoring Trade, of machine operators, basters and "bushellers" (? pressers) of Philadelphia, and after a meeting during the evening of that day a general strike of the local operators of the Knights of Labour engaged in the Clothing Trade was declared. The strike, in which from 3,000 to 4,000 workers took part, was regarded generally as against the "sweating system," its direct object being the total abolition of the small contractor. It was organised so as to occur at the busiest time of the tailoring season, and ended after two weeks by the employers (small contractors) consenting to almost all the terms demanded by the strikers. Agreements were signed between individual contractors and the local assemblies of the Knights of Labour, stipulating that no shop should be recognised by the unions or the contractors in which less than 5 machines, with 13

workers to each machine, were employed. Each contractor must furnish a real estate bond of 50 dollars (about 10 guineas) for each machine, and for faithful observance of the contract.

The miners' strike in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and in other States, for sixty-nine cents (2s. 10½d.) per ton of coal, which was being maintained for the past twelve weeks, has now come to an end, the men generally consenting to return to work at the sixty cent (2s. 6d.) rate offered by the mine-owners.

A strike was inaugurated on the 2nd of May by the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers against the iron masters working their mills with non-union men, and for the restoration of the amalgamated wage scale. The Iron Masters generally have voluntarily decided to advance wages about 10 per cent., which advance appears to have momentarily arrested the expected strike.

**Textile Trade.**—In the ingrain Carpet Weaving Trade dissatisfaction was expressed by the weavers at the low rate of wages they were receiving; a strike, however, was prevented by the operatives and mill-owners agreeing to meet and discuss the matters in question, and confer as to the merits of a new schedule of wages to be submitted, the adoption of which, it was considered, might diminish the frequency of strikes in that trade.

**Knights of Labour.**—The Knights of Labour have moved their headquarters from Philadelphia to Washington, with the object, as stated by "General Master Workman," Sovereign, of watching the proceedings of Congress.

**FOREIGN TRADE FOR MAY.**

**Imports.**—The total declared value of the imports for last month was 1·8 per cent. greater than that for May 1894. The value for the first five months of the year is, however, still about 4 per cent. behind that for the corresponding period of 1894. The following table shows the declared value in pounds sterling of the imports, grouped in large classes, for the month ending May 31st, together with the figures for the corresponding month of last year:—

Class of Goods.	May 1895.	May 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
Food, Drink, and Tobacco ...	£14,643,359	£15,211,330	—	£567,971
Metals ...	1,572,993	1,503,082	68,911	—
Oils, Chemicals, Dyeing and Tanning Substances ...	1,257,236	1,035,961	221,275	—
Raw Materials for Manufacture ...	9,176,528	9,150,912	16,616	—
Manufactured Articles ...	6,851,996	5,938,666	913,330	—
Miscellaneous ...	1,259,004	1,284,179	—	£24,175
Totals ...	34,752,086	34,134,060	618,026	—

Under manufactured articles the principal increase is in silk stuffs, which increased by £325,169. Leather and woollen stuffs also showed large increases, both in value and amount. The imports of metals and of raw materials are for the first time this year in excess of those for 1894. Raw cotton this month shows an increase of 317,010 cwts., of value £280,274; and flax an increase of 14,014 tons, of value £381,221. Jute, on the other hand, shows a decrease of £321,608; and wood a decrease of £264,889. The largest decrease under the head of food and drink is that of 2,656,534 cwts. in the import of Indian corn, of declared value, £506,181.

**British and Irish Exports.**—The total declared value of the exports for last month was about 5 per cent. more than that for April 1894, though for the five months ended 31st May there is a decrease in value of 7 per cent. in 1895 as compared with 1894. The following table shows the declared value in pounds sterling of the exports, grouped in large classes, for the month ending May 31st, together with the figures for the corresponding month of last year:—

Class of Goods.	May 1895.	May 1894.	Increase.	Decrease.
Articles of Food and Drink ...	£783,774	£817,878	—	£34,104
Raw Materials ...	1,705,211	1,714,606	—	9,395
Yarns and Textile Fabrics ...	7,661,279	7,166,600	494,679	—
Metals and Articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery) ...	2,460,717	2,417,432	43,285	—
Machinery and Mill Work ...	1,344,837	1,338,017	6,790	—
Miscellaneous ...	4,388,926	4,029,649	359,277	—
Totals ...	18,344,744	17,484,212	860,532	—

There was a decrease in the exports of cotton piece goods of £302,496, but an increase in the exports of most other textiles, the largest increase being of £310,984 in the export of worsted tissues. The export of coal increased in amount by 189,151 tons, and in value by £71,668. Under the head of machinery, there was a

falling off in the export of steam engines, and an increase in the export of most other machinery. In particular, the value of the mining machinery exported was more than twice as great as in May 1894.

**Re-exports of Foreign and Colonial Merchandise.**—The value of these for the month ending May 31st was £5,215,785, as against £4,904,108 in May 1894, an increase of £311,677.

**Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared.**—The total tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom during May from Foreign Countries and British Possessions was 2,609,692 tons, as against 2,668,982 tons last year, a decrease of 59,290 tons. The tonnage of vessels cleared was 3,493,040 tons, as against 3,225,366 tons last year, an increase of 267,674 tons. The tonnage entered *Coastwise* amounted to 2,708,298 tons, as compared with 2,611,112 tons in May 1894, and the tonnage cleared to 2,530,593 tons, the amount for May 1894 being 2,532,207 tons.

**EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.**

**Total Emigration.**—During May 29,477 British and foreign passengers left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe, as compared with 22,124 in May 1894, an increase of 7,353.

**British and Irish.**—The above total of 29,477 includes 21,346 passengers of British and Irish nationality, and these passengers account for 75 per cent. of the total increase over the figure for May 1894. As will be seen from the following table, the chief increase is in the number proceeding to the United States, and of these passengers the majority were of Irish origin. The only decrease is in the number of passengers to Australasia.

	May 1895.	May 1894.
United States ...	16,513	11,506
British North America ...	2,289	1,991
Australasia ...	632	664
South Africa ...	1,282	1,039
Other places ...	630	607
Total ...	21,346	15,807

**Foreign.**—In addition to the British and Irish passengers, there were 8,131 foreigners and others whose nationality was not distinguished, as against 6,317 in May 1894, an increase of 1,814.

**Alien Immigration.**—The total number of aliens who arrived at various ports of the United Kingdom from the continent during May was 9,319, as compared with 7,889 in May 1894, an increase of 1,430. Of the 9,319 who arrived last month, 5,101 were stated to be *en route* to America as against 4,065 in May 1894. Those not stated to be *en route* to America numbered 4,218 (including 971 sailors) in May 1895, and 3,824 (including 987 sailors) in May 1894.

**MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.**

**Cotton Statistics.**—The number of bales of raw cotton imported during May was 282,927, as compared with 198,216 in May 1894, an increase of 84,711 bales.

The quantity forwarded from ports to inland towns has also largely increased, while the exports show a marked decline. The following are the figures for May 1895 and 1894 respectively:—

	Imports.	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.	Exports.
1895 ...	282,927	284,221	36,542
1894 ...	198,216	247,866	59,124

**Traffic Receipts.**—During the four weeks ended 25th May, the total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom amounted to £5,535,474, or £218,162 less than in the corresponding period of 1894. The receipts from passenger traffic are accountable for this decrease, the amount being £2,406,945, a decrease of £296,850 as compared with last year, while the receipts from goods and mineral traffic amounted to £3,128,529, an increase of £78,688.

**Fishing Statistics.**—The total declared value of the fish (including shell fish) landed in the United Kingdom during May was £681,348, or £47,535 less than in May 1894. The decrease on the English and Welsh coasts amounted to £28,734, in Scotland to £8,715, and in Ireland to £10,086.

**New Mines and Mines Abandoned.**—During May 15 mines were reported as opened or re-opened and 17 as abandoned, against 22 and 18 respectively in April. Thirteen of the 15 new mines and all of those abandoned were collieries. Of the collieries opened or re-opened in May, 3 each were situated in Durham and Yorkshire, 2 each in Lancashire and Staffordshire, and 1 each in Monmouthshire, Lanarkshire, and Stirlingshire; while of the abandoned collieries 5 were in Glamorganshire, 3 in Lancashire, 2 each in Durham, Shropshire, and Lanarkshire, and 1 each in Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Flintshire.

\* Particulars supplied by the Home Office

British Corn.—The following are the average prices per quarter of British corn for the week ended 1st June compared with the average prices for the corresponding week of 1894. It will be observed that while the prices of barley and oats continue to show a decrease, wheat has increased in price. The average price of wheat at the end of April last was 20s. 9d. only.

Table with columns: Average price per Quarter in—, May 1895, May 1894, Increase, Decrease. Rows: Wheat, Barley, Oats.

Bankruptcies.—The total number of bankruptcies gazetted during May was 374, or 70 less than in May 1894. Of the 374 bankrupts, 27 were grocers, 24 publicans, hotel-keepers, &c., 23 farmers, 16 boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers, and 16 butchers.

LABOUR CASES IN MAY.

The following are among the legal cases of the month under various Statutes specially affecting labour, of which the Department has received information. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in local newspapers. The list is not intended to be in any way exhaustive of all such cases decided during the month. A general statistical account of prosecutions under the Factory and Workshop Acts, the Mines Regulation Acts, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, will be found in another column.

(1) EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Recorder's Court, Dublin (reported on May 8th).—Glazier sued his employers for £250 as damages for fracture of leg occasioned by the breaking of a ladder. For the defence, it was contended that defendants' traveller selected two sound ladders for the work upon which plaintiff was employed, but that he rejected those and selected an unsuitable one on his own responsibility. Judgment for defendants.

Birmingham County Court, May 9th.—Labourer sued brick company for £50 as damages for injuries sustained through several hundredweight of clay falling upon him while engaged in loading wagons near a slope. Plaintiff attributed the fall of the clay to foreman's negligence in not properly supporting the bank and removing the top surface. Judge left it to jury to say whether the defendants exercised reasonable care in providing proper protection for their workmen. Verdict for plaintiff for £20.

City of London Court, May 15th.—Labourer sued dock company for £130, as damages for injuries caused by a wire rope, used in loading bales of jute into a barge. The rope slipped and threw him into the hold. Plaintiff alleged negligence of the foreman. Defendants contended that the man in question was not a foreman, as he had entered with the others into a piece-work contract with the dock companies, and when the work was completed they divided the profits; that he was elected by the men as their overseer and representative, and therefore had not that superintendence which could make the defendants liable. Judgment for plaintiff for £80, on the ground that foreman was superintending for defendants.

Sheriff's Court, Glasgow (reported on May 27th).—Carter sued his employers, a firm of mill-owners, for injuries sustained from a bag of grain falling upon him. Pursuer was engaged taking bags of grain on his lorry, which were being lowered from the doorway of defenders' stores. The practice was to bring the bags to the doorway and leave them there, whether the man who lowered them was ready to receive them or not. The Sheriff held that this practice was unnecessarily dangerous. Damages for pursuer, £80 and expenses.

(2) MINES REGULATION ACT.

Nottingham Shire Hall, May 4th.—Stallman employed at colliery was summoned for not spragging in his stall, contrary to the special rules in force in the mine. The unspragged coal measured five yards in length, and was overhanging to a depth of two feet. A loader was working immediately in front of the overhanging coal. Fined 15s.

Coleford Police Court, May 9th.—Colliery proprietors were summoned for permitting men to work in the pit when the air was bad. Defendants urged that certain falls had taken place which upset the ventilation, and that the men were employed in clearing up the falls for the purpose of making the ventilation perfect. Defendants bound over in the sum of £10.

(3) FACTORY ACT.

Heywood Police Court, May 8th.—Manufacturing company were fined 10s. and costs for failure to supply correct particulars under Section 24 of the "Factory and Workshop Act, 1891."

Belfast Summons Court, May 13th.—Eighteen young persons employed in the machine hackling of flax were summoned for not wearing the respirators provided. A penalty of 1s. and 1s. 6d. costs in six cases, and the remainder were discharged on payment of costs. (Special Rules for the Spinning and Weaving of Flax, Factory Act, 1891, Sec. 9.)

Sheriff's Court, Glasgow, May 15th.—Partner in firm of stationers and bookbinders was summoned for employing five women and young persons on a Saturday until four o'clock when they should not have been working after two o'clock. For the defence it

was stated that the girls were employed binding and numbering ballot papers in connection with the Parish Councils election, and that the time between the withdrawal of nominations and the election was too short to complete the work without working overtime. Accused was informed at the Factory Inspector's office that he could not work overtime on a Saturday. The Sheriff remarked that the case appeared to be one where there had been a deliberate intention to contravene the Act. Fined 50s. and 23s. expenses.

(4) EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN'S ACT.

Old Hill (Staffs.) Police Court, May 29th.—Plaintiff had been employed in a colliery as loader, but owing to an accident to his hand had been unable to work for three weeks. On returning to the colliery he was found work, but was afterwards told that no more work could be found for him. He accordingly sued the stallman for wages, amounting to £2 11s. 4d., in lieu of notice. In cross-examination he admitted that he had worked for more than one stallman, but denied that he was an "odd man." Defendant brought witness to prove that he was an odd man. Verdict for the defendant.

INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MAY.

I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Amount of Penalties, Total Amount of Costs. Rows: By Owners, Managers, &c.; By Workmen.

II.—Under the Mines Acts.

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Cases with-drawn, Cases dis-mitted, Fines and Costs imposed on Defendants.

III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.

Table with columns: Nature of Offence, Prosecutions, Convictions, Total Penalties, Total Costs. Rows: By Owners or Masters of Ships; By Seamen; By Boarding-House Keepers.

\* This amount represents the cost which the defendants were ordered to pay, in addition to being bound over to come up for judgment if called upon.

WORK OF LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May 3,416 applicants for work were registered by the 9 bureaux furnishing returns.

The figures of the 7 bureaux which furnished returns for the corresponding month of last year show a decrease of 378 in the number of fresh applicants, the figures being 1,547 in 1894, and 1,169 in 1895.

The number of workpeople for whom work was found during last month by the 9 bureaux was 1,321. Of this number 189 were employed by local authorities and 1,132 by private employers. The latter figure, however, includes 700 persons for whom temporary work was found by the Salvation Army. Of the 2,561 persons remaining on the register at the end of May, 2,268 were men, 139 lads and boys, and 154 women and girls.

(1) Work Done in May.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Work-people on Register, No. of Fresh Applicants during May, No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux, Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authority.

(2) Occupations of Applicants on Registers at end of May.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Building-Engineering and Metal Trades, Car-men, Stable-men, Clerks and Warehouse-men, Porters and Messen-gers, General Labour-ers, Other Occupations, Total Men.

Table with columns: Name of Labour Bureau, Lads and Boys, Char-women, Daily Work, &c., Servants, Others, Total Women and Girls, Grand Total.

\* In addition, temporary work was found for 1,324 persons in the works and depôts of the Salvation Army, and 69 were engaged in a permanent capacity. † These particulars have not been furnished. ‡ Women and Girls are not at present registered at Salford and Plymouth.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

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

THE total number of persons relieved on one day in the second week of May in the 35 selected urban districts was 328,189, or 224 per 10,000 of the population in 1891 of those districts.

These figures show a decrease as compared with April, when the number relieved was 343,688, or 235 per 10,000 of population. In March the rate was 264. The most noticeable decreases are at West Ham, where the rate per 10,000 has fallen by 41, Stockton-on-Tees District (35), Leicester District (25), and Bristol District (23).

The numbers relieved last month are still in excess of those for the corresponding day of 1894, when the number was 312,939. The most marked increases were in the Hull District, of 50 per 10,000, Leicester District, of 39, Paisley and Greenock Districts of 36, and Bristol District of 29. The rate for London has increased by 11, while West Ham shows a decline of 7, the only other districts in which the number has decreased being Cork, Waterford, and Limerick Districts of 33, and Galway District of 5.

Table with columns: Selected Urban Districts, Paupers on one day in second week of May 1895, Paupers on corresponding date in 1894, ENGLAND & WALES, METROPOLIS, Other Districts, SCOTLAND, IRELAND.

\* Based on the populations in 1891, revised in accordance with subsequent changes in Poor Law areas. † Exclusive of Vagrants; of patients in the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses. ‡ Excluding Casuals, but including persons maintained in Institutions for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., who are classified as not able-bodied.

TRADE DISPUTES.

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

EIGHTY-FOUR new disputes occurred in May 1895, as compared with 83 in April and 118 in May 1894. Particulars obtained with regard to 76 of these disputes show that 20,457 persons were involved. Twenty-six disputes were in the Building Trades, 18 being chiefly due to wages questions, 5 to working arrangements, and 3 to questions of trade unionism. Three of the 4 disputes in the Clothing Trades were due to wages questions, and 1 to a refusal to work with non-unionists. Six of the 7 disputes in the Metal Trades arose upon wages questions, the other with reference to the re-instatement of discharged fellow-workmen. Ten of the 20 disputes in the Mining Industry were due to wages questions, 6 to working arrangements, 3 as to non-unionists, and 1 arose from the discharge of fellow workpeople. Of the 3 disputes in connection with Dock labour, 1 was due to a question of wages, 1 to union badges, and 1 to working arrangements. Seven disputes occurred in the Shipbuilding Industry, 3 of which arose in respect of wages questions, 2 of working arrangements, and the other 2 of unionism and sympathy with discharged colleagues. Four of the 9 disputes in the Textile Industry arose upon wages questions, 3 from the discharge of fellow-workmen, and 2 from questions of working arrangements. Eight disputes took place in the miscellaneous group of industries, 5 of which were due to wages questions, and 3 to questions of working arrangements.

The geographical distribution of the 84 disputes was as follows:—Northern Counties, 33; Midland Counties, 11; Western Counties and Wales, 9; Eastern Counties, 6; Southern Counties, 1; London, 3; Scotland, 20; Ireland, 1.

Nineteen old disputes, affecting about 4,100 workpeople, were settled during May, and at the end of the month it was known that 33 new and 30 old disputes, affecting together about 6,700 workpeople, were still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1895.

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Establishments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.	
<b>Building Trades.</b>								
Carpenters and Joiners	Retford	For advance in wages to 7d. per hour and reduced working hours	...	15	May 1	May 13	Work resumed, the employers conceding a uniform rate of 6d. per hour and an allowance for walking time.	
Ditto	Leeds	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.) and a reduction in hours	...	About 450	1	31	Advance granted and hours reduced.	
Ditto	Cherley	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.) and reduced hours of labour	...	8	40	1	Still unsettled.	
Stonemasons	Great Grimsby	Refusal of the men to accept an amended code of working rules	...	3	20	1	Ditto.	
Carpenters and Joiners	Rotherham	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour (8d. to 8½d.), reduction of 2½ hours per week (52 to 49½), and revision of code of working rules. The men also objected to importation of foreign made joinery	...	9	85	1	Ditto.	
Stonemasons	Harrogate	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (8d. to 9d.)	...	230	1	...	Ditto.	
Plumbers	Leicester	Lock-out by employers to compel plumbers who struck work at two firms on 15th April to return to work (see May GAZETTE)	...	70	1	...	Ditto.	
Stonemasons' Labourers	Ditto	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (6d. to 6½d.)	...	40	1	...	Ditto.	
Stonemasons	Pontypridd	Refusal of men to work ready-dressed stone	...	8	35	1	Ditto.	
Joiners	St. Helens	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour (8½d. to 9d.), the employers desiring an increased number of working hours	...	250	1	...	No details of settlement.	
Bricklayers	Stourbridge	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (7d. to 8d.)	...	11	100	1	Still unsettled.	
Plumbers	Grangemouth	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.)	...	1	4	4	Men found work elsewhere.	
Stonemasons	Bolton	Refusal to work with a non-unionist mason	...	1	14	7	Employer withdrew the man objected to.	
Carpenters and Joiners	Belshill	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.)	...	6	19	9	Advance granted.	
Labourers (sewerage works)	Felixstowe	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour (4½d. to 5d.)	...	1	17	9	Ditto.	
Brickmakers	Sutton, Bonnington	Desire to leave work on Saturdays at 12.30 instead of 2 p.m.	...	1	90	10	18	Work resumed without the desired alteration in working hours.
House Painters	Norwich	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (5d. to 5½d.)	...	...	140	11	15	Advance granted.
Carpenters and Joiners	Guildford	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour and a code of working rules	...	14	76	11	...	Still unsettled.
Bricklayers	Jarrow	For advance in wages...	...	1	8	12	...	Ditto.
Labourers (sewerage works)	Felixstowe	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (4d. to 4½d.)	...	2	50	13 & 14	...	Advance granted.
Carpenters and Joiners	Brechin	For advance in wages of 4d. per hour (6½d. to 7d.)	...	5	26	14	20	Ditto.
Bricklayers	Great Grimsby	Refusal to accept an amended code of working rules put forward by the employers	...	5	60	14	...	Still unsettled.
Builders' Labourers	London, W.	Refusal to work with a non-unionist	...	1	...	20	...	No details of settlement.
Carpenters and Joiners	Bishop Auckland	For advance in wages of 1d. per hour (7½d. to 8½d.) and a code of working rules	...	9	35	20	...	Still unsettled.
Ditto	Great Grimsby	Objection to proposal of employers to alter or modify the existing code of working rules	...	3	15	27	27	Work resumed without a code of working rules.
Stonemasons	Dumfries	For advance in wages...	...	...	60	...	...	Still unsettled.
<b>Clothing Trades.</b>								
Boot and Shoe Operatives	Stone, Staffs.	For payment up to the minimum rate of wages in working "tacking" machines	...	1	170	13	24	Employer agreed to pay the minimum rate of wages.
Countermen and Menders (Hosiery Trade)	Hinckley and District	200 countermen and menders struck work for a new statement of wages, and the members of the Employers' Federation locked out the remainder of their workpeople on 22nd May to compel the strikers to resume work	...	1,700 (200 struck, 1,500 locked out)	18	28	28	A uniform wage at advanced rates for countermen and menders, arranged by negotiation between employers and union officials.
Tailors	Peebles	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (4d. to 4½d.)	...	5	34	20	29	Advance granted.
Ditto	Blaydon-on-Tyne	Refusal to work with non-unionists	...	1	8	28	...	Still unsettled.
<b>Metal Trades.</b>								
Steel Smelters	Wednesbury	Against reduction in wages of 5 per cent.	...	40 dir. 200 indir.	4	...	...	No details of settlement.
Brass Workers	Huddersfield	Dispute as to piecework prices	...	1	3	4	4	Hands replaced.
Millmen (Tinplate Works)	Port Talbot	Against reduction in wages of 2½ per cent.	...	1	3	6	11	Reduction accepted.
Tinplate Workers	Panteg, Mon.	Alleged unfair dismissal of a fellow workman	...	1	105 dir. 87 indir.	2	...	Still unsettled.
Tinplate Workers	Aberdare	Against demand of the employer for an increased "make" and a reduction in wages	...	1	...	13	...	No details of settlement.
Brass Workers	Rotherham	For re-instatement of nine fellow workmen	...	1	69	17	...	Still unsettled.
Lamp-makers and Exhausters (Electrical Works)	Ponders' End, Middlesex	For the abolition of piecework system, and the payment of standard rate of wages	...	1	400	30	...	Still unsettled.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY 1895—(Continued).

Trade.	Locality.	Alleged Cause or Object.	Es-tablish-ments.	Work-people.	Com-mence-ment.	Termi-nation.	Result.	
<b>Mining.</b>								
Coal Miners	Armadale	Alleged inability to earn the average wage of the district through difficulties in working	...	33	May 1	May	Still unsettled.	
Ditto	Ton Pentre	Failure to agree upon a list of prices for cutting coal and other work in connection therewith	...	261	1	...	Ditto.	
Ditto	Gorseinon	Objection of the men to changes introduced by management	...	200	1	...	Ditto.	
Ditto	Little Hulton, near Bolton	Against proposed reduction in wages	...	300	6	...	Ditto.	
Ditto	Harthill	For increased wages for working coal-hewing machines	...	...	8	...	No details of settlement.	
Ditto	Blantyre	Men remained idle on 11th May to enforce the "10 days a fortnight policy," and the employers withheld their lamps on 13th	...	...	11	13	Work resumed on "10 days a fortnight" policy	
Ditto	Near Barnsley	Objection to appointment of inspectors to see that the coal was adequately riddled before filling the corves	...	17	13	14	Work resumed, and an agreement subsequently arrived at that the inspectors should be accompanied by men appointed by the miners.	
Ditto	Ynysybwll	Demand for an allowance on account of increased thickness of clod between the seams	...	1,213	13	17	Work resumed, the matter in dispute being referred to a joint committee for settlement.	
Ditto	Cliviger, Burnley	Hewers objected to do certain work which they alleged should be done by drawers	...	200	14	...	Still unsettled.	
Tin Miners	Illogan, Redruth	Refusal of the men in one mine to continue working after the stoppage of a pumping engine in an adjacent mine. The men in three other mines stopped work on 16th May in sympathy with the strikers	...	4	...	15	16	Work resumed.
Coal Miners	Near Wigan	Men applied for extra payments for certain work in one pit	...	2,027	15	4 June	General compromise effected on the extra payments asked for.	
Ditto	Harthill	To bring into the union some fellow workmen whose religious belief forbade them to take concerted action with members of any other sect	...	About 580	18	25	The men decided to resume work for four days a week instead of continuing the strike.	
Ditto	Hamilton	Men objected to the dismissal of some of their number for sending out coal with alleged excessive "dirt"	...	500	21	21	Work resumed, the employer promising an inquiry into the matter in dispute.	
Coal Miners and Under-ground Datalers	Gt. Croughton, Cumberland	Against proposed reduction in wages of 10 per cent.	...	400 dir. & indir.	21	...	Still unsettled.	
Coal Miners and Putters	Near Sunderland	Dispute between unionists and non-unionists, who refused to descend together into the pit	...	1,500	21	21	Work temporarily resumed.	
Ditto	...	Ditto	...	1,500	24	24	Most of the non-unionists have joined the union, and the summonses taken out against the men have been adjourned.	
Coal Miners	Near St. Helens	Inability to agree upon prices for "wide" work	...	400	22	...	Still unsettled.	
Ditto	Armadale	Against reduction of 1d. per ton to men working in certain parts of the pit	...	130	27	27	Men decided to work four days per week instead of continuing the strike.	
Ditto	Spennymoor	Against a reduction in wages and the stoppage of "county percentage"	...	300	28	...	Still unsettled.	
Ditto	Near Barnsley	Miners refused to continue working until the inspectors appointed to see that the coal was properly riddled had been withdrawn	...	1,200	31	6 June	Work resumed on the assurance that the men should not be annoyed at their work by the inspectors.	
<b>Seafaring and Dock Labour.</b>								
Wharf Labourers	Newport, Mon.	Employer sought a reduction on a certain class of work, and when the men ceased work proposed the substitution of day-work for piece-work	...	14	9	May	Replaced by other men.	
Dock Labourers	Birkenhead	Dispute as to price to be paid for loading patent manure	...	140	17	18	Dispute submitted to arbitration	
Ditto	Salford	Refusal of employers to engage men wearing the Union badge	...	About 400	27	...	Still unsettled.	
<b>Shipbuilding.</b>								
Plumbers	Barrow-in-Furness	Against employment of a non-unionist who had not served a full apprenticeship to the trade	...	33	May 7	May 22	Non-unionist discharged, but only eight of the strikers at present re-instated.	
Platers' Helpers	Dumbarton	For advance in wages of 3d. per hour (5½d. to 6d.)	...	98 dir. 110 indir.	10	June 7	Work resumed at old rate of wages.	
Fitters	Barrow-in-Furness	Objection to employment of caulkers upon certain work alleged to be that of engineers	...	79	14	8	Work resumed; full details of settlement not yet to hand.	
Hole Borners	Dundee	For advance in wages of 15 per cent.	...	18	20	...	Still unsettled.	
Hammermen	Govan	For re-instatement of a discharged fellow workman	...	...	22	24	Work resumed, the man in question not being taken back.	
Ship Joiners	Belfast	Against labourers doing work alleged to belong to joiners	...	60	22	...	Still unsettled.	
Holder-on	Aberdeen	Refusal of employer to pay "black money" for repair work	...	10 dir. 30 indir.	24	30	Employer agreed to pay "black money."	
<b>Textile Trades.</b>								
Cotton Weavers	Padiham	Alleged excessive steaming in weaving sheds	...	90	6	10	Employer agreed to discontinue turning steam into weaving shed.	
Ditto	Preston	For re-instatement of two of their number who had declined to engage tenters to assist them	...	300 dir. 80 indir.	6	6	Work resumed, the men in question being received back on trial.	
Worsted Spinners	Bingley	Against proposed reduction in wages	...	70	7	9	Proposed reduction withdrawn.	
Cotton Weavers	Preston	For re-instatement of a weaver discharged for alleged bad work	...	200	16	17	Alleged bad work to be examined.	
Dyeworks Operatives	Leeds	For re-instatement of two discharged colleagues	...	11	20	21	The two men re-instated.	
Cotton Weavers	Padiham	Against steaming in the weaving sheds	...	290	29	...	Still unsettled.	
Fustian Weavers	Congleton	For advance in wages of 1s. per piece on slips, and 2s. per piece on race velvets	...	1,080	21	25	Men's demands conceded.	
Reelers	Oldham	Alleged inability to earn sufficient wages	...	...	20	22	No details of settlement.	
Silkdressers	Macclesfield	Against reduction in wages of 20 per cent. on one class of silk	...	70	A few hours	...	Reduction accepted.	
<b>Miscellaneous Trades.</b>								
Tobacco Pipe Makers	Glasgow	For an advance in wages of 1d. per gross to men and 3d. to women	...	About 180	2	...	Still unsettled, but a few men resumed work at the advance on 6th May.	
Tobacco Pipe Makers	Aberdeen	For advance in wages...	...	11 dir. 19 indir.	3	17	Advance granted.	
Upholsterers	Liverpool	For advance in wages and reduction in hours	...	80	6	21	Dispute referred to arbitration and settled. Full details not yet known.	
Cabinet Makers, Upholsterers, Polishers, and Machine Men	Glasgow	For concessions as to overtime and allowances	...	1,500	8	June 1	Concessions granted.	
Skinner	Greenock	Employer required each man to "flesh" thirteen score hides per day which the men alleged to be excessive	...	17	8	...	Still unsettled.	
Laundry Workers	Govan	Against the imposition of fines for late attendance	...	30	10	May 11	Employer abolished fines.	
Cabinet Makers	Leeds	Refusal of cabinet-makers to work at a less wage than that given to joiners in the same shop	...	2	14	...	Still unsettled.	
Vestry Employees (Loaders)	London, S.E.	Refusal of men to revert to piecework system at reduced rates	...	9	29	...	Ditto.	



CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY.

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

The changes in wages reported during May include particulars of reductions affecting about 104,500 persons, and of increases affecting about 6,500 persons. The number whose wages were reduced includes 102,300 coal miners, of whom 100,000 were in South Wales and Monmouthshire. These men sustained a reduction of 1 1/4 per cent. under a sliding scale, making a total fall in wages during the current year of 3 3/4 per cent. There was a decrease of 7 1/2 per cent. during the month in the wages of 2,300 Bristol coal miners.

Further reductions are reported in the Tinplate Trade, affecting about 1,890 workpeople. A large number of increases are again reported in the Building Trades, the operatives affected numbering about 3,500. The other advances in wages include 900 fustian cutters at Congleton, 400 boot and shoe operatives at Bristol, and 545 corporation employees.

Table with columns: Employment, Locality, Date of change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, COAL MINING, IRON AND STEEL TRADES, and TINPLATE TRADE.

\* In all cases the accuracy of newspaper reports is inquired into before the information is used here. † The 50 carpenters and joiners at Harrogate who received an advance of 3d. per hour (7 1/2d. to 8d.) pending the settlement of the dispute (see LABOUR GAZETTE for May) are now being paid 7 1/2d. per hour. ‡ In addition to the 350 carpenters and joiners at Leeds who received the advance from 1st May (see last month's GAZETTE).

Table for TEXTILE TRADES. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes Sheeting Weavers, Cotton Weavers, Linsey Weavers, Dyers, Willeyers and Felters, Finishers, &c., Silk Dressers, and Fustian Cutters.

Table for CLOTHING TRADES. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes Hosiery Trade, Countermen, Menders, Boot and Shoe Trade, Machine Lasters and Finishers, Tailors, and Ditto.

Table for CORPORATION EMPLOYEES. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes Labourers (Gas Works), Sanitary Department, Foremen Roadmen, Street Sweepers and General Labourers, Carters, Watchmen, Sewer Flushers, Labourers, Sewerage Works, Bricklayers, and General Labourers.

Table for MISCELLANEOUS. Columns: Employment, Locality, Date of Change, Approximate Number of workpeople directly affected, Details of Change (Increases, Decreases), Estimated Earnings in a full week (Before change, After change, Increase per week, Decrease per week). Includes Iron Miners, Cabinet Makers, Shop Fitters, Spike Nail Makers, Basket Makers, General Labourers (on sewerage works), Coal Tipplers, Ditto (Weighers and Topmen), Glass Bottle Makers, Men, Boys, Tobacco Pipe Makers, and Agricultural Labourers.

Table for SEAMEN. Columns: Port, Voyage, No. shipped at new Rate during May (Increase, Decrease), Increases, Decreases, Monthly Rates (April, May, Increase, Decrease). Includes London (Tilbury) South Shields, London (Tilbury) South Shields, and London (Tilbury) South Shields.

\* The wages returned for the iron miners at Guisborough are for a week of 5 days.



### CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY.

THE number of workpeople reported during May to have had their hours of labour reduced was 2,729, including 1,212 building operatives, 900 iron and steel workers, 127 corporation employees, and 400 shop assistants.

The carpenters and joiners at Leicester, to the number of 400, had their recognised working hours of labour increased from 54 to 56½ per week, the change taking effect on June 6th.

Employment.	Locality.	Date of change.	Approximate number of workpeople directly affected.	Hours of labour in a full week (exclusive of overtime).		
				Before change.	After change.	Dec. or Inc. per week.
DECREASES.						
<b>Building Trades.</b>				Summer.		
	Leeds ...	1st June	700	50	49½	½
				Winter.		
				50	41½ for 12 weeks	8½
				50	44 for 4 weeks	6
Carpenters and Joiners	Bolton ...	1st June	480	Summer.		
				52	49½	2½
				Winter.		
	Fermoy* ...	1st April	32	50½	47	3½
				60	54	6
<b>Iron and Steel Trades.</b>						
Iron and Steel Workers	Consett ...	23rd Mar.	900	70	68½	1½
<b>Corporation Employees.</b>						
Men in Surveyor's and Sanitary Depts.	Dover ...	25th May	62	58½	56½	2
Yard Labourers (Gas Works)	Greenock	21st May	25	60	57	3
Mechanics and Street Labourers (Town Dept.)						
<b>Miscellaneous.</b>						
Shop Fitters ...	Leeds ...	18th May	40	56	52½	3½
Cabinet Makers ...	Leeds ...	25th May	20	54	51½	2½
Co-operative Society Employees	Horwich ...	1st June	30	57½	56½	1
Shop Assistants ...	Redruth ...	1st May	400	59	56	3
INCREASES.						
<b>Building Trades.</b>				Summer.		
Carpenters and Joiners	Leicester ...	6th June	400	54	56½	2½

### INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN MAY.

(Supplied to the Department by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.) FROM the following summary of the changes in the Register of Industrial Organisations in May, it will be seen that 3 Trade Unions, 4 Co-operative Associations of Consumers, 2 Associations of Producers, 2 miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 28 new Friendly Societies, and 56 new branches of existing Friendly Societies have been added to the Register for the United Kingdom during the past month. Twenty-five Building Societies and two Trade Unions are reported as having ceased to exist, or to have commenced "winding up."

#### NEW ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.

**Trade Unions.**—Great Grimsby Coal Workers' Protective Society, Friendly Societies Hall, Lower Spring St., Grimsby; National Amalgamated Union of Enginemen, Cranemen, Hammer Drivers, and Boiler Firemen, 31 Mansfield Rd., Rotherham; Battersea Vestry Employees' Labour Union, Milton Hall, Cabul Rd.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) *Associations of Consumers.*—Manchester and District Railway Servants' Coal Supply Soc., Ltd., 254 Thornton St., Miles Platting, Manchester; Malvern Industrial and Co-operative Soc., Ltd., Abberton, Villa, Chase, Malvern; Wednesbury and District New Co-operative Soc., Ltd., 21 Russell St., Wednesbury; Llanhilleth Working Men's Industrial Co-operative Soc., Ltd., Store Premises, Llanhilleth, Crumlin.

\* The wages of the carpenters and joiners at Fermoy remain unchanged at 30s. per week.

(B) *Associations of Producers.*—Two Co-operative Dairy Societies, 1 at Emly, co. Tipperary, and 1 at Ballyhale, co. Kilkenny.

(C) *Miscellaneous.*—Homestead Freehold Land Soc., Ltd., 59 Charles St., Leicester; Amalgamated Engineers' Club and Institute Soc., Ltd., 127 Orchard Rd., Plumstead, Kent.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—England and Wales.—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Specially Authorised, 8; Juvenile, 1; Dividing, 8; Working Men's Clubs, 3. Scotland.—Juvenile, 1. Ireland.—None.

(B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—England and Wales.—G.U.O. Oddfellows, 11 (including one district branch); I.O. Rechabites, S.U., 9; A.O. Foresters, 5; G.I.O.L. Caledonian Corks, 4; U.A.O. Druids, 3; Sons of Temperance, 3; Various, 10. Scotland.—Various, 10. Ireland.—B.O.A. Free Gardeners, 1.

#### OLD ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.

**Trade Unions.**—England and Wales.—Bromsgrove Amalgamated Union of Wrought Nail Makers; Amalgamated Society of Metal Planers, Shapers, Slotters, Horizontal Borers, and Milling Machine Workers.

**Building Societies.**—England and Wales.—Dissolved by Instrument, 4; have sent notice of commencement of dissolution or winding-up, 6; have sent notice of termination of dissolution, 15.

### LABOUR DISPUTES AND CONCILIATION IN FRANCE.\*

A REPORT has been issued by the *Office du Travail* on the Labour Disputes of 1894, and the working of the Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1892 during that year.

The report records 391 disputes, affecting 1,731 establishments and 54,576 persons. The total number of days lost was 1,062,480. Of the strikes recorded, 84, affecting 12,897 persons, were successful, 178, affecting 16,895 persons, were unsuccessful, and 129, affecting 24,784 persons, ended in a compromise.

The trades most affected were the Textile group, in which 122 disputes, affecting 24,456 persons, were recorded. Of these, the great majority ended in failure or compromise, only 15, involving 4,174 persons, being successful.

Eleven of the disputes (viz., 9 in the Textile Trades and 2 in Brickmaking), affecting 3,000 workpeople, had reference to the application of the law of 1892 on the labour of children and women. During 1893, the operation of this law accounted for no fewer than 55 disputes, affecting 20,000 persons. The cause of 10 out of these 11 disputes was the decrease of wages which accompanied the the reduction of hours imposed by the law.

A large part of the report (118 pages) is occupied with a detailed account of all the disputes of 1894 in which recourse was had to the conciliation and arbitration law of 1892, under which the "juges de paix" are empowered to mediate in labour disputes. The total number of such cases was 101, with the result that 65 Conciliation Committees were formed, and 32 disputes were immediately settled by this means, besides 21 other disputes the settlement of which was hastened by the negotiations. In six cases disputes were prevented by the action of the Conciliation Committees.

\* Statistique des Grèves et des Recours à la Conciliation et à l'Arbitrage Survenus pendant l'Année 1894 (*Office du Travail*).

### NOTICE.

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