

# THE LABOUR GAZETTE

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## STATE OF EMPLOYMENT IN MAY.

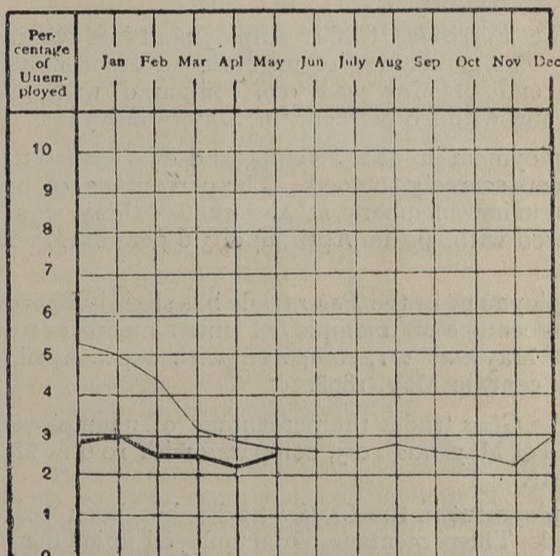
[Based on 2,574 returns, viz.: 1,792 from Employers, 593 from Trade Unions, and 189 from other sources.]

THE state of employment in the principal industries has remained good during May. The slight rise in the percentage reported as unemployed at the close of the month is attributable to the interruption caused by the Whitsuntide holidays.

In the 123 trade unions making returns, with an aggregate membership of 498,836, 12,291 (or 2·5 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2·2 per cent. a month before, and 2·7 per cent. in the 116 unions, with a membership of 467,982, from which returns were received for May, 1898.

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 completed month of 1898 and 1899. [The thick line applies to 1899, the thin line to 1898.]



**Employment in Various Industries.—Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry was exceptionally good in May, and better in nearly every district than a year ago. At collieries, at which 397,682 workpeople were employed, the average time worked during the four weeks ended May 20th, was 5·61 days per week, as compared with 5·38 days a year ago. The above statements do not include pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire, where a dispute was in progress in May, 1898. (For further details see page 170.)

**Iron Mining.**—Employment was on the whole better in May than a year ago. At mines employing 17,312 workpeople the average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 20th was 5·83, as compared with 5·76 days in the corresponding period of 1898. (For further details see page 170.)

**Pig Iron Industry.**—Employment continues good, and considerably better than a year ago when it was affected

to some extent by the dispute in the South Wales coal trade. Returns relating to the works of 113 iron masters show that they had 376 furnaces in blast at the end of May, or one more than at the end of April, and 30 more than a year ago. The estimated number of workpeople employed was 24,771, or 141 more than at the end of April, and 2,164 more than in May, 1898. (For further details see page 171.)

**Iron and Steel Manufacture.**—Employment has remained good during May and continues considerably better than a year ago. At the 220 works from which returns have been received, 81,081 workpeople were employed in the week ended May 20th, 81,605 in the last week of April, and 76,511 a year ago, the average number of shifts worked in these three weeks being 5'60, 5'60, and 5'57 respectively. (For further details see page 171.)

**Template Trade.**—Employment in this industry has further improved and is considerably better than a year ago. The number of mills working at the end of May was 380, employing an estimated number of 19,050 workpeople, compared with 349 mills at work, employing 17,468 workpeople, at the end of April, and 325 mills with 16,896 workpeople at the end of May, 1898. (For further details see page 171.)

Employment in the *Engineering and Metal* trades has remained steady. The percentage of unemployed union members in this group of trades at the end of May was 2'4, compared with 2'2 in April. The percentage for May, 1898, was 3'1.

In the *Shipbuilding* trades employment has continued brisk, the percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May being 2'4, compared with 2'1 in April, and 3'7 per cent. in May, 1898.

Employment in the *Building* trades has continued good. The percentage of unemployed union members among carpenters and plumbers at the end of May was the same as in April—viz., 1'3. The percentage for May, 1898, was 1'2.

In the *Furnishing* trades employment has continued brisk. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 0'9, compared with 0'8 in April, and with 1'0 per cent. in May of last year.

Employment in the *Printing and Bookbinding* trades has been scarcely so good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 3'9, compared with 3'0 in April, and 3'6 per cent. in May, 1898.

Employment in the *Paper* trade has slightly improved. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 2'1, compared with 2'4 in April, and 3'2 per cent. in May, 1898.

In the *Glass* trades the percentage of unemployed at the end of May was 10'3, compared with 10'6 in May of last year.

Employment in the *Leather* trades has been scarcely so good. The percentage of unemployed union members at the end of May was 3'1, compared with 2'6 in April, and 3'7 per cent. in May, 1898.

Employment in the *Boot and Shoe* trade remains good generally.

Employment in the bespoke and ready-made branches of the *Tailoring* trade continues good.

Employment is very good in the *Spinning* branch of the *Cotton* trade, and continues good in the *Weaving* branch. Information respecting *Cotton* factories employing about 80,000 women and girls, shows that 97 per cent. of those in *Spinning* mills and 87 per cent. of those in *Weaving* factories, were working in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 95 and 88 per cent. respectively in April, and with 86 and 72 per cent. a year ago. (For further details see page 174.)

Employment in both the *Woollen* and *Worsted* trades, and in the *Hosiery* trade continues good, with a further improvement.

**Dock and Riverside Labour in London.**—During the five weeks ended May 27th an average number of 14,251 labourers were employed daily at all the docks and the principal wharves, as compared with averages of 13,890 in the preceding four weeks and 14,163 in May, 1898. (For further details see page 173.)

**Agricultural Labour.**—In the month of May there was a good deal of rain, which interrupted outdoor work considerably. It is, however, stated that, though this affected the employment of casual men in some districts to some extent, regular hands were generally given full employment. (For further details see page 171.)

**Trade Disputes.**—Ninety-four fresh disputes occurred in May, 1899, involving 23,577 workpeople. The corresponding number of disputes in April was 63, involving 13,741 workpeople, and in May, 1898, 56, involving 9,718 workpeople. Of the 94 fresh disputes in May, 1899, 48 occurred in the building trades, 9 in mining and quarrying, 10 in the metal, engineering and ship-building trades, 8 in the textile trades, 3 in clothing trades, 4 in transport trades, 4 in the woodworking trades, 5 in brick, glass, pottery, chemical, etc., trades, and 3 in other industries. Of the 83 new and old disputes, involving 23,573 workpeople, of which the termination is reported, 26, involving 7,129 persons were decided in favour of the workpeople; 27, involving 9,274 persons, in favour of the employers; 28, involving 6,984 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining 2 disputes, involving 186 persons, the points involved are still under consideration. (For further details see page 188.)

**Changes in Rates of Wages.**—Changes in the rates of wages of about 209,600 workpeople were reported during May, all of whom received advances, the average amount of the advance being 4½d. per head. The increases were mainly in the mining industry (129,940), textile trades (62,469), and building trades (7,288). Changes affecting about 3,300 workpeople were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 129,700 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales, and the remaining changes affecting about 76,600 workpeople were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or were conceded voluntarily by the employers. (For further details see page 182.)

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

The thirty-first Annual Co-operative Congress was held at Liverpool on May 22nd, and two following days, when 1,203 delegates were present.

Mr. Frank Hardern, J.P., of the Oldham Industrial Society, was president of the Congress, and delivered an inaugural address reviewing the progress of co-operative societies during the past ten years.

Among the subjects discussed were a series of suggestions for the future working of "The Joint Committee of Trade Unionists and Co-operators," which were submitted to Congress with the report of the work of the Committee during the past year; and a paper on the methods of making co-operation successful in large centres of population.

Resolutions were adopted urging the greater activity of co-operators towards securing good houses to be let at the lowest possible rents in overcrowded and badly-housed districts; on superannuation and old age pensions for co-operators, the United Board being instructed to prepare a special report for next Congress, embodying alternative methods for discussion; and urging the co-operative wholesale societies to acquire small areas of land in purely agricultural districts, and to let it in small holdings.

Deputations were received from the Trade Union Congress Parliamentary Committee, the National Union of Teachers, and from the Dutch Co-operative Union.

#### THE DISPUTE IN THE PLASTERING TRADE.

At a meeting of the National Association of Master Builders of Great Britain, held in Birmingham on May 18th, it was agreed to accept proposals made by Mr. E. T. Cook as a basis of a Conference with the National Association of Operative Plasterers, and to appoint representatives to attend. The basis was also accepted by the Executive Council of the Plasterers.

On May 30th a Conference was held, with Mr. E. T. Cook in the chair, and the following terms were accepted by both parties, it being understood that they should be submitted by the Plasterers' representatives to the members of the Society, before work was resumed:—

##### GENERAL RULES.

1. The Plasterers' Association will not take any steps to compel managing foremen of plasterers, or superintendents of plasterers' work, into the membership of the N.A.O.P.

2. No employer shall engage any additional apprentices to the plastering trade whilst the number of his apprentices shall exceed or e-fourth of the number of journeymen plasterers then employed by him. All apprentices shall be legally bound.

3. No boycotting or blacklisting shall take place by the N.A.O.P. in future, where the firms adhere to the rules mutually agreed upon. The employers agree that such rules shall be strictly enforced in all parts of their contracts.

4. For the purpose of the demarcation of work Joint Committees shall be established in the different districts, equally representative of the employers and the mechanics, whose representation shall be equally divided amongst the different branches of the trade in question. These committees shall, as far, and as soon as is possible, draw up schedules of the work which it is recognised belong to certain branches of the trade. To such committees shall be immediately referred all points of dispute as to demarcation, and the decision of the majority in each case shall be accepted as binding on both sides. Should they fail, however, to decide, then the matter shall be referred for settlement to a similarly constituted Joint Committee, representative of the National Association of Master Builders and the other societies affected, whose decision shall be final, provided that the employer's representatives are *bona fide* employers of plasterers direct. Pending such reference to the local committees, no strike or lockout shall take place, but the decision of the employer shall be provisionally accepted as to who shall do the work, provided that preference shall be given to that branch of the trade which, in practice, has done the work before in that district, and provided that no preference be given on account of payment of lower wages.

5. In the event of a dispute arising on any job or works the district officials of the N.A.O.P. shall send written notice to the Local Association of Master Builders, who shall inform them whether the said builder is a member of that body. If so, a strike shall not be sanctioned by the N.A.O.P. until six clear working days have expired from the receipt of such notice, during which time the matter shall be considered by the employers and the representatives of the workmen with a view to an amicable settlement. Failing a local settlement, reference shall immediately be made to a Central Joint Committee of the two Associations, and until five days have expired from the date of this reference, no strike or lock-out shall be sanctioned either by the N.A.O.P. or by the National Association of Master Builders. With regard to the alleged refusal of members of the N.A.O.P. to work with workmen who may not belong to a trade union, it is understood that the men the operative plasterers object to work with are defaulters and other men who have been shown to the employers to have made themselves specially objectionable to the union men.

6. These rules shall be construed together, and in the light of each other.

A ballot of the members of the National Association of Operative Plasterers was taken, and resulted in a vote of 4,559 for and 368 against the acceptance of the terms. It is anticipated that working will be generally resumed during the week commencing June 12th.

In the last number of the GAZETTE, p. 159, it was mentioned that the National Association of Master Builders had agreed to ask the various trade unions in the building trades for an assurance that they had no sympathy with the plasterers and would not support them in any way. The replies received from the Trade Unions declined to give the assurance, and on May 15th a conference was held in Manchester of representatives of the following trade unions:—The Operative Stone-

masons' Society, the House and Ship Painters' Association, the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, the United Operative Plumbers' Association, the Amalgamated Society of House Decorators and Painters, the Operative Bricklayers' Society, the National Association of Operative Plasterers, the General Union of Operative Carpenters and Joiners, the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators, the United Builders' Labourers' Union, the Manchester Unity of Bricklayers, and the Gas Workers and General Labourers' Union. The delegates of the Associated Carpenters and Joiners (Scottish) were unavoidably absent.

At this conference a resolution was passed signifying the readiness of these societies to "meet the National Association of Master Builders in open conference and discuss the questions at issue." At the meeting of the Master Builders on May 18th, already referred to, the following resolution was passed:—

That, in view of the resolution passed at the meeting of the trade unions held in Manchester on Monday last, this Association will favourably receive any proposals for a conference with a view to the amicable adjustment of the matters of dispute; and further, that it is desirable that such conference take place before the end of this month.

In the meantime, however, a strong feeling in favour of a general lock-out of the building trades had developed among the Employers' Associations in some districts, especially in Yorkshire. A code of proposed rules was issued by the United Federation of Master Builders prescribing conditions for the Unions similar to those issued in the case of the plasterers. At Hull on May 1st, 1,000 men were locked out or on strike because of the attempt to enforce these conditions. At Leeds, on May 6th, there was a lock-out of 25 per cent. of union men in support of the Hull employers, which was followed on May 23rd by a strike of the remaining 75 per cent., about 1,000 in all being affected. Lockouts and strikes also took place during May at Sheffield, Shipley, York, and a few other places. In each case the action taken affected associated firms only, and not more than 2,500 men were affected altogether.

In accordance with the above-quoted resolutions of the Trade Unions and the Employers' Association, a preliminary meeting of representatives of the National Association of Master Builders and of building trade unions was held at Derby on June 5th, in order to arrange a basis of discussion for a general conference. No basis was, however, agreed to, and the following resolution was adopted:—

"That inasmuch as the representatives of the trade unions are not willing to adopt the proposed basis of conference, they be requested to submit within fourteen days their own basis for the consideration of the Master Builders' Association, and that the conference be postponed accordingly."

On Monday June 12th, the representatives of the Trade Unions concerned met at Manchester, and drew up terms to form a basis of conference. The proposals, which include the appointment of a joint conciliation board, will be submitted to a vote of the societies before being forwarded to the Employers' Association.

#### ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS.

A ROYAL COMMISSION has been issued:—

"To inquire into the causes of the accidents, fatal and non-fatal, to servants of railway companies and of truck owners, and to report on the possibility of adopting means to reduce the number of such accidents, having regard to the working of railways, the rules and regulations made, and the safety appliances used by railway companies."

The Commissioners are Lord James of Hereford (Chairman), Viscount Hampden, The Hon. A. E. Fellowes, M.P., Sir G. E. Paget, Bart., Sir J. W. Wolfe-Barry, K.C.B., Sir G. L. Molesworth, K.C.I.E., Sir A. Hickman, M.P., Sir C. Scotter, Major-General C. S. Hutchinson, C.B., Mr. H. H. S. Cunyngame, Mr. W. M. Acworth, Prof. A. C. Elliott, Mr. J. E. Ellis, M.P., Mr. C. Fenwick, M.P., and Mr. W. Hudson.

## SCHOOL CHILDREN WORKING FOR WAGES.

A RETURN for England and Wales giving the number of children attending elementary schools known to be working for wages or employed for profit, with their ages, standards, occupations, hours of work, and rates of pay has been issued by the Education Department.

In the introductory memorandum it is stated that many of the returns are defective, owing to the following reasons. The names of children in regular employment only have been entered. The names of children who have not received wages have been omitted. Where the employment has been considered not to be prejudicial to health no return has been made. Employment during school hours has been omitted. Returns are avowedly incomplete through inability or unwillingness to give the required information.

The schedules which were returned filled up in time for tabulation contained the names of 144,026 children, of whom 110,161 were boys and 33,865 were girls.

Of these 131 were under 7 years of age, 38,489 were between 7 and 11, and 104,589 were over 11 years of age; the ages of 817 children were not stated.

The following are the standards in which the children employed were being instructed at the date of the return:—

Standard.	No. of Children.	Per Thousand on Registers in all schools in 1888.	Standard.	No. of Children.	Per Thousand on Registers in all schools in 1898.
0	349	1	5	37,315	88
1	3,899	6	6	21,975	101
2	11,686	16	7	6,382	96
3	24,624	36	Ex-7	382	51
4	36,907	62	Not stated	536	—

The occupations in which the children are employed are summarised as follows:—

Piece-work—chiefly boys:	
Selling newspapers ...	15,182
Hawking goods ...	2,435
Other occupations, such as those connected with sports (chiefly caddies on golf links), taking dinners, knocking up, &c. ...	
6,278	
Time-work—chiefly boys:	
In shops or running errands for shopkeepers ...	76,173
Agricultural occupations ...	6,115
Odd jobs as boot and knife-cleaning etc. ("house-boys") ...	10,636
Domestic employment—girls only (with one or two exceptions):	
Minding babies ...	11,585
Other housework, including laundry work, etc. ...	9,254
Needlework, and like occupations ...	4,019

As regards the number of hours per week during which the children worked, in 4,434 cases hours were not stated, 39,355 worked less than 10 hours, 60,268 from 10 to 20 hours, 27,008 from 21 to 30 hours, while the hours of the remaining 12,961 ranged from 31 to over 81.

## PROPOSED LAW AGAINST INTIMIDATION (LABOUR DISPUTES) IN GERMANY.

*Bill for Protection against Intimidation in Labour Disputes.*—Sir F. C. Lascelles, H.M. Ambassador at Berlin, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated June 3rd, states that the following are the chief provisions of a new Bill which has been laid before the German Reichstag, for affording protection against intimidation in connection with labour disputes.

1. Whoever endeavours by means of physical force, threats, attacks upon personal honour, or defamation of character, to induce employers or employed to participate in, or to abstain from associations or agreements affecting the conditions of work or wages, shall be liable to a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment. (According to the present state of the law, a sentence

of three months is inflicted for such an offence.) Where there are mitigating circumstances, a fine of 1,000 marks (£50) is imposed.

2. The above penalties to apply also in the following cases:—

(a) Endeavours by means of physical force, etc., to bring about or further a lock-out, by inducing employers to dismiss workmen, or to refuse to employ them.

(b) Endeavours, by the above means, to bring about or promote a strike by inducing workmen to leave off work, or by preventing them from accepting or seeking employment.

(c) Attempts, in case of a lock-out or a strike, to compel employers or workmen, by the means mentioned above, to yield to the demands.

3. Professional offenders against 1 and 2 are liable to a minimum penalty of three months' imprisonment.

Clause 4 defines the term "physical force," and includes the proceeding known as "picketing" under the head of "threats."

5. Persons injured by any of the offences above enumerated, and committed intentionally, are not themselves required to prosecute, but the proceedings will be instituted by the State.

6. Intimidation exercised against workmen, who refuse to join a strike, is to be met by a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment.

7. Persons taking part in public gatherings, by which any of the foregoing acts have been committed, are liable to imprisonment, the leaders of such gatherings incurring a minimum penalty of three months' imprisonment.

8. In cases where the security of the Empire, or of a State thereof, or of life and property is imperilled by a strike or lock-out, which has been brought about in any one of the manners above described, a maximum penalty of three years' penal servitude—in the case of leaders of five years—may be inflicted.

## RECENT CONCILIATION &amp; ARBITRATION CASES AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS.

## (a) CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

## Dispute at Hexthorpe Brass and Iron Works, Doncaster.

THIS dispute originated on November 5th, 1898, the men in the casting shop being dismissed by the firm on the ground of their interference with a caster employed in experimenting on a new process. Notice was given at the same time to those employed in the finishing department, and conditions of reinstatement were issued by the firm. In all 281 men, women and boys were discharged.

On April 25th an application was forwarded to the Board of Trade by the secretary of the committee of the workpeople affected, asking for their intervention to bring about a settlement of the dispute. On May 9th an officer of the Department visited the district and had interviews with the parties, as the result of which a draft proposal for a conference was submitted by the Board and accepted by the parties. In accordance with the terms of this proposal, a deputation consisting of the secretary of the men's committee and two other persons, selected by the firm from a list of names supplied to them, met the firm on May 16th and 18th.

The terms then proposed were not accepted by a meeting of the men, but at a second visit of an officer of the Department to the district on May 26th it was agreed that the men should be asked to ballot on the question of the resumption of work, the following proposal being prefixed to the terms:—

Messrs. \_\_\_\_\_ are prepared to receive applications from their former workpeople on the terms attached, and will do their best to find work for at least sixty persons within twenty-eight days of the acceptance of the terms. They also undertake to fill vacancies as far as possible from among those formerly employed, and, in any case, within a period of two months, not to engage more than six additional non-society men.

On May 29th a ballot was taken and it was decided to resume work.

The terms, which are somewhat lengthy, provide for equality of treatment of society and non-society men, especially as regards the 5 per cent. bonus which is in future to be conditional on good conduct. Society men are to work in harmony with non-society men, and not to obstruct labour-saving apparatus or to limit production. No man is to resume work at lower wages than he was paid before the dispute. Wages in future are to be fixed, generally speaking, as follows:—

(a) Minimum wage for finishers 21 years of age and over to be 27s. plus 5 per cent. This rate to be paid to each finisher on arrival at 21st birthday—namely 27s. plus 5 per cent. instead of 26s. plus 5 per cent. as formerly—supposing, of course, that he be retained in our employ. On a finisher arriving at his 23rd birthday, no fixed rule as to his wage can be admitted, as there is no rule recognised elsewhere.

(b) Casters' piece-work rate, when on ordinary odd-sides, to be 1s. 2½d., plus 5 per cent. per heat, as in Rotherham; it being at our option to pay any man 1s. 4d. net if we wish to recognise his superior ability.

No restriction as to apprentices is to be admitted except in the case of ordinary casting from loose patterns, where the proportion is fixed at one lad to every five men. Other rules deal with small items of overtime, meetings on the premises, meals, penalty for breach of rules, length of notice, the right of the employer to stipulate who shall do certain work, &c. Six men by name are excluded from re-instatement.

## (b) OTHER CASES.

## Cheltenham Carpenters and Joiners.

ON May 2nd 150 carpenters and joiners at Cheltenham struck work for an advance in wages of 1d. per hour (7d. to 8d.), and certain alterations in working rules.

The Mayor of Cheltenham invited the parties to meet him, and at this meeting a settlement was arrived at. Wages were fixed at 7½d. per hour up till January 1st, 1900, and 8d. per hour after that date. The dispute terminated on May 11th.

## The Tyne Shipbuilding Demarcation Board.

An agreement has been entered into between the Tyne Shipbuilders' Association and all the societies affiliated to the Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, together with the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and the National Society of Drillers and Hole-cutters, providing for the settlement of all demarcation disputes. Such disputes as cannot be settled in the yards in which they arise are to be dealt with by a joint committee composed of three representatives from each of the societies affected and one from the Employers' Association, who is to act as chairman. The chairman may give a decision by the unanimous wish of the committee, but otherwise is not to have a vote. In the event of the joint committee failing to effect a settlement, the dispute is to be referred to a board of three referees selected from five specified members of the Tyne Shipbuilders' Association. The representatives of the particular trades are to be appointed, so as to be ready to act when required. Amongst the rules for the guidance of the committee and referees is one providing that evidence as to the custom outside the Tyne and Blyth district is only admissible in cases where a job has not been previously done, or not done more than once in that district. Pending settlement, the management is to have the right to give a temporary decision in cases where the disputed work is urgent.

The agreement is to remain in force for two years.

## Bury Twisters and Drawers.

ON May 1st a uniform list for twisters and drawers in the Bury district was signed on behalf of the employers and twisters and drawers of the district, to come into operation on the first making-up day in May. The following are the principal prices for drawing and twisting plain cloth warps:—

DRAWING GREY.		Per 1,000 ends.
		s. d.
Plain, 4 staves, up to and including 80's reed	...	0 6
" " over 80's ¼d. per 1,000 ends extra, every 10 counts or 20 ends or fractional part thereof.	...	
TWISTING GREY.		
Plain, 4 staves, 18's to 60's Twist (both included)	...	0 4
" " under 18's to 16's and over 60's to 80's	...	0 4½
" " under 16's to 12's and over 80's to 100's	...	0 4½
" " over 100's	...	0 5

Coarser than 12's to be drawn or drawing prices paid for twisting.

## List for Weaving Stripes and Cords in Plain Looms.

The following addition to the Uniform List for weaving, which was signed on April 10th by representatives of the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association, and the Northern Counties Weavers' Association, came into operation on the first making-up day in June:—

- (1) Basis plain cloth as per Uniform List.
- (2) All classes of stripes and cords made from one beam and one count of yarn to be paid 4 per cent. and reedage, and if made from two beams 7½ per cent. and reedage.
- (3) All classes of stripes and cords made from two or more counts of yarn and made on one or two beams to be paid 7½ per cent. and reedage, and if the ground work is one end in a dent the reedage shall be found by dividing the difference between the actual reed used and the number of ends in the cloth.

## Hosiery Trade—New Price List.

A price list has been agreed upon between representatives of employers and workmen for making military pants in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. The price for the standard size and width (22½ inches) is 18s. 3d., and it rises and falls 9d. per inch in width. Previous to this agreement, there had been no uniformity in the prices current.

## LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

## (1) Workmen's Compensation Act.

## "ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYMENT."

The widow of a workman, who was killed by an accident while in the employment of a firm of contractors, claimed compensation from his employers. The County Court judge (*see* MARCH GAZETTE, p. 72) held that the accident had arisen out of and in the course of the employment of the deceased, and made an award in favour of the plaintiff. The defendants appealed.

The defendants had entered into a contract with a railway company to widen their line, and the plaintiff was a ganger employed on the work by the defendants, the gang, of which he was in charge, being engaged in ballasting a siding at a place on the south side of the main line. The plaintiff was walking from his home to his work when he was killed by a train on this line at a spot about 150 yards from where his work was. The accident occurred at 6.53 a.m.; the work, upon which the deceased was engaged, was to commence at 7 a.m. The Court of Appeal reversed the decision of the County Court judge, holding that the deceased met with the accident before his work commenced and while not yet on the locality where his work was to be done and, accordingly, the injuries which he received could not be considered to have arisen out of and in the course of his employment.—*Holness v. Mackay and Davies, Court of Appeal, April 29th and May 6th.*

## TIME FOR TAKING PROCEEDINGS.

The Act provides that proceedings for the recovery of compensation shall not be maintainable unless notice of the accident has been given as soon as practicable after the accident and before the injured workman has voluntarily left his employment, and unless the claim for compensation has been made within six months from the occurrence of the accident, or, in case of death, from the death. "Provided always that the want of or any defect or inaccuracy in such notice shall not be a bar to the maintenance of such proceedings, if it is found in the proceedings for settling the claim that the employer is not prejudiced in his defence by the want, defect, or inaccuracy, or that such want, defect, or inaccuracy was occasioned by mistake or other reasonable cause."

In a case, in which a man, whose son had, on August 3rd, 1898, been killed by an accident while in the employment of a firm of contractors, claimed compensation from his employers and from a firm of jute merchants in whose warehouse the accident took place, the defenders pleaded that the claim for compensation had not been made within six months of the death, but the pursuer contended that a letter written to the contractors on November 7th, 1898, was such claim. The sheriff upheld the objection raised by the defenders. On the matter coming, upon a case stated by the sheriff, before the Court of Session, that Court affirmed the

decision of the sheriff, holding that the letter in question was simply a notice of the accident and an intimation that the employers would be held liable for damages.—*Thomas Bennett v. Wordie & Co., Court of Session, May 16th.*

A workman, who alleged that, while in the employment of a firm of shipwrights, he was injured by an accident, claimed compensation from his employers. The sheriff-substitute found that, while the pursuer alleged that he met with the accident on November 4th, 1898, he gave no intimation of it until November 28th, and did not give notice under the Act until some days later, having left his employment on November 7th. He held that under the Act it was imperative that the workman should give notice before he left his employment, unless (which was not the case in the present instance) there were some reasonable explanation why notice was not given, and that under the circumstances the employers must necessarily have been prejudiced by the want of notice, and on this ground he dismissed the claim. Upon the matter coming, on a case stated by the sheriff-substitute, before the Court of Session, that Court reversed this decision, and remitted the case to the sheriff-substitute, on the ground that he ought to have ascertained, but did not ascertain, whether the employers had in fact been prejudiced, and that it did not appear in the proceedings that they had been prejudiced.—*Duncan McLean v. Carse and Holmes, Court of Session, May 30th.*

#### WHAT IS A FACTORY?

By section 7, sub-section 1, of the Compensation Act, "This Act shall apply only to employment . . . on or in or about a railway, factory, etc.," and by sub-section 2 of the same section, "Factory" has the same meaning as in the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1878 to 1891, and also includes any dock, wharf, quay, warehouse, machinery, or plant, to which any provision of the Factory Acts is applied by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895." By section 23 of the last-named Act certain provisions of the Factory Acts are applied to "every dock, wharf, quay, and warehouse, and, so far as relates to the process of loading or unloading therefrom or thereto, all machinery and plant used in that process."

A workman, who, while in the employment of a barge-owner and contractor, was injured by an accident, claimed compensation from his employer. The defendant had undertaken to discharge manure and refuse from cattle steamers into barges. At the time of the accident a ship was lying in a dock for the purpose of being so discharged of refuse, and a barge of the defendant's was lying alongside. The plaintiff was on the ship, and was engaged in mooring the barge along the side of the ship remote from the dock wall, when he fell from the upper to the lower deck. No machinery was used in the work. The County Court judge made an award in favour of the workman. The employer appealed. The Court of Appeal held that a ship was not a dock, and a workman employed on a ship lying in a dock was not employed on or in or about a dock, and allowed the appeal.—*Flowers v. Chambers, Court of Appeal, May 6th.*

A ship's labourer, who, while employed with other men in moving a ship from one part of a dock to another, met with an accident, claimed compensation from his employers for his injuries. There were two large gangway doors in the ship's side, through which the cargo was taken into and discharged from the ship; and the plaintiff had been ordered to close these doors before the ship was moved. While he was doing this, his thumb was taken off. The County Court judge held that the ship in dock was not a "factory" within the meaning of section 7 of the Compensation Act; that the defendants were not the occupiers of a factory within that section; and that the gangway doors were not machinery or plant used in the process of loading or unloading from or to a dock within section 23 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895. He accordingly made his award in favour of the defendants. From this decision the plaintiff appealed, contending that the gangway doors were machinery or plant used in the process of loading or unloading from a dock, and that accordingly the place where the accident occurred was a "factory" within the meaning of section 7 of the Compensation Act. The Court of Appeal held it to be clear that this contention was incorrect, and dismissed the appeal.—*Madd v. D. & C. MacIver, Court of Appeal, May 13th.*

The father of a boy, who was drowned while in the employment of the owners of a ship in dock, claimed compensation from the employers of the deceased. The boy was working on a staging fastened outside the ship, being engaged in assisting to screw up the iron doors of the ship after the loading was completed. While doing so, he fell off the staging, and was drowned. The County Court judge having made his award in favour of the defendants, the plaintiff appealed. On behalf of the plaintiff it was contended that the deceased was at the time of the accident engaged in an employment to which the Compensation Act applied, on the ground that the defendants were the occupiers of the dock within the meaning of section 23 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, and that the staging on which the boy was employed was machinery or plant within the meaning of that section. The Court of Appeal held that a ship in dock was not a "dock"; that the deceased was employed on a ship and not in a dock, and that staging outside the ship was not machinery or plant used in the process of loading or unloading from or to a dock, and dismissed the appeal.—*Durrie v. Warren & Co., Court of Appeal, May 13th.*

#### CLAIM UNDER COMPENSATION ACT AFTER FAILURE OF ACTION UNDER EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ACT.

Section 1, sub-section 2 (b) of the Compensation Act provides that "when the injury was caused by the personal negligence or wilful act of the employer, or of some person for whose act or default the employer is responsible, nothing in this Act shall affect any civil liability of the employer, but in that case the workman may, at his option, either claim compensation under this Act, or

take the same proceedings as were open to him before the commencement of this Act; but the employer shall not be liable to pay compensation for injury to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment both independently of and also under this Act, and shall not be liable to any proceedings independently of this Act, except in case of such personal negligence or wilful act as aforesaid." By sub-section 4 of the same section it is provided that "if, within the time hereinafter in this Act limited for taking proceedings, an action is brought to recover damages independently of this Act for injury caused by any accident, and it is determined in such action that the injury is one for which the employer is not liable in such action, but that he would have been liable to pay compensation under the provisions of this Act, the action shall be dismissed; but the court in which the action is tried shall, if the plaintiff shall so choose, proceed to assess such compensation, and shall be at liberty to deduct from such compensation all the costs which, in its judgment, have been caused by the plaintiff bringing the action instead of proceeding under this Act. In any proceeding under this sub-section, when the Court assesses the compensation it shall give a certificate of the compensation it has awarded and the directions it has given as to the deduction for costs, and such certificate shall have the force and effect of an award under this Act."

A workman, while employed on a building over 30 ft. in height, upon the top story of which a studio was being erected, a scaffolding being used in carrying out the work, was descending from the outside of the studio when he fell to the ground, and was injured. This accident occurred on September 12th, 1898. The workman (within the time limited for taking proceedings under the Compensation Act) brought an action against his employer in the County Court under the Employers' Liability Act; and this action was tried on January 9th, 1899, before a judge and jury, when the jury found that the plaintiff was guilty of contributory negligence, and judgment was given for the defendant. No application was then made to the judge on the plaintiff's behalf to assess compensation under the Compensation Act; but on January 30th, 1899, he took proceedings to recover compensation under that Act; and on March 13th the County Court judge made an award in his favour, and assessed the compensation at 11s. a week. From this decision the defendant appealed, on the ground that it was not competent to a workman, after having failed in an action against his employer, to recover damages for personal injuries except by making application to the judge immediately upon the failure of the action.

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal. The Court held that, while subsection 4 of section 1 of the Compensation Act gave the workman the advantage, when he had exercised his option of suing under the Employers' Liability Act, and had failed in such proceedings, of having compensation then and there assessed under the Compensation Act by the Court which had seisin of the case, at the same time a benefit was given to the employer by allowing the judge to deduct from the compensation awarded the costs caused by the workman having wrongly brought the action. If this were not the true construction of the Act, a workman who had failed in an action under the Employers' Liability Act would never apply under the sub-section last mentioned for compensation under the Compensation Act, but would always take fresh proceedings under that Act, in which case the judge could not deduct the costs of the former action from the compensation awarded.—*Edwards v. Godfrey, Court of Appeal, May 13th.*

#### SCALE OF COMPENSATION.

The compensation provided under the Act in respect of an injury not resulting in death is as follows: "Where total or partial incapacity for work results from the injury, a weekly payment during the incapacity after the second week not exceeding 50 per cent. of "his" average weekly earnings during the previous twelve months, if he has been so long employed, but if not, then for any less period during which he has been in the employment of the same employer, such weekly payment not to exceed one pound. In fixing the amount of the weekly payment, regard shall be had to the difference between the amount of the average weekly earnings of the workman before the accident and the average amount which he is able to earn after the accident." A labourer, who had been injured by an accident while in the employment of a firm of coal and ironmasters, claimed compensation from his employers; and the sheriff held that the pursuer, while incapacitated from work, was entitled to receive a weekly payment equivalent to the whole difference between the wages which he earned before, and what he was able to earn after the accident (but not exceeding £1), and on this basis awarded him 9s. 2d. per week until the future orders of the Court. The defenders, however, contended that the pursuer could not recover more than 50 per cent. of such difference (not exceeding £1). The matter came before the Court of Session upon a case stated by the sheriff, and his decision was affirmed. The Court held that under the Act the compensation to be awarded was in no case to exceed 50 per cent. of the wages of the injured workman before the accident, or £1, but subject to these limitations the only point to be considered in the award was that the loss sustained would *prima facie* be the difference between the wages which the man was earning in the past, and the wage he was able to earn in the future. There might be other circumstances, which it might be necessary to take into account, and which might lessen the amount of compensation; but in the present instance, no evidence, as appeared from the case agreed upon by the parties, being adduced of the existence of any such circumstances, the sheriff, in fixing the compensation, had only to regard the difference between past and future earnings.—*John Geary v. William Dixon, Limited, Court of Session, May 12th.*

## LABOUR IN THE COLONIES.\*

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

A workman, 17 years of age, claimed compensation from his employers, having while in their employment accidentally injured the thumb of one of his hands in such a manner that it had to be amputated at the top joint. His wages before the accident were 9s. a week. After being absent on account of the accident for eight weeks, he came back to the employment of the defendants, and received 9s. a week as wages, but he was not employed at the same work as before. The County Court judge awarded the plaintiff 27s. for the period during which he was absent from work, excluding for the first two weeks, and awarded him 2s. 6d. a week for life. At the time of the award the plaintiff had gone back to his employment. No question was raised as to the 27s., but in regard to the weekly payment the employers appealed, contending that the judge could award no compensation except for the period during which the plaintiff was absent from his employment.

On behalf of the plaintiff it was argued that the words "total or partial incapacity for work" in the Act meant incapacity for the class of work at which the workman was employed before the accident, and the words "able to earn" meant able to earn wages at the same class of work. The plaintiff was not put back to do the same work as before, but was put to do odd jobs. The Act provides that "any weekly payment may be reviewed at the request either of the employer or of the workman, and on such review may be ended, diminished or increased, subject to the maximum above provided, and the amount of payment shall, in default of agreement, be settled by arbitration under this Act." But if the Court held that the plaintiff could not be awarded any weekly payment, then, if he left the defendants' employment, and could not earn so high wages in another employment as he could if his thumb had not been taken off, this provision in the Act would not enable the judge to award him anything, since this provision merely enables a weekly payment on review to be "ended, diminished or increased." The Court of Appeal, by consent of the defendants, awarded the plaintiff a nominal sum (1d. a week), so that he might not be debarred from applying to the judge to review the weekly payment if his wages should subsequently fall in consequence of his injury, but allowed the appeal, holding that there was no evidence to justify the award of 2s. 6d. a week for life, or any sum of this nature; the evidence showed that the plaintiff earned the same wages after the accident as before.—*Irons v. Davis & Timmins, Limited, Court of Appeal, May 13th.*

#### SECURITY FOR COSTS OF APPEAL.

An employer applied for security for the costs of an appeal by a workman against an award in an action brought by him against the employer for compensation in respect of personal injury by accident. The ground of the application was that the plaintiff, a working engineer, with wages of 32s. a week, would not be able, if unsuccessful, to pay the costs of the appeal. The Court of Appeal refused to order security to be given, on the ground that the circumstances were very special. The plaintiff was not in a position to make the affidavit required to entitle him to sue *in forma pauperis*, and his poverty was caused by the accident. The Court had a discretion in the matter, and under the circumstances it would not be just to order security to be given. No order would be made upon the application.—*Sheggs v. Keen, Court of Appeal, May 15th.*

#### (2) Miscellaneous.

CONSPIRACY TO INDUCE CUSTOMERS AND SERVANTS TO LEAVE.  
In an action brought by a fletcher against five assistants, members of the Journeymen Butchers' and Assistants' Association, the jury found (1) that the defendants maliciously induced the plaintiff's customers to refuse to deal with him; (2) that the defendants maliciously conspired to induce the plaintiff's customers and servants not to deal with him and not to continue in his employment, and that the persons so induced did leave him; and (3) that three of the defendants published a "black list" with the intention of injuring the plaintiff. The jury gave £200 damages in respect of each of the first two findings, and £50 in respect of the third, and judgment was given accordingly. The Queen's Bench Division (Ireland) affirmed this verdict and judgment, and the defendants appealed.

The Court of Appeal (Ireland) held that the plaintiff's case failed as to the first and last findings, but that the verdict and judgment on the second finding were good. It was shown that the plaintiff offended the defendants by employing some men not members of the defendants' association, and refusing to dismiss them when requested to do so (offering at the same time to pay the charges requisite to have his non-union men admitted into the association), and that one of the principal customers of the plaintiff, yielding to a threat that his assistants would otherwise be called out, telegraphed to him to cease sending him meat. It was contended on behalf of the defendants that a recent decision of the House of Lords (*Allen v. Flood*, see GAZETTE for January, 1898, p. 9) made it impossible to uphold the verdict in the present case; but the Court held that there was nothing in *Allen v. Flood* to apply to a case of conspiracy like the present.—*Leatham v. Craig, Court of Appeal (Ireland), May 2nd.*

#### EMPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL CHILD BY PARENT.

A School Board superintendent summoned a parent for employing one of his children, who should have been at school, "for the purposes of gain," in contravention of the Elementary Education Act, 1876. It was shown that the child was not employed directly for the purposes of gain, but was kept at home to do the housework in order to enable her mother to go out and follow a trade. The magistrates dismissed the summons, and the School Board appealed. The Queen's Bench Division dismissed the appeal.—*Mather v. Lawrence, Queen's Bench Division, May 3rd.*

**Canada.**—Emigrants going to Canada this year should start now. A report from Montreal states that there is a good demand for farm labourers and female servants, and a fair demand for general labourers. At Toronto there have been strikes, which were fortunately not very serious, among bricklayers, cigar-makers, moulders, and stonecutters, but otherwise there has been a very marked improvement in trade. Near Port Arthur there is a good demand for general labourers, female servants, and miners; mechanics are numerous, but they all seem to find work; wages are high, but rent is high too. At the mining towns of Rossland and Grand Forks, in British Columbia, there is a good demand for miners, and a fair demand for blacksmiths, carpenters, and stone and brick masons; also a very good demand for female servants at £4 to £5 a month. At Prince Albert, in the North-West Territories, there are plenty of mechanics, but there is a fairly good demand for farm and general labourers, and the usual demand for female servants.

**New South Wales.**—Miners at the Newcastle collieries have been busy. In the pastoral district of Coonamble there is a demand for woolwashers at £1 to £2 a week, but not for men in any other trade; general labourers, station hands, and female servants can also generally find employment.

**Victoria.**—There is a very good demand for plumbers at Melbourne at 10s. to 13s. a day, if they are thoroughly skilled. There is no demand for men in other trades. Complaints continue to be made by many persons at Melbourne, Geelong and other places that they cannot get employment; an inquiry is being assisted by the Government as to how far these complaints are genuine, and as to what should be done in the matter. The Railway Commissioner is inviting applications from youths between 14 and 18 years of age for appointment in the railway service as apprentices; about 300 are wanted.

**South Australia.**—A good demand has prevailed for married couples without children for station, farm, and domestic service, at from £52 to £75 a year with board and lodging.

**Queensland.**—The demand for farm labourers and female servants continues. There is also some demand at Brisbane for engine-fitters, railway carriage builders, and wagon-builders.

**Western Australia.**—A report from Bunbury in the south-west states that there is no demand for any kind of labour, but that the land in the district is being taken up freely by new comers. A further extension of the Fremantle Harbour works has been approved by the Government, which will give employment to 300 or 400 men for about two years. During the first four months of this year there were 768 applicants for employment at the Government Labour Bureau, and work was found for 121.

**New Zealand.**—The building and engineering trades have been busy in almost all parts, including such places as Wanganui, Napier, Nelson, Greymouth, Christchurch, Oamaru, Dunedin and Invercargill; at Wellington and Auckland, however, work is not so good. The boot and clothing trades are also doing fairly well, with some exceptions in the boot trade, as at Christchurch and Dunedin. Speaking generally, there is sufficient work for unskilled labourers, but there is no demand for more hands.

**Cape Colony.**—Recruiting, both here and in the Colony, for the Cape Mounted Riflemen, has been suspended, and there is no information as to when it is likely to be resumed.

**Natal.**—A considerable amount of building is going on at Durban, and there has been plenty of work for men in the building trades.

\* And the South African Republic (Transvaal), and Beira (Portuguese East Africa).

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

**Transvaal.**—A great deal of the tailoring trade at Johannesburg is in the hands of firms employing inferior labour at low rates of pay; many skilled tailors have consequently been unable to obtain employment at remunerative wages and have left the city.

**Beira** (Portuguese East Africa).—Persons are warned against going to Beira in search of work.

## LABOUR ABROAD.

### FRANCE.

**Employment in May.\***—The state of employment continued favourable during May in the building and accessory trades, also in the metal (smelting and manufacture) engineering, mining, quarrying, hide and skin-working (including boot and shoe making and glove-making), woollen, cotton, garment-making, coach-building, and coopering trades. An improvement took place in the food preparation, etc., trades, employment being more readily found in consequence of the commencement of the summer season at watering-places. Employment was steady in the printing and allied trades, and quiet in the linen, etc., weaving, ribbon, and trimmings-making, and felt hat-making trades.

Slightly less than 8 per cent. of the 90,000 members of 555 trade unions (exclusive of the trade union of miners in the Nord and Pas de Calais departments) furnishing reports were out of employment on May 15th.

**Coal Mining in April.**—The average number of days per week on which coal was hewn and wound in April was 5.99 (compared with 5.98 in the previous month, and 5.68 in April, 1898). In April, full time (6 days and over) was worked by 91 per cent., and from 5 to 6 days by 8 per cent. of the miners, the percentages in the previous month being 92 and 7 respectively.

The above particulars are supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners and relate to over 100,000 workpeople (three-fourths of all employed in and about the coal mines).

### GERMANY.

**Employment in May.**—According to *Der Arbeitsmarkt*, the state of employment continued satisfactory in May, being materially more favourable than last year, though somewhat less satisfactory than in April of the present year. The scarcity of coal, pig-iron, puddled bars, etc., increased so much in May that many establishments engaged in the iron industry were compelled to be idle, and large numbers of workpeople were temporarily unemployed. The proportion which applications for work bore to offers of situations at the 53 public employment registries, from which comparable returns were received, was 98.9 per cent. (compared with 114.1 per cent. in May, 1898).

**Labour Disputes in May.**—The same journal notes 83 disputes as having begun in May, compared with 84 in the previous month. Of the new disputes, 20 (compared with 38 in April) were in the building trades; 12 (compared with 9 in April) in the woodworking, etc., trades; 12 (compared with 11 in April) in the metal, engineering, etc., trades; 4 (compared with 11 in April) in the textile trades; 9 (compared with 5 in April) in the glass, pottery, brick, etc., group; and 26 (10 in April) in trades not coming within any of the foregoing groups.

**Labour Disputes, January 1st to March 31st, 1899: Official Statistics.**—Under an order of the Federal Council dated June 10th, 1898, the publication of quarterly official statistics of labour disputes in industrial establishments for the German Empire has been begun by the Imperial Statistical Office in Berlin in the quarterly journal of that Department.

The figures for the first quarter of 1899 show that 197 disputes (191 strikes and 6 lock-outs) were begun in Germany in that period, while 11 disputes (10 strikes and 1 lock-out), begun before January 1st, were still in progress at that date. During the same quarter, 167 disputes (161 strikes and 6 lock-outs) were terminated, the aggregate number of persons who took part in those disputes being 8,224 (8,129 on strike and 95 locked-out), the total number of workpeople employed when the dispute began in the establishments affected being 16,758.

The extent to which certain principal groups of trades were affected is shown by the following table, the figures in which, it

should be noted, refer only to the disputes terminated during the first quarter of 1899.

Group of Trades.	Disputes ended in 1st quarter of 1899.		Group of Trades.	Disputes ended in 1st quarter of 1899.	
	No.	Participants.		No.	Participants.
Building trades	32	1,904	Printing, paper and allied trades	6	124
Mining, smelting, &c.†	2	274	Woodworking, &c.‡	15	357
Metal, engineering, shipbuilding, &c. ...	33	1,082	Stone and earth, &c., trades¶	19	793
Textile trades ...	20	1,745	Food and tobacco trades ...	11	694
Clothing and cleaning trades††	13	782	Miscellaneous trades ...	10	203
Transport and communication	6	266	<b>Total ...</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>8,224</b>

The figures now published are stated to be provisional; it has not been found possible to include particulars as to the causes or results of disputes.

**State Regulation of Hours of Tramway Servants in Saxony.**—The following rules have been drawn up by the Government of Saxony, and are stated to apply to drivers and signalmen (but not to other classes of servants) employed on the electrical tramways in Saxony:—

1. The hours of duty shall not amount to more than 200 in any period of three weeks.

2. The hours of duty shall not exceed 10 in any one day, unless they be broken by a rest of at least 2 hours' duration, nor shall they (except as provided below) exceed 14 hours in any one day, even when such an interval of rest is granted. Each spell of duty must be followed by at least 8 consecutive hours of rest. Once only in 7 days shall it be permissible to extend the spell of duty to 15 hours in a day, making a corresponding reduction in the period of rest preceding or following such spell.

3. In reckoning hours of duty, intervals during which a servant, though not actively employed, has nevertheless to hold himself in readiness for active employment, are counted as one-half of the actual time comprised in such intervals. All pauses of 5 to 40 minutes' duration are counted in this manner, as also pauses exceeding 40 minutes when relief is not provided. Pauses of less than 5 minutes' duration are treated as time spent on duty, and are counted in full; pauses of over 40 minutes are treated, when relief is provided, as time spent off duty.

It is provided that in every case the time-table must set forth not only the time covered by the running of the trams, but also all such periods of time preceding or following such running, during which the staff are required to be at their posts.—*Soziale Praxis*.

### BELGIUM.

**Strike in the Coal Mining Industry.**—With reference to the strike in the Belgian coal mining industry, of which some particulars were given in last month's GAZETTE (p. 137), the current number of the journal of the Belgian Labour Department (*Revue du Travail*) states that from April 24th to May 8th the number of coal miners on strike fluctuated between 52,000 and 60,000, but that from May 3rd onward a certain falling-off was noticeable, so that by May 9th the number of strikers had dropped to 45,664.

As soon as the strike had begun, a Royal Decree was issued ordering meetings to be held on April 23rd of the coal mining sections of all the Councils of Industry and Labour for the purpose of inquiring into the wages paid for coal mining in Belgium. At most of the meetings held in conformity with this decree the employers' representatives produced figures in support of their contention that wages had risen with the price of coal. In no case was the accuracy of these figures contested by the workmen representatives, but at some of the meetings they stated that they would reserve their opinions on this point, or asked for the appointment of qualified persons to verify the accuracy of the figures. But in many cases it appeared that these delegates, being instructed simply to ask for an advance in wages, did not feel justified in discussing the figures brought forward.

By Royal Decrees of May 8th, 10th and 12th, however, further meetings of the coalmining sections of certain of the Councils of Industry and Labour were ordered to take place in order to enable the workmen members of those sections to submit data collected by themselves in respect to wages for comparison with those already laid before the meetings by the employers, it being provided that officials (including experts) should attend on behalf of the Government. The reports of the proceedings at these meetings have not yet been published by the Belgian Labour Department.

† Includes salt and peat works, blast furnaces, puddling, and rolling mills.  
‡ Includes laundries, hair-dressing and bathing establishments.  
§ Includes carving in bone and other substances as well as wood; also basket-making.  
¶ Includes quarrying and stonecutting, as well as glass, pottery, etc., trades.

**Additions to the list of establishments classed as dangerous, etc.**—By a Royal Decree dated April 24th, places in which cheeses are made and where at least 500 litres (110 gallons) of milk are used per day, and by a similar Decree, dated May 1st, premises making use of apparatus (e.g. cinematographs) for producing luminous projections, when such apparatus involves the use of sheets or films of celluloid or other similar combustible substances, are added to the list of establishments classed as dangerous, &c., (and therefore subject to inspection).

### AUSTRIA.

**Labour Disputes: May 3rd to May 31st.**—*Die Gewerkschaft* (the organ of the Austrian Trade Union Central Committee) publishes notices of 22 disputes begun before May 3rd, but still in progress on that date, and of 17 disputes begun on or after May 3rd up till May 31st. Four of the new disputes were in the textile trades, 4 in the building trades, 3 in the metal trades, 2 in the clothing trades, and 4 in trades not included in any of the foregoing groups. With the exception of a strike of weavers (stated to number over 1,500) in a number of villages in Moravia, for a ten-hours day and increased wages, none of the new disputes were of a serious character.

Amongst the disputes reported as still outstanding on May 3rd is the great strike in the woollen industry in Brünn, now stated to involve 12,000 workpeople. According to *Die Industrie* (the organ of the Central Federation of Manufacturers of Austria) of June 10th this strike was still in progress on that date. It began on May 2nd, its object being to obtain a ten-hours day (see last month's GAZETTE, page 138).

### NORWAY.

**Christiania Municipal Labour Registry and Board of Conciliation and Arbitration.\***—The number of applicants for work at the Municipal Labour Registry of Christiania during the first year of its existence (January 17th to December 31st, 1898), was 5,378, of whom 4,087 were males, and 1,291 females. The number of offers of situations was 4,153—2,681 for males, and 1,472 for females. Of the 4,087 male applicants for work, 2,005 were found employment, 240 withdrew their applications, 1,614 were struck off the registers after their names had been on the books for a month, and 228 were still on the registers at the end of the year. Of the 1,291 female applicants for work, 690 were found employment, 83 withdrew their applications, 492 were struck off the registers after remaining on them for a month, and 26 were still on the registers at the end of the year.

The Registry acts as a free employment agency, being under the direction of a Board elected by the Municipal Administration, and composed of a chairman (with two deputy-chairmen) and eight members (with an equal number of substitutes). One-half of the members (with their substitutes) must be employers and the other half workpeople; and each side must include one woman (with a woman substitute). In the event of a strike or a lock-out, the Registry suspends its operations in respect to the trade, establishment, or workpeople involved.

In all cases of differences between employers and employed (whether a stoppage of work has taken place or not) the governing board of the Registry has the duty, if requested by either or both of the parties concerned, of intervening with a view to effecting a settlement, and also, if both sides agree to accept its award, of arbitrating between the parties. In regard to one out of the two disputes in which the Board's intervention was sought in 1898, conciliation proceedings took place, and a temporary settlement of the strike was effected, but subsequently, on the workmen again striking, the Board's mediation was refused by the employers; in the other dispute the mediation of the Board was declined by the workmen.

### UNITED STATES.

#### CHICAGO CONSULAR DISTRICT.

The following is based upon information supplied to the Foreign Office by Captain W. Wyndham, H.M. Consul at Chicago, under date of May 9th:—

**Arbitration in the Chicago and Alton Coal Trade.**—On May 4th the State Board of Arbitration gave its decision in the Chicago and Alton coal cases. The Board fixed the mining price at 35.5 cents (1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per ton, mine run, a reduction of 4.5 cents. (2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) in the scale price. The demand of the men for narrow work was granted, and a substantial advance was made in the scale for top day labour. The Board also recommended that the rental of company houses be reduced 20 per cent., and that the store-order system be entirely abolished, and wages be paid wholly in cash or its

\* Kristiania Arbeids Kontor 1 Aaret, 1898. Første Aarsberetning. Christiania, 1899. J. Chr. Gundersen's Printing Works.

equivalent. It is estimated by the Board that these conditions as to house-rent and store-orders will be equivalent to an additional 2.5 cents. (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per ton, making the price actually received by the miners affected thereby 38 cents. (1s. 7d.) per ton. This decision will govern the conditions of labour in all the coal mines on the Chicago and Alton Railroad south of Springfield.

In regard to the dispute, to which this award relates, Captain Wyndham observes that some bloodshed had taken place in consequence of the importation of coloured labour from the South.

**Other Disputes.**—The threatened strike of the employees of the various stone and lime companies at Lemont and Joliet was averted on April 29th by advancing the wages of all the men from 15 to 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents (7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per hour. At Chicago a couple of dozen Western Union messengers went on strike at the end of April owing to several of their number having been discharged for loitering while on duty; and machinists, pattern-makers, punchers, riveters, blacksmiths, and labourers, employed at certain bridge and ironworks to the number of 680, went on strike on May 3rd for a 10 per cent. increase in wages, time-and-a-half for overtime, and double pay for Sunday work.

**State of Employment in Colorado.**—Employment at Denver is reported better than for years past. Special activity prevails in the building trades, both in relation to private jobs and to public (Municipal and Government) work. The railroads are making many additions to their plant, necessitating disbursement of large sums for wages; mills and factories are busy, and merchants have to employ additional clerks and book-keepers. There is a good demand for labour in all other localities in Colorado.

#### NEW YORK STATE.

**Amendment of Labour Law.**—By two Acts of the Legislature of the State of New York passed on April 1st, and coming into force, the one on September 1st, 1899, the other immediately, certain amendments are made in the "Labour Law" of 1897 (see GAZETTE, July, 1897, pages 202, 203). The first of these new Acts relates to the manufacture of clothing, etc., and cigars in tenements, and as regards clothing, extends the provisions of the 1897 law to the alteration, repair, etc., of such articles. By the previous law the manufacture of the enumerated articles in tenement houses was prohibited "except by the immediate members of the family living therein"; this prohibition is now removed, but in all cases (including family work) a licence must be obtained which will specify the maximum number of persons who may be employed, allowing not less than 250 cubic feet of air-space per worker by day, or 400 by night. Shirts, etc., are no longer to be among the enumerated articles, if "subjected to the laundrying process before being offered for sale." The amending Act gives power to the factory inspector in the case of any of the enumerated articles being imported into the State, having been manufactured "under unclean, unsanitary, or unhealthy conditions," to label the same as "tenement made," and report the case to the local board of health, which is to make such order as public safety requires.

The second of the amending Acts relates to the duties of the factory inspectors and the enforcement of the provisions of the law. The inspection of scaffolding, etc., is now entrusted to the factory inspector (instead of the police authorities). If hoisting apparatus is used (for lifting materials) within a building being constructed, the openings in each floor are to be enclosed by barriers; and in constructing a building of over four stories timber is not to be hoisted on the outside. The number of deputy inspectors is increased from 36 to 50. Under the law of 1897 it was provided that a female under 21 years of age should not be employed before 6 a.m. or after 9 p.m., or for more than 10 hours in any one day or 60 in one week, except to make a shorter day on the last day of the week, or more hours in a week than would make an average of 10 hours per day for the days so worked; this restriction is now extended to females of whatever age. It is

made illegal to allow a child under 16 to operate any dangerous machine. The new Act provides for the periodical (six-monthly) inspection of boilers, other than those already regularly inspected under local laws.

**Enforcement of Immigration Laws in Territory under Military Government.**—The Government of the United States has published a notice, dated April 14th, 1899, declaring the laws and regulations governing immigration to the United States to be in effect in the territory under government by its military forces.

**REPORTS ON SPECIAL INDUSTRIES.**

**(a) COAL MINING IN MAY.**

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

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was exceptionally good in May, and better in nearly every district than a year ago.\* The increase in the average time worked as compared with April is largely to be accounted for by the Easter holidays that occurred in that month.

Returns relating to 1,166 pits, at which 397,682 workpeople were employed, show that an average of 5.61 days per week was worked by these pits during the four weeks ended May 20th as compared with 5.38 days per week in May, 1898.

The following table shows the average time worked in each division of the United Kingdom in the three periods specified:—

District.	No. employed in May, 1899, at the collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the pits in four weeks ended		
		20th May, 1899.	21st May, 1898.	22nd April, 1899.†
England and N. Wales	359,625	5.62	5.38	5.17
Scotland	38,087	5.48	5.41	5.44
Ireland	570	5.17	4.82	5.05
<b>United Kingdom*</b>	<b>397,682</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>5.19</b>

From the following table, in which the workpeople are grouped according to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed, it will be seen that 93.0 per cent. were employed at pits working five or more days per week, as compared with 82.5 per cent. a year ago.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE WORKPEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED IN FOUR WEEKS BY THE COLLIERIES.

Number of days on which Coal was hewn and wound in four weeks.	May, 1899.		Corresponding percentages in—	
	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	May, 1898.	April, 1899.†
24 days (full time)	130,852	32.9	17.7	3.0
20 and under 24 days	239,034	60.1	64.8	77.9
16 " " 20 "	22,332	5.6	18.1	18.1
12 " " 16 "	3,054	0.8	3.7	0.8
8 " " 12 "	777	0.2	0.8	0.0
Under 8 days	1,635	0.4	0.6	0.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>397,682</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

In Cumberland, the Lothians and North Wales employment was not quite so good as a year ago, and in West Scotland the average time worked shows no change. In all other districts there is an improvement, small in Northumberland and Durham, where many pits never work more than 5½ days per week under any circumstances, but considerable in certain of the Midland Counties, especially in Derbyshire, where it amounts to nearly three-quarters of a day per week.

The highest averages worked during the month were in Salop, Worcester and Warwick (5.82 days per week), Derbyshire (5.77 days), and Yorkshire (5.76 days). In

\* In May of last year the dispute in the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal trade was in progress, and as this circumstance would disturb the general comparison with May, 1899, this district has been excluded from the general remarks and tables. A separate account is, however, given at the end of the report as to employment in this district.

† Easter holidays included in this period.

eight other districts the average was over 5½ days per week, and in the remaining four districts, viz., Gloucester and Somerset, West Scotland, Ireland, and Notts and Leicester districts, between 5 and 5½ days.

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY COLLIERIES IN MAY, 1899 AND 1898, AND IN APRIL, 1899.

District.	No. employed in May, 1899, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average No. of Days worked per Week by the Collieries in four weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1899, as compared with	
		20th May, 1899.	21st May, 1898.	22nd April, 1899.†	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; N. WALES</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Northumberland	34,300	5.51	5.44	4.95	+ .07	+ .56
Durham	91,683	5.65	5.62	5.19	+ .03	+ .46
Cumberland	6,549	5.68	5.82	5.37	- .14	+ .31
Yorkshire	60,459	5.76	5.60	5.22	+ .16	+ .54
Lancashire and Cheshire	47,015	5.60	5.23	5.21	+ .37	+ .39
Derbyshire	59,041	5.77	5.05	5.24	+ .72	+ .53
Nottingham and Leicester	26,258	5.12	4.66	4.80	+ .46	+ .32
Staffordshire	24,593	5.70	5.08	5.23	+ .62	+ .47
Salop, Worcester and Warwick	8,889	5.82	5.62	5.14	+ .20	+ .68
Gloucester and Somerset	8,224	5.43	5.28	5.43	+ .15	...
North Wales	11,974	5.65	5.67	5.37	- .02	+ .28
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
West Scotland	22,261	5.43	5.43	5.36	...	+ .07
The Lothians	3,626	5.54	5.60	5.62	- .06	- .08
Fife	12,200	5.56	5.30	5.52	+ .26	+ .04
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
...	570	5.17	4.82	5.05	+ .35	+ .14
<b>Grand Total &amp; Averages*</b>	<b>397,682</b>	<b>5.61</b>	<b>5.38</b>	<b>5.19</b>	<b>+ .23</b>	<b>+ .42</b>

Returns relating to 140 pits in South Wales and Monmouthshire, at which 58,636 workpeople were employed, show that the average number of days worked at these pits in the four weeks ended May 20th was 5.83 per week, the average in April being 5.51 days per week.

If this district be included with those dealt with in the previous tables, the average for the United Kingdom in May is raised to 5.64 days per week, a higher average than any previously recorded in the five years during which these statistics have been compiled.

The Exports of coal, coke, cinders and patent fuel during May amounted to 3,942,121 tons, as against 3,455,109 tons in April, and 2,691,020 tons in May, 1898.

**(b) IRON MINING INDUSTRY IN MAY.**

EMPLOYMENT in this industry was on the whole better in May than a year ago. The increase in the number of days worked over the number worked in April is due to the Easter holidays that occurred in that month.

Returns received relating to 129 iron mines and open works show that the average number of days worked per week by these mines in the four weeks ended May 20th was 5.83, as compared with 5.76 days in May, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the 129 mines was 17,312 in May, 1899, and 17,160 in May, 1898. Of the 17,312 workpeople, 92.2 per cent. were employed at mines working 22 or more days in the four weeks, as against 87.6 per cent. a year ago.

The following table summarises the returns received:

District.	No. employed in May, 1899, at the Mines included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1899, as compared with	
		20th May, 1899.	21st May, 1898.	22nd April, 1899.	A year ago.	A month ago.
<b>ENGLAND—</b>		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cumberland and Lancashire	6,198	5.87	5.77	5.63	+ .10	+ .24
Cleveland	6,769	5.78	5.92	5.59	- .14	+ .19
Lincolnshire and Leicestershire	693	5.82	5.78	5.89	+ .04	- .07
Northamptonshire	655	5.94	5.81	5.64	+ .13	+ .30
Staffordshire and Shropshire	1,477	5.79	5.56	5.35	+ .23	+ .44
<b>Other places in England</b>						
...	304	5.80	5.35	5.41	+ .45	+ .39
<b>SCOTLAND</b>						
...	1,174	5.88	5.00	5.57	+ .88	+ .31
<b>IRELAND</b>						
...	102	5.85	5.95	5.85	- .10	...
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,312</b>	<b>5.83</b>	<b>5.76</b>	<b>5.59</b>	<b>+ .07</b>	<b>+ .24</b>

\* See Note (\*) in previous column. † See Note (†) in previous column.

**EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—PIG IRON, IRON AND STEEL, AND TINPLATE INDUSTRIES; AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.**

**(c) PIG-IRON INDUSTRY IN MAY.**

EMPLOYMENT continues good, and is considerably better than a year ago, when it was affected to some extent by the dispute in the South Wales Coal Trade.

Returns relating to the works of 113 ironmasters show that 376 furnaces were in blast at these works at the end of May, employing an estimated number of 24,771 workpeople, being 30 more furnaces and 2,164 more workpeople than a year ago, and 1 more furnace and 141 more workpeople than at the end of April last.

Districts.	Present time compared with a year ago.			Present time compared with a month ago.		
	May, 1899.	May, 1898.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1899.	May, 1899.	April, 1899.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1899.
<b>ENGLAND &amp; WALES—</b>						
Cleveland	98	95	+ 3	98	99	- 1
Cumberland & Lancs.	49	48	+ 1	49	48	+ 1
S. and S.W. Yorks.	19	18	+ 1	19	19	...
Lincolnshire	16	14	+ 2	16	16	...
Midlands	101	95	+ 6	101	100	+ 1
Glamorgan and Mon.	18	3	+ 15	18	18	...
Other districts	9	9	...	9	9	...
<b>Total (England and Wales...)</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>+ 28</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>+ 1</b>
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>...</b>
<b>Total furnaces included in returns</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>+ 30</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>+ 1</b>

The shipments of pig-iron to foreign countries and British possessions from all ports of the United Kingdom during May amounted to 144,963 tons, as compared with 104,279 tons in April, and 96,635 tons in May, 1898.

**(d) EMPLOYMENT AT IRON AND STEEL WORKS\* IN MAY.**

EMPLOYMENT in these industries remained good during May, and continues considerably better than a year ago.

Returns received from 220 works show that they were employing 81,081 workpeople in the week ended May 20th, or 524 less than in the last week of April, but 4,570 more than a year ago. The following table gives the changes in the numbers employed in England and Wales, and in Scotland:—

District.	Numbers employed in week ending			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in May, 1899, as compared with	
	May 20th, 1899.	May 21st, 1898.	Apr. 29th, 1899.	a year ago.	a month ago.
England and Wales	68,380	64,487	68,851	+ 3,893	- 471
Scotland	12,701	12,024	12,754	+ 677	- 53
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,081</b>	<b>76,511</b>	<b>81,605</b>	<b>+ 4,570</b>	<b>- 524</b>

Information as to the number of shifts worked has been received with respect to about 88 per cent. of these workpeople, and the particulars are summarised in the table below. The average number of shifts worked was 5.60 in the weeks ended May 20th and April 29th, 1899, and 5.57 in the week ended May 21st, 1898.

Number of Shifts worked per man.	Average Weekly Number of Shifts worked per Man.		
	Number employed in May 1899, so far as returned.	Percentage proportion to Total.	Corresponding percentage in May, 1898.
Under 5 per week	2,044	2.9	3.1
5 " "	24,266	34.1	35.0
6 " "	1,572	2.2	2.2
6 " "	42,499	59.7	58.1
Above 6 " "	781	1.1	1.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>71,162</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the table worked the same number of shifts as those who are included, the total number of shifts worked by all the workpeople included in the first table may be estimated at 454,189 in the week ended May 20th, 1899, 457,244 in the week ended April 29th, 1899, and 426,313 in the week ended May 21st, 1898.

**(e) EMPLOYMENT AT TINPLATE WORKS IN MAY.**

EMPLOYMENT in this industry has further improved, and is considerably better than a year ago.

At the end of May, 50 works with 254 mills had all their mills at work, whilst 26 others with 185 mills were giving partial employment, 126 of these mills being at work. Thus, in all, 380 mills were working and giving employment to an estimated number of 19,050 workpeople, as compared with 349 mills employing 17,468\* workpeople at the end of April, and 325 mills employing 16,896 workpeople a year ago.

The following table shows the number of mills and workpeople employed at the works which were giving employment, full or partial,† at each of the three periods:—

	No. of Works open.	No. of Mills in such Works.			Estimated No. of Workpeople employed.
		Working.	Not Working.	Total.	
Works giving full employment	50	254	—	254	12,774
Works giving partial employment	26	126	59	185	6,276
<b>Total at end of May, 1899†</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>19,050</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for April, 1899†</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>17,468*</b>
<b>Corresponding Total for May, 1898†</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>16,896</b>

The exports of tinplates and blackplates from the United Kingdom in the months covered by the above table were as follows:—

	Tinplates. Tons.	Blackplates Tons.
May, 1899	21,557	11,900
April, 1899	20,136	5,997
May, 1898	19,499	4,944

**(f) AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN MAY.**

THE Agricultural Correspondent to the Department, on the basis of 230 returns from all parts of the country, reports as follows:—In May there was a good deal of rain which interrupted outdoor work, and affected the employment of casual hands to some extent in certain districts. But it is generally stated that the regular hands were well employed, suitable work being found for them on wet days. In consequence of the rainy weather, reports from many districts state that farm work, particularly hoeing and weeding, was in arrears at the end of May.‡

**Northern Counties.**—In Northumberland employment is said to be generally regular, and in Cumberland in the Unions of Bootle, Carlisle, Cockermouth, Penrith, and Whitehaven. A correspondent in the Carlisle Union writes that labour is scarce, and the high price of it is giving arable farmers much anxiety. He adds that the season is very late, and that the unfavourable weather in May hindered the work, but that farmers kept up their staff of men to be ready when the seasonable weather came. Reports from the Cockermouth, and Penrith Unions also refer to a scarcity of labour and state that the stormy weather in May interfered greatly with potato and turnip sowing. In North Lancashire and South Westmorland employment is said to be regular. In Durham a report

\* Amended figures. † The figures in the table relate not only to the manufacture of tinplates, but also to the manufacture of blackplates. It will be understood that, in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the returns relate, but the figures in the table are believed to give approximately the total number of works, mills and persons actually employed.

‡ The statement of changes in agricultural wages in May, 1899, as compared with May, 1898, is held over until the next number of the GAZETTE.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

from the Chester-le-Street Union states that the wet weather in May interrupted the work of day men to some extent, but that the regular hands were kept at odd jobs. A report from the Darlington Union (*Durham* and *Yorks*) states that labour is very scarce, and that it is most difficult to get men for hoeing. In *Yorkshire* reports state that employment was generally regular in the Unions of Beverley, Guisborough, Howden, Knaresborough, Ouseburn, Pocklington, Ripon, and Thirsk. In many of these districts labour is said to be scarce. Outdoor work was a good deal interrupted by wet weather, but this, it is said, did not generally affect the regularity of employment, except in the case of a few casual hands in some districts, as the men were generally found work. An employer from the Ripon Union writes as follows:—"The sowing of swedes has been delayed considerably, but the men have been fairly well employed bringing up arrears that most farmers leave for such an occasion." A correspondent in the Thirsk Union writes that "The wet weather and backward season has lessened the demand for Irish labourers, who have come in goodly numbers into the Thirsk and Ripon district for potato planting, carting manure, corn hoeing, etc."

**Midland Counties.**—In *Cheshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Macclesfield, and Nantwich. A report from the Nantwich Union states that owing to the wet weather in the middle of May, the preparation of the land for root crops was much impeded. Regularity of work is reported in *Derbyshire* in the Union of Hayfield, in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Mansfield Union (*Notts* and *Derby*), in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Worksop Union (*Notts* and *Derby*), and in the *Derbyshire* portion of the Burton-on-Trent Union (*Staffs* and *Derby*). Several reports from this county refer to a scarcity of labour. Reports from *Shropshire* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Bridgnorth, Drayton (*Salop* and *Staffs*), Wellington, and Wem, and in *Staffordshire* in the Unions of Leek, and Tamworth. In the Tamworth Union a report states that the wet weather in May somewhat hindered outdoor work. Several reports from *Shropshire* and *Staffordshire* refer to a scarcity of labour.

In *Warwickshire* there is said to be regularity of employment in the Unions of Alcester, Coventry, Foleshill, Meriden, and Stratford-on-Avon, and in the *Warwickshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants*, and *Warwick*). A report from the Alcester Union states that, though there was a good deal of wet weather, very little time was lost by the men. In the Stratford-on-Avon Union sufficient men for weeding and hoeing are said to be very difficult to obtain. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed in *Leicestershire* in the Unions of Blaby, Barrow-on-Soar, Loughborough, Market Harborough, Market Bosworth, and Lutterworth (*Leicester* and *Warwick*). A report from the Market Bosworth Union states that the wet weather did not affect employment, as work was behindhand and there was plenty to do under cover. A correspondent in the Lutterworth Union writes, "Owing to the wet weather, much of the corn will not be weeded, as the labour available will be required among the roots." Employment in *Worcestershire* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Evesham, Martley, and Upton-on-Severn. A few are said to have been hindered from hoeing by wet weather. A report from the Oakham Union of *Rutland* states that work is generally backward on account of the wet weather in May, and that, as labour is scarce, arrears will be difficult to make up.

In *Oxfordshire* employment is reported as generally regular in the Unions of Thame, and Witney, and in the *Oxfordshire* portion of the Wallingford Union (*Oxon* and *Berks*). Agricultural labourers in *Northamptonshire* are said to be regularly employed in the Unions of Brackley, Brixworth, Hardingstone, Kettering, Potterspury, Towcester, and Wellingborough, and in the *Northamptonshire* portion of the Banbury Union (*Oxon*, *Northants*, and *Warwick*). In the last-named Union the wet weather interfered with hoeing. A report from the Wellingborough Union states that when the weather stopped hoeing, other work was found for the men. Reports from *Huntingdonshire* state that employment is regular in the Unions of Huntingdon, and St. Neots (*Hunts* and *Beds*). A correspondent from the first-named Union writes that "Farmers keep their ordinary labourers on. Casual labour is very scarce, and not to be had except at a high wage." Reports from *Bedfordshire* from the Unions of Bedford, Biggleswade, and Woburn state that employment is generally regular. A correspondent in the Bedford Union states that very little hoeing was done in May on account of the showery weather, and that, consequently, there was not much demand for casual labour for piecework. In the other Unions referred to, it is stated that, though hoeing was much interfered with by the wet weather, other employment was generally found for the men.

**Eastern Counties.**—In *Essex* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Billericay, Braintree, Colchester, Dunmow, Halstead, Maldon, Ongar, Orsett, and Tendring. In several districts it is stated that the supply of labour is not sufficient, or barely sufficient, for the demand. The wet weather in May is said to have been a hindrance to outdoor work which got into arrears. A large employer of labour in the Maldon Union writes that "Mangolds and potatoes want manual labour badly. The wet weather has put the work into arrears. During the wet this month all hands were employed cleaning out cattle yards, carting manure into heaps, etc." A report from the Colchester district states, however, that "work is well forward, and the labour supply about equal to the demand." Agricultural labourers are said to be generally well employed in *Suffolk* in the Unions of Blything, Bosmere and Claydon, Cosford, Hartismere, Hoxne, Mildenhall, Plomesgate, Risbridge, Samford, Sudbury, and Thingoe. In this county outdoor work was rather interrupted by wet weather, but reports state that regular work was usually given. Several reports refer to a difficulty in getting sufficient labour for hoeing and weeding. A correspondent in the Risbridge Union writes that "Wet cold weather hindered hoeing and weeding corn crops, but carting manure and preparing root land was proceeded with. In some parts of the Union there were complaints of scarcity of labour, and wages in some cases have been raised 1s. a week." From the Samford Union a report states that "In some places the supply of labour has been very irregular owing to the opening of brickworks or other factories in some places, but on this side there is plenty."

Employment in *Norfolk* is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Blofield, Depwade, Docking, East and West Flegg, Erpingham, Forehoe, Fressbridge Lynn, Guiltcross, Loddon and Clavering, Mitford and Lauditch, St. Faiths, Smallburgh, Swaffham, Thetford, and Walsingham. A short supply of labour is referred to in several reports, but in others it is said to be sufficient. A report from the Thetford Union states that there was some slight irregularity of work owing to wet weather. An employer in the Loddon and Clavering Union writes that "The first three weeks in May the weather was very unsettled, and the rain made it very difficult to get on with mangold sowing, but it made no difference to the labourers as they were found employment hoeing wheat, beans, peas, and other work. Although May is a busy month preparing land for mangold and turnip sowing, sufficient labour has been obtained, and no one has been put to any inconvenience in consequence of short supply."

Agricultural labourers in *Cambridgeshire* are said to be regularly employed in the Unions of Chesterton, North Witchford, and in the *Cambridgeshire* portion of the Royston Union (*Herts* and *Cambs*). Reports from *Lincolnshire* state that, notwithstanding a wet month in May, labourers are generally well employed in the Unions of Boston, Bourne, Brigg, Caistor, Gainsborough, Lincoln, Louth, Spilsby, Sleaford, and Stamford, and in the *Lincolnshire* portion of the Newark Union (*Lincoln* and *Notts*). Several reports refer to a scarcity of labour. A report, however, from the Sleaford Union states that "there is a fair supply of regular labourers, but youths and domestic servants are becoming scarce." It is stated that the wet weather in May threw work into arrear.

**Home Counties.**—In *Buckinghamshire* agricultural employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Aylesbury, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, and Winslow. Labour in all these districts is said to be scarce. In the Buckingham Union a report states that hoeing was a good deal interfered with owing to wet weather. In *Berkshire* employment is said to be regular, and men scarce in the Unions of Bradfield, and Wantage. A report from the last-named Union states that, as the crops are rather backward, not much extra labour is required. Agricultural labourers are said to be well employed and scarce in *Surry* in the Unions of Godstone, and Hambleton, and in the *Surry* portion of the Farnham Union (*Surry* and *Hants*). Reports from *Kent* state that work is regular in the Unions of Blean, Cranbrook, Elham, Faversham, Hollingbourne, Hoo, Sevenoaks, and Tenterden. In all these districts the supply of labour is said to be somewhat short. In *Hertfordshire* employment is reported as regular in the Unions of Buntingford, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, and Watford. In the Unions of Buntingford, Hitchin, and Watford labour is said to be difficult to obtain.

**Southern and South-Western Counties.**—Reports from *Sussex* state that employment is generally regular in the Unions of Battle, Chailey, Cuckfield, Hailsham, Horsham, Lewes, Newhaven, Petworth, Rye, and Uckfield. Correspondents from nearly all these districts refer to a scarcity of labour. An employer in the Newhaven Union writes: "There is no supply of labour at all. I have advertised for a

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR; SEAMEN.

carter in three papers last week, and had no reply. I have five men coming from County Mayo in Ireland." Regularity of work is reported from *Hampshire* in the Unions of Basingstoke, Christchurch, Droxford, Hartley Wintney, Kingsclere, Lympington, Petersfield, and Stockbridge, and in the *Hampshire* portion of the Farnham Union (*Hants* and *Surry*). Correspondents in nearly all these districts in this county refer to a scarcity of labour, and state that the difficulty of getting any extra hands is considerable.

Agricultural labourers in *Dorsetshire* are said to have regular employment in the Unions of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester, Wimborne and Cranborne, and Wareham and Purbeck, and in *Wiltshire* in the Unions of Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon, Chippenham, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, Devizes, Highworth and Swindon, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Warminster, Wilton, and Westbury and Whorwellsdown. The wet weather in May is said to have interrupted mangold hoeing to some extent, which affected casual hands. A correspondent in the Bradford-on-Avon Union writes that "the supply of labour is scarce, especially for men working 7 days a week, as they dislike Sunday work. Ordinary 6 day field work labourers are rather more plentiful, but not equal to the demand. During the middle of May delays have been experienced, and work is consequently rather behindhand. Work of some description has been found for men during wet days, at a loss undoubtedly to employers." Regularity of employment is reported from *Gloucestershire* in the Unions of Barton Regis, Dursley, Gloucester, Northleach, Thornbury, Stow-on-the-Wold, and Winchcombe, and from *Herefordshire* in the Unions of Bromyard, Dore (*Hereford* and *Monmouth*), and Ledbury. In the Bromyard, and Dore Unions the supply of labour is said to be sufficient. A correspondent from the Ledbury Union writes that "There is a general shortness of good farm hands. There is great trouble to get milkers or stockmen, who will not have Sunday work at any price."

In *Somersetshire* employment is said to be generally regular in the Unions of Bridgwater, Clutton, Frome, Langport, Taunton, Wellington, Wincanton, Wells, and Yeovil. Several reports from this county refer to a difficulty in getting labourers. An employer in the Yeovil Union writes as follows: "Large farmers who have good cottages and gardens, and who employ their men regularly all the year round, dry or wet weather alike, have no trouble to keep the men, but small farmers who have no cottages and do not give regular employment, have great trouble in getting men." Reports from *Devonshire* state that the labourers are well employed in the Unions of Axminster, Barnstaple, Crediton, Holsworthy, Kingsbridge, South Molton, Tavistock, Totnes, and Torrington. In *Cornwall* employment is said to be regular in the Unions of Bodmin, Camelford, Stratton, and Truro. A correspondent in the last named Union writes that "All good agricultural men can have employment if they wish, and no one need be unemployed. But men like to leave off at five in the afternoon, and have nothing to do with cattle."

(g) LONDON DOCK AND WHARF LABOUR IN MAY.

EMPLOYMENT at the docks and wharves was again better than in the preceding month, and was about the same as a year ago.

The average daily number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the five weeks ended May 27th was 14,251, as compared with an average of 13,890 in the preceding four weeks, and 14,163 in the corresponding period of last year.

(1) **Weekly Averages.**—The following table shows the estimated average number of dock and wharf labourers employed daily in each week of the month:—

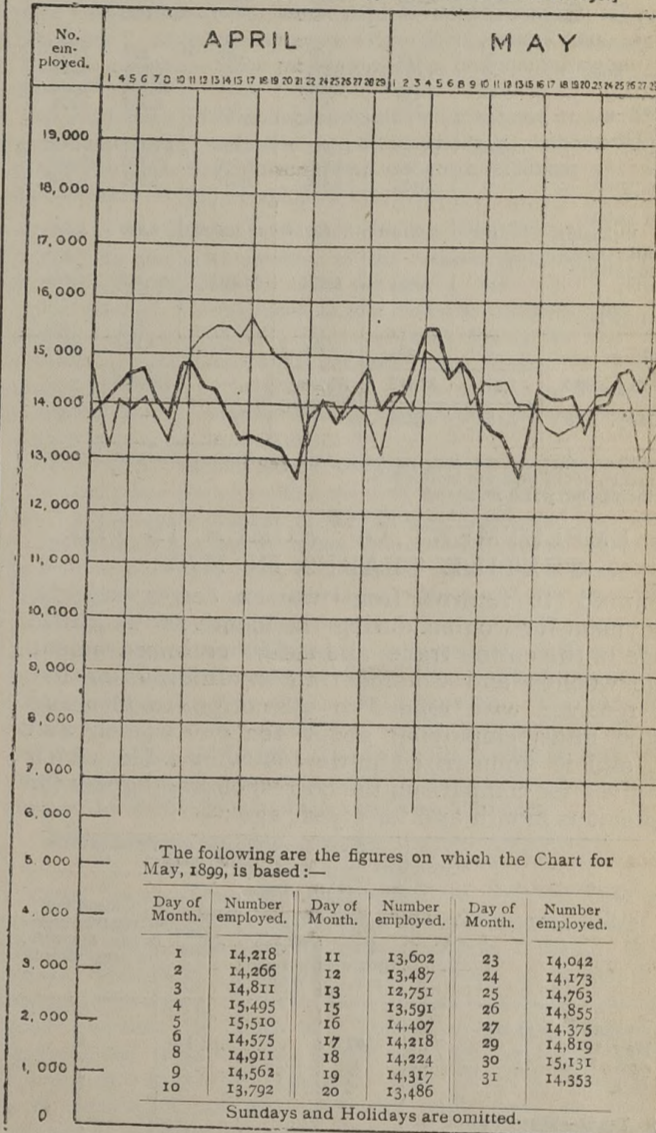
Period.	Labourers employed in Docks.			Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	Total Dock and Wharf Labourers included in Returns.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors.	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ending April 29	5,725	2,717	8,442	5,701	14,143
" " May 6	6,307	2,686	8,993	5,820	14,813
" " " 13	6,043	1,989	8,032	5,818	13,850
" " " 20	5,920	2,558	8,478	5,563	14,041
" " " 27	6,099	2,718	8,817	5,625	14,442
Average for 5 weeks ending May 27th, 1899	6,016	2,527	8,543	5,708	14,251
Average for May, 1898	5,827	2,532	8,359	5,794	14,153
Average for April, 1899	5,602	2,628	8,230	5,660	13,890

(2) **Daily Fluctuation.**—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and the principal wharves during April and May is shown on the chart below. The numbers in May ranged from 15,510 on the 5th to 12,751 on the 13th.

During May, 1898, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 15,124 on the 5th to 13,173 on the 28th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks and 115 of the principal Wharves for each day during the months of April and May 1899. The corresponding curve for April and May 1898, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1899, and the thin curve to 1898.]



Particulars respecting the employment of other classes of dock and riverside labourers will be found under "District Reports, London," page 174.

(h) EMPLOYMENT OF SEAMEN IN MAY.

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

DURING May 34,156 seamen were shipped as the crews of foreign-going vessels from the ports named in the following table (at which ports 80 per cent. of the total tonnage of vessels in the foreign trade is entered and cleared). As compared with May, 1898, when the ports in South Wales were affected by the dispute in the coal trade, this number shows an increase of 2,483 in the number shipped. The returns show that the supply of seamen is generally equal to the demand, while at some ports the supply exceeds the demand.

Of the 159,840\* seamen shipped in the five months ended May 31st, 23,776 (or 14.9 per cent.) were foreigners, as compared with 14.5 per cent. in the corresponding months of 1898. Lascars (who are engaged in Asia) are not included in these figures.

\*See footnote (\*) on page 174.

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—SEAMEN; TEXTILE TRADES; LONDON.

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, 1899 and 1898 respectively, together with the number\* shipped in the five months ended May in each of these years:—

Principal Ports.	Number of Men, &c., shipped in May, 1899.*			Total in May, 1899.*	Total number shipped in 5 months ended May*	
	In Sailing Vessels.	In Steam Vessels.	Total in May, 1899.		1899.	1898.
<b>ENGLAND.</b>						
<b>East Coast.</b>						
Tyne Ports ...	109	3,326	3,435	4,373	14,137	16,892
Sunderland ...	—	292	292	789	2,018	3,167
Middlesbrough ...	58	320	378	311	1,414	1,436
Hull ...	25	1,269	1,294	1,432	5,862	6,169
Grimsby ...	17	88	105	149	386	472
<b>Bristol Channel.</b>						
Bristol ...	7	179	186	269	826	1,065
Newport, Mon. ...	4	1,026	1,030	171	8,329	4,219
Cardiff ...	507	4,419	4,926	1,598	26,879	20,542
Swansea ...	77	581	658	611	2,935	2,769
<b>Other Ports.</b>						
Liverpool ...	330	10,737	11,067	10,722	50,474	49,763
London ...	356	5,593	5,949	6,001	27,756	29,415
Southampton ...	9	1,475	1,484	1,687	7,061	7,416
<b>SCOTLAND.</b>						
Leith, Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth	48	519	567	907	2,690	3,795
Glasgow ...	148	2,224	2,372	2,501	10,618	11,449
<b>IRELAND.</b>						
Dublin ...	—	114	114	91	554	479
Belfast ...	16	283	299	241	1,401	1,374
<b>Total, May, 1899</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>32,445</b>	<b>34,156</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>159,840</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Iditto, May, 1898</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>30,239</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>31,678</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>160,316</b>

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

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

ACCORDING to returns from women correspondents, employment for women during the month showed little change in the cotton trade, and a further improvement in the woollen and worsted trades. Information has been received with regard to 598 cotton, woollen and worsted mills, employing about 102,370 women and girls, and is summarised in the following table, which also gives for comparison the corresponding figures for the previous month and for a year ago:—

Trade and Month.	Percentage ordinarily employed in Mills which were			
	Working full Time.	Working Short Time.	Closed for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.	
	With Full Employment.	With Partial Employment.		
<b>Cotton Trade—Spinning—</b>				
May, 1899 ...	97	1	1	1
April, 1899 ...	95	4	1	—
May, 1898 ...	86	11	1	2
<b>Cotton Trade—Weaving—</b>				
May, 1899 ...	87	11	1	1
April, 1899 ...	88	11	1	—
May, 1898 ...	72	25	2	1
<b>Woollen and Worsted Trades—</b>				
May, 1899 ...	92	4	4	—
April, 1899 ...	86	7	6	1
May, 1898 ...	66	17	14	3
<b>Total of above Trades—</b>				
May, 1899 ...	91	7	2	—
April, 1899 ...	90	8	2	—
May, 1898 ...	74	20	5	1

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton spinning mills reported on is 27,160; of these, 97 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 95 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in April, and with 86 per cent. in May, 1898.

**Cotton Trade.—Weaving.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in cotton weaving factories reported on is 52,840; of these, 87 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 88 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in April, and with 72 per cent. in May, 1898.

**Woollen and Worsted Trades.**—The number of women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted mills reported on is 22,370; of these, 92 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment during the whole month, to be compared with 86 per cent. among those for whom returns were received in April, and 66 per cent. in May, 1898.

DISTRICT REPORTS FROM LOCAL CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

LONDON.

**Employment in various Industries.**—On the whole, employment during the month has remained fairly steady. Returns from 447 branches of 109 unions, having an aggregate membership of 74,447, show that 1,785 (or 2.4 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of May, compared with 2.0 per cent. in April and 2.9 per cent. in May, 1898.

**Employment in the Engineering, Metal, and Shipbuilding trades** has remained steady. Reports from 148 branches of 27 unions, with an aggregate membership of 21,521, show that 447 (or 2.1 per cent.) were unemployed, as at the end of April. The percentage for May, 1898, was 3.8. Employment with sailmakers was fair.

**The Building trades** continue brisk. Returns from 180 branches of 5 unions paying unemployed benefit, with a membership of 11,709, show that 77 (or 0.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.7 in April and 1.0 per cent. in May, 1898. The bricklayers, carpenters and joiners, and painters and decorators describe employment as good; the stonemasons and plasterers as fair; the plumbers as moderate; the stonemasons and plasterers as dull.

**Employment in the Furnishing trades** remains brisk. Reports from 48 branches of 12 unions, with a membership of 6,500, show that 48 (or 0.7 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.6 in April, and 1.7 per cent. in May, 1898.

**Coopers remain busy.** Reports from two societies, with a membership of 1,000, show that 4 (or 0.4 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.2 in April and 0.5 per cent. in May of last year.

**Coachbuilders and Wheelwrights** are still well employed. Returns from 12 branches of 8 unions, with a membership of 1,403, show that 13 (or 0.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.8 in April and 1.9 per cent. in May, 1898.

**The Printing and Bookbinding trades** are less busy. Returns from 22 unions, with a membership of 23,211, show that 801 (or 3.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 2.4 in April and 2.2 per cent. in May of last year.

**Employment in the Clothing trades** has continued good. The West-end bespoke tailors have been busy; the East-end bespoke and stock trades also busy; the contract trade fair; the military and uniform tailors and tailoresses and the ladies' tailors and mantlemakers moderately well employed. The hatters report employment as good; the fur skin dressers report a falling off; and the silk weavers report employment as dull.

**Boot and Shoe Trades.**—Employment in the West-end hand-sewn trade has continued busy; in the East-end sewn trade it has been fair; with boot and shoe operatives also it has remained fair.

**Employment in the Leather trades** has been fair. Returns from 6 unions, with a membership of 1,661, show that 42 (or 2.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.9 in April and 2.8 per cent. in May, 1898.

**In the Glass and Pottery trades,** returns from 8 unions with a membership of 1,491, show that 98 (or 6.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 7.6 in April, and 6.0 per cent. in May of last year.

**Hair, Fibre, and Cane Workers.**—In these trades returns from 5 unions, with a membership of 894, show that 8 (or 0.9 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 0.8 in April, and 1.4 per cent. in May, 1898.

**Gold and Silver Workers** have remained fairly well employed. Returns from 7 unions, with a membership of 1,124, show that 17 (or 1.5 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 1.3 in April. The percentage for May, 1898, was 3.5.

**Employment in the Tobacco trades** has continued to improve. Returns from 4 unions, with a membership of 2,491, show that 115 (or 4.6 per cent.) were unemployed, compared with 4.9 in April and 7.5 per cent. in May, 1898.

**Dock and Riverside Labour.**—The average number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves was 14,251

EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS—NORTHERN COUNTIES; LANCASHIRE.

in the five weeks ended May 27th, compared with 13,890 in the preceding four weeks, and 14,163 in May, 1898. Employment in mid-stream has been fair and steady. It has been moderate with coal porters, winchmen, deal porters and lumpers, fair with stevedores and lightermen, slack with corn porters in the Surrey Docks, but fair in the Millwall and India Docks. The fruit porters in Thames-street have been fairly well employed, the average daily number employed being 345, compared with 340 in April.

ENGLAND: NORTHERN COUNTIES.

Tyne and Wear District.

**Coal Mining.—Northumberland.**—Collieries continue steadily employed. House and steam coal pits have averaged 5.44 and 5.40 days per week. The 21,351 union miners are all at work. Colliery engine and firemen are exceptionally busy. **Durham.**—Several coking coal pits have worked much extra time, averaging 5.74 days per week. Gas, manufacturing, and house coal collieries have averaged 5.47, 5.51 and 5.20 days respectively. At 130 pits employing 63,659 men and boys, from which returns have been received, an average of 5.53 days per week has been worked, as compared with 5.54 days in the corresponding period of last year. There are 145 (or 0.23 per cent.) of union miners idle, as against 164 (or 0.26 per cent.) in April. Of the 2,890 deputies and engine-men 4 are unemployed. The 3,000 coke yard workers are exceedingly brisk.

**Metal Mining.**—Two lead mines in Upper Weardale have become much busier. Iron ore miners are better employed.

**Quarrying.**—Employment generally is good.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—On the Tyne.—Employment continues good. Repair work is not quite so full. Branches with 12,728 members have 326 (or 2.6 per cent.) off work, as against 265 (or 2.1 per cent. of their membership) in April. The house and ship joiners have none unemployed. **On the Wear.**—There has been a better demand for riveters and platers. Employment in engine shops continues good. Forgemen and shipsmiths are well employed. Branches with 4,859 members have 40 (or 0.8 per cent.) idle, as against 59 (or 1.2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The 1,070 union joiners (ship and house) have 1.4 per cent. unemployed. Shipwrights on both rivers are all at work. Branches of iron and steel moulders with 1,160 members report 5 as out of work. Brassfinishers have 3.3 per cent. idle. Drillers and hole-cutters are much better employed. All smelting shops have worked full time, as well as steel plate and angle mills, with one exception. Sailmakers are not quite so busy. Chain and anchor makers are well employed.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The demand for sailors and firemen, although good, is reported as below the supply. The employment of quayside labourers, especially on the Wear, has been above the average. Trimmers and teamers have been fairly busy. Coal porters and shippers continue to average five days per week. Tyne watermen report better employment. Tug-boat men on the Wear have also been busy.

**Building Trades.**—In the lower reaches of the Tyne masons are slack; otherwise employment generally is good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers on the Tyne are quiet; at Sunderland they are fairly busy. Bookbinding continues good. Five paper mills have worked full time; three others continue slack.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Millsawyers and machinists on both rivers continue well employed. Cabinetmakers and upholsterers are busy. Lathrenders have worked full time.

**Other Metal, Chemical, and Glass Trades.**—White lead and copper works are busy; the cement workers are better employed; employment in the chemical factories is fairly steady. Pressed glassmakers continue to improve.

**Fishing.**—Catches have been fairly good. Prices have been lower than for some time past.—J. Ratcliffe.

Middlesbrough, Stockton, and District.

**Ironstone Mining.**—Employment continues fairly good with the Cleveland miners. The average number of days worked by 21 mines reported on was 5.78 per week during the 4 weeks ending May 20th, as compared with 5.92 days per week in May, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at the mines was 6,769, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,610.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—Employment has continued good at the finished ironworks. Under the sliding scale of the North of England Arbitration and Conciliation Board wages remain unchanged. Steel works, blast furnaces and bridge works report employment as good. Metal expansion works and pipe foundries are busy; general foundry work is good; chair foundries are quiet. The Hartlepool iron and steel works are reported to be busy.

**Engineering.**—Employment with the engineers is good at Bishop Auckland and Stockton, fairly good at Hartlepool, moderate at Darlington and South Bank, and quiet at Middlesbrough. With the ironfounders and patternmakers it is good throughout the district. Branches with 3,741 members have 60 (or 1.6 per cent.) unemployed, as against 74 (or 2.0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Shipbuilding.**—All the yards continue fairly full of work. At Hartlepool they are reported as brisk, and ship-repairing shops are busy. Shipwrights and shipjoiners report employment as good throughout the district.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The sailors and firemen report employment as fairly good at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool. Dock labour has been good at Middlesbrough, quiet at Hartlepool. Riverside labour has been good generally.

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

**Miscellaneous.**—Printers report employment as good at Darlington and Hartlepool, and fair at Middlesbrough; cabinet-makers, cement-workers, and pulp-workers as good. Tailors are busy. Salt-workers are fully employed.—A. Mann.

Cumberland and Barrow District.

The following is a summary of the returns received as to the state of employment in the above district:—

**Coal Mining.**—Employment in this industry continues good. The average number of days worked per week during the four weeks ended May 20th at the 22 pits covered by the returns was 5.68, as compared with 5.82 in May, 1898. The number of workpeople employed in May, 1899, at these pits was 6,549, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,461.

**Iron Mining.**—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire iron mines shows an improvement as compared with a year ago. The average number of days worked during the four weeks ended May 20th at the 45 mines from which returns have been received was 5.87 per week, as compared with 5.77 in May, 1898. The number of workpeople employed at these mines in May, 1899, was 6,198, the corresponding number a year ago being 6,126.

**Pig Iron Manufacture.**—Employment at the Cumberland and North Lancashire blast furnaces at the end of May shows an improvement as compared with both a month and a year ago. The number of furnaces in blast at the end of May was 49, as compared with 48 in April and also in May, 1898. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the furnaces at the end of May was 3,927, or 41 more than at the end of April, and 258 more than a year ago.

LANCASHIRE AND NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Oldham and District.

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment in Oldham and the surrounding districts continues good, full time being worked at all the mills. It is reported as good in Rochdale, Stockport, Stalybridge, Dukinfield, Droylsden, and Mossley; as moderate in Ashton-under-Lyne. The cardroom workers report employment as good; winders as moderate; reellers as slack. Ring-frame spinners and throstle-frame tenters are fully employed. In the twining trade employment continues slack. **Weaving.**—The powerloom overlookers and weavers report employment as good in calicoes, as moderate in velvets, and as bad in fustians. Employment with beam and sectional warpers is reported as moderate; with ball warpers as good.

**Woollen and Silk Trades.**—In Rochdale and Milnrow districts employment is reported as good; in Stockport as moderate. The silk dressers of Rochdale report a slight improvement.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment is reported as moderate in the engineering trades, and by the tinplate workers, iron grinders, and plate and machine moulders; as fair by iron foundries and gas meter makers; and as good by pattern makers, toolmakers, brass-founders and boiler-makers.

**Building Trades.**—The bricklayers and plasterers report employment as good; carpenters and joiners and painters as fair; plumbers as moderate.

**Coal Mining.**—The miners in Oldham, Royton, Chadderton and Shaw report that full time is being worked.—T. Ashton.

Bolton and District.

**Cotton Trade.—Spinning.**—Employment in Bolton and immediate district is reported as brisk. In Chorley, Adlington, Horwich, Bury, Heywood, and Ramsbottom employment is reported as good; in Wigan, Hindley, and Westhoughton as improved. Cardroom operatives are well employed in Bolton, Farnworth, Leigh, Tyldesley, Bury, and Chorley; at Wigan employment is slightly more regular.



## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—LANCASHIRE; YORKSHIRE.

*Weaving.*—Employment in Bolton, Bury, and Chorley continues good, and the improvement in the neighbouring districts is well maintained.

*Engineering and Iron Trades.*—In Bolton employment generally is good. In Wigan, Chorley and Bury, iron workers are reported as fairly busy. Machine-making firms in Leigh and Bedford, Hindley, Ince and Bury, are active.

*Building Trades.*—In Bolton all branches except plasterers have been fairly well employed. A slight improvement is reported in Wigan. In Chorley employment is somewhat irregular.

*Coal Mining.*—In Bolton and vicinity most collieries continue active, working on an average five days per week. In Wigan, Leigh, and Westhoughton miners are reported as fairly well employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment with leatherworkers, beltmakers, shoemakers, and cloggers is reported as good.—R. Tootill.

**Blackburn, Burnley and District.**

*Cotton Trade.*—*Weaving.*—Employment in the Blackburn, Burnley and Darwen districts continues good; at Preston it is fair; the improvement at Colne and Nelson has been maintained. Hard waste weavers and winders and warpers are fairly well employed. Twisters and drawers continue fully occupied in Blackburn and Burnley; warp dressers in the Colne, Nelson and surrounding districts are fairly well employed. *Spinning.*—Employment is reported as good at Blackburn, Accrington, and Darwen, moderate at Preston and Burnley. Ring frame spinners and card-room workers are fully employed. Branches of spinners, twisters and drawers, and warp-dressers, with 4,353 members, have 118 (or 2.7 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 122 (or 2.8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally is good.

*Engineering Trades.*—Employment continues good, with overtime in some departments.

*Mining and Quarrying.*—Employment with miners is reported as brisk at Burnley, good at Townley and Accrington. Stone quarrymen are fully employed.

*Miscellaneous.*—Employment is reported as good with tailors, boot, shoe, and slippermakers and letterpress printers; moderate with calico-printers; fair with felt carpet printers and cabinet makers.—W. H. Wilkinson.

**Manchester and District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies with 21,528 members have 619 (or 2.9 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 577 (or 2.7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Engineers, smiths and strikers in Manchester and Northwich report employment as moderate; boiler-makers, ironfounders, brassfounders, sheet metal workers, machine workers, wire drawers and wire weavers are all well employed; filesmiths moderately so. Ironworkers in general in Stockport, Macclesfield and Warrington are fully employed.

*Building Trades.*—Bricklayers report employment as busy in Manchester, moderate in Stockport and Northwich; carpenters and joiners as moderate in Manchester, bad in Northwich; plumbers as bad in Manchester, moderate at Warrington; stonemasons and plasterers as moderate; concreters and asphalters as quiet. In Macclesfield and Warrington employment is fairly good.

*Textile Trades.*—Cotton-spinners report employment as moderate, but cotton-workers in general are fully employed; fustian-cutters, bleachers and finishers report employment as moderate, dressers, dyers and finishers as good. In the silk trade at Macclesfield employment is rather dull.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors are busy throughout the district. In the wholesale tailoring factories all are fully employed. Employment in the felt hat trade is good; in the boot and shoe trade moderate. Cap-makers are busy. Mantle-makers, waterproof garment-makers and umbrella-makers are slack. Shirtmakers are fairly well employed.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Cabinet-makers and coopers in Manchester, Warrington and Stockport are fully employed. French polishers and upholsterers report employment as good. Coachmakers throughout the district in both railway and private trade are busy.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers again report employment as not so good. Lithographic artists, lithographic printers and stereotypers are fairly well employed. Employment is dull with bookbinders, bad with pattern card-makers.—

G. D. Kelley.

**Liverpool and District.**

*Shipbuilding and Engineering.*—Boilermakers and iron-shipbuilders report employment as fairly good; engineers, brass and iron-founders as good; whitesmiths, drillers and holecutters, ship painters, and hammermen as fair; shipwrights and joiners as moderate.

*Transport Trades.*—Sailors, firemen, and flatmen report employment as fair; quay and railway carters as dull; dock labourers in Liverpool as rather slack, in Birkenhead as fair; coalheavers as moderate.

*Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.*—Cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers and woodworking machinists report employment as good; coachbuilders as fair; coopers as moderate.

*Clothing Trades.*—Tailors and boot and shoe makers continue well employed.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographic printers as good; bookbinders and rulers as fair.

*Building Trades.*—Carpenters and joiners and plumbers report employment as moderate. Other branches are fully employed.

*Coal Mining and Quarrying.*—Coal miners continue to average five days per week. Quarrymen are busy.

*Glass and Chemical Trades.*—Glass bottle-makers and glass decorators report employment as good; glass-makers and flatteners as fairly good; chemical workers as moderate.—C. Rouse.

A report from *Winsford* states that employment has improved in the bulk salt trade, but has fallen off in the block salt branch. Iron moulders report employment as fair. In both Winsford and Middlewich fustian cutters and building operatives are moderately employed; shipwrights and boiler-smiths are fully employed. Employment in the chemical trade at Middlewich continues normal.

**YORKSHIRE.****Hull and District.**

*Shipbuilding, Engineering and Metal Trades.*—The engineers machine workers, brassfounders and finishers, brassworkers, ironfounders, smiths and strikers, iron and steel dressers, and sail-makers report employment as good; the shipwrights as fair; the pattern-makers, boiler-makers, holecutters and drillers, and general labourers as moderate. Shipwrights, engineers, smiths, and boiler-makers, etc., at Beverley, Goole, Grimsby and Selby, report employment as good; engineers at Doncaster as moderate.

*Building Trades.*—The painters report employment as good. The stonemasons as moderate; the slaters, and tilers, and plumbers as bad. Employment with the carpenters and joiners, bricklayers and builders' labourers has been affected by disputes.

*Transport Trades.*—The seamen and firemen and the railway-workers report employment as good; the dock labourers at Grimsby as good, at Hull and Goole as moderate.

*Fishing Industry.*—The trawl fishermen at Hull report employment as good; the steam fishing vessel engineers and firemen at Hull as fair, at Grimsby as moderate; the general labourers and curing house workers as fair.

*Seed-crushing, Paint, Oil and Colour Works.*—Employment in the paint and colour works continues good. In the seed-crushing mills it is reported as slack; some of the mills are only partially running, and others are stopped.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—The letterpress and lithographic printers report employment as moderate; the bookbinders and machine rulers as fair.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—The cabinet-makers, brushmakers, and coachbuilders report employment as good; the mill-sawyers, lath-renders and coopers as moderate.

*Leather Trades.*—The tanners and leather belt and lace makers at Hull report employment as fair; the curriers and leather dressers at Doncaster as bad.

*Miscellaneous.*—The bakers report employment as good; the gas-workers and general labourers as moderate.—W. G. Millington.

**Leeds and District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies with 8,264 members have 255 (or 3.1 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 209 (or 2.5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—In Leeds employment continues good in all branches except tool-making, in which it is only moderate. At Wakefield employment is good. At Stanningley and Rodley boiler-makers are only moderately employed.

*Clothing Trades.*—Most ready-made tailoring factories are well employed. Bespoke tailors are brisk. Boot and shoe factories are going full time, and employment generally is good.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—YORKSHIRE: MIDLAND COUNTIES.

*Textile Trades.*—The majority of the mills in Leeds are now running full time. Woollen spinners report employment as improving; blanket raisers as brisk; willeys and fettlers as fair; linen workers as moderate; dyers as fair. At Wakefield employment in the woollen and worsted mills is only moderate. At Yeadon and Guiseley the improvement has been maintained.

*Building Trades.*—The bricklayers' dispute has disorganised the building industry in Leeds, and a large number in other trades are unemployed in consequence. At Harrogate all branches are well employed.

*Mining.*—All Leeds pits are still going full time; ironstone miners are busy. At Pontefract, Castleford and Wakefield full time is general.

*Leather Trades.*—Employment is good with tanners, beltmakers and lace cutters; fair with curriers; only moderate with saddlers and harness-makers.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Employment with letterpress printers continues good; it is fair with lithographers; moderate with bookbinders and machine-rulers. Paper mill workers are busy.

*Glass Trades.*—Glass bottle-makers and flint-glassmakers are well employed; decorative glassworkers fairly so.

*Miscellaneous.*—Brushmakers report employment as improved; cabinetmakers as fairly good; coachmakers are busy.

O. Connellan.

**Bradford, Huddersfield, and District.**

*Worsted Trades.*—The improvement in Bradford has been maintained. Weavers are still being asked for. Woolsorters report employment as good, a few working overtime, whilst none are said to be working short time. In Halifax employment is considered fair, and in Huddersfield it continues good. In Keighley employment is described as better, and steadily improving in all branches.

*Woollen Trades.*—Employment in and around Huddersfield is still fairly good, overtime being worked in a number of mills; night and day shifts in a few cases. Employment in the heavy woollen trade of Batley and Dewsbury is slightly better.

*Other Textile Trades.*—Employment in the silk trade is reported as good at Manningham, Brighouse and Halifax. Employment in the cotton trade is described as fair at Huddersfield, as moderate at Brighouse. In the carpet trade it is reported as good in the heavy woollen districts, and as moderate in Halifax.

*Metal Trades.*—The engineers and ironfounders throughout the district report employment as good.

*Building Trades.*—Employment is good throughout the district, but somewhat disturbed by disputes.

*Miscellaneous.*—Dyers in the Bradford district report employment as brisk, in Huddersfield as moderate; printers as fair; glass workers and tailors as good; rag and shoddy workers as improving.—A. Gee.

**Sheffield, Barnsley, and Rotherham District.**

*Iron and Steel Industries.*—All branches in Sheffield report employment as good. At Barnsley both engineers and ironfounders are well employed. At Rotherham and Parkgate steelworkers in the heavy branches are busy; ironworkers are only moderately employed; bath makers and stove grate-workers are busy. Branches with 4,726 members have 61 (or 1.3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 49 (or 1.1 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Cutlery and Tools.*—The table-knife makers are quiet, and pen and pocket-knife makers are slack. Employment in other branches is fairly good.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 46 of the principal collieries show an average of 5.91 days per week worked during the month of May. Colliery surface men report employment as good.

*Other Metal Trades.*—The various branches of the silver and Britannia metal trades report employment as moderate, except the platers and golders, who continue busy. Employment in the brass trade is quieter.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate; lithographic printers and bookbinders as good.

*Building Trades.*—All branches continue busy.

*Woodworking and Coachbuilding Trades.*—Coach and cabinet-makers, box and coffin makers, and railway carriage and wagon builders are well employed.

*Linen Trade.*—Employment continues moderate.

*Clothing Trades.*—Employment is fairly good in the bespoke branch; good in the readymade tailoring trade. In the boot and shoe trade it is moderate.

*Glass Bottle Trade.*—Employment is good at Barnsley, Mexborough, and Rotherham.

*Miscellaneous.*—Railway workers report employment as good. At Barnsley, paper-makers are well employed; down quilt makers are slack. Brickmakers and quarrymen are busy.—S. Utley.

**ENGLAND: MIDLAND COUNTIES.****Derbyshire District.**

*General.*—Branches of societies (exclusive of coal miners) with 7,082 members, have 64 (or 0.9 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of April.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 76 collieries employing upwards of 31,000 men, show an average worked of 5.4 days per week.

*Engineering and kindred Trades.*—Employment continues good at the locomotive works, in bridge, girder, and boiler yards, and with ironfounders, brassmoulders, and finishers, stove grate workers, wire drawers, merchant iron rollers, makers of railway materials, malleable iron workers, farriers, iron and steel dressers, blast furnacemen, pipe moulders, and lace machine builders. Cycle workers at Long Eaton report employment as slack.

*Quarrying.*—Limestone quarrymen have been well employed. At chert quarries night shifts are being worked.

*Building Trades.*—Employment generally continues good throughout the district.

*Coachbuilding and Woodworking Trades.*—Employment in Derby and Long Eaton continues good with railway carriage and wagon builders, fair with carriage builders in private shops. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employment as quiet. Most timber yards are well employed.

*Textile Trades.*—Employment continues good with cotton spinners and weavers in Hayfield, Glossop, Draycott, and Belper, and with hosiery workers in Ilkeston and Belper. Surgical bandage makers report employment as good; elastic web weavers as bad; lace workers in Long Eaton and Ilkeston as dull generally; calico printers in Hayfield as moderate, in Glossop as good; calico printers and engravers at Dinting, Hadfield and New Mills as fair; merino and silk workers at Lea and Holloway, dyers and bleachers, silk throwsters, and winders and trimming workers as fair.

*Clothing Trades.*—Boot and shoe operatives in Derby and Chesterfield report employment as fair; dress and mantle makers, wholesale garment makers and bespoke tailors as good.

*Printing and kindred Trades.*—Letterpress printers, lithographic printers, bookbinders, and machine rulers report employment as good.—C. White-Deacon.

**Nottingham and District.**

*Lace Trade.*—Employment on the whole is fair, but in the levers and fancy lace section employment has declined. The curtain and plain net branches, however, continue well employed. Dyers at Nottingham are not so busy, and bleachers at Basford and Bulwell are fairly employed.

*Hosiery Trade.*—The wool shawl makers at Hucknall Torkard report employment as moderate. Otherwise employment is good in all branches throughout the district.

*Engineering and Metal Trades.*—Two branches of engineers at Nottingham report employment as bad, three branches as moderate. Cycle workers at Nottingham and Beeston report employment as fair. Lace and hosiery machine builders are working full time. Ironfounders, tool machinists, brassfounders, bobbin and carriage makers, and carriage straighteners report employment as good; brassworkers as moderate. Branches with 3,034 members have 113 (or 3.7 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 89 (or 2.9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

*Coal Mining.*—Returns from 37 collieries, employing 17,000 men, show an average of over 5 days worked per week, a higher average than for some years past.

*Building Trades.*—Plumbers at Nottingham report employment as dull. Otherwise employment is good generally throughout the district.

*Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.*—Employment is good in the furnishing and coachmaking trades; moderate with boxmakers, improving with mill-sawyers.

*Printing and allied Trades.*—Letterpress printers report employment as bad; lithographic printers as moderate; bookbinders as good; printer's cutters and lithographic artists as moderate.

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

**Clothing Trades.**—Boot and shoe operatives report employment as moderate at Nottingham, busy at Mansfield and Hucknall Torkard; tailors as fair. Dress and mantle-makers are exceptionally busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—The female cigar-makers report employment as good; gas-workers as rather slacker; basket and wickerwork-makers as good.—W. L. Hardstaff.

**Leicester and Northampton District.**

**Boot and Shoe Industry.**—Employment continues good at Northampton, Kettering, Rushden and Wellingborough, in all departments of the trade. It is moderate in Leicester and the surrounding district.

**Other Clothing Trades.**—In the tailoring trade work continues satisfactory. Corset makers, milliners, and dressmakers are busy. Employment is good with silk and felt hatters.

**Hosiery and Woolspinning.**—All departments of the hosiery trade at Leicester report employment as good. At Loughborough employment is good in the circular rib branch; moderate in the shirt and pant branches. Employment is full in the woolspinning, trimming and dyeing branches.

**Elastic Web Trade.**—Employment is reported as improved with weavers in the cord, braid and narrow webbing branches, but quiet in the gusset branch.

**Engineering and Cycle Trades.**—With general engineers, work is good at Rugby and Loughborough, and moderate at Leicester and Northampton. Some patternmakers and winders are working overtime. Ironfounders, boiler-makers and needle-makers are busy. Skilled workmen in the cycle trades are in demand.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—The South Leicester coalminers continue fully employed. Lime, cement and ironstone workers and stone quarrymen are busy.

**Printing and Bookbinding.**—In the letterpress printing trade employment is good at Leicester and Kettering, moderate at Loughborough, and quiet at Northampton and Rugby. It is good with bookbinders and fairly good with lithographic printers.

**Building Trades.**—Employment at Leicester has been affected by disputes. In other parts of the district employment is good.

**Furnishing and Coachmaking Trades.**—Employment is good with cabinet-makers, upholsterers, coachmakers and tram-car builders; fairly good with railway-wagon builders and repairers.

**Leather Trades.**—Tanners and curriers are fully employed throughout the district.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment is good with cigar-makers, basket-makers, brushmakers, brick and tile makers, and railway workers except at Rugby; slack with mill-sawyers and bad with bakers.

T. Smith.

**Potteries District.**

**Pottery Trades.**—Employment continues good in most branches, and the Whitsuntide holidays have been brief. Hollow-ware pressers are well employed, full time being almost general. Flat-pressers report a further improvement. Printers and transferers are working 5½ days per week. Women gilders and decorators, men artists, and throwers and turners in the general trade are fairly busy, but furniture and electrical turners report a further decline. Designers, modellers, and mouldmakers, encaustic tilemakers, and stilt and spur makers are busy. Packers, crate-makers, warehousemen, and ovenmen, kilnmen, and saggarmakers are better employed.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—All classes of operatives continue busy throughout the district.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Engineers, boiler-makers, and moulders throughout North Staffordshire are well employed, overtime being general; at Crewe and Stafford employment continues good. Brass and copper workers at Oakmoor and Froghall report employment as good; brass-finishers as declining at Longport, good at Milton. Agricultural engineers at Rugeley and Uttoxeter are busy.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—Colliers and ironstone workers in North Staffordshire, and stone quarrymen at Alton and Hollington continue to work full time.

**Textile Trades.**—At Leek silk workers continue well employed. At Congleton silk dressers report a further improvement; fustian cutters are fairly busy, full time being general. At Cheadle and Tean silk and tape operatives are well employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors throughout the district report a further improvement. Boot and shoemakers at Stafford and Stone are busy. Corset makers at Uttoxeter and Ashbourne continue busy.

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

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers in the Potteries report a further slight improvement. At Stafford employment continues good. Lithographic artists and printers are moderately busy; bookbinders and machine rulers are working full time.—I. S. Harvey.

I. S. Harvey.

**Wolverhampton and District.**

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—In South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire employment continues to improve in all branches of the iron and steel trades, except in the sheet trade, which is not so good.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment with engineers, moulders, boiler, bridge, girder, tank and gasometer makers is good. Overtime is general in most branches. In the cycle trade employment is not so good. At Walsall employment in the malleable iron trade has improved. In Coalbrook Dale and district employment is reported as good.

**Hardware Trades.**—Employment is good with makers of tubes, nuts and bolts, axles, springs, coach iron-work, iron-fences, hurdles, builders' ironmongery, tips and tacks, gunlocks, black castings, edge tools, Brazil and plantation tools; and also with stampers and piercers. It is moderate with makers of cut nails, malleable nails and protectors, and electrical castings, and also with tinplate workers, galvanizers, and filesmiths. It is quiet with brassworkers, and makers of traps, locks, keys and latches, steel toys, hinges and light hollow-ware; slack with spectacle framemakers. Employment in the ironplate trade is moderate at Wolverhampton and Bilston, and slack in the Lye District. At Halesowen employment in the wrought nail trade is dull, except the shoe nail branch, which is brisk. At Blackheath it is fair with spike and rivet makers. Chainmakers and strikers at Old Hill, and block-chainmakers at Cradley Heath are well employed. Anchor-smiths at Cradley report an improvement. At Dudley anvil and vice makers continue to work short time. Iron and steel forgers at Wednesbury are well employed.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment on Cannock Chase has slightly fallen off. The collieries at Oldbury, Tipton, Dudley, Old Hill, and districts are working on the average five days per week. The Tamworth and Shropshire pits continue to work full time.

**Building Trades.**—Employment is good with bricklayers and plasterers; fair with carpenters, plumbers and builders' labourers.

**Glass Trade.**—At Wordsley employment is fairly good with flint-glass workers. With the glass bottlemakers at Brierley Hill it is moderate.

**Leather Trades.**—At Walsall the harness-makers report employment as brisk; gig saddlers, buckle, chain, cart-gear, and case hame makers as fair; new brown saddlers as improved.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the carpet trade is fairly good at Kidderminster, brisk at Bridgnorth. The tape mills at Tamworth are working full time.

**Clothing Trades.**—Employment in the ready made and bespoke tailoring departments has been brisk, and boot and shoemakers have been well employed.—C. Anthony.

**Birmingham and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 20,517 members have 344 (or 17 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 325 (or 16 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Engineering.**—Eight branches of the engineers report employment as moderate, two as good, and one as bad; the toolmakers and pattern-makers as fair; ironfounders and smiths and strikers as good. In West Bromwich and Coventry employment is good; at Redditch fair. Employment in the cycle industry is good throughout the district. At Coventry employment in the motor industry is fair.

**Brass and Copper Trades.**—Employment in the brass trades and with fender and fire brass-workers is fair. Metal rollers, casters and annealers are only moderately employed; brass and copper wire drawers are only partially employed. At Dudley the fender-makers are fairly well employed.

**Jewellers, Silversmiths and Electro Platers.**—Employment in the jewellery trade is rather quiet, except in the chain section, where it is fair. Electro-plate and Britannia metal workers return employment as moderate; plate glass bevellers and silverers as good.

**Other Metal Trades.**—Bedstead makers, ironplate workers, iron tube makers, matchette makers, and scale beam, and steel yard makers, are fairly well employed. Tinplate workers, file grinders, and wrought-iron, and steel hinge makers are quiet; file cutters (by hand), edge tool makers, grinders, and finishers report employment as moderate; heavy and light steel toy makers are well employed; nail and odd side casters

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—MIDLAND, E. AND S.W. COUNTIES, WALES.

continue brisk; employment with cut nail makers is fair; with wire nail makers not so good. At West Bromwich, nut and bolt makers, spring makers, and hollow-ware workers, are fairly well employed; coach axle and coach furniture makers are fully employed. At Redditch employment in the needle and fish hook trades continues good.

**Building Trades.**—Throughout the district employment continues fairly good.

**Glass Trades.**—The flint glass makers and flint glass cutters return employment as good. At West Bromwich employment in the glass trade is good.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Cabinet-makers return employment as fairly good; mill-sawyers and machinists as good. In the railway and wagon shops, employment continues rather quiet.

**Clothing Trades.**—Tailors report employment as busy; boot and shoe makers as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Gasworkers and gasfitters return employment as good; brickmakers as fairly good; letterpress printers as moderate; bakers and confectioners, harness and bridle cutters, bagmakers and cycle saddlers as fair; saddlers as quiet; gunmakers as bad. At Redditch employment in the fancy case trade is good. At Coventry employment in the watch and ribbon weaving trades is fair.—A. R. Jephcott.

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

**Clothing Trades.**—Readymade clothing factories are running full time. Bespoke tailors are busy. Employment in the boot and shoe trade is good. Corset makers are fairly busy. Shirt, dress, and blouse makers are in full swing.

**Building Trades.**—In Lowestoft, North Walsham, Cambridge, and Newmarket, employment is unsettled through disputes; elsewhere work is plentiful.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Engineers and boiler-makers are well employed. Employment with shipwrights and boatbuilders at Lowestoft is good; at Yarmouth and Gorleston it is not quite so good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Employment generally is fair.

**Textile Trades.**—Mat and matting weavers report employment as good. Silk and crape factories are on full time. Horsehair weavers are fairly busy.

**Woodworking Trades.**—Steam joinery workers and organ-builders are well employed; cabinetmakers, upholsterers, and French polishers are fairly busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Steam flour, oil cake and saw mills are busy; paper factories are well employed; electrical workers are on full time; horticultural builders are busy; riverside labour generally is fairly good.—G. Cleverley.

**Suffolk, Essex and District.**

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—At Ipswich, Bury St. Edmunds, Colchester, Chelmsford, Halstead, and Earl's Colne employment with engineers is reported as good; boiler-makers are working overtime; shipwrights are only moderately employed.

**Clothing Trades.**—The wholesale tailoring operatives are well employed at Ipswich and Colchester; shoemakers report an improvement; corsetmakers at Ipswich are not so well employed; at Sudbury employment is fair.

**Textile Trades.**—In the mat and matting industry at Sudbury Long Melford, Hadleigh, and Lavenham employment is good; at Glemsford short time prevails. Employment in the silk trade is good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is good.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment generally is reported as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Shipping and dock labour has been good at Harwich and Parkeston; dull at Ipswich. Brickmakers are busy.

R. W. Mather.

**ENGLAND: SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES.****Bristol and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 9,447 members have 89 (or 09 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 118 (or 13 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Clothing Trades.**—The wholesale garment makers report employment as falling off in the home trade, as busy in the export trade; the bespoke tailors as good; the corset and glove makers as moderate; the hatters as quiet. The boot and shoe operatives report employment as falling off in Bristol, fairly good at Kingswood.

**Engineering and allied Trades.**—Employment with engineers is improving at Bristol, moderate at Swindon. It is good with pattern-makers, ironfounders, boiler-makers, tinplate workers, galvanisers, smiths, and toolmakers; fair with fitters and brass workers.

**Mining and Quarrying.**—The coal and iron-ore miners and quarrymen throughout the district report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—The plasterers report employment as unsettled; the plumbers as quiet; other branches as fair or good.

**Woodworking and Coachmaking Trades.**—Work is plentiful with cabinet makers, upholsterers, polishers, mill-sawyers, and machinists; improving with lath renders. Coopers continue slack. Railway coachmakers report employment as moderate.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Employment is good at Hereford and Bristol; fair at Gloucester; quiet at Bath.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the Trowbridge district, and at Twerton-on-Avon is now good.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Dock labourers report employment generally as dull; sailors and marine firemen as good.

**Miscellaneous.**—The stone potters, brickmakers, tobacco-workers, brushmakers, and railroad men report employment as good; the glass bottlemakers as fair; the bakers and confectioners as improving.

J. Curle.

**Plymouth and South Western District.**

**Mining, Quarrying, and China Clay Industries.**—Work in the tin mines is now fairly plentiful. Granite quarrying is reported as busy. Slate and limestone workers are regularly employed. In the china clay industry employment is steady and rather more plentiful.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—With engineers employment continues moderate in Plymouth and Devonport; it is fair at Exeter and Newton, and good in the Western towns. Shipwrights report work as good in Plymouth, fair at Falmouth, Dartmouth, and Brixham. Boiler-makers and ironfounders are well employed. The Government yards continue busy. Branches with 2,155 members have 14 (or 06 per cent.) unemployed compared with 15 at the end of April.

**Building Trades.**—Stonemasons report work as good in Plymouth and Devonport, and at Penryn and western quarries, fair in Tavistock, quiet in Exeter, and dull in Torquay. With bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, and painters employment is good in Plymouth and Devonport, fair in Tavistock, Penzance, and Redruth, quiet in Exeter and Torquay. Plasterers report work as fair in Plymouth, quiet in Exeter.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as moderate in Plymouth and Devonport, improved in Exeter, dull in Torquay. Lithographic printers are fairly employed; with bookbinders and paper-rulers work is fair and steady.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Machinists and mill-sawyers and cabinet factory workers report employment as good; outside cabinet-makers as improved; upholsterers as moderate.

**Clothing Trades.**—Work is good with bespoke tailors and ready made tailoring operatives. Boot and shoe makers report employment as good. Collar-makers at Barnstaple are busy.

**Dock and Quayside Work.**—On the quays employment has been fair; in the docks grain carriers have been busy in the latter part of the month, and the arrival of fruit boats has made work brisk.

**Fishing Industry.**—Trawlers' catches have been generally light, but better off Scilly and in the Bristol Channel; drift and hook boats have done well.

**Miscellaneous.**—Government labourers continue well employed; workers in the brickyards, artificial manure manufactories, general labourers, excavators, and market and fruit garden workers are busy.—W. Hedge.

WALES.

**North Wales District.**

**Mining.**—Employment continues brisk throughout North Wales, except at a few small collieries where it almost entirely depends on house and gas coal. Employment is brisk at the Denbighshire lead mines; good at the lead and blende mines of Flintshire.

**Quarrying.**—Employment continues good at slate, lime and road-stone and freestone quarries, and is brisk at the granite sett quarries.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters and joiners at Wrexham report employment as quiet, at Colwyn Bay as moderate; the plasterers at Llandudno as rather slack. Otherwise employment is fair or good throughout the district.

## EMPLOYMENT IN MAY—DISTRICT REPORTS (contd.)—WALES; SCOTLAND.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—The engineers at Oswestry report employment as moderate, at Sandycroft as good, at Ruabon as fair. Iron and steel workers, coach and wagon builders, and ironfounders continue well employed.

**Clothing and Textile Industries.**—Employment in the Montgomeryshire woollen and tweed industries continues steady. It is good with bespoke tailors.

**Brick and Terra-cotta Industries.**—Employment is good throughout the district.—G. Rowley.

**South Wales District.**

**Coal Mining.**—Returns from Cyfarthfa, Dowlais, Ebbw Vale, and Rhymney Valley, state that collieries have worked full time. Returns from the Aberdare, Mountain Ash, and Rhondda Valleys state that collieries have not worked so regularly as during April, a greater number of collieries having been affected by short stoppages.

**Iron and Steel Trades.**—All the reports from the most important works in the district state that mills and furnaces are working to their fullest capacity.

**Ship Repairing and Engineering.**—All branches have been well employed. Branches of the engineers and ironfounders with 2,786 members have 63 (or 2·3 per cent.) unemployed, as compared with 40 (or 1·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Some firms have been working double shifts throughout the month. Boilermakers report 20 per cent. unemployed, and shipwrights 45 per cent. General labourers have had average employment, and ship painters and cleaners have been busy.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—Coal shipments have reached a good average. The imports of iron ore, pitwood and general cargo shipments have been above the average. The shipment of crews has been fairly brisk.

**Building Trades.**—Employment has been a little interrupted in some districts through the masons' and plasterers' disputes. Branches of carpenters and joiners and plumbers with 1,545 members, have 59 (or 3·8 per cent.) unemployed as against 87, or 5·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Miscellaneous.**—Fuel workers have had a good month. Metallurgical and chemical works are quiet with only partial plant working at most works. Wagon-builders and repairers have been affected by a dispute. Lithographers and letterpress printers report employment as quiet.—T. Davies.

**Tinplate Trade in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire.**—Employment has further improved. At the end of May 368 mills in this district were at work (including those engaged in the manufacture of blackplates), giving employment to an estimated number of 18,553 workpeople, as compared with 337 mills at work, employing 16,974 workpeople at the end of April, and 313 mills, employing 16,329 workpeople at the end of May, 1898.

## SCOTLAND.

**Edinburgh and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies (excluding the building trades, which are disturbed by disputes) with 11,292 members have 216 (or 1·9 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 176 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment continues good. The miners generally are working full time.

**Shale Miners and Oilworkers.**—Returns from 30 mines employing 3,076 workpeople (as compared with 3,015 in May, 1898) show that 2,970 of these workpeople were in pits working 24 days in the four weeks ended May 20th, 1899, the remaining 106 being in pits working 22 and under 24 days.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Branches with 2,289 members have 25 (or 1·1 per cent.) idle, as against 21 (or 0·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. Branches in Falkirk with 3,828 members have 23 (or 0·6 per cent.) idle, as against 12 (or 0·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Shipbuilding.**—Branches of boilermakers and shipwrights with 600 members have 64 (or 10·7 per cent.) idle, as against 22 (or 3·8 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Textile Trades.**—Employment with woollen spinners and weavers continues to improve in Galashiels. In Selkirk and Hawick employment continues good with both spinners and weavers. Employment in the hosiery industry is good in Hawick and fair in Selkirk. The carpet weavers in Midlothian report employment as good.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues to be disturbed by the disputes with the plumbers and the carpenters and joiners.

**Woodworking and Furnishing Trades.**—Branches with 1,208 members have 25 (or 2·1 per cent.) idle, as against 32 (or 2·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Shipping and Dock Labour.**—The seamen and firemen report employment as quiet, the dock labourers and coal porters have been better employed.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Branches with 2,263 members have 42 (or 1·9 per cent.) idle, as against 54 (or 2·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Miscellaneous.**—The saddlers, shoemakers, sett makers, and glass cutters report employment as good, the tailors and glass makers as fair; the bakers and curriers as quiet.—J. Mallinson.

**Glasgow and West of Scotland.**

**Shipbuilding.**—Employment continues good. Branches with 13,549 members have 145 (or 1·1 per cent.) idle as against 236 (or 1·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Engineering and Metal Trades.**—Employment continues good. Branches with 28,591 members return 551 (or 1·9 per cent.) as idle as against 471 (or 1·6 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Building Trades.**—Employment continues good.

**Mining.**—In Stirlingshire coal mines are working 11 days per fortnight; in Dumbartonshire, five days per week. In Ayrshire, coal and ironstone miners are fairly busy. In Lanarkshire employment is fairly steady, but at many collieries time has been lost through want of wagons. In Renfrewshire employment is well maintained.

**Clothing Trades.**—Bespoke tailors are busy; ready-made tailoring operatives fairly busy; mantle-makers are fairly employed. Boot and shoe operatives, and knee boot and shoe makers continue busy; slipper-makers less so.

**Textile Trades.**—In Glasgow weavers are fairly well employed. In New Mills, Darvel and Galston laceworkers are dull. In Kilbirnie and Port Glasgow employment is good. In Greenock textile operatives are less busy.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—Letterpress printers report employment as unchanged; lithographic printers, electrotypers and stereotypers as good; bookbinders as still dull.

**Glass Trades.**—Decorative glass workers, flint glass cutters, flint glass makers and bottle makers are all busy.

**Miscellaneous.**—Spindle and flyer makers, basket-makers, calico engravers, brushmakers, settmakers, paviors, potters, scale beam makers, tobacco pipemakers and finishers, cork cutters, gilders, curriers, carters, railway men and tram men report employment as good; labourers and saddlers as fairly good.—A. J. Hunter.

**Dundee and District.**

**Textile Trades.**—Employment in the jute industry is less satisfactory, between 200 and 300 hands having been thrown idle by stoppage of machinery. In the linen trade looms are fully employed.

**Coal Mining.**—Employment at the Fifeshire collieries continues active. Returns from pits employing 11,215 workpeople show an average of nearly 5·5 days per week worked during the four weeks ending 20th May, as compared with 5·5 days per week during April.

**Engineering and Shipbuilding.**—Employment in the engineering industry shows some little improvement, and at the shipbuilding yards briskness still prevails. Branches of societies, with 2,376 members, return 93 (or 3·9 per cent.) as unemployed, compared with 103 (or 4·4 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Building and Woodworking Trades.**—Employment in the building trades remains steady. In the cabinet and upholstery trades work is plentiful. Societies with 1,736 members report 9 unemployed, as against 10 at the end of April.

**Fishing Industry.**—The haddock fishing has shown little improvement, and already a large number of men have left for the herring fishing in the north. Poor success continues to attend the salmon fishers.

**Dock Labour.**—Employment at the harbour has been fairly brisk.

**Miscellaneous.**—Employment in the printing and allied trades is reported as fairly good; in the tailoring trade as moderately brisk; with boot and shoemakers as fair. Bleachers, and linoleum and floorcloth makers are still busy.—P. Reid.

**Aberdeen and District.**

**General.**—Branches of societies with 6,525 members have 66 (or 1·0 per cent.) idle, as against 15 (or 0·2 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

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

**Quarrying.**—The quarrymen, masons, and settmakers report employment as good; the granite polishers as fair.

**Building Trades.**—The carpenters and joiners, masons and painters, report employment as good; plasterers as dull; plumbers as moderate; slaters as fair.

**Transport Trades.**—The carters and railway workers report employment as good; dock labourers as moderate.

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Branches of societies with 1,504 members have 16 (or 1·1 per cent.) unemployed, as against 8 (or 0·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. All branches report employment as good.

**Clothing and Textile Trades.**—The boot and shoe operatives, boot and shoe makers, mill and factory workers, and carpet weavers report employment as good; tailors as fair.

**Printing and kindred Trades.**—The letterpress printers, bookbinders and machine rulers report employment as good; lithographic printers as moderate.

**Fishing.**—In May, at the port of Aberdeen, trawl and line boats landed 91,699 cwts., with a value of £44,428, a great increase in quantity, but a decrease in value as compared with April.

**Miscellaneous.**—The upholsterers, comb makers, sawmillers, saddlers, and cabinetmakers report employment as good; the bakers as moderate.—W. Johnston.

## IRELAND.

**Dublin and District.**

**Building Trades.**—Employment generally is fair.

**Metal Trades.**—Employment is reported as fair with the engineers, ironfounders, and smiths; as good with the boiler-makers; slack with the brassfinishers and gasfitters; bad with the electrical workers.

**Wood-working and Coachbuilding Trades.**—The coachmakers report employment as good; the upholsterers, cart and wagon builders and cabinetmakers as fair; the lath splitters as bad.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors and bootmakers report work as good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—The letterpress printers report employment as quiet; the lithographers as moderate; the binders as good; the stereotypers, machine-minders and newspaper packers as fair. Branches with 1,364 members have 99 (or 7·3 per cent.) unemployed, compared with 85 (or 6·3 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April.

**Miscellaneous.**—The bottlemakers, general labourers and dockers report employment as good; the coal labourers, ropemakers, saddlers, brushmakers, and stationary engine-drivers as fair.—J. P. Nannetti.

**Belfast and District.**

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Societies with 8,565 members, have 102 (or 1·2 per cent.) unemployed, the same percentage of their membership as at the end of April. The sailmakers report employment as bad; blacksmiths and strikers as moderate; pattern-makers as steady; carpenters and joiners, engineers, furnishing trades, brass moulders, enginemen, cranimen, and firemen as fair; boilermakers and iron shipbuilders, drillers and hole cutters, machine workers, iron moulders, tin-plate workers, and shipwrights as good.

**Linen Trades.**—Branches with 4,043 members have 73 (or 1·8 per cent.) unemployed, as against 98 (or 2·5 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The powerloom tenters report employment as middling; the flax dressers, flax roughers, yarn bundlers, and women workers as fair; the beetling enginemen, hackle and gill makers, linen lappers and yarn dressers as good.

**Building Trades.**—Societies with 2,206 members have 55 (or 2·5 per cent.) unemployed, as against 43 (or 2·0 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The plumbers report employment as quiet; bricklayers, and carpenters and joiners as fair; hodsmen and painters as good.

**Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.**—Societies with 818 members have 20 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed as against 15 (or 1·9 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The mill-sawyers and coopers return employment as dull; the cabinet-makers, upholsterers, French polishers, coach-builders, and packing case makers as good.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Societies with 953 members have 73 (or 7·7 per cent.) unemployed as against 68 (or 7·1 per cent.) of their membership) at the end of April. The lithographic printers

report employment as bad; letterpress printers as dull; bookbinders as moderate; lithographic artists as good.

**Clothing Trades.**—The tailors and the hand-sewn boot and shoemakers report employment as good; the boot and shoe operatives as middling.

**Miscellaneous.**—Branches with 1,853 members have 45 (or 2·4 per cent.) unemployed, as against 47 (or 2·7 per cent. of their membership) at the end of April. The municipal employees, butchers, bakers, and carters report employment as fair; the locomotive engine-drivers, railway workers, and paviors as good.—R. Sheldon.

**Cork and District.**

**Shipbuilding and Engineering.**—Boilermakers and shipwrights report employment as fair. All branches of the engineering trade show a decline in Cork, Limerick, and Waterford.

**Building and Woodworking.**—Coach-makers, plumbers, gasfitters, and painters report employment as fair; other branches as quiet.

**Textile and Clothing Trades.**—Employment is fair with the flax and tweed operatives at Blarney, Millfield, and Douglas, and with bespoke tailors and general clothiers.

**Printing and allied Trades.**—Letterpress printers, lithographers and bookbinders report employment as fair.

**Miscellaneous.**—Stationary enginemen, railway and tramway employees report employment as good; corporation and gasworkers as fair; quay labourers and coalporters as dull.—P. O'Shea.

## WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May 588 fresh applications for work were registered by the eight bureaux (see LABOUR GAZETTE, February, 1899, p. 36) furnishing returns and 894 offers of situations were made by employers; work was found for 175 persons, of whom 104 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers and mothers' helps).

The returns for the London Girls' Friendly Society business agency (by correspondence only) and the Liverpool, Manchester and Edinburgh Bureaux are for the present grouped together in the following table, which shows the work done by the eight bureaux during May:—

## WORK DONE IN MAY.

	No. of Fresh Situations offered by Employers.	No. of Fresh Applications of Workpeople seeking Situations.	No. of Workpeople engaged by Employers.
<b>Summary by Bureaux.</b>			
Central Bureau—			
66, Chancery-lane ... ..	45	60	14
Society for Promoting Training and Employment—			
22, Berners-street ... ..	23	57	18*
Y. W. C. A.—			
26, George-street (1) ... ..	617	351	104
Hanover-square (2) ... ..	173	61	26
Other Bureaux ... ..	36	59	13
Total of 8 Bureaux ... ..	894	588	175
Total in April ... ..	837	602	163
<b>Summary by Occupations.</b>			
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc....	28	80	11
Shop Assistants ... ..	6	9	3
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc. ... ..	154	50	20
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists ... ..	25	53	19
Apprentices and Learners ... ..	14	4	4
Domestic Servants ... ..	617	283	104
Miscellaneous ... ..	50	129	14
Total Number in May ... ..	894	588	175
Total Number in April ... ..	837	602	163

The demand for dressmakers and milliners was nearly as great as in April, and the supply showed no increase; in this group 154 situations were offered, compared with 187 in April; 30 workpeople applied for such work, compared with 31 in April.

**Inspectors of Factories.**—Appointment.—Miss Mabel M. Vines, of 22, Harrington-square, N.W., has been appointed Lady Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

\* In addition to 20 temporary engagements of waitresses in private houses.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN MAY, 1899.

(Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions and other parties concerned.)

Summary.—The changes in rates of wages reported during May were all increases and affected about 209,600 workpeople, and the net effect of all the changes on the weekly wages of those affected was an increase of about 4 1/2d. per head.

Increases.—The principal increases were those of 1 1/4 per cent. under sliding scale to 125,000 coal miners in South Wales and Monmouthshire, of 2 1/2 per cent. to 60,000 weavers, winders and warpers in North and North-East Lancashire, and of 2 1/2 per cent. or 3d. per ton to 3,500 millmen and puddlers in the West of Scotland.

Methods of Arrangement.—Changes affecting about 3,300 workpeople were preceded by disputes, causing stoppage of work. Changes affecting about 129,700 workpeople were arranged under sliding scales, and the remaining changes, affecting about 76,600 workpeople, were arranged by direct negotiation between employers and workpeople, or were conceded voluntarily by the employers.

Summary for First Five Months of 1899.—For the five months, January to May, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) reported as having received advances or sustained decreases is about 859,000. Of these, 856,750 obtained a net average increase of 1s. 0 1/2d. per head, and 2,250 a net average decrease of 1s. 5d. per head. The general effect of all the changes was a rise of 1s. 0 1/2d. per week in the wages of the 859,000 affected.

NOTE.—It will be understood that increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c., are not recorded here. The same remark applies to the changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for the summer and winter weeks. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of Wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in full week. Includes sections for Building Trades, Mining and Quarrying Trades, Iron and Steel Trades, Engineering and Shipbuilding Trades, and Textile Trades.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade, the weekly rate given in the table is the result of averaging the wages for the summer and winter weeks. ‡ See also under Changes in Hours of Labour.

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

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate Number of workpeople affected by, Particulars of Change, Estimated Rate of wages in a full week, Increase or Decrease in a full week.

Table with columns: Port, Voyage, Occupation, No. shipped at new Rate during May, Particulars of Change, Monthly Rates.

Marine Engineers, North-East Coast.—At a meeting of the North-East Coast of England Marine Engineers' Conciliation Board, at Sunderland, on 2nd May, an agreement was made for an advance of 10s. per month to chief and second engineers, of 5s. per month to third and fourth engineers on foreign-going steamers, and of 2s. 6d. per week to engineers on home and coasting steamers.

Lasters and Finishers, Northampton.—The employers have decided to supply kit to all day workers. This will mean a slight increase in their net earnings.

ACCIDENTS TO RAILWAY SERVANTS IN 1898.\*

In 1898 there were 504 servants of railway companies and contractors reported as killed, and 4,149 reported as injured by accidents to trains or other accidents connected with the running of trains or the movement of railway vehicles.

The following table gives the numbers of the principal grades of railway servants killed and injured by these two classes of accident in 1898, the numbers of persons

\* See Railway Accidents—Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the year ending December 31st, 1898 [C.—9260]. Price 3s. 0d.

of each grade employed at December 31st, 1895, being added in a separate column:—

Table with columns: Nature of employment, Number of persons in 1898 killed or injured, Number of persons employed at 31st Dec. 1895.

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR REPORTED IN MAY, 1899.

THE changes in hours of labour reported during May affected 2,285 workpeople, whose hours were reduced on an average by 4.13 hours per week. The changes were all decreases.

Table with columns: Locality, Occupation, Date from which change takes effect in 1899, Approximate number of workpeople directly affected, Hours of labour in a full week, Extent of decrease per week.

\* Exclusive of overtime. † Where the winter and summer hours are known to differ in any trade the weekly hours given in the table are the result of averaging the hours for five summer weeks and two winter weeks.

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS.

The following table shows the number of cases of poisoning and anthrax reported as having occurred in factories and workshops during May. Of the 113 cases of lead poisoning reported only 18 affected females, as compared with 49 out of 98 cases in May, 1898.

Table with columns: Disease and Industry, Adults, Young Persons, Children, Total, Grand Total.

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from 1,194 co-operative retail distributive societies in the United Kingdom, with a total membership of 1,458,943, show total sales for the first quarter of 1899 amounting to £10,370,946, as compared with £9,862,075 in the corresponding period of 1898.

Of these societies, 833 show an increase, 355 a decrease, and 6 the same amount as last year, the net increase being £508,871, or 5.2 per cent.

Returns from three of the four wholesale Federations for the same period show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £4,311,066, as compared with £4,054,863 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 6.3 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish wholesale societies amounted to £778,384, compared with £648,986 in the corresponding period of 1898, an increase of 19.9 per cent.

Thirty-seven societies in England and Wales reported the opening of 53 new branches and departments, and 7 societies in Scotland reported 12 new branches and departments during the quarter.

The following table based upon reports and balance sheets supplied direct to the Department, shows the progress in trade of the wholesale and retail distributive societies, grouped by districts:—

Table with columns: Description of Societies and Districts, Societies making Returns, Sales of Societies making Returns, Increase in 1899 compared with 1898.

Table with columns: Wholesale Societies, Description of Societies and Districts, Sales of Societies making Returns, Increase in 1899 compared with 1898.

\* Number and Membership of federated societies. † Transfers from manufacturing to distributive departments.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGERS' CERTIFICATES.

Durham District.—An examination for Certificates of Competency as Manager or Under-Manager of a Mine will be held on July 27th and 28th, 1899. Intending candidates should communicate on or before July 22nd, with the secretary to the Examination Board, Mr. G. W. Bartlett, Red Hall, Darlington.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN MAY.

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

THE total number of workpeople reported as killed by accidents during May was 455, or 51 less than in April, and 185 more than in May, 1898.

In the first group of industries shown in the following table, including railways, mines, quarries, shipping, and factories, and employing 5,304,410 persons (according to the latest available figures), 437 persons were killed, and 6,738 reported injured by accidents in May, as compared with 253 killed and 5,190 reported injured in May, 1898. These figures give one death in May, 1899, for every 12,138 persons employed in those industries. During the five completed months of 1899, 1,989 persons were reported killed and 34,083 injured, as against 1,572 reported killed and 25,444 injured in the corresponding period of 1898.

In the remaining occupations included in the tables, 18 persons were reported killed, and 967 injured, as compared with 17 reported killed and 612 injured in May, 1898.

SUMMARY TABLE.

Summary table with columns for Killed and Injured (May 1899, May 1898) and Number Employed according to latest Returns. Rows include Railway Service, Mines, Quarries, Shipping, Factories, Workshops, and Under Notice of Accidents Act.

DETAILED TABLE.

Detailed table with columns for Killed and Injured (By Accidents connected with Movement of Vehicles, By other accidents on the Companies' Premises, Total). Rows include Railway Service, Under Factory Act, and Under Notice of Accidents Act.

Table for Mines with columns for Underground, Surface, and Total. Rows include Explosions of Firedamp, Falls of ground, In shafts, and Miscellaneous.

Table for Quarries over 20 feet deep with columns for Inside, Outside, and Total. Rows include Explosives or Blasting, Falls of ground, During ascent or descent, and Miscellaneous.

Table for Shipping with columns for Killed and Injured (By Wreck or Casualty, By Other Accidents, Total). Rows include On Trading Vessels, On Fishing Vessels, and Total for May 1899.

Table for Factories with columns for Males, Females, and Total. Rows include (a) Accidents reportable by Certifying Surgeons, (b) Other Accidents, Total Factories, and Workshops.

Table for Factories & Workshops (classified by trades) with columns for Males, Females, and Total. Rows include Textiles, Non-Textiles, and Total May 1899.

Table for Under Factory Act, 1898, with columns for Killed and Injured. Rows include Docks, Wharves and Quays, Warehouses, Buildings to which Act applies, and Laundries.

Table for Under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894, with columns for Construction or repair, Use or Working, and Total. Rows include Bridge, Canal, Railway, Tramroad, Tramway, Tunnel, and Traction Engines.

\* The figures relate to seamen who have been reported during the month to have been killed or injured by accidents at sea, or in rivers and harbours, whilst they were members of the crews of sea-going vessels (except yachts) registered in the British Islands under Part I. of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.

LABOUR BUREAUX IN MAY.

DURING May, 1,618 fresh applications for work were received by the 10 bureaux furnishing returns, as compared with 1,566 in May, 1898. Work was found by the bureaux for 946 persons, an increase of 93 as compared with a year ago.

The number remaining on the registers at the end of May, 1899, was 1,331, as compared with 1,389 a year ago.

(I.) Work done in May.

Table for Labour Bureaux with columns for Name of Labour Bureau, No. of Fresh Applications, No. of Situations offered, No. of Workpeople found, and Engaged by Private Employers/Local Authorities. Rows include London, Provincial, and Total of 10 bureaux.

(II.) Employments found for Workpeople during May, 1899.

Table for Employments found for Workpeople during May, 1899, with columns for Engaged by Private Employers, Engaged by Local Authorities, Engaged by Salvation Army Authorities, and Grand Total. Rows include Men, Women and Girls, and Grand Total.

(III.) Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month.

Table for Usual Occupations of Workpeople on Registers at end of Month, with columns for Occupation, No. on Register at end of May 1899, and May 1898. Rows include Men, Women and Girls, and Grand Total.

PAUPERISM IN MAY.

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

THE number of persons relieved in 35 selected urban districts of the United Kingdom on one day in the second week of May was 323,064. This corresponds to a rate of 202 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1899.

Compared with April, 1899, the total number relieved in the 35 districts has fallen off by 7,674, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 5. All the districts shared in this decrease with the exception of the Barnsley, Coatbridge and Airdrie, and Dublin districts, where small increases are shown, and Hull, and North Staffordshire, where the rate per 10,000 is unchanged.

The most marked decreases are in the Central London District (23 per 10,000), Galway (11), West London (9), and East London (8). Compared with May, 1898, the number relieved has decreased by 5,995, and the rate per 10,000 of population by 6.

Table for Paupers on one day in second week of May, 1899, with columns for Selected Urban Districts, In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, and Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with A month ago and A year ago.

Table for ENGLAND & WALES with columns for Districts, In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, and Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with A month ago and A year ago. Rows include Metropolis, West Ham, and Other Districts.

Table for SCOTLAND with columns for Districts, In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, and Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with A month ago and A year ago. Rows include Glasgow, Paisley & Greenock, and Dundee & Dunfermline.

Table for IRELAND with columns for Districts, In-door, Out-door, Total, Rate per 10,000 of estimated Population, and Increase (+) or decrease (-) in rate per 10,000 of population as compared with A month ago and A year ago. Rows include Dublin, Belfast, and Galway.

\* 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 all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople and those which lasted less than one day have been omitted, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 working days.

Number and Magnitude.—Ninety-four fresh disputes were reported as having begun in May, 1899, compared with 63 in April, and 56 in May, 1898. In these 94 disputes 17,298 workpeople were directly affected and 6,279 indirectly affected, a total of 23,577, compared with 13,741 in April, and 9,718 in May, 1898.

Trades Affected.—In the building trades 48 disputes took place, involving 9,122 workpeople; mining and quarrying, 9 disputes, involving 5,334 workpeople; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, 10 disputes, involving 2,908 workpeople; textile trades, 8 disputes, involving 3,425 workpeople; clothing trades, 3 disputes, involving 71 workpeople; transport trades, 4 disputes, involving 2,040 workpeople; woodworking and furnishing trades, 4 disputes, involving 247 workpeople; brick, glass, pottery, chemical, etc., trades, 5 disputes, involving 330 workpeople; and in other industries, 3 disputes, involving 100 workpeople.

Causes.—Of the 94 new disputes, 62 arose chiefly on wages questions, 9 on questions of the employment of particular classes or persons, 9 on matters of working arrangements, 8 in sympathy with other disputes, and 6 from other causes.

Results.—Sixty-three new disputes, involving 17,255 workpeople, and 20 old disputes, involving 6,318 workpeople, were reported as having terminated. Of the 83 new and old disputes terminated, 26, involving 7,129 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople, 27, involving 9,274 persons, in favour of the employers; 28, involving 6,984 persons, resulted in a compromise; while in the case of the remaining 2 disputes, involving 186 workpeople, the points in dispute were still under consideration. At the end of May, 18 old disputes were reported to be unsettled, involving altogether about 4,000 workpeople.

Duration of Disputes in Working Days.—The total duration in May of all the disputes, new and old, was about 350,000 working days, compared with 230,000 in April, and 2,840,000 in May, 1898.

Summary for the First Five Months of 1899.—For the five completed months of 1899 the aggregate number of workpeople involved in the 323 disputes which commenced in those months was 62,783, as compared with 157,178 in the 234 disputes reported in the corresponding period of 1898. The total aggregate duration in working days was about 1,100,000, as compared with 6,870,000 for the corresponding period of 1898, which included the South Wales dispute.

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly/Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY, 1899.

Main table for page 188, detailing 48 building trades disputes. Includes columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by the dispute, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons. † For further particulars see p. 163.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table with 6 columns: Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected (Directly/Indirectly), Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, Result.

I.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN IN MAY, 1899.—continued.

Table for page 189, detailing 9 building trades disputes. Includes columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

Table for page 189, detailing 9 mining and quarrying disputes. Includes columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

Table for page 189, detailing 10 metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades disputes. Includes columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

Table for page 189, detailing 8 textile trades disputes. Includes columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

Table for page 189, detailing 3 clothing trades disputes. Includes columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by the dispute, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

TRADE DISPUTES—(continued).

Table of Trade Disputes (continued) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result. Includes sections for TRANSPORT TRADES, FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES, BRICK, GLASS, POTTERY, CHEMICALS, & C., and OTHER TRADES.

II.—DISPUTES WHICH BEGAN BEFORE MAY, 1899, AND TERMINATED IN THAT MONTH.

Table of Trade Disputes (II) with columns for Locality, Occupation, Number of Workpeople affected, Date when Dispute began, Duration of Dispute in Working Days, Alleged Cause or Object, and Result. Includes sections for BUILDING TRADES, MINING AND QUARRYING, METAL, ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING, and OTHER TRADES.

\* The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e., thrown out of work at the establishments affected by the dispute, but not themselves on strike or locked-out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

INTERNATIONAL MINERS' CONGRESS.\*

THE Tenth International Congress of Miners met in Brussels on May 22nd. Forty-seven delegates from Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Belgium,

\*from information supplied by Sir F. R. Plunkett, H.M. Minister at Brussels.

and France, representing altogether nearly a million and a half miners, took part in the proceedings. The subjects discussed included the present dispute in Belgium, the eight hours day, employers' liability, the minimum wage, old age pensions, mine inspection, and the nationalisation of mines.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

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

The trade returns for the month of May last show an increase as compared with the corresponding month of 1898 in the value of the imports from foreign countries and British possessions, and also in the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures, and foreign and colonial merchandise.

The imports for May, 1899, are valued at £40,876,828, an increase of £3,170,450 (or 8.4 per cent.), and the exports amounted in value to £28,777,036, as against £22,997,888 in 1898, an increase of £5,779,148 (or 25.1 per cent.) This increase, however, it should be observed, includes the value of new ships, viz., £1,974,982, this being the first year for which these exports are shown. Exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted to £23,030,240, an increase of £5,138,886 (or 28.7 per cent.), and foreign and colonial merchandise exported amounted in value to £5,746,796, an increase of £640,262 (or 12.5 per cent.) as compared with May, 1898.

Imports.—The following table shows the value of the imports for May, 1899, as compared with May, 1898, according to the different categories of merchandise, and the increase or decrease in each case:—

Table showing the value of imports for May 1898 and May 1899, categorized by goods such as Food, Drink and Tobacco, Metals, Chemicals, Dyestuffs, and Tanning Substances, Oils, Raw Materials for Manufactures, Manufactured and Miscellaneous Articles, and Total.

The increase in articles of food and drink is caused chiefly by larger importations of beef, mutton, pork, butter, margarine, cheese, eggs, fish, rice, sugar, cocoa, and tea. In cereals there is a considerable falling off in values, amounting, in the case of wheat, to as much as £1,033,706, as compared with May, 1898, although there is an increase in the quantity of this article of 436,850 cwt.

Exports.—As regards the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures for the month, the following table shows the values for May, 1899, as compared with May, 1898, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:—

Table showing the value of exports for May 1898 and May 1899, categorized by goods such as Animals living, Articles of Food and Drink, Raw Materials, Articles Manufactured and Partly Manufactured, Yarns and Textile Fabrics, Metals, and Articles Manufactured therefrom (except Machinery and Ships), Ships, new (not registered as British), Miscellaneous, and Total.

The value of coal, coke and fuel shipped in May, 1899, was £689,544 in excess of the corresponding month of the previous year; of cotton piece goods £384,015; linen piece goods £56,933; and of woollen and worsted tissues £54,348. The value of iron, wrought and unwrought, increased by £660,242, and copper by £107,990.

In the five months ended May 31st, 1899, the imports into the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions were valued at £198,403,349, as compared with £196,987,003 for a similar period of 1898, and the exports of British and Irish produce and manufactures amounted in value to £104,541,727 (including £4,691,636, the value of new ships not registered as British and not included prior to 1899), as compared with £93,094,483 for the five months ended May 31st, 1898. The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise for the five months amounted in value to £27,956,101, as compared with £26,356,559 in 1898.

Tonnage of Vessels entered and cleared with cargoes.—The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions during May, 1899, amounted to 3,097,422 tons, and the tonnage cleared in the foreign trade to 3,893,794 tons, as compared with 2,716,653 tons entered and 3,142,128 tons cleared in May, 1898. As regards the coasting trade, the tonnage entered during May, 1899, was 2,676,968 tons, and the tonnage cleared 2,643,807 tons, as against 2,579,433 tons and 2,527,336 tons respectively in May, 1898.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during May was 24,859, as compared with 16,140 in May, 1898.

British and Irish.—Of the 24,859 passengers, 15,571 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 4,430 as compared with a year ago, almost entirely due to a considerable increase in the numbers bound for the United States, the figures for May 1899 and 1898 being respectively 11,484 and 6,689. On the other hand, the number of those going to British North America shows a falling off of 310. For the five months ended May 31st there is an increase compared with the corresponding period of 1898. The following table gives the figures in detail:—

Table showing the number of passengers for May 1899 and May 1898, categorized by Destination (United States, British North America, Australasia, South Africa, Other places) and Total.

Foreign.—The remainder of the 24,859 passengers in May, viz., 9,288, were foreigners, or persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being an increase of 4,289 as compared with May, 1898, this being also chiefly due to an increase in the number bound for the United States.

Alien Immigration.—The number of aliens that arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent during May was 12,124. Of these, 5,861 were stated to be en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 2,638 as compared with May, 1898. Those not stated to be on their way to America or other places out of the United Kingdom numbered 6,263 (including 1,176 sailors), or 658 more than a year ago. The figures for May, 1899 and 1898, and also for the five months ended May in each year, are as follows:—

Table showing the number of alien immigrants for May 1899 and May 1898, categorized by Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, Aliens en route to America or other places out of the United Kingdom, and Total.

MISCELLANEOUS TRADE NOTES.

Cotton Statistics.—The following table shows the number of bales of cotton imported, forwarded from ports to inland towns, and exported during the month of May, and the five completed months of the year 1899, with comparative figures for 1898:—

Table showing cotton statistics for May 1899 and May 1898, categorized by Imported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, and Exported.

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 21 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended June 3rd amounted to £6,843,034, an increase of £391,186 (or 6.1 per cent.) over the corresponding period of 1898. The receipts from passenger traffic were £3,239,476, an increase of £156,982, and those from goods and mineral traffic £3,603,558, an increase of £234,204.

\* These figures are inclusive of sailors, to the number of 1,176 in May, 1899; 1,317 in May, 1898; and 5,846 and 5,274 respectively for the five months ended May in each year.



**Fishery Statistics.**—The total value of the fish (including shell fish) landed on the coasts of the United Kingdom during May was £745,332, a decrease of £7,128, as compared with May, 1898. In England and Wales there was a decrease of £4,093, in Scotland of £10,139, and in Ireland an increase of £7,104.

**Bankruptcies.**—The bankruptcies gazetted during May numbered 311, being 74 less than in May, 1898, 15 more than in May, 1897, and 37 less than in May, 1896.

**INDUSTRIAL PROSECUTIONS IN MAY.**

**I.—Under Factory and Workshop Acts.**

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Cases taken.	Con- victions	Amount of Penalties.	Amount of Costs.
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>				
Neglecting to Limewash ...	3	3	£ 1 11 0	£ 0 19 6
Allowing Factory or Workshop to be over-crowded ...	1	1	1 0 0	0 0 10
Neglecting to provide suitable washing conveniences for workers where lead is used...	1	1	1 0 0	0 2 0
Neglecting to Fence Machinery ...	13	13	25 1 0	6 4 8
Employing Young Persons without necessary Certificates ...	39	37	30 13 6	14 3 11
<b>Illegal Hours or Times of Employment—</b>				
Before or after the legal hour ...	104	102	44 5 6	30 19 7
During meal times, or without proper intervals for meals ...	46	42	22 5 0	17 19 7
Beyond legal hour on Saturday or day substituted ...	16	16	5 1 6	4 4 6
On Sundays or holidays, or children on successive Saturdays... ..	3	3	0 5 0	0 14 0
At night ... ..	31	19	15 12 0	11 4 10
Employing children full time, otherwise than in morning and afternoon sets, &c. In factory or workshop, and in shop beyond total legal period ... ..	2	2	1 0 0	1 2 6
Neglecting Rules as to Registers, Abstracts, Notices, &c.—	3	3	6 0 0	1 7 0
Not keeping Registers ... ..	30	28	22 1 0	7 4 11
Not affixing or properly filling up Notices and Abstracts ... ..	6	6	1 15 0	1 19 0
Not sending Notices required by Act ...	4	3	3 0 0	1 2 4
Failure to send correct Annual Return ...	17	16	8 8 0	6 0 9
Not supplying sufficient or correct particulars Prosecutions for Breach of (or not affixing) Special Rules ... ..	4	4	4 0 0	3 6 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts ... ..	2	2	1 0 0	0 15 0
Prosecutions under Truck Acts ... ..	2	2	1 0 0	0 9 0
<b>By Parents:—</b>				
Allowing children to be illegally employed ...	1	1	0 0 6	0 9 6
<b>Total for May, 1899</b> ... ..	<b>328</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>194 19 0</b>	<b>110 9 5</b>
<b>Total for May, 1898</b> ... ..	<b>390</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>266 15 0</b>	<b>167 0 2</b>

**II.—Under Mines and Quarries Acts.**

(Supplied by the Home Office.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Con- victions.	Cases with- drawn.	Cases dis- missed.	Amount of Fines and Costs.
<b>UNDER THE MINES ACTS.</b>					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					
Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children ...	1	1	—	—	£ 0 10 0
Fencing ... ..	2	2	—	—	6 15 0
Shafts and Man-holes... ..	1	—	—	1	—
Miscellaneous ... ..	1	1	—	—	1 10 0
<b>By Workmen:—</b>					
Safety Lamps ... ..	4	4	—	—	5 12 0
Shot-firing and Explosives ...	1	1	—	—	1 9 0
Timbering ... ..	1	1	—	—	1 7 6
Lucifer Matches, Smoking, &c	3	3	—	—	2 14 0
Riding on Trams ... ..	12	12	—	—	14 10 0
Miscellaneous ... ..	11	9*	—	2†	8 11 6
<b>Total for May, 1899</b> ... ..	<b>37</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42 19 0</b>
<b>Total for May, 1898</b> ... ..	<b>62</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>67 10 4</b>
<b>UNDER THE QUARRIES ACT.</b>					
<b>By Owners, Managers, &amp;c.:</b>					
Fencing ... ..	1	1	—	—	£ 5 12 0
<b>Total for May, 1899</b> ... ..	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5 12 0</b>
<b>Total for May, 1898</b> ... ..	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7 10 2</b>

**III.—Under Merchant Shipping Acts.**

(Supplied by the Solicitors' Department, Board of Trade.)

Nature of Offence.	Prosecu- tions.	Convic- tions.	Total Penalties.	Total Costs.
<b>By Owners or Masters of Ships:—</b>				
Submerging Disc ... ..	1	1	£ 9 11 0	£ 10 9 0
Carrying excessive Deck Cargoes ...	1	1	5 0 0	2 16 10
<b>Total for May, 1899</b> ... ..	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14 11 0</b>	<b>13 5 10</b>
<b>Total for May, 1898</b> ... ..	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25 0 0</b>	<b>7 13 2</b>

One of these offenders merely admonished. † On payment of costs.

**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 6 Trade Unions, 6 Co-operative Societies for Distribution, 7 Co-operative Associations for Production, 2 Miscellaneous Industrial and Provident Societies, 1 Building Society, 26 new Friendly Societies, and 51 branches of existing Friendly Societies, were added to the Register of the United Kingdom during May. Three Trade Unions, 6 Industrial and Provident Societies, 23 Building Societies, and 33 Friendly Societies (including 17 branches) are reported to have ceased to exist, to have commenced "winding-up," or to have had registration cancelled.

**ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED.**

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Monmouthshire and South Welsh Iron and Steel Workers' Union, 10, Clapham-terrace, Blaenavon; Miners' Protection Society (Branch of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain) for parts of Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire Districts, Clent View, Olive-lane, Halesowen; Batley Order of the Amalgamated Builders' Labourers' Union of Great Britain and Ireland, Forster's Arms Inn, Up-lane, Commercial-street, Batley; National Union of Boot and Shoe Clickers, Pressmen and Machinists, 25, Goldsmith-row, Hackney-road, N.E.; Amalgamated Union of Engine Drivers, Crane Drivers and Boiler Attendants, Wheat-sheaf Hotel, Market-street, Wolverhampton. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Dublin Silver Plate Workers' Society, Trades Hall, Capel-street, Dublin.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—(A) *Associations for Distribution.*—*England and Wales.*—Pontypridd Co-op. Soc. Ltd., Pontypridd; Exmouth Ind. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 33, Albion-street, Exmouth; Cobridge Ind. Prov. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 124, Cobridge-road, Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent; Maidenhead Ind. Co-op. Soc. Ltd., 13, Queen-street, Maidenhead. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Clonroche Co-op. Farmers' Soc., Ltd., Clonroche, Wexford; County Meath Agric. Soc., Ltd., Navan, Meath. (B) *Associations for Production.*—*England and Wales.*—Muskham Co-op. Agricultural Soc., Ltd., North Muskham, Newark; Maison Espérance, Ltd., 153, Great Portland-street, W.; Tyneside Associated Builders, Ltd., 26, Marian-street, Gateshead; Plymouth Printers, Ltd., 9, Oxford-avenue, Mutly, Plymouth. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—Upper Church Co-op. Agricultural and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Upper Church, Tipperary; County Monaghan Central Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Dernaghy, Dooham-let, Castleblayney, Monaghan; Fuerty Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Castlecoote, Roscommon. (C) *Miscellaneous.*—*England and Wales.*—Wollaston Working Men's Club and Institute, Ltd., Club House, London-road, Wollaston, Wellingborough. *Scotland.*—Kelty Public House Soc., Ltd., Kelty. *Ireland.*—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—(A) *New Friendly Societies.*—*England and Wales.*—Ordinary Friendly, 7; Dividing, 10; Specially authorised, 3; Working Men's Clubs, 3. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1. *Ireland.*—Specially authorised, 1. (B) *New Branches of Existing Societies.*—*England and Wales.* 30. *Scotland.*—18. *Ireland.*—3.

**Building Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—1. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**ORGANISATIONS DISSOLVED.**

**Trade Unions.**—*England and Wales.*—Amal. Soc. of Screw Makers, The Criterion, Hurst-street, Birmingham; Garw Miners' Assoc., Llanharra Hotel, Pontycymmer, Glam.; Monmouthshire and South Wales District Miners' Assoc., 5, Synagogue-terrace, Treforest, Glam. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Industrial and Provident Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—Registry cancelled by request: Midsomer Norton District Supply Association, Ltd., Market-place, Midsomer Norton; Spondon Working Men's Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Spondon. Liquidators Return of Final Meeting received: Mold Co-op. Soc., Ltd., 79, High-street, Mold. Copy of Resolution to Wind-up received: Lower Lydbrook Co-op. and Ind. Soc., Ltd., Lower Lydbrook, Glos.; Manchester Matmakers' Soc., Ltd., 418, Oldham-road, Newton Heath, Manchester; Thornton Hough Ind. Co-op. Trading Soc., Ltd., Thornton Hough, Cheshire. *Scotland.*—None. *Ireland.*—None.

**Friendly Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution: Ordinary Friendly, 6; Female, 3; Branches, 1. Registration cancelled: Ordinary Friendly, 2; Dividing, 1; Working Men's Clubs, 1. Dissolved otherwise: Juvenile, 2; Branches, 16. *Scotland.*—Ordinary Friendly, 1. *Ireland.*—None.

**Building Societies.**—*England and Wales.*—By instrument of dissolution, 10; notice of commencement of dissolution, 3; notice of termination of dissolution, 8. *Scotland.*—By instrument of dissolution, 2. *Ireland.*—None.