LABOUR GAZETTE

THE JOURNAL OF THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE.

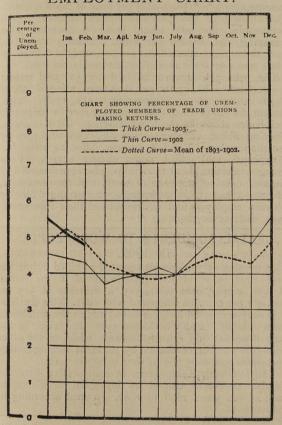
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MARCH, 1903.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

EMPLOYMENT CHART.



STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN FEBRUARY.

[Based on 3,129 returns, viz.: 2,031 from Employers, or their Associations, 1,063 from Workmen and Trade Unions, and 35 from other sources.]

The general state of employment in February was slightly better than in January, but continues rather worse than a year ago

worse than a year ago.

In the 225 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 549,843 making returns, 26,471 (or 4.8 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 5.1 per cent. in January, and 4.3 per cent. in the 217 unions, with a membership of 559,116, from which returns were received for February, 1902. The mean percentage of unemployed returned at the end of February during the past decade was 4.9.

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.—

Employment in various Industries.—Coal Mining.— Employment in the four weeks ended February 21st was good, but shows a slight decline as compared with a year ago. At collieries employing 499,862 workpeople, the pits worked on an average 5'28 days per week, as compared with 5'39 a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the pits for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.8 per cent. greater than a year ago.

a year ago.

Other Mining and Quarrying.—Iron miners continue well employed. In the 128 mines and open works covered by the returns received, 15,794 workpeople were

employed, the average number of days worked by the mines in the four weeks ended February 21st being 5.79, as compared with 5.74 in the corresponding period of 1902. The number of workpeople employed was slightly greater than either a month ago or a year ago. At shale mines employment was good during the month; in tin, lead and copper mines it was quiet; in stone, granite and clay quarries fairly good; in limestone and slate quarries good; with settmakers it has been fairly good in England, but only fair in Scotland.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry shows little change compared with a month ago, and is better than a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 114 ironmasters show that 328 furnaces, employing about 22,500 workpeople, were in blast at the end of February, as compared with 327 in January, and 320 in February,

Iron and Steel Manufacture.—Compared with a month ago, employment in this industry shows a slight improvement, but it is rather worse than a year ago. At 202 works covered by the returns, employing 74.574 workpeople in the week ended February 21st, the total volume of employment (taking into account both the number employed and the number of shifts worked) shows an increase of 3.8 per cent. compared with January, 1903, but a decrease of 2.1 per cent. compared with February, 1902.

Tinplate Manufacture.—Employment in this industry continues good and is better than a year ago. At the end of February 395 mills were working, an increase of 3 compared with a month ago, and of 9 compared with a year ago. The number of workpeople employed at the mills in operation is estimated to be about 19,700.

Engineering Trades.—Employment generally continues quiet, but on the whole shows no change as compared with a year ago. The percentage of unemployed members of Trade Unions was 5¹ at the end of February, as compared with 5⁶ in January, and 5¹ in February, 1902.

compared with 5.6 in January, and 5.1 in February, 1902.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment has slightly improved but is still bad and much worse than a year ago, especially on the North East Coast. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 10.4, as compared with 12.9 at the end of January, and 5.2 in February, 1902.

Building Trades.—Employment is dull. It is slightly better the second of the second

Building Trades.—Employment is dull. It is slightly better than in the previous month, but shows little change as compared with a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members among Carpenters and Joiners was 5:0 at the end of February, as compared with 6:4 in the previous month, and 6:2 in February, 1902. The percentage for Plumbers was 8:2 at the end of February, as compared with 6:7 in January, and 5:5 in February of last year.

February of last year.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades. — Employment although dull is better than a month ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 5.6, compared with 6.7 per cent. in January and 4.0 per cent. in February, 1902.

January, and 4.9 per cent. in February, 1902.

Employment in the *Printing* and *Bookbinding* trades has been quiet, and shows little change on the whole compared with a month ago and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 4.6, compared with 4.6 per cent. at the end of January, and 4.5 a year ago.

end of January, and 4.5 a year ago.

Employment in the Paper trades has continued good, and is about the same as a year ago.

The percentage

a year ago.

of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 2.0, as against 2.1 per cent. in January, and 2.0 a year ago.

Employment in the Glass trades continues bad generally. In the Pottery trades employment shows a marked improvement. In the Brick and Tile trades it

Employment in the Spinning branch of the Cotton trade continues good, and is about the same as last month and a year ago. In the Weaving branch it is fairly good generally; as compared with January it has slightly declined, but is rather better than a year ago. Information respecting cotton factories employing about 99,700 women and girls shows that 91 per cent. of those in spinning mills were working in mills giving full employment during the whole month, compared with 92 per cent. in January and in February, 1902. The corresponding percentage of full time for those employed in weaving factories was 82 per cent. during February, compared with 85 per cent. in January, and 79 per cent.

Employment in the Woollen trade, although still good on the whole, shows a decline in the heavy branch; it is better than a year ago. In the Worsted trade it is fairly good. Information respecting woollen and worsted factories employing about 29,000 women and girls shows that 84 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment, compared with 93 per cent. of those for whom returns were received in January, and 77 per cent. in February, 1902.

Employment in the *Hosiery* trade is fairly good. Employment in the *Flax* trade has improved and is good. In the Jute trade it continues good.

Leather Trades. - Employment generally continues slack, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6.8 at the end of February, as compared with 6.2 per cent. at the end of January, and 3.3 per cent. in February, 1902.

Employment in the Boot and Shoe trade is quiet generally, but better than in January or a year ago. Returns from firms employing over 69,000 workpeople show an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed at the end of February compared with a month ago, and of 3.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Of the total number, 76 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 69 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for January.

Employment in the bespoke branch of the Tailoring trade is dull. In the ready-made branch it is fairly good

generally, and better than a month ago.

Employment in the *Hat-making* trade is dull, but shows a slight improvement in some centres. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members at the end of February was 2.9, compared with 3.6 per cent. in January and 2.8 per cent. in February, 1902.

Agricultural Labourers were generally in full employ-

ment during February, the weather having been favourable on the whole. The supply of casual labourers is reported to have been sufficient in most districts. Some of these men lost a little time at the end of the month owing to wet weather.

Dock and Riverside Labour .- Employment with dock and riverside labour was generally dull, and in London it was bad. It was worse than in the previous month and in the corresponding month of last year. During the four weeks ended February 28th the number of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves in London averaged 12,373, compared with 13,079 in the preceding five weeks, and 14,696 in the corresponding period a year ago. The average number employed in February during the six years 1897-1902

Trade Disputes.—The total number of workpeople involved in disputes which began or were in progress during February, 1903, was 13,186, compared with 14,921 in January, 1903, and 10,015 in February, 1902. The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 191,900 working days, compared with 268,000 in the previous month, and 85,000 in the corresponding month of last year.

No new disputes of importance began in February. The fourteen that occurred involved only 3,658 workpeople, compared with 2,332 in January, 1903, and 6,950

Definite results were reported during the month in the case of 19 disputes, new and old, affecting 4,402 workpeople. Of these 19 disputes, 5, involving 496 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 11, involving 2,881 persons, in favour of the employers, and 3 involving 1,025 persons, were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes in rates of wages reported during February affected about 146,300 workpeople, of whom about 108,000 received advances and nearly 38,300 sustained decreases. The amount per head of the advances was, however, much less than that of the decreases, and the effect of all the changes was a net decrease averaging 11d. weekly per head of those affected. The changes of the previous month affected 23,400 workpeople, the net result being a decrease also averaging 1½d. weekly per head. During February, 1902, the number affected was 111,750, and the net weekly result was a decrease averaging 3d. weekly per head.

The principal advance affected 107,500 coal miners in Durham. The principal decreases affected about 16,700 workpeople in engineering works, boiler shops, etc., on the North-East Coast, and 20,650 in shipyards and boiler shops in the Clyde district. Two changes, affecting about 110,000 workpeople, were arranged by conciliation boards, and 2 changes, affecting about 650 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Four changes, affecting about 150 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting about 35,500 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage.

FATAL ACCIDENTS TO WORKPEOPLE IN 1902.

THE number of workpeople reported as killed during the year 1902 by accidents which occurred in the course of their employment was 4,313, a decrease of 313 (or nearly 7 per cent.) as compared with 1901. This decrease is mainly accounted for by a fall of 228 in the number of seamen killed. Fatal accidents were also fewer in the case of miners and railway servants, while, on the other hand, the number of deaths by accident among factory operatives rose from 769 in 1901 to 837 in 1902.

The following Table gives in comparative form the

number of deaths caused by industrial accidents in each of the years 1898 to 1902, grouped according to

Industry.	Number employed according	Total number of deaths from Industrial Accidents in						
	to latest returns.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.		
Shipping	239,690	1,598	1,839	1,889	1,722	1,494		
Mines:					0			
Underground Surface	681,384 174,829	806 135	851	931	978	929		
Surface	1/4,029	133						
Total Mines	856,213	941	972	1,050	1,131	1,047		
Quarries over 20 ft. deep*	94,188	134	117	127	98	119		
Railway Servicet	575,834	522	555	612	539	465		
Factories*	3.929,213	575	675	802	769	837		
Total for above In-	5,695,138	3,770	4,158	4,480	4,259	3,962		
Workshops		2	6	II	13	9		
Works under Secs. 103-5 of Factory and Work-	1 (- Consider		
shop Act, 1901	Cannot	150	190	232	253	261		
Railway Service (Con-	be					13.47		
tractors' Servants)	- stated -	20	29	19	26	19		
Under Notice of Accidents Act	10000	56	75	70	75	62		
Grand Total		3,998	4,458	4,812	4,626	4,313		

Of the total number of deaths in 1902, 3,962 occurred in connection with industries employing (according to the latest returns) 5,695,138 workpeople, the average deathrate by accidents for the year in these industries being

* In 1899, accidents in works for the manufacture of bricks, tiles, &c., situated outside quarries, were included among Factories instead of Quarries. The figures shown against "Quarries" and "Factories" for 1898 are, therefore, not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.
† Excluding contractors' servants, shown separately below.
† Up to and including 1901 these works came under Sections 22 and 23 of Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.

thus 70 per 100,000 persons employed, or about 6 per 100,000 less than in 1901. The precise number of workpeople employed in 1902 is not known, however, and the figures in the second column of the above Table relate to different periods. Those for mining relate to 1902; those for shipping, quarrying and railway service to 1901, and those for factories to 1898-9. The death-rate based upon these figures is therefore only approximate.

March, 1903.

AGRICULTURAL HIRINGS IN SCOTLAND FROM AUGUST TO DECEMBER, 1902.

INFORMATION has been received by the Department as to the rates of wages obtained by farm servants at the principal hiring fairs held in Scotland during the latter half of the year 1902.

The report states that in the majority of districts the wages of ploughmen showed no change. An advance took place in a few cases, however, while in several districts small reductions were made, chiefly in the case of young men shifting places. The rates of wages paid to women servants continue to show an upward tendency.

In the larger number of districts reported on, the supply of labour has been better than for several years, and it is stated that in many districts (mainly in the Northern Counties of Scotland) the supply of male farm servants was either quite ample or slightly in excess of the demand. Owing to some dulness in the building and distilling trades in the North, it is said that some men have, no doubt, gone over to the ranks of farm labourers; but speaking generally, any change in the relation between the supply of and demand for farm labourers arises more from a slackening in the pressure of farm work than from any substantial increase in the number of the labourers. There is, however, an increased scarcity of women both for outdoor and indoor work.

Married ploughmen are most generally paid £35 to £40 per annum, with certain allowances, such as a free use and garden, fuel, oatmeal, milk and potatoes; in many cases the money payments run from £45 to £50, with free house and garden, and perhaps an allowance of milk free, or at a low price.

Unmarried men generally get, in addition to board and lodgings, about £12 to £16 or £17 per half-year, especially good men sometimes getting a pound or two more. In some parts of the country, notably the counties of Berwick and Roxburgh and in the Lothians, unmarried men are paid wholly, or almost wholly, in money and find board and lodgings for themselves, most generally with married men employed on the same farm. In these cases the men get from 16s. to 18s. per week, sometimes with an allowance of potatoes.

In the Border counties some farmers adhere to the declining system of hiring their servants in "families" -that is, engaging a man and all the working members of his family—the father, a son or two, and perhaps also one or two grown-up daughters. In cases of this kind the head of the family gets a free house and garden, an allowance of fuel, and from about 900 to 1,800 yards of potato drills, with 16s. to 18s. per week in money. The young men in his family get about 15s. to 17s. per week, in some cases with potatoes. The women workers get 8s. to 11s. per week, with harvest allowance (20s. to 35s.). The system of a money wage is fast gaining ground in the Borders. The shepherds are seeking for this method of payment in preference to the old "pack" system (under which they are allowed to keep a certain number of sheep with those of their employers).

Throughout Scotland the wages of young lads range from £8 to £11 per half-year, according to age, with board and lodging in addition. Women (outworkers and byrewomen) get from £7 to £12, and house-workers from £6 to £11 per half-year with board and lodgings. Specially capable women in many cases get up to £13 per half-year.

Labour Co-partnership Association.

THE half-yearly meeting and conference of the Labour Co-partnership Association was held at Accrington on the 6th and 7th of March. An address upon working class co-operation was elivered by the Right Hon. Earl Spencer, and papers were read 'Combinations of Capital and Co-partnership," and on 'Municipal Enterprise and Labour.'

RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIA-TION ACT.

Letterpress Printers, Reading.

On May 30th, 1902, a dispute arose at the Reading works of Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, owing to the alleged employment of females in certain departments at less than the current rates of wages, when upwards of 100 machine minders, assistants, and warehousemen left their employment without notice. On June 5th the assistants and warehousemen employed by the same firm at their London office declined to work overtime, a number of jobbing hands failed to go to work that night, and the female folders declined to resume work the following morning.

The firm placed the matter in the hands of the Master Printers' and Allied Trades' Association, who, on June 9th, appointed a special committee with a view to a settlement of the dispute, it being mutually agreed between the parties that the hands should return to work, and that certain legal proceedings, which had been contemplated, should be dropped.

This committee presented its report on July 2nd, but as the Trade Unions concerned declined to accept the decisions arrived at, application was made to the Board of Trade by the Master Printers' Association, on July 4th, for the appointment of an arbitrator or a conciliator. Meantime overtures were being made to the firm by the Trade Unions with a view to a settlement by direct negotiation, but no arrangement was arrived at.

Accordingly, on July 24th, the Board of Trade appointed Mr. C. J. Drummond to act as conciliator, and after lengthy negotiations and several conferences between the parties, an agreement was arrived at on February 13th, 1903, for the payment of the following minimum rates at the Reading works :-

TRINIERS WAREHOUSEMEN.		
	Pe	er week
Warehousemen and Cutters		30s.
Assistant Warehousemen		245.
PRINTING MACHINE MINDERS.		
(Flat Machines only.)		
Minders sent from London on temporary job	s to	
have their railway fares paid and		38s.
Members of the London Machine Managers'	So-	,
ciety when permanently employed		35s.
PRINTERS' ASSISTANTS.		33
Men.		
Wharfedales any size	THILL	20S.
Overtime 6d. per hour.		100000
Double and fast-running flat machines		2IS.
Overtime 6d. per hour.		210.
Folding machines	200	245.
Overtime 7d. per hour.		245.
Women,		
Quad royal wharfedale and bar machines		18s.
Wharfedale machines of lesser size		16s.
Learners.		105.

Not to be more than 21 years of age, and not to exceed one-fifth of the adults.

It is also provided that no preference shall be given as between unionists and non-unionists, and that any question of interpretation shall be referred to an umpire appointed by the Board of Trade, whose decision shall

The agreement was signed by the Chairman of Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Limited, the respective secretaries of the Master Printers' and Allied Trades' Association, the Printers' Warehousemen and Cutters' Society, the London Printing Machine Managers' Society, the Operative Printers' Assistants' Society, and the Con-

Colliery Workpeople at Alfreton.

A dispute having arisen between the Blackwell Colliery Company, Limited, and the workmen employed at their Alfreton Colliery as to the price to be paid for getting the Deep Soft Seam, the parties agreed that the questions at issue should be referred to arbitration, and that in the event of the arbitrators failing to agree to a joint award, they should appoint an umpire, who would be empowered to decide between them, and make an award. The arbitrators so appointed, having entered into

the reference, but not having agreed upon the matters in dispute, applied to the Board of Trade to nominate an change, and the Northern Counties of Scotland, where it shows no change, and the Northern Counties of Scotland, where it has umpire to decide such matters.

The Board of Trade accordingly on January 17th, 1903, nominated Mr. T. Bell, late H.M. Inspector of Mines, to act as such umpire (see GAZETTE for February, p. 35); and on March 12th Mr. Bell made his award which determines in detail the price to be paid by the Company to the workmen for getting coal by hand holing from the seam in question, and the method of ascertaining the quantity of coal gotten, such award to come into operation from the first pay day after the date of the award.

Colliery Workpeople at Sutton Colliery.

In respect to the Sutton colliery, also belonging to the Blackwell Company, a dispute had arisen between the company and the workmen employed at this pit as to the whole of the "getting price" for coal got by hand, and also that got by coal cutting machinery in certain seams; and an agreement similar to that above mentioned was entered into between the parties. The arbitrators in this case also, having failed to agree to a joint award, requested the Board of Trade to nominate an umpire to decide the matters in dispute. The Board of Trade on January 21st, 1903, nominated Mr. T. Bell, late H.M. Inspector of Mines, to act as such umpire (see GAZETTE for February, p. 35); and on March 12th, 1903, Mr. Bell made his award, fixing the prices in dispute, this award to take effect from the next pay-day.

THE PRICE OF BREAD, WHEAT AND FLOUR.

In continuance of the record of variations in the price of bread, published periodically in the Labour Gazette, returns have again been collected from the principal Co-operative Societies in Great Britain, and Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs. on March 2nd, 1903.

BREAD.

(i.) Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 236 returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales and 126 from Scotland, and give the highest,

-0.00 ees		sent Pi Mar.,		q	uarter Dec., 1		Price a year ago. (3rd Mar., 1902.)		
District.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.	High- est.	Low- est.	Mean.
England and Wales.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire	61	41/2	5.57	61/2	41/2	5.58	6	41/2	5.57
Lancs. & Cheshire	6	4	5-11	6	4	5.10	6	4	5.08
N. Mid. Counties	51	4	4.56	51/2	4	4.54	5	4	4.50
W. do. do	54	41/2	5.00	51/2	4	4.94	51	42	4.92
S. do. do	51	4	4.64	51/2	4	4.64	5	4	4.50
Eastern Counties	51	5	5.14	51	5	5.10	51	5	5.04
London	51	5	5.23	51/2	5	5.23	51	5	5.05
S.E. Counties	6	5	5.43	6	5	5.40	51/2	5	5-29
S.W. Counties, Wales & Mon.	6	41/2	4-96	6	41/3	4.96	5	43	4.88
England and Wales	61	4	5.04	61/2	4	5-02	6	4	4.95
SCOTLAND.	1000	1			N. Irey	1 10 10	1999		3 152
	51	41	5-11	6	47	5-11	51	41/2	5.16
N. Counties Eastern Counties*	6	4	5.10	6	4	5.08	51	41	5.00
Lanarkshire	51	5	5.12	51	5	5-10	51	5	5.09
Other Southern	6	5	5.48	6	5	5-43	6	5	5-41
Counties	-	1	11 11 11 11 11	-		1000	-		P.45
Scotland	6	4	5.22	6	4	5-19	6	43	5-15
Great Britain	61	4	5-10	63	4	5.08	6	4	5.02

As compared with 1st December, the mean district prices for March show little change. For Great Britain the average mean price at 2nd March was 5 10d., as compared with 5.08d. three months ago. As compared with a year ago, the price has slightly risen in all the districts except

fallen slightly. The greatest rise is shown in London, but even here the average increase is less than a farthing

(ii.) Returns from Local Correspondents.

The returns furnished by Local Correspondents relate to London and 25 large Provincial Towns at the beginning of March and of each of the twelve preceding months. Though it is not possible to state that the quality of the bread referred to is in all cases the same, the figures for each place are believed to be, generally speaking, comparable over the whole period, and to represent the prices most usually paid by workpeople for ordinary household bread of average quality.

As compared with a month ago the price per 4 lbs. has remained unchanged in all the towns given in the

Vigerus and			190	02.			19	03.
Place.	ıst March.	ıst April.	5th May.	ıst July.*	ıst Sept.*	ıst Oct.	2nd Feb.*	and Mar.
Transaction of	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
London	31 & 4	3 2 & 42		42 & 5	42 & 5	42 & 5	41 & 5	42 & 5
Birmingham		41 & 51				42 & 52	& 5½	
Bolton	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bristol	41/2	42	5	5	5	5	5	5
Potteries	4	4	4	4	4	4	42	41
District								1
Cardiff	41/2	41/2	5	5	5	5	5	5
Derby	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Hudders-	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
field	4 & 5	1 4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5	4 & 5	4&	4 & 5	4 &
Hull	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Ipswich	41	41/2	41/2	41/2	41/2	41/2	41	41
Leicester			42	4	4	4	4	4
Liverpool	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Manchester	4		5	5	51	51	51	51
Middlesbro'	5	5		51	51/2	51/2	51	51
Newcastle-	5	5	51/2	23	22	22	1 32	1 32
on-Tyne	1 1000	1	1	0.89		5	5	5
Norwich	5	5	5	5	5 5	5	5	5
Nottingham		5	5	5		1 4	4	4
Oldham		41/2	41/2	41/2	41/2		5	5
Plymouth		5	5	5	5	5 5	5	5
Wolver'ptor		5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Aberdeen		5	5	5	5	5 5 1	51	51/2
Dundee		51/2	51	51	52			
Edinburgh	51/2	51/2	51/2	51/2	51/2	51/2	51	51/2
Glasgow		5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Belfast		41/2	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dublin	51	51/2	51	51/2	51	51/2	51/2	51

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

The imports of wheat from foreign countries and the colonies from 1st September, 1902, to 28th February, 1903, amounted to 39,866,819 cwts., compared with 32,215,520 cwts. in the corresponding six months of 1901-2. The imports of wheat-meal and flour amounted to 9,861,789 cwts., compared with 10,334,868 cwts. from 1st September, 1901, to 28th February, 1902. The Table below gives the mean London Gazette price of British wheat, and the average declared value of the wheat and flour imports, for each of the months January, 1902, to February,

1903.	1		Park L				
					British Wheat.	Imp	oorts.
					Mean London	Wheat.	Wheat-meal and Flour.
	Mon	th.			Gazette Price.	Average Declared Value.	Average Declared Value.
	1000		MAN N	14.	Per cwt.	Per cwt. s. d.	Per cwt, s. d.
							9 13
	•••		***	•••	6 34	6 84	9 0
February		***		***	6 514 6 334 6 6 634 7 314 7 214	6 91 6 81 6 91 6 51	9 31
March		***	***	***	6 34 6 64	6 5	9 0
Aprilt	***	•••	•••	***	7 34	6 112	9 2
May	***	•••	***	•••	7 24		9 41
June		***	***	***	7 3	6 93	9 4
July		***	***	***	7 11	6 73	9 21
August	***	***		•••	7 3 7 44 6 54 5 104	6 74 6 75 6 64	0 24
September		***	***		5 TO3	6 64	9 32 9 14
October			***			6 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99	9 21
November		***	***	•••	5 10 5 9 ³ / ₄	6 6 8	9 2 2 9 1 3 4
December			***			6 81	9 31
January, 1903		***	***	•••		6 11	9 32
February		•••		***	5 11	1) 0 11	9 28

^{*} No change was recorded in any of the towns at 2nd June, 5th August, 3rd ovember, 1st December, or at 1st January, 1903. † Import Duty commenced in this month.

The price per cwt. of British wheat in February (5s. 11d.) was lower by 4\frac{3}{4}d. than a year ago, but slightly higher than in any of the four months October, was in August, when it was 7s. 41d. The average declared value of wheat imported in February was 6s. 11d. per cwt., or higher than in any of the preceding 12 months, except in May, 1902, when the value was 6s. 11¹/₄d. The average declared value of imported wheat-meal and flour was 9s. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt., as compared with 9s. $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. in January, 1903, and 9s. od. in February,

RECENT PROGRESS IN CO-OPERATION.

RETURNS received from the four Co-operative Wholesale Federations in the United Kingdom for the fourth quarter of 1902, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £6,884,785, as compared with £6,437,708 in the corresponding period of 1901, an increase of £447,077, or 69 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of the year 1897 the sales show an increase of 50.6 per cent.

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £1,299,261, compared with £1,164,344 in the fourth quarter of 1901, an increase of £134,917, or 11.6 per cent., while compared with the corresponding quarter of 1897 an increase of 65.4 per cent. is shown.

The last report and balance sheet of the English Co-operative Wholesale Society shows that at the end of 1902 its members consisted of 1,106 co-operative societies, with an aggregate membership of 1,392,399, a total share, loan, reserve and insurance capital of £3,502,650, and distributive sales during the year 1902 amounting to £18,397,559, an increase in sales of 4.3 per cent. over

1901, and of 54'3 per cent. over the year 1897.

The report of the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society shows that at the end of 1902, its members consisted of 353 employees and 284 co-operative societies with an aggregate membership of 281,258. The total share, loan, reserve and insurance capital of the Society amounted to £2,125,134, and the distributive sales during 1902 to £6,059,119, an increase of 6.3 per cent. over 1901, and of 37.5 per cent. over the year 1897. The employees of the Society held £6,336 of the paid up shares, and £21,690 of the loan capital.

Out of the profits of the year this society paid to its employees as bonus on wages the sum of £11,136, an average of 8d. in the f on wages.

The following Table shows separately the particulars returned by each Federation for the fourth quarter of 1902, together with the figures for the corresponding quarters of 1901 and 1897

	Mem	ber and bership of ieties in eration.	100000	Sales.							
	Socie-	Member ship,	In	th quarter	of	crease o	ntage in- of 1902 as red with				
			1902.	1901.	1897.	A year ago.	Five years ago.				
ENGLAND AND WALES:— Distributive Depts. Manufacturing Depts.)	1,106	1,392,399	£ 5,131,854 785,281*	£ 4,839,609 674,493*	£ 3,315,988 357,158*	6.0 16.4	54.8				
SCOTLAND:— Distributive Depts. Manufacturing Depts.	284	281,258	{ 1,706,446 513,980*	1,557,893 489,851*	1,227,444	9°5	39.0				
IRELAND: Butter Agency: Distributive Depts.† Agricultural (Distribution)	not 28	stated 3,374	41,356 5,129	36,167	26,357	14'3	56 .0				

^{*} Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments.
† Figures for butter making not available.

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

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

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

WHAT IS " SERIOUS AND WILFUL MISCONDUCT"?

By the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, it is provided that "If it is proved that the injury to a workman is attributable to the serious and wilful misconduct of that workman, any compensation claimed in respect of that injury shall be disallowed."

A miner, employed by a coal company, was killed while holing coal by a fall of head coal from the roof of the pit. One of the special rules in force in the colliery made it compulsory that sprags should be erected every six feet. Three workmen had holed a considerable portion before the deceased, together with another man, began to hole coal. At the time of the accident the total space holed where all 5 men were working was over 20 feet, and no sprags had been erected by anyone, although there was ample room for the erection of sprags.

erected by anyone, although there was ample room for the erection of sprags.

The widow of the deceased and her children claimed compensation from the company. The Sheriff-Substitute held that the deceased had not been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct, within the meaning of the Act, and awarded the applicants compensation. On appeal, the Court of Session held that the deceased had been guilty of such misconduct, and recalled the interlocutor of the Sheriff.—Mrs. Catherine O'Brien or O'Hara v. The Cadsow Coal Company, Court of Session, February 6th.

In another case a miner, who met with a similar accident, by which he sustained injury, claimed compensation from his employers. He had put up no props, although he had holed to feet. The Sheriff-Substitute awarded him compensation. But the Court of Session recalled that judgment.—John Francis v. Merry and Cunninghame, Limited, Court of Session, February 6th.

WHAT IS "A FACTORY "? SHIP IN HARBOUR.

What is "A Factory"? Ship in Harbour.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, applies only to certain classes of employment, including employment by the undertakers as therein defined, on or in or about a factory. In the Act "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 the last-named statute certain provisions of the Factory Acts are to have effect as if "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 were included in the word factory. . . .; and for the purpose of the enforcement of those Sections the person having the actual use or occupation of a dock, wharf, quay, or warehouse . . . shall be deemed to be the occupier of a factory."

The widow of a docker, who had met with a fatal accident while assisting in unloading a vessel on to a quay, and her children, claimed compensation from his employers. While ascending the fixed ship's ladder between the orlop deck and the 'tween deck, the deceased's foot slipped off a rung, with the result that he fell back into the hold and was killed. The ship's cargo was raised from the hold by means of the ship's steam winch, derrick, and fall, and was wheeled ashore on gangways laid between the ship and the quay. The question was whether the deceased at the time of the accident was employed in a factory, within the meaning of the Act. The Sheriif-Substitute held that he was not; on appeal, the Court of Session held that he was, and sent the case back to the Sheriif to proceed.—Catherine M'Cafferty or Reid and Others v. Henderson, Brothers, Limited, Court of Session, February 6th.

(2) Employers' Liability

Dangerous Employment: Negligence of Employers: Danger Known to Employee.

DANGEROUS EMPLOYMENT. NEUROPSE.

DANGER KNOWN TO EMPLOYEE.

A conductor, employed by an omnibus company, was carrying a heavy ticket box across the road, when the weight of the box crushed him down, in consequence of which he sustained severe injuries. He sued his employers for damages; and on their behalf it was contended that there was no cause of action, because the conductor could not prove that the danger, which caused the accident, was known to his employers, but not to him. The Judge left the following questions to the jury:—Was the employment of carrying the boxes across the streets one of a dargerous nature? (2) did the defendants take all reasonable precautions to render that employment as safe as possible for their servants, consistently with doing the work? (3) was the box supplied to the plaintiff with one handle so damaged as to be dangerous? (4) if so, was it negligence in the defendants to supply it in that condition? (5) did the plaintiff know of the condition of the box and its handles; (6) did the plaintiff take upon himself the risk of lifting and carrying the box in that condition? (7) was the plaintiff guilty of contributory negligence? (8) and if entitled to recover, how much is plaintiff entitled to by way of damages? The jury answered the first question in the affirmative, the second and third in the negative, the fourth, fifth, and sixth in the affirmative, the seventh in the negative, and upon the question of damages assessed them at £50.

The Judge held that these findings amounted to a verdict for the employers, and entered judgment for them accordingly, but granted a stay of execution in view of an appeal.—Sibon v. London General Omnibus Company, King's Bench Division, February 12th.

^{*} Kincardine, Kinross, Forfar, Fife, Clackmannan, and the Lothians.

(3) Trade Union Acts.

66

DAMAGES AWARDED AGAINST TRADE UNION.

An action was brought by the Taff Vale Railway Company against the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants (a registered Trade Union), the general secretary of the Society, its organising secretary for South Wales and the West of England, and its trustees, claiming (I) damages for maliciously and unlawfully conspiring together to molest and injure the plaintiffs in their business, and for maliciously and wrongfully procuring certain of the plaintiffs' servants to break their contracts of service with the plaintiffs and for maliciously and wrongfully watching and beplaintiffs, and for maliciously and wrongfully watching and be-setting, and causing to be watched and beset, the plaintiffs' works setting, and causing to be watched and beset, the plaintiffs' works and approaches thereto, and the places of residence of the workmen employed by the plaintiffs, or proposing to work for the plaintiffs, and divers other places, including the Great Western Railway Station at Cardiff, and for using violence and intimidation towards the plaintiffs and their servants, and for preventing persons from working for the plaintiffs, and for otherwise committing violation of the legal rights of the plaintiffs; and (2) an injunction restraining the defendants, their servants and agents, from repeating any of the above-mentioned acts

the defendants, their servants and agents, from repeating any of the above-mentioned acts.

The interlocutory proceedings in this action are noticed in GAZETTE, September, 1900, pp. 264-265, December, 1900, p. 361, and August, 1901, p. 237. On the trial of the action, the jury, in answer to questions put to them by the Judge, found that the Society, its general secretary, and its organising secretary conspired together to molest and injure the plaintiffs by unlawful means; and that all of them unlawfully persuaded workmen employed by the plaintiffs, whose notices had not expired, to break their contracts, and authorised and assisted in carrying on a strike of the plaintiffs' employees by unlawful means. Subsequently, by arrangement between the plaintiffs and the defendants, it was agreed that the defendants should pay to the plaintiffs £23,000 in satisfaction of all damages and costs, and judgment was entered accordingly.—The Taff Vale Railway Company v. The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants and Others, King's Bench Division, December 3rd-5th, 8th-12th, 15th-19th, and February 23rd. 3rd-5th, 8th-12th, 15th-19th, and February 23rd.

(4) Miscellaneous.

CHECKWEIGHMAN'S FUND: DIVISION OF SURPLUS.

With respect to the case noticed in the GAZETTE for February (p. 38), in which, in an action brought against the treasurer of a checkweighers' fund, by certain miners, who in the division of the balance of such fund remaining after payment of the check-weighman's wages had been excluded from participation, the County Court Judge had made a declaration that this treasurer was a trustee of such balance, and was bound to account for it to all the contributors, and had ordered such account accordingly, and, on appeal, the King's Bench Division had dismissed the appeal, with costs, and had refused leave to appeal, an application for leave to appeal was made by the defendant to the Court of Appeal, and granted.-Macmaster and Others v. Benson, Court of Appeal,

SICK FUND: RIGHTS OF EMPLOYEE QUITTING SERVICE.

A railway servant, who had been employed by, but had left the

A railway servant, who had been employed by, but had left the service of a company, sued his employers, asking for a declaration that he was entitled to remain a member of the company's sick fund, to which he had subscribed while in the employment of the company, and to the benefits arising therefrom, or alternatively for a return of the premiums paid by him to the fund.

Counsel on behalf of the plaintiff stated that when the plaintiff entered the service of the company he filled up a form which contained the terms of his service, and agreed to be guided by the rules and regulations of the company, by one of which it was provided "that every person in the service of the company shall be liable to a pro ratia contribution from his pay to the present sick fund, or to any provident or friendly institution hereafter to be established." The plaintiff in his evidence said that he was told by the stationmaster that he would have to subscribe 3d. a week, but he had never seen a copy of the rules relating to the sick fund or heard of them during his term of service. When he left the company's service, he offered to continue paying 3d. a week to the fund. In cross-examination the plaintiff was entitled to continue his connection with the sick fund after he left the employment of the company, and that he was not after he left the employment of the company, and that he was not entitled to have the money paid by him to the fund returned, and gave judgment for the defendants, with costs.—Warman v. The South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company, King's Bench Division,

NEW ZEALAND.

Extension of Workmen's Compensation .- By "The Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act Amendment Act, 1902," passed on October 3rd, 1902, the provisions of the original Act (of 1900) are extended to workers in agriculture (including horticulture, forestry, and the use of land for any purpose of husbandry, inclusive of the keeping or breeding of live-stock), and to agricultural workers employed by the same employer partly or occasionally in other work. The liability of employers to pay compensation, previously limited to injuries disabling the worker for a period of at least two weeks from earning full wages at the work at which he was employed, is now extended so as to apply to all injuries so disabling the worker for at least one week.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.

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

Canada.

THE busy season in Canada is shortly commencing, and there is an excellent demand for almost any kind of labour all over the Dominion. Emigrants should prepare to start at once. There is a very large demand for farm hands, especially in Ontario and the North West, and any able-bodied farm labourer or young man wishing to learn farming will have no difficulty in finding a place. At Sydney in Nova Scotia there is a good demand in the steel and iron works and in the coal mines for general labourers, machinists, machinists' helpers and coal miners, especially those who can operate coal cutting machines. Both in Nova Scotia and Ontario men, skilled and unskilled, are wanted for sanitary earthenware works and brickyards. The building trades are likely to be busy in all parts as soon as the season opens, so that carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and others will be wanted; at Winnipeg, in Manitoba, there is also a demand for a number of harness makers. The metal trades have been very busy in Ontario. In the Province of Quebec and in Ontario lumbermen have been very busy. In the Algoma district of Ontario good farriers are stated to be in great demand. In British Columbia the metal trades have been fairly busy, and the building trades also, considering it was the wet season. Coal miners have been very slack at Nanaimo, but experienced men only are wanted in East Kootenay. The lumbering trade has been very busy. Many clerks are out of work. There is a brisk demand in all parts of Canada for female servants both in towns and on farms.

New South Wales .- Emigrants are advised not to go to New South Wales, at the present time, in search of work.

Victoria.—It has been proposed to reduce coal miners' wages from a maximum of 10s. per shift to one of 8s. 4d., and the hewing rate to 2s. 6d. instead of 3s. 6d. per ton; a strike has ensued in consequence, affecting some 1,000 miners, and the mines have been closed down. In other parts of Victoria the supply of labour is fully equal to the demand.

Queensland .- There is no demand for more labour, except for some agricultural labourers in the South. The Central Districts are still suffering badly from drought.

Western Australia.—There is no demand for anyone except farm labourers and female servants; reduced nominated passages are being granted to the Colony.

New Zealand.

A report from Taranaki states that there is a good demand for general and farm labourers, carpenters and female servants; the building and dairying industries being especially busy. A report from Invercargill in Otago states that there is a limited demand for miners, if dredge hands; a good demand for farm labourers, if good horsemen; a limited demand for mechanics, if firstclass men; and a great demand for female servants; experienced shepherds can always get places. A report from Wellington states that there is a good demand for carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers and female servants. At Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin and several other places there is a good demand for men in the building and coachbuilding trades; the clothing trade also is very busy in most parts, and men in the engineering trades have generally been well employed. At this season of the year there is plenty of employment in country districts.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—There is a demand for wheelwrights, bodymakers, coachsmiths, trimmers, plasterers, bricklayers, and first class painters. There is no demand whatever for tailors unless they are first-class hands. Carpenters at Cape Town have struck for higher wages. There is no demand for fitters, general labourers, or farm

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

labourers. There is a good demand for female servants, but they should not go alone. Employers domiciled in the Colony can obtain cheap passages at £3 a head for male or female servants engaged by them here. There is some demand for female teachers, but the pay is not good. The cost of living is high.

Natal.-Good platelayers are wanted for the Natal Government Railways:—Applicants must be men of robust constitution, who have had at least five years' experience, age between 25 and 40. Rate of wages £12 per month (eight hours being reckoned as a working day) rising by annual increments to £14 per month if satisfactory service is rendered, and again from £14 to £16 per month will be granted only after the Maintenance Engineer has personally satisfied himself that the men are carrying out their work satisfactorily, payable as customary in the department. Eight days' leave per annum is allowed with pay, and half pay for a period not exceeding two months if disabled by sickness. Three years' agreement. Wages to commence from date of arrival, and half pay allowed for time occupied by voyage from London to Natal.

Free third-class passage from London will be provided. Applications stating age and height, whether married or single, with testimonials from Engineer-in-Chief as to experience and character, also medical certificate, to be addressed to the Agent-General for Natal, 26, Victoriastreet, Westminster, S.W.

A Report from Durban states that there is no demand for miners or farm labourers, but that general labourers, female servants, and mechanics are wanted; bricklayers, carpenters, and plumbers receive 16s. a day and plasterers 20s. The cost of living is high.

Transvaal.—In the building trades at Johannesburg materials are coming up from the coast somewhat more quickly, and consequently men in those trades have been better employed, but a good many are still out of work. Harness makers and saddlers, and men in the furniture and wagon and carriage trades have been slack; shop and office fitters have been well employed. Printers have been in good demand both in Johannesburg and Pretoria, but the men at Pretoria have struck for higher wages. The stab rate hitherto ruling for compositors, machine minders, bookbinders, rulers, and warehousemen has been in Pretoria £5 per week of 45 hours, and £6 for night work, and in Johannesburg £5 ios. to £5 15s. per week of 48 hours; in both places overtime has been 2s. 6d. an hour, and the wages of lino operators have been £6 10s. to £7 for day work, and £8 for night work.

The supply of unskilled labourers in all trades is more than enough. The cost of living remains two or three times as high as in England, especially for men with families. Female domestic servants may obtain assisted passages, provided they undertake to repay £12 of the expenses out of their wages; they must apply to the South African Expansion Committee, 47, Victoria-street, London, S.W. Crown land is now open for purchase or lease; application must be made to the Land Department in the Colony; the Department may grant reduced passages at £13 a head to Pretoria or Johannesburg to settlers, their wives and families who take up Government land. Permits are still required by all persons entering the Transvaal or Orange River Colony.

Orange River Colony.—There is some demand for good carpenters, masons, fitters, and painters, but it is a fluctuating one, and the cost of living is very high. Crown land is now open for purchase or lease; application for any particular portion of land desired must be made to the "Land Settlement Board" at Bloemfontein. The Board may grant reduced passages, as above.

Orange River Colony.—A new handbook upon the Orange River Colony has been issued, containing particulars as to the climate, conditions and cost of living, demand for labour, together with the cost of reaching the Colony and the arrangements made there for the reception of immigrants. The handbook can be obtained post free for one peany of the Chief Clerk, Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.

LABOUR ABROAD. FRANCE.*

Employment in January.—The usual seasonal slackness prevailed in the building trades and other outdoor occupations, such as agricultural labour. Differences between employers and workpeople as to the establishment of a rate of wages retarded activity amongst woodcutters in many centres. In the textile trades there was said to be, in general, a fair amount of activity in the Nord, Vosges and Loire districts, but a considerable scarcity of employment at Rheims and Elboeuf, and in the Lyons silk manufacture, where no improvement was shown, except in the manufacture of light fabrics such as tulle and silk muslin. The ribbon manufacturing industry at St. Étienne continued very well employed. In the garment-making trade the seasonal slackness was general. The improvement reported during the last two months in metal smelting and manufacture became still more noticeable; scarcity of employment in the metal trades generally has decreased by one-half since October last. On the whole, the printing and bookbinding trades continued satisfactorily employed, although in certain towns (Paris, Marseilles, Bordeaux) the introduction of a composing machine caused some disturbance in the labour market. box makers of Brittany continued entirely unemployed. The furniture and pottery trades were fully employed. No mprovement was shown during January in the situation of dock labourers, who have been slack for some months.

Of the 948 Trade Unions (not including the miners' Unions of the Nord and Pas-de-Calais), with a total membership of 151,822, which made returns as to the state of employment during January, 17,372, or 11 per cent., were stated to be out of work. The corresponding percentage for the previous month was II, and for January,

1002. 13

Coal Mining in January.—The average number of days worked per week by coal miners employed underground in January was 5.96, as compared with 5.65 in the preceding month, and 5.94 in January, 1902. Taking all workpeople together (surface and underground), 94 per cent. worked full time (6 days per week or over) and nearly 6 per cent. from 5 to 6 days in January, as compared with 10 and 87 per cent. respectively in December.

The above particulars were supplied to the French Labour Department by the Committee of Coalowners, and apply to over 147,000 workpeople, or more than three-fourths of all employed in and about the mines.

Labour Disputes in January.—Thirty-one disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in January, the number of workpeople who took part in 29 of them being 4,700. In the previous month disputes occurred, in 21 of which 2,198 workpeople took part; while in January, 1902, there were 40 disputes, in 37 of which 2,763 workpeople participated. Two of the new disputes occurred in mining and quarrying, 12 in the textile trades, 2 in the clothing trades, 2 in the pottery trades, 2 amongst woodcutters, and 11 in trades not included in any of these groups. Nineteen disputes came to an end in January, 4 terminating in favour of the workpeople, 8 in favour of the employers, and 7 being compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in January.—Six cases of recourse to the French Conciliation and Arbitration Law were reported to the French Labour Department in January, the Justice of the Peace taking the initiative in 3 cases and the workpeople in 2; it is not stated by whom the initiative was taken in the remaining case. As a result, Committees of Conciliation were formed in 5 cases, without settling any of the disputes, however. Three of the 6 disputes were afterwards settled (one, owing to the intervention of the Sub-Prefect of Gannat), the remaining 3 still being in progress at the time of reporting.

Eight-hours Day in Government Factories .- The eighthours day has been introduced in recent years in various manufacturing establishments carried on by the Government in France. Thus, on September 16th, 1899, the system was adopted provisionally at certain of

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

the establishments coming under the Postal Administration in Paris (stamp factory, manufacture, inspection, repair, and custody of postal stores, etc.), subsequently at the Post-Office District Stores, and on July 1st, 1900, at the Electrical Works of the General Post-Office in Paris. By decrees dated February 9th, May 1st, and September 24th, 1901, the eight-hours day was declared definitely adopted in the respective departments just referred to, while on March 1st, 1901, and July 16th, 1901, decrees were made extending the system to the telephone installation and maintenance shops of the Paris district

and to the postal power supply works.

It is stated that "the application and extension of this reform has been facilitated by the good will of the workpeople, who have worked with redoubled energy, so that no appreciable reduction of output has resulted from

the shortening of the working day."

By a Decree of the Minister of Marine, dated October 21st, 1902, the eight-hours system was introduced provisionally, as from November 1st, in respect to a certain section of the boilermaking staff at the Dockyard at Toulon and in respect to the workpeople employed at the ordnance works at Lorient. In a circular issued by the same Minister on January 7th, 1903, it is stated that, owing to the very satisfactory results yielded by these experiments, it has been decided to extend the eight-hours day as from January 15th, 1903, to all the naval arsenals and works situated at places other than seaports.

GERMANY.

Employment in February.—The Berlin Journal Der Arbeitsmarkt reports that the state of employment in February was better than either in the previous month or in February, 1902, the number of applications for work per 100 situations offered at the public employment registries being 175.9 in February of this year, 202.3 the month before, and 219.4 in February, 1902.

Labour Disputes in February.—According to the same journal, 40 disputes began in February, as against 21 in the preceding month. Eighteen of the new disputes occurred in the metal and engineering trades, 4 in the building trades, 4 in the woodworking trades, 3 in the textile trades, 2 in the pottery, &c., trades, 2 in the food preparation trades and 7 in trades not included within any of the foregoing groups.

HOLLAND.

State Service on Railways: Proposed Legislation to prevent disturbance of traffic through Strikes.—In a despatch dated February 26th, 1903, Sir H. Howard, H.M. Minister at the Hague, states that in the Second Chamber of the States-General the Prime Minister, on February 25th, introduced three Bills :-

1. For the creation of a Railway Brigade to ensure the State Service on the railways in case of need.
2. For the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry

into the legal position and the conditions of the service of the Railway Staff; and

3. For power to punish any failure in the performance of official duties.

The following is a translation of the language used by Dr. Kuyper in describing the objects of these Bills, viz.:

I. That henceforth the permanent resources held in reserve at the disposal of the State shall include a Railway Brigade which, in case of need, can ensure the State service on the railways.

2. That a State Commission with powers of inquiry shall examine the legal position and the conditions of service of the staff, and shall submit proposals designed to assure to the said staff now, and in the future, fixity of position under the protection of the State.

3. To furnish by law better guarantees for the protection of personal liberty in the field of labour, and to establish that, besides public services, there are duties to be carried out in the public interest in regard to which no neglect can be allowed by the Authorities to go un-

Strike of Hackney Coachmen at Amsterdam.—Reporting to the Foreign Office on February 12th, 1903, Mr. W. C. Robinson, H.M. Consul at Amsterdam, stated that the

strike of hackney coachmen in that city terminated on February 11th, the drivers having resumed work on the former terms. (See February GAZETTE, p. 41.)

Co-operation: Latest Statistics .- According to the Yearbook of the Netherlands Co-operative Federation for 1903,* there were 1,298 Co-operative Societies in Holland and her Colonies on October 1st, 1902 (as compared with 1,161 on November 1st the year before), 72 of these Societies (as compared with 68 the year before) being affiliated to the Federation.

The Table below gives a classification of the Dutch Co-operative Societies:-

					Number of	Societies.
Class of Soc	1901 (November 1st)	1902 (October 1st)				
Associations for Distributi	on:			100		
Stores			11000	1838	119	131
Agricultural Associations:					A THE STATE OF THE	
For Purchase of Manures	. Seeds	s. &c.			189	190
For Sale of Produce	1200			1000	24	26
Associations for Production	n:-				THE PARTY OF THE P	
Bakeries					48	55
Dairies					498	539
Other Associations for Prod	luction				48	58
Savings and Loan Associat						E STATE OF STATE
Rural					113	143
Urban					17	32
Building Associations			1		91	108
Insurance, &c., Association					12	16
Insurance, dei, association		1	***			
Total	THE PARTY OF THE P				1,159†	1,298

The figures given as to the number of Dutch Cooperative Associations are stated to be probably too high, since, in the absence of a legal obligation to register the dissolution (such as exists in regard to the formation) of a society, the Federation has no means of informing itself of all the cases in which societies have ceased

AUSTRIA.

Employment in January.—The statistics of the labour registries (public and private), which furnished returns to the Austrian Labour Department for January, show that on an average 204 applications were made for every 100 situations offered in that month, as compared with 279 in the previous month and 168 in January, 1902. Taking the sexes separately, there were, in the case of men, 396 applications on an average for every 100 situations, as against 387 in the previous month and 310 in January, 1902; while in the case of women there were 86, as compared with 114 in the previous month and 85 in January, 1902.

Labour Disputes in January.—Ten disputes were reported to the Austrian Labour Department as having begun in January, the number of workpeople taking part in 9 of these being approximately 5,200. Three of the disputes occurred in the clothing and cleaning trades, 2 in the textile trades and I in each of the following groups:-metal trades, printing and bookbinding, woodworking, &c., trades, leather trades, and commercial employment. The results were reported in the case of 6 disputes; of these, 3 were decided in favour of the workpeople, I in favour of the employers, and 2 were compromised.

The foregoing figures do not include disputes in the mining and allied industries, returns as to which are published only once in 3 months.

SPAIN.

General Strike at Corunna.—In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated February 12th, Mr. Guyatt, Acting British Consul at Corunna, reported that a general strike had begun at Corunna on that day. Telegraphing to the Board of Trade on February 16th, Mr. Guyatt reported that the strike had terminated.

*Based on Jaarboek van den Nederlandschen Coöperatieven Bond, Dertiende laargang, 1908 (the Hague, 1903), and corresponding volume for the previous year. †Exclusive of 2 societies in Batavia.

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EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—Building Trades.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES.

March, 1903.

BUILDING TRADES.

RETURNS supplied by 79 Employers' Associations whose members are estimated to employ about 89,000 building operatives of all classes, and by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of about 199,000, show that employment in the building trades generally was dull during February. It was slightly better than in the previous month, but showed little change as compared with a year ago. The returns from Employers' Associations covering 65 per cent. of the workpeople referred to in the returns show employment to have been dull or bad, 27 per cent. fair or moderate, and 8 per cent.

With bricklayers employment continues bad, and is about the same as in the corresponding month of last year. With masons it is good in England and shows no change as compared with the previous month and a year ago. In Scotland and Ireland it continues dull and is slightly worse than in the corresponding month of last year. Employment is fair with carpenters and better than in the previous month and a year ago. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union carpenters and joiners was 500 at the end of February as compared with 6.5 in January and 6.2 in February 1902. Employment is still bad with painters, but shows some improvement as compared with the previous month. It is worse however, than a year ago, except in Scotland, where it is better. With plasterers it is still dull generally, except in Scotland where it is fair and better than in the previous month. Plumbers report employment as moderate. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union plumbers was 8.2 at the end of February, as compared with 6.4 in January and 5.5 in February, 1902. Slaters and tilers report that employment continues dull and is slightly worse than a

The Table given below shows the state of employment in the principal districts for carpenters and joiners and plumbers, as indicated by the proportions of Trade Union members of these trades returned as unemployed at the end of the month.

Districts.	Members of Unions at end of Feb.		Percenta ed as Une at end o	employed	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Percentage for Feb., 1903, as compared with a	
THE HOLD TO SERVE SERVE	1903.*	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
England and Wales.	C	ARPEN	TERS A	AND JOI	NERS.	Mora
London Northern Counties and Middlesbro'	6,969 1,471	5°1	6 ·8	3.5 9.3	+ 1.1 - 1.4	+ 1. + 1.
Lancashire and Cheshire Yorkshire East Midlands	9,710 5,093 3,007 4,770 1,175 5,676 1,691 5,056 4,777	5'0 7'0 4'3 5'9 3'9 2'2 5'2 2'8 7'2	6.2 8.7 5.3 6.7 5.1 5.2 5.6 3.8 10.0	10°0 7°6 7°5 6°5 2°6 2°7 5°0 7°1 4°9	- 1'2 - 1'7 - 1'0 - 0'8 - 1'2 - 3'0 - 0'4 - 1'0 - 2'8	- 5.0 - 0.6 - 3.2 - 0.6 + 1.3 - 0.5 + 0.2 - 4.3 + 2.3
England and Wales.		10	PLUMI	BERS.	- AND STATE	
London Water London Worthern Counties and Middlesbro' Lancashire and Cheshire Yorkshire East Midlands Eastern Counties Sand S.W. Counties Wales and Monmouth SCOTLAND IRELAND	1,204 177 2,025 995 650 482 130 505 269 1,733 623	14'5 9'0 8'7 7'0 9'1 7'5 7'7 4'8 5'9 5'0 7'2	13'3 8'5 6'4 7'0 4'5 4'6 10'3 4'8 4'8 3'4 6'3	7'2 2'7 6'2 6'4 4'5 7'0 5'8 6'1 11'0 4'1 3'4	+ 1'2 + 0'5 + 2'3 - 4'6 + 2'9 - 2'6 + 1'1 + 1'6 + 0'9	+ 7'3 + 6'3 + 2'5 + 0'6 + 4'6 + 0'5 + 1'9 - 1'3 - 5'1 + 0'9 + 3'8

London.—Employment shows an improvement, as compared with the previous month, though it is still dull. It it not so ood as a year ago.

The returns received by the Trade Correspondent from 84 employers show that in the last week of February they paid wages to 16,377 men, as compared with 15,618 in January, and 16,779 in the corresponding week of February, 1902.

Branches of carpenters and joiners with 6,969 members had 5.1 per cent. unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 6.8 per cent. in January, and 3.2 per compared with 0's per cent. In January, and 3'2 per cent. in February, 1902. Branches of plumbers with 1,204 members had 14'5 per cent. unemployed, as compared with 13'3 per cent. in January, and 7'2 per cent. in February, 1902.

Northern Counties .- In the Tyne and Wear district employment for bricklayers and slaters is reported as dull, with stonemasons as fair, with plumbers as bad. The carpenters and joiners are affected by a trade dispute and describe employment as bad. At Hartlepool bricklayers and painters report employment moderate, plasterers' labourers as bad. At Stockton employment is good for slaters, moderate for other classes, is worse than in the previous month and a year ago. At Middlesbrough employment is moderate generally.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment generally continues dull and shows little change as compared with a year ago. At Liverpool all classes are dull, and plumbers report employment as bad. At Manchester it is generally dull and worse than a year ago. At Oldham employment is reported slack, and worse than a year ago. At Altrincham and Burnley employment is reported as better, and at Accrington, Middleton and Southport as worse.

Yorkshire.—Employment shows some improvement on the whole as compared with the previous month, being reported as better at Halifax, Huddersfield, Harrogate, Scarborough and Wakefield. At Sheffield employment generally is reported as dull; at Hull it is described as bad for plasterers, plumbers, carpenters and joiners, and builders' labourers, dull for other classes. At Leeds employment is reported as moderate.

East Midland Counties .- Employment continues dull and is worse than a year ago. At Northampton it is reported bad; at Leicester as bad for masons and plumbers, but generally improving; at Nottingham as quiet and worse than a year ago. Employment at Derby is reported generally as slack, and bad for

West Midland Counties. - Employment shows some improvement as compared with the previous month. It is depressed at Birmingham, where bricklayers, plumbers and painters report employment as bad, plasterers as dull, masons as fair. In the Potteries employment is dull, but at Coventry and Rugby it is stated to be fair and improving.

Eastern Counties.—Employment shows a slight improvement. At Norwich it continues dull, and is worse than a year ago. At Ipswich it is fair, and better than in the previous month and in February, 1902. At Lowestoft it is dull; at Cromer fair.

Southern and South Western Counties .- Employment is moderate and about the same as a month ago. At Plymouth it is reporte good for bricklayers, fair for masons and carpenters; other classes dull. At Exeter, Gloucester and Bath employment is dull at Bristol,

Wales and Monmouth.—Employment generally continues dull in South Wales, especially in the seaport towns. In North Wales it is fair with bricklayers and painters, dull with other classes.

Scotland.—Employment continues moderate. At Glasgow it is good with masons, slaters and plasterers, dull with other classes. At Edinburgh it is on the whole fair. It is reported good with plasterers, bad with

^{*} Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-Coal; Other Mining and Quarrying.

masons. At Aberdeen employment is moderate; it is reported good for plasterers, fair for masons and carpenters; dull for other classes.

Ireland.—Employment generally continues dull; in Dublin, whiteners report it as good, stonecutters as fair, other classes as dull. At Belfast and Cork it is dull generally.

COAL MINING.

[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 during February continued good. Compared with a year ago, there was a slight falling off in the average number of days worked by pits, but the number of workpeople employed at collieries for which returns have been received for both periods was 1.8 per cent. greater.

Returns received relating to 1,324 pits employing 499,862 workpeople, show that the average number of days worked by the collieries included in the returns in the four weeks ended February 21st was 5.28 per week, as compared with 5'39 a year ago. In neither of these periods did holidays occur, but in comparing February with the four weeks ended January 24th, allowance has to be made for the New Year holidays. included in the latter period. Allowing for the days lost on this account, it is found that the average number of days worked by the collieries in February was slightly lower

than in the January period.

In the following Table detailed particulars are given for the different mining districts :-

COMPARISON OF THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED BY

COLLIERIES IN FEBRUA	ARY, 1903	AND 1902	2, AND	IN JANU	JARY,	1903.	
District.	No. employed in Feb., 1903, at the	worked p	e No. of loer week eries in fo	by the	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1903, as com- pared with		
	Collieries included in the Table.	21st Feb., 1903.	22nd Feb., 1902.	24th Jan., 1903.*	A year ago.	A m'nth ago.	
ENGLAND & WALES.		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Northumberland	39,993	5'22	4'93	5'09	+ '29	+ .13	
Durham	98,106	5'46	5'24	5'29	+ .22	+ .12	
Cumberland	7,395	5'44	5.20	5'20	06	+ '24	
Yorkshire	74,197	4'99	5'46	5.53	- '47	- '24	
Lancashire and Cheshire	50,847	5.30	5'36	4.97	09	+ '33	
Derbyshire	40,075	4.91	5.57	5'30	66	- '39	
Nottingham and Leicester	25,884	4.26	5'16	4.00	60	- '34	
Staffordshire	30,296	5.13	5'38	5'30	- '25	- '17	
Salop, Worcester and Warwick		4'94	5.60	5.25	66	- ·31	
Gloucester and Somerset	9,029	5.06	5.26	5'24	20	18	
North Wales	12,617	5.41	5'53	5.68	+ .18	+ .03	
South Wales and Mon	60,847	5'79	5.80	5.85	oI	06	
England & Wales	458,383	5.26	5'40	5'29	- '14	- '03	
SCOTLAND.	North March		Water College	TO THO	1	1000	
West Scotland	20,391	5.41	5.38	4'63	+ .03	+ .78	
The Lothians	4,558	5.70	5'49	4'99	+ '21		
Fife	0	2.21	5.13	4'09	+ .38	+1'42	
SCOTLAND	. 40,823	5'48	5'30	4.46	+ .18	+1'02	
IRELAND	. 656	5.26	5.22	4'96	+ '04	+ .30	
United Kingdom	499,862	5-28	5-39	5-22	11	+ .06	

It will be seen that the decline in the average number of days worked by collieries in February as compared with a year ago was confined to England and Wales. Taking the separate districts into consideration, the comparison with a year ago shows that in February 1903 the decline was greatest in the Midland Counties, Yorkshire and Gloucester and Somerset.

The highest averages during the month were worked by collieries in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.79 days), North Wales (5.71 days) and in the Lothians (5'70 days) and Fife (5'51 days). In all the remaining districts less than 5½ days were worked.

In the next Table the workpeople are grouped accord-

ing to the number of days worked at the pits at which they were employed. Of the total number 760 per cent. were employed at pits working 5 or more days per

* New Year holidays are included in this period.

week in the four weeks ended February 21st, as compared with 82.6 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	Februa	гу, 1903.	Corresponding percentages in		
which Coal was kewn and wound in four weeks.	No. of Workpeople employed.	Percentage proportion to total.	February, 1902.	January, 1903.*	
24 days (full time) 20 and under 24 days 16 ,, ,, 20 ,, 12 ,, , , , , 16 8 ,, , , , , , , , 12 ,, , Under 8 days	122,852 257,097 90,188 22,080 4,650 2,995	24.6 51.4 18.1 4.4 0.9 0.6	28·9 53·7 12·5 4·2 0·4 0·3	19·3 50·2 24·5 5·2 0·1 0·7	
Total	499,862	100-0	100.0	100-0	

Reports received from Local Correspondents and others show that in Nottinghamshire, North Staffordshire and Leicestershire employment has fallen off; in the Forest of Dean steam coal trade it continues fair, but in the house coal trade it has declined; in the Bristol and Radstock district it is moderate. In the Leeds district employment is generally good, but at certain house coal pits it is slack. In Northumberland steam coal pits worked on an average 5.07 days per week and house coal pits 5.30 days. In Fife employment is stated to have been brisk; in the West Lothians it is much the same as last month; in Mid and East Lothians full time is generally being worked. In Lanarkshire some short time was worked owing to scarcity of waggons.

The Exports of coal, coke, and patent fuel during February amounted to 3,302,174 tons, as compared with 3,683,464 tons in January, and 3,025,363 tons in February 1902.

OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

INFORMATION has been received from 75 firms employing 18,470 workpeople, from five Employers' Associations and from Local Correspondents.

In iron and shale mines, limestone and slate quarries, employment has been good; in tin, lead and copper mines quiet; in stone, granite and clay quarries employment has been fairly good, although affected to some extent by bad weather; in the settmaking industry it was fairly good in the districts reported on in England and Wales but only fair in Scotland Wales, but only fair in Scotland.

Iron Mining.—Employment in this industry continues good. In the 133 mines and open works covered by the returns received from employers, the average number of days worked per week in the four weeks ended February 21st was 5.79, as against 5.55 days in the four weeks ended January 24th,* and 5.74 days in February, 1902.

The following Table summarises the returns received:-

District.	No. employed in Feb., 1903,	worked	number per week n 4 week	k by the	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February, 1903, as compared with		
District	at the Mines included in the Table.	21st Feb. 1903.	22nd Feb. 1902.	24th Jan., 1903.*	A year ago.	A month ago.	
England-			1000				
Cumberland and		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	
Lancashire	4,806	5.83	5'92	5.61	00	+ '22	
Cleveland	6,898	5 82	5.67	5.61	+ '15	+ .51	
Lincolnshire and			13995			1	
Leicestershire	869	5'93	5.24	5.90	+ '39	+ '03	
Northamptonshire	635	5.72	5.85	5.81	13	00	
Staffordshire and	100		100	1 329 ///		1000000	
Shropshire	1,130	5'14	5'36	5.00	- '22	+ '14	
Other places in				1333	17.65000	1000008	
England	133	5'33	5.96	5.66	- '63	- '33	
Total, England	14,471	5.78	5.73	5.57	+ 0.9	+ •21	
SCOTLAND	1,216	5'91	5.78	5'25	+ '13	+ .6	
IRELAND	107	6.00	6.00	5'93		+ '07	
Total and Averages	15,794	5.79	5.74	5.55	+ •05	24	

^{*} New Year holidays are included in this period.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING; PIG IRON; IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

The number of workpeople employed at the mines included in the returns was 15,794, or 2.7 more than a year ago, and of these, 88.9 per cent.were employed at mines working 22 or more days during the four weeks ended February 21st, as compared with 82.2 per cent. a

March, 1903.

Shale Mining.—Employment with shale miners in the Lothians continues good. At the 27 mines covered by the returns received, the average number of days worked during the four weeks ended February 21st was 5.63 per week, as against 5:40 in February, 1902, and 5:03 per week, as against 5:40 in February, 1902, and 5:09 in January, in which period, however, the mines were idle during the New Year holidays. The number of workpeople employed at the mines reported on was 2,676 in February, 1903, compared with 2,675 in January, and 2,941 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining .- Employment with tin and copper miners in Cornwall continues dull in the Calstock district; in the Camborne district it is fair. In the Callington district there has been an increase in the number of workpeople employed.

Lead Mining.—Employment in North Wales continues quiet. In the Westgate and Upper Weardale districts (Durham) the miners are reported to have worked 5 days

Quarrying.

Slate Quarrying.—Apart from the dispute affecting the Bethesda district, employment with slate quarrymen and slate-makers in North Wales continues good. In the Festiniog district full time was worked. In Devon and Cornwall employment was fair.

Limestone Quarrying .- In Weardale employment with limestone quarrymen continues good, although affected to some extent by the weather. Apart from this, however, full time was worked. At Stanhope practically full time was worked, but in the Westgate and Upper Weardale districts employment was slack. In Derbyshire quarry-men were fairly well employed. In North Wales em-ployment is stated to have been good, and in Devon and

Stone Quarrying. — Employment in the Gateshead district has been fairly steady, in the Burnley district slack, in both districts it has been interfered with by bad weather; at Alton and Hollington (Staffordshire) quarrymen are fairly busy; and in North Wales employment continues good.

Granite Quarrying.—Quarrymen in Leicestershire are fairly well employed; in Shropshire and North Wales employment continues good; in Devon and Cornwall it has improved. In Forfarshire and Aberdeenshire employment was fair, but not so good as a month ago or a year ago. Reports from the latter county show that in the Peterhead district employment in red granite quarries was moderate, while in the Kemnay district the grey granite quarries wei well employed.

Settmaking.—In L sicestershire settmakers are fairly well employed; in North Wales employment continues good. In the West of Scotland it is dull, in Aberdeenshire fair, while in the Edinburgh district it is not so good.

Clay Works.- In Cornwall china clay workers are steadily employed.

PIG-IRON INDUSTRY.

EMPLOYMENT in this industry shows little change as compared with a month ago, and at the works for which returns have been received the number of furnaces in blast is greater than a year ago. Returns received from 114 ironmasters show that 328 furnaces were in blast at the end of February, as compared with 327 in January, and 320 at the end of February, 1902. The estimated number of workpeople employed at the 328 furnaces in blast at the end of February was 22,500.

The following Table shows by districts the number of

furnaces in blast at the works included in the returns, at the three periods specified:-

Sa A Trops of the party of the	Pres	sent tim with a y	e compared	Present time compared with a month ago.			
Districts.	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Feb., 1903.	
ENGLAND & WALES-	11 19	- 1999	L tree day		1	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	
Cleveland	83	78	+ 5	83	82	+ 1	
Cumberland & Lancs.	41	42	- I	41	41		
S. and S.W. Yorks	15	16	- I	15	15	THE RESERVE TO	
Derby & Nottingham	39	37	+ 2	39	39	BRIGHTON.	
Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton	26	24	+ 2	26	26	awenish:	
Stafford & Worcester	33	34	_ I	33	33		
S. Wales & Monmouth	14	14	200 100 100 100	14	14	Little Tiel or o	
Other districts	7	8	- I	7	7	Bod all and	
Returned from England & Wales	258	253	+ 5	258	257	+ 1	
RETURNED FROM SCOTLAND	70	67	+ 3	70	70	100	
Total furnaces included in returns	328	320	+ 8	328	327	+ 1	

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works shows a slight improvement as compared with a month ago, but is rather worse than a year ago.

At 202 works covered by the returns received from employers, 74,574 workpeople were employed in the week ended February 21st an increase of 719 compared with a month ago, but a decrease of 3,021 compared with the corresponding period of last year.

Number Employed.

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

District.	District.			Numbers employed in week ended			
bes y isosili		Feb. 21st, 1903.	Feb. 22nd, 1902.	Jan. 24th, 1903.	A year ago.	A month ago.	
England and Wales		62,615	64,884	61,947 11,908	-2,269 - 752	+ 668 + 51	
Total .		74,574	77,595	73,855	-3,021	+ 19	

Weekly Number of Shifts Worked.

Information as to the number of shifts worked has also been received with regard to works employing 90 per cent. of the workpeople included in the above Table, and the particulars are summarised in the Table below.

The average number of shifts worked per man was

5.45 in the week ended February 21st, compared with 5.30 in the week ended January 24th, and with 5.35 in February of last year.

Number of Shifts	Number employed in Feb., 1903, so	Percentage proportion to		ponding tage in
worked.	far as returned.	Total.	Feb.,	Jan.,
Under 5 per week 5 per week 5 per week 5 per week 6 per week 7 ver 6 per week	7,353 22,077 642 36,154	10·9 32·9 1·0 53·8 1·4	14'4 34'0 1'0 49'8 0'8	12.8 33'9 1'0 51'0
Total	67,150	100.0	100.0	100.0

Assuming that the workpeople not included in the above Table (10 per cent. of the total number returned as employed) worked the same average 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 to have been 406,080 in the week ended February 21st, compared with 391,210 in the week ended January 24th, and with 414,830 in February,

^{*} Including iron puddling and rolling and steel making and rolling

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-IRON AND STEEL AND TINPLATE WORK; SHIPBUILDING.

1902. On this basis, therefore, the volume of employment at the works included in the returns shows an increase of 3.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 2.1 per cent. compared with February, 1902.

The increase in the volume of employment compared with a month ago, was greatest in the Midlands, the aggregate number of shifts worked being nearly 25 per cent. greater. An increase is also shown for Northumberland and Durham, Yorkshire and Lancashire, but in Wales and Monmouth and Scotland there was a slight falling off. Compared with a year ago, a decrease is shown in Northumberland, Wales and Monmouth and Scotland, but in Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands there was a slight increase.

The following reports on the different branches of the iron and steel manufacturing industry in certain districts have been furnished by the Local Correspondents:—

Tyne and Wear District.—At Consett bar and angle mills have been working short time, and steel plate mills full time. Employment with steel smelters at Newburn has been rather better; with finished iron and steel workers it has been only moderate.

Cleveland District.—Employment at rail mills has been good, at plate mills and in other departments moderate. One works at Middlesbrough which has been stopped for several months has restarted. In metal expansion works employment has been fair.

South Yorkshire.—In the Sheffield district, employment with steel smelters has been quiet on the whole, and at some works slack. In the Rotherham district ironworkers are fairly well employed; steelworkers fairly busy.

Lincolnshire.—At Scunthorpe employment with steel smelters has been good.

Midlands.—In Derbyshire puddlers are working short time, but malleable iron workers are busy. Mill and forge workers in Shropshire have been working short time. In the Potteries district a general improvement in the furnaces and mills was reported. In South Staffordshire mill and forge workers are working short time, but steel smelters are fully employed.

South Wales.—Employment generally throughout the district was moderate; at Burry Port, Llanelly and Swansea, however, it was good.

TINPLATE WORKS.*

EMPLOYMENT in this industry continues good, and is better than a year ago.

At the end of February 395 mills were working, an increase of 3 compared with the end of January and of 9 compared with the number in operation a year ago. The total number of works open was 77, and at 53 of these all the mills (275) were in operation, whilst at the remaining 24 works, 120 mills, out of a total of 163, were at work.

Of the 395 mills in operation, and employing about 19,700 workpeople, 383, employing about 19,100 workpeople, were situated in the South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire districts, compared with 380 in Lanuary and 374 a year 390

January, and 374 a year ago.

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

	No. of	No. of Mills in such Works				
B 18 - 19 1	Works open.	Working.	Not Working.	Total.		
Works giving full employment	53 24	275 120	43	275 163		
Total at end of February, 1903*	77	395	43	438		
Corresponding Total for Jan., 1903*	77	392	43	435		
Corresponding Total for Feb., 1902 *	78	386	61	447		

^{*} 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 quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

It is reported that the demand for and supply of labour are about equal, and that boy labour is not so scarce as it was.

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

OF DOUBLE STATE	j	Cinplates.		Bl	lackplates.	
	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.
To United States	Tons. 4,342 19,495	Tons. 4,503 17,833	Tons. 6,743 16,880	Tons 3,932	Tons 3,572	Tons 49 4,053
Total	23,837	22,336	23,623	3,932	3,572	,102

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

Returns have been received from 11 Employers' Associations, from two large Shipbuilding Companies, from 5 Trade Unions and from Local Correspondents.

The general state of employment as indicated by numbers of unemployed members of Trade Unions, improved somewhat in February but was still bad, and much worse than a year ago, especially on the North East Coast.

Branches of Trade Unions with 57,164 members had 5,953, or 10.4 per cent., unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 12.9 per cent. at the end of January, and 5.2 per cent. in February, 1902.

The state of employment in the various districts, as indicated by the proportions of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the en of the month, is shown in the following Table:—

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb.,1903,	re Une	ercenta turned mploye end of	as ed at	Increase Decrease Percent Feb., 1 compare	se (- in tage for 903, as
	included in the returns.	Feb., 1903.		Feb., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
	0					2
	8,997	13'2	16.9	6.0	- 3.7	+ 7.2
	4,892	22.7	25'I	6.3	- 2.4	+17.8
	5,125	23.2		5'7	- 40	- 3'3
	2,375	7.7	10.6	5.4	- 6.2	- 1.0
Thames and Medway Portsmouth, Devonport, an	4,293 d 3,259	4'4	3.9	1.7	- 02	+ 2.5
Southampton	ad 3,259	39	100.00	1		T 22
Bristol Channel Ports	2,493	15.7	15.6	12'3	+ 0.1	+ 3'4
Mersey	3,827	3.1	6.6	3.5	- 3.5	- 0.I
Barrow	1,521	1.3	0.4	3.6	+ 0.0	- 2.3
Clyde	12,522	8.7	6.6	4.I	- I'2	+ 4.6
Dundee, Leith, and Aberdeen	2,221	4.3	4.0	2.7	+ 0.3	+ 1.6
Belfast	3,102	2.I	3.4	2.7	- I,3	- 0.6
Control of the Contro	Contract of the Contract of th	The second second	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	The second second	The state of the state of

As will be seen from the Table the percentage of unemployed was greatest in the Tees and Hartlepool district (23°5), on the Wear (22°7), at the ship repairing ports of the Bristol Channel (15°7), and on the Tyne (13°2), while it was least at Barrow (1°3), Belfast (2°1), and in the Mersey District (3°1). As compared with a month ago the figures show an improvement in most districts, while such declines as are indicated are of small extent. The greatest improvement has taken place in the Thames and Tees districts. There has also been an improvement on the Tyne and a further improvement on the Mersey. As compared with a year ago, the decline is greatest on the North-east Coast.

Employment generally on the North East Coast is bad and much worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was, however, less at the end of February than at the end of the preceding month. On the Tyne and in the Tees and Hartlepool districts employment is affected by the ship joiners' dispute, which is interfering with the completion of work. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions is considerably less on the Tyne than on the Wear or Tees. On the Tyne employment with rivetters, caulkers and platers has somewhat improved, especially on old or repair work, with drillers and hole cutters it is still slack, but improving. Shipwrights report employment as fair. Sail makers are slack. On the Wear there has been

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—SHIPBUILDING; ENGINEERING.

some improvement with rivetters, caulkers and frame benders, but employment is still bad with these branches. With shipsmiths it is fair; with drillers and hole cutters slack, though improving. In the *Tees* district employment with iron shipbuilders on new work is reported as slack at Hartlepool and Stockton, moderate at Middlesbrough; on repair work it is good at Hartlepool, slack at Middlesbrough and Stockton. With shipwrights employment is reported as fair at Middlesbrough, moderate at Hartlepool, bad at Stockton. On the Humber employment generally is bad, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is less than either a month or a year ago. At Hull employment is reported as bad with iron shipbuilders, as moderate with drillers, hole cutters, platers' helpers and general labourers, as good with shipwrights and sail makers. At Grimsby employment generally is bad.

March, 1903.

On the *Thames* and *Medway* employment in shipbuilding has been slack and worse than a month and a year ago. In ship repairing it is reported as bad generally, but there has been a considerable amount of damage repairs to steamers. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions at the end of the month was much less than in January, and somewhat less than a year ago. In barge building employment continues bad. With sailmakers it is slack. At Chatham shipwrights report employment as good, iron shipbuilders as moderate. At Sheerness employment is moderate.

At Southampton employment generally is reported as fair; at Portsmouth it is moderate with iron shipbuilders, very good with shipwrights; at Devonport it is moderate with iron shipbuilders, good with shipwrights.

At the Bristol Channel Ports employment in ship repairing continues bad, and worse than a year ago. At Bristol it is reported there has been very little work during the month. The Welsh ports were temporarily busy in the early part of the month, but at the end of the month employment was bad at Cardiff, Penarth and Barry, with short time being worked. At Newport employment is good, at Swansea slightly better than in January.

On the Mersey employment generally is fair. It shows a further improvement as compared with the previous month, and is now the same as a year ago. Iron shipbuilders report employment as good, shipwrights as fair, ship joiners as very moderate.

At Barrow employment is reported as good with ship-wrights, moderate with iron shipbuilders. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions is not so low as in January, but less than a year ago.

On the *Clyde* the general state of employment is reported as depressed and much worse than a year ago. The proportion of unemployed members of Trade Unions is slightly less than in January. Employment is worst at Greenock and Port Glasgow. Some yards are on three-quarter time only. With shipwrights employment has been fairly good, with iron shipbuilders bad generally, but fairly good at Govan and Clydebank. Ship riggers report employment as fair, sail makers as bad.

On the East Coast of Scotland employment generally has been fairly good and about the same as a month ago, but the proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is greater than a year ago. With iron shipbuilders employment is reported as moderate at Dundee and Leith, as slack at Aberdeen. Shipwrights report it as good, with some overtime, at Leith, as moderate at Dundee, as fair at Aberdeen.

At Belfast shipwrights report employment as good, iron shipbuilders as moderate and improving. The proportion of unemployed Trade Union members is less than in January, and shows little change as compared with a Year ago.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 13 Employers' Associations, 2 large Employers, 24 Trade Unions, and from Local Correspondents. The returns from Employers' Associations report depression on the North East Coast and in Scotland; in other districts employment generally is reported as fair. Except in the Liverpool and Manchester district the returns describe employment as worse than a year ago.

Returns relating to branches of Trade Unions with 140,044 members show that 7,077 (or 5 1 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of February, as compared with 5 6 per cent. at the end of January and 5 1 per cent. in February, 1902. The section least affected by slackness is pattern making, in which employment is good.

The state of employment in the various districts as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of the month is shown in the following Table:—

Name of the last o			10000		Lord Calle	
Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1903, in-	turn	centaged as l	Jnem-	Decrea percent ployed 1903, as	se (+) or ase (-) in tage unem for Feb. s compare ith a
	cluded in the returns.	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						1333
North-East Coast	13,794	***	8.8	2 22		PER STATE
Barrow and Lancaster	2,316	7.7		5'4	- I.I	+ 2'3
Manchester and Liverpool		2.7	2.0	4.I	- 0.3	- 1.4
District	16,585	4.3	5.0	5.8	- 0.7	- 1.5
Oldham, Bolton and Black- burn District	10,896	7.8	8.0	8.3	- 0'2	- 0.2
West Riding Towns	11,893	6.0	6.1	7.8	- 0.1	- r.8
Hull and Lincolnshire District	3,132	4.5	6.4	5.9	- 1.0	
Birmingham, Wolverhamp-	5,825	2.7	2.3			- 1.4
ton and Coventry District	3,023	-/	-3	2.2	+ 0.4	+ 0.5
Notts., Derby and Leicester District	4,037	3.0	3.9	7'3	- 0.0	- 4'3
London and Neighbouring District	12,788	4.0	4.0	4		+ 0.6
South Coast	3,321	I.d	I'2	1.4	+ 0.7	+ 0.5
South Wales and Bristol Dis-	5,750	2.9	3.8	2.8	- 0.0	
trict	L STORY OF THE REAL PROPERTY.				09	+ 0.1
SCOTLAND.						
Glasgow and District	13,796	7.2	8.7	410		WELLE CO. CO.
East of Scotland	3,667			7.3	- 1.2	- 0,I
IRELAND.	3,00/	9.2	10.7	8.4	- I.5	+ 1.1
Belfast and Dublin	3,411	4.9	5.4	4.8	- o·5	+ 0.1

As compared with a month ago some improvement is shown in nearly all the districts. As compared with a year ago a great improvement is shown in the Notts., Derby, and Leicester district, and a considerable decline on the North-East Coast.

North-East Coast.—Employment is still bad, and is worse than a year ago, but the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed is less than in January. Marine engineering is especially depressed, the joiners' dispute affecting the placing of orders in shipyards and marine engine shops. Employment with pattern makers is fair generally. On the Tyne there is a better demand for fitters and machine men in the higher reaches of the river, and in the lower reaches employment in the principal engine shops is reported as fairly brisk, with some double shift work. On the Wear employment with engine fitters and turners has slightly improved, but there are still a large number unemployed. Engineers report employment as moderate at Middlesbrough, bad at Hartlepool and Stockton. In the boiler hops employment is fairly steady on the Tyne and Wear, good at Darlington, slack at Hartlepool and Stockton, moderate at Middlesbrough. In the Tees district employment is good in bridge building. On railway wagon work at Darlington it is good. With moulders employment is fairly good on the Tyne, bad on the Wear, good at Darlington and Middlesbrough, bad at Hartlepool and Stockton. With brassfinishers on the Tyne and Wear it is bad.

Barrow and Lancaster. — Employment with some branches is reported as depressed, but pattern makers report it as fair, ironfounders as good, and the percentage of unemployed Trade Union members shows little change as compared with a month or a year ago.

Manchester and Liverpool District.—The general state of employment shows a slight improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. With patternmakers it is good generally. At Manchester employment is moderate with most branches, but machine workers report it as improving, smiths and strikers as fair. At Liverpool it is good with brass founders; with engineers and ironfounders it is reported as bad. At Crewe employment generally is good, and much overtime is being worked. At Birkenhead employment is moderate. At Warrington it is moderate with engineers and boiler makers, good with ironfounders; at Stockport it is bad with engineers, good with ironfounders.

with ironfounders.

Oldham, Bolton, Blackburn and District.—Employment on the whole is slack and shows little change as compared with a month or a year ago, but with pattern makers employment generally is good. At Oldham short time is being worked at many firms, and employment is reported as bad with engineers and ironfounders, fair with machine makers, moderate with brassfounders. At Blackburn employment is bad at both engine shops and textile machine making works. In Bolton and Bury employment generally is moderate and improving. Engineers report employment as bad at Ashton-under-Lyne, as moderate at Rochdale and Horwich. Boiler makers at Dukinfield and Horwich report it as moderate.

West Riding.—The general state of employment is the same as a month ago, and slightly better than a year ago. With pattern makers employment is good at Sheffield and Halifax, and fair elsewhere. At Leeds employment is reported as fair generally, but some short time is being worked, and brassfounders and finishers, and wool, comb, hackle and gill makers are slack. At Sheffield employment is dull with engineers, good with ironfounders, very slack with machine workers, engineers' tool makers and boilermakers. Employment continues to decline at Wakefield, and some short time is being worked. At Stanningley it is bad. At Bradford employment is moderate with engineers, improving with ironfounders. Engineers report it as bad at Halifax and Keighley, ironfounders as moderate at Halifax, declining at Keighley.

Hull and Lincolnshire District.—At Hull employment is reported as fair generally. At Doncaster it is very fair generally, but moderate with brass workers and coachbuilders. At Grantham employment is good, at Lincoln moderate, at Grimsby bad. With boilermakers it is reported as moderate throughout the district.

West Midlands.—Employment generally continues fairly good and about the same as a year ago. At Birmingham some short time has been worked. Engineers report employment as quiet at Wolverhampton, as moderate elsewhere. In the cycle and motor trade employment has been good, overtime being worked. In electrical engineering it is good at Birmingham, quiet at Wolverhampton. Employment is fair with sporting gun makers at Birmingham, and on best gunlocks at Walsall; with military gun makers at Birmingham it is bad, owing to partial stoppage of works pending completion of new tools. Employment at railway wagon works at Birmingham has been fairly good. A great improvement during the month is reported in railway spring, axle and carriage work at Wednesbury.

East Midlands.—The general state of employment is fairly good. It shows some improvement as compared with the previous month, and is considerably better than a year ago. Engineers and ironfounders report employment as moderate at Nottingham, Derby and Leicester, as good at Chesterfield. With lace, hosiery and shoe machine makers employment is good. With cycle makers it is fair at Nottingham, dull at Derby. At Nottingham employment is good with brassfounders, fair with smiths and strikers. At Derby employment is moderate with boilermakers, good in the railway engineering shops. With railway carriage and wagon builders it is good at Long Eaton, dull at Derby.

London and Neighbouring District. - Employment

Manchester and Liverpool District.—The general state of mployment shows a slight improvement as compared with a month and a year ago. With patternmakers it is good generally. At Manchester employment is moderate with most branches, but machine workers report it as improving, smiths and strikers as fair. At Liverpool it is

South Coast.—Employment generally is fair at Southampton but not so good as a year ago. It is moderate at Portsmouth and in the Government yards at Devonport, but at private firms at Devonport and Plymouth it is not so good.

South Wales and Bristol District.—Employment generally is slightly better than in January, and is about the same as a year ago. At Swindon engineers report employment as fair, boilermakers as good. At Bristol it is dull generally. In South Wales employment generally is reported as fair. At Newport it is bad.

Glasgow and District.—Employment generally is bad, especially at Greenock and Port Glasgow, and short time is being worked at some places. With engineers employment is worse than a year ago, with moulders it is better In marine engineering and boiler-making employment is bad, in machine toolmaking fair, in locomotive building good. Pattern makers report employment as fair, general engineers, moulders, and iron, steel and brass dressers as moderate, brass finishers as fair, coppersmiths as dull.

East of Scotland.—Employment generally at Dundee, Edinburgh, Leith, and Aberdeen is bad. At Falkirk iron moulders report it as fair, pattern makers as improving, with some overtime. Employment is fair with pattern makers at Dundee.

Ireland.—Employment generally is slightly better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At Belfast employment in textile machine making is moderate, but improving; in general engineering it is fair. With pattern makers and brass founders it is reported as good, with iron founders as quiet, with smiths and strikers as fair. At Dublin engineers and ironfounders report employment as bad, smiths as moderate, hammermen as good.

HARDWARE, CUTLERY, AND MISCEL-LANEOUS METAL TRADES.

Information has been received from three Employers' Associations, 14 Trade Unions with 13,000 members, and from Local Correspondents.

With farriers employment generally reported as slack.

With brassworkers employment is fair generally and about the same as a month and a year ago. At Birmingham and Rotherham it is reported as moderate, at Manchester as improving. In London it is dull with some short time.

At Birmingham employment in the fender and fire brasses trade is quiet, in the bedstead trade it is bad. It is fair with makers of hinges, rivets, axes and pins, quiet with nail makers.

In South Staffordshire employment is good with makers of malleable nails and protectors, cycle castings, brazil hoes, nuts and bolts and with stampers and piercers; it is fair with light hollow-ware tinners and turners, galvanisers, japanners and makers of wrought nails, builders' ironmongery and horseshoes. It is quiet with makers of iron fences and hurdles, spectacle frames and vermin traps; slack with makers of tacks and cut nails and vices. In the malleable iron trade at Walsall employment is very quiet, nearly all the works being on short time.

Short time.

Employment is fair with anchor smiths at Cradley, good with chain and anchor smiths in the Gateshead district.

At Cradley employment is quiet with cable chainmakers and strikers, slack on block and dollied chains. In the lock, latch, and key trade in the Wolverhampton and Willenhall district employment continues fair, but not so good as a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-HARDWARE, CUTLERY, &c., TRADES; TEXTILE TRADES.

In the tube trade employment is fair in South Staffordshire, but not so good as a month or a year ago, and some short time is being worked. At Birmingham employment is good with cased tube and locomotive tube workers, and in the copper tube and wire trade. With wire drawers at Warrington employment is good. With wire weavers and workers it is very dull in London and Glasgow. At Redditch employment is good in the needle and fish hook trade, quiet in the fancy case trade.

March, 1903.

In the tin, iron plate, and sheet metal trades employment has been quiet in Birmingham, Leeds, and Dublin, moderate in Manchester and Oldham, fair in Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, and Belfast. In London it has been slack, with some short time. In South Staffordshire employment has been slack in the iron plate trade.

With stove grate workers employment is quiet at Sheffield, fair at Glasgow. At Falkirk it is bad, with much short time.

In the file trade employment is moderate at Sheffield and Birmingham. Filesmiths report it as fair at Wolverhampton, as good at Warrington. In the edge tool trade emp.oyment is quiet at Sheffield, fair at Birmingham, and slack at Wednesbury.

At Sheffield employment in the pen and pocket knife trade is fairly good in all branches. In the table knife trade it is quiet with forgers and grinders; with hafters it is very slack, and much short time is being worked.

In the silver and britannia metal trades nearly all branches are slack at Sheffield. At Birmingham employment is quiet in the silver, electro-plate and jewellery trades, good with britannia metal workers. In London it is quiet in the silver and electro-plate trades, with much short time. With goldsmiths and beaters employment is bad, and worse than a month and a year ago.

COTTON TRADE.

General

Information as to the state of employment in the different branches of the cotton trade has been received through the Trade Correspondent of the Department from 24 Employers' Associations, whose members are estimated to employ 232,000 operatives. Reports have also been furnished by the Local Correspondents of the Department and by Trade Unions.

Returns relating specially to the employment of women in the cotton trade have also been received from women correspondents with regard to 546 spinning and weaving actories, employing about 99,700 women and girls.

The general result of the information thus obtained from various sources is as follows. Employment in the Spinning branch continues good, and is about the same as last month and a year ago. Hardly any short time is reported. Of the 26,300 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 91 per cent. were employed in mills giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 92 per cent. in January, and in February, 1902.

In the Weaving branch employment is fairly good generally, though only moderate in some districts. As compared with a month ago it has slightly declined, but is rather better than a year ago. Hardly any short time is reported, although some looms are waiting for beams. Of the 73,400 women included in the returns from women correspondents, 82 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, compared with 85 per cent. in January and 79 per cent. in February 1902.

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

			Percer	tage ordir wl	narily emp	oloyed in Mills
Trade and Mont	h.		through	full Time nout the nth.	Working Short Time	Closed during
			With Full Employ- ment.	With Partial Employ- ment.	during some part of the Month.	Month for repairs, bad trade, disputes, or other causes.
Cotton Trade—Spinning	_		2000		To day	de la boot
February, 1903			91	5	1	3
January, 1903	•••	***	92	7		I
February, 1902	***	***	92	7	-	I
Cotton Trade-Weaving	_					The same of the same
February, 1903			82	13	1	A
January, 1903			85	13	MED TO B	2
February, 1902			79	20	I	1

Principal Districts. SPINNING.

Stockport, Manchester and Ashton District.—Employment in the Stockport, Reddish, Romiley and Crumpsall district is fair, about the same as in January and slightly better than a year ago. In Manchester, Pendlebury and Patricroft it is good. In the Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley, Dukinfield and Droylsden district it is fairly good generally, about the same as in January and better than a year ago; at Mossley it has improved, and is better than a year ago.

better than a year ago.

Oldham District (including Middleton, Shaw, Royton,
Lees and Chadderton).—Employment is good, showing no
change as compared with January, and is better than a
year ago

Bolton District (including Farnworth, Leigh and Wigan).— Employment is good generally, and is about the same as a month and a year ago.

Bury and Rochdale District.—In Bury and Elton, mills are running full time. In Rochdale and Milnrow employment is good, as in January, and better than a year ago. In Heywood employment is good, and is practically the same as in January and a year ago.

Other Districts.—In the Glossop, Hadfield and Hyde districts full time is being worked. In Blackburn, Burnley and Preston employment is reported as good.

WEAVING.

Preston District.—The Employers' Association reports employment as moderate, but improving, and better than a year ago; two sheds are still closed.

Blackburn, Darwen, and Chorley District.—The Employers' Association reports employment in Blackburn and Clitheroe as good, and better than a month and a year ago. In Darwen, employment is fairly good; it shows little change as compared with January, and is better than a year ago. In Chorley employment continues rather unsatisfactory; full time is being worked, but a few looms are standing for beams.

Burnley, Accrington and Colne District.—In Burnley and Padiham employment is fairly good, though rather worse than in January and about the same as a year ago. In Nelson, Barrowford, and Brierfield it is good, and better than a year ago. In Accrington, Church, and Oswaldtwistle it is good, and better than a month and a year ago. In the Colne district it is fairly good, and slightly better than in January and a year ago.

Other Districts.—In Bury and Elton full time is being worked though looms are waiting for warps at many factories. In Rochdale employment is not good, being worse than in January, and about the same as a year ago; some looms are waiting for warps. In Radcliffe looms are on the whole better employed. In Bolton employment is fair and rather better than in January.

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

Information has been received from two Employers' Associations, from Local Correspondents, and also from women correspondents with regard to 175 factories employing about 29,000 women and girls.

Employment in the Woollen trade although still good on the whole, shows a decline in the heavy branch; it is

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY .-- TEXTILE TRADES; BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

better than a year ago. In the Worsted trade it is fairly good, and better than a year ago; compared with a month ago it shows a decline. Of the women and girls usually employed in the woollen and worsted factories reported on 84 per cent. were employed in factories giving full employment throughout the month, to be compared with 93 per cent. in January, and with 77 per cent. in

February, 1902.

Bradford District.—Employment in Bradford is fairly good on the whole. The woolsorters have no Trade Union members unemployed. Employment in the woolcombing industry is again reported as good with women and only fair with men; the woolcombers' Trade Union have several men unemployed. Worsted spinners and weavers are well employed in Bradford and the Worth Valley; in Halifax, there is a slight decline.

Huddersfield District. - Employment in the worsted trade shows a considerable decline, weavers having to wait several days for warps; it is also worse than a year ago. In the woollen trade employment in Huddersfield continues good, overtime and night work being common. In the heavy woollen trade in Batley and Dewsbury although the mills are still running full time, several firms are only giving partial employment.

Other Districts.—Employment is reported as fair at Leeds, Yeadon and Guiseley; as good in Rochdale, Milnrow and Stockport. In West Somerset cloth factory operatives are making full time. Employment is good in all branches of the woollen industry in Galashiels and Selkirk, showing no change compared with a month or a year ago.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Hosiery Trade.

According to reports from one Employers' Association and from Local Correspondents, employment is fairly good on the whole, but shows a further decline in Nottingham, both as compared with a month and a year ago.

Leicester District.—Employment at Leicester is reported as very fair, and as rather better than in January, but not so good as a year ago. It is good on seam-less hose, lambswool and cashmere underwear on Government orders for cardigan jackets and sweaters; it is fairly good on fashioned hose, socks and woollen gloves; rather slacker on cycle and fancy hosiery. At Loughborough employment is regular on seamless and ribbed hose, fair on natural wool and cashmere underwear. At Hinckley employment is only moderate.

Nottingham District.—Employment at Nottingham is not so good as a month or a year ago, and is reported as only moderate. It is fairly good with handframe workers in Arnold, Calverton and Woodborough, and is fair with trimmers at Basford and Bulwell.

Scotland.—In the Selkirk district hosiery workers continue to be fully employed.

According to information from the Employers' Association, employment in the Nottingham Lace Trade continues fair in the levers section, although not quite so good as a year ago; it remains fair in the curtain section, showing no change compared with a month or a year ago; it is good in the plain net section, and better than a month or a year ago. The operative lace-makers report employment in these branches as fair, with a tendency downward in the levers section.

Carpet Trade.

Information from Local Correspondents shows that at Kidderminster employment is fairly good; spinners have been regularly employed, and staplers are busy. The carpet weavers' Trade Union reports employment there as moderate, and not quite so good as a year ago; no firms are running short time, and some firms are running overtime to complete special orders, but some of the weavers are scarcely averaging ordinary time. At Bridgnorth employment continues good. At Dewsbury it is moderate. In Midlothian and the West of Scotland it is reported as good, and better than a year ago.

Jute and Flax Trades.

Information has been received from two Employers' Associations, and from Local Correspondents. Employment in the Dundee districts continues good in the jute trade, and shows a further improvement in the flax trade. In Belfast and Ulster the Employers' Association report employment as good generally. In Belfast the flax dressers' and flax roughers' Trade Unions report employment as moderate; the hackle and gill makers as improving; the power loom yarn dressers and power loom tenters as good; the women workers' Trade Union reports it as quiet.

Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

Information has been received from four Employers' Associations, three Trade Unions with about 11,000 members, and Local Correspondents. Employment in the West Riding is reported as good with dyers and finishers by the Employers' Association, and as better than a month or a year ago; one Trade Union reports that overtime was worked at Bradford and Huddersfield; another, that two-fifths of their members worked overtime, and one-fifth worked short time. Short time reported at Pendleton, Bury, and Barnsley, overtime at Burnkey and Middleton. The cotton and wool dyers' Employers' Association, covering Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the South of Scotland, report employment as fair, showing no change compared with a month ago, and an improvement on a year ago. In the Bolton district a few firms have worked short time, and a few have been exceedingly busy, working overtime. The dyers and trimmers in Leicester have not been so well employed as in January, and have worked less than full time. Employment is reported as quiet with dyers in the Nottingham district; as good with bleachers at Basford. Calendermen report employment as good in Glasgow. It is reported as fair with dyers and finishers in Dundee, slack with bleachers.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

RETURNS have been received from the Trade Correspondent of the Department based on information supplied by 572 firms employing 69,123 workpeople. Reports have also been furnished by Local Correspondents.

The reports show that employment was quiet generally, but better than in January. The number employed by the firms making returns at the end of February was 69,123, compared with 68,277 at the end of January, and with 66,854 a year ago, an increase of 1'2 per cent. during the month and of 3'4 per cent. during the year. Of the total number of operatives, 76 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout February (to be compared with 69 per cent. among those for whom returns were received for January), and the remaining 24 per cent. worked some short time during

The following Table enables a comparison to be made of the number employed in the various districts at the end of February with a month ago and with a year ago, so far as covered by the returns:-

District.	No. of firms included		employe firms at		Increas	entage e(+) or e(-) om
	in the returns.	Feb. 1903.	Jan. 1903.	Feb. 1902.	Jan. 1903.	Feb. 1902.
ENGLAND AND WALES. London	73 94 166 26 20 33 16 26 32 16 9	5,001 15,701 16,803 3,763 3,182 5,211 2,208 2,093 2,781 2,466 1,138 3,777	4,823 15,531 16,707 3,716 3,149 5,132 2,015 2,087 2,8804 2,478 1,124 3,757	4,716 15,679 15,710 3,671 3,125 4,897 2,032 2,073 2,720 2,219 1,141 3,666	+ 3.7 + 1.1 + 0.6 + 1.3 + 1.0 + 1.5 + 9.6 + 0.3 - 0.8 - 0.5 + 1.2 + 0.5	+ 6.0 + 0.1 + 7.0 + 2.5 + 1.8 + 6.4 + 8.7 + 1.0 + 2.0 + 3.0
Total, England and Wales	544	64,124	63,323	61,649	+ 1.3	+ 4.0
SCOTLAND IRELAND	24	4,245 754	4,232	4,498 707	+ 0'3	+ 6.6 - 5.6
Total	572	69,123	68,277	66,854	+ 1.5	+ 3'4

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-BOOT AND SHOE AND OTHER CLOTHING TRADES; PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES.

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

March, 1903.

London.—Returns covering 5,000 workpeople show hat 89 per cent. were in firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 80 per cent. in January. Employment generally is quiet, but shows a slight improvement as compared with January; with handsewn bootmakers it is reported as rather worse.

Leicester District. - Returns covering 13,506 workpeople in Leicester and 2,195 in country districts show that 78 per cent. of the former and 86 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 67 and 63 per cent. respectively in January. Employment continues to improve,

but is not good for the time of year.

Northampton District.—Returns covering 9,000 workpeople in Northampton and 7,803 in country districts show that 76 per cent. of the former and 78 per cent. of the latter were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 66 per cent. and 87 per cent. respectively in January. Employment has slightly improved. With boot upper cutters and machiners at Wellingborough it is reported as good. In Kettering employment is better than in January; 87 per cent. of the 3,763 workpeople covered by the returns were in firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 74 per cent. in January.

Stafford, Stone, and Nantwich.—Returns covering 3,182 workpeople show that 76 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 68 per cent. in January. In Stafford and Stone employment is reported as improved.

Bristol and Kingswood.—Returns covering 2,208 workpeople in Bristol show that 66 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 37 per cent. in January. Of the 2,093 covered by the returns for Kingswood, 42 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 28 per cent. in January. Employment in Bristol is reported as moderate; in Kings-

Eastern Counties.—Returns covering 5,211 workpeople in Norwich, Ipswich, Colchester, and Braintree show that 68 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 91 per cent. in January. Employment is reported as slack in Norwich, as having slightly improved in the Ipswich

Other Parts of England.—Employment in Leeds, Birmingham and Nottingham is reported as bad; in Liverpool, Manchester and Wolverhampton as quiet; in Derby as moderate; in Mansfield as fair.

Scotland.—Returns covering 4,245 workpeople show that 72 per cent. were employed by firms working full time throughout the month, compared with 66 per cent. in January. Employment is reported as bad in Edinburgh; as quiet in Aberdeen and Glasgow.

Ireland.—Employment is reported as bad in Dublin and Belfast; as moderate with boot rivetters in Cork.

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

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

London.—Employment with bespoke tailors is reported as bad. In the ready-made branch of the tailoring trade it is reported by Employers and by two Trade Unions as fairly good. With hatters it is reported as good; with cap makers as slack. Returns from the Employment Bureaux for women show a decline in demand for dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago, the number of situations offered being 87, compared with 97 in February, 1902, while the number requiring situations was 78, compared with only 43 a year ago; compared with the previous month demand for dressmakers and milliners rose from 65 to 87, and the supply fell from 97 to 78.

Manchester and Liverpool.—In Manchester employment in the bespoke branch of the tailoring trade is reported as still slack. In the ready-made branch a considerable improvement is reported, and employment is fairly good. With mantle makers employment is reported as fairly good. Employment with makers of costumes and skirts is generally reported as good, and better than a month or a year ago; returns from manufacturers employing 2,642 workpeople in their factories at the end of February show an increase of 3.6 per cent. on the number employed at the end of January, and of 6.7 per cent. on the corresponding period a year ago, and it is stated that it is difficult to get sufficient skilled labour. Employment with shirt makers is quiet. Umbrella makers are busy. In Liverpool employment with bespoke tailors has improved, and is now fair; with ready-made tailoring operatives it is reported as slack.

Leeds.—Returns have been received from ready-made tailoring manufacturers employing more than 8,000 work-people in their factories, in ddition to persons employed on work for them in worksho From these it appears that employment during February was good, with few exceptions, full time being general and overtime frequent. Firms employing 75 per cent. of the workpeople covered by the returns report employment as better, and firms employing 8 per cent. as worse, than in the previous month. As compared with a year ago firms employing 58 per cent. report it as better, and firms employing 13 per cent. as worse. With bespoke tailors employment

Bristol. - Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade continues good, and is better than a month or a year ago. Bespoke tailors report a slight improvement. With silk hatters employment continues moderate. With glovers at Yeovil it is good.

Eastern Counties .- Operatives in the ready-made tailoring factories in Norwich and Yarmouth are reported as on full time; skirt and blouse makers and corset makers are fairly well employed. Employment in the readymade tailoring trade is reported as good at Ipswich, moderate at Colchester; with dress, mantle, and corset makers as fair.

Other Districts. — Employment in the ready-made tailoring trade is reported as good in Leicester and Nottingham; fair at Derby. In Glasgow it is reported as not busy in the bespoke branch, fairly good in the ready-made branch; with mantle makers as quiet. Employment with bespoke tailors in Edinburgh is quiet.

Employment with felt hatters is reported by the Trade Union as moderate at Stockport; as dull in Denton, Bredbury, Hyde, Failsworth and Bury, but as showing a slight improvement in Denton, Hyde, and Failsworth. The Employers' Associations in the Denton and Manchester districts report that there was a slight revival in the shipping trade, but employment in the home trade was quiet; in the Warwickshire district employment is reported as fair, but worse than a month or a year ago.

PRINTING, BOOKBINDING, AND PAPER TRADES

RETURNS have been supplied by 25 Employers' Associations, by Trade Unions with an aggregate membership of nearly 55,500, and by Local Correspondents. The information thus obtained shows that employment in the Printing and Bookbinding Trades generally was still quiet, while the Paper Trade was fully employed. Compared with both a month ago and a year ago, employment with letterpress printers shows a slight improvement, with lithographic printers and bookbinders a decline. The paper trade shows little change.

With compositors, employment, though somewhat improved, remains generally quiet; with composing machine operators it is good; with machine minders, pressmen and warehousemen it is bad. With stereotypers and electrotypers it is fairly good generally, but dull in London. The percentage of unemployed members EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-PRINTING, BOOKBINDING AND PAPER TRADES; FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

among Trade Union letterpress printers was 4.6 at the end of February, compared with 4.8 per cent. in January and 4.9 per cent. in February, 1902.

Lithographic artists report employment as fairly good. rather better than a month or a year ago. Employment with lithographic printers is bad, worse than a month ago, and worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed members among Trade Union lithographic artists and printers was 4.8, compared with 4.2 per cent. in January and 3.5 per cent. in February a

In the bookbinding trade employment is still quiet, and worse than either a month or a year ago. The per-centage of unemployed Trade Union members among bookbinders was 4'4, compared with 3'7 per cent. in January and 3'4 per cent in February of last year.

The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members in the printing and bookbinding trades at the end of February was 4.6, the same percentage as in January.

The percentage for February, 1902 was 4.5.

The state of employment in these trades in the various districts as indicated by the proportions of members of certain Trade Unions returned as unemployed at the end of February is shown in the following Table:

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Feb., 1903, included	Percent	age retu ployed at	rned as end of	Decrease centage un for Feb.	e (+) or (-) in per- nemployed , 1903, as ed with a
	in the Returns.	Feb., 1903.	Jan., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London	25,262 1,343 6,136 3,886 1,770 2,283 372 1,660 795 5,916 2,514	4'9 3'5 6'1 3'7 2'5 5'5 30 2'4 2'5 2'7 8'8	5'2 3'0 5'5 3'3 3'7 4'6 2'7 2'8 2'2 2'7 7'4	5°2 1°5 6°0 3°2 3°0 4°5 1°2 3°9 3°9 4°2	- 0°3 + 0°5 + 0°6 + 0°4 - 1°2 + 0°9 + 0°3 - 0°4 + 0°3 - 1°4	- 0'3 + 2'0 + 0'1 + 0'5 - 0'5 + 1'0 + 1'8 - 0'8 - 1'4 - 0'3 + 4'6

Both machine and hand-made papermakers, though not brisk, were fully employed. Of 9,881 workpeople employed in 63 machine papermaking mills, one mill in which 155 are employed, reports employment at the end of February as busy; 27, in which 4,927 are employed, as good; 17, in which 2,442 are employed, as fair; 4, in which 438 are employed, as slack; 2, in which 78 are employed, as bad; and from 12 mills, in which 1,841 workpeople are employed, the returns are indefinite. Thirteen mills, employing between 400 and 500 workpeople in the hand-made paper trade, were fully employed. The percentage of unemployed among Trade Union papermakers was 2.0, compared with 2.1 per cent. in January. The percentage for February, 1902, was also 2.0.

London.—Employment generally shows an improvement compared with a month ago. With bookbinders, however, it has declined. Returns from 24 Trade Unions with a membership of 25,262 show that 1,227 (or 4.9 per cent. were unemployed, compared with 5.2 per cent. in January, 1903, and February, 1902.

Northern Counties.—Letterpress printers on the Tyne and Tees are fairly well employed. Bookbinders and machine rulers at Newcastle report employment as moderate. Some paper mills are fully employed, others slack but improving. Employment at Carlisle is reported as good.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—Employment in Manchester is reported as still bad with letterpress and lithographic printers; as fair with electrotypers and lithographic artists; as quiet with bookbinders. Employment in Liverpool is moderate; in Oldham, Ashton, and Newtonle-Willows it is good; in Preston, Blackburn, Bolton, Burnley, Crewe and Barrow fairly good; in Lancaster quiet. Papermill workers report employment as fair at Bury, good at Bolton and Darwen.

Yorkshire.—In Leeds and Sheffield all branches are

Bradford and Huddersfield is reported as quiet, at Hull as moderate with all branches. Letterpress printers at York report employment as good.

East Midland Counties .- Employment is reported as good with letterpress printers at Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Northampton, and Lincoln, and with lithographic printers and bookbinders at Derby and Leicester. At Nottingham lithographic printers report employment as bad, lithographic artists as moderate, bookbinders and warehousemen as fair.

West Midland Counties .- At Birmingham letterpress printers report employment as moderate, bookbinders as fair. Letterpress printers in the Potteries report employment as declining; at Leek as moderate; at West Bromwich as fair; at Stafford as brisk.

Eastern Counties .- Employment is fairly good at Ipswich, Beccles, Bungay, Chelmsford, Norwich, Yarmouth. Fakenham, and Lynn.

Southern and South-Western Counties. - Employment with letterpress printers is reported as fair at Bristol. Guildford, and Reading; moderate at Plymouth, Exeter, and Brighton; declining at Gloucester; good at Bath, Hereford, and Weston-super-Mare. Lithographic printers at Bristol report employment as good; at Reading and

Wales and Monmouth.—Employment is reported as bad with letterpress printers at Cardiff; it is fairly good else-

Scotland.—In Edinburgh letterpress printers are fairly busy, other branches generally quiet. Employment is fairly good in Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee.

Ireland.—The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of February was 8.8.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

General.

INFORMATION has been received from six Employers' Associations, from 34 Trade Unions with 35,137 members, and from Local Correspondents.

Employment generally in the Furnishing trades has considerably improved, although polishers and upholsterers still report it as bad. With Millsawyers it continues dull; with Coachmakers it is still quiet, but better than a month ago; with Brushmakers it is good, and better than a month or a year ago; with Coopers it is bad.

Of the 35,137 members of Trade Unions, 1,958 (or 5.6 per cent.) were unemployed at the end of the month, compared with 6.7 per cent. of their membership at the end of January, and 4.9 per cent. at the end of February,

Principal Districts.

London.—Employment with furniture workers shows an improvement, the largest Trade Union reporting a great reduction in the number unemployed; with some branches it is still bad, and it is reported as exceptionally bad with upholsterers; mill sawyers in one branch report it as fair, in another as dull. Employment with coachmakers is moderate. With coopers it is bad; brush makers report it as very good; stickmakers as bad; basket makers as quiet.

Northern Counties .- Employment with cabinet makers, and upholsterers remains moderate; millsawyers are slack; employment with coopers is quiet.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—In the Manchester district employment with cabinet makers, polishers and upholsterers is reported as bad, although slightly better than a year ago. With coachmakers it is reported as moderate in railway shops, as bad in private works; with wheelwrights as bad. Employment with coopers is reported as bad. In the Liverpool district the Employers' Association of cabinet makers, upholsterers and polishers report employment as fair and better fairly well employed, except lithographic printers at Leeds, who are reported as quiet. Employment in makers, sawyers and upholsterers' Trade Unions report it EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY—FURNISHING, &c., TRADES; GLASS, POTTERY, &c., TRADES; LEATHER TRADES.

as quiet. It is reported as quiet with coachmakers and tram-car builders; bad with wheelwrights. With coopers it is fair. Employment is fair with cabinetmakers in the Burnley district, slack in Accrington.

Yorkshire.- In Hull the furniture workers report employment as moderate; millsawyers as bad; coachbuilders as moderate; coopers as fair. In Sheffield cabinet makers and millsawyers report it as slack; tramcar builders as fairly busy. In Leeds cabinet makers report employment as improved; wheelwrights as slack; brushmakers as

Midland Counties .- In the Birmingham district, cabinet makers, carvers and packing case makers report employment as bad; millsawyers as improving. Coachmakers report it as improving; wheelwrights as moderate. Coopers report it as bad. In the Nottingham district employment is reported as dull with furniture workers, millsawyers and coopers; as good with packing case makers; as improving with coachmakers, moderate with wheelwrights; employment generally is considered to be better than a month ago. In Leicester employment is reported as bad with cabinet makers and millsawyers; with coach builders at Leicester as bad, at Northampton as moderate; with electric car builders at Loughborough as good. Coopers at Burton-on-Trent report employ ment as bad, with most workpeople on short time.

West of England.—In Bristol, employment with cabinet makers is reported as bad, with upholsterers as dull, with millsawyers as improved. Employment with coachmakers is dull at Bristol, good at Gloucester, moderate at Swindon. With coopers it is dull. In the Plymouth district employment is quiet with upholsterers, polishers and millsawyers; in cabinet factories it is moderate. Coach builders report employment as fair in Plymouth: as quiet, but improved, at Exeter.

Scotland.—In the Edinburgh district cabinet makers report employment as fair, upholsterers as bad, polishers as fair; sawmillers as dull. Coachmakers report it as improved, but still bad. With coopers it is bad. In the Glasgow district employment in the furnishing trades s reported as very dull; with sawmillers as fair, but some ort time has been worked. Coachmakers report it as moderate. With coopers it is bad. In Dundee furniture workers report employment as fair, upholsterers as dull, bobbin and shuttle makers as fair, coachmakers as quiet. In Aberdeen employment with cabinet makers, polishers, and wood carvers is reported as fair, with upholsterers as In Peterhead and Fraserburgh herring barrel makers have full employment.

Ireland.—In Dublin cabinet makers, upholsterers and oach makers report employment as bad; coopers as good. In Belfast cabinet makers report it as good, olsterers as fair, polishers as improving, packing case akers as moderate; with coachbuilders it is returned as bad; with coopers as dull, with brushmakers as fair. In the Cork district employment in all branches is reported

GLASS, POTTERY, AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

NFORMATION has been received from thirteen Employers' sociations, ten Trade Unions with 5,760 members, and Local Correspondents.

Employment generally is bad in the Glass Trades. In the Pottery trades it shows a marked improvement; it is till dull in the Brick and Tile trades.

Glass Trades.—Employment with glass bottle makers in the North of England is reported as bad, showing no ange compared with January, and being worse than a year ago. In the St. Helens and Newton-le-Willows ict it is bad, and worse than a year ago. In Yorkshire bad generally, and worse than a month or a year ago; Wakefield an improvement is reported: at Rotherham ters of medicine bottles are fairly well employed. In tol employment is reported as fair; in London as In the Glasgow, Alloa and Portobello district it is

, but worse than a month or a year ago.

In London glass blowers report employment as fairly good, and better than a year ago. In Birmingham flintglass makers report employment as bad; flint-glass cutters as slack; plate-glass bevellers and silverers as fair. At Wordsley, Brettle Lane and Stourbridge employment is reported as very quiet with flint-glass makers, as unsatisfactory in other branches. Flint-glass workers at Leeds are slack. At St. Helens glass flatteners report employment as good; decorative glassworkers as fair. With pressed glassmakers at Gateshead it continues bad; the Trade Union flint-glass makers have averaged three shifts per week. In Edinburgh glassmakers and glass cutters report employment as dull.

Pottery Trades.—In the Staffordshire Potteries employment generally has improved; hollow-ware pressers have still several on short time, and sanitary pressers report no improvement, but the other branches are nearly all better employed. In Bristol earthenware potters report employment as moderate, stone potters as dull.

In the South Yorkshire and Aire districts employment is fair, about the same as al month ago, but worse than a year ago. In the Glasgow and Portobello district also it is fair, showing an improvement on January, but a decline compared with a year ago.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment with brickmakers in Suffolk and Essex is reported as dull. In Leicestershire it is reported as fairly good with conduit and drain pipe makers, and with fire and faced brick makers; quiet with chimney pipe makers; bad with sanitary ware makers. With brickmakers at Nottingham, Carlton, Bulwell and Arnold employment is good. In the Birmingham district it is reported as bad, but better than in January, and about the same as a year ago; in West Bromwich and Oldbury as bad, showing no improvement on January, and being worse than a year ago. In the Oldham district it is reported as fair, and better than a year ago. In the Glasgow district it is fair, but scarcely so good as a year ago. In Wales it is fairly good.

LEATHER TRADES.

RETURNS have been received from 5 Employers' Associations, 12 Trade Unions, and Local Correspondents. The information received shows that employment generally continued slack in February, and considerably worse than a year ago. The percentage of unemployed Trade Union members was 6.8 at the end of the month, as compared with 6.2 in January and 3.3 in February, 1902. Much short time has been worked.

In the preparation and dressing of the raw material employment generally has been bad. With tanners, however, it is reported as fair in the Bristol district, as moderate at Leicester. At Leeds employment continues good with leather shavers, with curriers it is moderate. At Wellingborough leather dressers report employment as good on heavy work, as quiet, but improving, on light

With saddlers employment is reported as good in London, fairly good at Walsall; in Edinburgh it is quiet, in Dublin improving. At Birmingham cycle saddlers are busy; brown saddlers are slack. With harness makers employment is reported as bad generally n the Walsall and Birmingham district, but fair on cape and best harness. In London it is bad, and the increased use of motors is said to be affecting the trade. At Walsall employment is quiet with gig saddlers, female harness stitchers, bridle cutters and bit and stirrup makers. Saddle and harness makers report employment as quiet at Glasgow and Leeds.

With horse collar makers employment is bad in the Walsall and Birmingham district. In London a slight improvement is reported.

In London fancy leather workers report employment as quiet, pocket-book makers as bad and worse than a month ago. With portmanteau and trunk makers employment is fair for the time of year and shows little change as compared with a year ago.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR; SEAMEN.

EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY-AGRICULTURAL LABOUR; DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR.

Information as to the condition of employment in Agriculture has been received from 224 correspondents in various parts of England. The reports indicate that farm labourers have been, on the whole, in full employment during the month. The weather during the greater part of the month was unusually favourable for the time of year, and farm work consequently made good progress. In the last week of the month, however, wet weather somewhat delayed outdoor operations, and occasioned loss of time to a few casual men. supply of this class of labour was as a rule sufficient, but in a few localities a scarcity is reported. Many of the reports refer to the continued difficulty of finding skilled men for permanent situations.

Northern Counties. The reports from Northumberland, Durham, and Cumberland show that there was a fair demand for casual labourers for draining and for pulling, stacking and cutting roots, and stock tending; there was, however, a good supply of labour. Some little irregularity was caused by bad weather. Agricultural work in Lancashire has been fairly active during the month, and the supply of extra labour has in most parts been equal to the demand. In Yorkshire casual labour is reported as plentiful in the majority of the Poor Law Unions reported on, but experienced men are in some demand. Fair progress has been made in farm work as a rule, although there have been some interruptions through stormy weather towards the end of the month.

Midland Counties .- In Cheshire and Derbyshire employment has been good generally, and in some parts casual labourers have been in demand. Reports from Nottinghamshire state that most men were in full work. A report from the Southwell Union states that there has been a demand for hedgers and woodcutters. Regularity o employment is reported in Leicestershire. The supply of extra labourers is said to have been sufficient, but men suitable for permanent situations on farms were difficult to get. In Staffordshire and Shropshire there was a fair demand for farm labourers, and few are reported as out of work. On the whole employment was regular, very little interference having been caused by the weather. Correspondents in Warwickshire state that there was not much demand for extra labour during February, but there were very few farm labourers unemployed, and similar reports come from Wovcestershire. weather in the early part of February allowed of work being got well forward, but there was some interruption at the end of the month. Agricultural employment has been generally regular in Oxfordshire. A few extra men were required in some parts of the county for threshing, hedging, draining, and root-pulling, but the supply in most cases was sufficient. There was some demand for good cattlemen and carters. Agricultural labourers in Northamptonshire have been fully employed, the weather having been favourable on the whole. Regularity of employment is reported in Buckinghamshire. There is said to be a scarcity of farm labourers, and particularly of carters, stockmen and shepherds. The supply of casual labourers in *Hertford-shire* and *Bedfordshire* has been somewhat in excess of the demand, and work on the land is in a forward state. Some odd men were in irregular work at the end of the month owing to unsettled weather. A report from the Luton Union mentions a difficulty in getting men whose duties entail attending to horses and cattle on Sundays.

Eastern Counties. - Reports from Huntingdonshire show that the supply of labour in most districts has not been quite equal to the demand, employment, both indoor and outdoor, having been abundant. One correspondent states that hedgers and other skilled men are only to be obtained at high wages. Farm labourers in Cambridgeshire have been, generally speaking, regularly employed, but a few casual men lost a little time owing to unfavourable weather. The supply of extra men has been, on the whole, rather in excess of the demand. Most of the reports from Lincolnshire show that the supply

of farm labourers in that county is sufficient, although there has been plenty of work in threshing, ploughing, and seed drilling. A correspondent in the Louth Union states that at the hiring held on February 18th men were fairly plentiful. Agricultural employment has been good in Norfolk. A surplus of labour is reported from a few districts, but in the majority of cases supply and demand have been about equal. Threshing was somewhat interrupted by strong winds, but there was full employment on the land. Agricultural labourers in Suffolk have been for the most part fully employed. The supply of casual men is stated to have been rather more plentiful than a year ago. Work on the land has been active, and is now well forward for the time of year. Regularity of employment is reported in Essex. There has been little demand for extra men, and the supply of labour is said to have been generally sufficient. Good men for permanent situations are, however, in some demand.

Southern and South Western Counties.—Farm labourers in Kent have been, for the most part, regularly employed. The fine weather enabled a good deal of hoeing and digging to be done in the hop gardens, and in some districts steam-threshing provided a considerable amount of work. Reports from Survey and Sussex show that, with very few exceptions, agricultural labourers have been fully employed in ploughing, wood cutting, etc., and fieldwork is well forward. Difficulty is reported in obtaining carters and cowmen, and there is some scarcity of lads. Regularity of employment is reported in Hampshire, and the supply of labour was about equal to the demand. The favourable weather has enabled good progress to be made with the spring sowings. In some parts of Berkshire a little time was lost at the end of the month by some casual labourers through rough weather. Agricultural employment in Wiltshire has been generally regular, but a few casual men lost time through unfavourable weather in the last week of February. Labour is said to be more plentiful than of late, owing partly to the return of reservists. A fair supply of farm labour is reported from most parts of Dorsetshire, but there was a scarcity of the better class of men. At the Dorchester hiring fair on February 14th, many men are said to have changed situations, but there was a short supply, and best men were in request.

Employment has been good with agricultural labourers in Somerset. Some casual men, however, are said to have been in irregular work through bad weather in the last week of the month. The supply of labour was in most districts equal to the demand. In Gloucestershire the supply of farm labourers is reported to have been more than sufficient in most parts, but there was a good demand for cowmen, carters, and other men for permanent situations. Sowing, hedging and threshing furnished a good deal o employment for odd men during the month. Correspondents in Herefordshire state that there was no great demand for casual labourers, and the supply was sufficient. Outdoor work was latterly considerably hindered by wet weather. In Devon and Cornwall there was a good supply of agricultural labourers in some districts, but in others a scarcity is reported. Work on the land has been made difficult by wet weather, and some casual labourers have not had regular employment.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

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

Employment was generally dull in February, and in London it was bad. It was worse than in the previous month and in the corresponding month of last year.

LONDON.

Employment at the docks and wharves during February showed a considerable decline as compared with January, and was much worse than a year ago. The average

umber of labourers employed daily at all the docks and principal wharves during the four weeks ended February 28th was 12,373, as compared with an average of

13,079 in the preceding five weeks, and 14,696 in the corresponding period a year ago. The average number employed in February during the six years, 1897-1902

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

	Labourers	employed in	Docks.	D. Lander	
Period.	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship- owners, &c.	Total.	Labourers employed at 115 Wharves making Returns.	
Week ended Feb. 7	5,069 5,347 5,248 4,493	1,628 1,986 1,505 2,036	6,697 7,333 6,753 6,529	5,510 5,752 5,572 5,347	12,207 13,085 12,325 11,876
Average for 4 weeks ended Feb. 28th, 1903	} 5,039	1,789	6,828	5,545	12,373
Average for Jan., 1903	5,359	2,057	7,416	5,663	13,079
Average for Feb., 1902	6,152	2,328	8,480	6,216	14,696

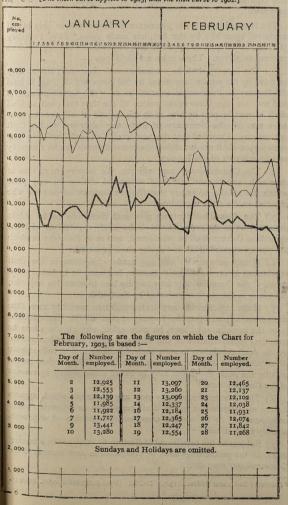
(2) Daily Fluctuation.—The daily fluctuation in the total estimated number of dock and wharf labourers employed by all the docks and principal wharves is shown on the chart below. The numbers in February ranged from 13,441 on the 9th to 11,268 on the 28th.

During February, 1902, the total number of dock and wharf labourers employed varied from 15,472 on the

11th to 12,961 on the 15th.

Chart showing the total estimated number of **Labourers** employed by all the **Docks**, and at 115 of the principal **Wharves** for each day during the months of anuary, and February, 1903. The corresponding curve for January and February, 1902, is also given for comparison.

[The thick curve applies to 1903, and the thin curve to 1902.]



Employment in mid-stream, and with lightermen, stevedores, lumpers, deal and corn porters, has been moderate; with coal porters and winchmen it has been fair. With fruit porters in Thames-street employment has been moderate, the average daily number employed being 292, compared with 302 in January and 322 a vear ago.

Of the 3,414 "free labourers" on the register of the Shipping Federation in the Port of London, during February 1903, 50 per cent. on the average were employed by the shipowners to whom the office supplies labour compared with 55 per cent. in the previous month, and 61 per cent. in February, 1902.

OTHER PORTS.

North-East Coast .- On the Tyne employment for dock labourers was moderate. It was worse at Newcastle and better at South Shields than a year ago. Steam packet men report employment as steady and coal porters as fairly good. On the Wear employment for dock and riverside labour is again reported as bad and worse than a year ago. At Hartlepool it is reported as bad, and at Middlesbrough as better than a year ago.

Hull, Grimsby, and Goole.—At these ports employment generally reported as worse than a year ago. At Hull, the dock and riverside workers and the coal porters report employment as moderate; the lightermen and timber porters as bad. At Grimsby the coal porters and general dock labourers report employment as moderate, the timber porters and casual workers as bad. At Goole employment is moderate.

Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. - Riverside labour at Yarmouth and Lowestoft is reported as fairly employed. At Ipswich dock labourers are reported slack. Parkeston, employment is reported as good, at Harwich

Southampton and Plymouth. - Employment at Southampton is reported as moderate, and worse than a year ago. At Plymouth it is reported as dull.

Bristol Channel Ports.—At Cardiff and Penarth, employment for dock and riverside labour is reported as bad, but better than a year ago. At Barry it is about the same as in the corresponding period of last year. At Newport and Swansea employment is stated to be fair, but worse than a year ago. At Bristol, employment was moderate; at Avonmouth, good, and better than a year ago.

Liverpool.—Employment for dock and riverside labour generally is reported as dull, and for Mersey flatmen

The Clyde.—Employment in February is reported as fair and slightly better than a year ago.

East of Scotland Ports.—Employment at these ports was generally dull except at Grangemouth where it was reported as fair. At Leith and Grangemouth employment was better and at Burntisland and Methil worse than a year ago.

Irish Ports.—At Belfast employment was reported as good, and better than in the previous month and in the corresponding month of last year. At Dublin employment is reported as bad, and worse than a month ago.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN FEBRUARY.

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

THE number of seamen shipped during February as the crews of foreign-going vessels from certain selected ports (at which about 80 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) was 29,192, or 180 less than during February, 1902. The supply of seamen is generally stated to be equal to or in excess

During the two completed months of 1903, 63,576* men have been shipped, as compared with 63,284* in the corresponding period of 1902.

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 February, 1903 and 1902, respectively, together with the number* shipped in the two months ended February in each of these years:—

Bazola na asav		Numb	per of Med d in Feb	en, &c., o., 1903.*	Total in	Total number shipped in two months ended February.	
Principal Ports			1902.*	1903.	1902.		
						, ,	
ENGLAND AND W	ALES						
East Coast.							
Tyne Ports Sunderland		87	2,202	2,289	2,446	4,991	5,077
84: J. J L L		10 may	340	340 177	240 112	679	748
TT11			177 819	819	833	378	253
Grimsby		String School	58	58	58	2,232	2,048
	03010	01666	30	30	00	134	9/
Bristol Channel.					2		The same
Bristol†	1 12(3)	I	536	537	357	1,362	859
Newport, Mon		4	762	766	604	1,432	1,568
Cardiff‡		100	3,755	3,855	4,307	8,914	9,123
Swansea		49	321	370	455	943	891
Alban Danta				100	We will		
ther Ports.		- 0		0.055	0.000		0.
Liverpool		148	9,729	9,877	9,862	20,378	20,587
Cauthamatan		131	5,189	5,320	5,386	12,199	11,491
Southampton		1000	1,884	1,884	2,109	3,870	4,853
SCOTLAND.		1 1 1 1 1 1 1		200	MARKET AND		
eith, Kirkcaldy, Met	nil, &	20	370	370	371	831	934
Grangemouth	2	777	3,			3-	934
alasgow		57	2,100	2,157	2,025	4,378	4,121
All Carlo		N. Carry		Warring Co.	240/10	100 1 100	15119 91
IRELAND.		7 17 18 18		MARCH I		PAGE 1	S. D. S.
Dublin		-	78	78	71	203	165
Belfast		-	295	295	136	632	460
otal, Feb., 1903		577	:28,615	29,192		63,576	
Ditto, Feb., 1902	FRW 311	480	00 000		00.000		CO 004
1110, 1.00., 1902	***	450	28,892		29,372		63,284

FISHING INDUSTRY.

REPORTS have been received from Collectors of Fishery Statistics in England; from the Fishery Board in Scotland; and also from Local Correspondents.

The fishing industry during February was much affected by unfavourable weather, with the result that the quantity of fish landed was below the total for the corresponding month of last year. Employment was therefore only moderate.

The following Table shows the quantity and value of

COUNTRY.	(Exclusiv	e of Shell sh).	(Inclusive	g Value e of Shell sh).
	Feb. 1903.	Feb. 1902.	Feb. 1903.	Feb. 1902
England and Wales Scotland	Cwts. 481,445 279,487 12,178	Cwts 501,922 384,217 ³ 16,575	£ 474,376 158,614 9,701	£ 460,734 185,869 12,780
United Kingdom	773,110	902,7143	642,691	659,383

From the Tyne it is reported that, owing to the stormy state of the weather, the trawl and line boats had poor

At Hull the employment of fishermen was also affected by the weather, and the fish dock labourers were only very moderately employed; for persons engaged in fish curing employment was bad. Employment in all branches was worse than a year ago. At Grimsby employment, though better than a year ago, is stated to have been interfered with, to some extent, by bad weather. At Yarmouth and Lowestoft it is reported good for fishermen, moderate for dock labourers. Employment improved during the month, and was better than in January. At Harwich employment was reported quiet. At Plymouth employment at the beginning of the month was only moderate; from the 20th to 28th it was completely interrupted by the stormy weather.

Reports supplied by the Fishery Board for Scotland show that at Aberdeen employment was good for fisher-men and fair for fish dock labourers and curers and shows little change as compared with a month or a year ago; with fishermen and fish curers it was moderate at Macduff and Peterhead and bad at Fraserburgh, and shows practically no change compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago it was much the same at Macduff, but worse at Fraserburgh and Peterhead. With men employed on shore in connection with the industry employment during February was much the same as in January, being moderate at Macduff, and good at Fraserburgh and Peterhead; compared with a year ago it was better at the two latter ports.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOP ACT.

Regulations for Dangerous Trades: Rules for Inquiries.

THE Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, gives the Home Secretary power to make regulations for the safety of persons employed in dangerous trades, and provides that, before making any such regulations, the Home Secretary shall publish notice of the proposal to make the same, and of the place where copies of the draft regulations may be obtained, and of the time within which objections may be made with respect to such draft regulations by or on behalf of persons affected; and that the Home Secretary shall consider such objections, and may amend the draft regulations, which are then to be dealt with in like manner as an original draft; and that, where the Home Secretary does not amend or withdraw any draft regulations objected to, he shall, before making the regulations, direct an Inquiry to be made, as in the Act

The Home Secretary, in pursuance of the powers in that behalf conferred upon him by the Act, has made rules,* dated February 5th, for the conduct of Inquiries held in pursuance of the provisions referred to above. These rules are as follows :-

(1.) The Inquiry shall be opened at such time and place as may be fixed by the person appointed by the Secretary of State to hold the Inquiry (in these rules referred to as "the Commissioner"), and not less than three weeks' notice of the time and place so fixed shall be sent by post by him or on his behalf to all persons who have sent to the Secretary of State any objection to the draft regulations; Provided that the non-receipt of such notice by any such person shall not invalidate the proceedings or render necessary an adjournment of the Inquiry.

(2.) The Commissioner may adjourn the Inquiry from time to time as he sees fit, and may hold adjourned sittings at any place which he thinks necessary for the convenience of persons who objected to the draft regulations

(3.) The Commissioner may give such directions as he thinks necessary as to the order in which the draft regulations and the objections thereto shall be considered, and as to the order in which the parties appearing at the Inquiry shall be heard.

(4.) If any person who has not made objections to the draft regulations in accordance with Section 80 claims to be heard at the Inquiry, the Commissioner may require him to state his objection n writing in the manner provided by Section 80 (2).

(5.) If the objections to any draft regulation made by more than ne person appearing at the Inquiry appear to the Commissioner to be the same in substance, he may select any person whom he considers representative of the largest number of persons affected by the draft regulation to state such objections, and to call evidence (if required) in support of such objections. Any other person making the same objections may be heard subsequently by consent

(6.) The Commissioner may stop any statement which appears to him to be irrelevant to the draft regulation or objection under consideration, or to involve unnecessary repetition of arguments already fully stated.

(7.) Subject to the provisions of Section 81, and to the foregoing rules, all the proceedings shall be conducted in such manner as the Commissioner may direct.

*Statutory Rules and Orders. 1903. No. 84. (Eyre & Spottiswoode). Price 1d.

TRADE DISPUTES IN FEBRUARY*

Number and Magnitude.—Fourteen new disputes | reductions, four on other wages questions, and two egan in February, 1903, compared with seventeen in | on questions of the employment of particular classes or began in February, 1903, compared with seventeen in January, and eighteen in the corresponding month of last year. By the fourteen disputes 3,314 workpeople were directly and 344 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before February and were still in progress at the beginning of that month give a total of 13,186 workpeople involved in trade disputes during February, 1903, compared with 14,921 in January, and 10,015 in February, 1902.

March, 1903.

New Disputes in February, 1903.—In the following Table the new disputes in February are summarised by trades affected :-

Group of Trades.	No. of	No. of W	No. of Workpeople affected.			
Group of Trades.	Disputes.	Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.		
Mining and Quarrying Shipbuilding Textile Clothing	 7 1	2,985 22 250	344	3,329 22 250		
Total, February, 1903	. 14	3,314	344	3,658		
Ditto, January, 1903	 17	1,916	416	2,332		
Ditto, February, 1902	 18	6,400	550	6,950		

Causes.—Of the fourteen new disputes, six arose on demands for advances in wages, two on objections to statistics.

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Results.—Eleven new disputes affecting 3,312 work-people and ten old disputes, affecting 1,409 workpeople, were reported as having terminated in February. Of these twenty-one new and old disputes, five, involving 496 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople, eleven, involving 2,881 persons, were decided in favour of the employers, and three, involving 1,025 persons, were compromised. In the case of the remaining two disputes, involving 319 persons, certain points are still under consideration

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in February of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 18,600 days. In addition 173,300 working days were lost in February owing to disputes that began before that month and at the end of the month were still unsettled. Thus, the total number of working days lost in February owing to all disputes, new and old, was 191,900, which compares with 268,000 days in the previous month and 85,000 days in the corresponding

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

Principal Trade Disputas

	11morphi 21morphi 21m											
Occupation.	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute in Work-		Alleged Cause or Object.†	Result.†					
	er er	Di- rectly.	Indi- rectly.†	began.	Work- ing Days.	The Thirt state of the second state of	Managaran Paris					
Coal Miners	Aberbeeg	1,516		1903 18 Feb.	ı	For advance in price on being required to work bottom coal	Work resumed on employer's terms.					
Coal Miners	Pontypridd (near)	900		11 Feb.	I	For re-instatement of two men	Amicable arrangement arrived at.					
Ship Plumbers	North East Coast	270		29 Oct.	98	Against proposed reduction in wages of is. per week	Work resumed at old rate pending arbitration.					
Shipwrights, Drillers, Fitters, Platers, Helpers, &c., Rivetters, Platers, Boys, &c.		283	336	3 Dec.	74	On account of firm's decision to place the works on three-quarter time	Work resumed on employer's terms.					
				1								

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate alion exceeded 100 working days.

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

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 February, and also during the two completed months of 1903, with comparative figures for 1902 and 1901 :-

10000				Month of February		Two months ended February,			
			1903.	1902.	1901.	1903.	1902.	1901.	
Amported Forwarded from Inland Towns	Ports	··· to	Bales. 362,857 312,543	Bales. 448,452 277,071	Bales. 299,151 262,539	Bales. 873,390 679,859	Bales. 1,060,509 625,183	Bales. 754,214 558,246	
Exported			34,828	29,651	23,723	86,290	69,879	49,741	

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from orts to inland towns during February in the years 1903, 1902 and 1901 respectively, are given in the following Table

Description Ports	Description of Cotton forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.						February,	February,
American Brazilian East Indian Egyptian Miscellaneous						Bales. 261,563 10,585 4,181 30,738 5,476	Bales. 231,118 8,920 496 30,664 5,873	Bales. 229,589 4,115 4,091 18,861 5,883
	Total					312,543	277,071	262,539

Traffic Receipts.—The total receipts of 20 of the principal railways of the United Kingdom during the four weeks ended March 7th amounted to £6,536,547, an increase of £126,042 (or 2 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The receipts from passenger traffic were £2,574,608, an increase of £128,195, and those from goods and mineral traffic $f_{3,961,939}$, a decrease of $f_{2,153}$.

Bankruptcies. — The bankruptcies gazetted during February numbered 359, being 2 less than in February, 1902, 22 more than in February, 1901, and 11 less than in February, 1900.

MINERAL STATISTICS.

Output and Numbers Employed in 1902.

From an advance proof issued by the Home Office of Tables relating to the output of coal and other minerals, and the number of persons employed at mines worked under the Coal and Metalliferous Mines Regulation Acts during the year 1902, it appears that the total output of all minerals was 243,096,834 tons, as compared with 234,573,789 tons in 1901. Of this amount 227,178,140 tons in 1902 were coal, the comparing figure for 1901 being 219,037,240 tons.

The numbers of persons employed under these Acts were 856,213 in 1902, of whom 681,384 were underground, and 174,829 were above ground. In 1901 the number underground was 666,626, and above ground 172,552, a total of 839,178.

^{*} It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, not of separate individuals, Including Avonmouth and Portishead.

‡ Including Barry and Penarth.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY, 1903.

(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 net effect of all the changes in rates of wages reported during February was a decrease averaging 1½d. weekly per head in the wages of the 146,301 workpeople affected. Of the total number, 108,037 received advances averaging 3d. per head per week, and 38,264 sustained decreases averaging 1s. 2d. per head per week. The changes of the previous month affected 23,371 workpeople, the net result being an average decrease of 1½d. weekly per head. During February, 1902, the net result of all the changes in wages was a decrease averaging ad per head in the weekly wages of the previous processes. decrease averaging 3d. per head in the weekly wages of 111,751 workpeople.

The principal advance reported affected 107,500 coal miners in Durham. The principal decreases affected

16,707 workpeople in engineering works, boiler-shops, &c., on the North East Coast, and 20,650 in shipyards and boiler-shops in the Clyde district.

Methods of Arrangement.—Two changes, affecting 110,000 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards, and two changes, affecting 645 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. Four changes, affecting 152 workpeople, were preceded by disputes causing stoppage of work, and the remainder, affecting 35,504 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives, without stoppage of work.

Summary for First Two Months of 1903.—For the two months, January and February, 1903, the number of workpeople (separate individuals) known to have received advances or sustained decreases is 180,271, as compared with 268 204 for the corresponding period of 1002. Of these 100 acre have obtained a retrieval of 1002 acre have obtained a retrieval of 1002 acre have obtained a retrieval of 1002.

compared with 268,394 for the corresponding period of 1902. Of these, 130,357 have obtained a net increase averaging $3\frac{1}{4}$ d. weekly per head, and 49,914 have sustained a net decrease averaging 1s. $0\frac{1}{4}$ d. weekly per head. The net effect of the changes in 1903, is a decrease averaging 1d. weekly per head in the wages of those (180,271) affected, as compared with a decrease of $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. weekly per head of those (268,394) affected in the corresponding

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.,

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect in	Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
	pa jan an ur tretare grande j	1903.	In- crease.	De- crease.	
and the same	1 Increase—15 Workpeople.	BUIL	DING	TRAD	ES. 1 Decrease—92 Workpeople.
Blackpool Airdrie	Plumbers	2 Feb. 9 Feb.	15	92	Decrease of \(\frac{1}{2}d. \) per hour (9d. to 8\(\frac{1}{2}d. \)). Advance of \(\frac{1}{2}d. \) per hour (8\(\frac{1}{2}d. \) to 9d.).
	2 Increases—107,510 Workpeopl	e C	OAL	MININ	G. Decreases—Nil.
1	Coal Miners, Deputies, Banksmen, Coke-		1	1 (Advance of 12 per cent., making wages 35 per cent. above the standard
Durham	men, Enginemen and Mechanics Other Surface Workers	g and 16 Feb.	107,500		of 1879. Advance of 1½ per cent., making wages 32 per cent. above the standard
Rotherham	Pony Drivers and Rope Lads	13 Feb.	10	(of 1879. Average advance of 1s, 9d, per week.
		N AND			RADES. 2 Decreases—645 Workpeople
Barrow-in-	Rail Millmen	I Feb.		570	Decrease of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 18 per cent. above the standard.
Furness	Wire and Hoop Millmen	ı Feb.	10.00	75	Decrease of 2 per cent. under sliding scale, leaving wages 18 per cent. above the standard,
- COL 2 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1	Increases—Nil. ENGINEER	RING A	ND SH	HIPBUI	LDING TRADES. 22 Decreases—37,527 Workpeople.
	Workpeople in Engineering Works, Boiler Shops and Bridge Yards:—				
The second section of the section of	Brass Turners, Fitters and Finishers	9 Feb.		700	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week (36s. to 35s.) of time rates.
	Brass Moulders	9 Feb.		470)	
	Boilermakers	9 Feb.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2,500	Decrease of 2½ per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates.
North East Coast	Smiths	9 Feb.		550	2 corona of 25 per cont. Off place rands with of 15. per week off time rands
alication with the	Braziers and Sheet Metal Workers Machine Workers	g Feb.	·	3,200	S. L. Z. S. B. L. Same SHAMES A PRINTING WITH
	Drillers and Hole-cutters	9 Feb.		900	Description of the second of t
	Enginemen, Cranemen, &c	9 Feb.		790	Decrease of 2\frac{1}{2} per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates over 26s. per week, and of 6d. per week off rates of 26s. and under per week.*
Sperger and the	Hammermen	9 Feb. }		5,000	2007 per atten, ann o) car per atten oj, ranto o, 2007 ann anno per
4 300 5 300 5	Smiths' Strikers and General Labourers Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists	9 Feb.		40	Decrease of 1s. per week (37s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.).
North East Coast	Ironfounders	26 Feb.		2,500	Decrease of 21/2 per cent. off piece rates and of 1s. per week off time rates of
(except Middles-	demended of a rea	o les costs			35s. and above.
brough)	Cabinet Makers	9 Feb.		27	Decrease of 1s. per week (37s. 6d. to 36s. 6d.).
he Tyne Sarrow-in-Furness	Ship Joiners	19 Feb.		170	Decrease of \(\frac{1}{4} d. \) per hour (8\(\frac{1}{4} d. \) to 8\(\frac{1}{4} d. \)).
1	Iron and Steel Ship Builders	16 Feb.	1	1	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Boilermakers :- 2877 3162	671			Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of 1d. per hour or of 1s. pe
	Angle-smiths, Platers, Flangers and Holders-up	16 Feb.			week off time rates.
	Rivetters and Caulkers†	16 Feb.		10,000	Decrease of 5 per cent, off piece rates and of §d. per hour or of 1s. 6c per week off time rates.†
599	Rivetters and Caulkers‡	16 Feb.			Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates and of \(\frac{1}{2}d. \) per hour, or of is. pe week, off time rates.
The Clyde	Shipsmiths	16 Feb.	-	500	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates, and of 1d. per hour (8d. to 73d.) or 1s. per week off time rates.
Supramore seal	Drillers and Hole Cutters intShipyards	16 Feb.		1,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off piece rates.
	Shipwrights	16 Feb.		4,500	D
	Ship Joiners	16 Feb.		2,500	Decrease of \(\frac{1}{2}d. \) per hour (8\(\frac{1}{2}d. \) to 8\(\frac{1}{2}d. \)), or of is. per week.
THE SECTION SECTION	Cabinet Makers in Shipyards Platers' Helpers	16 Feb.		2,000	Decrease of 5 per cent. off time rates. Wages after change, 6½d. to 7½d. pe hour, plus 5 per cent.
in our side	3 Increases—257 Workpeople.	TE	KTILE	TRAD	
Morley	Woollen Weavers	28 Jan.	130		Advance of 10 per cent., stated to be equal to an average increase it earnings of 1s. 6d. per week.
the to the same of the same of	Pirn Winders (Linen Manufacture)	2 Feb.	83		earnings of 1s. od. per week. Advance of about 2 per cent,
Belfast {	Warp Winders (Linen Manufacture)	5 Feb.	44	111	Advance of id. per 100 hanks on certain classes of yarn, stated to b
				10.632.3	equal to an increase of is. per week in earnings.

* No alteration was made in the rates of wages of smiths' strikers and general labourers earning 20s. or less per week. † Clydebank, Greenock and Port Glasgow Districts, † Glasgow, Paisley and Renfrew Districts.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN FEBRUARY (continued).

Locality.	Occupation.	Date from which Change takes effect. in 1903.	Approx Numb Works affects In- crease.	per of people	Particulars of Change. (Decreases in Italics.)
	3 Increases—255 Workpeople.	OTH	ER T	RADES	S. Decreases—Nil.
Bolton Derby Dumbarton	Cabinet Makers	8 Jan. 10 Jan. 7 Feb.	233 12 10		Adoption of new time "log" stated to have resulted in ancaverage increase of 2½ per cent. Advance of ½d. per hour (7½d. to 8d.). Advance of 6d. per week (31s. 6d. to 32s.).

CHANGES IN HOURS OF LABOUR.—No changes in hours of labour were reported during February.

WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY.

March, 1903.

During February, 789 fresh applications for work were registered by seven Bureaux furnishing returns, and 712 situations were offered by employers; work was found for 209 persons, of whom 98 were domestic servants (including lady nurses, working housekeepers, and

mothers' helps).

Compared with the previous month the number of fresh applications for domestic servants fell from 643 to 500, and the number of servants applying from 408 to 393; the number permanently engaged fell from 89 to 77. The demand for dressmakers, milliners, etc., rose from 65 to 87, and the number requiring such situations fell from 97 to 79; the number engaged through the Bureaux was 47, compared with 25 in

January.

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

WORK DONE IN FEBRUARY.

11 12 14 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16		No. of Fresh Situations offered by	No. of Fresh Ap- plications of Work- people	Work	people ged by loyers.
		Employers.	seeking Situations.	Permanently.	Tem- poraril
Con Laboratory Telephone	019	Su	mmary by	Bureaux	
Central Bureau—		The same of the	N TO SHEET	0.5600	1
9, Southampton-street, W.C. Society for Promoting Training a Employment—	and	64	83	II	15
92, Berners-street, W Y.W.C.A.—		26	27	9	18
26, George-street (I)		475	449	77	14
Hanover-square, W. (2)		105	142	33	20
Other Bureaux		42	88	9	3
Total of 7 Bureaux	•••	712	789	139	70
		Sum	mary by Oc	cupation	18.
Superintendents, Forewomen, etc		M 41			
Shop Assistants		12	53	2	I
Dressmakers, Milliners, etc		87	79	25	22
Secretaries, Clerks, Typists		26	78	10	13
Apprentices and Learners		30	13	7	10
Domestic Servants		500	393	77	21
Miscellaneous		54	156	17	3
Total Number in Feb., 1903		712	789	139	70
Total Number in Jan., 1903		875	777	155	50
Total Number in Feb., 1902		The same of the sa	632	AND RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T	

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUREAU OF LABOUR.

THE fourth biennial report of the New Hampshire State Bureau of Labour for the years 1901 and 1902 includes information based on the returns of 1,454 manufacturing establishments. During the year ended June 30th, 1901, these establishments employed 74,883 wage earners (51,492 males and 23,391 females); of these 24,634 (11,760 males and 12,874 females) or 33 per cent. were employed in the cotton industry, 12,864 (8,627 males and 4,237 females) or 17.3 per cent. in the boot and shoe industry, and 7,005 males, or 9'3 per

cent. of the total number of wage earners, in the lumber industry. The average yearly earnings per person of the males employed by the 1,454 establishments were about £86, and of the females about

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Table showing the Number of Cases of Lead, Mercurial, Phosphorus, and Arsenic Poisoning and of Anthrak reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Act, During the undermentioned periods.

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

	1	The Later of the L			Milator	
		CASES		1	DEATH	s.
Disease and Industry.	Feb. 1903.	en	onths ded cuary	Feb. 1903.	en	onths ded ruary
A S of the same of the same of the same	Baga:	1903.	1902.	To ato	1903.	1902.
Lead Poisoning— Smelting of Metals Brass Works Sheet Lead and Lead Piping Plumbing and Soldering Printing File Cutting Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware White Lead Works Red and Yellow Lead Works China and Earthenware* Litho-transfer Works Glass Cutting and Polishing Enamelling of Iron Plates Electrical Accumulator Works Paint and Colour Works Coach Making Shipbuilding Paint used in other Industries Other Industries Total Lead Poisoning— Barometer and Thermometer making Furriers' processes Other Industries	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	4 1 2 3 3 3 3 2 2 23 12 1 1 6 6 2 12 10 7 92	8 1 2 3 5 4 23 2 20 1 1 6 5 7 3 9 10 110	1		
Total Mercurial Poisoning	-	1	7-00	-	-	-
Phosphorus Poisoning— Lucifer Match Works Other Industries Total Phosphorus Poisoning	1-0	111		=	=	1
Arsenic Poisoning— Paints, Colours and Extraction of Arsenic. Other Industries Total Arsenic Poisoning	1 1 1 1 2 2		3	1 1	1 1 1	
Anthrax— Wool Sorting Wool Combing Handling of Horsehair Handling and Sorting of Hides and Skins (Tanners, Fellmongers, &c.) Other Industries		3 3 1 2	- 1 2 2 3			
Total Anthrax	4	9	8	1	3	1
	1 TO 1 TO 1 TO 1 TO 1					

*Of the 4 cases in the china and earthenware industry in February, 1903, affected females.

+ House Painters and Plumbers.—In addition to the cases included in the Table, 9 cases of lead poisoning were reported during February among house painters and plumbers. The number of such cases reported for the two months ended February, 1903, was 20 (none of which were latal), and for the corresponding period of 1902, 15 (including 2 deaths).

No. of Workpeople found Work by Bureaux.

PAUPERISM IN FEBRUARY.

86

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

THE number of paupers relieved in 35 Urban Districts of the United Kingdom on one day in February was 367,368, corresponding to a rate of 217 per 10,000 of the estimated population of these districts in 1903.

Compared with January there was an increase of 4,159 in the number relieved, and of 3 in the rate per 10,000 of the population. London and West Ham account for three-fourths of the total increase in the number relieved. The districts showing the highest increases in the rate per 10,000 are South London (15), Dublin (7), Bristol (6) and East London (5). In the Stockton and Tees district there is a decrease of 16 per 10,000.

Compared with February, 1902, the number of persons relieved has increased by 11,180, and the rate per 10,000 by 2. Twenty-three of the 35 districts showed increased rates, the greatest increases being in the Stockton and Tees district (31 per 10,000), West Ham (16), South and East London (14 each), Newcastle (12), Sheffield (10), Dublin and Central London (9 each). Decreases are shown in 11 districts, the decrease in Manchester district being 9 per 10,000 and in Wigan 7 per 10,000.

					e day in s		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in rate per 10,000		
Selected Un Districts			In- door.	Out-door.	TOTAL.	Rate per 10,000 of Esti-	of Popul comr wi	lation a	
Divises						mated Popula- tion.	month ago.	year ago.	
ENGLAND & V	WALES	6.*					mark E		
West District	•••		11,641	3,229	14,870	182	+ 1	+ 2	
North District			15,278	9,287	24,565	231	+ 2	+ 3	
Central District			7,535	3,109	10,644	525	- 3	+ 9	
East District		***	13,955	5,689	19,644	274	+ 5	+ 14	
South District		•••	23,529	22,886	46,415	259	+ 15	+ 14	
Total Metropolis			71,938	44,200	116,138	252	+ 6	+ 8	
West Ham			2,869	10,530	13,399	215	+ 1	+ 16	
Other Districts.				Atts.		Sammer's			
Newcastle Distri			1,985	4,438	6,423	154	+ 2	+ 12	
Stockton & Tees			1,287	4,590	5,877	279	- 16	+ 31	
Bolton, Oldham,		•••	3,963	8,081	12,044	161	- 2	+ 2	
Wigan District		•••	1,951	6,256	8,207	210	+ 1	- 2	
Manchester Distr		•••	9,741	8,374	18,115	197	+ 1	- 9	
Liverpool District Bradford District		•••	11,377	8,280	19,657	196 120	+ 2	+ 6	
Halifax & Hudde		***	1,522	2,812	4,334	136	- 3 + 1	- 5 - 1	
Leeds District			2,158	3,660	4,937 8,287	179	+ 3	+ 3	
Barnsley District		•••	669	2,857	3,526	151	- I	- 6	
Sheffield District			2,988	3,553	6,541	155	+ 1	+ 10	
Hull District			1.497	5,350	6,847	259	+ 2	- 4	
North Staffordshi			2,061	6,981	9,042	248	+ 3	+ 6	
Nottingham Distr			1,899	4,888	6,787	171	+ 2	- 4	
Leicester District			1,294	3,248	4,542	207	+ 2	+ 1	
Wolverhampton 1			3,522	13,179	16,701	265	+ 2	+ 4	
Birmingham Dist	rict		4,925	3,420	8,345	147	+ 3	+ 7	
Bristol District			2,817	6,935	9,752	258	+ 6	- I	
Cardiff & Swanse	a		1,887	7,767	9,654	268	-	+ 2	
Total "Other Distr	icts"		58,820	110,798	169,618	195	+ 1	+ 2	
SCOTLAN Glasgow District			4,492	16,950	21,442	228	+ 1	+ 4	
Paisley & Greenock		1.000	697	2,496	3,193	186	- I	- I	
Edinburgh & Leith			1,709	5,627	7,336	187	+ 1	+ 2	
Dundee & Dunferm	line		1,037	2,911	3,948	200	+ 1		
Aberdeen			573	2,806	3,379	212	+ 1	+ 3	
Coatbridge & Airdri			387	1,305	1,692	183	- I	- 6	
Total for the above Districts	Scottish	}	8,895	32,095	40,990	210	+ 1	+ 3	
IRELAND	.+	1			A Rambigo	E olumbia	& least		
Dublin District		•••	7,452	5,225	12,677	329	+ 7	+	
Belfast District			3,544	229	3,773	98	+ 2	- 3	
Cork, Waterford & I District		K }	4,870	5,120	9,990	406	- 4	+ 3	
Galway District			396	387	783	217	+ 3	+ 8	
Total for the abo	ve Irish	1}	16,262	10,961	27,223	259	+ 2	+ 1	
		-1	and or the last		December 1			NEW PA	

^{*} Exclusive of Vagrants; of Patients in the Fever and Small Pox Hospitals of the Metropolitan Asylums Boards; and of Lunatics in Asylums, Registered Hospitals and Licensed Houses.

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

LABOUR BUREAUX IN FEBRUARY. During February six Bureaux furnishing returns registered 1,744 fresh applications for work, as compared with 1,364 registered in February, 1902. Work was found by these Bureaux for 676 workpeople, of whom 569 were engaged by private employers. The number engaged

by private employers in February, 1902, was 457. The number of workpeople remaining on the registers at end of February was 1,102, as against 741 a year ago. (I.) Work done in February.

No. of Fresh No. of Situa-

	and and and and	tions by by Employe								
	Name of		people		ring	Engag	ed by	Enga	aged by	
	Labour Bureau.	dui	III G			Priv	ate	L	ocal orities.	
	Dasour Duroun					Emplo	yers.	Auu	ioriues.	
ı	AND LOUNT OF STATE	Feb., 1903.	Feb.,	Feb., 1903.	Feb.,	Feb.,	Feb.,	Feb.		
			1			1903.	1902.	1903.	1902.	
	London.	- 1	Acres 2	21/200	1	1		TO B		
ı	Battersea	151	122	42	33	42	31			
ı	(Lavender Hill, S.W.)		13.		E LE TA					
ı	C-1	6.0	389	005	700	1225	129 87*}		The state of	
ı	(Whitechapel Road,	657	309	325	129	{225 100*	87*5	•••	-	
ı	E.)	134	3049	HO M	in the	1000	THE PARTY	PRESIDE	THE STATE OF	
ı	Provincial.	11000	Bur.	203	CLEEN.			0.00		
ı	Ipswich	31	36	29	39	16	25		_	
ı	(Tower Street)								105	
ı	Plymouth (East Street)	167	161	102	106	96	97		-	
ı	Liverpool	234	118	12	4	I		3	3	
ı	(Dale Street)	9,000								
ı	Glasgow (158, George Street)	504	538	503	463	189	175	4	15.	
ı	(150, George Street)			10	13.19			TO BE	-	
ı	Total of 6 Bureaux	1,744	1,364	1,013	774	₹ 569 100*	457 87*	} 7	18	
ı	(II.) Emple	ovme	nt fo	und 1	for W	orkped		nrine	5	
H	()	3 -110		ruary,			pic c	ar ing	and a	
į	berg tenerous Es	.7620	16/100	ON	seds 1	No. per	No. 1	tem-	177	
H	partition language	7110			1 514	manently	pora		Total,	
ı			William St.	1000		ongagoa	- Cinga	sca.	all mi	
ı	Engaged by Private Men:—	Empl	oyers.		the B		100	157 X		
ì	Building Trades Carmen, Stablen	nen H	orseme	&c		36 18	24		60	
ı	Porters and Mes	senger				13	22	2	34 35	
	Bill Distributors General Laboure					20	142	File Control	142	
ı	Other Occupation Lads and Boys					16 16	77	7	93	
ı	Laus and Doys						10		26	
i			Tota	l Males		119	291		410	
	Women and Girls: Domestic Servar					58	17	,	75	
	Charwomen, dai Other Occupatio	ly worl				3	56	5	59	
ı	Other Occupatio	пэ				25			25	
ı			Total	Female	es	86	73		159	
	Total engage	ed by F	rivate	Employ	ers	205	364	1910	569	
	Engaged by Local A		ities.			BONN STY	longer	No to be	Market .	
ı	Men, Lads and Boys Women and Girls					5	2	Maria de la constante de la co	7	
	Total engage	ed by I	ocal A	nthoriti					AL CONTRACTOR	
		WEEKS				5	2		7	
1	Engaged by Salvation	Ari	ny Au				100		100	
	Grand 7	Total f	or 6 B	ureaux		210	466	-	676	
1	(III.) Usual									
1	(III.) Obuai	0000	at en	d of	month	reopie	OH I	egiau	EFB	
1		-		17.00	1					
1					11/2	No. on	Regist	ers at e	nd of	
1	Occu	pation	•			T.1	1	т.	ENGRACE !	
1						Feb., 19	03.	reb.,	1902.	
١	Men:-	ALCO AND	Wet 172	(62)	2000		1	2000, 010 910/0/03	Nage 194	
1	Building, Engineerin Carmen, Stablemen,	Horse	Metal 7	Frades		183			70	
1	Clerks and Warehou	semen				66			41	
1	Porters and Messeng General Labourers					74 335	AT 19. P.		77 56	
1	Other Occupations					149	(3) 10		47	
1	Total Men			•••		909		4	95	
1	Lads and Boys					31		THE WALES	47	
1		1911	17					10 3 E T 1		
1	Women and Girls:— Charwomen, Daily W		kc			90			69	
1	Servants					43	100		77 53	
1	Others	Carlo San	Car Cons	***	1000	WHEN SEAL	3 Page 1		THE RESERVE	

Grand Total for 6 Bureaux ... Note.—In addition to the Bureaux included in the above Tables, returns have been received showing that during February recently opened municipal bureaux or registeries were at work at Hackney, Hammersmith, Lambeth, Poplar, St. Pancras, Shoreditch, Southwark, Westminster, Wimbledon, Bradford, Cardiff, Leeds and Middlesbrough. * Engaged by Salvation Army.

162

199

741

Total Women and Girls

FOREIGN TRADE OF UNITED KINGDOM.

THE following statement has been communicated to the LABOUR GAZETTE by the Intelligence Branch of the Commercial Department of the Board of Trade.

March, 1903.

Summary for February.

The trade returns for February, 1903, show a decrease in the value as compared with the corresponding month of 1902 of the Imports into the United Kingdom, but an increase in the value of the Exports of British produce, and of the Exports of foreign and Colonial merchandise.

The value of the Imports in February, 1903, was £40,560,585, a decrease of £1,120,006, or 2.7 per cent., as compared with those in February, 1902, whilst the total Exports amounted to £28,913,764, showing a total increase of £1,797,387. The Exports of British produce alone show an increase of £1,463,160, or 6.9 per cent. as compared with February, 1902, whilst there is an increase of £334,227, or 5.8 per cent., in the Exports of Foreign and Colonial merchandise.

Imports.*—The following table shows the value of the Imports for February, 1903, as compared with the corresponding months of 1902 and 1901, according to the different categories of merchandise:

	Month of February							
de l'esercit de ma	1901.	1902.	1903.	Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1902.	Dec. (-) in 1903 as compared with 1901.			
Food, Drink and Tobacco	£ 16,318,677	£ 16,137,758	£ 15,658,620	- £	- £			
I.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanu- factured.	13,115,935	14,811,085	14,100,484	- 710,601	+ 984,549			
mainly Manufactured.	10,027,593	10,484,230	10,601,147	+ 116,917	+ 573,554			
VMiscellaneous and Un- classified (including Parcel Post)	252,234	247,518	200,334	- 47,184	- 51,900			
Total value of Imports	39,714,439	41,680,591	40,560,585	-1,120,006	+ 846,146			

Exports.†—The following Table shows the value of the Exports of British produce for the month of February, 1903, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1901, and the increase or decrease in each principal category:

	Mon	th of Febr	or	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1903 as	
	1901.	1902.	1903.	compared	
I.—Food, Drink, and	£ 1,045,847	£ 1,166,531	£ 1,040,186	- £	- £5,661
II.—Raw Materials and Articles Mainly Un- manufactured	2,553,048	2,454,044	2,654,016	+ 199,972	+ 100,968
III.—Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured					+1,675,479
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	323,114	345,133	290,309	- 54,824	- 32,805
Total value of Exports of British produce	21,037,455	21,312,276	22,775,436	+1,463,160	+1,737,981

Tonnage of Ships entered and cleared with Cargoes. The tonnage of vessels entered at ports in the United Kingdom from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the month ended February, 1903, amounted to 2,548,327 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 3,258,960 tons, as against 2,584,237 tons entered and 3,102,992 tons cleared in the month of February, 1902. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during February, 1903, amounted to

2,356,826 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 2,353,417 tons, as against 2,378,216 tons entered, and 2,335,882 tons cleared in February, 1902.

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

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

Total Emigration.—The number of passengers who left the United Kingdom for places out of Europe during February was 21,088, as compared with 14,918 in February, 1902. Comparing the two completed months of 1903 with the corresponding period of 1902, there is an increase of 12,848, viz., from 27,717 in 1902 to

British and Irish.—Of the 21,088 passengers in February, 12,033 were of British or Irish origin, an increase of 3,636 as compared with a year ago. For the two months of 1903 the total number was 23,363, as compared with 16,178 in the corresponding period of last year, an increase of 7,185, chiefly accounted for by the larger numbers bound for South Africa and British North America.

The following Table gives the figures for the different periods:-

Destination. (Country in which passengers				Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Total for two months ended.	
contracted to land).			Feb., 1903.			Feb., 1902.	
South Africa .	erica			4,227 1,883 847 3,908 1,168	3.470 671 938 2,058 1,260	7,617 2 953 1,887 8,205 2,701	6,574 1,195 2,282 3,508 2,619
Total, British	and Irish			12,033	8,397	23,363	16,178

Foreign.—The remainder of the 21,088 passengers in February, viz., 9,055, were foreigners or other persons whose nationality was not distinguished, being 2,534 more than in February, 1902. For the two months ended February, 1903, their number was 17,202 as against 11,539 in the corresponding period of 1902, the difference being due to increases in the numbers proceeding to the United States, British North America and South Africa.

Alien Immigration.—During February 10,960 aliens arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent. Of these 6,050 were stated in the Alien Lists to be en route to places out of the United Kingdom, an increase of 1,053 as compared with February, 1902. Those not stated to be on their way to places out of the United Kingdom numbered 3,941 (exclusive of seamen), or 695 more than a year ago. The figures for February, 1903 and 1902, and also for the two months ended February in each year, are as follows:-

	Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1902.	Total for two months ended	
			Feb., 1903.	Feb., 1902.
Aliens not stated in the Alien lists to be en route to other countries Seamen Others	969 3,941	1,151 3,246	1,926 8,427	2,290 6,239
Aliens stated in the Alien lists to be en route to other countries	6,050	4,997	9,833	7,800
Gross Total	10,960	9,394	20,236	16,329

CHANGES IN FACTORY DEPARTMENT OF HOME

The following changes have taken place in this Department:— Mr. E. H. Osborn, Engineering Adviser to the Chief Inspector, Home Office, has retired.

Commander Hamilton P. Smith, R.N., is transferred from Sheffield to Home Office with rank of Superintending Inspector. Mr. J. Dodgson has been transferred from the Rochdale District

to be Inspector in charge of the Sheffield District. Address, 21, Fargate, Sheffield.

Mr. H. Verney has been transferred from the Leeds District to be Inspector in charge of the Rochdale District. Address, 72, Bridge-street, Manchester.

Mr. John Law has been transferred from the Newcastle District to the Leeds District. Address, 41, Park-square, Leeds.

Mr. A. F. J. Dunolly has been transferred from the Huddersfield to the Newcastle District. Address, "Belmont," Bishopton-road, Stockton-on Tees.

EXAMINATION FOR MINING MANAGER'S CERTIFICATES.

Stafford District.—An examination for First and Second Class Certificates of Competency as Manager and Under Manager will be held at The County Technical Offices, Stafford, on the 28th and 29th April. Candidates should at once send their names to the Secretary to the Board of Examinations, Mr. Robert S. Williamson. Cannock Wood House, Hednesford, Staffs., from whom all particulars can be obtained.

Persons residing outside the District are eligible for examination.

INDUSTRIAL UNIONS AND SOCIETIES REGISTERED OR DISSOLVED IN FEBRUARY.

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

(1) REGISTERED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies registered in February was as follows: Under the Trade Union Acts, 3; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 27; under the Friendly Societies Act, 74 (including 45 branches of existing societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 3; in all, 107.

Among the new societies registered in February were the following:—

Trade Unions.—England and Wales.—3, viz., Northern Counties Building Trades Foremen and Clerks' Association, Norfolk-street, Sunderland; Hand-in-Hand Society of Coopers, 1A, Bromley-street, Commercial-road, E.; Oldham and District Master Butchers' Association, 42, Manchester-street, Oldham. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—None.

Industrial and Provident Societies.—England and Wales.—
Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution, 2, viz., Feltham and District Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Fruen-road, Feltham, Middlesex; Haslemere and District Indus. Co-op. Soc., Ltd., Glenthorpe Villa, Foundry-road, Haslemere, Surrey. Agricultural Societies, 1, viz., Hartlebury and District Agric. Supply Assoc., Ltd., Guild House, Hartlebury, Kidderminster. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—Co-operative Societies mainly for Distribution, 1, viz., Skreen and Dromard Co-op. Home Industries and Cottage Gardening Soc., Ltd., Skreen, co. Sligo. Co-operative Societies mainly for Production, 21, viz., Rathkenny Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Rathkenny, co. Antrim; Newbliss Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Newbliss, co. Monaghan; Corcaghan Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Corcaghan, co. Monaghan; Rahins Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Rathduff, Ballina, co. Mayo; Burncourt Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Shanbally, co. Tipperary; Tuogh Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cappagh, co. Kerry; Lismore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lismore, co. Waterford; Ballinode Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Lismore, co. Waterford; Ballinode Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballinode, co. Monaghan; Coraskea Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Coraskea, co. Monaghan; Donacloney, co. Down; Lisbellaw Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Donacloney, co. Down; Lisbellaw Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Ballyduff, co. Waterford; Aughamore Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Donacloney, co. Down; Glen and Donaughmore, co. Down; Brosna Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Donaughmore, co. Down; Frosna Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cloghan, co. Donegal; St. Mary's Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cloghan, co. Donegal; St. Mary's Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Cloghan, co. Donegal; Maghera Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., Inver, co. Donegal; Maghera Co-op. Agric. and Dairy Soc., Ltd., National School, Carriga Bouise, co. Cavan.

Friendly Societies.—England and Wales.—18, viz., Hearts of Oak Staff Provident Fund, London, W.; Halstead Working Men's Constitutional Club, Halstead, Essex; Whitworth Conservative Working Men's Club, Whitworth, Rochdale; Enderby and District Conservative and Unionist Working Men's Club, Enderby, Leicester; Bermondsey Irish National Working Men's Club and Institute, Rotherhithe, S.E.; Victoria Park Conservative Working Men's Club, Victoria Park, E.; Andover Street West End Working Men's Club, Swindon; Sefton Sick and Funeral Soc., Aintree, Liverpool; London, Hebrew Coronation Divisional and Sick Benefit Soc., London, E.; Hotel and Restaurant Employees (Union Ganymede) Friendly Soc., London, W.C.; Queen Alexandra Dividing Benefit Soc., London, E.; Lynchitzer Brotherhood Friendly Sick and Benefit Soc., London, E.; Loyal Lady Mary Female Oddfellows, Farnham, Surrey; Talbot Sick and Dividend Soc., Sparkbrook, Birmingham; Derwent Sick and Dividend Soc., Nechells, Birmingham; Acre Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Ye Olde Gate Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham; Ye Olde Gate Sick and Dividend Soc., Birmingham. Scotland.—None. Ireland.—11, viz., St. Teresa's Friendly and Benevolent Soc., Dublin; Aughamore Live Stock Insurance Soc., Ballyhaunis, co. Mayo; Dunaff Agric. Bank, Macroom, co. Cork; Ardmalin Agric Bank, Malin Head, Donegal; Gleneely Agric. Bank, Carramore, co. Donegal; Middle Achill Agric. Bank, Bunnacurry, Achill, co. Mayo; Capital Loan and Investment Soc., Dublin; North Dublin Patriotic Loan Fund Soc., Dublin; Kilkenny Foresters Loan Fund Soc., Clare.

(2) DISSOLVED.

The total number of Industrial Unions and Societies reported as having commenced to "wind-up," or had registration cancelled in February, was as follows:—

Under the Trade Union Acts, 1; under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 6; under the Friendly Societies Act, 44 (including 23 branches of Societies); under the Building Societies Acts, 15; in all 66.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN FEBRUARY.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.) The total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during February, 1903, was 298, a figure which compares with 354 in the corresponding month of 1902, 327 in 1901, 371 in 1900, and 404 in 1899. The average number of fatal accidents in the month of February in these five years was thus 351, so that the total for the past month is well below the

In the classes of industries in which the number of persons employed is approximately known, viz.: Railway Service (exclusive of contractors' servants), Mines, Quarries, Shipping and Factories, the number of workpeople killed was 279, compared with 331 in February, 1902. The approximate number employed in these industries at the date of the latest returns was about 5,700,000.

In the following Table the accidents are classified by the trades in which they occurred, and a comparison is made between February, 1903, and a month and a year ago.

Trade.		er of Work tilled durin	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in February,1903,as compared with		
	February, 1903.	January, 1903.	February,	A month ago.	A year ago.
Railway Service—	41.		2	1	
Brakesmen and Goods Guards Engine Drivers	6	2 I	2	+ 4	+ 4
Firemen	2	3		- I + I	+ 2 + I
Guards (Passenger) Permanent Way Men (not	4	15	6	- II	- 2
including Labourers)		6	-	- 2	- 4
Porters Shunters	3 4	6	7 4	- 3 - 2	- 4
Miscellaneous	11	II	15	- 1	- 4
Contractors' Servants	1	2	I		
Total Railway Service	33	46	37	- 13	- 4
Mines-	00	88	-6		1 20
Underground Surface	88	11	56	+ 3	+ 32 + 5
Total Mines	102	99	65	+ 3	+ 37
Quarries over 20 feet deep	4	5	11	- 1	- 7
Factories— Textiles—		130			
Cotton	3	2	5	+ 1	- 2
Wool and Worsted Other Textiles	3	5	3	- 4 + 2	+ 1
Non Textiles—					
Extraction of Metals Founding and Conversion	12	15	19	- 2 - 3	- 7
of Metals Marine and Locomotive	5	I	I	+ 4	+ 4 -
Engineering Ship and Boat Building	11	10	9	+ 1	+ 2
Wood			3	+ 1	- 2
Chemicals, &c Other Non-Textile Indus-	4 20	1 24	3 30	+ 3	+ I - IO
tries					
Total Factories	62	63	75	- 1	- 13
Workshops-			1		- 1
Seamen-					
On Trading Vessels— Sailing	. 12	32	30	- 20	- 18
Steam		91	82	- 40	- 31
On Fishing Vessels— Sailing	. 2	I	2	+ 1	10.5
Steam		13	30	+ 1	- 16
Total Seamen	. 79	137	144	- 58	- 65
Accidents reported under	r	THE REAL PROPERTY.	THE MANY		
Docks, Wharves, and Quays	. 6	18	13	- 12	1 - 7
Warehouses Buildings to which Act applie	. 1	2	5 68	- I	+ 1
Buildings to which Act applied Laundries	s 10 	9	3	+ 1	+ 7
Total under Factory Act Ss. 103-6	-	29	16	- 12	+ 1
Accidents reported unde Notice of Accidents Act, 189	r 1	4	5	- 3	- 4
Grand Total	000	383	354	- 85	- 56
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